

THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME,

because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.

**LUKE 4:18** 

#### COMMUNITY

Community is important. Community is essential. Community is crucial. This message is the foundation of today's readings from Nehemiah, Corinthians, and Luke. Ezra's reading of the scroll is done in front of the community, including—a radical act at the time-women, and children old enough to understand, groups usually not counted among those hearing God's promise proclaimed. Community is important. The mystical Body of Christ, like the human body, functions best and most fully when all members are playing the role for which they were meant. Community is essential. God's word is fulfilled when the community has heard it, and witnessed it. In Luke, the baptism and desert trials of Jesus lead to the synagogue scene, which will then lead Jesus to his public ministry of proclaiming the reign of God. He eventually will journey to Jerusalem and his crucifixion. Community is crucial.

#### ONE BODY, ONE JESUS

Our liturgical calendar separates different Gospel scenes, which can sometimes do them a bit of a disservice. The liturgical year, of course, has its own rhythm and purpose, into which the stories of the life of Jesus are placed. However, when Luke was organizing his Gospel (for "Theophilus" the lover of God whom we encounter in today's Gospel introduction), today's scene was part of a three-fold structure: the baptism of Jesus; the temptation in the desert; the announcement of the public mission in the synagogue at Nazareth. Linking these is the Holy Spirit, who descended on the body of Jesus at his baptism, who filled his body as he endured his forty-day trial, and who is upon his body to announce and to bring about God's reign, a mission he fulfills with his body on the cross. The incarnation (the "in-flesh-ing") of Jesus, which we think of in connection with his birth, remains central to his story.

#### ONE CHRIST, ONE BODY

Last week's reading from Corinthians concerned the one Spirit who gives many gifts, yet is the source of our unity. Paul continues this theme today using the image of the body, whose different members each have an important and distinct role to play. The Spirit of baptism forms that one mystical Body of Christ. The Spirit of baptism fills the many members, but unites them always as one. The Spirit of baptism is on each member, as it was for Jesus in the synagogue at Nazareth. That Spirit of our baptism anoints each of us as a member of Christ's Body to be glad tidings, proclaim liberty,

bring clearer vision, lift the oppressed, to announce God's reign to all. As different members of Christ's Body, we are each called upon to do this in our own way. We may face opposition or rejection, as Jesus did, but we can always turn again in faith to the Spirit of our baptism who is still with us.

#### **TODAY'S READINGS**

Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 15 1 Corinthians 12:12-30 [12-14, 27] Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

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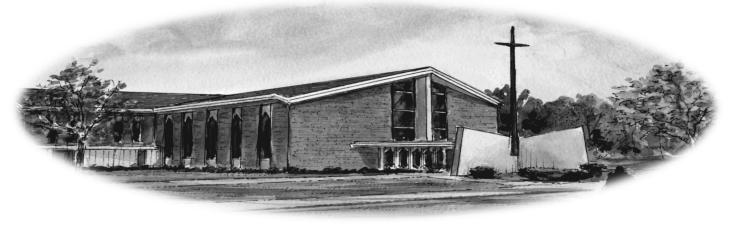
# The Church of the Incarnation

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Church Website Address
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**Religious Education**(860) 529-6765
Sharon Reynolds, Director
Gina Burby, Assistant Director



#### Pastor

Reverend Nicholas P. Melo

Senior Parochial Vicar Reverend James M. Moran

**Religious Education**Sharon Reynolds
Gina Burby

**Pastoral Assistant**Mrs. Audrey Saharek

**Sacristan** Toni Munoz

**Director of Music** Mrs. Theodora Niver

#### **Cantors**

Vanessa Crowley.....Lorissa Heath Rosanne Sweeney Gowdy.....Andrew Russo Heather Picard

**Rectory Staff Assistant**Mrs. Marguerite Devitt

**Rectory Assistant**Marguerite Heinimann

#### Mass Schedule

Confessions: Saturdays from 3:30 - 4:15pm in Father Crawford Hall Vigil Mass: Saturday at 5:00pm Sunday Masses: 8:30 & 10:30 am Daily Mass: (Mon. - Fri.) 9:00 am Recitation of the Rosary for Peace: prior to 9:00 am daily Mass

Sacrament of Baptism
By previous appointment by calling the rectory.
Sundays at 12:30 pm

Weddings

Please contact a priest 6-10 months prior.

#### New Parishioner Religious Education Registration:

The Church of the Incarnation
welcomes new parishioners.
Forms are available at the
main entrance of the church.
Please mail or drop off at the rectory.
You may also visit our website for printable forms at:
www.thechurchoftheincarnation.com

**Rectory Hours** 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

## Mass\Schedule

#### Saturday, January 22nd

5:00pm- Frank Mandile

Sunday, January 23rd

8:30am - Frank, Vincenza & Silvia Bulanti 10:30am-MaryAnne & Earl Martel

#### Monday, January 24th

9:00am—For all our parishioners

Tuesday, January 25th

9:00am- A Special Intention for Al Williams

Wednesday, January 26th

9:00am— A Special Intention for Margaret

Sullivan & Family

Thursday, January 27th

9:00am— A Special Intention for Al Williams

Friday, January 28th

9:00am – Deceased members of the Louis Armentano Family

#### Saturday, January 29th

5:00pm—Anthony Gulioso

Sunday, January 30th

8:30am-Jennie Cusano and Frank Cusano

10:30am- Michael Motta

The Sanctuary Candle will burn from 1/24/2022–1/30/2022 in memory of Jim Jakielo.



will burn from 1/24/2022— 1/30/2022 in memory of the deceased members of the Quattrocchi Family.



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#### Our Second collection this weekend benefits our Diocesan Catholic High

**Schools**. Our Catholic schools provide over 100,000 hours of student led community service. Our students are taught to respect, love and care for others as they prepare for leadership in the church and society.

We will not begin accepting 2023 Masses, Sanctuary & Blessed Virgin Mary Candles until further notice. Please check the bulletin after Easter for details. Thank you for understanding. We still have some 2022 masses & candles. Please call Incarnation rectory to book.

Please help us plan the Lenten and Holy Week season.... Join us at our combined Incarnation/Christ the King Liturgy Meeting to be held on Monday, January 31st at 7pm in Fr. Crawford Hall at Incarnation Church.

#### **Novena to End Human Trafficking:**

The International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking is observed annually on February 8, the Feast of Saint Josephine Bakhita, who was kidnapped as a child and sold into slavery in Sudan and Italy. St. Bakhita is the patroness of survivors of human trafficking. The Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry (OCSJM) invites you to invoke her intercession for all those involved in human trafficking and an end to this societal ill by participating in a novena. Beginning Feb. 8 the link to the daily prayer will be posted on OCSJM's Facebook channel, the Archdiocesan website, and the Archdiocesan YouTube page. Please follow or subscribe to one of these outlets.

#### **Reflection question:**

How can I allow God to direct my actions this week?

#### PARDON QUICKLY

If you have anything to pardon, pardon quickly. Slow forgiveness is little better than no forgiveness.

-Sir Arthur Pinero

#### **ELUSIVE HAPPINESS**

Happiness will never be ours if we do not recognize to some degree that God's blessings were given us for the well-being of all.

—Anonymous

#### **WINTER WARMTH**

One kind word can warm three winter months.

—Japanese proverb





#### Building a new Parish from Incarnation and Christ the King

Q: Where can I find updated merger information?

A: The Transition Team has a Communication Committee. They will be sharing information via the bulletin, the websites, Facebook, (facebook.com/ChristtheKingCT), email, and announcements at Mass. If you have questions, send email to incarnation.ctk@gmail.com.

"After many years of devoted service to the Christ The King Social Action Committee Food Drive, Catherine Curran and her husband have decided to take a well deserved break. We are now in need of a food deliverer for the 3rd weekend of the month to the Wethersfield Food Bank. Please call MJ Densmore if you're able to serve this worthy cause (860)529-9928."

Care bags for the homeless: Thank you to all who have donated thus far to this project. Because of your generosity we have created 400 bags that were distributed during the Christmas season. We continue with this needy project especially during the colder months. These bags contain food, water, socks, hats and gloves. We continue to need your help. The next assembly of bags will be January 30th by the religious education students. We have created an Amazon link to make it a little easier for purchases.

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3I5TLCG70N9S0?ref\_=wl\_share
We continue to collect in Corpus Christi Church and accept monetary donations. Checks can be made out to Christ the King Social Action Attn:
Homeless Bags. The success of this endeavor is all because of your incredible generosity!

For information call Nora Uricchio: (860) 830-5989 or nuricchio3@gmail.com or Daisy Trahan: daisy.trahan@gmail.com.



#### PRAYER CORNER

#### **GOD'S LAW**

Scripture has always held God's law to be the path to human happiness. In today's first reading, Ezra the priest reads the scroll of the law to the people returned from

exile. They weep—then are joyful. Israel's relationship with God had always been defined by how they kept and lived God's law. The author of Psalm 96 likewise praises the law of God as the source of wisdom, joy and enlightenment, purity and justice.

In his advice to the bickering Corinthians, Paul points out that, just as God has made all parts of a human body essential for the health of the whole, living as "Christ's body" requires that each member be recognized as necessary for the good of all. Finally, in Luke's Gospel Jesus claims that the Spirit is sending him to relieve human suffering. Like Ezra, he is reading from a scroll, proclaiming God's "law" of mercy to those in need

#### **TODAY'S READINGS**

First Reading — Ezra read from the book of the law of God to the assembled people. They understood and accepted the law (Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10). Psalm — Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life (Psalm 19).

Second Reading — As the body with its many parts is still one body, so it is with Christ

(1 Corinthians 12:12-30 [12-14, 27]).

Gospel — While attending worship in the Nazarean synagogue, Jesus reads from the prophet Isaiah and declares himself to be the fulfillment of the prophecy (Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21).

#### **READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: 2 Sm 5:1-7, 10; Ps 89:20-22, 25-26; Mk 3:22-30

Tuesday: Acts 22:3-16 or 9:1-22; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Mk 16:15-18

Wednesday: 2 Tm 1:1-18 or Ti 1:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 27-30; Mk 4:1-20

Thursday: 2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29; Ps 132:1-5, 11-14; Mk 4:21-25

Friday: 2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17; Ps 51:3-7, 10-11; Mk 4:26-34

Saturday: 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17; Ps 51:12-17; Mk 4:35-41

Sunday: Jer 1:4-5, 17-19; Ps 71:1-6, 15, 17; 1 Cor 12:31 — 13:13 [13:4-13]; Lk 4:21-30

#### PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Almighty ever-living God,
direct our actions according to your good pleasure,
that in the name of your beloved Son
we may abound in good works.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

#### **SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

Sunday: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time;

Sunday of the Word of God Monday: St. Francis de Sales

Tuesday: The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle;

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ends Wednesday: Ss. Timothy and Titus

Thursday: St. Angela Merici Friday: St. Thomas Aquinas Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary

### Christ the King Parish is offering a Holy Hour at

6:30PM on February 4, 2022 in Corpus Christi Church. The Holy Hour will include Lectio Divina, Praise and Worship, and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Please join us in prayer for this beautiful event, and enjoy some special one-on-one time with our Lord.

#### **Beyond Bible Study meets Wednesdays at 7pm**

<u>via Zoom</u>. Contact Deacon Michael Cassella for Zoom link - mecassella@gmail.com or call (860) 965-2526.

#### **Christ the King Parish** (Corpus Christi

Church), Wethersfield has added a 5:15pm Mass the 1st Sunday of each month throughout the school year.

#### A message from the Archdiocese of Hartford:

Due to a further threat of the spread of COVID-19, the archdiocese is recommending the wearing of masks in church for everyone.

### Pastor's Corner - January 23, 2022

The Transition Team met once again on January 10<sup>th</sup>. Deacon Jim McCormack from the Archdiocesan Pastoral Planning Team joined us.

The three committees reported on their work since our last meeting.

The Communication Committee has set up a dedicated email for anyone to ask questions or share comments with the Team.

The Finance Committee has reviewed the annual budget of both parishes, and is coordinating efforts with the Building/Grounds Committee of both parishes concerning future infrastructure needs of each campus.

The Pastoral Care Committee has compiled a list of existing ministries in each parish, and has discussed possible combined social events.

We discussed possible names of the new combined parish once that takes place. The recommendation was made to use the name 'Christ the King Parish', with each campus retaining their current names: Incarnation, Corpus Christi, and Sacred Heart. Several reasons for this decision were given:

the name 'Christ the King' is the name of the 2017 merger of three parishes; there is significant expense to change a name, from stationery to legal work; there is stability in keeping the name for those who have already undergone a name change of their parish.

Our next task will include the development of a Mission Statement. This will drive our identity and purpose. Pope Francis' '10 Themes for Synodality' will be used to identify the direction of our community.

I am most grateful for the efforts of all ten committee members, for their enthusiasm and energy. Please continue to pray the Prayer for our Community daily, asking the Lord to bless our efforts.

# Third Sunday in Ordinary Time January 23, 2022

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has anointed me

to bring glad tidings to the poor.

— Luke 4:18a

#### **Church of the Incarnation Faith Formation**

Middle School Grades 7 & 8: Sunday, 6-7pm at Corpus Christi School, Jan. 23 & 30. Confirmation Grade 9: Sunday, 6:30-7:30pm at Corpus Christi School on Jan. 23, and 30.

<u>Family Mass for Middle School & Confirmation Grade 9</u> students & families will be held the 1st Sunday of each month, Christ the King Church, 5:15pm. Next date: Feb., 6th, 2022. All families are welcome.

<u>Children's Liturgy of the Word has been cancelled for all of January</u> due to the higher positivity rate. Please see this bulletin for the February schedule. Thank you!

#### CORPUS CHRISTI SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Happy New Year! Corpus Christi School will be celebrating Catholic Schools Week from January 30<sup>th</sup> – February 4<sup>th</sup>. We will begin the week with a Mass of Thanksgiving. The entire community is invited to join us for Mass *in person* on Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 A.M. at Corpus Christi Church. Immediately after Mass, we will hold an **Open House** at Corpus Christi School until 1 P.M. Parishioners, alumni, current and prospective families are invited to attend. Tours of the school will be available and faculty, students and parents will be on hand to answer questions..... Corpus Christi School offers students MORE:

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Come see how much MORE we can offer your family!! The school encompasses Pre K - 8th grade. To register, visit our website https://corpuschristischoolct.org/ or call 860-529-5487.

### Xavier High School Open House will be held Feb. 8th from 6-7:30 p.m.

Come see our fabulous campus as well as meet faculty, staff, and coaches. Our students are given the tools and resources to grow and take on whatever challenge is next. Academics. Athletics. Clubs. Activities. Faith. Friendship. This is what we're about. You can register at xavierhighschool.org. Click on Admissions and then Open House. Director of Enrollment Management Matthew McCaffrey can be reached at (860) 346-7735 x743.

### Christ The King Holy Family Women's Retreat March 4th-6th, 2022

The holiday season is behind us and winter has come to stay for a while. So let's fast forward to the warmth of spring for a relaxing weekend of restoration and Rebirth.

The theme is: In the Spirit of Trust.......To have a relationship with God, we need to be able to trust that God will provide for us and guide us on our journey through life. That kind of

trust begins in our relationships with others. Let's join our fellow parishioners on a weekend retreat at Holy Family. Mark your calendars now! If you have questions please contact: Mary Tyler (860) 202-9400.

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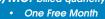
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