# Luke 4:24Amen, I say to you,no prophet is acceptedin his own native place.



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#### FULFILLED IN YOUR HEARING

The "fulfilled in your hearing" statement of Jesus today is also the conclusion of last week's Gospel, with the words of Isaiah about the breadth of God's mercy and justice at its heart. The response of the crowd in the synagogue is united: *all* are amazed, but *all* likewise ask if he's not merely the son of Joseph the humble carpenter. Jesus calls them out for seeming to think that he ought to be doing his ministry only locally, and—selfishly—only for them. (After all, they know where he comes from!) When Jesus essentially replies "nope" through some proverbs and prophetic stories, *all* the crowd gets angry at his implication that the fulfillment in Jesus is for everyone, not just for them. When our "take care of your own" reflex kicks in, we would do well to recall that this isn't the attitude of Jesus, nor is it the attitude of his mission that we continue to this day.

#### YOU'VE BEEN WARNED

The opening of the reading selected from Jeremiah is surely one of the most comforting in scripture. Imagine! God knew me before my bodily conception; God dedicated me before my birth or any human dedication rites; God appointed me a prophet! Then comes the uh-oh. Jeremiah is warned that his appointment as a prophet will bring opposition, against which God's prophets must stand up. Somehow the appointment as God's prophet seems like it should be a bit happier, with the glamor that we might think will come from having friends in high places. Yet, just as there are many forces in the world arrayed against the divine will and divine goodness, so too are they arrayed against God's prophets. A second round of assurances comes to Jeremiah, a pledge that God will be with Jeremiah to strengthen him. God doesn't promise a turmoil-free life, but does vow to be Jeremiah's strength.

#### JESUS, SON OF JEREMIAH

In the synagogue at Nazareth, a similar turn of events takes place. When Jesus speaks of the Spirit's anointing being upon him, the anointing described in Isaiah, the crowd is amazed, and seems like they even want to take credit, since he's a local boy. Then Jesus speaks some words of tough love, and "local boy" pivots to "who does he think he is?" You couldn't blame Jesus, in that moment, if he recalled the words of Jeremiah, his prophetic ancestor. Though the crowd drove Jesus out of town and up a hill to throw him to his death, his time had not yet come. The strength and protection that

God promises to prophets came for Jesus that day, as he passed through the mob's midst, unharmed. He passed through their midst to continue the work for which the Spirit had anointed him. For us who follow the prophetic heritage of Jesus this day, we've been warned. But we've also been assured of God's care.

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

Jeremiah 1:4–5, 17–19 Psalm 71:1–2, 3–4, 5–6, 15–17 1 Corinthians 12:31 — 13:13 [13:4–13] Luke 4:21–30

## The Church of the Incarnation

544 Prospect Street, Wethersfield, CT 06109

**Rectory** Phone (860) 529-2533 Rectory Fax (860) 721-6595

New Church E-Mail incarnationrectory@gmail.com Church Website Address www.thechurchoftheincarnation.com

**Religious** Education

(860) 529-6765 Gina Burby Sharon Reynolds Email: gina10272@gmail.com



Pastor Reverend Nicholas P. Melo

Senior Parochial Vicar Reverend James M. Moran

> **Religious** Education Gina Burby Sharon Reynolds

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

MassSchedule

Saturday, January 29th 5:00pm- Anthony Gulioso Sunday, January 30th 8:30am- Jennie Cusano and Frank Cusano 10:30am-Michael Motta Monday, January 31st 9:00am—Deceased friends of Henry Williams **Tuesday, February 1st** 9:00am- Leonard J. Sr., & Bernadette D'Onofrio Wednesday, February 2nd 9:00am-For all our parishioners Thursday, February 3rd 9:00am- Carlo Scacca & Andrea Scacca Friday, February 4th 9:00am-Lucy Privitera Saturday, February 5th 5:00pm—Deceased members of the Martino & Bonaquisto Family & John & Terry Sansone Sunday, February 6th 8:30am–Rita A. Ware 10:30am-Patricia Pizzoferrato

The Sanctuary Candle will burn from 1/31/2022–2/6/2022 In Thanksgiving.



The Blessed Virgin Mary Candle

will burn from 1/31/2022— 2/6/2022 in memory of Lidia DiCioccio.



Maeve Elise Spinella



<u>Thank you to all who donated to our Second</u> <u>collection last weekend,</u> the Diocesan Catholic High Schools Collection.

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.

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 & Worship, and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Join us in prayer for some special one-on-one time with our Lord.

We will not begin accepting 2023 Masses, Sanctuary & Blessed Virgin Mary Candles <u>until further notice.</u> 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.

#### 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 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, & Archdiocesan YouTube page. Please follow or subscribe.

**SAVE THE DATE**! The First CT March for Life! Spread the Word!!!! Let our CT legislators and governor know there are people in our state who value all human life. Watch for details. Organize a bus from your parish.

#### The Incarnation Men's Club wants YOU!

Our Annual Membership drive is underway and renewal letters have been mailed to all current members. Applications are at the entrances. All men are invited to join especially members of Christ the King Parish. Dues—\$10 per year. Call Incarnation for more information (860) 529-2533.

#### <u>Church of the Incarnation</u> <u>MEN'S RETREAT</u>

The parish men's retreat at Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center in West Hartford will be February 25, 26, & 27, 2022. Join Holy Family's retreat team for a weekend of peace and reflection in an exploration of simplicity. In an age of stress, distraction, and technology, we'll explore the simple and transformative message at the heart of Jesus' teaching. Discover how simplicity can shine a light on what is really essential and important in our lives. We'll explore what it means to live a simple life so that we can discover true freedom and joy. Be renewed and inspired by the paradox of simplicity and the gift of faith. For information call John Ewaski at 860-563-3887 or Bill Carroll at 860-604-6793 or visit Holy Family's web site at: www.holyfamilyretreat.org.

#### Day 1 of 9 Days for Life: May the tragic practice of abortion end. Today's prayer and action: www.respectlife.org/day-1

#### RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT WEEKENDS FOR HEALING AFTER ABORTION

If you are suffering from an abortion, experience the healing love of Jesus Christ on a Rachel's Vinevard Retreat weekend March 25-27, 2022 in Farmington, CT. The weekend healing process includes discussions, Living Scriptures with meditations, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a Memorial Service and Mass of Entrustment. Participation is totally confidential and offers a beautiful opportunity to experience God's love, forgiveness and compassion. Both women and men have participated in past retreats and have ranged in age from teens to mid-eighties. The fee for the weekend is \$175.00 for meals, private room and all retreat materials. Scholarships are available for financial assistance. For more information contact Marie at 203-631-9030, email her at mlaffin@prolifeministry.org, or visit our website at www.rachelsvineyard.org.

## 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.

"<u>After many years of devoted service to the</u> <u>Christ The King Social Action Committee Food</u> <u>Drive, Catherine Curran and her husband have</u> <u>decided to take a well deserved break.</u> 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 is 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 info. call Nora Uricchio: (860) 830-5989 or nuricchio3@gmail.com or Daisy Trahan: daisy.trahan@gmail.com.



#### PRAYER CORNER

#### TO BE A PROPHET

Today's readings show us what it is like to be a prophet. As Jeremiah recounts his call, God warns him that he will need strength and perse-

verance to withstand the hostility he will face from "Judah's kings and princes" and "its priests and people" (Jeremiah 1:18b). God also assures him that they "will not prevail over you, for I am with you" (1:19). The psalm reflects both of these struggles as well as deliverance from them ("salvation").

This is exactly what Jesus experiences in today's Gospel. After he claims that his own mission is the same as what Isaiah proclaimed, at first the people marvel at his "gracious words" (Luke 4:22). Soon, however, they become suspicious, skeptical, and hostile, even threatening to kill him. But just as God promised to deliver Jeremiah, so Jesus "passed through the midst of them and went away" (4:30).

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

First Reading — God appoints Jeremiah as prophet to the nations (Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19).

Psalm — I will sing of your salvation (Psalm 71). Second Reading — Love with its many facets is the most important of the virtues (1 Corinthians 12:31 — 13:13 [13:4-13]).

Gospel — When Jesus claims his salvific mission is for all people, not just the Jews, he is expelled by the enraged members of the Nazarean synagogue (Luke 4:21-30).

#### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time; Catholic Schools Week Monday: St. John Bosco Tuesday: Lunar New Year 4720 Wednesday: The Presentation of the Lord; World Day for Consecrated Life; Groundhog Day Thursday: St. Blaise; St. Ansgar; Blessing of Throats Friday: First Friday Saturday: St. Agatha; First Saturday

#### PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Grant us, Lord our God, that we may honor you with all our mind, and love everyone in truth of heart. 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.

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

#### **Reflection question:**

What can I do to come closer to loving everyone in truth of heart?

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time January 30, 2022

Faith, hope, and love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love. — 1 Corinthians 13:13

#### 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 via Zoom. 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.

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### Pastor's Corner – January 30, 2022

Where **does** the time go? 2022 is already 1/12<sup>th</sup> over! Wow!

It has certainly been a productive and busy first month, and we are progressing nicely toward our merger into one parish later this year. This coming week is just as busy. Here are some of the things happening in our church community this week.

First, today we begin Catholic Schools Week. Corpus Christi School has been, and continues to be, a vibrant and integral part of who we are as Catholics here in Wethersfield. We have a dedicated faculty and staff who work with our parents tirelessly to instill a Catholic education in our children. I thank you for your ongoing support of our school as well. Following the 10:15 Mass at Christ the King, there will be an Open House to which you are all invited.

Second, Wednesday is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, also known as Candlemas Day. We will have a special blessing of candles to be used for various liturgies in our church throughout the year at morning Mass, and invite you to bring a candle you use for your prayer time at home to be blessed at that time as well.

Third, Thursday is the Memorial of St. Blasé, bishop and martyr. Traditionally, the church has had a Blessing of Throats on that day, asking the intercession of St. Blasé. While we will give a General Blessing at Masses this weekend, individual blessing of throats will take place at morning Mass on Thursday. On Friday, we will have a Praise & Worship Holy Hour at Christ the King at 6:30.

All are welcome to attend.

And next weekend, please keep the men of Christ the King Parish in your prayers as they make their annual retreat at Holy Family Retreat House in Farmington. The Men of Incarnation will make their retreat there February 25-27. It is open to men from either parish. Call Audrey at Incarnation rectory for more details. I thank our Lord for all the blessings He has and continues to bestow on us here in Wethersfield!

#### 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* this 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:

 $\sim$  MORE personalized attention with an average class size of 16 students

- ~ MORE specialized after school help
- ~ MORE opportunities to get your child back on track

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.

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



**<u>Elementary Families</u>**: A letter will be sent out shortly through email to all families about the new year. Please email Gina Burby with questions at gina10272@gmail.com.

<u>Middle School</u>: Classes will meet this Sunday at Corpus Christi School for grades 7-8 from 6-7pm. We will be walking down to the church for a tour.

**<u>High School</u>**: Grades 9-10 will meet in Fr. Crawford Hall from 6:30-7:30pm to fill our blessing bags. Donations are still 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!

**Family Mass for Middle School & Confirmation Grade 9** 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.

Join Us! February 6th, directly following the 5:15pm Mass at Corpus Christi Church, Youth Ministry will be hosting a showing of "The Chosen", a television drama based on the life of Jesus of Nazareth. Pizza will be served.

#### Happy New Year from East Catholic!

We are opening a new chapter in our admissions process. Students who have been accepted and paid the deposit will soon be invited to schedule classes for next year! We are still accepting new applicants and offering the entrance exam in person. WeAreEC#

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 & 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.

#### Xavier High School \$25,000 School Cash Raffle is back and \$5K richer.

- Tickets are \$100 each. Only 800 will be sold and it is winner takes all.
- The drawing will be at 11 a.m. on April 1 at Xavier High School. You do not need to be present to win, but you must be at least 18 years old to purchase.
- All tax liabilities are borne solely by the purchaser. Tickets may be purchased by mailing a check (no cash) to Xavier High School, 181 Randolph Road, Middletown CT 06457. For more information, call the advancement office at (860) 346-7735



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