

Seventh SUNDAY

in Ordinary Time

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FEBRUARY
20
2022

“To you who hear I say,
love your enemies,
do good to those who hate you,
bless those who curse you,
pray for those who mistreat you.”

Luke 6:27

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

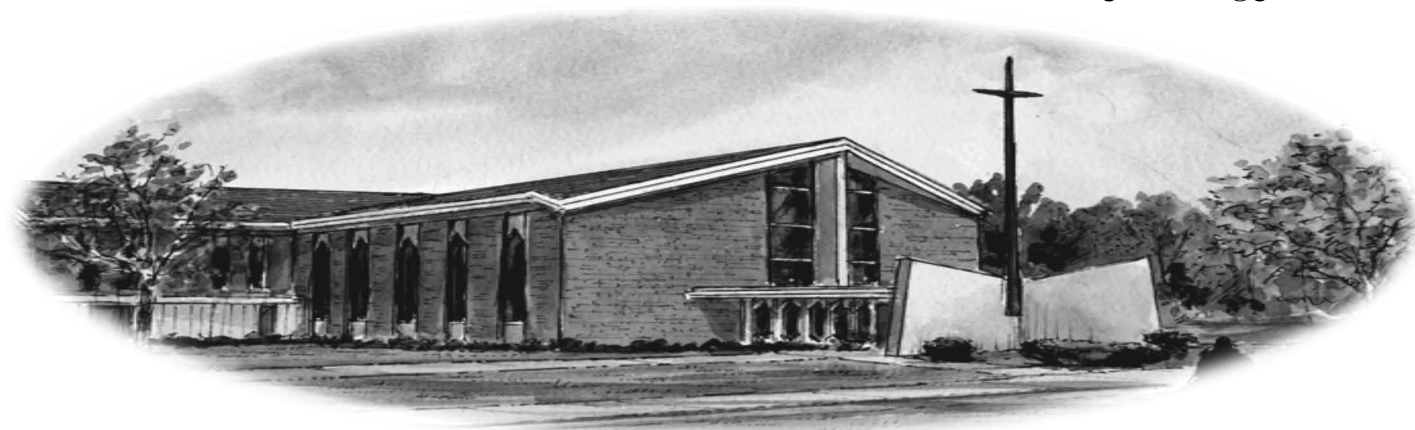
Religious Education

(860) 529-6765

Gina Burby

Sharon Reynolds

Email: gina10272@gmail.com



Pastor

Reverend Nicholas P. Melo

Senior Parochial Vicar

Reverend James M. Moran

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Zacharias Pushpanathan

Deacon

Michael Cassella

Religious Education

Gina Burby

Sharon Reynolds

Pastoral Assistant

Mrs. Audrey Saharek

Sacristan

Toni Munoz

Director of Music

Mrs. Theodora Niver

Cantors

Vanessa Crowley.....Rosanne Sweeney Gowdy
Lorissa Heath.....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, February 19th

5:00pm- Angelo Aglieco & Son Angelo Aglieco

Sunday, February 20th

8:30am- Pasqualino D'Appollonio & Patricia "Patty" D'Appollonio

10:30am- Lorraine Walmsley & Robert Walmsley

Monday, February 21st

9:00am—Deceased members of the DiLorenzo & Alasso Families

Tuesday, February 22nd

9:00am- Deceased members of the Leger & Drisdelle Family

Wednesday, February 23rd

9:00am- For all our parishioners

Thursday, February 24th

9:00am- Fred & Joanne Lepore

Friday, February 25th

9:00am- Sal, Grace & Angel Chiaramida & the Deceased members of the Valdesi Family & Virginia Clementina

Saturday, February 26th

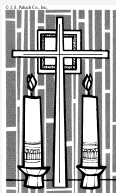
5:00pm— Anthony Diana

Sunday, February 27th

8:30am- Christine Munoz, Angeline Vignone and Helen Vignone

10:30am- Paul Winiarski

The Sanctuary Candle will burn from 2/21/2022–2/27/2022 in memory of Anthony Diana.



The Blessed Virgin Mary Candle will burn from 2/21/2022—2/27/2022 in memory of Margaret Zimmerman.

Church of the Incarnation Faith Formation **Thank You to our Souper Bowl of Caring**

Supporters! THANK YOU for helping us fight hunger! The Souper Bowl of Caring empowers youth and unites communities to tackle hunger using the energy of the Big Game. Our Souper Bowl of Caring event collected hundreds of items & hundred of dollars! Because of your support we are making a collective impact on hunger. Our donations also make an impact locally: House of Bread, St. Joseph's Food Pantry, Immaculate, Catholic Worker House, and other programs that are in need of help. Thank you so much for stepping in to Tackle Hunger through the Souper Bowl of Caring.

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

The **Church of the Incarnation 2021 Annual Report** can be found this weekend inserted in your bulletin. **Archbishop's Annual Appeal:** A Video will be shown next weekend at all masses.

Beyond Bible Study will not meet this Wednesday. Instead, please plan to attend Sr. Mary Ann Cantlon's Bible Study, Thursday, February 24th at 7:00pm in St. Joseph Hall, (Basement of Corpus Christi Church). We will be studying The Book of Genesis.

FRIDAY ROSARY ON THE GREEN...FRIDAY, March 4th, 12noon. Meet on the Green, weather permitting; otherwise meet in Corpus Christi Church.

Christ The King Holy Family Women's Retreat: **March 4-6, 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. Join us at Holy Family Monastery. Call Mary Tyler (860) 202-9400.

Ash Wednesday is March 2nd....Ashes will be distributed at Incarnation Church at the 9am mass, at a 3:30pm Ash Service and at the 5:30pm mass.

Christ the King will offer ashes at a 7:30am mass, 9am ash service & 12:10pm mass at Corpus Christi Church.

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.

Church of the Incarnation...MEN'S RETREAT

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 4 of 9 Days for Life: May all unborn children be protected in law and welcomed in love. Today's prayer and action:
www.respectlife.org/day-4

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 Vineyard 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.

BAPTISM



SCOTT HOWARD ROBINSON

CORPUS CHRISTI SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

We are delighted to share that registration is now open for the 2022 – 2023 school year. Our pre-school program is extremely popular and spots are filling up fast!! Don't be left out in the cold - schedule your personalized tour today. If you, or anyone you know, are interested in learning more about our great school, please email Coleen Antico at: cantico@corpuschristischoolct.org for more information and to set up a tour. Come and see how much MORE we can offer your family!! School encompasses Pre K - 8th grade.

EAST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Our enrollment process is in full swing. Accepted students start scheduling classes for the next school year and finalizing this way their enrollment. New students are still inquiring, visiting as a "Shadow for a Day" and filing applications. We are planning the entrance exam for them on Saturday, February 26th. Families interested in our school always have a chance to schedule a private tour. We also have a Parent Preview Night (mini-open house) coming up on Tuesday, March 1st @ 6:30 pm.



PRAYER CORNER

LOVE AS GOD LOVES

Our Gospel today continues Jesus' Sermon on the Plain, in which we heard Luke's version of the Beatitudes.

This week, Jesus gives us new "commandments," telling us how to live and act in the world as his disciples, rooted in the radical love of God for humanity. It reminds us of his later speech about loving one another as he loves us, in other words with a God-like love, the kind we see in today's psalm about God's mercy. How else could we do as Jesus tells us by loving our enemies, which seems impossible, until we remember that God gave us the example of Jesus, who is like God but also like us? David understands this merciful love when he spares the life of his enemy in the first reading. Finally, Paul tells us that we will become like Jesus if we act as he did, as God does.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — David found Saul in a deep sleep, but would not harm him (1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23).

Psalm — The Lord is kind and merciful (Psalm 103).

Second Reading — We shall bear the image of the heavenly Adam (1 Corinthians 15:45-49).

Gospel — Give to everyone who asks of you. Lend expecting nothing back (Luke 6:27-38).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Jas 3:13-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mk 9:14-29

Tuesday: 1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4-6; Mt 16:13-19

Wednesday: Jas 4:13-17; Ps 49:2-3, 6-11; Mk 9:38-40

Thursday: Jas 5:1-6; Ps 49:14-20; Mk 9:41-50

Friday: Jas 5:9-12; Ps 103:1-4, 8-9, 11-12;

Mk 10:1-12

Saturday: Jas 5:13-20; Ps 141:1-3, 8; Mk 10:13-16

Sunday: Sir 27:4-7; Ps 92:2-3, 13-16;

1 Cor 15:54-58; Lk 6:39-45

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday: St. Peter Damian; Presidents' Day

Tuesday: The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle;

Washington's Birthday

Wednesday: St. Polycarp

Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary

Reflection question:

What can I do this week that is pleasing to God?

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, always pondering spiritual things, we may carry out in both word and deed that which is pleasing to you.

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.

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 20, 2022

Merciful and gracious is the LORD, slow to anger and abounding in kindness.

— Psalm 103:8



STATIONS OF THE CROSS WITH BENEDICTION

**WILL BE OFFERED BY
DEACON MICHAEL CASSELLA
FRIDAYS DURING LENT AT
7PM**

(NOT GOOD FRIDAY)

ALTERNATING BETWEEN CORPUS CHRISTI AND INCARNATION CHURCHES

FRIDAY, MARCH 4TH...CHRIST THE KING

FRIDAY, MARCH 11TH....INCARNATION

FRIDAY, MARCH 18TH...CHRIST THE KING

FRIDAY, MARCH 25TH...INCARNATION

FRIDAY, APRIL 1ST....CHRIST THE KING

FRIDAY, APRIL 8TH....INCARNATION

CHRIST THE KING MEN'S RETREAT which

was to be held at Holy Family Retreat Center in West Hartford is rescheduled due to the omicron surge to late March or April. For info. call Brian Freeman at (860) 573-5885

Christ the King Parish (Corpus Christi Church),

Wethersfield now has a 5:15pm Mass the 1st Sunday of each month throughout the school year.

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

Pastor's Corner - February 20, 2022

Normally at this time of the year, I present the Annual Report of the parish in conjunction with my homily at the weekend Mass. This year presents a unique set of challenges, not the least of which is I am pastor of **two** parishes, and although we have begun the process of merging, for the calendar year 2021 each parish was totally separate and thus there are two separate reports required by the Archdiocese. And since it would be impossible for me to deliver the Annual Report in person at all 6 Masses because the times overlap, I thought it best to present a written report instead.

You will notice in today's bulletin an insert. On one side is an overview of the finances of our parish for 2021. The Finance Council and Trustees have been extremely helpful in maintaining our finances, and preparing this report. Should there be any questions, feel free to contact me or anyone from the Finance Council. We would be more than happy to provide clarification for you.

Some highlights from the report: Offertory was up - even though we were still dealing with the pandemic, you began to return for Mass. Thank you for your continued support of our parish. Total income was up significantly, in large part because of a large gift, and the PPP loan. Even though ordinary expenses were up almost \$100K, we still ended the year with a surplus of over \$45K, thanks to the oversight of our staff and Finance Council. If you got a raise at work this year, we would ask if you would consider increasing your offertory by the same percentage, so that we might balance our budget in 2022.

On the other side of the insert is a list of statistics from our parish. Again, if you have questions, feel free to contact the parish office.

Some highlights from this report: The number of families on our census dropped by almost 200, the number of individuals by 300, and the number of children by 1000.

While we send out over 1300 envelopes, only 156 (basket and online) were returned.

In the latest statistics released by the Archdiocese following the 2021 'October Count', Incarnation ranked 59th out of our 128 parishes in attendance at weekend Mass (487). However, that constitutes only **12%** of our registered parishioners!

People ask why we are merging parishes throughout the Archdiocese - there is the reason plain and simple. One of our primary tasks has to be to bring people back to worship with us each and every week. We need to share with our families and friends what a gift we have in being strengthened weekly by Jesus in Word and Sacrament, and invite them to 'come and see' for themselves!

2021 was a year of surprises. If nothing else, it shows very clearly that we are not in control - that it is God who is in control - and so it is in our best interest to turn things over to Him, to follow where He leads, and to unite our minds and hearts with Him at all times. The more we can do that, the easier life will be.

We survived two more strains of COVID, and pray that there won't be more coming. We began the process of merging into one faith community - a process that is happening throughout our Archdiocese. We formed a Transition Team comprised of five members from Incarnation that Fr. Moran named and five members from Christ the King that I invited. We have met regularly and together with Deacon McCormack from the Archdiocesan Pastoral Planning Office, are bringing together ministries in both parishes. We meet again this coming Monday.

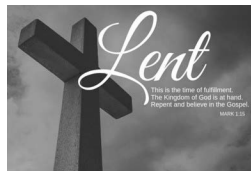
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The Finance Councils prepared budgets for 2022 with an eye toward having one budget when the merge becomes official. Our goal is for that to happen on July 1st. The Buildings and Grounds Committees have met and shared infrastructure needs of both campuses. Our Liturgy Committees met jointly to plan the coming Lent/Easter seasons. Our Faith Formation program, having merged the middle school and high school programs last Fall, merged the Elementary grades in January. And our school community at Corpus Christi School continues to flourish. We have one of the largest schools in the Archdiocese, and we owe a world of thanks to our dedicated staff, faculty & parents who sacrifice to provide a Catholic education to our children.

In January, I was named Pastor of Incarnation in addition to Christ the King. Fr. Moran was named Senior Parochial Vicar and Fr. George Parochial Vicar of both parishes. Two weeks later, the Archdiocese moved Fr. George to Branford and we welcomed Fr. Zach to our parishes.

As I ponder the coming year and the possibilities it has, I cannot help but see the connection with the 6th chapter of St Luke's gospel (Jesus' Sermon on the Plain) from which we heard at Mass both last weekend and this weekend, and will hear again next weekend. Jesus has gathered those who wish to follow him and he taught them what brings us blessedness versus what brings us woe. What brings us blessedness, what draws us closer to God, is our willingness to be other-centered. And, on the flip side, what brings us woe is our persistent self-centeredness, putting ourselves and our needs before the needs of others.

As I reflect on both of our parish communities here in Wethersfield, I am awed by the tremendous amount of outreach that has become part of the fabric of who we are. The many ways we reach out to those most in need in the world around us is indicative of just how blessed we are. As we look to unite our efforts I can only imagine the possibilities that lie before us as we continue to do the work of the Lord. May He truly bless all of our efforts!



LENTEN OPPORTUNITY- CRS RICE BOWL

This Lent, our parish community will participate in CRS Rice Bowl, a program that invites us to reflect on the challenges of global hunger and our Gospel call to care for our global human family.

CRS Rice Bowl gives us a wonderful opportunity to encounter different people from around the world, know more about their lives and recognize them as our sisters and brothers. We will see how, through our **prayers**, we encounter Jesus, who is present in the face of every member of our human family. When we **fast**, we encounter the obstacles that prevent us from fully loving God and our neighbor. And when we **give alms**, we share in solidarity with those who need our support.

By joining our prayers, fasts and alms this Lent with those of other parishes and Catholic schools in the United States, we will help millions of women, men and children around the world whose economic challenges have been exacerbated by the pandemic. Together as a Church, through CRS Rice Bowl, we can contribute to the efforts of those who seek to build a better world for themselves and their communities. Rice Bowls will be available next wk., February 26 & 27. **WE ASK THAT YOU USE BILLS OR CHECKS MADE OUT TO CRS RICE BOWL & PLEASE RETURN TO THE SACRISTY. THANK YOU!**

Something Special for Lent

Are you looking for a little extra that you can do during Lent? The Social Action Committee is sponsoring the "Lenten Crosses" program, which offers you suggestions for Lenten activities.

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 2nd, cards will be displayed at the church entrances at Incarnation and on the side ledges at Christ The King. Each card will offer opportunities for prayer (green cards), fasting (yellow cards), children's ideas (blue), good works (pink), or to make a donation (orange cards) to a worthwhile agency. These are all ways to enrich your observance of Lent. Feel free to select one/or more cards & complete the activity during Lent.

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