

A wide-angle photograph of Jerusalem at sunset. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, with a vibrant orange and red glow from the setting sun. The city's skyline is visible, with the Dome of the Rock prominently illuminated in the center. The city lights are beginning to glow, and the overall atmosphere is one of solemnity and grandeur.

“YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD, YOUR GOD, TO THE TEST.”

LUKE 4:12

# FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 6, 2022



# *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*

Mrs. 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 and/or*

## *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, March 5th

5:00pm- Santina & Donato Bellantuono

## Sunday, March 6th

8:30am- Deceased members of the Forgetta, Labbadia & Davia Family

10:30am- Emilia Gaetani

## Monday, March 7th

9:00am- For all our deceased parishioners & benefactors

## Tuesday, March 8th

9:00am- Anna Salvatore & Mario Salvatore

## Wednesday, March 9th

9:00am- Gildo Alberto Elena Colasacco & Maria Colasacco

## Thursday, March 10th

9:00am- For all our parishioners

## Friday, March 11th

9:00am- Joan Stuer

## Saturday, March 12th

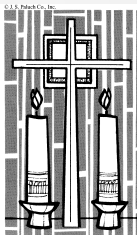
5:00pm- Christine Console

## Sunday, March 13th

8:30am- Luigi Lucci

10:30am- Sebastian & Mary Bianca

**The Sanctuary Candle** will burn from 3/7/2022–3/13/2022 in memory of Roger Madeux.



**The Blessed Virgin Mary Candle** will burn from 3/7/2022—3/13/2022 in memory of Helen Hand.

**You may return your Easter Flower envelope** anytime from now until Easter.

**House of Bread:** We will have a drive-by collection Sunday, March 6th from 8-11am, outside Fr. Crawford Hall. Sponsored by our Faith Formation classes. Coffee & sugar are needed. Thank you so much for your support!

**The Women's Club cooking team** will meet this Monday, March 7th from 1-3pm in Fr. Crawford Hall.

**The second collection next weekend** will be the monthly collection.

**BEYOND BIBLE STUDY:** MEETS EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 7PM...MEETING VIA ZOOM. Email Deacon Michael for the link.....mecassella@gmail.com or call (860) 965-2526.

**FRIDAY ROSARY ON THE GREEN:** Every Friday 12 noon. Meet on the Green, weather permitting; otherwise in Corpus Christi Church.

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY:** March 17th, 1pm, St. Joseph Hall, Corpus Christi Church.

**Incarnation Church Women's Club** invites all parishioners to its General Meeting on Thursday, March 31, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in Fr. Crawford Hall. The Lenten program will feature a presentation by Sister Maryann Cantlon, Sister of Saint Joseph of Chambery and a retreat team member at Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center. Hope to see you there!

## **WEEKLY FOOD DRIVE SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE**

NON PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS MAY BE LEFT IN THE BOX IN THE VESTIBULE AT CORPUS CHRISTI CHURCH ANYTIME. SUPPORTS OUR LOCAL FOOD BANK.





© Annika Nelson

**Lenten Regulations:** Catholics ages 14 and older are to abstain from meat on all Fridays during Lent. The rule does not apply when health or ability to work would be seriously impacted. Catholics who have celebrated their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, but have not yet marked their 59<sup>th</sup> are to fast on Good Friday. On days of fast, one full meal is allowed. Two other meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to individual needs but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and juices, are allowed.

### **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.

### **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](mailto: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.

### **AOH March Food Drive**

The Ancient Order of Hibernians Hartford Division 2 is sponsoring a Food Drive, Sun., March 13, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Collection will take place at Christ the King in the parking lot that is between the church and the middle school. This drive is part of the regular parish food collection. We will be there after the 10:15 a.m. Mass for anyone that wants to donate. The food will be given to the pantry at St. Augustine Church in Hartford. Please bring non-perishable items with canned meats & soup in the greatest need in addition to pinto/ pink beans. We are also looking to collect cooking oils, spices and condiments. Everyone who donates will receive a Saint Patrick's Day carnation courtesy of our friends at Gordon Bonetti Florist on the Silas Deane Hwy. Thanks to all for their generosity!

### **Something Special for Lent**

**The Social Action Committee** is offering suggestions you may want to include in your Lenten activities to enhance your Lenten journey and beyond. Cards are now available at Christ The King and Incarnation for 5 different categories: donations (orange cards) to an organization that helps the needy, ideas for fasting (yellow), prayers that can be said (green), ideas for children (blue) and good works (pink), which are opportunities to participate in parish projects. Take as many cards as you like & complete the activity during Lent. Cards do not need to be returned. Contact Spencer Malley at [spencer.malley@uconn.edu](mailto:spencer.malley@uconn.edu) or Nancy Kiely at (860) 989-5548 (cell).

### **ENCOUNTER LENT**

On Ash Wednesday, we began our Lenten journey, a journey back to God. Occasionally we get lost along the way. Sometimes we run from activity to activity and forget about spending time with God. Sometimes we don't do the right thing and that hurts our relationship with Him. But He always waits for us.

During the 40 days of Lent, we're invited to slow down and focus on our journey and how we can follow Christ more faithfully. We do this through the three pillars of **prayer, fasting & almsgiving**. Through **prayer** we seek and connect with the Lord and ask him to intercede for the needs of our global family. We grow in our relationship with him and unite with our sisters and brothers around the world.

When we **fast**, we experience a little bit of the hunger that many experience daily. We make room for the needs of others and room for God's Holy Spirit to work within us.

Finally, through a recognition of the world's needs and a personal commitment to help others, we give **alms**. We recognize that our gifts are from the Holy Spirit, so we should be generous to others. This year, with these pillars as our guide, CRS Rice Bowl will introduce us to our neighbors in Guatemala, Bangladesh and Rwanda. We'll learn how the dreams of our sisters and brothers are inspiring them to overcome challenges that impact their daily life: to dream bigger and to help their families and communities succeed. **RICE BOWLS ARE AT ALL ENTRANCES. RETURN YOUR DONATIONS (in check form) TO THE ALTAR BASKET (AT FOOT OF Lenten Cross) OR IN THE COLLECTION BASKETS AT EITHER CHURCH DURING ANY MASS. Please return by 4/17 or before. Thank you!**



## **PRAYER CORNER**

### **IN THE DESERT**

Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, and then the devil tested him. Moses and the Israelites had been in the desert for forty years before being led to the land of milk and honey. There were times when they called out to God, sure that, as Saint Paul wrote to the Romans, “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” We sometimes spend time in the desert as well. Not a literal desert most of the time, but a desert in which it seems difficult to perceive God’s presence, times when we face difficulty and are tempted to leave God’s ways behind. On this First Sunday of Lent, Jesus shows us what to do in these moments: stand firm and trust in God.

### **TODAY’S READINGS**

First Reading — The Israelites show their faith by offering the LORD first fruits of the products of their new land (Deuteronomy 26:4-10).

Psalm — Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble (Psalm 91).

Second Reading — All who express faith in the risen Christ and confess that he is Lord will be saved (Romans 10:8-13).

Gospel — Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit and was tempted (Luke 4:1-13).

### **READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19;  
Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8;  
Mt 7:7-12

Friday: Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48

Sunday: Gn 15:5-12, 17-18; Ps 27:1, 7-9, 13-14;  
Phil 3:17 — 4:1 [3:20 — 4:1]; Lk 9:28b-36

### **SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

Sunday: First Sunday of Lent;

Monday: Ss. Perpetua and Felicity;

Tuesday: St. John of God

Wednesday: St. Frances of Rome

Friday: Abstinence

### **PRAYER OF THE WEEK**

First Sunday of Lent  
Grant, almighty God,  
through the yearly observances of holy Lent,  
that we may grow in understanding  
of the riches hidden in Christ  
and by worthy conduct pursue their effects.  
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.

### **First Sunday of Lent**

March 6, 2022

The word is near you,  
in your mouth and in your heart. — Romans 10:8



## **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 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** at Holy Family Retreat Center in West Hartford is rescheduled due to the omicron surge to late March/April. Call Brian Freeman (860) 573-5885 for details.

**Christ the King Parish** (Corpus Christi Church), Wethersfield now has a 5:15pm Mass the 1st Sunday of each month throughout the school year.

**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. Call Incarnation rectory to book.

## **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](mailto:incarnation.ctk@gmail.com).

## **2022 Archbishop’s Annual Appeal**

As Catholics in the Archdiocese of Hartford we have a profound impact on our local communities not only in the spiritual realm, but intimately connected to it, the realm of social services and many charities and outreach services performed by, or with help from, our Church. Theme is Stronger Together.

### Pastor's Corner – March 6, 2022

As we begin this first full week of Lent, I share part of a blog by Fr. Richard Rohr for your reflection entitled "Trusting Our Essential Self". Our Lenten journey is one that will hopefully bring us closer to God, but Fr. Rohr is saying that the more we come to know our true **self**, the more we come to know God as well, and most importantly, what God is calling us to do here-and-now.

"You (and every other created thing) begin with your unique divine DNA, an inner destiny as it were, an absolute core that knows the truth about you. This true believer is tucked away in the cellar of your being, an *imago Dei* that begs to be allowed, to be fulfilled, and to show itself.

"You were chosen in Christ before the world was made—to stand before God in love—marked out beforehand as fully adopted sons and daughters". This is your True Self. Historically, it was often called "the soul."

Jesus revealed and accepted a paradox in his entire being: the human and divine are not separate, but one! His life shouted it. I wonder why we so resist our same destiny? For most of us, this seems just too good and too dangerous to be true. There is so much contrary evidence! Is it because we are afraid to bear the burden of divinity? As Marianne Williamson says: "Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure." Maybe we realize subconsciously that if we really believed that we are temples of God, then we would have to live up to it.

The True Self is the Divine Indwelling, the Holy Spirit within you. I would say *that the True Self is precisely the divine part of you that is great enough, deep enough, gracious enough to fully accept the human part of you. If you are merely human, you will tend to reject your embarrassingly limited humanity.* Think on that!

Paradoxically, immense humility, not arrogance, characterizes someone who lives in this True Self. You simultaneously know you are a child of God, but you also know that you didn't earn it and you are not worthy of it. You know it's entirely a gift.

The true purpose of mature religion is to lead you to ever new experiences of your True Self. If religion does not do this, it is junk religion. Every sacrament, every Bible story, every church service, every sermon, every hymn, every bit of ministry, or liturgy is for one purpose: to allow you to experience your True Self—who you are in God and who God is in you—and to live a generous life from that Infinite Source."

May we have a blessed and fruitful 1<sup>st</sup> Week of Lent!



**Please enjoy this wonderful**  
photo of Fr. Melo,  
Fr. Moran,  
Fr. Zack and Men's Club  
members on retreat last  
weekend at Holy Family  
Monastery in Farmington.

**Elementary Faith Formation**

**Grade 2** Class on March 12<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-9:30am and the Reconciliation Retreat from 1-3pm in Father Crawford Hall.

**Grade 3** Class on March 12<sup>th</sup> from 10-11am. The First Holy Communion Retreat will be held on March 20<sup>th</sup> from 1-3pm. Both will be held in Fr. Crawford Hall.

**Online parent meetings** will be held this month to have conversations with other parents involved in the program. These are not mandatory meetings but offered for parents to ask questions and provide an extra resource. A link will be sent through email.

**Pathways Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30.....Pflaus Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30.**

**Middle School/High School** Family Mass Sun., March 6<sup>th</sup> -5:15pm, Corpus Christi Church. All welcome!



**Gratitude**.....Gratitude, according to the dictionary, is the expression of appreciation for one has. It is a recognition of value independent of monetary worth from within, it is an affirmation of goodness and warmth.

“Thankfulness is the beginning of gratitude. Gratitude is the completion of thankfulness. Thankfulness may merely consist in words. Gratitude is shown in action”

*Henry Federick Amiel*

John was an eight year old boy when he lost his father. The responsibility of taking care of his sick mother fell on his shoulder. One day he went to the pharmacy to buy life savings medicine for his mother. But he did not have enough money. He stood outside the pharmacy, weeping.

A petty shop owner next to the pharmacy noticed the anguish of the boy and helped the boy with sufficient amount of money to buy the medicine.

Many years later, the petty shop owner fell sick and was in need of an open heart surgery. The operation was costly and success. To his surprise, there was a small note underneath the bill, saying “the cost is paid in full” signed **Dr. John!!**

“At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has a cause to think with gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us” Albert Schweitzer. “One can never pay in gratitude: one can only pay in ‘kind’ somewhere else in life”

*Ann Morrow Lindberg*

“In ordinary life, we hardly realize that we receive a great deal more than we give, and that is why it is only with gratitude that life becomes rich”

*Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

Every act of kindness receives its reward sooner or later. it comes back at times through persons totally unknown to us. God is generous and the nature reciprocates His generosity. It hardly rains in the desert, but when it does, the parched land transforms itself into a spectacular magic carpet of flowers. God is totally unbiased and he sends his rain on good and bad alike. We are eternally indebted to Him and we can never thank him enough.

“When I started counting my blessings, my whole life turned around”

*Willie Nelson*

“No one achieves success does so without the help of others. The wise and confident acknowledge this help with gratitude”

*Alfred North Whitehead*

“Gratitude is a currency that we can mint for ourselves, and spend without fear of bankruptcy” *Fred Du Witt Van Amburg.*

“Let us rise up and be thankful, for if we didn’t learn a lot today, at least we learned a little, and if we didn’t learn little, at least we didn’t get sick, at least we didn’t die; so let us be grateful”

*Anonymous Author*

**Fr. Zack**



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