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# Sunday of Advent

The desert and the  
parched land will exult;  
the steppe will rejoice and bloom.  
They will bloom with  
abundant flowers,  
and rejoice with joyful song.

Isaiah 35:1-2



# The Church of the Incarnation

544 Prospect Street  
Wethersfield, CT 06109



Rev. James M. Moran  
**Pastor**

Mrs. Noranne Wamester  
**Pastoral Associate**  
**Director of Faith Formation**

Mrs. Audrey Saharek  
**Pastoral Assistant**

Toni Munoz  
**Sacristan**

Mrs. Filomena Marinelli  
**Coordinator of Elementary Faith Formation Gr. K-6**

Ms. Gina Burby  
**Coordinator of Middle School Faith Formation Gr. 7-12**  
**Confirmation Coordinator for next year, (2020)**

Mrs. Maggie Seaver  
**Youth Minister**

Mrs. Marguerite Devitt  
**Faith Formation Secretary**  
**Rectory Office Assistant**

Mrs. Theodora Niver  
**Director of Music**  
Vanessa Crowley.....Lorissa Heath  
Rosanne Sweeney Gowdy.....Andrew Russo  
Heather Picard.....Gianna Bielenda  
**Cantors**

Marguerite Heinimann  
**Rectory Assistant**

## Mass Schedule

Confessions on Saturdays from 3:30 - 4:15p.m.  
Vigil Mass: Saturday at 5:00p.m.  
Sunday Masses: 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.  
Daily Mass: (Mon. - Fri.) 9:00 a.m.  
Recitation of the Rosary before  
9:00 a.m. daily Mass

## Sacrament of Baptism

By previous appointment by calling the rectory.  
Sundays at 12:30 p.m.  
Celebrated in the Baptistry  
of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

## Weddings

Please contact a priest 6-10 months prior.

## New Parishioners and Faith Formation Registration

The Church of the Incarnation  
welcomes new parishioners.  
All forms are available at the  
main entrance of the church.  
Please mail or place in the collection basket.  
You may also visit our website for printable forms at:  
[www.thechurchoftheincarnation.com](http://www.thechurchoftheincarnation.com)

## Rectory Hours

9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Rectory**  
(860) 529-2533

**Fax**  
(860) 721-6595

**Church E-Mail**  
[cincarnation@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cincarnation@sbcglobal.net)

**Faith Formation Office**  
(860) 529-6765  
[gotellit15@gmail.com](mailto:gotellit15@gmail.com)

**Website address:**  
[www.thechurchoftheincarnation.com](http://www.thechurchoftheincarnation.com)

# Mass Schedule

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14TH

5:00pm—Miguel & Mariana Gaspar

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH

8:30am—Pasqualino D'Appollonio

10:30am—Art Boudreau

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 16TH

9:00am— Pietro G. Cieri & Salvatore Santilli

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH

9:00am— Richard Cornelio, Anton Begusch, Stefanie Begusch & Jason DeLucco

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18TH

9:00am— James Capenera

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19TH

9:00am— For all our parishioners

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20TH

9:00am— Gildo Alberto Colasacco

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21ST

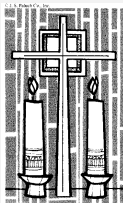
5:00pm—Paul D. & Christine Console

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22ND

8:30am— Anthony & Emelia Camilliere

10:30am— Michael & Marion Dellafera

**The Sanctuary Candle** will burn from 12/16/2019–12/22/2019 in memory of James Capenera.



**The Blessed Virgin Mary Candle** will burn from 12/16/2019—12/22/2019 in memory of Marie Feeney.

**Attention parents:** During Mass we request that children would always be accompanied to the restrooms by a parent/adult. Thank you!



**Thank you to all who have supported our 2019 Annual Collection.** Donations will be gratefully received through 2019. Since the collection began on the first wkd. of October, we have received \$94,600 towards our goal of \$100,000. There are envelopes at all the entrances.

### **21st Advent Giving Program**

**Angel Tree: Please return your UNWRAPPED gifts WITH**

**YOUR ANGEL ATTACHED this weekend &** place them under the Advent Giving Christmas Tree in the Narthex. The gifts must be returned by **Dec. 15th** so they can be delivered on time. God Bless you for helping those less fortunate!



**The Second Collection this weekend** is the monthly collection. Thank you.

**Employment Support:** Call Ken Mendoza if you are searching for employment at (860) 729-5960.

**There is one collection on Christmas and it is for our parish.** This collection will be taken up at the Christmas Eve Vigil & Christmas Morning Masses.

**House of Bread** collection next wkd. Coffee & sugar needed. Thank you for your kindness all year!

### BAPTISM

LUCY MARIE DIVINETZ



### **RESPECT LIFE CORNER:** **Prayer for December**

Isaiah 9:5 "For a Child is born to us: upon His shoulder dominion rests. They name Him Wonder-Counselor-God Hero-Father- Forever, Prince of Peace."

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave us His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish, but might have eternal life."

Loving God, You are the Word made flesh. Let us choose to live by Your counsel, so that all may see Jesus living in us.



**FAITH FORMATION (GRADES K-6)**

Class Schedule information is on our website:

[www.thechurchoftheincarnation.com](http://www.thechurchoftheincarnation.com)

**Class Schedule:**

**Grade 2:** Saturday, December 14 from 8:30-9:45 a.m.

**Grade 4:** Thursday, December 19 from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

**Grade 1 and Little Lambs:** Saturday, December 21 from 8:30-9:45 a.m.

**Grades 3, 5 & 6** will resume classes the week of January 5, 2020.

*All Classes Meet in Fr. Crawford Hall.*

**DECEMBER: KIDS' CAFÉ COMMUNITY SERVICE OUT-REACH:**

*Last week was our final week to collect items for Kids' Café & fill goodie bags. Our goal is 600 goodie bags. In addition, our Kids' Café Mitten/Glove/Sock Christmas tree is overflowing! The response from our Faith Formation families is astounding! Thank you for your amazing generosity during this Advent season and all year. It makes such an impact on the children who attend Kids' Café everyday. God Bless You All!*

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD:**

Our next CLW will be on Sun., Dec. 22 at 10:30 am Mass. In particular, we invite ALL GRADE 1 & 4 STUDENTS & LITTLE LAMBS to attend. We hope ALL children pre-school - Gr 6 will attend this beautiful re-enactment of the First Christmas. We thank Catechists Vanessa Crowley, Trisha Pesce, & Aleeta Jeamel for preparing this most special liturgy and play.

**CLW CHILDREN'S NATIVITY PLAY:**

Our Nativity Play will be on Sun, December 22 at 10:30am Mass. Children will attend the play during Mass at Children's Liturgy of the Word.

**ALL PARISHIONERS ARE INVITED!**

All parishioners are invited and most welcome to also enjoy the play immediately following 10:30 a.m. Mass in Fr. Crawford Hall as the children will perform once again for the adult community. Please come and enjoy a short variation of the Story of Christmas. Our Second and Fourth Grade students will be participating. Refreshments will be served after the performance.

Let us go forth during this Advent Season to bring LIGHT and HOPE to a world so hungry for God's mess age of love, peace and mercy!

**Confirmation 2020:** Next mtg. is this Sunday, Dec., 15th for all boys from 3-6pm in Fr. Crawford Hall. Registrations/forms are past due. Please bring papers to the retreat if you are still holding onto them. We will be collecting new hats, gloves, and/or scarves. An email and letter was sent to families.

**Middle School Faith Formation:**

Tuesday, December 17th for all 7th/8th grade boys & Wed., December 18th for all 7th/8th grade girls, 6:30-8pm in Fr. Crawford Hall. We will collect for Kid's Café. An email/letter was sent to families. Please let me know if you are not receiving emails: [gina10272@aol.com](mailto:gina10272@aol.com)

**Christmas Caroling/Outreach/Celebration: Sunday, Dec. 15th**

All High School/College kids are welcome to join our Youth Ministry for a night of caroling, outreach, & fun. We will meet in Fr. Crawford Hall at 6pm to tune up our voices. Then, after some caroling across the street in Collier Farms, we will head back to the hall to put together Christmas goodie bags for Kid's Cafe in Harford, followed by hot cocoa/holiday treats. Please bring something to contribute to the goodie bags if you can. Join us for some fun! Any ?'s: Maggie Seaver at [bethelight544@gmail.com](mailto:bethelight544@gmail.com).

**Father Moran tells the story of the First Christmas and Santa's visit to baby Jesus on Christmas Eve to our First Grade students.**



**Faith Formation Children decorate the Kids' Cafe Christmas Tree with mittens, gloves, and hats!**



**PSALM PRAYER**

"We lift our hearts to the Lord."



Psalm 146

In the Gospel of Luke (chapter 4) we learn that at the beginning of his public ministry, Jesus opens a scroll handed to him in the temple. He reads from the prophet Isaiah who mysteriously speaks of the Messiah as one who feeds the hungry, lifts up the brokenhearted, frees the captive, and provides sight to the spiritually blind. The people's long-awaited Messiah is truly a God who loves and saves. This day Jesus has sealed these words upon himself; he has taken the mantle of this saving God, declaring to those gathered around him: "Today these words are fulfilled in *your* hearing."

In *our* hearing today we join these Scriptures with the sentiments of Psalm 146. The words of Isaiah that Jesus reads echo throughout this Psalm, giving the returning exiles hope and restoration. It is a loving and saving God they experience who heals their broken spirits and leads them safely home. This, too, is our long-awaited Messiah. *"Lord, come and save us."*



**Christmas Eve this year is Tuesday, December 24th. Daily Mass will be held at 9am.**

**Christmas Eve Tuesday Evening, December 24th we will offer a Christmas Eve**

**Vigil Mass at 5pm and a Mass During The Night at 10pm. The Choir will sing at 4pm prior to the 5pm Mass.**

**PLEASE NOTE: There will be NO MIDNIGHT MASS.**

**Wednesday, December 25th, Christmas Morning Masses will be held at 8:30am & 10:30am.** The rectory will be closed on December 25th. Emergency calls only please. **A Blessed Christmas to all!!**

**Christmas Confessions** will be offered on Monday, December 23rd from 7-8pm. Fr. Mike Rogers will join Fr. Moran and will also hear confessions in English, Spanish & Italian.

**Please pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, & religious!** If you want to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ as a priest/religious, call Fr. Michael Casey, Director of Vocations, Pastoral Center 860-761-7456, e-mail [vocations@aohct.org](mailto:vocations@aohct.org) or visit the web at [www.hartfordpriest.com](http://www.hartfordpriest.com).

**Vocations Holy Hour and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** is celebrated at Incarnation Church every Tuesday from 9:30-10:30am, Blessed Sacrament Chapel. All are welcome as we pray for an increase in priestly vocations, the success of our upcoming Archdiocesan Synod, Affirming Life and reparation for the sin of clerical sexual abuse.

**Prayer For Peace: Incarnation Church** 30 minutes prior to 9am Daily Mass.

**Come, O Holy Spirit, & Renew the Face of the Earth! Legion of Mary mtg. every Monday at 9:45am, Fr. Crawford Hall, Incarnation Church.** The object of the Legion of Mary is the Glory of God through the holiness of its members developed by prayer active co-operation in Mary's & the Church's work.

**The Mission of Dynamic: Dear Parishioners,**

As we begin to prepare for our Dynamic Catholic Event Find Your Greatness, I invite you to go to [DynamicCatholic.com](http://DynamicCatholic.com) and scroll down to Our Mission. There you will view an inspiring 5 minute video with Matthew Kelly explaining the mission of Dynamic Catholic. It will hopefully fill you with enthusiasm as we enter into the preparation time.

Also, as you scroll up to the top of the site, please sign-up for Best Advent Ever: "Join Matthew Kelly and the Dynamic Catholic team for this free e-mail daily reflection that will help you enjoy a few minutes of peace and prayer each day during the hectic holidays." "Amazing Possibilities; God sees them all. It's time you see them too." Blessings and Peace, Noranne S. Wamester, Pastoral Associate and the Members of the Dynamic Catholic Event Planning Team.

**Knights of Columbus Fr. James J. Gannon Council 4193 Weth., CT....Attention Men:**

The Knights of Columbus is the largest Catholic fraternal organization in the world. Its core principles are CHARITY, FRATERNITY, UNITY and PATRIOTISM. Membership is limited to Catholic men aged 18 & over. Consider joining! Call Jeff at (860) 965-8036 or Joe at 1-516-459-9489. Mtgs. held 2nd Tues. of the month, St. Joseph Hall, below Christ the King Church. **Also, the last Tuesday of each month if you eat at Bertucci's on the Berlin Turnpike in Newington,** 15% of your order will be donated to the Knights. See flyers.

**REASON TO REJOICE**

Dark violet is used throughout Advent to express its character as a season of spiritual preparation for Christmas and "the coming of the Lord." But on the Third Sunday of Advent, formerly known as *Gaudete* (Latin for "rejoice") Sunday, rose may be added to the liturgical environment. The entire liturgy is infused with a spirit of rejoicing.

Today's first reading and Gospel proclaim the reality of God's saving work in our midst. Isaiah exuberantly describes the idyllic transformation of all creation as a result of God's presence in the midst of the people. In the Gospel, Jesus connects Isaiah's prophecy with what is happening in his own ministry. In addition to the list of healings from Isaiah (the blind, the lame, lepers, and the deaf), Jesus' presence brings two other reasons for rejoicing: "The dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them" (Matthew 11:5).

**TODAY'S READINGS**

**First Reading** — The barren deserts will rejoice and flower (Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10).

**Psalm** — Lord, come and save us (Psalm 146).

**Second Reading** — Be patient, for the coming of the Lord is as sure as the rain (James 5:7-10).

**Gospel** — Tell of what you hear and see: The blind regain their vision, the crippled their movement, the deaf their hearing (Matthew 11:2-11).

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17

Wednesday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

Thursday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

Friday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

Saturday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a;

Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

Sunday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

Sun: 3rd Sun. of Advent—Saturday: St. Peter Canisius; Winter begins

**SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS (c. 1542-1591)  
December 14**

How beautiful the experience of love for God and neighbor, a fire deep within! How disheartening when love suddenly cools and our souls grow dark, our prayer arid. How painful when misunderstanding, even rejection, comes our way, sometimes from those we least expect. For all such "seasons of the soul," an inspiring fellow-pilgrim is the poet and mystic John of the Cross. As a young Carmelite, he was recruited by Teresa of Ávila for her Discalced ("barefoot," evangelical poverty) Carmelite reform, striving to renew the Church from within after the Protestant Reformation had led countless religious away. John suffered unspeakably harsh abuse, even imprisonment, from friars who rejected this reform. Yet during these times of deepest suffering, John composed spiritual masterpieces that still guide souls to God, their titles reflecting his own painful yet ultimately victorious journey: from *The Dark Night of the Soul* through *The Ascent of Mount Carmel* to his *Spiritual Canticle* and *The Living Flame of Love*. John summarized his spirituality simply: "Put love where there is no love, and you will find love."

Our parish **Dynamic Catholic team** wishes to thank all who came to gather free gifts from Dynamic Catholic. We receive books or CD's each month because our parish belongs to the Ambassadors Club. Our next gift to our parishioners is a copy of Matthew Kelly's new book "Re-Discovering the Saints." The books will be available for pick up in Fr. Crawford Hall after all Masses the weekend of December 21st & 22nd. This is another opportunity to gift yourself, a family member, or a friend.

**A Christmas Prayer from Dynamic Catholic**

"If we can drag ourselves away from the  
crazy, noisy, busy world and step into the  
classroom of silence,  
God will speak to us...

This Christmas may you hear  
His invitation into the silence so that He can fill your  
heart with peace  
like you have never known."



Our donations for Ghana were so generous, there was hardly room for Fr. William to fit in his car! Thank you so much for your kind generosity!!

**Third Sunday of Advent:  
Advent Wreath Lighting — Families in the Light**

During the beautiful season of Advent, we invite our parishioners to participate in the lighting of the Advent wreath. The lighting schedule poster is on the Narthex bulletin board. The Advent wreath is green in color and is a sign of new life. The circle shape reminds us that God's love for us never ends. The Advent candles signify the strong contrast between darkness & light. As the coming of the Christ Child draws closer another candle is lit, each candle dispelling the darkness a little more as we wait with great expectation for the birth of the Christ Child, the Light of the World. Let us be LIGHT to one another. We welcome you to light our Advent wreath at a Mass of your choice. When it is your time to light the wreath, alert the Sacristan before mass that you will light it.

**Northwest Catholic High School** Entrance Exam Sat., January 11 at 8 am. You can register for the exam online at [www.northwestcatholic.org/admissions](http://www.northwestcatholic.org/admissions). Walk-ins are welcome! Contact Andrew Selig at [aselig@nwcath.org](mailto:aselig@nwcath.org).