

The Church of the Incarnation

544 Prospect Street
Wethersfield, CT 06109



Rev. James M. Moran
Pastor

Mrs. Noranne Wamester
Pastoral Associate

Mrs. Audrey Saharek
Pastoral Assistant

Mrs. Teri Aiudi
Rectory Office Assistant
Faith Formation Secretary

Mrs. Theodora Niver
Director of Music

Vanessa Crowley
Lorissa Heath
Rosanne Sweeney Gowdy
Andrew Russo
Heather Picard Bonney
Cantors

Toni Munoz
Sacristan

Maggie Seaver
Youth Minister

Mass Schedule

Confessions on Saturdays from 3:45 - 4:30p.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
Sundays at 12:30 p.m. in the Baptistry of the 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

Rectory Hours

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

Rectory
(860) 529-2533

Fax
(860) 721-6595

Church E-Mail
cincarnation@sbcglobal.net

Faith Formation
(860) 529-6765

Website address:
www.thechurchoftheincarnation.com

**SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 1ST**

5:00pm - Deceased members of
the Martino & Bonaquisto Families

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND

8:30am- Nico Filippa
10:30am- John Carpino

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD

9:00am- Joseph Saltarelli

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH

9:00am- For all our deceased parishioners

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH

9:00am- Anthony & Gladys Gaspic

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH

9:00am- Welcome DiCicco

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH

5:00pm- Gildo Alberto

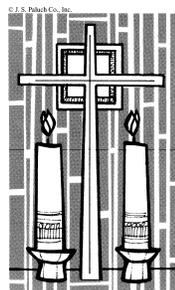
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH

8:30am- Frank Leonard
10:30am- Elizabeth Phillips Kempf & the
Deceased members of the Phillips & Burgie
Families.

The Sanctuary Candle will
burn from 2/3/2014-2/9/2014
in memory of Salvatore Italia.

The Blessed Virgin

Mary Candle will burn from
2/3/2014-2/9/2014 in memory
of the deceased members of the
Bailardo & Fanelli Families.



**Thank you to all who donated to the 2014
Catholic High Schools collection last wk.**



**In honor of St. Blaise, we will
bless throats this weekend during
all of the Masses.** This blessing is
a sign of thanks for the gift of
breathing, speech and taste.

“Project Baby Love” collection this wk.
Disposable diapers & wipes requested. To
benefit St. Gerard Center for Life, Hartford.

**The Women’s Club Cooking Team will
meet this Monday, February 3rd from 1-3
in the kitchen of Fr. Crawford Hall.**

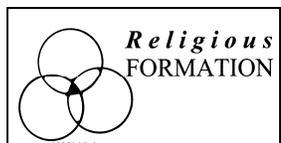
**The Employment Support Group will
meet on Tuesday, February 4th at 9:30am
in Fr. Crawford Hall.**

**Friday, February 7th is the first Friday in
February. Mass will be at 9am with Voca-
tions Holy Hour to follow in the Chapel.**

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

**Fourth & fifth grade boys &
girls interested in becoming
Altar Servers at Incarnation
are invited to meet with Fr.
Moran at 11am on Saturday,
February 8th in the Church.** The meeting
will last one hour and will be the second of
three consecutive sessions that will prepare
those interested in serving at our Eucharistic
celebrations.





All Faith Formation Grades will meet this week at the regular times.

CLW invites you to come join us for *Pizza Bite Refreshments and Fellowship* in Father Crawford Hall after the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, February 1. Take some time with your family to share food and friendship with one another! The CLW team is very excited to now be part of the Saturday liturgy! Come and experience our faith in action!

Incarnation Youth Ministry is extremely excited to be attending The Steubenville East Conference in Rhode Island July 18th - 20th! They will be gathering with over 2,000 peers who will come together to listen to dynamic speakers and clergy who hope to strengthen and inspire teens in their journeys to Christ. The testimonies of hundreds of youth who have returned year after year to participate in this conference are so encouraging and inspirational. This is an incredible opportunity for our youth!! Don't miss out - JOIN US! All 9th -12th graders, including graduating seniors are invited. Please contact Youth Minister Maggie Seaver at seaver711@aol.com if you are interested in attending. The Conference always sells out and we must register by Feb. 9th!!

Our Youth Ministry will be raising awareness, support and funds for their trip to their conference. The theme: ***God Is***, focuses on each of us trusting and believing in the plan that God has set out for us. Please support our youth as they embark on this journey that will deepen their faith and understanding of God and His love for us. **They will be sponsoring a Mini Key Chain Flashlight Sale & Bake Sale after all Masses February 8 & 9th. Sincere thanks for the support.**

Each Confirmation candidate is asked to pray about choosing a Saint's name to be given at the anointing with chrism at Confirmation. Please read the following beautiful essay about St. Mark. Our young people's writings continue to move us all to grow in our faith. Our young people are a tribute to our parish. As the author of this essay said " I hope you enjoy it."

Confirmation Name Essay

“For Confirmation, I have chosen my Confirmation name to be Mark, named after Saint Mark. Mark was one of the four writers of the Gospels the Gospel of Mark. He is usually compared to the Mark found in Acts 12:12. Most of what’s known about Mark comes from the New Testament. Mark accompanied Paul on his first journey to spread Christianity, but returned along to Jerusalem. It is assumed that Paul was displeased with Mark, but this trouble did not last too long. His Gospel is the shortest of the four Gospels (only four passages), but is one of the most important Gospels. In his Gospel, he talks about how Jesus was rejected by others, and of God’s triumphant envoy. His Gospel, we believe, was written between 60 and 70 A.D. for gentile converts living in Rome at the time. Even though it is uncertain if he personally knew Jesus, his writings about Jesus’ work were excellent. It is known, though, that he was not one of the twelve apostles, just like another Gospel writer, Luke. Some believe he was the first Bishop of Alexandria in Egypt, and the large basilica there contains his remains. His symbol is a winged lion. This is because when he describes John the Baptist as a “voice of one crying out in the desert” (Mark 1:3). Artists who read this passage compare the voice to a roaring lion. Also, in Ezekiel Chapter one, Ezekiel has a vision of four winged creatures. These “winged creatures” are applied to the evangelists. These two passages coming together form a winged lion, hence the symbol of Mark. The reason that I chose Mark to be my Confirmation name is because he proclaimed the Good News that is the source of salvation throughout his life. I want to follow in Mark’s footsteps and proclaim the Good News all through out my life as well. Although I might not proclaim the Good News exactly the way he did (entirely by writing), I will work to spread the Good News in several other ways, like verbally and musically. He is an excellent role model for any Christian to follow and I am one of the many Christians choosing to follow his ways. By following the teachings of Mark, I hope to strengthen my relationship with my faith and God, and even try to convert a few non-believers into Christians. I would be bringing new members into the Catholic Church while at the same time strengthening my commitment and relationship with the Lord.”



A Weekly Bible Study

The Presentation of the Lord

Malachi 3:1-4 and Luke 2:22-40

“And suddenly there will come to the temple the Lord whom you seek...But who will endure the day of his coming?”

There is a tension in these words. The presentation of the Lord in the temple is meant to be a joyous occasion. But we witness yet again an ominous overshadowing that accompanies the Lord's manifestation. Expressing the above sentiments some five hundred years before the birth of Jesus, the prophet known as Malachi already has a deep sense of the “sign of contradiction” of which Simeon speaks in today's Gospel.

To the Levites (priests) taking care of liturgical needs and worshippers milling about the temple compound, the presentation of Jesus seems a rather ordinary event. A young couple, like many before them, makes the customary offering, consecrating their infant son to God. But there is deeper symbolism in the simple *sin* offering of the poor. This humble act will signal Jesus's immersion into the plight of humanity in need of redemption. Even in the earliest days of Jesus attention is already turned to the Cross.

While the priests and worshippers are oblivious to what this infant represents, Simeon and Anna are led by the Holy Spirit. These elderly individuals, guided by life-long faith, recognize in this Holy Child that the fulfillment of Israel's deepest longing is not for messianic power but for salvation. In this bittersweet moment Simeon is the first to predict the suffering of Jesus. And it will be to those like Anna, the Lord's *anawim*, poorest of the poor, that Jesus will bring healing, hope and the message of salvation.

This is the moment of the Lord's consecration. As an infant in its mother's arms, Jesus stands at the threshold of the work of our redemption.

Join us at the Incarnation Parish Men's Retreat at Holy Family Passionist Retreat

Center in West Hartford, Friday February 21 – Sunday noon, February 23, 2014. For information call John Ewaski at (860) 563-3887 or Bill Carroll at (860) 604-6793 or visit / register at Holy Family's web site: www.holyfamilyretreat.org.

Please pray for our Confirmation 2014 young women as they experience a retreat today. The retreat is entitled “An Afternoon Retreat for Young Women of Faith”, will be presented by Kelly Henderschedt and Sheri Dursin. Kelly is the Director of Faith Formation at St. John Fisher in Marlborough. Sheri is the co-founder of the Women's Retreat ministry also at St. John Fisher Church.

I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Ephesians 3:16-19

St. Patrick's Day Dinner, Mon, March 17, 2014 - Fr. Crawford Hall Doors open at 6:15 p.m. \$15 p.p. Traditional corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, Home-made Irish soda bread, coffee/ dessert. Checks payable to: *Church of the Incarnation* & mailed to: Michele Kalousdian, 154 Griswold Road, Weth., CT 06109. For questions call Michele at (860) 563-0860. **Seating is limited so make your reservations early! Reservation Deadline February 28th. All reservations must be paid for in advance.**

We have two rest rooms available in the church. One is located up the steps to the Choir Loft. The other is accessed by entering the Blessed Sacrament Chapel and walking towards the doors near the Statue of the Sacred Heart. We ask that all children be accompanied to the rest rooms by an adult. Thank you for your understanding.

Wethersfield UNICO Macaroni Dinner

Wethersfield UNICO's 35th Annual World Famous Macaroni Dinner will be held on Sunday, February 9th from 11:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., at the Wethersfield Community Center. Please come and join UNICO, your family and friends for a delicious dinner of pasta with home made sauce and meatballs, garlic bread, salad, soda, wine, coffee and ice cream. All **this** for the unbeatable price of \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children 12 and under. This is UNICO's primary fundraiser for all the charitable activities that we do year round, including our College Scholarships for residents of Wethersfield and Rocky Hill. For more information about our scholarship program please visit our web site at **www.WethersfieldUnico.org**.

If you are leaving Wethersfield for the winter, please notify the rectory so that we can place your envelopes on inactive. When you return, kindly call and we will reactivate them. Thank you.

We are trying to close out our 2013 Mass Book. If you have any Mass Offerings that you wish to make for 2013, please send them in when you can.

Blest are they who....take a good look at the beatitudes. These are the gifts of spiritual leaders. Encourage them wherever you see them growing. Invite them to call Fr. Anthony Smith, Director of Vocations, Archdiocesan Center at St. Thomas Seminary, (860) 761-7456 or e-mail him at: vocations@stseminary.org or visit the web at www.vocationshartford.org.



Defending Our Religious Liberty:

The President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, has sent a letter to President Obama asking that, in light of concessions made to others in the implementation of the health care law, the administration also temporarily exempt religious institutions from crippling fines if their insurance plans exclude sterilization, abortion-inducing drugs and contraceptives.

Organizations such as church-sponsored universities, hospitals and social services, are facing a fine of \$100 per day (\$36,500 per year) per employee if they provide health coverage that does not include contraceptives, including abortion-causing drugs, and sterilization. Exorbitant fines like these will surely force a lot of organizations that serve tens of thousands of people to close.

If you haven't done so already, please voice your opposition to the HHS mandate by calling President Obama at the White House at 202-456-1111 or Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius at 202-205-5445. Let them know that the mandate is in violation of our First Amendment right to religious freedom.

A CHRISTMAS REPRISE

The Church's celebration three weeks ago of the Baptism of the Lord signaled the "official" end of the Christmas season. Today's feast of the Presentation of the Lord seems to extend the Incarnation celebration a bit longer. In fact, some have called this feast a "second Epiphany."

The first reading recalls the anticipation of Advent, as Malachi writes, "Lo, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me." The reading from Hebrews reminds us of the Incarnation, proclaiming that Jesus had a "share" in our own "blood and flesh." The Gospel finds the infant Jesus on his first visit to Jerusalem and his human parents once again surprised and in awe over the events surround his birth.

In the simplicity of the manger, in the grandeur of the temple, in the domesticity of Nazareth, Jesus comes. May we come to know him and so be filled with "wisdom" and the "favor of God."

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading -- There will come to the temple the LORD whom you seek (Malachi 3:1-4).

Psalm -- Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord! (Psalm 24).

Second Reading -- Jesus had to become like his brothers and sisters in every way to help the descendants of Abraham (Hebrews 2:14-18).

Gospel -- The just and pious Simeon proclaims the infant Jesus to be a revealing light to the Gentiles, the glory of the people Israel (Luke 2:22-40 [22-32]).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13; Ps 3:2-7; Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday: 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30 — 19:3; Ps 86:1-6; Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday: 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17; Ps 32:1-2, 5-7; Mk 6:1-6

Thursday: 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12; 1 Chr 29:10-12; Mk 6:7-13

Friday: Sir 47:2-11; Ps 18:31, 47, 50, 51; Mk 6:14-29

Saturday: 1 Kgs 3:4-13; Ps 119:9-14; Mk 6:30-34

Sunday: Is 58:7-10; Ps 112:4-9; 1 Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: The Presentation of the Lord;

Blessing of Candles;

World Day for Consecrated Life;

Boy Scout Sunday; Groundhog Day

Monday: Fourth Week in Ordinary Time;

St. Blaise; St. Ansgar

Wednesday: St. Agatha

Thursday: St. Paul Miki and Companions

Friday: First Friday

Saturday: St. Jerome Emiliani; St. Josephine

Bakhita; Blessed Virgin Mary

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

By Candlemas, forty days after Christmas, February 2, the season of Christ's coming has depleted our candle supply. Soon, the parish will order a new paschal candle from a catalogue or candlemaker, or in some communities, wax will be collected to be melted and molded. Last year's paschal candle shows the wear and tear of summer heat, or many funerals or baptisms.

Paschal candles have been around since at least the fourth century, when Constantine's biographer Eusebius reported that the night of the sacred vigil was "transformed into the brilliancy of day, by lighting throughout the city pillars of wax, while burning lamps in every place so that the splendor of this night was brighter than the brightest daylight."

Light was a precious commodity in the ancient world, and this lavish use of precious beeswax was a sign of the Christian's call to bear Christ's light into the world's darkness. In a pre-electric age, a whole city aglow from the paschal flame must have been a glorious sight, and a reminder to every baptized Christian of our vocation to "be the light of the world."

--Rev. James Field