

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, APRIL 12TH

9:00 am—Nicola Rucci
5:00pm - Deceased members
of the D'Ambrosio Family



PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 13TH

8:30am— Frank Bulanti
10:30am— Deceased members of the
Vignone, Munoz & Pedemonti Families

MONDAY, APRIL 14TH

9:00am— David Walls

TUESDAY, APRIL 15TH

9:00am—Francis & Nick Sullivan and Helen
& Edward P. Sullivan

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16TH

9:00am—Sarah Ann Marie Privitera, Myles
Connolly Sr. Mark Rioux, Bob Ensign Sr., &
Nicholas Damato Jr.

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 17TH

7:00pm— For all our parishioners

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18TH

3:00pm—Liturgical Service

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 19TH

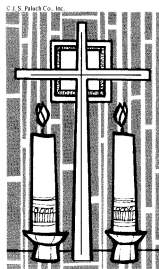
8:00pm—For all our parishioners

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 20TH

8:30am— Deceased members of the Andreoli
Family

10:30am—Lucy Reale Leone

The Sanctuary Candle will
burn from 4/14/2014—4/20/2014
in memory of Prospero R.
DePhillips.



**The Blessed Virgin Mary
Candle** will burn from 4/14/2014-
4/20/2014 in memory of Frank & Vincenza
Bulanti.



This Sunday is Palm Sunday:
Blessed palms will be distributed at
all masses this weekend.



The Second Collection this weekend is the
monthly collection.

New Day, A Bereavement Support Group:
Mon., April 14th -1-2 in Fr. Crawford Hall.

Employment Support Group - Tuesday,
April 15th at 9:30am Fr. Crawford Hall.

Daily mass will be celebrated at 9am this
week Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday only.

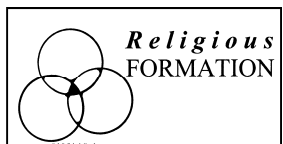
Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday:

Consider full participation in the liturgies.
(Holy Thursday) 4/17, The Mass of the
Lord's Supper at 7pm, with Adoration of the
Blessed Sacrament to follow until 10pm in
the Chapel. Sign-up poster is in the Narthex.
(Good Friday) 4/18, Commemoration of the
Lord's Passion with Communion at 3pm.
(Holy Saturday) 4/19, (Easter Vigil) 8pm,
This includes the Mass of Easter.
(Easter Sunday) 4/20, Masses will be held
at 8:30am & 10:30am Meet Jesus there.

Confessions during Holy Week Monday,
4/14 from 6-7pm, Good Friday from 11-12
noon only & Holy Saturday -10:30-12 noon.

Blessing of the Easter Food will
**be held on Holy Saturday at
12:15pm** in Fr. Crawford Hall.





Children's Liturgy of the Word will be held this Sunday, April 13th at 10:30am Mass. We welcome presider Noranne Wamester and Catechists; Denise Fischer, Carol Halstead & Mary Iallonardo.

We received a lovely thank you note from Sisters Maureen & Theresa from The House of Bread thanking us for our donation from The Soup Supper in the amount of \$1,978.

Registration for grades pre-K thru 8 have been sent in the mail. Pre-K and Kindergarten are optional and do not begin until the end of October. Grade Nine will receive a special invitation to begin their Confirmation journey, if they so choose, in October. God bless you all. Mrs. W.

Homefront Day 2014:

We Need You.....On Our Team!! We will kick-off on Saturday, May 3rd and we hope to complete our task in one day. Sponsored by The Office of Urban Affairs of the Archdiocese of Hartford & AmeriCares. Parishes all over the state accept a project to repair and fix up the home of a local, needy family. For more detailed information, call Sonny Senatro at 563-4185 or Audrey Saharek at the rectory at 529-2533 to volunteer!!

First Communion will be held on Saturday, April 26th. Parish Family Home Children will receive at 8:30am & Emerson Williams Communities will receive at 11:30am.



On behalf of the members of our Youth Ministry, we would like to thank the many people from the parish who helped to make the Faith Fair such a wonderful gathering. A special thank you to Regina Cravero for her work in putting the raffle together, the Catechists and Faith Formation teachers for their dedication to sharing their faith with the children, all of the teenagers who helped out in the Cafe, Faith Store, and assisting with the raffle, and the parishioners for stopping in to admire the work of our young children. A very special thank you to Noranne Wamester for her tireless commitment to all of the youth in our parish. Noranne, you are a true blessing to this faith community and we are so grateful for your presence in our lives. Youth Ministry will be using some of the money raised through the raffle and cafe/store to help defray the cost of our retreat to Steubenville East in Rhode Island this summer. We are really looking forward to this weekend retreat and will be sure to share some of our experiences with our parish family when we return. Thanks for your support and continued prayers for our teenagers. Due to school vacation as well as Easter Sunday, the next Youth Ministry gathering will be Sunday, April 27th from 6:30-8pm. Maggie Seaver

The rectory will be closed on Good Friday. Emergency calls only please. Thank you.

A Weekly Bible Study



Palm Sunday of the Passion
of the Lord Jesus Christ

Matthew 21:1-11, Gospel at the Procession

We stand among the festive crowd that gathers this day in Jerusalem and ask: "Who is this?"

Who is this One who comes triumphantly into our Holy City? He has no throne save for a humble beast of burden. He has no entourage, but the poor of his own who surround him waiting for a glance, reaching out for a final touch, listening for an uplifting word. He has no fine vesture but the royal cloak and piercing crown that will adorn him as he is mocked.

Who is this One to whom we pay homage today as to a king? We call him "Son of David" as we lay our cloaks and leafy branches in his wake, our cries rising in adulation. Will we soon deny knowing him, handing him over to judgment and execution? Will our "hosannas" turn to "crucify him?"

Who is this One who causes our city to tremble? How can this One who is meek, who speaks of bringing peace, cause such upheaval. Is this a foretaste of the power he will demonstrate on that Third Day as he conquers forever the grasp of death?

We knew him in his deeds of forgiveness, healing, compassion as he walked among us. Our hearts burned for more as he spoke of a new kingdom, and raised our law to a new level of understanding. But will we understand the journey he must now make, a path seemingly unfit for One we honor today with our songs of praise. Will we now reach out to *him* and embrace *him* as he carries *our* Cross. Or will we continue to be the bystander, the casual and curious on-looker who walks away as the hosannas cease and the journey to Calvary begins.

Where will we stand this Holy Week?

There will be no Bible Study meeting on April 23.

Next week our diocese will take up the Peter's Pence Collection, which provides the Holy Father with the funds he needs to carry out his charitable works around the world. The proceeds benefit the most disadvantaged; victims of war, oppression, and disasters. Join our holy father as a witness to charity to those who are suffering.

You may return your Easter Flower Envelope from now until Easter.

Knights of Columbus Annual Pasta Dinner, Saturday, May 3rd - 6- 8PM in Father Crawford Hall. Ziti, Meatballs, Fresh Italian Bread, Salad and Dessert. \$10 per person and \$25 per family. Call John Ewaski at 860-563-3887 or Mike White at 860-667-2099 to make your reservations. Take out will be available. Proceeds will support communities charities.

ABC's of Catholic Relief Services: This week - CRS & Water. Have any of us ever done anything than twist our wrist to obtain clean water? Imagine the search for water as the focus for your life. Millions live such a life. It is hard to comprehend. CRS helps communities organize and educate themselves to build, with technical assistance, sustainable rural water systems. Water is life.

Bus Trip to Abbey of Regina Laudis in Bethlehem, CT on May 8th...leaves Incarnation parking lot at 9:45 am. Call Paula Melillo at (860) 563-9506 to make reservations. See flyers at exits.



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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 18th birthday, but have not yet marked their 59th 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.

Easter Communion Regulation: Catholics are obliged to receive Communion at least once between the First Sunday of Lent and Trinity Sunday.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 42:1-7; Ps 27:1-3, 13-14; Jn 12:1-11
 Tuesday: Is 49:1-6; Ps 71:1-6, 15, 17; Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
 Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a; Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34; Mt 26:14-25
 Thursday: **Chrism Mass:** Is 61:1-3ab, 6a, 8b-9; Ps 89:21-22, 25, 27; Rv 1:5-8; Lk 4:16-21
Lord's Supper: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14; Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15
 Friday: Is 52:13 — 53:12; Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25; Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Jn 18:1 — 19:42
 Saturday: a) Gn 1:1 — 2:2 [1:1, 26-31a]; Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35; or Ps 33:4-7, 12-13, 20-22; b) Gn 22:1-18 [1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18]; Ps 16: 5, 8-11; c) Ex 14:15 — 15:1; Ex 15:1-6, 17-18; d) Is 54:5-14; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13; e) Is 55:1-11; Is 12:2-6; f) Bar 3:9-15, 32 — 4:4; Ps 19:8-11; g) Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28; Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3-4 or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 or Ps 51:12-15, 18-19; h) Rom 6:3-11; i) Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Mt 28:1-10
 Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8; Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10 or (at an afternoon or evening Mass) Lk 24:13-35



CONGRATULATIONS! CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION WOMEN'S CLUB 1964-2014

On February 20, 1964, at Samuel Webb Junior High School, the Women's Club began with the election of officers and committee chairwomen at this first meeting. Under the guidance of Fr. Crawford as our Spiritual Director, the Constitution and Bylaws were formulated with the focus on spiritual, social and charitable projects for the welfare of the Parish and community. Watch for announcements of special events being planned during 2014 to celebrate the 50th Anniversary Jubilee of the Women's Club of The Church of the Incarnation.

The 2014 Archbishop's Annual Appeal has begun in our parish and throughout the Archdiocese. You should have received a request for support from Archbishop Blair. Please be as generous as you are able to this annual effort that funds the charitable works of the Archdiocese. Our work as a Church in social services, healthcare, and pastoral services is exciting, challenging & fulfilling. It is work we must do together in **Building Hope...Providing Help** out of love for one another and for God. Envelopes at the exits.

Church of the Incarnation Men's Association Annual Baseball Trip

Saturday, May 31st at Yankee Stadium, New York City: New York Yankees vs. Minnesota...1:00pm game, bus departs Incarnation at 9:00am. \$85 p.p. includes; game ticket, food, beverages, movie & raffle. Call Tony (860) 836-3064 to reserve. Checks payable to "Incarnation Church" & mail to Tony Colasacco, 151 Cider Brook Dr. Weth. CT 06109.

PARISH COMMUNION SUPPER:
Thank you to Vera Raffalo, Chairwoman
of the Communion Supper and the entire
 committee for such a beautiful evening.

The Men's Association will sponsor their
Annual Steak Night on Wednesday, May
14th 2014 in Fr. Crawford Hall at 6pm.
 This event is open to all men of the parish.
 Refreshments at 6, dinner at 6:30. The guest
 speaker will be Liam Sweeney, who will dis-
 cuss the MDC's Clean Water Project. Call
 Bill Carroll for reservations at (860) 604-
 6793 by 5/13. \$25.00 p.p., pay at the door.

LEARN ALL ABOUT UNICO AT A
TOTALLY FREE EVENT

You are cordially invited to celebrate our
 Italian Heritage on Thursday, April 24th -
 6:30 PM to 9PM at Italian Heritage Night at
 the Mt. Carmel Hall 30 Old Roberts Street,
 East Hartford. UNICO District III, an Italian
 American service and charity organization, is
 sponsoring this event to celebrate our Italian
 Heritage with Exhibits from the Hartford,
 Manchester, Newington & Wethersfield
 Chapters of UNICO & featuring guest speak-
 ers: Al & Tony Terzi, who will speak about
 their family business as broadcasters in CT
 and their Italian Roots. Apps, desserts, wine,
 soda, coffee & espresso will be served.

Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center...
 14th Annual Gerald J. Kristofak Golf Tour-
 nament. Thursday, June 12th, 111 Golf St.,
 Newington, CT. visit: <http://holyfamilyretreat.org/golf>.

Blessed are they who come
in the name of the Lord!
Am I being called to pro-
claim Jesus as a priest or
religious? If you believe
that you are, call Fr. Antho-
 ny Smith, Director of Voca-
 tions, Archdiocesan Center at
 St. Thomas Seminary, (860) 761-7456 or e-
 mail him at: vocations@stseminary.org or
 visit the web at ww.vocationshartford.org.



You are invited to a Book Launch! Come
 celebrate with Kathy Irr the completion and
 publication of her book "Ordinary Awaken-
 ings". 3pm Prayer Service, Gratitude and
 Grace. 3:30pm desserts & refreshments.
 4pm Kathy will introduce the book and give
 a book signing. Sunday, April 27th, 3-5pm,
 Our Lady of Calvary Retreat Center, 31
 Colton St., Farmington, CT. E-mail Kathy
 at Kathy@Kathymirr.com.

There is only one collection on Easter
Sunday. It is in support of our parish.



KAITLYN CELINA
RAMOS

Meeting the Vicar of Christ. How can this be?

The genesis of this improbable but incredibly joyous event of a lifetime dates to mid-October 2013, when in anticipation of my 60th birthday, I asked my son, Fr. Michael Rogers Jr. SJ a Jesuit priest who lives and studies in Rome, if he would possibly be able to arrange , for my milestone birthday , the opportunity to meet Pope Francis. (after all, in my 30 years as a banking industry investment analyst, I am quite accustomed to requesting access to the CEOs of many of the largest banking companies in the world, so why not make this improbable request?

Fr. Mike's initial response "I'm not sure Dad, but Pope Francis is known to answer personal letters , why don't you write to him?" Well, the idea faded, and I went back to tending to the business of everyday work and family life..

A few weeks later, during a busy day in the bond markets, Michael surprised me with a call at the office and said " Dad, if you really are serious about this , I think I may have a 50/50 chance of getting this arranged. " He immediately sent a letter to the Pope's personal secretary, who responded within a remarkably short period of time in the affirmative! Unfortunately, they indicated that due to many numerous requests, only three spaces were available, and our daughter Mary Kate, who came to Rome with us, would not be able to attend this time.

Fr. Mike's presence in Rome as a young Jesuit priest studying at the Pontifical Gregorian University, and his principal / skillful leadership role for the Society of Jesus at World Youth Day this past July were likely very prominent factors in the affirmative response that he received surrounding my somewhat bold birthday request.

Fast-forwarding to February, Mary-Ellen, Fr. Mike and I arrived at 630 am on February 17 (after about two hours of restless sleep on my part). Anticipation was building as we made our way to Domus Santa Marta. The chapel is in the Blessed John Paul II center, which also houses visiting Cardinals, I am told. It is full of marble floors, but more like an elegant, modern parish center rather than an over-the-top venue .

We had had a relatively long walk from the back left side of St. Peter's Basilica into the back courtyard, passing through a number security checkpoints and waiting for a short time outside the Center on a cool, but very pleasant early morning in the Eternal City . During our wait, we took a few pictures and then shut down our ever-present iPhones for the main event.

We also observed a number of young boys, apparently full time members of the St. Peter's choir, arriving early that morning by bus for schooling on the grounds.

Most of the pilgrims attending the Mass that day were Italians, young and old , including a young couple with a young son about 3 years old, from a parish on the perimeter of Rome. There was visible goodness emanating from all of their faces, and they responded with vigor and reverence, in Italian of course, to all the Holy Father's Mass prayers.

Mary Ellen and I were so privileged to be part of this truly joyous group, thanks again to the eloquently persuasive request of Fr. Mike SJ a few months earlier to Pope Francis' personal secretary, a Monsignor, who was assigned shortly after to a senior role at the Vatican Bank.

Just before 7 am, all the concelebrants, including our son Fr. Mike SJ, and the so-called "Group of 8 " Cardinals comprising the Pope's Council charged with recommending reforms , processed in. This included Cardinal Sean O'Malley from Boston, who we totally overlooked as we anxiously awaited the Holy Father.

Pope Francis came in by himself from the side, looking like a Pastor of any parish in US, with simple organ music briefly playing. He was on the small but elegant altar all by himself, commencing his simple, incredibly reverent, and deliberately contemplative Mass. It was so difficult for Mary Ellen and I to hold back tears as we frequently glanced at each other throughout the Liturgy of our lives. The woman behind us wept with joy throughout the Mass. Pope Francis' homily was in Italian, and while we could not understand him very well at that moment, we cared little about the shortcomings of our Italian. We didn't want the Homily to end! The gentle voice and eyes of the world's Pastor connected with us and transcended our language barrier . The successor of St. Peter and the Vicar of Our Lord stood about 20 feet away during the Liturgy of our lives...

After he finished his homily, which was based on the beautiful reading from St. James that day on perseverance, he returned to his seat, closed his eyes, and prayed, again taking his time.

During the consecration, I was struck by how long the Holy Father, with reverence and love in his fatherly eyes, held the Precious Body and Precious Blood up for all those present to adore. So much more than the motions...a reminder to Mary Ellen and I and all the pilgrims attending, I suspect, that no Mass is routine , and an illustration of the presence of Jesus at that powerful moment. All of the Mass was in Italian except the Agnus Dei, which we were so happy to get the opportunity to participate in and sing in Latin. At communion time, the Holy Father sat while a number of his concelebrants assisted.

Please see next page.....

At the conclusion of the Mass and the awesome moment of the Pope blessing us only twenty feet away, again, tears were in our eyes. He processed out quietly, just the way he had come in. His brother bishops and brother Jesuit priest, our son Michael (yes, tears of parental love and pride in our eyes once again) also processed out the way they had entered, down the center, and the Liturgy of our lives had beautifully concluded.

Fr. Mike, Mary Ellen and I, and the rest of our 30 fellow pilgrims sat in awe quietly in the Chapel of Santa Marta. We were having difficulty truly believing what we had just witnessed; that we had just been in the presence of this man who is walking in the steps of Jesus, and has captured the admiration of all.

If all of that were not enough, no more than five minutes later, Pope Francis unassumingly walked right back into the Chapel, sat down in one of the small wooden chairs and prayed quietly with us for about 10 very moving minutes.

He then walked out to the open area in the front of the Chapel as a loving, humble pastor does across the globe every day, and proceeded to meet with every Pilgrim, one by one, making each feel like THEY were the most important person in the room at that moment. Mary-Ellen, Fr. Mike and I were near the end of the waiting line, but our turn with the Holy Father arrived very quickly. He greeted his brother Jesuit first, of course, as Mary Ellen and I watched the leader of 1.3 billion Roman Catholics joking with Fr. Mike about our young Jesuit's continuing pursuit of an advanced degree in Fundamental Theology. He then, in English, wished me "Congratulations" on the occasion of my birthday, and shook my hand firmly. Looking into this holy man's eyes is something that will be indelibly inscribed in our hearts for as long as we are on this planet. Again with the charm and charisma of a loving Pastor, Pope Francis reached out to Maryellen and warmly kissed her on both cheeks. (I think that picture could go viral!) He then softly asked us all: "Pray for me". Indeed, we will pray for him every day for the rest of our lives, for in only ninety minutes, he changed the lives of every Pilgrim in Santa Marta Chapel that glorious morning in the Eternal City. Yes, indeed, the Liturgy of our lives...Amen.

THE ATTITUDE OF CHRIST JESUS

The Lenten cycle brings us to this "mixed" Sunday of palm branches and painful suffering. Our liturgy opens by recalling Jesus' triumphant entry along the main road into Jerusalem, then moves quickly to the back streets of betrayal and humiliation, the courtyards of torture and abandonment, the hill of execution.

Isaiah's strange and gripping "Song of the Servant of God" was to become the song of Jesus. It is the song of one who strides forward consistently in the face of criticism, even scorn: "I have not rebelled, have not turned back." It is to become our song, as faithful followers of Jesus Christ.

How are we to react when we hear the account of the passion and death of the Lord? Paul tells us that our attitude must be Christ's, who "emptied himself, taking the form of a slave." We pray that we may absorb the attitude of Christ, and face life squarely in its triumph and its pain.

TODAY'S READINGS

Gospel at the Procession with Palms —

Jesus' entry into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-11).

First Reading — In spite of my sufferings I am not disgraced.

I am not put to shame (Isaiah 50:4-7).

Psalm — My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? (Psalm 22).

Second Reading — Christ emptied himself, and God filled this emptiness with exaltation (Philippians 2:6-11).

Gospel — The account of Christ's passion according to Matthew (Matthew 26:14 — 27:66 [27:11-54]).

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord;
- Monday: Monday of Holy Week;
- Tuesday: Tuesday of Holy Week; Income Tax Day
- Wednesday: Wednesday of Holy Week
- Thursday: Holy Thursday; The Sacred Paschal Triduum
- Friday: Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday);
Fast and Abstinence;
- Saturday: Holy Saturday;
The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night
- Sunday: Easter Sunday

