

The Church of the Incarnation

544 Prospect Street
Wethersfield, CT 06109



Rev. James M. Moran
Pastor

Mrs. Noranne Wamester
Pastoral Associate

Mrs. Maggie Seaver
**Coordinator of Middle School Faith Formation
Youth Minister**

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
Gianna Bielenda
Cantors

Toni Munoz
Sacristan

Marguerite Heinimann
Rectory Assistant

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
gotellit@aol.com

Website address:
www.thechurchoftheincarnation.com

Mass Schedule

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19TH

5:00 pm – John Pontillo

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20TH

8:30am– Miguel & Mariana Gaspar

10:30am–Jim & Marge Amodio

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21ST

9:00am– Sebastian & Maria Amato & Joseph Amato

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22ND

9:00am—John & Virginia Karnosky

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23RD

9:00am— Pauline Falotico

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

9:00am– Judy Healey

CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASSES

5:00pm– For all our parishioners

12:00midnight—For all our parishioners

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

9:00am– For all our parishioners

11:00am—For all our parishioners

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26TH

5:00pm–Tomaso Maccarone

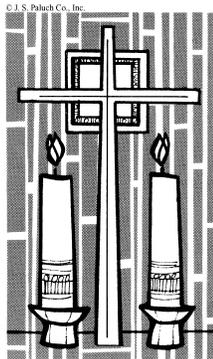
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27TH

8:30am–John Robinson & Baby Sienna

10:30am– Deceased members of the Coombs & Drury Families

The Sanctuary Candle will burn from 12/21/2015–12/27/2015 in memory of Nicholas & Mary Champ & Joseph Aiudi.

The Blessed Virgin Mary Candle will burn from 12/21/2015-12/27/2015 in memory of John Robinson & Baby Sienna.



Thank you to all who have donated to our Annual Collection. Donations will be gratefully received throughout the year. To date we have collected \$99,500.00.

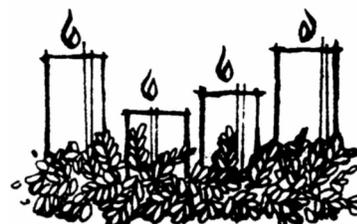
Thank you to all who donated to the second collection for the Retired Religious last wkd.

The second collection this weekend is the monthly collection.

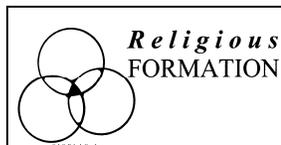
There is a **House of Bread** collection this weekend. Coffee & sugar requested.

There is one collection on Christmas and it is for our parish.

PRAYER FOR PEACE: Please join us in the Church 30 minutes prior to the 9am Daily Mass to pray for peace in all the troubled areas of our world.



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All Faith Formation communities are now in Christmas recess.

Emerson-Williams Faith Formation
Grades K-6 Sat., January 9th at 9am.

Gr. 8: Faith Formation will be on Tues., January 5th & **Gr. 7: will be held** on Wed., January 6th—6:30-8pm, Fr. Crawford Hall.

17th Advent Giving Program Angel Tree.

Thank you for your most generous outpouring of gifts for the recipients. Thank you to the Carcia Family and our Confirmation candidates for organizing this Blessed collection. Thank you for sharing with those less fortunate during our Blessed Season of Christmas.

Youth Ministry: Next gathering - Sunday, January 10th—6:30-8pm in Fr. Crawford Hall.

Sunday, December 20, 2015: Welcome Mass
10:30am; Father Michael Rogers, SJ will celebrate and deliver the homily. We are proud to welcome our newly committed candidates for 2015 to our community of believer.

*Wishing
everyone a
Most Blessed
Christmas!!*



A Christmas Blessing

May there be harmony in all relationships. May sharp words, envious thoughts and hostile feelings be dissolved. May you give and receive love generously. May this love echo in your heart like the joy of church bells on a clear December day. May each person who comes into your life be greeted as another Christ. May the honor given the Babe of Bethlehem be that which you extend to every guest who enters your presence. May the hope of this sacred season settle in your soul. May it be a foundation of courage for you when times of distress occupy your inner land. May the wonder and awe that fills the eyes of children be awakened within you. May it lead you to renewed awareness and appreciation of whatever you too easily take for granted. May the bonds of love for one another be strengthened as you gather with your family and friends around the table of festivity and nourishment. May you daily open the gift of your life and be grateful for the hidden treasures it contains. May the coming year be one of good health for you. May you have energy and vitality. May you care well for your body, mind and spirit. May you keep your eye on the star within you and trust this luminescent Presence to guide and direct you each day. May you go to the Bethlehem of your heart and visit the One who offers you peace. May you bring this peace to the world. ‘Out of the Ordinary’ by Joyce Rupp

This new year has been declared “The Year of Mercy’ by Pope Francis. Let love and compassion be our guide. And may we pray to The Holy Family, for the safety of all people.



A Weekly Bible Study

4th Sunday of Advent Luke 1:39-45

We often call to mind today's Gospel passage in the second joyful mystery of the Rosary, "The Visitation." And it is a story that we so easily link with the first mystery, "The Annunciation."

In the first mystery, as Mary is visited by an angel, she is conceived of the Holy Spirit. In that encounter Mary is graced by the presence of the divine. The Word made flesh already begins to stir in her heart. With great eagerness and haste she travels to share her joy with her cousin, Elizabeth. And here there is yet a second divine encounter. We learn that Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit, and that in recognizing the mother of her Lord, her baby John leaps for joy. Following this meeting, Mary proclaims an ancient prayer expressing the fulfillment of God's promises. The Messianic age and the new covenant are being brought to birth. In this meeting, Elizabeth and her son John who represent the *promise* of fulfillment, will help to usher in the new age as they greet the long-awaited One, the Savior.

Mary is often referred to as the "Queen of Apostles." As the angel makes known God's will, her response is one of faith and obedience as she gives her assent to God's divine plan. In her greeting of Elizabeth she is a model of discipleship and hospitality as she eagerly brings the Good News to others. Faith, obedience, discipleship and hospitality become the hallmarks of those who closely follow the Lord and say "yes" to God's plan of salvation.

As we listen to or read through these lines, let us immerse ourselves in the story of this encounter. Let us experience the joy of this meeting, the hope of salvation promised and now fulfilled, the trusting faith and obedience of Mary, and the loving acts of hospitality and discipleship. Let us look to Mary and Elizabeth for the wisdom and grace to model these gifts in our Christian lives.



**Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 20, 2015**

O LORD of hosts,
look down from heaven and see;
take care of this vine,
and protect what your right hand
has planted.

— Psalm 80:15-16

Our Christmas Environment

Through the generosity of several of our parishioners, we have added to our nativity and our Christmas environment. Two Gloria Angels, The Little Drummer Boy and Joseph with Lantern have been donated in memory of the deceased in their families. The new trees in the sanctuary and the trees around the crèche are also donated pieces as are the lanterns amid the nativity figures. The ornaments that adorn the trees on the altar, the wreaths & wall hangings in the narthex are all hand made by one of our flowers ministers. They are made with all natural material gathered locally; stems, leaves, berries & flowers.

We are grateful to two donors who enabled us to purchase 6 choir robes. These velvet trimmed black robes will distinguish our cantors/soloists as they carry out their ministry.

The Junior Choir processes with the light to adore the Newborn King and then turns the light to us to remind us of who we are called to be, the Light of Christ to all our lives. We are humbled by the outpouring of time, talent & treasure among our parishioners to make our Christmas decorating beautiful and a source of prayer for all who look upon it.

We are hopeful that our Christmas environment reflects the words of our Holy Father, Pope Francis: "May Jesus' light reach all the world's children" and all people of good will. Jesus is the Son of God, love's Pure Light. We say: Jesus, light the way.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD:

Sunday, December 20th at the 10:30am

Mass. Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLW) is celebrating 15th years of ministry! What a blessing this ministry has been for our parish and our children! But all ministries are only as rich as their resources. CLW has been seeking new Ministers of the Word to bring the gospel message to our children. We thank all our very dedicated ministers who have served CLW for many years and continue to lead our children but we are in need of more individuals and families. We welcome all who are interested, especially parents and grandparents. The commitment is minimal and the rewards are bountiful! Please consider becoming a member of this wonderful ministry for the future of our church! Call/email Filomena at (860) 721-0538. Thank you to the Paruta Family for hosting the refreshments!

If you have offered a Mass in memory of a loved one we invite you to carry the gifts up at Mass, please notify the usher prior to Mass that you will be doing so. Thank you!

We will begin accepting the 2017 Masses, Sanctuary & Blessed Virgin Mary Candles on Monday, January 4, 2016 at 10am and not prior to that date. Please keep in mind that our parish has a large number of parishioners who remember their loved ones with Memorial Masses and we request that you limit your Masses to 2 per household. **Thanks. Fr. Moran.**

A Christmas flower envelope is in your packet of church envelopes. You may remember your loved ones with Christmas flowers. This special Christmas envelope will be happily received any time prior to Christmas.

A NEW ORDER “O, Little Town of Bethlehem.” A Philadelphia clergyman named Phillips Brooks penned these popular words back in the mid-1800s, but the prophet Micah could have used them first. Micah knew that from small packages great treasures come. In today’s first reading, he knew that from tiny Bethlehem would come the Lord.

The writer in Hebrews explains that Christ came to us to do the will of God by establishing a new order and by becoming our perfect sacrifice. And Luke tells us that Elizabeth and John, the infant in her womb, understand that great and wondrous things are at hand with the coming of the Lord.

This is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Soon we celebrate anew the fruit of Mary’s womb. As we are told in Hebrews, Jesus’ new order is being established even today. And as Micah proclaims, his greatness is reaching even now to the ends of the earth.

TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — From you, Bethlehem, shall come forth one who is to be ruler in Israel. (Micah 5:1 □ 4a).

Psalms — Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (Psalm 80).

Second Reading — By Christ doing the will of God, we have been consecrated (Hebrews 10:5 □ 10).

Gospel — “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb” (Luke 1:39 □ 45).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

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

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

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66

Thursday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79

Friday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25;

Mt 1:1-25 [18-25] Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14;

Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Monday: St. Peter Canisius; Winter begins

Wednesday: St. John of Kanty

Thursday: The Vigil of Christmas

Friday: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Saturday: St. Stephen;



Christmas Schedule Of Confessions and Masses:

Advent Confessions

Monday, December 21st from 7-8pm.
Thursday, December 24th from 11-12
noon.

Father Michael Rogers will assist Fr. Moran with Advent Confessions and he will also hear Confessions in Italian and Spanish.

Christmas Eve Masses on Thursday, 12/24 will be held at 5:00pm and 12 midnight.

Christmas Day Masses on Friday, 12/25 will be held at 9am and 11am. The rectory will be closed on December 24th & 25th. Emergency calls only please.

The Choir will sing 45 minutes prior to the 5:00pm Mass on Christmas Eve and 15 minutes prior to the Midnight Mass.

The Lord is near! Am I able to read the signs of the times? What is God asking of me? He may be asking you to serve as a priest or religious. If you hear his voice, call **Fr. Jeffrey**

Gubbiotti, Director of Vocations, Archdiocesan Center at Saint Thomas Seminary, Tel. 860-242-5573, email vocations@aohct.org or visit the web at www.vocationshartford.org.

Join us the 1st Friday of the month at 9:30am, Church of the Incarnation Blessed Sacrament Chapel, for Vocations Holy Hour.



**ALL FAMILIES ARE
INVITED TO
ATTEND A SPECIAL
MASS
AT THE CATHEDRAL
OF ST. JOSEPH, OUR
MOTHER CHURCH**



Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph on Sunday, December 27th at 11 a.m. St. Joseph Cathedral, 140 Farmington Ave., Hartford, CT Celebrated by Archbishop Leonard P. Blair The Holy Family Mass will be one of several occasions celebrated at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in recognition of the Jubilee Year of Mercy, proclaimed by Pope Francis. Join us as we journey through the Holy Door and hear the beautiful Christmas Music of the Cathedral Choir.

Jesus, Light Our Way**The Year of Mercy**

There is a story told of some “westerners” who hired a few native guides to help them travel through the Kalahari Desert. Not being accustomed to the pace that the employers of the tour were expecting, the tour guides sat down to rest, and no amount of persuasion could induce them to continue the journey. “The reason for the much needed rest,” they explained, “was they had to wait for their souls to catch up to their bodies.” Truly celebrating

Advent can allow us to let our souls catch up to our bodies and spirits.

We are seekers looking for an opportunity to celebrate this beautiful season of Advent from a resting place rather than a harried, multi-tasking one. We are seekers looking for an increase of light in our lives. Let us ponder the Sacred Scriptures of the season and savor the rich meaning of God’s Word in our lives.

Let us reflect on the amazing journey of Mary and Joseph and the journey of our own hearts amidst the hectic times, amidst the difficulties we are facing and the obstacles that have been placed before us.

O come, O come Emmanuel!!! In the midst of all life there is a deeper longing within us that must not be ignored. Let us be present to THIS MOMENT, THIS HOPE, THIS LIGHT, THIS JOURNEY. DO NOT LOSE HEART!!

May you have a Blessed Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Noranne S. Wamester, Pastoral Associate

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Many of our most treasured traditions link the liturgy of the church with the hearth of the home. The food on the table at certain feasts and fasts helps to extend the mystery into everyday life. Tonight, for example, many families of Italian heritage, especially those with links to the south of Italy, will settle down to the “Feast of the Seven Fishes,” or *La Vigilia*. It is a command performance for the whole family, as the saying goes: *Natale con I tuui, Pasqua conchi vuoi*, or “Christmas with your family, Easter with whomever you wish.” Seven different fish, some say one for each day of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem, others say one for each sacrament, or one for each day of creation, are served. Eel & shrimp, lobster and crab, calamari, pasta with clam sauce, flounder and hake all abound, but most especially baccala, dried salted cod. Why? Many say that it is a way to pay homage to the beasts of the stable who witnessed the holy birth and relinquished their manger to make way for God. Tonight, if someone asks you to “pass the shrimp,” you’ll be able to shed a little light on a menu that is a delicious treasure in our tradition!