

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

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
Gianna Bielenda
Cantors

Marguerite Heinimann
Rectory Assistant

Toni Munoz
Sacristan

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 17TH
5:00 pm – John Pontillo

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH
8:30am– James Capenera
10:30am–Mass of Thanksgiving,
Confirmation 2017 Welcome Mass

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19TH
9:00am– Deceased members of the Forgetta,
Davia & Labbadia Families

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20TH
9:00am— Nicholas & Helen Rago

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21ST
9:00am—Anthony & Emilia Camilliere

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22ND
9:00am—Anthony DiCicco

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23RD
9:00am– Thomas DiMarco

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24TH
CHRISTMAS EVE
5:00pm— For all our parishioners
12 Midnight— For all our parishioners

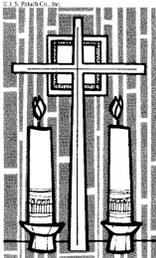
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25TH
CHRISTMAS DAY
8:30am– For all our parishioners
10:30am– For all our parishioners

The Sanctuary Candle

will burn from 12/19/2016–
12/25/2016 in memory of Joseph
Salvatore.

The Blessed Virgin Mary

Candle will burn from
12/19/2016-12/25/2016 in
memory of James Capenera.



Thank you to the Incarnation Men's Association for sponsoring the 9th Annual Children's Christmas Party. The children look forward to seeing Santa every year! Thank you to Paul Dube who takes and prints the pictures of the children with Santa! Remaining pictures are on the table in the Narthex.

Thank you to the Incarnation Women's Club for planning their Christmas Party. It was enjoyed by all.

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

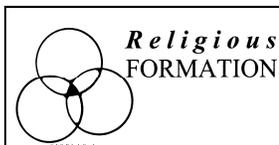
This Sunday at the 10:30 am Mass, Katie Dudley, a 2017 Confirmation Candidate, will join our cantors for the Communion Meditation.

The Second collection this weekend is the monthly collection.

There is a House of Bread collection this weekend. Coffee & sugar are needed.

Employment Support Group: If you are in need of employment please call Ken Mendoza at (860) 665-1515 to make an appointment.

Because Christmas falls on a Sunday this year, the first collection as usual will be for our parish. There will be a second collection to give all an opportunity to contribute for Christmas Flowers.



Feeding Your Family's Soul: This beautiful book will be sold after the 10:30am Mass on Sunday, December 18th by some of our Confirmation 2017 candidates who have volunteered for the Kid's Cafe ministry as part of their Christian service. "Feeding Your Family's Soul is a wise and delectable fusion of insights, stories, recipes and prayers that will inspire and empower you to evangelize your family in the most natural of environments the sacred space around your kitchen table." A review by Lisa Mladinich, founder of Amazingcatechists.com, author of Heads Bowed, prayers for Catholic School Days. The book will sell for \$12.00 and the proceeds will be donated to Kid's Cafe in Hartford, which feeds 600 children a day. Makes an excellent Christmas gift.

We welcome our committed 2017 Confirmation Candidates to the 10:30am Mass on Sunday, and we will present them formally to our parish community.

Children's Liturgy of the Word: Sun., Dec, 18th - 10:30am Mass.

Ministers of the Word: Filomena Marinelli, Audrey Saharek & Maggie Seaver. Thank you to our Catechists; Nicole DiCioccio, Stacey Melillo and Paula & Chase Miller. We also welcome the parish family home communities of Connie Morin, Emily Provost & Melissa Doyle who will participate in a Nativity Story Presentation. Join us for refreshments after Mass Fr. Crawford Hall.

Youth Ministry Dec. 18th : We will gather again on Sunday , Dec. 18th at 6pm in Fr. Crawford Hall. We will head out for some Christmas Caroling in hopes to spread some JOY during this beautiful season. We will conclude the night putting together some holiday goodie bags for the children at Kids Cafe in Hartford. We welcome all high schoolers and our college students home on break to join us!!



Angel Tree: Our 18th Advent Giving Program.

God Bless you for helping those less fortunate. Thank you to the Carcia Family for making this wonderful community outreach program possible! The response this year was an outstanding witness of the generosity of our community! We also thank our Confirmation Candidates 2017 for faithfully assisting Mrs. Carcia in the organization of the gifts! For them it was an experience of gratefulness..... and awareness for all that they have and for so many that have not.

All Faith Formation communities from Grades K-8 are in recess until after the New Year. Merry Christmas to All!

**Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18, 2016**

They shall name him Emmanuel,
which means "God is with us."



A Weekly Bible Study

4th Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-14 & Matthew 1:18-24

Ahaz and Joseph. Two men separated by centuries, worlds apart in religious fervor, but connected in the mysterious ways of God's plan. Two men searching for assurance in the face of troubling news. Two men emerging from the shadows of salvation history to make way for the Messiah to come into the world.

Ahaz, king of eighth century Judah, faces political and military disaster. Seeking reassurance that his kingdom will not fall, he is confronted by the prophet Isaiah who reminds him: "Unless your faith is firm, you shall not be firm" (vs. 9). Leaning on Isaiah instead of his own false humility, he reluctantly seeks a sign from God. The One who is trustworthy will be true to His promise. God will give Ahaz a sign: a son, Hezekiah, a righteous king, to continue the line of David. This will be evidence of "Emmanuel," God with us.

Joseph is deeply troubled by the news that his betrothed, Mary, is with child. An upright man, he intends to divorce her quietly. A sign of the Lord's reassurance is provided him in a dream. (In the scriptures, dreams were God's ways of communicating important messages to his people.) Deep within the recesses of his heart, Joseph heard the word of the Lord and acted on it. Being prayerful, he recalled the Lord's promises to his ancestors, the same promise made to Ahaz: "Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him "God is with us" (Emmanuel).

Two men, reassured by the same promise. One man whose reluctant act of faith would make way for a kingly succession from which the Messiah would come into the world. The other man whose humble acceptance of the Lord's sign would enable that Messiah to bring consolation to God's people.

O come, o come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.

Stop asking for a sign and become one. Consider becoming a priest or religious. Call Fr. Jeffrey Gubbiotti, Director of Vocations, Archdiocesan Center at St. Thomas Seminary, Tel. (860) 242-5573, or contact him via email at:

vocations@aohct.org or visit the web at www.vocationshartford.org.

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



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

If you are leaving Wethersfield for the winter, please notify the rectory so we can place your envelopes on inactive. When you return, kindly call and we will re-activate.

If you have reserved a Mass for a loved one, please let the ushers know prior to Mass if you intend to bring up the gifts. Please follow the Cross Bearer down the aisle before communion. Thank you.

SAVE THE DATE: The men's retreat for all men of the parish will be FEB 24 - 26, 2017 at the Holy Family Retreat Center in West Hartford. This year's theme is: **The Light of Simplicity**. Visit their website at www.holyfamilyretreat.org.



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We will begin accepting the 2018 Masses, Sanctuary & Blessed Virgin Mary Candles on Wednesday, January 4, 2017 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.

Join The Wethersfield Knights of Columbus for Dinner at Bertucci's restaurant on the Berlin Turnpike in Newington.

Pick up a Flyer & Coupon at the exits of the Church to enjoy a good family meal and help raise money for the Knights of Columbus's local charities. This is an on going event on the last Tuesday of each month.

Thank you to all who recently donated to our Annual Collection Fund. We have collected \$93,842.00 towards our goal of \$100,000. We continue to gratefully receive donations. Fr. Moran

Corpus Christi Church in Wethersfield will have a memorial Mass for Reverend Thomas B. Campion on what would have been the 64th Anniversary of his Ordination: Tuesday, Dec. 27th at 7pm at Corpus Christi Church.



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Christmas Schedule of Confessions and Masses:
Advent Confessions

Monday, December 19th from 7-8pm
and Saturday, December 24th
from 11-12 noon only.

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

Christmas Day Masses: Sunday, 12/25 will be at
8:30am and 10:30am.

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

The rectory will be closed on December 23rd & December 26th.
Emergency calls only please.

Wishing everyone a Blessed Christmas!

BAPTISMS



BROOKLYN MARIE CARLSEN
BRYNN MARIE CHRISTIAN
STEVEN ANGELO DIVINETZ
ABIGAIL MARIE MAFFUCCI
MARIELLA LOUISA MAFFUCCI

SUMMONED BY GOD

As Christmas draws near, Advent's scriptures lure us into a world of dreams, signs, wonders, and the miracle of the virgin birth. Too often we allow the great stories of our faith, the ones that are most familiar, simply to wash over us. Today's Gospel account of the events leading up to the birth of the Lord reads like a present-day soap opera. Yet Joseph's courage, even in the midst of what must have been an incredibly confusing time, provides a model for us. Each week, we are summoned by God to embrace the way of goodness and truth through the proclamation of God's holy word. Like Joseph, we are called to do as the Lord commands us. As we stand at the threshold of Christmas, let us have the courage to be open to whatever it is that the Lord will require of us as we celebrate the miracle of Bethlehem.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — You will be given this sign: the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel (Isaiah 7:10-14).

Psalms — Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory (Psalm 24).

Second Reading — God has called us to belong to Jesus Christ (Romans 1:1-7).

Gospel — The son born of Mary shall be called Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. He shall be Emmanuel, "God is with us" (Matthew 1:18-24).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

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

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

Wednesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a;
Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

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

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

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

Sunday: 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]

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Advent
Tuesday: St. Peter Canisius; Winter Solstice
Thursday: St. John of Kanty
Friday: The Vigil of Christmas
Saturday: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

By now, the first Christmas carols are heard in the home, but usually not yet in church. What is a "carol" anyway? Originally, a carol was any kind of communal song sung at a festival such as a harvest. By the thirteenth century or so, carols were associated with household celebrations. "Carol" comes from the Old French *carula*, meaning a circular dance. Carols weren't for church, since the language of liturgy was Latin and the carols were in the common language. Their characteristic sound comes from medieval chord patterns, and they often have strong refrains for everyone to sing. Even in the churches of the Reformation, carols didn't make it into church services until the 1870s or so, since there was a preference for psalms. Anglicans resisted popular carols; most of our beloved carols came via the Methodists, an offshoot of the Church of England. The Catholic Church generally didn't admit carols to liturgy either, but we didn't make laws against them.

We are told that the beloved carol "Silent Night" comes from Catholic Austria and a harried parish music director. Joseph Mohr, the priest of St. Nicholas in Oberndorf, had written the words in 1816, but offered them to his music director, Franz Gruber, when the church's organ broke. Mohr asked him to write a melody that could be played on guitar as a prelude to Mass. Gruber finished the tune just hours before midnight Mass in 1818. The people were shocked to hear a guitar in church, but were charmed by the sweet lullaby. The church was swept away by a flood in the 1990s and the village later relocated, but the townspeople have set up the "Silent Night Memorial Chapel" at the site. Today the carol is in print in some three hundred languages. How wonderful that the pipe organ broke on that night!

GETTING EVEN

The only ones you should try to get even with are those who have helped you. —Anonymous

An Advent and Christmas Message



Jesus, Light Our Way

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 Prayerful Advent, Blessed Christmas and Peaceful New Year. Noranne S. Wamester, Pastoral Associate

COVER SHEET

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: PLEASE READ THIS NEW INFORMATION!!!!
CALL AUDREY SAHAREK (860) 529-2534...Please note: WE WILL TRANSMIT VIA
UPLOAD. JUST AS A REMINDER WE WORK IN PUBLISHER 2013 AND WE HAVE
ADOBE ACROBAT 9 STANDARD.

**Dear Production: Per Rick Monarque, we are now using
our two additional pages which will be permanent.
Thanks Audrey Saharek**