



# ANNUNCIATION PARISH

The Holy Family Of Jesus, Mary And Joseph, December 29, 2024

## **PARISH OFFICE**

626 Willard Ave. (All Mail Please)

Newington, CT 06111

Phone: (860) 666-1591

Fax: (860) 666-5720

## **Office Hours**

Monday - Friday:

9:00am - 2:00pm

## **CHURCH OF ST. MARY**

626 Willard Avenue

Newington, CT. 06111

## **CHURCH OF HOLY SPIRIT**

183 Church Street (No Mail Please!)

Newington, CT. 06111

## **Confession**

Friday: 8:30-8:50 am, HS

Saturday: 3:00-3:50 pm, HS

Sunday: 7:30-7:50 am, SM

## **Mass Times**

**Daily Mass:** Monday - Friday

9:00 am, HS

**Saturday Vigil:** 4:00 pm, HS

## **Sunday Masses:**

8:00 am, SM

9:15 am, HS

10:30 am, SM

12:00 pm, HS

Visit us on the web @  
[annunciationnewington.com](http://annunciationnewington.com)



Did you not know that I must  
be in my Father's house?

LUKE 2:49

© JPPC

O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practicing the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

[www.catholicculture.org](http://www.catholicculture.org)

# The Holy Family Of Jesus, Mary And Joseph, December 29, 2024

## Welcome To Annunciation Parish, The Roman Catholic Community of Newington

Whether you are a long-time parishioner, a returning parishioner, a new parishioner, or a visitor, welcome to our community. We are glad that you are here and hope that you feel at home. If you are not already a member of our parish, please consider joining us. If you are a member of our parish already, please consider joining one of our ministries.

The Catholic Church welcomes new members of all ages. Children are welcomed into our faith through the sacrament of Baptism. Adults can either join our faith, or complete their sacraments of initiation through our RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) or our Adult Confirmation program. If you are interested, please call the rectory at: (860) 666-1591.

### Parish Priests

**Rev. Janusz Kukulka**, Pastor

fr.kukulka@aohct.org

**Rev. Joseph Pullikattil**, Parochial Vicar

fr.pullikattil@aohct.org

### Weekend Associates

**Rev. Lawrence Bock**

**Msgr. James Kinnane**

### Deacons

**James Blanchette**

deaconjimb@annunciationnewington.com

**Bruce Thompson**, Senior Deacon

### Music Ministry

**Mark Neumann**, Parish Director of Music

neumn@hotmail.com

**David Dyson**, Organist

music.dyson@annunciationnewington.com

### Rectory Office

**Kimberly Marchetti**, Secretary, Annunciation Parish

kim@annunciationnewington.com

Phone: (860) 666-1591

### Religious Education Office

Phone: (860) 666-3562

**Dolores Mihaliak**, Director of Religious Education

DRE@annunciationnewington.com

**Eliza Harris**, Coordinator of Religious Education

CRE@annunciationnewington.com

### Sacramental Ministries

#### Baptism

To schedule a Baptism, visit our website: [www.annunciationnewington.com](http://www.annunciationnewington.com), scroll down to Quick Links (*center of Home Page*), *Select* - Book a Baptism and then once the form is submitted, Deacon Blanchette will call to arrange a meeting.

#### Marriage

Please call the rectory at least **six months** in advance. Couples meet with the priest for an initial pastoral conversation before a wedding date can be set. Please do not make other plans until a date has been confirmed.

#### For the Sick

We are happy to visit with the homebound. If you or a loved one would like a home visit, Holy Communion or the Anointing of the Sick, please contact the rectory office.

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK – The Holy Family Of Jesus, Mary And Joseph

**Monday** 1 Jn 2:12-17 Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 Lk 2:36-40

**Tuesday** 1 Jn 2:18-21 Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 Jn 1:1-18

**Wednesday** Nm 6:22-27 Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 Gal 4:4-7 Lk 2:16-21

**Thursday** 1 Jn 2:22-28 Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 Jn 1:19-28

**Friday** 1 Jn 2:29-3:6 Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6 Jn 1:29-34

**Saturday** 1 Jn 3:7-10 Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9 Jn 1:35-42

**Sunday** Is 60:1-6 Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 Mt 2:1-12

**Mass Intentions**

**Saturday, December 28th, The Vigil For The Holy Family Of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

H/S 4:00 p.m. Mary Mitchell, By Her Family

**Sunday, December 29th, The Holy Family Of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

S/M 8:00 a.m. Daniel & Pauline Patriss, By Their Family

H/S 9:15 a.m. Norma Martin, By Her Husband Robert

S/M 10:30 a.m. Walter Grudzien, By His Family

H/S 12:00 p.m. Santana Rao, By The Rao Family

**Monday, December 30th, Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord**

H/S 9:00 a.m. Elsa Fuentes, By Marco Suarez

**Tuesday, December 31st, Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord**

H/S 9:00 a.m. Linus & Maureen Steck, Birthday Remembrance, By Their Family

**Wednesday, January 1st, The Octave Day Of The Nativity Of The Lord, Solemnity Of Mary, Mother Of God**

H/S 9:00 a.m. People of The Parish

S/M 12:10 p.m. People of The Parish

**Thursday, January 2nd, Saints Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors of the Church**

H/S 9:00 a.m. Thomas Lineberry, 3rd Anniversary, By Grace Lineberry

**Friday, January 3rd, Christmas Weekday**

H/S 9:00 a.m. Chacko Matthew, By His Son

**Saturday, January 4th, The Vigil For The Epiphany Of The Lord,**

H/S 4:00 p.m. Linda Campbell, By The Claffey Family

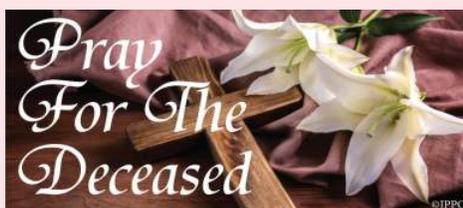
**Sunday, January 5th, The Epiphany Of The Lord**

S/M 8:00 a.m. The Living & Deceased Members of The Beaulieu Family, By The Family

H/S 9:15 a.m. Hedy Bokan, By Joan Grayson

S/M 10:30 a.m. Tom Rogers, By His Wife Sandy & Family

H/S 12:00 p.m. Edwin Tanyag, By His Family



Please welcome into our parish family, the following child who was recently baptized at Annunciation Parish:

**Lucas James Barnash**

**Parish Support**

**December 15, 2024**

Weekly \$16,744

Online Giving \$4,081

Total \$20,825

**Eucharistic Adoration**

**Holy Spirit Church**

6:00 - 7:00pm

Tuesday Evenings

Spend the whole hour or as much time as you can give!

**Adoration will not be held on Tuesday, December 31st.**



**\*Franciscan Hospice Care Registered Nurse Case Manager Needed**

Franciscan Home Care and Hospice Care, a Catholic home health care agency, serving Central Connecticut, is seeking a Registered Nurse Case Manager to work in its hospice care program. Position includes: Full-time Competitive salary & Benefits

Visit [www.franciscanhc.org](http://www.franciscanhc.org)

or call PetaRose Tom, RN, Hospice Director, for more information.

# ANNUNCIATION PARISH

## A Hundred Years of the Catholic Church in Newington

### St. Mary's Men's Club-

The Men's Club was started in the parish at the insistence and encouragement of Father Clark. He called upon several men to start the club in 1938. Those among the founding members included the first President, Joseph Seremet, Richard, George and David Erwin, Louis and John Horvath, John and Rudolph Schwager, Justin Urban, Stanley and John Seremet, Stanley Stretchun, Stanley Lewonczyk and Raymond Varley.

Over the years, the club has worked with the pastor for the general welfare of the parish both financially and spiritually, and has sponsored numerous parish events including guest speakers, sports movies, card parties, special dinners, communion breakfasts, seasonal socials, etc. In addition, donations have been made to the Boy Scouts, Explorer Scouts and to the students of St. Mary's school.

As time passes, things change. Today the Men's Club is a smaller, but still busy group. Our members preform projects on the grounds of the St Mary's campus, which includes the church, as well as the rectory, convent and school. Our projects include cleaning the church, inspecting and repairing the kneelers annually, weeding of flower beds, and planting flowers and shrubs at the rectory and around the statue of Mary. We also assisted with cleaning out St. Mary's school when it closed. After Covid19, we took over coordinating our long standing tradition of soup and bread on Fridays during Lent.

Around 2016, Jay and I began discussing a way to replace our annual Tag Sale fundraiser with an evening of comedy for the parish and the community.

Our first show, held at St. Mary's School Gym in 2017, was sold out. We continued the show for the next two years, with even more success after merging with Holy Spirit Church. Due to Covid19, in 2020 we were forced to take a two year break. The club resumed the comedy show in 2023 and 2024, now held at Holy Spirit Hall and had the same result, two more sold out shows! So far the shows have raised just short of \$50,000 used to help fund many necessary projects at both churches.

Though our group of active members is small, we've been extremely fortunate to recruit from the parish, several very talented people who assist us when necessary, with the many tasks needed to make our events successful.

These people include Patti Keltonic, Marianne O'Brien, Deb Smith, Gail Budrejko, Lisa Dumais, Trish Newhouse, Mary Costa, Sue Smola and Brian and Mary Wood, as well as Fr. Morgewicz and Fr. Joe Pullikattil. We'd like to thank them for their tireless efforts in helping with the Comedy Night and especially the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

We are a small group of about thirty men, with just five active members. These members are: Tom Morris (President), Jay Dumais, Bill Mitchell, Art Taylor and Deacon Bruce Thompson.

The Annunciation Parish Men's Club meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 6pm, in the lower rectory of St Mary's Church. We'd love for you to stop by and visit during one of our meetings to share your thoughts and suggestions.

For more information please contact Tom Morris (860)666-6331



Men's Guild Executive Board



St. Mary's Men's Club Officers - 1974



# PARISH CALENDAR, DECEMBER 29, 2024

## The Knights Sandwich Ministry

Our next sandwich collection is Sunday, **January 19th at 4:30 pm** in the Saint Mary School parking lot.

## The Prayer Shawl Group

meets the **third Thursday** of every month at **12:30 p.m.** at The Holy Spirit Church Hall from September-June

## The Men's Club

...meets on the **third Wednesday** of every month, at **6:00 pm** in St. Mary lower Rectory. Contact: Tom Morris at (860) 666-6331

## The Men's Fellowship Group

...meets every **Wednesday** evening from **6:30-8:00 pm** Holy Spirit Church Hall. Contact: Angelo Marchetti at: (860) 202-1612

## The Women's Guild

\*There are no meetings in January

The Women's Guild will not hold any meetings in January 2025.

**The Women's Guild Executive Board** will meet on Monday, **February 3rd**, and the **General Membership meeting** will be held on Tuesday, **February 11th**. Both meetings begin at 6:30 pm and are held in the Holy Spirit Church hall. New members are always welcome to attend any meeting!



## The Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

### Wednesday, January 1st

**H/S 9:00 a.m.**

**S/M 12:10 p.m.**

### January 1st: A Special Day In Our Church

By celebrating a solemnity dedicated to Mary's motherhood, the Church highlights the significance of her part in the life of Jesus, and emphasizes that he is both human and divine. There is a beautiful spiritual significance in celebrating this holy day during the heart of the Christmas season. Pope Paul VI called the Solemnity of Mary "a fitting occasion for renewing adoration of the newborn Prince of Peace, for listening once more to the glad tidings of the angels, and for imploring from God, through the Queen of Peace, the supreme gift of peace." This highlight of Jesus as the Prince of Peace has encouraged the Church since 1967 to designate this day as a "world day of peace."

The concept that Mary is the mother of God was not always easily accepted. In the course of history there have been severe debates as to whether or not Mary should be called the mother of God. Some argued that she should be called the Mother of Christ but not Mother of God. These arguments were settled by the Church in the year 431 at the Council of Ephesus when the bishops of the world when they met to discuss the topic. It was concluded that because Jesus is of divine origin, he is a divine person since his father is God. Mary gave birth to this divine person and through this logic must be called the mother of God, *theotokos*, in Greek meaning "God-bearer". We celebrate our Mother's day in prayer to God for his special favor to her. May we all receive our Lady's protection and blessings during this new year. Mary...Pray for us!



# ANNUNCIATION PARISH

## **The Transfer of Seasons**

The Advent Season, the season of joyful anticipation ends with Christmas Eve, the celebration of that joyful event and the start of the Christmas Season.

One of the most depressing sights to see and hear or, more to the fact, not see and not hear is any reference to Christmas once December 25<sup>th</sup> ends. The radio stations stop playing Christmas music and the curbs of our neighborhoods see the piling up of discarded trees. The great event of our Saviors birth cannot be contained in just one day, it is a celebration of an entire season, hence the popular song the “Twelve Days of Christmas.”



The season of Christmas begins with Christmas Eve and traditionally ended with the Epiphany. Currently the Church sees the Christmas Season extended through to the Baptism of the Lord, Sunday, January 7, 2023. This season, ending with the Baptism of the Lord makes sense because the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by John the Baptist is not a baptism of forgiveness of sins but an event that ushers in Jesus’ acceptance of his role as suffering Messiah, the mission that he accepts in obedience to his Father so that salvation can be brought to the world.

Just as in Advent when we were to wait to celebrate Christmas, once Christmas is celebrated we are not to end the celebrating too soon. Celebrating until the Baptism of the Lord on January 7<sup>th</sup> means supplying water to our trees and plugging in those lights a little longer than our neighbors.

May the joys and excitement of Christmas be in your hearts each and every day of the Christmas season!

## **Signs of Christmas: The Crèche, Poinsettias and Holly**

The tradition of having some kind of Nativity scene, also known by its French name (crèche), in Churches and homes evolved during the Middle Ages, first in churches as a prop for Nativity plays associated with Mass. A crèche is a reproduction of the cave in Bethlehem with the principal characters: Mary, Joseph, the infant Jesus in a manger, shepherds, angels, and animals. St. Francis of Assisi popularized this custom with a living Nativity scene at Greccio, Italy, in 1223. These scenes, constructed from every sort of material, spread throughout Christendom.



The most popular Christmas plant is the poinsettia, which came from Mexico where it grows as a shrub. It blooms at Christmastime, and Mexicans called it “flower of the Holy Night.” It was brought to the United States by the first U.S. ambassador to Mexico, Dr. Joel Roberts Poinsett (1779-1851) who had them grown in his greenhouse in South Carolina. Eventually, they were named after him. Only since 1920 have they become potted plants. Poinsettias are now associated as much with Christmas as lilies are with Easter.



The use of holly as a religious tradition and Christmas decoration originated in northern Europe, where it was called the “holy tree.” Because of its appearance it became associated with the burning bush of Moses and Mary’s burning love for God. The red berries and prickly points also became symbolic of the crown of thorns and the bloody death that the Christ Child would eventually suffer. As the Season of Advent, the season of preparation comes to a close may we use the customs and signs of Christmas to touch our minds and hearts as we prayerfully and joyously welcome the New-Born King at Christmas.



# Branches on the Vine

News from the Archdiocese of Hartford · December 28, 2024 - January 3, 2025



## CHRISTMAS WINDOW DISPLAY MARRIES CREATIVITY AND FAITH IN WALLINGFORD



*Santa kneels before the baby Jesus in this year's Christmas window display on the front side (middle window) of Holy Trinity School in Wallingford.*

Just in time for the Wallingford Stroll in December, the eighth-grade students at Holy Trinity School in Wallingford completed their annual Christmas window display – to the delight of school neighbors and town residents.

The annual tradition, which has been going on since at least the 1980s, has been attracting local residents, some of whom drive by the school each year during the Advent and Christmas seasons to see what the students have put up, says Michael Frechette, principal of Holy Trinity School.

“Everyone loves to see the windows,” Frechette says, “and we get compliments on a daily basis.”

This year's central focus is a Nativity scene, with Santa bringing a gift and kneeling before the baby Jesus. The white paper figures are flanked by palm trees, with the buildings of Bethlehem not far off. Angels, doves and stars can be seen above. The decorations cover all three floors of the 110-year-old brick school building.

The decorations, which take a few weeks to put up, eventually fill all the windows of the school, from the front of the building, facing west, to the playground side, facing east. Even the stairwell windows are filled with stars. The playground side is visible from the town center.

The whole scene is sketched out in advance by Darlene Bailey, a retired teacher who was a teacher at Holy Trinity for 30 years. This year, she partnered with Anne Roth, another retired teacher, who taught at the school for 18 years. Together, they used an overhead projector to project images onto a wall and traced them to create the patterns. The eighth-grade students then used the patterns to trace the images onto white paper, and did the cutting and taping.

Over the years, the school has experimented with a mix of secular and religious themes, but finally settled on variations of the Nativity. “Our school represents religious faith in the community,” Bailey says, “and where it's located in town, you can see it coming down the hill. The whole town sees it.”

The window display runs from Dec. 6 to Jan. 6 (Three Kings Day). The school is located at 11 North Whittlesey Ave., Wallingford. For more information about Holy Trinity School, visit <https://www.hts-wallingford.org>.

*Story by Shelley Wolf*



**ARCHDIOCESE of HARTFORD**

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[instagram.com/archdioceseofhartford](https://instagram.com/archdioceseofhartford)  
[youtube.com/archdioceseofhartfordct](https://youtube.com/archdioceseofhartfordct)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Sunday, January 5 at 6:00 PM

Free concert to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany · Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Hartford  
The Hartford Bishops' Foundation and the Cathedral of St. Joseph are hosting a free concert open to the public featuring Dr. Gabriel Löfvall, the Cathedral Schola Cantorum and a Brass & String Ensemble. The event celebrates the Epiphany and the beginning of the 2025 Jubilee Year: "Pilgrims of Hope," a time of great spiritual and social significance in the life of the Catholic Church.

### Monday, January 6 at 6:00 PM

Catholic Academy of Waterbury, 386 Robinwood Road, Waterbury, CT

As a heritage school of St. Mary and Blessed Sacrament, we are proud to carry on traditions from both schools at our STREAM Academy. The original cross from St. Mary School was brought over to Catholic Academy of Waterbury this summer and will be lit for the first time. The original bell from St. Mary School was also recently installed and will be rung by members of the Blessed Sacrament community.

### Saturday, February 8 – 15

St. Patrick-St. Anthony Parish Sponsors St. Francis Builds trip to Yabucoa, Puerto Rico

This group will work with Proyecto Marcos Sanchez Yabucoa, a non-profit grassroots organization. Residents have been tasked to establish a relief center to help its residents in the event of a disaster. The SFB group will work with the community on renovations to the school buildings they are using for this purpose. The cost of this is approximately \$900 plus airfare. Meals and lodging are included within trip fees set for both trips. A limited number of scholarships are available. Questions or interested in learning more about these trips? Contact Sue O'Donnell at sodonnell38@gmail.com.



### Tuesday, April 22 - Friday, May 2

New England Catholic Biblical School Pilgrimage to Italy

The New England Catholic Biblical School invites all alumni, current students, and guests to our 11-day Pilgrimage to Italy in 2025 for the Jubilee Year! The Jubilee is a special year of grace, in which the Catholic Church offers the faithful the possibility of asking for a plenary indulgence, that is, the remission of sins for themselves or for deceased relatives. The cost of this pilgrimage is \$4899 per person roundtrip from New York (air/land tour price). To register to join the pilgrimage and receive more information, visit <https://www.catholicedaohct.org/catholic-biblical-school/events>.

For more events, please visit:  
[archdioceseofhartford.org/events](http://archdioceseofhartford.org/events)

To submit an event for consideration, please email: [communications@aohct.org](mailto:communications@aohct.org)

## 2024 Archbishop's Annual Appeal



93.7% as of 12/16/24  
\$9,369,675.63 of \$10M goal



Thursday Nights - January 16<sup>th</sup> – February 27<sup>th</sup> – 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Holy Spirit Church Hall

# Presence™

THE MYSTERY OF THE EUCHARIST



**February 27, 2025**

**6:30-8:30pm**

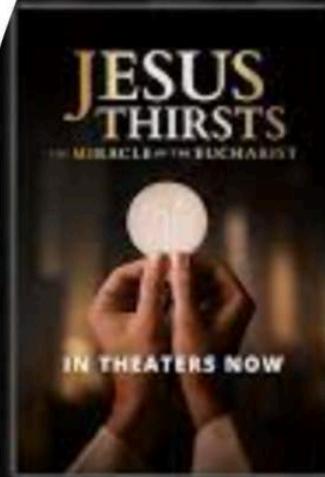
**Holy Spirit Hall**

**\$12.55/Adults, \$10.44/12 & Under**



Scan me!

**Scan for Tickets**



**#1**  
DOCUMENTARY  
OF 2024



*"Life changing"*  
*"A powerful documentary"*  
*"An absolute must see!"*

JesusThirstsFilm.com #JesusThirstsFilm



**Prayer for the Jubilee Year 2025:** The Catholic Church celebrates a Jubilee Year every 25 years. In 2025, the Jubilee Year will be called the "**Pilgrims of Hope**". Pope Francis has called for a "Year of Prayer" to prepare for the Jubilee Year.

Pope Francis has released the official Jubilee prayer. It's available in nearly 20 different languages on the official [Jubilee website](#) so people around the world can pray it with one heart in many voices.

In the first stanza, we call to mind the theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity that we receive as gifts from God, infused in our souls. We can pray for an increase of these virtues and work with God to activate them in our lives.

The second stanza calls to mind the parable of the Sower and our mission to spread the gospel. We might be sowing seeds that we never see grow into full flower. Or we may be sowing seeds for someone else to harvest! But we do our part in humility, trusting in the Lord that he will be faithful to his promises. It might be easy to lose hope if we keep our eyes focused on this life and our current age with its problems and anxieties. We are called to hope in the new heaven and the new earth, trusting that the Lord works all things for good, and having faith that someday these sufferings will be transformed into glory.

The third stanza prays that this special Holy Year, which has been set apart, can be an impetus of grace both in our own lives and throughout the world. This is not just a ritual or a tradition in a faraway place. We are all called to enter more deeply into prayer and acts of charity this year, finding ways to dedicate this year in a special way to the Lord. The graces are ready to be given! Let's not waste this opportunity!

### **The Jubilee Prayer**

**Father in heaven,  
may the *faith* you have given us  
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of *charity* enkindled  
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*  
for the coming of your Kingdom.**

**May your grace transform us  
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.  
May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos  
in the sure expectation  
of a new heaven and a new earth,  
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,  
your glory will shine eternally.**

**May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.**

**May that same grace spread  
the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
throughout the earth.**

**To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever.**

**Amen.**