



ANNUNCIATION PARISH

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT, FEBRUARY 22, 2026

PARISH OFFICE

626 Willard Ave. (All Mail Please)
Newington, CT 06111
Phone: (860) 666-1591

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

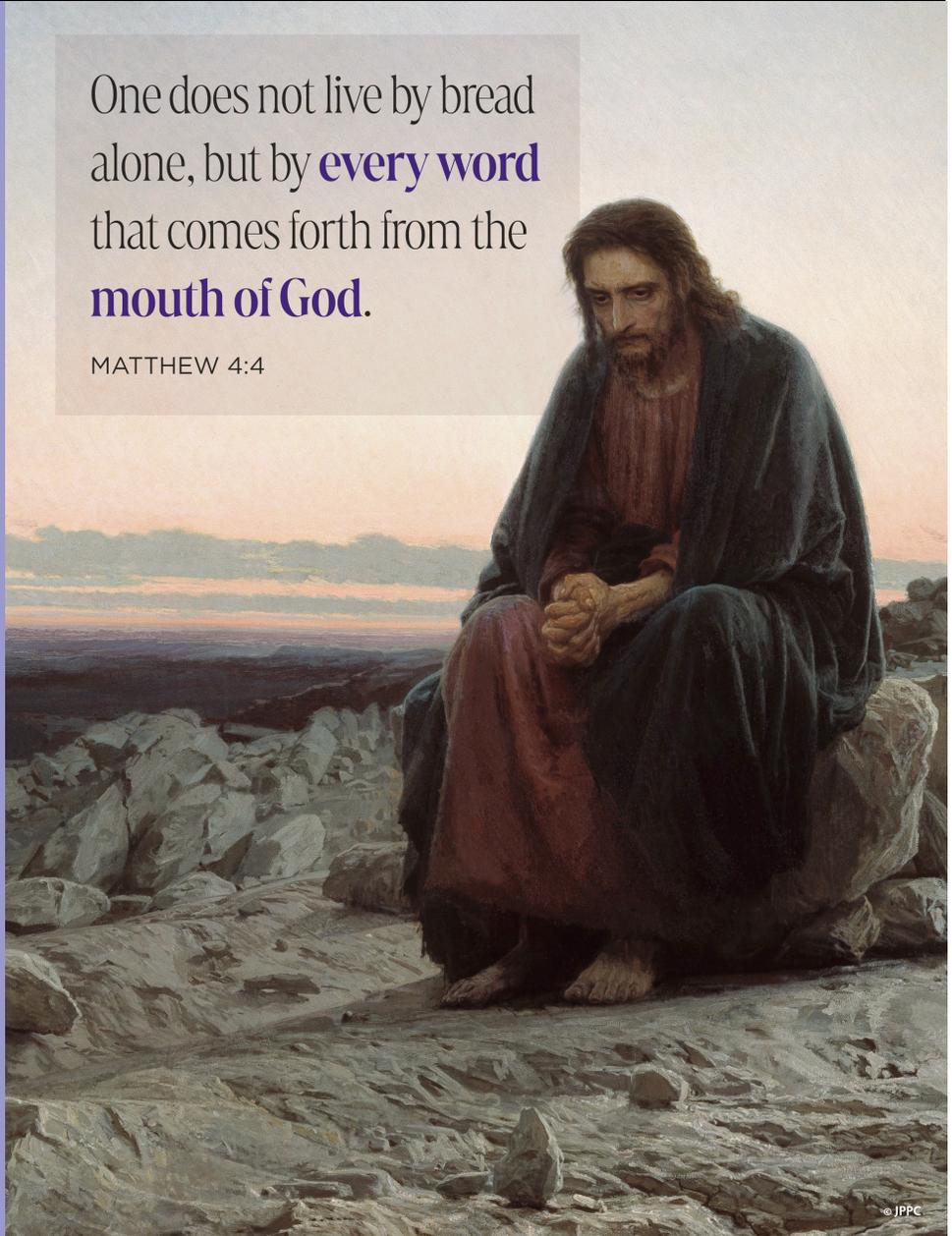
Sunday Masses:

8:00 am, SM
9:15 am, HS
10:30 am, SM
12:00 pm, HS

Visit us on the web @
annunciationnewington.com

One does not live by bread
alone, but by **every word**
that comes forth from the
mouth of God.

MATTHEW 4:4



Grant, almighty God, through the yearly observances of holy Lent, that we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ and by worthy conduct pursue their effects. 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.

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT, FEBRUARY 22, 2026

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

deaconjim@annunciationnewington.com

Bruce Thompson, Senior Deacon

Music Ministry

Mark Neumann, Parish Director of Music

neumn@hotmail.com

David Dyson, Organist

music.dyson@annunciationnewington.com

Business Manager, Deacon Julio Maturana

business@annunciationnewington.com

Phone: (860) 436-4381

Rectory Office

Kimberly Marchetti, Secretary, Annunciation Parish

kim@annunciationnewington.com

Phone: (860) 666-1591

Religious Education Office

Phone: (860) 729-5032

Deacon James Blanchette, Director of Religious Education

deaconjim@annunciationnewington.com

Eliza Harris, Coordinator of Religious Education

CRE@annunciationnewington.com

Sacramental Ministries

Baptism

To schedule a Baptism, visit our website:

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 First Sunday Of Lent

Monday Lv 19:1-2, 11-18 Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday Is 55:10-11 Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19 Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday Jon 3:1-10 Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 Lk 11:29-32

Thursday Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25 Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 Mt 7:7-12

Friday Ez 18:21-28 Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8 Mt 5:20-26

Saturday Dt 26:16-19 Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 Mt 5:43-48

Sunday Gen 12:1-4a Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22 2 Tm 1:8b-10 Mt 17:1-9

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT, FEBRUARY 22, 2026

Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 21st, The Vigil For The First Sunday Of Lent

H/S 4:00 p.m. Judy Kozikowski, 2nd Anniversary, By The Family

Sunday, February 22nd, The First Sunday Of Lent

S/M 8:00 a.m. No intention

H/S 9:15 a.m. Francis Rooney Jr., By Cherie & Ron Pienykoski

S/M 10:30 a.m. No intention

H/S 12:00 p.m. Giorgio DiCesare, By Lucia & Family

Monday, February 23rd, Lenten Weekday; Saint Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr

H/S 9:00 a.m. Martin Furiel & Albert Revicki, 5th Anniversary,
By The Yurko Family

Tuesday, February 24th, Lenten Weekday

H/S 9:00 a.m. No intention

Wednesday, February 25th, Lenten Weekday

H/S 9:00 a.m. Jeff Macdonald, 14th Anniversary, By His Wife

Thursday, February 26th, Lenten Weekday

H/S 9:00 a.m. No intention

Friday, February 27th, Lenten Weekday; Saint Gregory of Narek, Abbot & Doctor of the Church

H/S 9:00 a.m. No intention

Saturday, February 28th, The Vigil For The Second Sunday Of Lent

H/S 4:00 p.m. Sisto Carroccia, 3rd Anniversary, By The Family

Sunday, March 1st, The Second Sunday Of Lent

S/M 8:00 a.m. No intention

H/S 9:15 a.m. Chester DiPietro, By His Family

S/M 10:30 a.m. Lucia Cerasani, By Her Family

H/S 12:00 p.m. Rose & Robert Colgan, By Their Family



In Loving Memory

We pray for...

Sebastian Jurzyk

And for the consolation of their family & friends. *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord; let your light shine upon them*

Parish Support

February 15, 2026

Weekly \$12,600

Online Giving \$3,303

Total \$15,903

Eucharistic Adoration

Holy Spirit Church

6:00 - 7:00pm

Tuesday Evenings

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



Knights Of Columbus Book Donation:

Lent is a 40-day journey of prayer, fasting & almsgiving. "The Little Black Book," a Lenten reflection book, will be available to parishioners at the church entrance thanks to the generosity of The Knights of Columbus. We appreciate your donation and thoughtfulness!

Congratulations and Thank You!

Archbishop Coyne has announced that he has selected: **Gail Budrejko** to receive the Saint Joseph Archdiocesan Medal of Appreciation from The Annunciation Parish.

Gail attends Mass faithfully every Sunday and has served as an usher for many years. She generously volunteers countless hours in the parish and represents the parish at numerous events throughout the town. A devoted, practicing Catholic, she also leads and supports many groups within the wider community and has given many years of dedicated service as a member of the parish council. We are very grateful for all that you have contributed to our parish and we thank you, as does the Archbishop. Congratulations Gail!



PARISH CALENDAR, FEBRUARY 22, 2026

The Knights Sandwich Ministry

Our next sandwich collection is Sunday, **March 15th at 4:30 pm** in the Saint Mary School parking lot.

K of C Food Collection

Sunday, March 1st @ both churches

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 Fellowship Group

...meets every Thursday of every from **6:30-8:00 pm** Holy Spirit Church Hall. Contact: Kim Marchetti at: (860) 202-0020

The Women's Guild

Tuesday, March 3rd there will be an Executive board Meeting and a General Membership meeting on March 10th.

All meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. in the Holy Spirit Church Hall.

The next monthly Women's Guild general membership meeting will be on Tuesday, March 10th, 2026. It will be held in the Holy Spirit church hall at 6:30 pm. The evenings program will be musical entertainment by Irish Guitarist Rodney Brown. New members are welcome to join us at this or any of our meetings.



Scam Emails

Several parishioners have received emails that say they are from the pastor asking for a favor. If you receive one, please know this is a scam and delete the email immediately. Do not open it. The pastor will never text or email you asking for a favor. We are sorry for this inconvenience.

The next meeting of the New Britain Council of Catholic Women will be held February 26, 2026 at 1pm at St. Jerome Hall. We will have our standard business meeting and we will detail the events for the rest of the year.

We are actively looking for volunteers to serve as Bereavement Ministers for our funerals at both Holy Spirit & Saint Mary's Church. If this is a ministry that you would be able to contribute your time and talents to, please contact Kim at: 860-666-1591.

Thank you so much!



The Knights Sandwich Ministry—

Thanks to everyone for your generosity! In February we collected approximately 530 sandwiches and many bags of pretzels, cookies, chips and snacks for South Park Inn and Saint Elizabeth Shelter in Hartford. These Shelters assist over 200 individuals daily and use these sandwiches for lunches, late-meals, walk-in's and outreach programs. Our collections are on the third Sunday of the month.

Our next sandwich collection is: **Sunday, March 15th @ 4:30 in the Saint Mary School parking lot.** Thank you for living your faith by helping others!



ANNUNCIATION PARISH

“At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry.” Matthew 4:1-2

The 1st Sunday of Lent Year A invites reflection on human weakness and God’s saving grace. It shows the struggle with temptation and the hope of new life through Jesus.

- **Temptation and Choice:** Temptation is a test of loyalty to God. In Eden, Adam and Eve failed, but Jesus stood firm in the desert.
- **Obedience vs. Disobedience:** Adam’s disobedience brought sin, while Jesus’ obedience brings life. This contrast shows the impact of our choices.
- **Sin and Its Consequences:** Sin brings shame and separation from God, as seen with Adam and Eve. But through Jesus, there is hope for reconciliation.
- **Grace and Redemption:** Through Jesus’ sacrifice, grace overcomes sin. This offers a path to righteousness for all who believe.
- **Scripture as Strength:** Jesus used Scripture to resist temptation. This shows the power of God’s Word in facing challenges.
- **Victory Over Evil:** Jesus defeated the devil’s temptations. This victory gives confidence that evil can be overcome.

The 1st Sunday of Lent Year A highlights the human struggle with sin and the hope found in Jesus. It encourages trust in God’s mercy and strength to resist temptation.



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Save the Date: May 2, 2026
Annunciation Parish will be hosting “Comedy Night” at
The Holy Spirit Church Hall.



ANNUNCIATION PARISH

Preparation for the Season of Preparation! During the season of Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday, the Church asks us to spend more time in intentional prayer, to fast and abstain from meat on designated days, and to practice charitable giving for the sake of others. Recalling Jesus' forty day fast in the wilderness, we believe that our constant participation in these practices is a form of purification that deepens our spiritual center by stripping away all that is unnecessary and by reminding us of our sole reliance on God. Participating in a spiritual program during Lent allows us to celebrate the Easter Mystery more worthily and allows that celebration to build in excitement and anticipation. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of both fast and abstinence and all Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence. Abstinence means eating no meat. Fasting means eating only one normal sized meal and two smaller meals not exceeding the size of the one meal and not eating in-between meals (no snacks). Those 14 and older are required to abstain from meat; those 18-59 are required to fast, except in cases of special medical conditions that prevent fasting. The essential spiritual act for the season of Lent is to celebrate God's forgiveness and mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This soul saving sacrament is provided many times a week during Lent. The sacrament is celebrated every Saturday before Mass at Holy Spirit 3:00-3:50 p.m. and Friday morning before Mass at 8:30-8:50 a.m., every Tuesday during Holy Hour from 6:00-7:00 p.m. at Holy Spirit and during the Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent at St. Mary at 12:10 and Holy Spirit at 7:00 p.m. Please see the information below for a special gathering on Fridays before Stations of The Cross for Soup and Bread during Lent. The important thing is that everyone think about and begin a spiritual plan for this season of preparation. This special time of the year that is set apart, in order to be spiritually ready to enter into the great celebration at Easter.

Soup & Bread during Lent is Back!!!! Please come and join us for Soup & Bread every Friday during Lent starting at 6pm (Holy Spirit Hall). A different ministry from our Parish will be providing a meatless soup or soups and plenty of bread. Beverages will include coffee, tea and water. This is a great opportunity to grab something to eat before Stations of the Cross. Here is this year's schedule:

Friday February 27th - Annunciation Men & Women's Fellowship Group

Friday March 6th - Knights of Columbus

Friday March 13th - Annunciaton Women's Guild

Friday March 20th - Eucharistic Ministry

Friday March 27th - CCD 9th and 10th Graders

Please contact Jay Dumais at (860)836-8243 if you have any questions.



Palm Cross 2026 Order Form

Annunciation Parish

Newington Knights of Columbus Council #3884



- Beautiful 24" x 12" Palm Crosses
- Decorated with 60 pieces of Palm
- Purple Ribbon
- 2 Artificial Lilies
- Individually Bagged
- **\$14 Each**

Please place the order form and payment in a plain envelope labeled "Palm Crosses" and return in the collection basket by **March 15th**

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Number of Crosses: _____ x \$14.00 Each

Paid by: CASH _____ CHECK _____ Total: _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO KOFC COUNCIL 3884

Crosses will be available for pick up at Holy Spirit Church Hall on Saturday, March 21st from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

For more information contact:
Bill Mitchell 860-436-2669; wmittchell1927@gmail.com

NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD



Branches on the Vine

FEBRUARY 21 - 27, 2026



Father Martin Chouinard, center, and Father Anthony Federico, far left, chat with attendees and donors at the Archbishop's Annual Appeal Beer Tasting & Cocktail Reception at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville.

PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

This year's Archbishop's Annual Appeal Beer Tasting & Cocktail Reception offered frosty weather and brews in an atmosphere of warm Catholic fellowship.

Approximately 300 people braved the frigid weather Feb. 6 to gather at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville, where they shared an evening of fun and fellowship, sampled local beers and wines, and met Archbishop Christopher J. Coyne in a relaxed setting. Donors also learned how the Appeal is making a difference.

"We take care of people," Archbishop Coyne told attendees during brief remarks, sharing the many reasons the Archbishop's Annual Appeal is so vital.

Giving an update on the current landscape of charitable need, Archbishop Coyne reported hearing about college students turning to food pantries, people in cars driving up to soup kitchens, and families appearing at shelters that once served only homeless individuals.

"We're not just seeing the usual people," he said. "What we're seeing now is a lot of rent poor, with no money left for food."

Archbishop Coyne cited agencies on the front lines of providing food and shelter – House of Bread in Hartford, St. Vincent DePaul Mission of Waterbury and St. Vincent De Paul Mission of Bristol – which receive Appeal funds.

"We fill in the gaps. We never ask for credentials," the archbishop said. "We just say, 'How can we help you?'"

At the event, two invited speakers also shared their heartfelt appreciation to donors for making their ministries possible.

ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL BEER TASTING MIXES FUN, FELLOWSHIP AND THANKS

"Malta House of Care is a great example of what can be accomplished by a grassroots organization when needs are identified and people decide to put their time, their resources and energy into meeting those needs," said Brian Sheehan, board chair for the Malta House of Care.

Today, Malta serves 1,500 uninsured individuals, providing primary medical care. With a \$1.7 million budget, the agency is funded solely by private philanthropy, Sheehan said, which includes the Archbishop's Annual Appeal.

The Appeal contributes to the Malta van and the stationary Malta Clinic located behind the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford.

"Old friends are the best friends," Sheehan said, "and all of you have been great friends to Malta House of Care, since its inception 20 years ago."

Father Anthony Federico, director of Vocations and director of Seminarians for the Archdiocese of Hartford, asked, "Do you know what gets me fired up? Now it's being a part of the Archdiocese of Hartford, as the Lord does an historic resurgence of the Catholic faith in our state.

"Since we started praying the Prayer for Priestly Vocations together three years ago," Father Federico said, "the Lord has been on an absolute heater."

In the last three years, an unprecedented 157 young men have come forward to discern a vocation to the priesthood. Another 22 are

in formation for the diaconate, 33 women have entered convents, and the archdiocese is seeing a surge in sacramental Catholic marriages.

With 30 seminarians in formation next year at a cost of \$65,000 per year for eight years each, the archdiocese must fund their education.

"The good Lord just sent us a bill for \$15 million," Father Federico said with good humor, "and that's where you come in. I want to thank you. The vocations office is funded almost entirely from your generosity."

For more information on the Archbishop's Annual Appeal, or to donate to the 2026 campaign, visit archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal.

- Story by Shelley Wolf



Upcoming Events



WELCOMING ALL YOUNG CATHOLIC ADULTS
(ages 21+)

Come celebrate Lent with soup and bread followed by Stations of the Cross and bingo

Friday February 27th 6:00 pm

Stations of the Cross at 7:00 P.M.
Change of Location
St. Mary Star of the Sea Church
145 Main St. Unionville, CT






BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Are you grieving the loss of a loved one? The "New Day" Bereavement Group weekly meetings are here to help you find comfort and explore strategies in coping with grief and loss.

Our next 10-week session will begin on Tuesday, February 10, 4:30 to 6:30pm in St. Mary Hall at St. John Bosco Parish in Branford. Space is limited, pre-registration is required.

Contact Nadine Toren, 203-488-1607 x119

Power and Grace

A Guide to the Catholic Sacraments

This Lent, you are invited to dive into the mystery of the sacraments and explore ways to deepen your experience of God's love as we encounter Jesus in these special divine gifts. Fr. Jeff will present a 4-part multi-media class on Wednesday Evenings from 7:00—8:30 p.m.

Bring your Bible and your questions.

February 25-March 18
St. Mary Church Hall
212 Elizabeth St. * Derby, CT




ARCHDIOCESE of HARTFORD
Office of Faith Formation and Parish Life

Catholic Religious Emblems Training

for all Scouting America Leaders.
The training will review the following emblems:
Light of Christ, Parvuli Dei, Ad Altare Dei, Pope Pius and Adult Awards.

Saturday, March 21, 2026
9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Pastoral Center
2nd Floor - Conference Rm. C
467 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield

Registration is required. 

Questions? Contact:
Jennifer McClintock
Coordinator of Faith Formation Programs & Technology
Office of Faith Formation and Parish Life
Jennifer.McClintock@aoht.org 860-242-5573



Be Vigilant!

It has come to our attention that social media accounts purporting to be Archbishop Coyne's are engaging with users and attempting to solicit money.

Archbishop Coyne does not engage with social media users through private messages and will never ask for donations in this manner.

In addition to the Archdiocese of Hartford's social media pages, Archbishop Coyne's only official and authentic social media page is his Facebook, where you can join him at [facebook.com/ArchbishopCoyne](https://www.facebook.com/ArchbishopCoyne).



Birtright

NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!

860-290-8800

www.birtrightofhartford.org

Birtright is an emergency pregnancy service offering caring and practical support to pregnant women in crisis. Our guiding principle: It is the RIGHT of every pregnant woman to give BIRTH and the RIGHT of every child to be BORN.

HELP A MOTHER GIVE BIRTH TO HER BABY!
Opportunities include friendship counseling and clerical and clothing work. Training is provided.