



# ANNUNCIATION PARISH

Fourth Sunday Of Advent, December 24, 2023

## **PARISH OFFICE**

626 Willard Avenue  
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  
Newington, CT. 06111

## **Confession**

Friday: 8:30-8:50 am, HS  
Saturday: 3:00-3:50pm, HS  
Sunday: 7:30-7:50 am, SM

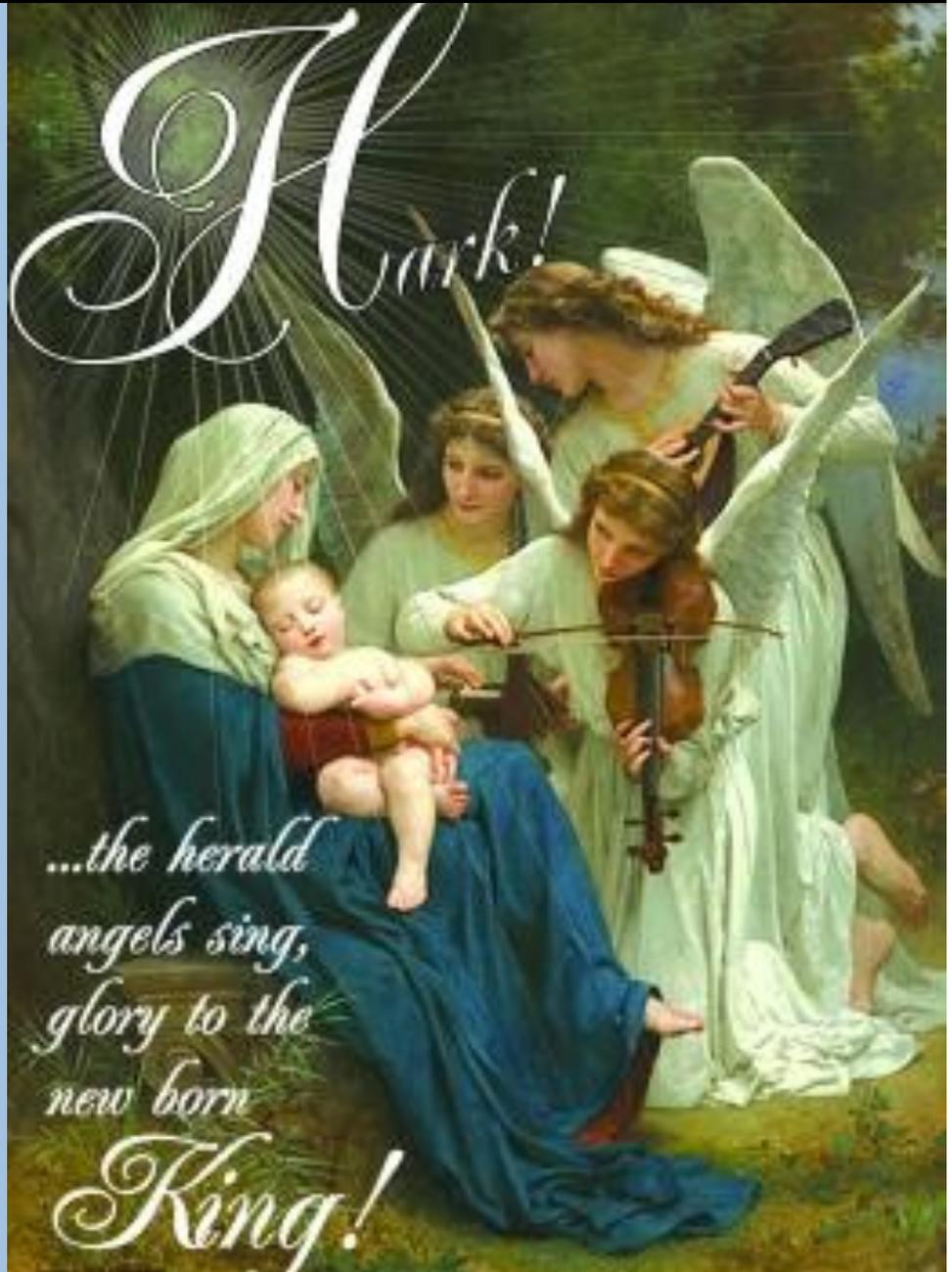
## **Mass Times**

**Daily Mass:** Monday - Friday  
9:00 am, HS

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

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

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



Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 24, 2023

## 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. Robert Morgewicz, Pastor**

fr.morgewicz@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

**David Dyson, Organist**

music.dyson@annunciationnewington.com

**Mark Neumann, Parish Director of Music**

neumn@hotmail.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

**Terri Hermann, Coordinator of Religious Education**

creterri@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 with your parish.

#### 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 –FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**Monday, December 25, 2023 (Vigil)** Is 62:1-5 Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 Mt 1:1-25 or Mt 1:18-25  
**Monday, December 25, 2023 (Night)** Is 9:1-6 Ps 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 Ti 2:11-14 Lk 2:1-14  
**Monday, December 25, 2023 (Dawn)** Is 62:11-12 Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12 Ti 3:4-7 Lk 2:15-20  
**Monday, December 25, 2023 (Day)** Is 52:7-10 Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18  
**Tuesday, December 26, 2023** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 Mt 10:17-22  
**Wednesday, December 27, 2023** 1 Jn 1:1-4 Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 Jn 20:1a and 2-8  
**Thursday, December 28, 2023** 1 Jn 1:5—2:2 Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8 Mt 2:13-18  
**Friday, December 29, 2023** 1 Jn 2:3-11 Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 Lk 2:22-35  
**Saturday, December 30, 2023** 1 Jn 2:12-17 Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 Lk 2:36-40  
**Sunday, December 31, 2023** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3 Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 Lk 2:22-40 or Lk 2:22, 39-40

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 24, 2023

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, December 23rd, The Vigil For The Fourth Sunday Of Advent

**H/S** 4:00 p.m. Josephine Tongson, 22nd Anniversary, By Her Family  
John & Mary Hamm, By Dennis & Marge McDonald

### Sunday, December 24th, The Fourth Sunday Of Advent

**S/M** 8:00 a.m. Anthony & Pauline & Margaret Sarubbi, By The Family

**H/S** 9:15 a.m. Marianna Kurzobrocka, By Her Daughter

### Christmas Eve December 24, 2023

**S/M** 4:00 p.m. The People of the Parish

**H/S** 4:00 p.m. The People of the Parish

**H/S** 10:00 p.m. The People of the Parish

### Christmas Morning: December 25, 2023

**S/M** 8:00 a.m. The People of the Parish

**H/S** 9:15 a.m. The People of the Parish

**H/S** 10:30 a.m. The People of the Parish

### Tuesday, December 26th, Saint Stephen, The First Martyr

**H/S** 9:00 a.m. Argelio Marrero, By Her Daughter

### Wednesday, December 27th, Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

**H/S** 9:00 a.m. Jerzy Kurzobrocki, By His Sister

### Thursday, December 28th, The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

**H/S** 9:00 a.m. Stanislaw Kurzobrocki, By Her Daughter

### Friday, December 29th, Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

**H/S** 9:00 a.m. Amelia Pina Gaspar, By M/M Salvatore & Lidia Colangelo & Family

### Saturday, December 30th, Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

**H/S** 4:00 p.m. Rose McCormack, 9th Anniversary, By Her Family  
Mary Mitchell, By Her Family

### Sunday, December 31st, The Holy Family Of Jesus, Mary And Joseph

**S/M** 8:00 a.m. Gilles A. Brodeur, By Louise  
John Nappi, Jr., By His Family

**H/S** 9:15 a.m. Roseann & Robert Ruel, By Mike & Maria Ruel

**S/M** 10:30 a.m. Robert Kubish, Jr. & Stephan Arre, By Their Family

**H/S** 12:00 p.m. Rosemary Boccaccio, By Her Family

## In Loving Memory

we pray for...

**Cindy Mulvey**  
**Ermanno Frate**

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

Collection Amounts will be posted in the next bulletin due to early deadlines.

*We are grateful to all who continue to support Annunciation Parish by your prayers and financial contributions.*

## Eucharistic Adoration

**Holy Spirit Church**

6:00 - 7:00pm

Tuesday Evenings

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



## The Sanctuary Lamp is lit at:

Holy Spirit Church  
On December 24th-30th  
For: Emily Accolla  
By: Her Daughter



By assisting devoutly at Mass, we render the sacred humanity of Our Lord the greatest homage. He makes up for many failings and omissions. We should pray like this at the beginning of Mass: **“O Most just God, with contrite heart and steadfast hope, I lay my sins upon this sacred altar, in order that they may be consumed by the flames of Your divine Charity, purged away by the Precious Blood of Jesus, and fully atoned for by His infinite merits. Amen.”**

# ANNUNCIATION PARISH

## **Christmas Mass Schedule:**

### **December 24: Christmas Vigils:**

4:00 pm (Holy Spirit and St. Mary's),

10:00 pm (Holy Spirit)

### **Special Note For the Vigil Masses:**

At 3:15 p.m. at St. Mary and 9:15 p.m. at Holy Spirit there will be a vocal and instrumental mini-Christmas concert. If attending one of these Masses be sure to come early and enjoy the music!

### **December 25: Christmas Day:**

8:00 am (St. Mary's), 9:15 am (Holy Spirit)

10:30 am (Holy Spirit, not St. Mary's)

## **THANK YOU!**

For your generous Christmas Flower Donations, Gift Cards and Seminarian Christmas Gift Cards. Your thoughtfulness and generosity are greatly appreciated!!



## **Christmas Notes**

To you and your families,  
We extend greetings from the entire staff at  
Annunciation Parish.

Be assured of our prayers during this holy  
season,  
and our wish is that your hearts may know  
the joy of the presence of Christ  
at Christmas  
and throughout the New Year.

Merry Christmas and a Happy and  
Grace-filled New Year!

God Bless,  
*The Priests and Deacons of Annunciation  
Parish*

## **The Connecticut Public Affairs Conference has issued the following Statement on Ending Anti-Semitism: December 12, 2023**

“In recent weeks we have seen a disturbing and unacceptable emergence of anti-Semitism unleashed in many corners of our state and country. These demonstrations, speeches, and acts of intimidation against the Jewish people are profoundly evil and unacceptable.

While there should be civil discourse on issues concerning events at home and abroad, no allowances should be made to those who have taken to the streets, who intimidate others in the classroom, through social media, or in anonymous attacks against the Jewish people.

Catholics have endured bigotry, cross burnings, denial of opportunities and intimidation. We know too well how the unthinkable can become acceptable if we are silent. Sadly, this reality is too often true, as many of our Jewish brothers and sisters now live in fear to attend school, to speak freely in the public square, or face ostracism in their work or daily affairs.

We urge Catholics to pray for Jews everywhere, stand with them against those who wish them harm in words or deeds and call upon our elected leaders to speak and act forcefully to stop this practice in our midst.

We invite everyone to stand with Jews throughout our country and world, reject any destructive element in our midst, and seek a virtuous life where no one should feel threatened at any level for their religious beliefs. We urge political leaders to find solutions in the Middle East that satisfy the aspirations of both Israelis and Palestinians in that tormented part of our world.

Any form of discrimination, bigotry, racial animus against any person or group cannot be tolerated.”

[The letter was signed]

Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair  
Archbishop of Hartford

Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano  
Bishop of Bridgeport

Most Reverend Michael R. Cote  
Bishop of Norwich

Most Reverend P. Paul Chomnycky, OSBM  
Eparch of Stamford

**The Knights Sandwich Ministry**

Our next sandwich collection is Sunday, **January 21st** at **4:30 pm** in the Saint Mary School parking lot.

Thank you for living your faith by helping others!

**The Prayer Shawl Group**

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

**The Men’s Club**

...meets on the **third Wednesday** of every month, @ **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**

The Women’s Guild will not hold any meetings in January 2024.

The Women’s Guild Executive Board will meet on Monday February 5th, and the General Membership meeting will be held on Tuesday February 13th. 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.



A great big “thank you” to The Annunciation Parish from the Connecticut Humane Society for the overwhelming contribution of pet food that was donated. Your kindness and generosity were greatly appreciated!

**The Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God**

**January 1st**

Holy Spirit Church  
at 9:00 a.m.



While the day is not a holy day of obligation this year we will meet to pray at the usual time for daily Mass.

**January 1<sup>st</sup>: A Special Day In Our Church**

January 1<sup>st</sup> is usually a Holy Day of Obligation in the United States and is so because it is a celebration of the Blessed Virgin Mary under the title of her important role as the Mother of God. The holy day on January 1<sup>st</sup> is not recognition of New Year’s Day, which is a secular holiday but a way to honor Mary during the Octave (eight days) of Christmas.

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 with Mass celebrated at 9:00 a.m. This year, because it falls on a Monday it is not a day of obligation.

May we all receive our Lady’s protection and blessings during this new year. Mary...Pray for us!



## **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 morning be in your hearts each and every day of the Christmas season!

## **The Twelve Days of Christmas**

We are familiar with the Christmas song, *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. To most it is a delightful nonsense rhyme set to music. But it had a quite serious purpose when it was written.

Catholics in England during the period 1558-1829, when Parliament finally emancipated Catholics in England, were prohibited from any practice of their faith by law—private or public. It was essentially a crime to be a Catholic.

*The Twelve Days of Christmas* was written in England as one of the “catechism songs” to help young Catholics learn the tenants of their faith—a memory aid, when to be caught with anything in writing indicated adherence to the Catholic faith could not only get you imprisoned, it could get you hanged, or shortened by a head or hanged, drawn and quartered.

The song’s gifts are hidden meanings to the teachings of the Faith. The “true love” mentioned in the song doesn’t refer to an earthly suitor, it refers to God himself. The “me” who receives the presents refers to every baptized person. The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

In the song, Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge, which feigns injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings, much in memory of the expression of Christ’s sadness over the fate of Jerusalem. The other symbols mean the following:



- Two Turtle Doves.....The Old and New Testaments
- Three French Hens.....The Theological Virtues of faith, hope and love
- Four Calling Birds.....The four Gospels
- Five Golden Rings.....The Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible
- Six Geese A-Laying.....The six days of creation
- Seven Swans A-Swimming...The seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit or Sacraments
- Eight Maids A-Milking.....The Beatitudes
- Nine Ladies Dancing.....The nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit
- Ten Lords A-Leaping.....The Ten Commandments
- Eleven Pipers Piping.....The eleven faithful Apostles

The season of Christmas extends from Evening Prayer I of Christmas (the evening of December 24<sup>th</sup>) until the Baptism of the Lord, Sunday January 7<sup>th</sup>. Since the season does not end until January 7<sup>th</sup>, the Church encourages all to keep decorations displayed until that time when the season ends and ordinary time begins.

## **A Historical Curiosity: The Date of Christmas**

Originally, Jesus’ birth was celebrated as part of the feast of the Epiphany. Around the year 330, however, the Church in Rome assigned the celebration of Christmas to December 25. There were some early Church leaders and writers who claimed that December 25 was Christ’s actual birth date, although there was never an official reason given for the decision. Church scholars contend that the date was chosen to counteract the Roman feast of the “Birthday of the Sun” which took place on December 25. The tradition of midnight Mass on Christmas originated in the pious belief that Christ was born at that hour.

