



# ANNUNCIATION PARISH

The Holy Family Of Jesus, Mary And Joseph, December 31, 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

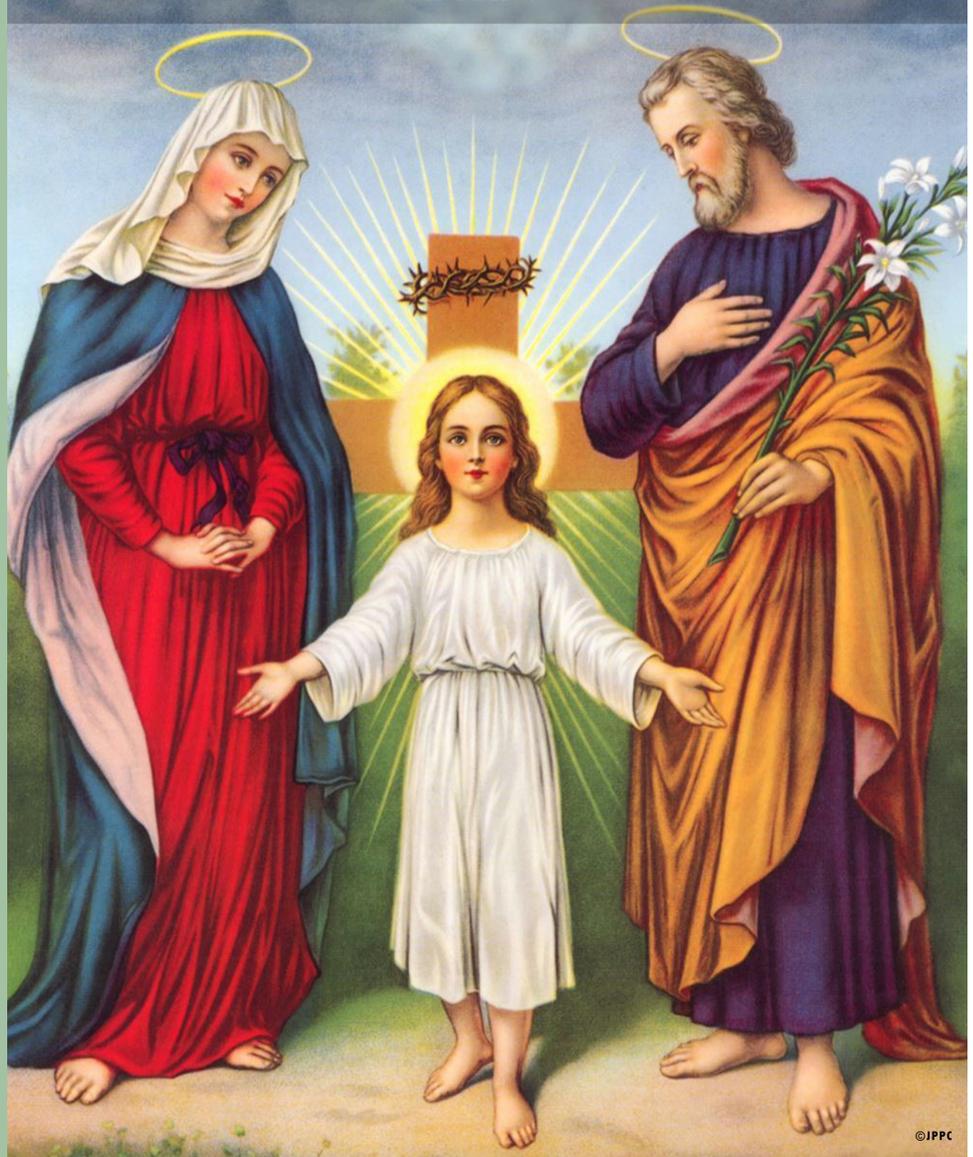
**Saturday Vigil:** 4:00pm, HS

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

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

*Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

LUKE 2:22-40



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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)

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 31, 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 –THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

**Monday, January 1, 2024** Nm 6:22-27 Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 Gal 4:4-7 Lk 2:16-21

**Tuesday, January 2, 2024** 1 Jn 2:22-28 Ps 98:1, 2-3AB, 3CD-4 Jn 1:19-28

**Wednesday, January 3, 2024** 1 Jn 2:29-3:6 Ps 98:1, 3CD-4, 5-6 Jn 1:29-34

**Thursday, January 4, 2024** 1 Jn 3:7-10 Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9 Jn 1:35-42

**Friday, January 5, 2024** 1 Jn 3:11-21 Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 Jn 1:43-51

**Saturday, January 6, 2024** 1 Jn 5:5-13 Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or Lk 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

**Sunday, January 7, 2024** 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 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**

**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, 5th Anniversary, By Her Family

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

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

**Tuesday, January 2nd, Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors**

**H/S** 9:00 a.m. Sara Alvarez, By Marco Suarez

**Wednesday, January 3rd, Christmas Weekday**

**H/S** 9:00 a.m. Raymond Rondini, By The Michalman Family

**Thursday, January 4th, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious**

**H/S** 9:00 a.m. Fr. Gary Zerr, In Thanksgiving for his Priesthood, By Dorie Schlatter

**Friday, January 5th, Saint John Neumann, Bishop**

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

**Saturday, January 6th, The Vigil For The Epiphany Of The Lord**

**H/S** 4:00 p.m. Margaret Dinunzio, 28th Anniversary,  
By Wayne & Theresa Urbanski

**Sunday, January 7th, The Epiphany Of The Lord**

**S/M** 8:00 a.m. Linda Chrostowski, By Maria Chodulski  
Gale True

**H/S** 9:15 a.m. Adam Sirois, By The Pew Pals

**S/M** 10:30 a.m. Rocco & Angelina Calabrese, By Their Family

**H/S** 12:00 p.m. Lorraine Randazzo,  
By The Annunciation Parish Women's Guild

**In Loving Memory**

**we pray for...**

**Natalie Lundgren**

**Sally Smith**

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

**Parish Support**

December 17th, 2023

Weekly: \$12,514

Online Giving: \$ 4,941

Total \$17,455

**Eucharistic Adoration**

**Holy Spirit Church**

6:00 - 7:00pm

Tuesday Evenings

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



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.”**



## Deck of Cards

A young soldier was in his bunkhouse all alone one Sunday morning over in Afghanistan. It was quiet that day, the guns and the mortars, and land mines for some reason hadn't made a noise. The young soldier knew it was Sunday, the holiest day of

the week. As he was sitting there, he got out an old deck of cards and laid them out across his bunk. Just then an army sergeant came in and said, "Why aren't you with the rest of the platoon?"

The soldier replied, "I thought I would stay behind and spend some time with the Lord." The sergeant said, "Looks like you're going to play cards."

The soldier said, "No sir, you see, since we are not allowed to have Bibles or other spiritual books in this country, I've decided to talk to the Lord by studying this deck of cards." The sergeant asked in disbelief, "How will you do that?"

"You see the Ace, Sergeant, it reminds that there is only one God.

The Two represents the two parts of the Bible, Old and New Testaments.

The Three represents the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

The Four stands for the Four Apostles: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

The Five is for the five virgins that were ten but only five of them were glorified.

The Six is for the six days it took God to create the Heavens and Earth.

The Seven is for the day God rested after working the six days.

The Eight is for the family of Noah and his wife, their three sons and their wives, in which God saved the eight people from the flood that destroyed the earth for the first time.

The Nine is for the lepers that Jesus cleansed of leprosy. He cleansed ten but nine never thanked Him.

The Ten represents the Ten Commandments that God handed down to Moses on tablets made of stone.

The Jack is a reminder of Satan. One of God's first angels, but he got kicked out of heaven for his sly and wicked ways and is now the joker of eternal hell.

The Queen stands for the Virgin Mary.

The King stands for Jesus, for he is the King of all kings.

When I count the dots on all the cards, I come up with 365 total, one for every day of the year. There are a total of 52 cards in a deck, each is a week, 52 weeks in a year. The four suits represents the four seasons: Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. Each suit has thirteen cards, there are exactly thirteen weeks in a quarter. So when I want to talk to God and thank Him, I just pull out this old deck of cards and they remind me of all that I have to be thankful for." The sergeant just stood there and after a minute, with tears in his eyes and pain in his heart, he said, "Soldier, can I borrow that deck of cards?"



## CONTINUING A LEGACY OF ROBUST CATECHESIS

Eucharistic Congresses often have themes—a particular aspect of the Eucharistic mystery chosen to be studied, discussed, and taught in great depth. For example, the first Eucharistic Congress had the theme, "The Eucharist Saves the World." Other past themes include "Hungers of the Human Family" and "Eucharist, the Bond of Love."

Experts would study the theme in preparation for the event, sometimes leading to the publication of a base text for the event. Then, speakers would share the fruit of this study with everyone in attendance so that all might gain a deeper understanding of the Paschal Mystery. At the 10th National Eucharistic Congress, you will enjoy the fruit of this same extensive prayer and study—each day with a different theme!

Because we know not everyone will be able to come for the full experience, the programming for each day of the Congress is designed to stand on its own. Together, these five powerful days tell a story of unconditional love that will fill you with hope and inspire you to make Jesus in the Eucharist known and loved. Have you visited the updated schedule for the 10th National Eucharistic Congress? Each day includes a revival session, and many people have been asking what that means. Let's explain!

**While morning impact sessions allow attendees to spread out and enjoy the session of their choice, a revival session is a gathering of the entire Congress in Lucas Oil Stadium for powerful speakers, music, communal prayer, and life-changing moments of encounter with Jesus.**

This is our daily moment of unity at the feet of our Eucharistic Lord, where we will cry out to him in love and experience the revival he desires to accomplish. Most days, these special sessions will be held in the evening, but on Sunday, we will have a revival session in the morning before our closing liturgy.

Get your full event pass now or mark your calendar for January when day passes will become available.

**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 everyone for coming out on a rainy December Sunday - we collected approximately 520 sandwiches and many bags of snacks for Shelters in Hartford. The Shelters are very grateful for our donations and they use these sandwiches for lunches, late-meals, walk-in's and outreach programs. Our collections are on the third Sunday of the month. Please note, if there happens to be inclement weather on the collection date, the collection will be cancelled, safety comes first.

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.



**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.



**Mass Cancellation Policy During  
Inclement Weather**

Daily Mass at 9:00 a.m. is canceled whenever the Newington Public School System closes for inclement weather. Sunday Masses (Saturday Vigil and Sunday Morning Masses) are canceled whenever the Governor declares a travel ban, prohibiting or restricting the use of vehicles on the road.

This policy will eliminate the need to call the rectory to ask if there is Mass and serve as an easy way to announce our closing. Mass intentions will be satisfied by the priest celebrant at his private Mass in the event that a scheduled public Mass is canceled.

This policy is in place for a number of reasons. First is the fact that God has given each of us common sense and the gift of prudence, which should be employed at times of questionable weather. The second reason is the potential liability to the parish and third, adequate time is needed to clear and clean up after a snowfall. Cleanup, either shoveling or plowing is made more difficult if there are cars in the way or if cars and foot traffic pack down the snow onto the parking lot surface.



## **The Symbols of Christmas: Trees, Carnations and Candy Canes**

The tradition of using a young evergreen tree at Christmas is believed to come from the missionary St. Boniface in the eighth century Germany. On Christmas Eve St. Boniface came upon the eldest son of the chieftain Gundhar being readied for sacrifice to the gods. The place was under the giant oak tree, sacred to their patron Thor. Boniface, in order to prove these gods powerless, felled the tree with the stroke of an ax to the astonishment of the onlookers. Boniface then proclaimed that God does not want blood spilt on the night of the birth of His Son, the savior of the world. St. Boniface then pointed to a small, young evergreen that was close by. It signified peace because of its use in building peoples' homes. The shape of the tree pointed toward heaven, and the tree's constant greenness symbolized everlasting life. Thus, Boniface made the evergreen the Christmas Tree. People were to gather in their homes, not in the woods. People would no longer give sacrifice to pagan gods. Instead, people would receive gifts of love and the kindness of light to commemorate the birth of the Christ Child.

The shepherd's crook, representing the Nativity's first witnesses and Christ the Good Shepherd, inspired the candy cane. Its alternating white and red stripes represents the Lord's purity and sacrifice, even as the same colors do liturgically. Its lively peppermint flavor stands for the royal gift of spice. Finally, like the Body of Christ itself, the candy cane is given to be broken and shared.



The carnation is known as a flower of rejoicing because of the legend that it first appeared at the birth of Christ.



## **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.

Signs of Christmas from Italy, Mexico and northern Europe, along with Christmas cards from England, trees from Germany and window lights from Ireland contributed to composing our modern day Christmas traditions. How appropriate for a nation of immigrants to enjoy customs borrowed from so many different cultures.



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.

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