



ANNUNCIATION PARISH

Third Sunday Of Advent, December 15, 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



I am baptizing you with water,
but one mightier than I is coming.

Luke 3:16

© JPPC

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. 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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 15, 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, 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 – Third Sunday Of Advent

Monday Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday Gn 49:2, 8-10 Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 Mt 1:1-17

Wednesday Jer 23:5-8 Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 Mt 1:18-25

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

Friday Is 7:10-14 Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 Lk 1:26-38

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

Sunday Mi 5:1-4a Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 Heb 10:5-10 Lk 1:39-45

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 14th, The Vigil For The Third Sunday Of Advent

H/S 4:00 p.m. Rose McCormack, 10th Anniversary, By Her Family

Sunday, December 15th, The Third Sunday Of Advent

S/M 8:00 a.m. Carmella Snyder, Josie Masi & Tammy Snyder, By The Masi, Vasquez and Snyder Family

H/S 9:15 a.m. Maria Piwowarska, By Her Son & Family

S/M 10:30 a.m. Giovanni Carducci, Birthday Remembrance, By His Wife Anna

H/S 12:00 p.m. Anthony, Albert & Jenny Rizzo, By Their Family

Monday, December 16th, Advent Weekday

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

Tuesday, December 17th, Late Advent Weekday

H/S 9:00 a.m. Susan Duffy, By Peggy Gorman

Wednesday, December 18th, Late Advent Weekday

H/S 9:00 a.m. Richard Gable, Sr., By His Family

Thursday, December 19th, Late Advent Weekday

H/S 9:00 a.m. Bertrand Collin, By Tony & Dolores Davanzo

Friday, December 20th, Late Advent Weekday

H/S 9:00 a.m. Doris Giliberto, 1st Anniversary & Concetto Germano, 12th Anniversary, By Their Family

Saturday, December 21st, The Vigil For The Fourth Sunday Of Advent

H/S 4:00 p.m. William Lynch, By Mara, Corinne & Leah

Sunday, December 22nd, The Fourth Sunday Of Advent

S/M 8:00 a.m. Anita Fairwood, By Richard & Ronald Fairwood & Maureen Kievman

H/S 9:15 a.m. Clement & Eric Gebo, By Their Family

S/M 10:30 a.m. Baby Jesus, By Salvatore & Lidia Colangelo & Family

H/S 12:00 p.m. Dolores Giangrave, By Her Family



In Loving Memory

We pray for...

Jeanette Bonito

Rita Czarkowski

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

Parish Support

December 8, 2024

Weekly \$9,507

Online Giving \$4,092

Total \$13,599

Eucharistic Adoration

Holy Spirit Church

6:00 - 7:00pm

Tuesday Evenings

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



***The Altar Society:**

Laundry Division, is in need of people who would be willing to launder and iron the purificators and corporals that are used in the celebration of the Eucharist. If you can help, please call: Jean Pellerin @ 860-667-0778

Fr. Kukulka and Fr. Pullikattil are urging all parishioners to take advantage of our regularly scheduled confessions: **(Friday: 8:30-8:50 a.m., HS, Saturday: 3:00-3:50 p.m., HS, & Sunday: 7:30-7:50 am, SM)** especially for the weekends of December 14th-15th and the 21st-22nd as your Christmas confession.



ANNUNCIATION PARISH



A Sunday to “Rejoice!”

The traditional color of Advent is purple or violet as is seen in the priest vestments and the three candles on the Advent wreath. It symbolizes a penitential spirit that has been associated with Advent. This is the reason why celebrating the sacrament of reconciliation or confession is so important before Christmas, so that we can worthily prepare spiritually to receive the Lord in Holy Communion at Christmas.

Though purple or violet is used, Advent is not a “little Lent.” The season of Advent has its own purpose to prepare for the coming of Christ at the end of the world, each day in the graces we receive and especially on Christmas morning.

This weekend, the Church highlights the rose color used in special vestments and in the lighting of the third candle on the Advent wreath, which is rose in color. This color anticipates and is symbolic of the Christmas joy announced in the first word of the entrance antiphon for the Mass today: “Rejoice” in Latin, *Gaudete* taken from the first letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians. This letter to the Thessalonians is the earliest Christian writing we possess, a letter filled with the joy that Paul drew from his sense of God’s presence.



Gaudete Sunday is a time to refocus our attention in our preparation for Christmas. The readings at Mass change in focus and the rose color is to alert us that we can now begin to exclusively focus on the coming of Christ on Christmas morning, since Christmas is getting so close. It is with this third Sunday of Advent that decorating the home and moving to full Christmas mode is appropriate. By doing this we refocus our attention as the Church asks us to do, now that we are so close to Christmas.

With more than half of Advent over we may feel pressure to prepare adequately for Christ at Christmas. Prayers, confession and good works are still our hallmark of preparation and with the building excitement we get ever closer to properly welcome the Savior on Christmas morning. May you have a blessed Gaudete Sunday and “Rejoice” for the Lord is near!

Knights of Columbus Christmas Buttons

The Knights of Columbus Assembly will be giving out **Keep CHRIST in Christmas Buttons** to benefit Bryan’s bags for the homeless. Donations will be accepted. The buttons will be at: **Holy Spirit Church on December 14th**, and **December 15th**, after all Masses. They will be at: **St Mary’s on December 15th**, after both Masses. Thank-you!

Newington Knights of Columbus
Assembly 133, 4th degree
will be giving out

Keep CHRIST in Christmas Buttons

Donations accepted to benefit **BRYAN'S BAGS** for the homeless. The bags will contain toiletries, safety items, etc.

The buttons will be at:
St Mary's Church:
December 15 after all Masses.
Holy Spirit Church:
December 14 & 15
after all Masses.

PARISH CALENDAR, DECEMBER 15, 2024

The Knights Sandwich Ministry

Our next sandwich collection is Sunday, **December 15th 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 will be no Executive Board Meeting in January

Christmas 2024 Mass Schedule:

12/24, Christmas Vigils:

4:00 pm (Holy Spirit and St. Mary),
10:00 pm (Holy Spirit)

12/25, Christmas Day:

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



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

Andie Lena Budney

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 24th) until the Baptism of the Lord, Sunday January 7th. Since the season does not end until January 7th, the Church encourages all to keep decorations displayed until that time when the season ends and ordinary time begins.

ANNUNCIATION PARISH

A Hundred Years of the Catholic Church in Newington:

Annunciation Parish is Blessed to have eight parishioners who have become Priests! Rev. Jordan Charbonneau OFM (1950), Rev. Joseph Vujs (1957), Rev. Robert Vujs, MM (1961), Rev. Daniel O'Connor (1961), Msgr. Frank Matera (1968), Rev. Joseph Gamba (1970), Rev. John Gatzak (1975), and Rev. Joseph MacNeill (2021).

This column will focus on Rev. Joseph MacNeill.

Rev. Joseph MacNeill was raised in Newington and attended Saint Mary's Church with his parents (Jackie and Paul), brothers (Kevin and Doug) and sister Maria. After high school he graduated from the College of the Holy Cross with his twin brother Kevin. While he was in college he decided to join the priesthood. He studied for the priesthood at the Theological College in DC studying philosophy at the Catholic University from 2016 to 2017. He was sent to Rome to the Pontifical North American College for theology studies from 2017 to 2020. He returned home with pastoral assignments as a deacon (St. Catherine of Siena in West Simsbury and St. Teresa of Calcutta in Manchester) and was ordained on June 26, 2021. "Father Joe", as everyone calls him, celebrated his first Mass the next day at St. Mary's Church!

After his ordination, Father Joe returned to Rome from fall 2021 to spring 2023 for a degree in the study of the Fathers of the Church. Father Joe then served at Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Waterbury and St. Jeanne Jugan in Enfield and has been at Blessed Michael McGivney Parish in New Haven since July 2023.

Several priests from Saint Mary's positively influenced his decision to become a priest, including Fr. Dennis Vincenzo and Fr. Joe Keough. In addition, he was encouraged to be a priest by Don Lukowski, one of his catechists and coaches.

His confirmation saint and favorite saint is Saint Aloysius Gonzaga, a young Italian nobleman who renounced his wealth and title to give his life over to God as a Jesuit. He is the patron saint of Catholic youth. Father Joe had the privilege of studying at the same university in Rome that he did!

Father Joe enjoys spending time with his family on his day off each week in Newington!



Collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious:

Our women and men religious offer gratitude. A sister shares, "I thank the Lord for all who give. I don't think we would make it without them." Thank you for giving to the Retirement Fund for The Religious last week. Your donation makes a difference in the lives of the elderly women and men religious. To learn how your gift helps, visit: retiredreligious.org.



First, Some Simple Things to Pray For During Advent:



- Pray for attentiveness to what truly matters, without being distracted by trivial things.
- Pray for opportunities to learn something new about God regularly.
- Pray for discernment of how God would like you to set your priorities and the ability to focus on them consistently to fulfill His purposes in your life.
- Pray for the grace to be able to rest, become aware of God's presence, and enjoy it.
- Pray for peace in all situations, no matter what the circumstances.
- Pray for freedom from all that burdens you - past mistakes, fears, destructive habits, hurts other people have inflicted, and more.
- Pray for joy and a sense of humor.
- Pray for confidence in God's love for you and trust in His power to work things out for the best in your life.
- Pray for openness to the Holy Spirit's guidance.
- Pray for a genuine awareness of God's grace in your life and the humility to extend grace to others.

~ from Whitney Hopler's "[Pray for Simplicity this Advent](#)"

A Prayer to Prepare My Heart for Christ's Coming

Father, just as You sent [John the Baptist](#) to prepare the way for Jesus, help me to clear the path in my heart, too. Show me the distractions in my life that block me from all-out worship of You this Advent. Lord, I await Your coming! As I celebrate the first Advent—the first coming—I look toward the day where I will see You face to face. I imagine what it will be like. Give me a heart, Lord, that looks for Your coming on a daily basis. Help me to live my life where I'm constantly seeking Your presence. My offering to You today is my righteous life for I know I am only clean because of Jesus. Show me today how I need to be refined, purified, forgiven. Give me the strength to ask for forgiveness and to then change my ways.

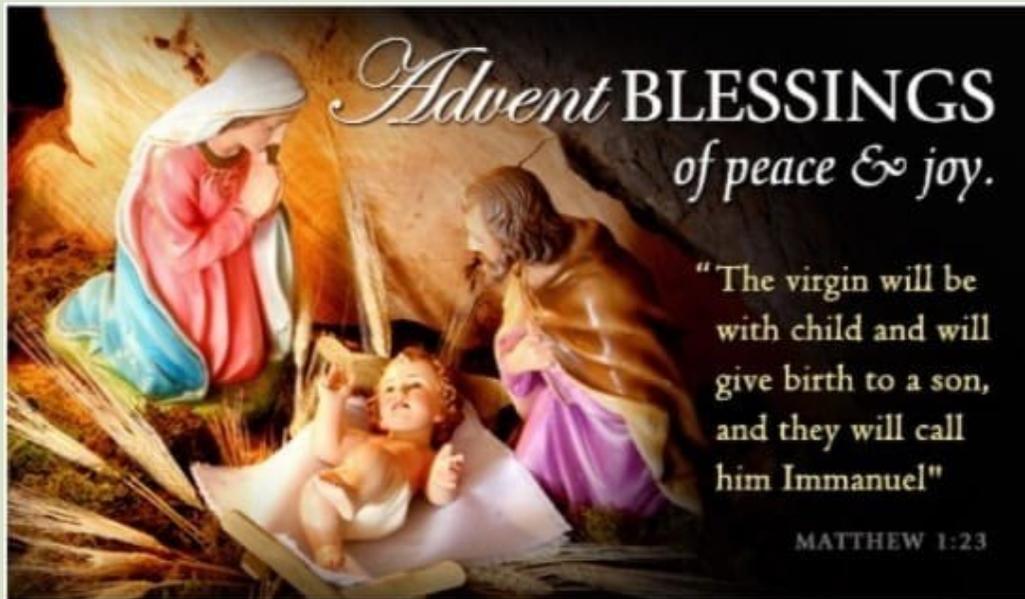
~ by Sarah Martin

A Prayer to Curb Comparison During Advent

Lord, help us stop comparing our Advent season to any other family because we know you have ordained us for this family, at this table, and you have "good works prepared in advance for us to do" that are specific for us. We find meaning and joy in whatever life looks like because we trust Jesus for our lives. Even more, when we're seated with Christ, we worship you and take our eyes off ourselves. Because we're experiencing intimacy with Jesus, loneliness and disconnection fade and allow us to focus on blessing others.

We can stop obsessing over ourselves and consider how we might serve and love best. When we're seated with Christ during Advent, we realize that you have sovereignly placed us right where we are for a reason this holiday season, and we can trust that you know what you're doing. Finally, when we're seated with Christ, we can reiterate to our heart that at all times, your peace, power, hope, and love are available to us in endless supply. As we take our seat with Jesus, we pray our holiday tables shimmer with your glory and that any joy and hope we've lost returns. May we overflow with spiritual gifts as we sit with you, Jesus.

~ by [Heather Holleman](#)



An Advent Prayer for The Lord to Come

This Christmas, Lord, come to the manger of my heart.
Fill me with Your presence from the very start.
As I prepare for the holidays and gifts to be given,
Remind me of the gift You gave when You sent Your Son from Heaven.

The first Christmas gift, it was the greatest gift ever.
You came as a baby born in a manger.
Wrapped like the gifts I find under my tree,
Waiting to be opened, to reveal Your love to me.

Restore to me the wonder that came with Jesus' birth,
when He left the riches of Heaven and wrapped Himself in rags of earth.
Immanuel, *God with us*, Your presence came that night.
And angels announced, "Into your darkness, God brings His Light."

"Do not be afraid," they said, to shepherds in the field.
Speak to my heart today, Lord, and help me to yield.
Make me like those shepherd boys, obedient to Your call.
Setting distractions and worries aside, to You I surrender them all.

Surround me with Your presence, Lord, I long to hear Your voice.
Clear my mind of countless concerns and all the holiday noise.
Slow me down this Christmas, let me not be in a rush.
In the midst of parties and planning, I want to feel Your hush.

This Christmas, Jesus, come to the manger of my heart.
Invade my soul like Bethlehem, bringing peace to every part.
Dwell within and around me, as I unwrap Your presence each day.
Keep me close to You, Lord. It's in Your wonderful Name I pray.

~ by [Renee Swope](#)

Branches on the Vine

News from the Archdiocese of Hartford · December 14 - 20, 2024



HAMDEN FOOD PANTRY PROVIDES ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES IN NEED

A homeless woman with a shopping cart was sitting in the back of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Hamden at morning Mass. When Father Christopher Tiano, pastor, spotted her, he asked Lorraine DeNicola, coordinator of a food pantry, to help.

“Her name was Mary, and she had a black eye,” DeNicola recalled. “She got hurt defending herself at a place where she stayed, and she needed food, so I drove her to the pantry. She had lost her job and could no longer work. She took enough for herself and a few others.”

People in need, who are suffering from food insecurity, come to the pantry on the campus of Blessed Sacrament Church at 322 Circular Ave., on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. The ministry is part of St. Paul VI Parish, which includes Blessed Sacrament, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, St. Rita and Ascension churches.

On a recent October morning, the demand, which has been steadily rising, topped 170 families. The volunteers were running out of food as the line of cars snaked through the parking lot and onto the street. One man had arrived at 3 a.m., fearful he might not get anything, and by 6 a.m., 25 cars were already lined up.

Families drove up and received food, which had been bagged and separated by perishable goods, snacks and refrigerated items.

“There are a lot of people out there in desperate need,” says DeNicola, who has been part of the ministry for 20 years. Since she took over as chairperson in 2019, the demand has increased from 20 people to more than 170 families from surrounding towns.

She and her colleague Frank Ruiz are assisted by 20 volunteers, who shelve, bag and distribute food from parishes and charitable organizations, such as Connecticut Foodshare in Wallingford and Midwest Food Bank in Manchester.

DeNicola, who retired from a career in public health 10 years ago, was one of 11 children from an Irish family in Vermont. She says her family and faith taught her the importance of giving.

“Having gone to Catholic schools, you’re brought up with that inner need to help people,” she says. “Our father made us go to church every day during Advent and Lent at St. Peter’s in Rutland, so this comes naturally to me. It’s not an effort. I’ve got three beautiful children, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. God has been so good to me, and I’ve got to give back.”

Ruiz, who has been involved over 20 years, says, “I do it because my mother and father taught me well. We believe that in these times, we have to feed the hungry and clothe the naked, as Jesus said. Everyone here has strong faith, and we couldn’t do it without the volunteers, the parishioners and the two food banks that help us.”

DeNicola is grateful to the many people who make the food pantry possible. Last year, a commercial refrigerator for was purchased. Then, a grant from the Hartford Bishops’ Foundation was used to buy a freezer.

“The Lord has been providing,” DeNicola says. “I’m so grateful for all the assistance we get, the food, the volunteers and everyone who make it happen.”



People who are suffering from food insecurity can pick up essentials on the campus of Blessed Sacrament Church in Hamden, part of St. Paul VI Parish, on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Story by Joe Pisani



ARCHDIOCESE of HARTFORD

facebook.com/ArchdioceseofHartford
instagram.com/archdioceseofhartford
youtube.com/archdioceseofhartfordct

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 8 - Sunday, February 2 Cultural Nativities at Cathedral

Six international crèches will be on display at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford from Dec. 8 to Feb. 2. The crèches will be located in six small chapels behind the Cathedral sanctuary.

Providers of the crèches include: St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc Vietnamese Quasi Parish, West Hartford; SS. Cyril & Methodius Parish, Hartford; Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Hartford; St. Isaac Jogues Ghanaian Catholic Quasi Parish, East Hartford; and Sister Mariette Moan.

Visitors may view the crèches after Mass or arrange for a group tour by calling 860.249.8431.

Sunday, December 15 at 1:30 PM

Mid-South Catholic Parish Presents "The Festival of Lessons and Carols" · Sacred Heart Church, Southbury

The service is open to the public and there is no charge for admission. The Free Will Offering proceeds will benefit the Southbury and Middlebury Needy Funds. For more information: www.midsouthcatholic.org or by calling 203.264.5071.

Tuesday, January 7 at 6:30 PM

SS. Isidore and Maria Parish Festival of Lessons and Carols · St. Paul Church, Glastonbury

The Festival of Lessons and Carols is a service of Scripture and song that dates to the late 19th century. In this service, we listen to nine Scripture lessons that recount the Fall, the promise of a Messiah, the Incarnation, and the Great Commission to preach the Good News. Each lesson is followed by a carol or other song that reflects on the lesson's message and a brief prayer. This event is free and open to the public.



The bustle that many of us experience this time of year can often leave us feeling like we do not have much time for anything other than shopping, baking, and running around. But surely, you can offer one minute each day this Advent to connect with Jesus in a profound way, right? Father Matt will be joining us each day throughout Advent for the sixth installment of **Advent with the Almighty**.

This year's series will revolve around the Jesse Tree, a wonderful Advent tradition where we will journey together through the stories that make up Jesus' family tree in bite-sized, one-minute reflection videos. We sincerely hope you will take this journey each with us each day on Facebook and YouTube as we commit to preparing ourselves in a powerful way for the birth of Jesus.

For more events, please visit:
archdioceseofhartford.org/events

To submit an event for consideration, please email: communications@aohct.org

2024 Archbishop's Annual Appeal

