



ANNUNCIATION PARISH

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 14, 2025

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



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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 14, 2025

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

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

deaconjimb@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 Zep 3:1-2, 9-13 Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 Mt 21:28-32

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

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

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

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

Sunday Is 7:10-14 Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6. Rom 1:1-7 Mt 1:18-24

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 14, 2025

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 13th, The Vigil For The Third Sunday Of Advent

H/S 4:00 p.m. Rose McCormack, 11th Anniversary,
By Her Family

Sunday, December 14th, The Third Sunday Of Advent

S/M 8:00 a.m. Daniel Patriss, By His Family

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

S/M 10:30 a.m. Jaime Gallicchio, By A Family Friend

H/S 12:00 p.m. Manuel Otero, By His Daughter

Monday, December 15th, Advent Weekday

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

Tuesday, December 16th, Advent Weekday

H/S 9:00 a.m. Bruce Abate, By Melissa Tardiff

Wednesday, December 17th, Late Advent Weekday

H/S 9:00 a.m. Chuck Donnelly, By Sue Smola

Thursday, December 18th, Late Advent Weekday

H/S 9:00 a.m. Barbara Zembrzusi, 1st Anniversary, By Her Family

Friday, December 19th, Late Advent Weekday

H/S 9:00 a.m. Saint Elise, By Richardson Mezidor

Saturday, December 20th, The Vigil For The Fourth Sunday Of Advent

H/S 4:00 p.m. James & Mary McDonald & John & Mary Hamm,
By Dennis & Marge McDonald

Sunday, December 21st, 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. Fr. William Dudak, By SFHSN Class of 1958

S/M 10:30 a.m. Vincenzo Carducci, By His Children

H/S 12:00 p.m. Clement & Eric Gebo, By Their Family



In Loving Memory

We pray for...

Elizabeth Doherty

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

Parish Support

December 7, 2025

Weekly \$12,187

Online Giving \$5,894

Total \$18,081

Eucharistic Adoration

Holy Spirit Church

6:00 - 7:00pm

Tuesday Evenings



Mass Cancellation Policy During Inclement Weather

Daily Mass at 9:00 a.m. is cancelled whenever the Newington Public School System delays or closes for inclement weather. Sunday Masses (Saturday Vigil and Sunday Morning Masses) are cancelled 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 serves as an easy way to announce our closing. No other announcements will be given except for the policy as stated above. Mass intentions will be satisfied by the priest celebrant at his private Mass in the event that a scheduled public Mass is cancelled. Thank you for your understanding.



PARISH CALENDAR, DECEMBER 14, 2025

The Knights Sandwich Ministry

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

K of C Food Collection

Sunday, January 4th @ 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

**The Women's Guild will not hold any
meetings in January.** They will resume in
February. All meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. in
the Holy Spirit Church Hall.

*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 13th-14th and the 20th-21st as
your Christmas confession.

**We are very grateful for the generosity shown
by so many to our Annual Parish Collection.
If you have not yet had an opportunity to
return your gift card, please do so as soon as
possible. Every gift is welcome and sincerely
appreciated. Thank you!**

Christmas 2025 Mass Schedule:

12/24, Christmas Vigils:

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

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:

Liam Patrick Hevey

Seminarian Christmas Gift Card Program

Once again our parish can participate in the
Seminarian Christmas Gift Card Program.
Our Seminarians have little or no earning
power during their years of formation, but
they still have personal expenses. Whether
their need is gas to travel to parish
assignments, an unexpected car repair, or
maybe just enough black socks to get through
the week, they can use a helping hand. Your
assistance in helping them to meet their
everyday expenses that occur, is a great sign of
support for their generous response to God's
call, affirming them in their desire to dedicate
their lives to Christ and serve the faithful of the
Archdiocese of Hartford. If you would like to
participate in this
program, you can ask for
an envelope from the
priest after Mass or just
hand in a gift card with a
personal note of Christmas Wishes.



ANNUNCIATION PARISH

**I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming.
*Luke 3:16***

The 3rd Sunday of Advent Year C is also known as Gaudete Sunday, a day of rejoicing. The readings encourage us to find joy and hope in the coming of the Lord.

- **Joyful Anticipation:** The readings focus on the joy of waiting for Jesus. Zephaniah speaks of rejoicing and exulting with all our hearts.
- **God's Presence:** God is with His people. Zephaniah assures us that God is in our midst, bringing hope and safety.
- **Peace of Christ:** St. Paul tells the Philippians about the peace of God. This peace will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
- **Call to Generosity:** John the Baptist calls people to share with those in need. This echoes the Gospel's message to live out our faith through actions.
- **Repentance and Preparation:** John the Baptist also speaks of repentance. This reminds us to prepare our hearts for Jesus' coming by turning away from sin.
- **Hope and Encouragement:** The readings provide hope and encouragement. They remind us that God is near and we should not be afraid.

On the 3rd Sunday of Advent Year C, we focus on rejoicing because the Lord is near. The themes guide us to live in joy, peace, and readiness for Christ's coming.



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The Annunciation Women's Guild will hold their Christmas Party on Tuesday December 16th in the Holy Spirit Church hall. Doors open at 5:00 pm, with appetizers (Stuffed mushrooms, Baked Brie, cheese and crackers and 3 others to be determined) provided at 5:30 pm, followed by the meal. All Women's Guild members are invited to attend, and each member may bring one guest if they choose to. The evening will include a served family style meal catered by Michaels Catering, a teacup raffle and musical entertainment. The meal consists of the hot and cold appetizers, Chicken Marsala, Roast Sirloin of Beef, Penne Pasta with meat sauce, Garlic roasted red bliss potatoes, Green beans with julienne carrots, Garden salad with rolls and butter, cheesecake, coffee and tea. The musical entertainment will be provided by Tom "T-bone" Stankus. The Women's Guild will subsidize the cost for members only. The cost for the evenings will be \$45 per member only. The cost for a non member/guest is \$60. Response and payment are due by December 4th. Payment by a check should be made out to Annunciation Women's Guild. Please place your payment in a blank envelope, label with Annunciation Women's Guild Christmas Party, include your name and a guest name if appropriate, and put in a collection basket at any Mass at either church by November 29th. Attendees are requested to bring item(s) to be donated to the House of Bread to be distributed to those in need. Items requested include new T-shirts, socks and underwear for Women and Men.

You may contact Lynn Lutz at lutz62511@gmail.com or call/text at:860-604-6798 for any questions.



ANNUNCIATION PARISH

Special Music Christmas Eve:

***Saint Mary will have a mini concert beginning at 3:15 p.m. before the 4:00 p.m. Mass and at 9:15 p.m. before the 10:00 p.m. Mass. The St. Mary Choir and Sarah's family of singers will present.**

***There will be special instrumental music at the 4:00 p.m. Mass at Holy Spirit.**

May the music increase our Christmas joy!



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!



ANNUNCIATION PARISH

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

Annunciation Parish
Invites you to join in

Advent Giving

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, let us turn our hearts and thoughts to those less fortunate and in need. In the spirit of this time of giving, we are asking for Gift Cards only. The gift cards would benefit teenagers struggling with many of life's challenges. Gift Cards such as Amazon, Walmart, Target and CVS would be helpful for our outreach.

Gift Cards may be returned to the rectory at Saint Mary Church or may be placed in the collection baskets with the envelopes marked CHR Christmas.

Thank you for bringing hope and light to their holiday and for your continued generosity and support!

***ALL GIFT CARDS must be returned by Sunday, December 14, 2025 to ensure Timely distribution to all organizations.**

NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD



Branches on the Vine

DECEMBER 13 - 19, 2025



Omar Acosta's family is shown here in the manger he built at Sacred Heart Church in Bloomfield. Pictured, left to right, are: Camila, 11; Mariela, 10; Lucas, 8; Analia, 13; his wife, Julie; and Tobias, 1. The beautiful back wall of this custom design highlights the Star of Bethlehem and future cross of the child Jesus. The wood was custom milled for the majority of the build at a local lumber yard to incorporate a natural and rustic aesthetic, inviting all who visit to a joyful moment of reflection and prayer.
SUBMITTED PHOTO

For Omar Acosta, every nail driven and every beam aligned is an act of prayer. A self-employed contractor from Windsor and a third-year candidate in the Archdiocese of Hartford's Diaconate formation program, Acosta views his craft as a way to glorify God—and to draw others closer to him.

This Advent, parishioners and passersby at Sacred Heart Church in Bloomfield will encounter one of Acosta's most heartfelt creations yet: a handcrafted manger that stands as both an artistic and spiritual expression of love.

"I wanted to build something that pointed people to God," he says. "Beauty can quietly draw the passerby—even for a moment—that's what this is about."

The manger at Sacred Heart is the third one he has built within the archdiocese—following earlier ones at St. Francis Church in New Haven and St. Gabriel Church in Windsor. Each is unique, but all share a singular purpose: to celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation with reverence and beauty.

Yet for Acosta, the story begins long before the first piece of wood is cut.

Born and raised in Hartford and a graduate of Prince Tech, Acosta's childhood was framed by survival and grace.

"My faith is that of a peasant," he explains. "I didn't attend Catholic schools or have formal faith formation. But I was blessed with a relationship with God from the time I was 5 or 6. I spent so much time talking to him—it was truly a grace."

BUILT BY FAITH: HOW ONE CRAFTSMAN USES HIS SKILLS TO GLORIFY GOD

His early years were shaped by hardship—his father's struggle with addiction and his mother's quiet, heroic perseverance.

"My mother was the instrument God used in my life," he says. "She was my hero. She showed us mercy by visiting strangers in nursing homes, just to bring them company. That planted something deep in me."

As a teenager, Acosta became an altar server and later a youth minister at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Hartford. A pivotal experience came when he attended the Steubenville retreat, hosted by Franciscan University.

"It was amazing to be surrounded by a couple thousand people in attendance radiating zeal for our living faith," he says. "My heart caught the scent of something I wanted deeply more of. Soon after, I applied and took a road trip to visit the Steubenville, Ohio, campus. Months later, I was a student there. The greatest gifts that came of it were not even on my radar."

Now married for 17 years, Omar and his wife, Julie, have five children—Analia, 13; Camila, 11; Mariela, 9; Lucas, 8; and Tobias, 1. Their home life, like his craftsmanship, is rooted in prayer.

"One of my vocations is living the sacrament of matrimony," he says. "The other is my faith and both are grounded in service."

That spirit of service has guided his 17 years working with people with disabilities in the Hartford area—helping others live with dignity, joy and faith.

Whether serving others or shaping wood, Acosta finds God in the work of his hands.

"I'm an artisan," he says simply. "I dream of designing church furnishings, grottos, Stations of the Cross—anything that glorifies God through beauty. The manger is just one small way to offer that."

As the Christmas season approaches, Acosta hopes his latest creation becomes a place of encounter.

"The idea of being able to build a manger is to capture someone's mind, eye, and attention," he adds. "They're looking up at God whether they know it or not."

- Story by Jim Tierney



Upcoming Events

SAVE THE DATE

The Archdiocesan Pro-Life Office is encouraging participation in the Annual Pro-Life March in Washington, DC.

The bus will leave the Franciscan Life Center in Meriden on January 22nd at 6:00a.m. and return to Meriden January 23rd at 11:00p.m.

Cost, hotel, and other details will be forthcoming.

Questions?
Please contact Fr. Walsh
fr.walsh@aohct.org



**VISITING: LOURDES * NEVERS * TOURS AREA
LOIRE VALLEY * CHARTRES * MONT ST. MICHEL
NORMANDY * CAEN * LISIEUX * PARIS**



Hosted by
FR. JEFF GUBBIOTTI

\$4399 FROM NEW YORK*

* Air/land tour price is \$3849 plus \$550 government taxes/airline surcharges

For More Information, Please Contact:
Fr. Gubbiotti
Tel: (203) 735-3341 (Office)
(203) 560-9507 (Cell)
Email: fr.gubbiotti@aohct.org

SPACE IS LIMITED! SIGN UP TODAY!!!



12/17 WEDNESDAY 10:15AM
**POLISH CHRISTMAS CONCERT
(KOLENDY)**
Sacred Heart Church, 446 Mountain Rd, Suffield

A celebration of Polish culture and history, this concert features local musicians performing some of the most beloved Polish Christmas Carols. This annual concert is offered by Sacred Heart Parish and the Suffield Polish Historical Society. Sacred Heart church is handicapped accessible. This event is free and open to all!



January 16-18, 2026
Pilgrims of Hope Men's Retreat
Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center
West Hartford, CT

Faith is a journey! Last year, just months before his passing, Pope Francis called for a jubilee year, and he announced the theme would be *Pilgrims of Hope*. As "*pilgrims of hope*," we must be willing to take risks, to make the effort to understand God's call, and to grow in our faith. The pilgrim doesn't travel aimlessly but allows God to be the North Star, leading us to discover that God is at the heart of our journey. We invite you to join us this year at Holy Family for your annual retreat as we celebrate our 75th anniversary of ministry. Together, as part of God's beloved creation, we can pursue that blessed goal – life with God as beloved companions and pilgrims of hope.

Contact Russ Duffy at (203) 272-9912 or Neil Bradley at (203) 260-4957 for more info. Or visit holyfamilyretreat.org/themed-retreats or call 860.760.9705 for more info.

2025 ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Scan the QR code to learn how you can make a lasting impact!



Total Goal: \$10M 97.02% as of 12/2/25

\$9,701,986.39 pledges from 29,051 generous donors



www.archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal