



SACRED HEART CHURCH & SAINT JOHN MISSION

PASTOR: MSGR LES JANIK

~~~~~ SUNDAY DECEMBER 20, 2020 ~~~~~

## 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT



“Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,  
and you shall name him Jesus.” - Lk 1:31

# Mass Intentions

## Saturday, Dec 19<sup>th</sup> - Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Advent

4:00 pm In Memory of **Mark Daniels** requested by Lucy Gaudet

## Sunday, Dec 20<sup>th</sup> - Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:30 am In Memory of **Michael Stepas** requested by his sister Carol Goulart

9:00 am In Memory of the **Coni Henson** requested by the Weingart Family

10:30 am In Memory of **Robert Confrey** requested by his family

## Monday, Dec 21<sup>st</sup> - Advent Weekday

8:00 am In Thanksgiving of all **the Parishioners** for all prayers said, requested by Girard and Loretta LeBlanc

## Tuesday, Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> - Advent Weekday

8:00 am In Memory of **Claire "Kim" Perrone** requested by Dr. Jeremiah and Virginia Lowney

## Wednesday, Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> - Advent Weekday

8:00 am In Memory of **Rita Raymond** requested by Lue Ann Watchus

## Thursday, Dec 24<sup>th</sup> - Vigil: The Nativity of The Lord (Christmas)

4:00 pm For the Parishioners

## Friday, Dec 25<sup>th</sup> - The Nativity of The Lord (Christmas)

7:30 am For the Parishioners

9:00 am For the Parishioners

10:30 am For the Parishioners

## Masses Next Weekend

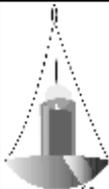
4:00 pm In Memory of Joe Romanski

7:30 am In Memory of Elaine Keegan, Tim Keegan and Kathy Walsh

9:00 am In Memory of Joey Weingart

10:30 am In Memory of Mark Daniels

## Sanctuary Light



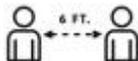
In Memory of **Joanne Baribeault** (Birthday Remembrance) requested by her family

In Memory of **Jack Hill, Laurea Daigneault, and Joey Weingart** requested by a parishioner



The Chaplet of Divine Mercy and The Rosary are prayed daily after Mass.

Wear a facemask  
Sanitize your hands  
Maintain social distancing



Dear Parishioners and Friends:

As Christmas comes to us each year, we pause and stop in quiet awe, contemplating the presence on earth of the Divine Word of God as one of us. Jesus Christ who is the Word of God entered our world in our human nature to dwell among us. He came to take on our humanity in order to share with us his divinity.

Normally, Christmas is a time for being together with family and friends. It is a time for traditional music, lights, decorations, parties and good food. However, this year we celebrate Christmas like no other we have ever seen. The ongoing pandemic forces us to limit our gatherings and travels, keep social distance and wear masks, and follow uncomfortable restrictions.

May this Christmas, as difficult as it may look like, be a time of much deeper understanding and reminder to us that God has not forgotten us. Truly, Christmas celebration is a reminder that God has reached down to us so we in turn may reach up to Him with praises and glory. Indeed, we have not been forsaken by God. Christmas is the very celebration of God with us.

Merry Christmas!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Msgr. Les Janik  
Pastor



**Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**  
4:00 pm

**Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**  
7:30 am; 9:00 am; 10:30 am

**Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup>**  
8:00 am (no 6:30 pm Mass)



**Sacred Heart Church, Norwichtown**  
**Saint John Mission, Fitchville**  
Pastor  
**Msgr. Leszek T. Janik**

Rectory Office: Sandy von Tish  
Hours: Mon., Tue., Wed., Fri.: 8:30am-1:30pm  
52 West Town St., Norwichtown, CT 06360-2296  
Phone: 860-887-1030 • Fax: 860-887-6550  
Email: SacredHeart06360@gmail.com  
Website: www.sacredheartnorwichct.org



## IN YOUR PRAYERS...

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS** the following in need of guidance and strength during difficult times: Eric Allard, Keith B., Ed Burchfield, Deacon Al Cote, Alfred Cutrone Jr., Betty Ettl, Joe Ettl, Dorothy Fisher, Rick Gunther, Bernie Kalinowski, Richard Kalinowski, Gerard LeBlanc, Loretta LeBlanc, James Riley, Mary Sanborn, Mary Ellen Sis, Stanley Weingart, Justin West and Charles Whitty.



Lord God, we ask you to bless the members of our armed services. Give them courage, hope and strength. May they experience your firm support, gentle love and compassionate healing.



*Thank you for your continued support*

**Offertory (will be reported at a later date):**

|                                    |    |
|------------------------------------|----|
| <b>Sacred Heart Church:</b>        | \$ |
| <b>Sacred Heart Church Online:</b> | \$ |
| <b>Saint John Mission:</b>         | \$ |



Greeters will be in the church for the **Christmas Eve Vigil Mass** to guide the faithful to pews to maintain social distancing rules. The church hall will be open with additional seating. The Mass will be broadcast on a large screen television in the church hall. If the church reaches its full capacity, we will ask that you return the following morning to attend **Christmas Mass**.



*"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
Upon those who lived in a land of gloom a light has shone." (Isaiah 9:1)*

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

These words of the prophet Isaiah, taken from the first reading proclaimed at the Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, seem particularly poignant for us this year. As we celebrate Christmas and draw near to the end of this calendar year, I think that many of us feel that this has indeed been a year dominated by darkness and gloom. This year has certainly been a difficult one: from the ongoing pandemic that has changed our lives in so many ways and sadly has taken the lives of family members and friends throughout the world, to the devastation wrought by numerous wildfires, hurricanes and natural disasters, continued racial division, as well as what has been one of the most bitterly contentious election cycles in the history of our nation. Chaos and darkness are all around us. It has become increasingly clear, therefore, that our world needs the light of the Lord Jesus now more than ever.

In commemorating His birth at Christmas, it is important we remember that we celebrate something far more profound than simply the Lord's "birthday." What we celebrate is the ultimate triumph of light over darkness. As Saint John writes, referring to the Lord, in the prologue to his account of the Gospel, "...the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:5) While the world was yet still in darkness, a great light broke forth on the first Christmas night: the unchanging truth of God's abundant love for His people - a love so pure that it took flesh in the person of Jesus, born in the manger at Bethlehem; a love so deep that it enabled the Lord to endure the agony of His passion and death on the cross; a love so powerful that it would destroy even sin and death itself in the glory of His resurrection, affording each of us the opportunity to share in the eternal joy of Heaven.

While our gatherings and Christmas celebrations will indeed be different this year, it is vitally important that we remember this central truth: nothing and no one can change the fact that God has sent His Divine Son into the world and that He suffered, died and rose again for our redemption. The same risen Lord Jesus likewise continues to be present through His body, the Church, as the true light which can dispel the darkness and gloom present in our own lives as well as in the world around us. As individual members of His Church, the Lord is now calling each of us, in the midst of our present challenges and difficulties, to allow His light to shine brightly through the witness of our lives, that, as His instruments, we may bring much needed love, hope, and peace to our families, communities and world, here and now.

And so, in this season of light and hope, let us give thanks to God for the tremendous gift He has given to the world in the person of Jesus and spend some time in prayer, asking how He is calling us to reflect and radiate the light of His love to others.

May you, your families and loved ones have a truly merry Christmas and a New Year filled God's blessings!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop of Norwich

Many other miracles were attributed to St. Rita, both during her life and after her death.

Holy Patroness of those in need, Saint Rita, so humble, pure and patient, whose pleadings with thy Divine Spouse are irresistible, obtain for me from thy Crucified Christ my request (mention it here). Be kind to me, for the greater glory of God, and I promise to honor thee and to sing thy praises forever.

Oh glorious St. Rita, who didst miraculously participate in the sorrowful Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, obtain for me the grace to suffer with resignation the troubles of this life, and protect me in all my needs. Amen.

The prayer to St. Rita, like her miracles, helps remind us indeed that "all things are possible with God," as Jesus said in Mark's gospel (10:27). Roses are her symbol. Her feast day is May 22nd.

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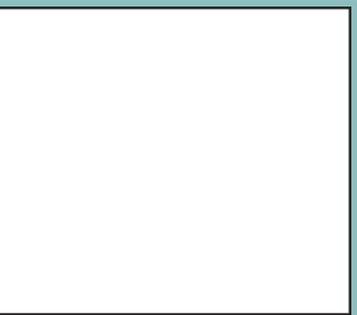
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