

# WELCOME TO THE PARISH FAMILIES OF:

## SAINT MARY, Mother of the Redeemer

69 GROTON LONG POINT ROAD, GROTON, CT 06340

Office: 860-445-1446

Email: [office@stmarysgroton.org](mailto:office@stmarysgroton.org)

Website: [stmarysgroton.org](http://stmarysgroton.org)



## SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH

56 SACRED HEART DRIVE, GROTON, CT 06340

Office: 860-445-2905

Email: [secretary@sacredheartgroton.org](mailto:secretary@sacredheartgroton.org)

Website: [sacredheartgroton.org](http://sacredheartgroton.org)



*Sacred Heart School Students Decorating Christmas Trees at the Knights of Columbus Museum & School.*

Pastor: *Very Reverend Brian J. Converse*

Parochial Vicar: *Reverend Brian Maxwell*

Deacon: *Deacon Douglas Hoffman*

### SAINT MARY CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Friday, December 24, 2021: 4:00 PM & 10:00 PM

Saturday, December 25, 2021: 12:00 AM Midnight, 7:30 AM & 11:00 AM (There is no 5:30 PM Vigil Mass or Reconciliation on Saturday, December 25, 2021)

Sunday, December 26, 2021: 7:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Weekday Mass: Wednesday & Thursday-9:00 AM

Confessions: Saturday, 6:15 PM

Adoration: Wednesday & Thursday: 8:00 AM

Rosary: Wednesday & Thursday: 8:25 AM

### SACRED HEART CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Friday, December 24, 2021: 4:00 PM & 7:00 PM

Saturday, December 25, 2021: 9:00 AM (There is no 4:00 PM Vigil Mass or Reconciliation on Saturday, December 25, 2021)

Sunday, December 26, 2021: 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM

Weekday Mass: Friday - 9:00 AM

Confessions: Saturday - 3:00 PM

Divine Mercy Chaplet: Saturday, 3:15 PM

Adoration: First Fridays: 9:30 AM - Noon

Rosary: Fridays - 8:15 AM

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #1943

Grand Knight: Mr. Jon Cochran

[www.mystic-kofc.org](http://www.mystic-kofc.org)

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Combined with Sacred Heart

860-445-2905

[dre@sacredheartgroton.org](mailto:dre@sacredheartgroton.org)

### MUSIC MINISTRY

Director: Cindy DiRocco

401-932-9360

[lovenotes88@aol.com](mailto:lovenotes88@aol.com)

### YOUTH MINISTRY

Ronald & Beverly Hanson

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #4314

Grand Knight: Mr. Cristito L. Cruz

### BUSINESS MANAGER

Debra Sajkowicz

860-445-1446

[businessmgr@ololgf.org](mailto:businessmgr@ololgf.org)

### OUR YOKED CHURCHES:

Sacred Heart Church, Saint Mary,  
Our Lady of Lourdes

Mass times for OUR LADY of LOURDES:

Sat. Vigil-5 PM, Sunday-8:30 AM, 11 AM, 5 PM

Daily Mass: Mon. & Tues. - 9 AM

Our Lady of Lourdes, Gales Ferry:

860-464-7251 [ololgf.org](http://ololgf.org)

1650 Route 12, Gales Ferry, CT 06335

### SACRED HEART SCHOOL

860-445-0611

[www.sacredheartgroton.org](http://www.sacredheartgroton.org)

School Principal: Dr. Gail Kingston

50 Sacred Heart Drive, Groton, CT



*Catholic schools unlock the intellectual potential of the young people they serve while forming them for a personal and living encounter with Jesus Christ.*

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**December 26, 2021 - THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**

# SACRED HEART CHURCH



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25 ~ THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD / CHRISTMAS**

9:00 AM ALL PARISHIONERS  
- NO VIGIL MASS -

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26 ~ THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**

9 AM Mass—Live streamed: [facebook.com/sacredheartgroton/](https://facebook.com/sacredheartgroton/)

9:00 AM †Jesse Ware  
Requested by Dolores Ware

7:00 PM All Parishioners

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31 ~**

9:00 AM †For the People of the Parish

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 1 ~ THE OCTAVE DAY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD; SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD 4:00 PM †**

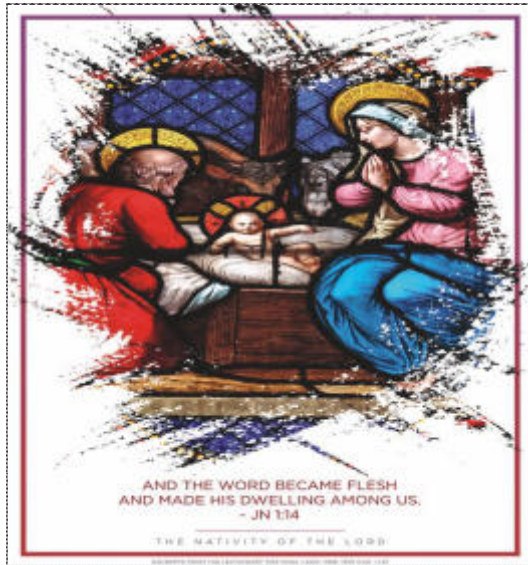
**AGNES TOMPKINS ~ Birthday Remembrance**  
Requested by B.D. D.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 2 ~ EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

9 AM Mass—Live streamed: [facebook.com/sacredheartgroton/](https://facebook.com/sacredheartgroton/)

9:00 AM †MARILYN TURKOWSKI ~ 5th Anniversary  
Requested by the Family

7:00 PM †CONNIE RABENOLT  
Requested by Joy Fitzgerald



## Sacred Heart Rectory Office

All business should be directed to  
St. Mary, Mother of the Redeemer 860-445-1446  
Monday - Thursday: 9:00 AM - 3 PM

## OFFERTORY—SACRED HEART CHURCH

December 11 & 12, 2021.....6,841.00  
December 18 & 19, 2021.....Not available at this time of publication

*This weekend's Second Collection—None  
Next weekend's Second Collection - None  
Thank you for your generosity to God's Church.*



### Online Giving through WeShare

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Direct Link: [sacredheartct.churchgiving.com](https://sacredheartct.churchgiving.com)

### Sacred Heart School:

Website: [sacredheartgroton.org](https://sacredheartgroton.org)  
Select School, Fundraising, Donation  
Direct Link: [sacredheartct.churchgiving.com](https://sacredheartct.churchgiving.com)  
**Thank you to all who support our churches and school.**



### Sacred Heart Meetings & Activities

Sunday, December 26	No Faith
Formation	
Tuesday, December 28	5:30 PM: Legion of
Mary—Rectory	
Saturday, January 1	4:00 PM: Confirmation
9-Coat Drive	
Sunday, January 2	9:00 AM: Confirmation

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

1st and 3rd Wednesdays  
3:30-5:00 pm



Whether you knit or crochet, everyone is welcome to join the Prayer Shawl Ministry at Sacred Heart Church in the Rectory Meeting Room.

## Help Wanted

Sacred Heart Church is in need of a volunteer to organize and coordinate the schedule of Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist who serve at Mass.

If you are interested in helping with this ministry, please contact the Rectory office at 860-445-2905 or email: [secretary@sacredheartchurch.org](mailto:secretary@sacredheartchurch.org)



The Sanctuary Candle is lit in memory of:

†ILARIO & BEATRICE CAVALLARO

December 25, 2021 - January 8, 2022  
Requested by Family

# SAINT MARY CHURCH



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25 ~ THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD / CHRISTMAS**

**12:00 AM ALL PARISHIONERS - CANDLE LIGHT**  
**7:30 AM ALL PARISHIONERS**  
**11:00 AM ALL PARISHIONERS**  
- NO VIGIL MASS -

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26 ~ THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**

**7:30 AM †DOROTHY HOFFMAN**  
Requested by Deacon Doug & Cathy Hoffman  
**11:00 AM †ALBERT ROMBONI**  
Requested by his wife

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29 ~ Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord**  
*St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr*

**9:00 AM †SOULS IN PURGATORY**  
Requested by Jane Richards

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30 ~ Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord**

**9:00 AM † JOSEPH ZEPPIERI**  
Requested by Jane Richards

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 1 ~ THE OCTAVE DAY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD; SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**

**5:30 PM FOR ALL MOTHERS**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 2 ~ EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

**7:30 AM FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY THE TORNADOS OUT WEST**  
**11:00 AM FOR FIRST RESPONDERS & THEIR FAMILIES**



Our Lady of Grace ROSE is in Memory of:

**†Frank Sinopoli**

December 26, 2021 — January 1, 2022  
Requested by wife Gloria Sinopoli



**St. Mary Rectory Office**

**Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 9:00 AM—3:00 PM**

## **OFFERTORY—SAINT MARY CHURCH**

December 18 & 19, 2021.....Not available at this time of publication  
Maintenance.....Not available at this time of publication

*This weekend's Second Collection -*

*Next weekend's Second Collection - None*

**Thank you for your generosity to God's Church.**



### **Online Giving through WeShare**

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#### **St. Mary Church:**

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#### **Sacred Heart School:**

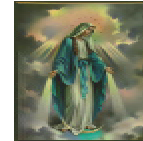
Website: [sacredheartgroton.org](http://sacredheartgroton.org) *Select School, Fundraising, Donation*

Direct Link: [sacredheartct.churchgiving.com](http://sacredheartct.churchgiving.com)

**Thank you to all who support our churches and school.**

### **Saint Mary Meetings & Activities**

<b>Monday, December 27</b>	9:00 AM: Small Christian Comm./R1
<b>Tuesday, December 28</b>	6:30 PM: The Way/R2
<b>Thursday, December 29</b>	6:00 PM: Men's Dinner
<b>Saturday, January 1</b>	5:30 PM: Confirmation 9-Coat Drive
<b>Sunday, January 2</b>	7:30 AM: Confirmation 9-Coat Drive
<b>Sunday, January 2</b>	11:00 AM: Confirmation 9-Coat Drive



### [Our Lady Queen of Hope Award](#)

This coming Spring, during the 2022 Virtual Women's Conference, the Norwich Diocesan Women's Conference Committee will vote on and name the recipient of the second annual Our Lady Queen of Hope Award. This award honors a woman in the diocese for her vision and leadership in the Catholic Church. She displays strong faith, and is committed to living out Catholic values, displaying leadership, love and service, and has been a part of successful initiatives that benefit the Church and has helped to move parish communities forward. You can nominate a woman of the Norwich diocese for this award by visiting [www.norwichdiocese.org](http://www.norwichdiocese.org) and downloading the nomination form or contacting Marianne at [manicholas@norwichdiocese.net](mailto:manicholas@norwichdiocese.net)

## **MEN'S MINISTRY**

### **Men's Dinner & Fellowship**

Deacon Doug is hosting an evening for men on Wednesday, **December 29, 2021 at 6:00 PM in St. Mary parish hall.** A simple meal and fellowship is open to all men of our parishes.

## December 25, 2021 - NATIVITY OF THE LORD / December 26, 2021 - THE HOLY FAMILY

### Sacred Heart and St. Mary, Mother of the Redeemer—Ministries/Organizations

#### ADULT FAITH FORMATION

*Father Brian Maxwell / Deacon Doug Hoffman*

This ministry offers parishioners opportunities to learn and strengthen their faith through group discussion, videos, audio tapes, etc. See the bulletin for upcoming programs.

#### ALTAR SERVERS

This ministry provides a wonderful way for our boys and girls to become involved in our liturgies and in the parish. Anyone who has received First Communion may become an altar server. There are also adult altar servers who serve weekdays, the 7:30 AM Sunday Mass, and funerals.

#### ART AND ENVIRONMENT

This ministry is responsible for setting a prayerful atmosphere that enhances our Masses and services. During the holiday, there will be an announcement in the bulletin asking for help.

#### BAPTISMAL PREP

Baptism is a gift from God and usually the first sacrament received. This class reviews the sacrament and the actual baptismal service. First time parents are required to attend this class. Parents are required to contact the parish office to arrange a class.

#### CARE TO THE SICK

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion visit and offer the Eucharist to homebound parishioners. Interested individuals should contact St. Mary's Office.

#### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion are an integral part of the liturgy as they give witness to the presence of Christ. The ministry of the body and blood of Christ is a rewarding and fulfilling one. Any member over the age of eighteen who sincerely tries to live and reflect the gospel message is eligible for this ministry.

#### GREETERS AND HOSPITALITY

Our greeters provide a welcoming atmosphere to people as they enter church. Individuals are scheduled once a month. Anyone interested this ministry should contact the parish office or Bev Millbauer.

#### LECTORS (MINISTRY OF THE WORD)

Lectors proclaim the Word of God, helping the assembly to be open and to grow in response to the scriptures. Mature members of the parish who actively try to live and reflect the Christian life, who feel their talent lies here are invited to join this ministry.

#### LITURGY AND SPIRITUAL LIFE

This committee helps plan liturgies which encourage full and prayerful participation by all the assembly at the Eucharistic celebration. They also coordinate activities which bear on the spiritual life of our community, such as missions, penance services and music programs.

#### MUSIC MINISTRY

Cantors, instrumentalists and choir members join to give full expression to the praise and love for God. This vital ministry always welcomes new members. Interested individuals can speak with Cindy after Mass.

#### OUR LADY'S GUILD

A wonderful organization, open to all members in the parish. They offer their support both monetarily and by sharing their time and talents to our parish and to our community.

#### PRAYER LINE

Volunteers receive the names of those in need for prayers. All information is kept confidential. If you need to add a name, call or email Clara Burnside

#### PRO LIFE

The mission of the Pro-Life ministry is to promote the value and dignity of human life from fertilization to natural death, through prayers, education, and peaceful activism. Contact the office.

#### RCIA

A group of devoted individuals share their faith while supporting and encouraging the spiritual formation of those seeking to join our Catholic faith. Individuals interested making in inquiry into the Catholic Faith or being part of the team should contact Peter Simoncini.

#### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

This combined program of St. Mary & Sacred Heart educates our children and teens, grades K thru 10, on the beliefs of the Catholic Church. Special classes are offered for those receiving the sacraments and parent classes to prepare parents for their responsibilities

#### SHAWL MINISTRY

Combine your love of knitting and/or crocheting with prayer to create a gift of love. Each handmade item includes prayers for strength, comfort, and peace woven into it. You can knit or crochet with the group or at home.

#### SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Small groups meet weekly, biweekly, monthly to share experiences, discuss topics, or watch videos that enhance their Christian life.

#### THIRD ORDER OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

An association of lay people who, in response to a call from God, promise to live the Gospel in the spirit of the Carmelite Order and under its guidance. Meeting: Third Saturday of the month from 10am to 12pm.


### Time, Talent and Treasure

**Would you like to help with any of these Ministries at Sacred Heart or St. Mary's Churches?**

**Please call our Rectory office to learn more!**

**860-445-1446**

# SACRED HEART SCHOOL



**Sacred Heart's Mission**  
Our Sacred Heart School community exists for the purpose of guiding all of its students, recognizing their unique learning style and abilities, toward Catholic Faith-based values and morals, academic excellence, creative expression, responsible citizenship and physical and social development.



*Each of us is visited by an angel every time we have a loving thought, speak a kind word or show an act of kindness towards others.*

*Angels are the voices of faith and peace and forgiveness, sent by God to illuminate our way. Let your voice be heard and let your love shine forth during this magical time of the year.*

**The Faculty and Staff at Sacred Heart School would like to wish you and yours a Blessed Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year.**

## ENROLL NOW AT SACRED HEART SCHOOL!

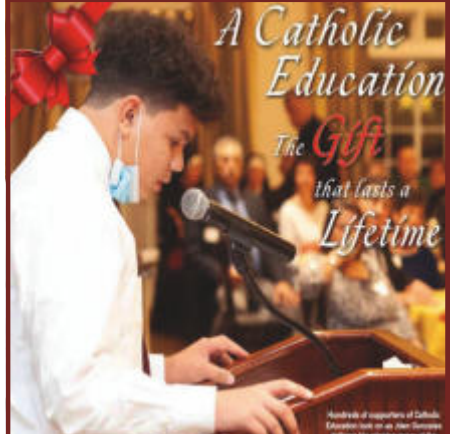
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Hundreds of supporters of Catholic Education took part in their Christmas traditions this evening event at the annual Sacred Scholastic Dinner.

**Sacred Heart and St. Mary, Mother of the Redeemer**

**Christmas 2021**

Dear Parishioners, Friends and Neighbors,

On this Christmas Eve Day, we celebrate the end of Advent and beginning of the glorious Christmas Season. On this day, the Church presents us with the gospel scene entitled, "The Visitation", the meeting of Mary and Elizabeth. Elizabeth had conceived a son. She and her husband Zechariah, were advanced in years and yet he was told through the Angel Gabriel that they would bear a son who would become the forerunner of the Messiah. It would be his task to prepare the people for the coming of the Messiah. Mary had just been visited by the Angel Gabriel and was told that she would become the Mother of God. She was disturbed because she was not married, though she was engaged to Joseph. The Angel told Mary that the power of the Most High would overshadow her and the offspring would be called Son of God. As soon as this visit to Mary was completed, Sacred Scripture tells us that Mary proceeded in haste to be with her cousin Elizabeth and assist her in the final days of her pregnancy. Upon arriving there, this scene takes place. In these two women, Mary and Elizabeth, we are given perfect examples of how each of us should welcome the Savior of the world.

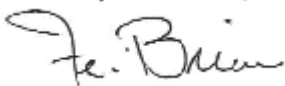
Elizabeth greets Mary with great joy, deep faith and profound mystery. She speaks for every person who has been touched by God, visited by God. "Who am I that the Mother of my Lord should come to me? The moment your greeting sounded in my ear, the babe in my womb leapt for joy." Elizabeth is filled with Faith as she receives Mary into her home. In spite of her questioning, she responds with tremendous gratitude, joy and faith.

"The Mother of My Lord" indicates that something tremendous is happening in the life of Mary. Mary, too, is filled with faith. "My being proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit finds joy in God my Savior." This is the beginning of the famous "Magnificat" and becomes Mary's prayer of faith for her and for us at Christmas.

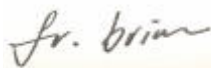
Neither woman looks only to themselves for a response to this profound mystery which is unfolding before them. They are the grateful recipients of the presence of God, the visit of God to them. They reach out to each other and thus, to the world. God has come to them; God has visited them; God is with them; and they know it.

The same must be true for ourselves. God comes to us, God visits us, God is with us during this beautiful Christmas season. Welcome Him, share Him with your loved ones and friends. Open your hearts to His presences and joy. Receive Him and be overpowered by Him, and then share Him with others. Come join our faith filled family for Christmas this year at Sacred Heart and St. Mary, Mother of the Redeemer Churches.

In the peace of Christ,



Very Rev. Brian J. Converse  
Pastor



Rev. Brian Maxwell  
Parochial Vicar



Diocese of Norwich  
Office of the Bishop  
201 Broadway  
Norwich, Connecticut 06360  
(860) 887-9294

MOST REVEREND  
MICHAEL R. COTE, D.D.

**Christmas Message 2021**

**"And the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us, and we saw His glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth."**

(John 1:14)

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

These words speak to us, in a beautifully poetic way, of our Lord's miraculous gift of Himself – a gift which He gave to the world when He humbly took flesh and was born in the simple manger in Bethlehem.

The gift, the true meaning of the Christmas event, is that the Lord, the Eternal Word and Son of God the Father, *became flesh and made his dwelling among us*. The mystery and miracle of our Lord's Incarnation stands at the very heart of our Catholic faith. It is the source of our hope. God's great love and mercy, as proclaimed in the Gospel message, began with the birth of a child who would grow, teach us the truth of the Gospel, and ultimately offer His very life in sacrifice, providing for those who believe in Him the tremendous grace to share eternal life with God and all the saints in heaven.

May we never forget this miraculous gift of God's love.

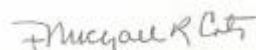
Our annual celebration of the Lord's Nativity provides an important reminder to us of the true depth of the love that He continues to pour forth upon each of us and our world. The opportunity to encounter the same Lord Jesus who was born in the manger in Bethlehem but is now risen and glorified – who again humbles Himself to become present to us, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity – is now found in the Most Holy Eucharist. Intimately tied to our Lord's Incarnation, the gift of the Most Holy Eucharist is the mystery by which He continues to make his dwelling among us here and now.

Sadly, as multiple surveys conducted in recent years have shown, belief in the true and real presence of the Lord in the Most Holy Eucharist has declined significantly, even among those who self-identify as Catholics and who attend Mass regularly. This disturbing trend should be a cause of great concern for us all, but we must not lose hope!

In response to these trends, the Bishops of the United States have recently approved a catechetical document on the Most Holy Eucharist that is being prepared for publication in the new year. Plans for a national Eucharistic revival have also been approved. More information about these two initiatives will be forthcoming. It is my hope that they will reawaken and reinvigorate our understanding of this great gift of the Lord's presence in the most Holy Eucharist. In the meantime, let us pray with greater fervor throughout this Christmas season that these initiatives will be successful and that we will never take the miraculous gift of our Lord's birth, or of His abiding presence among us in the Most Holy Eucharist for granted.

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

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Michael R. Cote  
Bishop of Norwich

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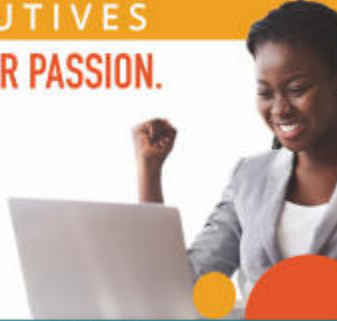
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