



**ST. JOHN CHURCH
5 ST. JOHNS COURT
CROMWELL, CT 06416**

Mass Schedule

**Saturday Vigil: 4:00 pm
Sunday: 7:30 am & 9:30 am**

Outdoor Distribution of Communion

**Saturday: 5:30 pm—5:45pm
Sunday: 11:00 am—11:30am**

Weekday Masses

Monday through Friday: 9:00 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 3:00 - 3:30pm

Chapel of Divine Mercy

24 hour Perpetual Adoration

Under the care of
**Conventual Franciscan Friars
of Our Lady of the Angels Province**

Pastor:

Rev. Mark L. Curesky, OFM Conv.

Parish Staff:

Jennifer Brecks - Administrative Assistant

Parish Office Telephone:

860-635-5590

Parish Office Fax:

860-635-5591

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9:30am - 1pm

Friday—Parish Office Closed

Faith Formation Office:

Karen Romegialli - Director

Anne Kaiser - Administrative Assistant

Faith Formation Office: 860-635-5156

Email: sjcffdre@gmail.com

Music Director and Organist:

Michael Mainella

Custodian:

Richard Hughes

Parish Website:

www.saintjohn-cromwell.org

**December 24 & 25, 2021 ♦ Christmas
&
December 26, 2021 ♦ The Holy Family**



The Nativity of the Lord

ST. JOHN CHURCH

Mass Intentions

Friday, December 24 - Christmas Eve - Parish Office Closed

4:00 Living & deceased of St. John Parish

8:00 Living & deceased of St. John Parish

Saturday, December 25 - Christmas Day

7:30 Living & deceased of St. John Parish

9:30 Living & deceased of St. John Parish

Sunday, December 26 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

7:30 Health of Marie LaMonica, r/b St. John Rosary Group

9:30 † Rosaria Spagnulo, r/b her daughter, Marie Bedard

The Rosary is prayed before Mass daily at 8:25 a.m.

Monday, December 27

9:00 Brian Twiss, r/b his mother, Theresa Twiss

Tuesday, December 28

9:00 † Fr Conrad Salach, OFM Conv.

Wednesday, December 29

9:00 † Paul Olsen, r/b his wife and daughters

Thursday, December 30

9:00 † William Hoder, r/b his family

Friday, December 31 - Parish Office Closed

No 9am mass

Saturday, January 1 - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

4:00 Living & deceased of St. John Parish

Sunday, January 2 - The Epiphany of the Lord

7:30 † Harry F. Twiss, r/b his wife, Theresa

9:30 Living & deceased members of the Iloeje family, r/b the family

St. John Prayer List

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Sarah Aresti, John Barry, Anne Bartolotta, Marie Bedard, RJ Bedard, Bob Byrnie, Maria Cabral, Ernie Cantwell, Janice Carlson, John Carlson, Melissa Carta, Frank Cartelli, Phyllis Cartelli, Mary Lou Conroy, D.F., Elisabeth DeMezzo, Laura DiDomizio, Maureen Fazzina, Janis Gianni, Amanda Jones, Maria Figueredo, Omelio Figueredo, Susan Haswell, John Haywood, Dolores Leightsinger, Jim L., Kelsey M, Susan Martin, Madeline McDermott, Rob Monnes, Jane Morello, Wynn Muller, Kelly Nardo, Judy Nocera, Nellie Nyren, Edmund O'Connell, Barbara O'Keefe, Bill O'Keefe, P.J., Jack Peterson, Donald Piskura, Raymond, Marc Revis, Damon Riddle, Daniel Rybczyk, Michael Salonia, Edward & Joan Siebert, Sue Stender, Jackie T, John P. Treschitta, Josephine Vallera & Jeremy Wilson.

Christmas Flower Donations

A donation was received from Joe & Ann Marie Fasciano in memory of their parents - Joe & Gladys Marinzal and Joe & Rose



Pastor's Musings

* The Gospel of John begins with: *"In the beginning was the Word, the Word was in God's presence, and the Word was God....The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we have seen his glory; the glory of an only Son coming from the Father, filled with enduring love."*

Who is this Word who became flesh? It is Jesus. God spoke the word LOVE through the birth and mission of his Son who is the Word of Love made flesh. He spoke the word FORGIVENESS through encounters people had with his Son and whose passion and death is the Word of Forgiveness made flesh. He spoke the Word of his desire for us to be with him eternally through the Word of RESURRECTION made flesh in the resurrection of his Son.

Through our celebration of the birth of Jesus, we are reminded that we are called to imitate what we celebrate: to give flesh to our words.

On the 3rd Sunday of Advent, we heard how people came to John the Baptist and asked him: "What should we do?" John the Baptist replied that "whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." (Luke 3:10-11) What John the Baptist was saying is: give flesh to your words. That is what you have done this Advent. You gave flesh to words.

You gave flesh to joy to the children and youth under the care of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) through your gift of (144) \$25 gift cards for Amazon, Kohl's, Walmart and Target. You gave flesh to compassion for those who hunger and seek help from Amazing Grace Food Pantry and DePaul Place in Middletown with (100) \$25 gift cards for Stop & Shop. You gave flesh to encouragement for the seminarians of the Diocese of Norwich with (14) \$25 VISA cards and (14) Amazon gift cards of varying values. You gave flesh to care and concern for the students at Adelbrook who need winter coats with a donation of \$500.00. You gave flesh to generous giving (which totaled \$ 7,340.00).

Your participation in the Knights of Columbus "Leave No Neighbor Behind" collection of non-perishable food, cleaning and sanitizing products and personal hygiene items gave flesh to empathy for your Cromwell neighbors who are struggling.

These are all elements of the Word made flesh God spoke through the birth of Jesus and his dwelling among us. The Word made flesh came among us as a light - to show us how we are to live in the world. That is the light emanating from the creche. May the light from the child in the manger come and dwell in our hearts and continue to be made flesh through our lives.

* Please note:

~ There will be NO 9 am Mass on Friday, December 31st.

~ Ordinarily January 1st dedicated to Mary, the Mother of Jesus, is a holy day of obligation. However, this year, January 1st is not a holy day of obligation. Therefore, the Mass schedule is our ordinary Mass schedule for Saturdays and Sundays: Saturday, January 1st: 4 pm Mass and Sunday, January 2nd: 7:30 am Mass and 9:30 am Mass.

Merry Christmas!
fr. Mark

CHRISTMAS DAY & THE HOLY FAMILY

Faith Formation

Office: (860) 635-5156

DRE: Karen Romegialli

E-MAIL: SJCFFDRE@GMAIL.COM

Faith Formation Office Hours

Mon, Tues & Thurs 9:30am - 1:30pm or by appointment

We wish all our Faith Formation Families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

There will be no classes Saturday 12/25 - Monday 1/3. Classes will resume on Saturday 1/8, Sunday 1/9 and Monday 1/10.

The new schedules are posted on the website and sent home with your child.

The Faith Formation Office will be closed starting Thursday, 12/23 and will reopen Monday, 1/3.



We wish the following faith formation students: **Angela, Brendan, Brianna, Giada, Joseph, McKenzie, Nicholas & Peyton** birthday blessings as they celebrate their birthday this week.

Perpetual Adoration - Divine Mercy Chapel



The Chapel is open to the general public from 7 am to 9 pm and to “committed adorers” with an access code from 9 pm to 7 am.

If you would like more information or are interested in becoming a “committed adorer,” please contact Roger Beliveau at 860-983-3648 or the Chapel’s email: Chapel5@frontier.com.



The Story of Christmas at Greccio

St. Francis of Assisi is credited with creating the first nativity scene in the year 1223 in a cave near Greccio, Italy. Francis, recalling a visit he had made years before to Bethlehem, resolved to create the manger scene. The ideal spot was a cave in nearby Greccio. He prepared a trough with hay from which the donkey and oxen were fed. The donkey and ox stood beside the manger. The people in town arrived carrying torches and candles.

St. Francis stood before them and began to read the old story of the birth of the Child Jesus, of the shepherds in the fields, and of the angels' song. When the reading ended, Francis talked to them as a father might speak to his children. He told of the love that is gentle as a little child, that is willing to be poor and humble as the Baby who was laid in a manger among the cattle. He begged his listeners to put anger and hatred and envy out of their hearts, and to think only thoughts of peace and good will. It is said that as St. Francis was preaching, he beheld a living baby in the trough. All listened eagerly while Francis spoke, but the moment he finished the great crowd broke into singing. From the church tower the bells rang loud; the torches waved wildly, while voices here and there shouted for Brother Francis and for the Blessed Little Christ. Never before had such glorious hymns nor such joyous shouting been heard in the town of Greccio.

Today in Greccio, one can still see the stone, approximately three feet high and two feet wide, on which the hay was placed. The top has a rough, shallow, v-shaped indentation where baby Jesus was laid. There were no figures of Joseph and Mary, just the two animals. For Francis, this simple celebration was meant to recall the hardships Jesus suffered even as an infant.

*God grant you peace at Christmas
And fill your heart with cheer,
God grant you health and happiness
Throughout the coming year,
God guide you with His wisdom
And keep you in His care –
This is my special wish for you,
This is my Christmas prayer.*

Merry Christmas



DECEMBER 26, 2021



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,

Bishop of Norwich

ST. JOHN CHURCH PARISH POLICIES

BAPTISM: Parents desiring to have their daughter/son baptized must be a registered member of the Parish and need to call the Parish Office to make the necessary arrangements. If this is their first child, they must participate in a Baptismal Preparation process prior to the Baptism.

REGISTERING AS A PARISHIONER: To register as a parishioner, please call the Parish Office.

SPONSOR CERTIFICATES: To obtain a sponsor certificate from St. John Church for the Sacraments of Baptism or Confirmation, one must be a registered, active and supporting member of St. John Church for at least 6 months.

MARRIAGE: Arrangements for a wedding need to be made in person by the parties of the proposed marriage at least one year in advance and prior to setting any date.

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING: is given to those who are seriously ill or about to undergo surgery. Please call the Parish Office, 860-635-5590 to make arrangements.

Readings for the week of December 26, 2021



Not finding [Jesus], they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. - Lk 2:45-47

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

Monday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40

Friday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18

Saturday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

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