



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

January 2, 2022



THE EPIPHANY *of the Lord*

*"Since from you shall come a ruler,
who is to shepherd my people Israel."* Mt. 2:6b

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

ST. JOHN CHURCH

Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 1

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

Monday, January 3

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

9:00 † Edward & † Constance DeMinio - in memory of their 65th wedding anniversary, r/b their sons John & James

Tuesday, January 4

9:00 † James Geraghty, r/b Judy McCain

Wednesday, January 5

9:00 † Francesco (Frank) Briganti, r/b his family

Thursday, January 6

9:00 † Francesco Sanzo & † Vincenzo Cromo, r/b Antonio Sanzo

Friday, January 7 - Parish Office Closed

9:00 † Fr. Vincent Lachendro, OFM Conv, r/b Vickey Hickey

Saturday, January 8 - The Baptism of the Lord

4:00 † Ann (Passamano) Bellobuono (6th month anniversary) & † Tony Bellobuono (16th anniversary), r/b their niece, Betty Jean, Fred & Rick Terrasi

Sunday, January 9 - The Baptism of the Lord

7:30 † Dario & Bettina Cecchini, r/b Ron & Johanne Cecchini

9:30 Physical healing for Veronica Pedemonti, r/b Jean Roncaioli

Our prayers and heartfelt sympathy go out to the families of



Edward T. Caffrey, Jr.
brother of Jean Tatro;

Dolores Russo
sister of Mil Branciforte
and

Sebastian Passamano

Please keep them and all our departed in your prayers

Your Sacrificial Offering

December 19, 2021

Weekly Collection: \$4,170.00

Online Giving: \$1,110.00

Total: \$5,280.00

Christmas Collection

Weekly Collection: \$12,290.00

Online Giving: \$135.00

Total: \$12,425.00

December 26, 2021

Weekly Collection: \$2,803.00

Online Giving: \$755.00

Total: \$3,558.00

Thank you for your sacrificial giving.

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, Jasmine Masse, 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 & Rosi Wittman.

Pastor's Musings

As we welcome a new year, a prevalent custom has been to make a resolution or resolutions to make changes in ourselves or in the way we are living.

I would recommend a slightly different approach. Instead of proposing to make a change or changes, what if you asked yourself what are you bringing into the new year. What have you learned from your experiences in 2021? What wisdom drawn from what you have experienced in 2021 are you bringing into 2022?

Wisdom is gained through the facing of challenges. It is a strength by which you can meet the challenges of the new year. Your awareness of this strength can be a source of peace.

Wisdom is not something you achieve alone. Our faith challenges us to open our eyes to see how the Spirit of God is operating within us and plays a part in the wisdom we draw from our experiences.

You are going into the new year stronger and wiser. You are not the person who entered the year 2021. You are going into 2022 with wisdom.

God bless and happy New Year!
Fr Mark

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Faith Formation

Office: (860) 635-5156
DRE: Karen Romegjalli
E-MAIL: SJCFFDRE@GMAIL.COM
Faith Formation Office Hours

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



We wish the following faith formation students: **Jenna, Erin, Nolan & Ryan** birthday blessings as they celebrate their birthday this week.

Young Adult Mass with Bishop Cote



On Sunday, January 30th, St. Thomas Aquinas in Storrs is delighted to host Bishop Michael Cote for the 4th Annual Diocesan Young Adult Mass & Reception. All Young Adults (ages 18 - 39, single and married) are invited and encouraged to attend! Young Adults are welcome to invite friends to join us! Mass with Bishop Cote will begin at 7:00pm and following the liturgy there will be a social in the Catholic Center.

For more information, please contact Liza Roach at lroach@norwichdiocese.net or call (860)848-2237 ex. 305.

Open House at St. John Paul II



Please join us for an open house on Sunday, January 30th from 12pm to 3 pm at St. John Paul II Catholic School - 87 South Main Street in Middletown, CT.

Please note: Face masks are required while inside the building.



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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.

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 and downloading the nomination form or contacting Marianne at manicholas@norwichdiocese.net. The deadline for submission is January 7, 2022.

NEW YEAR PRAYER:

Thank You Lord for giving me
The brand new year ahead.
Help me live the way I should
As each new day I tread.
Give me gentle wisdom
That I might help a friend,
Give me strength and courage
So a shoulder I might lend.
The year ahead is empty,
Help me fill it with good things
Each new day filled with joy
And happiness it brings.
Amen.



The Feast of the Epiphany - The Story of Christmas Continues

It is believed that the Three Wise Men, also known as Magi or Kings— Melchior, Gaspar (also called Caspar) and Balthazar — gifted Jesus with gold to signify his status as King of the Jews, frankincense representing the infant's identity as the Son of God; and finally, myrrh that touched upon Jesus' mortality

December 25 is the day we observe the birth of the baby Jesus in a stable/cave in Bethlehem. The story, however, does not end there. In many countries, there are a few Christian traditions that are carried on for 12 days.

The 12-day tradition ends around January 6, which is known as the feast of the Epiphany. On this day, people believe that the magi or three wise men or three kings came to see the new born baby Jesus.

Who were the three wise men and what did they bring?

The three wise men are identified as Melchior, Gaspar (also called Caspar) and Balthazar. The first wise man hailed from Persia while the second and third hailed from India and Arabia respectively.

Usually, on Christmas day, people depict and understand that the three wise men/magi/kings came to the stable/cave in Bethlehem, but by traditional celebrations they visited him on the 12th day post-Christmas.

Significance of the Epiphany:

The Three Kings Day or Epiphany, is an official recognition and commemoration of the arrival of the Magi; hence resulting to be one of oldest holidays in the Christian calendar. However, Roman Catholics celebrate this special feast of the Epiphany on January 6. However, this year, Epiphany is being celebrated on January 2.

Reference to these three wise men/magi/kings is made in Chapter 2 of the Gospel of Matthew. According to the Gospel, the wise men/magi/kings had followed a big bright star that took them to the house where Jesus, Mary and Joseph were. They then presented Jesus with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Frankincense was a type of incense that was very expensive. Myrrh was a perfume in olden times and in ancient Egypt. It was also used in embalming processes. It would also be used in the oil to anoint kings.

Today we are asked to imitate the Magi. They do not debate; they set out. They do not stop to look, but enter the house of Jesus. They do not put themselves at the center, but bow down before the One who is the center.



Why Is There A Star On Top Of My Christmas Tree?

There are many different toppers that people put on the top of their Christmas trees. Many people display a star on their Christmas tree.

The gospel of Matthew 2:1-2 says, “After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, ‘Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.’”

When the Magi saw the star, they studied the words of the prophets and understood that the star was announcing the birth of a king.

Their first stop was in Jerusalem where they checked with King Herod. Surely, a king would be born in the palace, surrounded by royalty! King Herod, however, knew nothing of this new king. Herod spoke to his advisers who told the King that the prophets declared the baby would be born in Bethlehem.

Herod passed this information onto the Magi, sending them on their way to Bethlehem to look for the child. Herod asked the Magi to let him know when they found the child so that he might come and pay his respects as well. In reality, Herod intended to kill the baby. He would not take any chances that a messiah might have entered the world who would one day take his throne from him.

Matthew then wrote of the Magi, “After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.” (Matthew 2:9-10) The star led the Magi right to the house where Jesus and His family were. “They entered the house where the child and his mother, Mary, were, and they fell down before him and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” (Matthew 2:11)

Clearly, the Magi understood that this child was no ordinary Baby. They had been directed to His location by a supernatural star in the sky. They worshiped Him and presented gifts provides us with an idea of how important they understood this Child’s birth to be. When the Magi were ready to leave, they did not report back to Herod. God had spoken to them in a dream not to return to Jerusalem. Instead, they just mounted their camels and started for home.

After the star guided the Magi to where the Baby was, it was never referred to again. The star had done its job and pointed the way to Jesus. Even though this special star would never be heard from again, Jesus Himself would be referred to as, “the Light of the World.” Listen to how John describes Jesus, “The light shines through the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it...The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was going to come into the world.” (John 1:5,9).

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 January 2, 2022



“And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.”
- Mt 2:6

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

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/Lk 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/Jn 3:22-30

Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22 or, Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 [1]/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

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