



**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

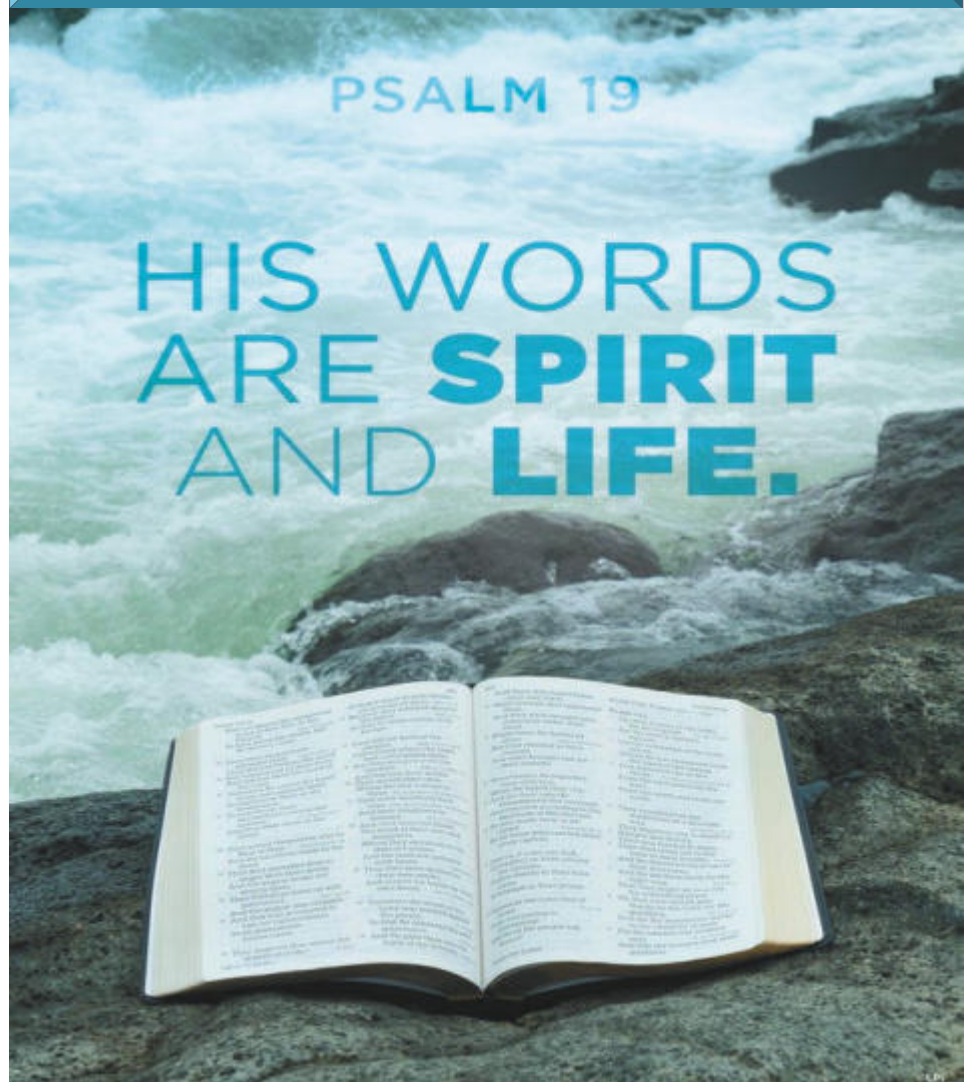
Custodian:

Richard Hughes

Parish Website:

www.saintjohn-cromwell.org

January 23, 2022



ST. JOHN CHURCH

Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 22 - Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 † Domenic Iozzo, r/b the family

Sunday, January 23 - Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 † Anthony & † Dorothy Cecchini, r/b Ron & Johanne Cecchini

9:30 † Irene Kowalski, r/b her daughter, Cathy

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

Monday, January 24

9:00 † Isabella Gozzo, r/b her grandparents

Tuesday, January 25

9:00 † Francis Monnes Conroy (5th anniversary), r/b the family

Wednesday, January 26

9:00 † Dorothy & † Jack Geraghty, r/b Judy McCain

Thursday, January 27

9:00 † Bob Moran, r/b William Conroy

Friday, January 28 - Parish Office Closed

9:00 † Liberata Tino, r/b Antonio Sanzo

Saturday, January 29 - Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 † Remembering Maryellen Amabile on her birthday, r/b her daughter, Tonilynn

Sunday, January 30 - Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 Sheila M. Milano, r/b Terri Twiss

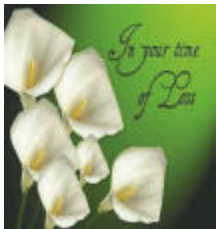
9:30 † Edward Kowalski, r/b his daughter, Cathy

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, Robert Ceruti, 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 & Luca Verzura.



Our prayers and heartfelt sympathy go out to the family of

Rosibel "Rosi" Wittman
Please keep her and all our departed in your prayers

Your Sacrificial Offering

January 16, 2022

Weekly Collection: \$4,055.00

Online Giving: \$1,005.00

Total: \$5,060.00

Thank you for your sacrificial giving.

Pastor's Musings

This Sunday is known as "**Sunday of the Word of God**". It was initiated by Pope Francis in 2019 and first observed in 2020. It is devoted to the celebration, study, and dissemination of the Word of God/the Bible/the Scriptures.

In this weekend's Gospel, we hear Jesus proclaim after he had read a passage from the prophet Isaiah: "*Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.*" In this way, Jesus reminds us that the Word of God is dynamic. It is not a book that, once read, is closed and placed on a shelf; rather it is a living presence capable of transforming and sanctifying our lives. Opening the Bible means personally encountering God who turns to each one of us, personally and communally, and reveals himself and makes known his presence in our lives.

Here is one approach to encountering Jesus through the Scriptures. It is called imaginative prayer. It was developed and practiced by St. Ignatius of Loyola. It is meeting of God through story. The prayer develops as you "live into" a Scripture story with all your senses and imagination. You become a participant in the story, and you continue in the story in your heart, mind, imagination, spirit and body after the reading ends.

What follows is an outline of how this works:

1. Choose one story of Jesus from the Gospels.
2. Find a quiet and comfortable place and take a few moments to settle in. God is already there. So you begin with a prayer that acknowledges his presence.
3. Read the story you have chosen slowly and then read it again.
4. Put the Bible down and try to imagine the story. You first need to decide who you are in it. Are you an observer or one of the disciples or one of the characters? Then try to imagine the scene. Notice not only what you see, but what you hear and smell and feel. What is the weather like? What can you touch near you? What sounds are you aware of?
5. Notice what Jesus does and says. Does he say anything to you? Notice how you feel and respond.
6. When you are done, spend some time talking to Jesus about what has happened in your imagination.
7. Finally, reflect on your encounter with Jesus.

Over time, this will become more and more a living encounter with a friend. Here is what a person said about his experience of this approach: "*My experience of reading the gospel stories this way has been profoundly transforming. Jesus went from being a historical character to a living reality. There were moments when He approached me in my imagination with words and gestures that shifted things deep in my soul. He literally walked out of the pages of the New Testament and into my story.*"

God bless,
fr. Mark



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 are continuing to take caution with Faith Formation classes. An email with specific details was sent to all faith formation families.



We wish the following faith formation students: **Mateo, Emily & Sophia** birthday blessings as they celebrate their birthday this week.

X XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL

\$25,000 Cash Raffle



The Xavier High School \$25,000 cash raffle is winner take all. Tickets are \$100 each. Only 800 will be sold. The drawing will be at 11 a.m. on April 1 at Xavier High School. You do not need to be present to win, but you must be at least 18 years old to purchase.

Tickets may be purchased by mailing a check (no cash) to Xavier High School, 181 Randolph Road, Middletown CT 06457. They also can be purchased online at xavierhighschool.org. Click on Alumni & Giving, and then click on \$25,000 Cash Raffle. For more information, contact the advancement office at 860-346-7735. Proceeds benefit the Xavier Annual Fund.

Open House

Xavier High School will have an Open House on Tuesday, February 8th from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Come see the campus as well as meet faculty, staff, and coaches. Xavier students are given the tools and resources to grow and take on whatever challenge is next. Academics. Athletics. Clubs. Activities. Faith. Friendship. This is what they are about. You can register at xavierhighschool.org. Click on Admissions and then Open House. For more information, please contact the Director of Enrollment Management Matthew McCaffrey at 860-346-7735 x743.

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.

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.

6th Annual Knights of Columbus Charity Bowl



DeSoto Council #6 of the Knights of Columbus in Cromwell is hosting a bowling fundraiser to support its charitable works. Everyone is invited to support the event which will be held on Sunday, February 20th from 12:00 – 3:00pm at Bowl-O-Rama in Newington. \$20/bowler (\$15 kids 12 & under) includes 2 games, shoes, pizza & soda. Prizes and raffles as well. This is a great family-friendly event that benefits those in need! Advanced registration is preferred, please visit www.cromwellkofc.com/charitybowl.htm for registration details. Inquiries can be sent to cromwellkofc@yahoo.com.



Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords Scholarships



The Executive Board of the Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords is requesting applications for its annual scholarships to be awarded to students from Middlesex County pursuing a career in nursing or music who have been accepted at an accredited college or university. The review committee will consider academic records, extracurricular and community service activities, the student's ability to articulate his/her career goals and the recommendations of references. The \$1,000 scholarships will be paid directly to the recipients at the Spring Concert at Portland High School, Saturday May 7th, 7:00 pm. Applications are available at the school guidance office or by calling Dianne at 860-344-0743. Deadline is Tuesday March 8th. Visit vocalchords20.org for more information.

Singers Wanted

Do you like to sing. but can't read music? No problem! The Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords has many members just like you who love to sing. No auditions necessary! Just a love of music, singing and a commitment to rehearse every Tuesday night. Proof of Covid 19 vaccination required for all members.

Rehearsals start Tuesday February 1st at 6:45 pm at St. Francis Church, Msgr. Fox Parish Hall, 10 Elm St. Middletown. A spring concert will take place on May 7th at Portland High School.

For more information, visit www.vocalchords20.org, check us out on Facebook (Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords-and don't forget to Like us when you're there) and Instagram (mhvocalchords) or call Joyce (860-342-3120) or Diane (860-347-2787). We're looking forward to having you join our Vocal Chord family!



Virtual Marriage Enrichment



For Valentine’s Day this year, give your spouse the gift of your time and re-energize your marriage by attending a virtual enrichment entitled *The Joy of Love* on Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022, from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. Based on Chapter 4 of Pope Francis’ *Amoris Laetitia: the*

Joy of Love, the enrichment will feature four talks on Daily Love, Conjugal Love, Passionate Love and Transformation of Love. Each talk will include practical insights from Pope Francis’ wisdom on marriage and family life. This enrichment is for married couples of all ages and years married. There is a \$15 fee that covers workbooks for each couple. Registration and payment are due by Feb. 1. The program takes place online and requires participants to have an internet connection. To register, send your names, address, telephone number, email address and check made payable to the Annual Catholic Appeal to Mary-Jo McLaughlin, Catholic Family Services, 199 Broadway, Norwich, CT 06260 or call her at 860-848-2237, Ext. 312, or email her at mmclaughlin@norwichdiocese.net.



What does Christian unity mean?

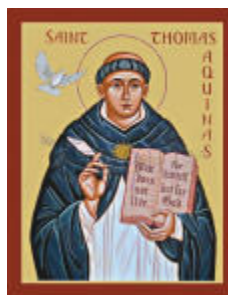
Trust is, of its very nature, unifying. Trust means total emptying of all our possessions, spiritual and material, that we may find God anew in our present world. It sends us all back again to learn to pray so that through direct communion with God, we are empowered to live by God's Spirit.

Food for Thought

“Go, eat rich foods and drink sweet drinks, and allot portions to those who had nothing prepared...” (NEHEMIAH 8:10)

Ezra’s instructions to the people show us that God does not forbid us from enjoying the good things in life. He wants us to be happy! However, God expects us to be grateful for all that He has given us and to generously share our blessings with those who are in need. Now here’s the hard part – to share all we have without expecting anything in return.

Saint Thomas Aquinas Saint of the Day—January 28th



St. Thomas Aquinas stands as one of the great giants among both intellectuals and prayerful disciples in the Catholic tradition.

He was born to nobility around 1225 in Aquino, Italy.

As a young child, Thomas was educated at the nearby Monte Cassino monastery, whose abbot was a family relative. At the age of thirteen, he was

sent to the University of Naples, where he met the Order of Preachers, the order founded by St. Dominic. He joined the community at the age of 19.

His family did not mind his commitment to a religious community—his mother had imagined him one-day becoming abbot of Monte Cassino—but they stridently opposed him joining a community that was so committed to poverty. They kidnaped him and kept him in confinement at home for two years, trying to dissuade him. Finally, his family gave up and permitted him to return to his the Dominicans. He was sent to complete his studies under St. Albert the Great and be ordained a priest at the University of Cologne. His classes there were full of clerics from all over the continent and discussions were lively. Thomas, being new, was humble and reserved, and his peers mistook him for unintelligent. They called him a “dumb ox.” That notion was soon dispelled as his intelligence began to shine.

Thomas’ piety and devotion were even greater than his learning and he would spend hours in prayer. It was said that when he celebrated Mass, he would be overcome with emotion and fall into tears, utterly absorbed into the Eucharist. He often said that he learned more at the foot of the cross than he did from books.

Thomas received his doctorate and taught at the University of Paris and traveled in Italy with the pope’s court, preaching. He also began his large body of writing, which included commentaries on Scripture and philosophical works.

His writing was accompanied by devotional ecstasy in which he was enthralled in prayer. On one occasion, his body was lifted into the air and his brothers came in to marvel at the sight. Several times, he beheld Jesus speaking to him from a vision, saying, “You have written well of me, Thomas; what reward would you have?” Thomas would reply, “Nothing but yourself, Lord.”

On the feast of St. Nicholas one year, during Mass, he received a revelation that affected him so greatly that he left his great work, the *Summa Theologiae*, unfinished. “The end of my labors has come,” he said. “All that I have written appears to be as so much straw after the things that have been revealed to me.”

At the age of 50, he fell sick from a serious illness and died. He was declared a doctor of the Church after his canonization, a title given to 36 saints who are known for elucidating the faith by their words or example. He is the patron of all universities and schools.

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 23, 2022



“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor...and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.”- Lk 4:18a, 19

Sunday: Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/1 Cor 12:12-30 or 12:12-14, 27/Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Monday: 2 Sm 5:1-7, 10/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 25-26/Mk 3:22-30

Tuesday: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Ps 117: 1bc, 2/Mk 16:15-18

Wednesday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 27-28, 29-30/Mk 4:1-20

Thursday: 2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29/Ps 132:1-2, 3-5, 11, 12, 13-14/Mk 4:21-25

Friday: 2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6a, 6bcd-7, 10-11/Mk 4:26-34

Saturday: 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 16-17/Mk 4:35-41

Next Sunday: Jer 1:4-5, 17-19/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 15-17 [cf. 15ab]/1 Cor 12:31—13:13 or 13:4-13/Lk 4:21-30



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