

## LOCATION

Christ the King Rectory  
84 Somerset St.  
Wethersfield, CT 06109  
p: 860-529-2545 f: 860-529-5861  
w: [christthekingparishct.org](http://christthekingparishct.org)  
e: [corpuschristi1@cox.net](mailto:corpuschristi1@cox.net)  
[facebook.com/ChristtheKingCT](https://facebook.com/ChristtheKingCT)

## MASS SCHEDULE

Daily Masses  
Mon. – Sat. 7:30am  
Weekend Masses  
Sat. – 4:00pm Vigil  
Sun. – 8:00am 10:15am  
5:15pm—first Sunday of the month  
Daily and Saturday Vigil Masses  
also live-stream on Facebook  
Reconciliation Sat. – 2:30pm  
Holy Hour Sat. – 8:00am-9:00am

## PARISH STAFF

### Pastor

Rev. Nicholas P. Melo  
[frnickmelo@gmail.com](mailto:frnickmelo@gmail.com)

### Senior Parochial Vicar

Rev. James M. Moran

### Parochial Vicar

Rev. George Vellaplackil  
[fgvellaplackil@gmail.com](mailto:fgvellaplackil@gmail.com)

### Deacon

Michael Cassella  
[mecassella@gmail.com](mailto:mecassella@gmail.com)

### Administrative Assistant

Rose Melvin

### Business Manager

Niki Bordieri

### Bulletin Editor

Audrey Saharek

### Music Director

Thad Terzo

### Plant Manager

Greg Silva

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### Director of Religious Education

Sharon Reynolds  
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## CORPUS CHRISTI SCHOOL

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e: [schoolmail@corpuschristischoolct.org](mailto:schoolmail@corpuschristischoolct.org)  
w: [corpuschristischoolct.org](http://corpuschristischoolct.org)

### Principal

Ann Sarpu

### Secretary

Ann Marie Spina



# CHRIST the KING PARISH

## Corpus Christi Church

601 Silas Deane Highway  
Wethersfield, CT 06109



## Our Parish Mission Statement

*Nourished weekly at the Table of the Lord, we go forth as disciples of Jesus to proclaim what we believe through our every word and deed.*



## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.  
- Mt 2:10-11

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1979 CCC. 06/19

## BAPTISM

After 10:15am Sunday Mass  
Registration is required.  
Please call the rectory office.

## SACRAMENTS FOR THE SICK

We are happy and honored to visit the sick or homebound.  
Please notify the rectory.

## MATRIMONY

Please contact rectory office at least six months in advance.

JANUARY 2, 2022 — EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

# WELCOME

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**BEYOND BIBLE STUDY**  
*MONDAY, 7:00pm.*

**CHOIR PRACTICE**  
*TUESDAY, 6:30pm. Meet in choir loft.*

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**  
*THURSDAY, 1:00pm. Meet in St. Joseph Hall.*

**SANDWICH COLLECTION**  
*SATURDAY AND SUNDAY*  
*Drop off sandwiches before Mass.*

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**  
*Saturday 8:00am—9:00am*



*This is the last bulletin produced at the Christ the King Rectory. Beginning next week, all bulletins, CTK and Incarnation—will be produced at the Incarnation Rectory. The bulletin editor is Audrey Saharek. Please forward any information to be included in a bulletin to her at [ahsaharek@cox.net](mailto:ahsaharek@cox.net). Thank you.*

## CANDLES—JANUARY 2—JANUARY 8

### SANCTUARY CANDLE #1

*Burns this week in memory of Amenta and Pappalardo Families, requested by Mary Jane Densmore.*



### SANCTUARY CANDLE #2

*Intention Available.*

### BLESSED VIRGIN 7-DAY CANDLE #1

*Intention Available.*



### BLESSED VIRGIN 7-DAY CANDLE #2

*Intention Available.*

## MASS INTENTIONS

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 1

*Vigil—Epiphany of the Lord*  
*4:00pm Mass Intention Available.*

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 2—EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

*8:00am Mass Intention Available.*  
*10:15am Ted Jachym, requested by his wife.*  
*5:15pm Mass Intention Available.*

### MONDAY, JANUARY 3— Holy Name of Jesus

*7:30am Rosa Gibilisco, requested by the family.*

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 4—Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

*7:30am Pope Family, requested by Tomaino family.*

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5—Saint John Neumann, Bishop

*7:30am Vito Bellamo, II—7th Anniversary, requested by a friend.*

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 6—Saint Andre Bessette, Religious

*7:30am Steve Clinch, requested by friends.*

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 7—Saint Raymond of Penafort, Priest; First Friday

*9:00am John Loura, requested by the family.*

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 8—Christmas Weekday

*7:30am Mass Intention Available.*

### Vigil—Baptism of the Lord

*4:00pm Nelson E. Daigle, Sr.—7th Anniversary, requested by his wife and children.*

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 9—BAPTISM OF THE LORD

*8:00am Mark Carpino.*  
*10:15am Rose Pascone, requested by her family.*



# WORD TO THE FAITHFUL

## Pastor's Corner

Who were those wanderers who, unimpressed by King Herod, did homage to a newborn babe

and allowed an angel to change their travel plans? Our crèche sets, carols and myths tell us they numbered three - an idea deduced from the gifts Matthew mentions - but there's no reason to think that there were not more of them: more people and more gifts.

By tradition, they are called kings. If so, probably no more than ourselves who are baptized as priests, prophets and kings. Better we call them the Magi, a title that hints at mystery, magic and miracles.

Historians say it's unlikely that their story reflects any verifiable event. For us, more important than historical fact is the reason Matthew made this part of his Gospel.

First of all, Matthew borrowed key details for his story from Isaiah's prophecies. Isaiah assures the people who have been in darkness that the light of God's glory will shine on them and that their faith will attract people from afar who

will come bearing gifts. With that, we have the background for the star, the travelers, the camels and the gifts: all signs of the advent of God's salvation.

Matthew is commenting on Isaiah and portraying Jesus as the fulfillment of ancient hopes. He begins his Gospel with Jesus, Emmanuel, endangered among his own people and revered by representatives of the Gentile world. Then he ends his Gospel with Christ's command to make disciples of all the nations and the promise that as our Emmanuel, he will remain with us until the end.

What does this narrative mean for us today as we begin the year 2022? Perhaps in these uncertain times (will COVID-19 ever end, what will our new parish become?) the Magi can be our guides. More than the time and money required for their journey, they possessed a key combination of self-confidence and desire for more meaning in life. These attitudes urged them to read the signs of the times and to venture into the unknown. They humbly believed there was more wisdom in the world than they had yet discovered. Thus, they set off in a caravan that became the first Christian pilgrimage.

As we begin this new year we too are setting off, as the Catholic community in Wethersfield on a pilgrimage that will bring us together as one parish. God is leading us where we need to go, if we but follow His star, if we but have the courage to read the signs of the times and venture into the unknown.

Back on December 19th, we included in the bulletin an insert with Frequently Asked Questions concerning the transition process. It is available on the websites of both Christ the King and Incarnation Parishes. We also now have a dedicated email address for you to submit questions, comments, concerns or suggestions to the Transition Committee ([incarnation.ctk@gmail.com](mailto:incarnation.ctk@gmail.com)).

I am excited by the possibilities given us for the future of our Church in Wethersfield. I am appreciative of the energy and enthusiasm of our Transition Team. And I look forward to joining you on this journey as together we build the Father's Kingdom of true and lasting peace.

**Father Nick**



Dear friends,

With mixed emotions and a little bit of sadness, I am writing you this final Sunday message for you, especially the JOKE. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your appreciation and encouragement for my bulletin article and especially for the Jokes. "There is a time to be born and a time to die; A time to plant and a time to uproot the plant; A time to tear down and a time to build..." Such was written centuries ago by

the Old Testament writer of Ecclesiastes reflecting upon the reality of life itself with all the changes from birth to death and back again. Of course, we all know this fact of life so very well.

I was recently informed by the archbishop of Hartford that my time at Christ the King parish is come to end by January 10, 2022, and I am appointed as a Parochial Vicar of St. John Bosco parish in Branford.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Fr. Nick Melo. He was like a friend and a brother to me. He was always good to me.

And special thanks to the hundreds of volunteers in our parish, without whose help we really could not be a parish. I thank our Deacon Michael, the choir director, choirs, Religious Education directors and teachers, church greeters, ushers, Eucharistic ministers and lectors, church cleaners, altar decorators, money counters, altar servers, parish and finance councils, trustees, and the volunteers, and of course the former and present rectory and Corpus Christi School secretaries, faculties, staff, maintenance people.

.....continued on next page

# OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

## FROM FATHER'S DESK—Continued

*It is with immense joy and profound gratitude that I express my appreciation for welcoming me so warmly into your parish family for the four and half years as a priest, a son, a grandson, a friend and a brother. You have extended your hospitality to me so generously, and with the compassion of Jesus, embraced this stranger with your love and made me feel at home at Christ the King Parish.*

*I simply say from the depth of my heart- thank you! And finally, I thank almighty God — I offer Him my deep and prayerful expression of gratitude. I pray for the continued grace to serve Him and His people.*

*I am going to India from here for a short vacation on Jan 10th. When I come back on Feb 2nd, I will not come back to here, I will go to St. John Bosco parish in Branford.*

*Thank you for everything that you have done for me. You are very good people. You will be in my heart.*

*I will remember you in my prayers always. And I ask for your prayers and blessings for my ministry.*

*I wish you and your family and our*

*School the very best for a blessed, joyful and peace-filled spiritual life for all of you.*

*May the Blessed Mother help you. May St. Joseph protect you. May the Lord Jesus Christ be with you always. May God bless you and your family abundantly with good health, joy, and peace throughout this New Year.*

*Have a great week and here is a thought;*

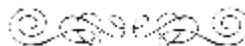
*“There will be a meeting of the Church Board immediately after the service,” announced the pastor.*

*After the close of the service, the Church Board gathered at the back of the sanctuary for the announced meeting. But there was a stranger in their midst — a visitor who had never attended their church before.*

*“My friend,” said the pastor, “Didn’t you understand that this is a meeting of the Board?”*

*“Yes,” said the visitor, “and after today’s sermon, I suppose I’m just about as bored as anyone else who came to this meeting.”*

**Father George**



With joyful hearts, we welcome our parish's



**October 10, 2021**  
**Amelia Eve Dennehy Bogdan**  
 daughter of  
 Richard J., II and Anna

**October 17, 2021**  
**Leo Alexander Daspit**  
 son of  
 Ryan and Alexandra

**October 31, 2021**  
**Tucker John Portonova,**  
 son of  
 Francis John, III and Morgan Emily

**November 14, 2021**  
**Maverick James Shine**  
 son of  
 Joseph and Brittney

**December 5, 2021**  
**Charlotte Olivia Mersereau**  
 daughter of  
 Jonathan and Taylor

**December 19, 2021**  
**Annabelle Marie Kleza**  
 daughter of  
 Kyle and Anne

## Parish Support

December 19.....	\$4,090.00
On-Line Giving.....	\$ 1,919.51
Christmas.....	\$7,269.00
December 26.....	\$5,000.00
On-Line Giving.....	\$3,844.51
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$22,123.02</b>

*We are so grateful to all who continue to support Christ the King Parish with your prayers and financial contributions!*

**Consider online giving!**

Sign up on our Parish website

**Please PRAY for all the sick of our parish.**



## WEEKLY FOOD DRIVE

*We will continue to collect food for our Town and Hartford Churches each week. Ongoing food needs per the Wethersfield Hunger Action Taskforce include:*

*Canned green beans, carrots, and peas, canned ravioli, ramen noodles, instant oatmeal, soups (Chunky or Progresso), snacks, jelly, peanut butter, and pasta sauce.*



# JOIN US

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



**Next Week: January 9**

Grades 1-6  
9:05am-10:05am

Grades 7-8  
6:00pm-7:00pm Class

Grades 9-10  
6:30pm-7:30pm Class

## SANDWICH COLLECTION FOR THE HOMELESS

The Social Action Committee will be collecting sandwiches for the homeless next weekend.

**January 8-9.**

Please deliver sandwiches to the church vestibule before a weekend Mass.



Thank you for supporting this need.

## IMMACARE MEAL

The ImmaCare shelter had a Covid outbreak a couple weeks ago that they could not eradicate. They decided the only way to clear this up was to move all the current residents to a hotel to quarantine until the 20th of January. Therefore, we will not provide a meal this month.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed on **Sunday, January 9 at 12:00pm** to take down the Christmas decorations in the church. If you have some time to spare, please drop by. Thank you.



## AOH JANUARY FOOD DRIVE

The Ancient Order of Hibernians Hartford Division 2 is sponsoring a Food Drive on **Sunday, January 16 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

Collection will take place at Christ the King in the parking lot that is between the church and the middle school. This drive is part of the regular parish food collection. We will be there after the 10:15 a.m. Mass for anyone that wants to donate. The food will be given to the pantry at Saint Augustine Church in Hartford. Please bring non-perishable items with canned meats and soup in the greatest need in addition to pinto and pink beans. We are also looking to collect cooking oils, spices and condiments.

The need for pantry donations is high in the winter month after the holiday drives are over. Thanks to all for their generosity!



## FRIDAY ROSARY

Due to the uncertainty of the weather in January and February, the Friday Rosary group will not meet. However, private recitation of the Rosary on Fridays is an option. Watch the bulletin for further information.

## FATHER GEORGE'S DEPARTURE

It is with mixed emotions that we have been informed that Archbishop Blair has transferred Fr. George Vellaplackil from our parishes here in Wethersfield to Branford, and is moving Fr. Zacharias Pushpanathan from Oakville to Wethersfield. We thank Fr. George for all he has done since the inception of Christ the King Parish. His enthusiasm, his willingness to serve the spiritual needs of our community, and one cannot forget his weekly jokes in the bulletin will all be missed.

We also welcome Fr. Zacharias who will be part of our team as we transition into a single parish for our community. He will begin next Monday - January 10th.

We invite you to a farewell reception for Fr. George today **(Sunday, January 2)** after the **10:15 Mass in St. Joseph Hall.**

Father George's New Address:

St. John Bosco Parish  
731 Main Street  
Branford, CT 06405



# LEARN AND GROW

## EAST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

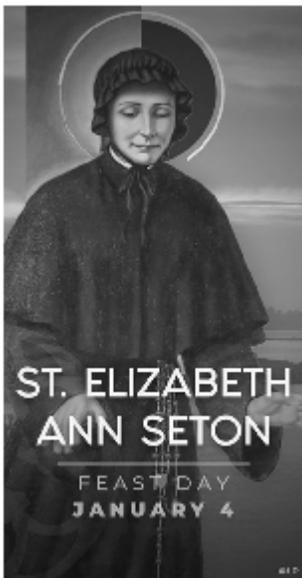
East Catholic has rolling admissions, so prospective students have plenty of opportunities to begin the admissions process. Our Entrance Exam will take place on **Saturday, January 22nd @ 8:30 a.m.** To pre-register, please go to [https://www.echs.com/Visit\\_ECCHS](https://www.echs.com/Visit_ECCHS).

Our Shadow Day program is back!!! If your 8th grader would like to discover the "taste of East", please go to [https://www.echs.com/Visit\\_ECCHS](https://www.echs.com/Visit_ECCHS) to begin the process of scheduling a visit.

It's also a perfect time to fill out the admissions application by visiting our website, the Admissions tab.

#WeAreEC!

## ST ELIZABETH ANN SETON | JANUARY 4



The patron saint of Catholic schools, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (August 28, 1774 - January 4, 1821) was born in New York City to a prominent family of the Episcopal faith. When she turned 19, she married a wealthy businessman with whom she had five children. He later died of tuberculosis in 1803, leaving her a young widow. After discovering the Catholic faith in Italy, where her husband had died, she

returned to New York and converted to Catholicism in 1805.

After several years struggling as a single mother, Elizabeth moved in 1809 to Emmitsburg, Maryland, where she founded the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph, the first community for religious women established in the United States. She also began St. Joseph's Academy and Free School, which started a chain reaction of Catholic-based education in the United States that continues today.

## CORPUS CHRISTI SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Happy New Year! Corpus Christi School will be celebrating Catholic Schools Week from January 30th - February 4th. We will begin the week with a Mass of Thanksgiving. The entire community is invited to join us for Mass in person on Sunday, January 30th at 10:15 A.M. at Corpus Christi Church. Immediately after Mass, we will hold an Open House at Corpus Christi School until 1 P.M. Parishioners, alumni, current and prospective families are invited to attend. Tours of the school will be available and faculty, students and parents will be on hand to answer questions.

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## HOMELESS BAGS

Thank you for all you donations this far. Because of your generosity we have been able to make 400 bags to be distributed thus far. We recently made 100 bags for children. These will be distributed to the children in need in Hartford for Christmas. They will receive snacks, warm hats and mittens.

We have currently collected \$2300. All this money is matched by a generous donor. They will continue to match up to \$100.



We are continuing this project. Our next assembly will be January 30. Our religious education students will be assembling an additional 400 bags.

We have created an Amazon link to make it a little easier for purchases.

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/315TLCG70N9S0?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/315TLCG70N9S0?ref=wl_share)

We continue to collect in church and accept monetary donations.

The success of this endeavor is all because of your incredible generosity!

Thank you and God bless you all during this Christmas season.



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**Nancy W. Tonucci**

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