

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish

545 Stratfield Road

Fairfield, CT 06825-1872

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Email: info@olaffld.org

Website: <https://www.olaffld.org>

*“Ad Jesum per Mariam”
To Jesus through Mary.*

Clergy/Lay Leadership

Rev. Peter A. Cipriani, Pastor

Rev. Michael Flynn, Parochial Vicar

Deacon Raymond John Chervenak

Deacon Robert McLaughlin

Michael Cooney, Director of Music

Daniel Ford, Esq., Trustee

Masses (Schedules subject to change)

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4 PM

Sunday Masses: 7:30 AM, 9 AM 10:30 AM
and 12:00 PM (Subject to change)

Morning Daily Mass: (Mon.-Sat.) 7:30 AM

Evening Daily Mass: (Mon.-Fri.) 5:30 PM

Holy Days: See Bulletin for schedule

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 1:30- 2:30 PM or by appointment.

Every Tuesday: 7-8:00 PM

Rosary/Divine Mercy Chaplet

7 AM Monday-Saturday, Rosary

8 AM First Saturday of each month, Rosary

3 PM Monday-Friday, Divine Mercy
Chaplet and Rosary

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

First Friday of each month from 8 AM

Friday to 7:15 AM Saturday. To volunteer
contact Grand Knight, Michael Lauzon at
(203) 817-7528.

Novenas

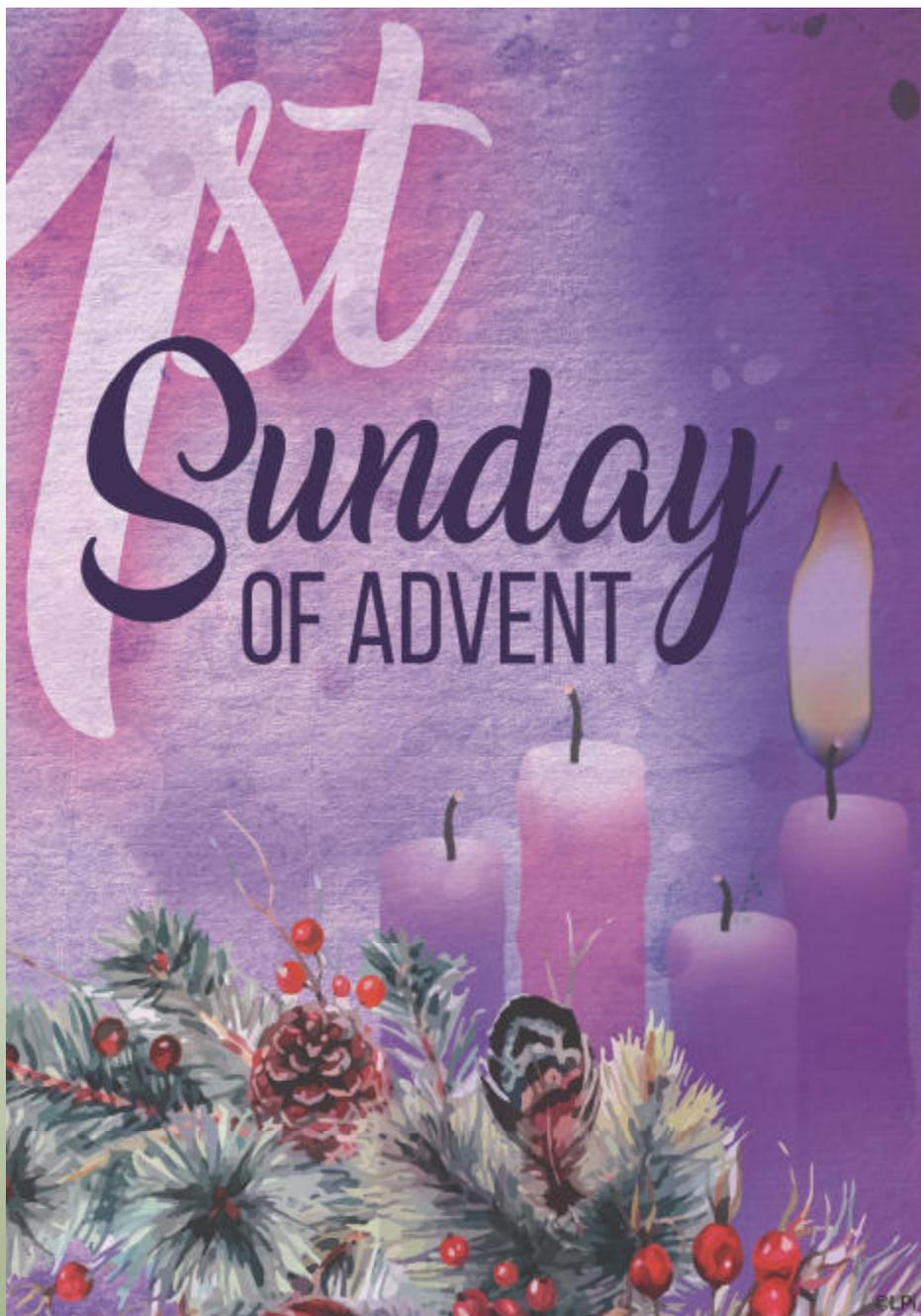
Miraculous Medal-8 AM. Monday

Saint Joseph-8 AM. Wednesday

Divine Mercy-8 AM. Friday

Parish Membership

Our parish family invites all of its members to participate fully in our spiritual and social life. Every family moving into the parish is requested to register at the Rectory or go to our website for a registration form. If you move to another parish, or change your address, notify the Rectory.



Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

Anyone interested in becoming a Roman Catholic becomes a part of this process, as can any adult Catholic who has not received all the Sacraments of initiation. For further information contact the Faith Formation office.

Sacrament of Baptism

This Sacrament is celebrated on Sundays at 1:00 PM. It is required that parents participate in a Pre-Baptismal class. Classes are held on the third Saturday of the month. Registration is required by calling the parish office.

Sacrament of Marriage

Please contact the parish office as soon as possible so as to ensure a proper time and adequate preparation for this Sacrament. Pre-Cana or Engaged Encounters are required.

Anointing of the Sick Ministry to the Sick and Elderly

This Sacrament of healing expresses the love of God and our Church for our sick, our shut-ins and the elderly, unable to come to Church. For the dying, please contact the Rectory immediately. For the confined, the elderly and our shut-ins, whether at home, or in the hospital, please inform the Rectory.



- We Are Bethlehem -

Advent Begins

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you, while you wrought awesome deeds we could not hope for.

Back in 1989 a rather entertaining movie came out called Look who's Talking. During the opening credits we are given a fascinating though funny look from inside the mother's womb of the great miracle of conception. What then makes the movie truly unique from a character perspective is that the movie is seen and heard through the point of view of the child growing in that womb whose name will be Mikey.

The audience is able to hear all of Mikey's thoughts regarding being born and growing up in a world drastically different from the dark and rather aquatic world he had come from. When Mikey begins his journey at last from that womb into the light of day, like a roller coaster flying full speed along the tracks...his first reaction is "put me back, put me back" and as most babies begins to cry up a storm.

Certainly not your traditional Advent movie but nevertheless there is a close correlation between the creation and experience of Mikey's Character and the newly conceived Christ in the womb of Mary. Israel is desperate for a Messiah. Nothing is more destructive of self, family, extended community and country than sin.

The tension, the animosity, the fear and unsettling lack of peace that sin leaves in its wake of destruction is terribly unnerving. And to answer that prayer and our own prayers for peace, health and harmony God does rend those Heavens and come down, but not in a mountain quaking kind of way, nothing so loud and dramatic as that and yet no less awesome in the way He decides to do so...as once all of us did, in the still quiet of being conceived as the tiniest of lives in the darkness of a woman's womb.

And as this child, the one Isaiah describes as prince of peace, God-hero wonder counselor, Emmanuel God is with us, begins to grow how true it is those

words we heard today: "No ear has ever heard, no eye ever seen any God but you."

At the conclusion of our lives, once judgment has been passed upon us...we will receive what is truly the ultimate destiny, point purpose and meaning of all our lives: The Beatific Vision or beautiful vision of God. And we will literally be able to see Him, as we are able to receive His body and blood in the Holy Eucharist because once like us with our moms Jesus grew in the womb of Mary...having shaped for Him a human body just like our own, with a mind, spirit and soul just like our own minus the capacity to commit sin.

"Let us see your face and we shall be saved"...that beautiful face that we will be able to see in joy forever is given to us by the Blessed Virgin Mary. And not just that wonderful face but His entire body and all his human features Jesus takes from one source of humanity and that is Mary.

We are able to receive Jesus in Holy Communion, hear His voice in the proclamation of the Holy Gospel and see Him as clearly as we see each other in this Church, because during that first Advent, He grew ever so quietly in the womb of Mary. And like Mikey, except not in Hollywood fashion...Jesus had full awareness of who He was, where He had come from and where He was in the womb.

For Jesus was possessed of the Beatific Vision as well...having always before Him the vision of His Father, remaining as He first and foremost and always was...God. God is in the womb of Mary and He continues to have God thoughts and those thoughts are of us and how much He loves us. Whether in the eternity He rended and burst forth from, the womb of Mary, growing up in Nazareth, working in the Carpenter's shop, dying upon the cross or laying in the tomb...Jesus knew us intimately by face and name...and was seeing us and loving us the whole journey through this life back home to Heaven.

Look who's talking, look who's crying, who's shivering, who's hungry, who needs his diaper changed, who needs a roof over his head...it is Emmanuel... God with us...whose face and entire little infant body is hidden in the womb of Mary.

And interesting it is that the town where He would be born Bethlehem means House of Bread. More than any town or any cave, inn or King's palace...there is no more significant, more palatial and more beautiful House...than Mary...the true Bethlehem...

For from her body, she is forming for us the Bread of Life who we receive in Holy Communion so that like Mary we may be Houses...Homes of Bread for the Bread of Life so that with Mary, like she had done visiting her pregnant cousin Elizabeth, we may take the hidden Christ, Mary-like within us, to the whole world.

And though the fullness of His presence may be hidden within us...the radiating power of His love need not be...His face need not be since we are created in His image and likeness...and that look upon his face that we image in our own must be one of inviting tenderness, compassion, kindness and yes even joy.

We are told today by Jesus to watch since we do not know when the Lord of the House is coming. But if we remain faithful...especially by way of attending Church...we know exactly when the Lord of the House is coming and who that house or rather that home is...it is us...who receive the Lord of Life and Love into our bodies that He might than fill our hearts and souls with peace, strength and healing.

We all crave peace and security, we want the confidence that all we have and all we love are safe

and that no harm or danger will ever come to them.

Never has there been a more safe and secure place for us than the womb of our mothers. In a state of utter dependence, all life and nourishment is provided for us. No wonder one of the more insightful quotes from Look who's talking is:

"You spend the first nine months trying to get out and the rest of your life trying to get back in." This world and the evil and suffering in it, no doubt leaves more than just the mountains quaking...it leaves us trembling especially for the children so many of you are making every effort to raise in this world and keep safe.

But the reality is as with the infant Christ, we must strike out into the light of day and often the darkness of the day...and bring the love and presence of Christ into it. But we need to have that presence within us...not abort it by our refusal to practice our faith and attend Church. As with Mary, during Mass the Holy Spirit will make present Jesus Christ for us but more so within us...and that presence and that life will continue to grow as we nourish this life by way of our faith and daily prayers.

And with so powerful a presence of love within us, the most powerful in fact...what the world is most waiting for...the saving love of a Savior will be given to it...from our hearts, our hands, our souls our entire bodies. More than a town on a map, we are Bethlehem...and the Lord of the House...the Bread of Life dwells within us...with Mary and with joy let us give Him to all who are in our life and we encounter each day.



First Sunday of Advent November 29, 2020

Temporary Parish Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9 AM to 4 PM
Closed on Wednesday, Friday, 9 AM to 12 PM

Assumption Catholic School

Mr. Steven J Santoli, Principal - (203) 334-6271
Grades: Pre-K 3 through 8 Hours: 8:40 AM - 3 PM
Before and After School Programs Available
(Before School program begins at 7:00 AM and After School program ends 5:30 PM)

Faith Formation

Mr. Frank Macari, Director - (203) 367-1108
Email address: Our.lady.assumption@snet.net
Tuesday Classes For Grades 1-5 from 4-5 PM
For Grades 6-8 from 7-8 PM
Office of Faith Formation Hours: Weekdays 10 AM - 3 PM
and Tuesdays 10 AM-5:30 PM

Parish Finance Council

Our parish Finance Council is a consultative body of lay persons established to advise the pastor in matters pertaining to the financial affairs of the church. The chairman is Ron Fiske, (203) 330-0375.

Parish Activities

American Heritage Girls Troop #4862: Monthly (except summer), 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 4:00 PM, parish center. For girls ages 5-18. Jillian Plomin at jplomin@gmail.com. Currently suspended

Altar Society of St. Joseph the Worker: Monthly, 1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month following 7:30 AM Mass. Cleans and beautifies the Sanctuary and chapels in the church.

Alcoholics Anonymous Friday, 8:00 PM, parish hall.
Narcotics Anonymous Wednesday 7:30 PM, parish hall.

Bible Study: Thursdays, 9:15 AM and 7 PM, parish center. Study sessions will be posted in our bulletin. Currently Suspended

Choir: Adults: Wednesday, 7 PM in the church.

Resurrection Choir: Sings at funeral Masses. Contact Michael Cooney, Director of Music, at (203) 572-2213 or email music@olaffld.org for details. Currently suspended

Knights of Columbus: Monthly, 2nd & 4th Tuesday, 7 PM parish hall. Grand Knight Michael Lauzon at (203) 817-7528 or email mplauzon@aol.com.

Parish Nurses: Monthly, 2nd Wednesday, Sept. to June, at 7 PM St. Vincent Medical Center

Blood pressure screening: Currently suspended

Sisters in Faith: Monthly, 2nd Monday, 7 - 9 PM, parish hall, except July & August. Ministry for women of Assumption Church. Mary Garbe at marygarbe@gmail.com.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, November 28th

4:00 p.m. Albert Lachance, Malcolm Lachance

Sunday, November 29th

7:30 a.m. Special Intention of Bobbi Vetere

9:00 a.m. Tom Evarts

10:30 a.m. Antonio & Claudio Cawit

12:00 p.m. Adoracion Villaflor

Weekday Masses

Mon. 11/30 7:30 a.m. Martin Batey

5:30 p.m. Guillaîne Farrell

Tues. 12/1 7:30 a.m. Angelina Lopiano Lupariello

5:30 p.m. Marino Picone

Weds. 12/2 7:30 a.m. Tomislav Kolarich

5:30 p.m. John Peter Langeveld

Thurs. 12/3 7:30 a.m. Luisa Marie Vaz & Family

5:30 p.m. Sara Heagerty

Fri. 12/4 7:30 a.m. Reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

5:30 p.m. Linda Pucci
(1st year Anniversary)

Sat. 12/5 7:30 a.m. Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Saturday, December 5th

4:00 p.m. Martin Shea

Sunday, December 6th

7:30 a.m. Arthur Manento

9:00 a.m. Barbara Rediker

10:30 a.m. Deacon Kevin Moore

12:00 p.m. Dorothy Samsel



*Our Sanctuary Light
Will burn this week
In loving memory of
Robert E. Cacase*



*Our Devotional Light
Will burn this week
In remembrance of
Angelina Lopiano Lupariella*

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Mary Alberico	Letitia Ciccio	David Iassogna
Josephine Amiot	Brendan Crosby	Tim Lambert
Christopher Amiot	Nicholas DeMaio	Robert Lancia
Solange Anziano	Michael Devaney	Eugene Madara
Lorraine Artale	Fred Eichhorn	Peter Maioriello
Ellie Art	Diane Fasanella	Leroy Moye
Carol Bertanza	Charlie Gordon	Jeff Pond
Michael Black	Edward Grosso	Dave Reynolds
Eleanor Bruckmann	Suzanne Hannan	Robert Walker

November 14/15

2020

Weekend Offertory: \$2,669.00

Online Giving: \$2,353.00

Due to the early submission required for this bulletin, the offertory collection for November 21 and 22 will appear in a our next bulletin.

Thank You

Online Giving

We realize many of our parishioners are still not be able to attend Mass regularly, please consider making your offertory through Online Giving. Please visit our website and click on the Tab "Donate" and create an account.

Miraculous Medal Mass

The origins of the Medal of the Immaculate Conception, commonly known now as the Miraculous Medal because of the countless miracles associated with it since its inception, is dated to 1830 in Paris, France when Mary appeared to St. Catherine Labouré, a novice with the Daughters of Charity. Mary directed Catherine to have the Miraculous Medal struck and distributed. Countless numbers of people who have worn the medal have experienced the graciousness of God's love and mercy through the intercession of our Blessed Mother. The Miraculous Medal is one more special way in which we share with Mary the Mission of drawing others closer to her son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

A Mass will be offered this coming Monday, November 30th at 5:30 PM. Miraculous Medals from the Rue De Bac Parish Apparition Site will be blessed and distributed during Mass.

Blessing and Lighting of the Crèche



Please come share in the spectacular blessing and lighting of the crèche led by our Knights of Columbus and Fr. Cipriani on **Tuesday, December 1st immediately following the 5:30 PM evening Mass. All are welcome. Masks are required.**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Will take place on **First Friday, December 4th**, following the 7:30 AM Mass and will conclude on **First Saturday, December 5th**, prior to the 7:30 AM Mass. **Due to Masses on Friday at 9:00 AM and 5:30 PM the Blessed Sacrament will be reposed from 8:45 to 10:00 AM and 5:15 PM to 6:00 PM.** Come and spend an hour with Jesus.



Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Tuesday, December 8th is a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses will be celebrated on:

5:30 PM Vigil December 7th
7:30 AM
12:10 PM
5:30 PM



As with our weekend Masses, registered parishioners will be required to sign up for a Mass via a link received in an email.

Best Advent Ever

Making 2021 the Best Year of Your Life Starts with Advent! **Just 4 Minutes!** Sign up for this totally free and inspirational videos sent to your email each day to help you slow down, think and pray in preparation for Christmas. Reflect about the video all day. Apply the ideas to your life. And while you're at it, have a cookie! Please visit: <https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/advent/best-advent-ever.html> to sign up for emails.



Christmas Flowers in Memoriam



Remember your loved ones during this Christmas season in a very special way by making a Christmas Flower donation in their name. A memorial list will be displayed in our parish bulletin during the Christmas season. Please use the envelope provided in your envelope packet. Flower envelopes may be placed in any offertory basket or you can mail it to the rectory. **Due to the early submission of our bulletin during Christmas, please return your donation and completed envelope by Monday, December 14th.**

Sandy Hook 8th Anniversary

You, your family and friends are invited to attend this **special Mass on Sunday, December 13 at 10:30 AM** to pray, honor and pay tribute to the 20 heavenly angels, their 6 loving protectors who lost their lives on December 14, 2012, and their faithful and devoted families. Father Peter Cipriani is honored to be your celebrant for this most reflective and compassionate Mass.

2020 Daily Mass Intentions

Mass intentions for our daily Masses at 7:30 AM & 5:30 PM are still available in 2020. There is no more important and more effective and powerful form of prayer than the Mass. Please contact the parish office to offer a Mass in remembrance of a loved one who has passed or a special intention of the living. The **Mass stipend amount is \$15 and is due at the time of scheduling.**

Assumption Church Giving Tree

This weekend Assumption Parish will continue our Christmas tradition of the Giving Tree. These gifts will be donated to various local charities in our area serving children, teens, adults and seniors.

Take a tag or two from the **TREE or WREATH** located in church. Tags will also be available in bins on the table next to the tree. Please help us with the collection of gifts by following the guidelines below:

- **Purchase the gift**
- **Place in gift bag, please do not wrap**
- **Attach original gift tag**
- **Return gift(s) by the tree in Church by Sunday, December 13th**



Thank you for your participation. Your gift will make someone very happy this Christmas!



ADVENT



HOPE. LOVE. JOY. PEACE.

Advent Calendar Ideas

As we anxiously wait for the year 2020 to end...for us as Christians we don't have to wait until January 1st...thank goodness! The New Church or Liturgical Year begins the first day of Advent which is the weekend after Thanksgiving.

One of the great Advent Family Traditions that needs to be resurrected is the Advent Calendar. Typically for the kids, when the "door" or "drawer" of each day is opened, the child received a treat. The truth is Advent is not a season of receiving. Like Lent...it is a penitential season of "giving" as in making sacrifices in preparation for the Lord's coming. With that in mind, why not come up with some innovative ideas for this year's Advent Calendar...though the first step in the process is to either purchase one or make your own. And there are literally hundreds of them from religious themes to Disney themes what have you. The point is that you and your family immerse yourselves into the Advent Season. Here are some Calendar ideas:

For a Newly Married Couple: Decide who gets even days and odd...for each of those days...have a recommendation "behind that door" for you as a couple to do...it can be as simple as saying a specific prayer together...cooking a meal together...what better way to prepare for Christmas then by each day celebrating your marriage and doing things that highlight the "holy" in Holy Matrimony.

Advent Saint Calendar: There are 26 days of Advent...there are 26 letters in the Alphabet. For each day starting with "A" research a Saint whose name begins with that letter and share with the Family.

"When I was hungry you gave ME food...thirsty you gave ME drink...when ill you visited ME...whatever you did for the least of MY brothers and sisters you did FOR ME" says Jesus. The Advent Mercy Calendar. For each day, suggest a work or act of mercy that you can perform like participating in a food drive, clothing drive, make a meal for a shut-in etc. Read Matthew 25:31-46 for more ideas.

The Advent Scripture and Prayer Calendar: For each day read a passage of Scripture together and/or learn and recite a different prayer...there are so so many.

The Advent Gratitude Calendar: Each day write a letter to someone you are grateful for and tell them why.

As you can imagine, the Advent Calendar possibilities are "endless"...whatever you decide to do please do not let this Advent season get away without entering into its empowering Spirit of peace, love, penance, healing and joy. Not only will it ensure you have the best Christmas ever but will provide quite the momentum for a great NEW YEAR ahead!

Advent 2020 Family Calendar

The Diocese of Bridgeport's Leadership Institute has made it easy for your family to download and print your 2020 Family Advent calendar, filled with suggestions for making this year's season of hope something special. Please visit: <https://formationreimagined.org/> to download.

Readings for the Week

Sunday:	Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/1 Corinthians 1:3-9/ Mark 13:33-37
Monday:	Romans 10:9-18/Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [10]/ Matthew 4:18-22
Tuesday:	Isaiah 11:1-10/ Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 [cf. 7]/Luke 10:21-24
Wednesday:	Isaiah 25:6-10a/Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Matthew 15:29-37
Thursday:	Isaiah 26:1-6/Psalm 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/Matthew 7:21, 24-27
Friday:	Isaiah 29:17-24/Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/ Matthew 9:27-31
Saturday:	Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26/Psalm 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. Is 30:18d]/Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
Next Sunday:	Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11/Psalm 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/2 Peter 3:8-14/Mark 1:1-8

Communion Antiphon

"The Lord will bestow his loving kindness, and our land will yield its fruit." - Psalm 85: 2



Come gather as a parish family on **Sunday, December 20th at 4:00 PM** for our **Seventh Annual Lessons and Carols**. This unique service of scripture and music is presented by your music ministry, featuring our parish choirs and special guests. First established in 1918 at Kings College, Cambridge England, the Lessons and Prayers have remained virtually unchanged. Reflect on the message of the Angels in heart and mind, scripture and song. This is the story of salvation history culminating with the Incarnation. What better way to prepare for the birth of our Lord and Savior! Please wear your mask!

R.C.I.A. Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults *Who is it for?*

It is for you:

- If you have not been Baptized or received First Communion/Confirmation
- If you as an adult want to know more about your faith
- If you feel your faith is just a habit and you want to know more

It could be for:

- Someone interested in knowing about the Catholic faith
- Someone who might consider becoming a member of the Catholic Church
- Someone who has no church to call their own
- Someone who is a member of another faith community and has expressed an interest in the Catholic faith

Please contact the Faith Formation office at **203-367-1108** for more information.

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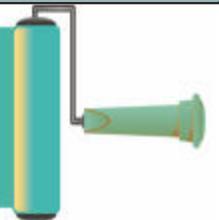
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