December 24, 2017 Fourth Sunday of Advent
The Nativity of the Lord

CHRIST THE KING PARISH

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

<u>WWW.christthekingchurch.net</u> 1 McCurdy Road, Old Lyme, CT 06371 Reverend Joseph C. Ashe, Pastor ~ Reverend Walter Nagle, Parochial Vicar



SACRAMENTAL LIFE

Sacrament of the Eucharist:

Weekdays: Mon-Fri: 7:30 am Weekend: Sat. Vigil: 5:00pm Sunday: 8:00 am & 10:30 am Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession):

Saturday: 4:00pm-4:30pm and *anytime* by appointment.

Sacrament of the Sick and Ministry to the Sick:

Please call the rectory anytime a person is sick and would like to be anointed or visited.

Sacrament of Baptism:

Please call our parish office to arrange pre-Baptismal instruction and the time of the ceremony.

Sacrament of Holy Orders:

Contact Fr. Joe Ashe or Fr. Walter Nagle, 860 434 1660, if you want *to learn more about becoming a priest or a deacon*, or contact Fr. Greg Galvin at the Vocations Office: 860 887 9294.

Sacrament of Matrimony:

Preparation for marriage must begin at least six months before actual ceremony. Please call our parish office.

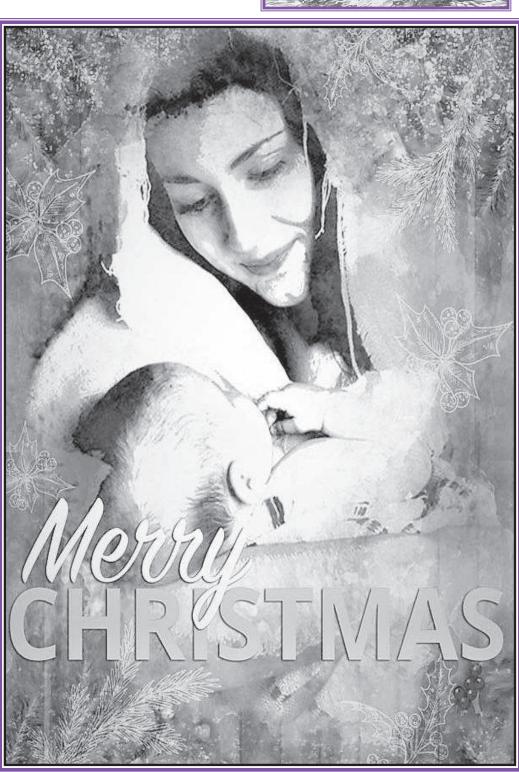
Sacrament of Confirmation:

Confirmation preparation begins in the 9th grade and the sacrament is received in the 10th grade. Adults can join the **RCIA program**; contact the parish office.

Holy Days of Obligation: 7:30am & 6:30pm (No evening Mass the day before the Holy Day.)

The Rosary is prayed Tuesdays at 7pm in the parish library.

Open to all!



MASS Schedule this week:

Dec. 23 St John of Kanty, Priest Joseph Elinsky r/b his wife 5:00pm

SUNDAY Dec. 24 4th SUNDAY of ADVENT/ **CHRISTMAS EVE**

8:00am Bud McCarthy

10:30am Tom Lombardo r/b George and Fran Perchal

5:00pm Christmas Vigil The Parishioners of **CTK**

12:00am Midnight Christmas Mass The Parishioners of CTK

Mon. Dec. 25 THE NATIVITY of THE LORD 9:00am The parishioners of Christ the King

Tues. Dec. 26 St. Stephen, First Martyr Robert Tyson r/b the Lennard family 7:30am

Wed. Dec. 27 St. John, Apostle and Evengelist 7:30am

Fr. William Meyers

Thur. Dec. 28 The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

7:30am Carol Moriarty r/b Bob and Susan Staab

Fri. Dec. 29 St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr

7:30am Orlando Lopez r/b Gina Wilcox

Sat. Dec. 30

10:30am

5:00pm Jephson O'Connell

SUNDAY Dec. 31 The Holy Family; New Year's Eve

8:00am Don McCue

> John and Carrie Torrenti r/b John & Eileen Torrenti Martin and Marge Carney r/b John & Eileen Torrenti

Tom Lombardo r/b George and Fran Perchall

The SANCTUARY lamp for December will be lit for Joseph Elinsky.

WHY DO WE DO THAT?

Q: Why do the Gospels differ in their details? I was surprised to learn that not all of the Gospels tell the same stories, for example, the Nativity. Doesn't this take away from their credibility?

A: Take any event that happens, from family trips to national politics and ask two or three different people to explain what happened. You will get a different version of the same story. People tend to tell the story from their perspective, and past experience shades what we recall and how we recall it. Our choice of words and what details we leave in or out is also influenced by the audience who is listening to our tales.

The Gospel writers are no different. Each one tells the story of Jesus from their own perspective. Versions differ in some details. not because one is true and the other is not, but because each Gospel writer, or Evangelist, has a different theological point to communicate as well as a different audience for whom he is writing. He picks and chooses the details of his Gospel based on what message he is preaching, what his audience may already know, and what message they need to hear. The various details of the Gospels point more to their authenticity as a record of the church's experience and understanding of Jesus. In a good study Bible, the background notes for each Gospel contain a lot of information that helps us better understand each Evangelist and his message.

A closer walk with Thee (takefiveforfaith.com)

Saint John of the Cross, a Spanish mystic, was born in 1542. He wrote The Dark Night of the Soul, which explores the doubt and spiritual dryness all serious Christians experience on their spiritual journey. Though difficult and painful, the dark night of the soul is an invitation to a deeper closeness with God through greater trust and abandonment to God's will. Saint John wrote, "Oh night that guided me, Oh night more lovely than the dawn." During the holiday season it's not unusual for people to experience doubt and emptiness. Ask Saint John of the Cross to pray for you, to shore up your faith and encourage you on your way toward God.

CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR MASS

Sunday, Dec. 24: 5:00pm - Christmas Vigil with Pageant



and Youth Choir 12:00am - Midnight Christmas Mass (Music prelude begins at 11:30pm)

Monday, Dec. 25: 9:00am - Christmas Morning Mass

Monday, Jan. 1: 9:00am - Solemnity of Mary, The Holy

Mother Of God (Not a Holy Day of Obligation THIS year.)

Recognize God in Your Everyday Moments

Last year we waited much too long to buy our Christmas trees. We usually have one in the living room and then one by the large window in our room that sits at the front of the house. Essentially, there is one for us to see and then one for all the neighbors walking their dogs in the December cold. If you wait too long to buy a fresh tree you might just not find a tree. But last year I found one tree lot I had not bought from in the past. Luckily, they had some great trees. The price was a little higher than I was used to but a tree would be mine no matter what.

What I found interesting at the lot was a group of about nine young people sitting around a fire, laughing and drinking coffee. I wondered, "All of these people for a tree lot late at night and this late in the season?" What I found out was these weren't paid workers. These were recovering drug and alcohol addicts. This was their rehab's tree lot and this was their service and group therapy. I spoke to a couple of them and found they were the nicest people around. They were full of joy for the new life they had found and thankful for the people who helped bring them through the trial of their lives. Suddenly, that tree they sold me seemed more beautiful and majestic than it had when I first drove up.

This Christmas, may the Lord that slept in a manger provide for you rest. May the God that gives many gifts to all of us bless you abundantly. And may the Prince of Peace help you to find true gratitude for the gift of life. May you and yours feel the joy of the season, like a group of recovering addicts around a campfire on a cold December night. -Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

CHRISTMAS









Scripture Readings: Week of December 24, 2017

Sunday:2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/ Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Monday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 **Midnight:** Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 **Dawn**: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20

Tuesday: Acts6:8-10;7:54-59/Ps 31:3-4,6&8,16&17/Mt 10:17-22 **Wednesday:** 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8 **Thurs.:** 1 Jn 1:5--2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18

Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35 **Saturday**: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40

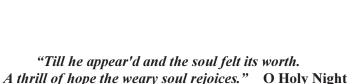
Next Sunday: Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3 or Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 105:1-6, 8-9, or Ps 128:1-5/Heb 11:8,11-12,17-19orCol3:12-21/Lk 2:22-40

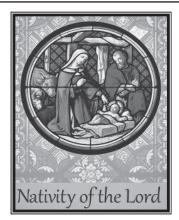


MOST REVEREND MICHAEL R. COTE, D.D.

Christmas Message 2017

Diocese of Norwich Office of the Bishop 201 Broadway Norwich, Connecticut 06360 (860) 887-9294





My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On this my fifteenth Christmas as your Bishop, I pray that the blessings and peace of the newborn Savior be yours in abundance and that you may know anew the depth of God's love for you. I am so grateful to be celebrating with you this grace-filled event of Jesus' coming into our world.

Christmas is best celebrated when we return to that first Christmas and celebrate its true meaning, Christ's birth. The Savior's birth unites us to God and to one another. As the Son of God becomes one of us, He not only joins us to God but he also makes possible our new status as God's children. His birth is celebrated in hearts that are open to God's love and in lives that share God's love through service to others, especially those in need. His love must be both lived and shared.

As we join in thanksgiving for the blessings we enjoy, we recognize, as disciples of Christ, that there are so many among us who need our help and comfort. There are families sadly separated from loved ones for the first time this Christmas. There are families coping with the loss of loved ones to eternal rest. We in the diocesan family profoundly miss our Chancellor and dear friend, Monsignor Brown, every day, even knowing he has reached everlasting glory in God's embrace. We know that Monsignor, at home with the Lord, is still watching over us with kindness and affection. Our faith helps each of us grasp the enormity of God's saving grace that brings strength and comfort when you lose someone in your life who means so much to you.

We recognize, too, that there are others suffering from illness, still others without work, or shelter, or the basic necessities of food, clothing, and medicine. All of our brothers and sisters in distress need to hear and see the message of God's love, the song of the Angels over Bethlehem, and the news of the Savior's birth. We must use our talents and gifts at Christmas and beyond to reach out joyfully and generously to hold every hand and lift every burden within our reach and power. We, ourselves, become the gift of Christmas.

In Jesus Christ, God is truly one with us. May astonishment and wonder fill our hearts. May our hearts and homes be mangers where Jesus lives, not only for a day but for all days! This Christmas, draw near to Christ. Find Christ in others, especially in the most vulnerable among us. Experience the joy of God's love in your life. The Church throws open its doors in welcome to you; come celebrate God's presence in the Eucharist with praise and thanksgiving. Invite others to join with you. "Take a step towards Jesus," into His open arms.

In the simplicity of that holy night in Bethlehem, life's deepest meaning is discovered. Our life is not complete without love, God's love. Merry Christmas to all! May the peace and joy of this holy season abide with you and your loved ones throughout the New Year.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Mucyael R Cots

Bishop of Norwich

Parish Contact Information:

www.christthekingchurch.net email: ctkoldlyme@aol.com Fr. Joe and Fr. Walter at the Rectory: 860-434-1660

Pastoral Associate and Director of Religious Education: Mrs. Louise Young 860-434-9873

Director of Music Ministry: Mr. William J. Thomas Secretary: Mrs. Margaret Kuhn

Office: 860-434-1669 open M-Th 8:30a-3:30p, Fri. 8:30a-12:30p fax: 860-434-7140

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Spiritual Renewal Services 11 Bath St, Norwich

Co-directors: Fr. Ray Introvigne & Judith Hughes 860-877-0702 At 11 Bath St., Norwich:

- ~ <u>Healing Mass</u>: Monday Jan. 8 & 22, 2018 @ 2pm at 11 Bath St , Norwich
- ~ Charismatic Prayer Meeting: Tuesdays @ 2pm, 11 Bath St, Norwich

Are you interested in becoming Catholic?

IS RCIA FOR YOU? Have you had a quiet recurring thought in your mind? There are many reasons to ask about the RCIA. Do any of these fit you?

- I have never been baptized.
- I am married to a Catholic and attend Mass, but don't know what the next step may be.
- I have been baptized in another Christian denomination and wish to become Catholic.
- I was baptized Catholic, but haven't received any other sacraments.

The journey begins with one small step! Ask Fr. Joe, or call Bob Staab, 860 434 5872, or email **Rta1ali1@aol.com**.

Retrouvaille of Connecticut

If... your marriage has become troubled and stressed, unloving or uncaring; even if you are divorced or separated but want to try again, the Retrouvaille program can help. Retrouvaille provides tools to communicate better, resolve conflicts fairly, and re-

to communicate better, resolve conflicts fairly, and rediscover why you fell in love. *The next Retrouvaille weekend is* **Jan. 19-21, 2018 in the Hartford area.** For information, call confidentially 413-525-1634 or 203-710-6207.

Or go to our website **www.helpourmarriage.com**

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest." Visit the NEW Caregiver Spirituality Webpage sponsored by the Office of Faith Events. Resources for caregivers include prayers, articles, books and websites offering both practical and spiritual support.

www.norwichdiocese.org/caregiver-spirituality-support-group



Get on board with God

"We believe in God . . . the Almighty," we pray at Mass every Sunday: We believe God to be all-powerful—to think anything less would mean God isn't God. If we look at the world around us, though, we see bad things happening to just about everyone. Where is the Almighty in all that? The church's answer has always been that "God grants his creatures . . . the dignity of acting on their own," as the Catechism of the Catholic Church says. That dignity can go two ways: either working with God to help bring about the reign of God, or not. How can you show your cooperation?



Thank you all for helping make our *Advent Giving Tree Project* a success! Later this month we will report back to you about what was collected and delivered to each of the four organizations. So on behalf of St Mark's Neighbor's Aid in St Paul, VA - St. Vincent de Paul Place in Norwich - the New Life Prison Ministry and - Madonna Place, we thank you all for helping make a Very Merry Christmas for those less fortunate. If you have any questions or would like to help out next year please call either Louise Young 860-434-1669 or Jo-Ann Staves 860-434-4374, or Maggy & Mike Kaczorowski 860-581-8102.

RECEIVE COMMUNION by making a throne: ONE HAND UNDER THE OTHER, READY TO RECEIVE our great King. -st. CYRIL OF JERUSALEM

Do You Ever Wonder?

(takefiveforfaith.com)

Every age has its own particular mindset through which the people view their world. Our 21st-century perspective could be called "scientific." Whatever we can see with our eyes and measure with our instruments, we believe. Eight hundred years ago the prevailing attitude was "wonder." In the Middle Ages all of creation was viewed as a symbol. It was a book in which every living thing was a word charged with meaning. The faithful were called to look through the visible to the invisible and, by reading nature, read the thoughts of God. Our amazing and helpful advances in science have sometimes come at the expense of wonder. Today, pray to the Holy Spirit for the lost gift of wonder and awe.

If you know someone is **homebound** or **in the hospital** and would like a visit from Fr. Joe or Fr. Walter, please call the office. 860-434-1669. Thank you.

DIOCESAN PRO-LIFE MASS

Sat., Jan. 6, 2018, 8:30am at St Patrick Cathedral, Norwich Pray for the pre-born, the sanctity of all human life, and healing for those who have had an abortion.

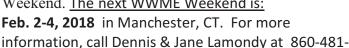
Join our own, Fr. Walter Nagle, celebrant. Rosary at church and "Planned Parenthood" abortion cite, 12 Case Street, Norwich following Mass. A brunch in the Cathedral Hall will follow the rosary this month!

The Power of Prayer is Endless.

For carpool, contact: FaythePapp@comcast.net or 860-304-8786 MiriamSimmone@sbcglobal.net or call 860-434-0757

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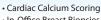
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