



Welcome to
Saint Gianna Parish
St. Brigid Church St. Helena Church
St. Mark the Evangelist Church
St. Brigid St. Augustine Partnership School

January 7, 2018
The Epiphany of the Lord

Reverend Joseph Devine, Pastor

Reverend William R. Metzler, Senior Parochial Vicar

Reverend Joseph Pullikattil, Parochial Vicar

Rev. Francis P. Johnson, Pastor Emeritus

Deacons Raymond J. Fugere, Robert J. Hilliard and James J. McCormack

St. Brigid Church

Rectory: 1088 New Britain Avenue
Elmwood, CT 06110
Phone: 860 236-5965
Fax 860 233-8016
Karla Dalley, Administrative Officer
Office hours: 8:00 am-3:00 pm daily

Website:

www.stbrigidwesthartford.org

Email:

stbrigidchurchwhct@sbcglobal.net

Religious Education

Donna Wolcott, Coordinator
(860) 543-2607
www.stbrigidCCD.com

Music Ministry

Natasha Ulyanovsky, Keyboardist
Kelly Boudreaux, Cantor
David Boudreaux, Cantor

St. Brigid St Augustine School

See inside the Bulletin for details

St. Helena Church

Parish Office: 30 Echo Lane
West Hartford, CT 06107
Phone: 860 521-1921
Fax: 860 521-1129
Marie Tofeldt, Administrative Asst.
Office Hours: 8:00 am -3:00 pm daily

Website:

www.sthelenawesthartford.org

Email:

sthelenawhct@yahoo.com

Religious Education

Donna Wolcott, Coordinator
(860) 521-3661
cre.sthelena@comcast.net

Music Ministry

Mario Petrella~Dir. Of Music Ministry

Rebecca Michel~Keyboardist and
Choir Director

St. Mark the Evangelist Church

Church Office: 467 Quaker Lane
South
West Hartford, CT 06110
Phone: 860 233-1269
Fax: 860 233-5791
Marion Valenti, Secretary
Office Hours: 10-12 and 1:00-2:30
Monday, Wednesday and Friday

Website:

www.stmarkwesthartford.com

Email: st_marks_church@net.net

Religious Education

LouAnn M. Warren, M.A., Director
drelawstmarks@yahoo.com
Sheila Litchfield, Secretary
Sheila.stmark@yahoo.com
(860) 236-3545

Music Ministry

Christa Rakich, Music Director
crakich@yahoo.com

The Celebration of the Grace of God Through The Sacraments

Baptism: Please call our respective church offices in advance to make arrangements.

Reconciliation: By appointment, or on Saturday St. Brigid 3-3:30; St. Helena 4-4:30; St. Mark 3:15-4:00.

Communion: For parishioners who are homebound or hospitalized, contact our respective church offices.

Marriage: Please call our respective church offices one year in advance
of proposed marriage date to make arrangements.

Holy Orders: Please call the Office of Vocations (860) 242-5573 or www.hartfordpriest.org.
You may also visit your parish priest or call our respective church offices for more information.

MassSchedule

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Saturday, January 6, 2018

- 4:00 PM** For the People of St. Gianna Parish—SB
4:30 PM Theresa Dolan By Robert Metzler—SM
5:00 PM Thresia Plathottathil, 8th Anniversary, by the Nguyen Family—SH

Sunday, January 7, 2018

- 8:30 AM**
9:30 AM Guise Chien Van Le by His Wife Nahn and Family—SH
10:30 AM Theresa Rita Marceau by Dominic, Ellen and Violet Vicino—SM
11:00 AM Grasinda Henriques by Her Sister and Family—SB
11:30 AM Syro Malabar Mass—SH

Monday, January 8, 2018

- 8:30 AM** Stefan Janusz and Wladslawa and Peter Mlodecki by Their Family—SB
9:00 AM Happy Birthday, Jen, Love Dad and Elaine—SH
9:00 AM Liza and David Santoro by Nancy and Art Spada—SM

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

- 8:30 AM** Mary Meade by the Saint Brigid Ladies Guild—SB
9:00 AM Reverend Robert Lord—SM

Wednesday, January 10, 2018

- 8:30 AM** Mary Meade by Roxanne and Victor D'Aquino—SB
9:00 AM Matta Dang Nguyen by the Nguyen Family—SH
9:00 AM Reverend Monsignor David Liptak—SM

Thursday, January 11, 2018

- 8:30 AM** Nicola Mancini, Birthday Wishes, by His Wife and Daughter—SB
9:00 AM All the Relatives of the Nguyen Family by the Nguyen Family—SH
9:00 AM Reverend Monsignor William Mullen—SM

Friday, January 12, 2018

- 9:00 AM** Happy Birthday, Amanda, Love Grandpa and Elaine—SH
9:00 AM Intention of the Celebrant—SM

Saturday, January 13, 2018

- 8:30 AM** Rocco DiTaranto by His Sister—SB
9:00 AM All the Forgotten Souls by the Nguyen Family—SH
4:00 PM Mary F. Davey by Her Family—SB
4:30 PM Rocco DiTaranto by Marie DiTaranto—SM
5:00 PM Maria Agreda, 50th Anniversary, by Her Family—SH

Sunday, January 14, 2018

- 8:30 AM** For the People of St. Gianna Parish—SB
9:30 AM Repose of the Soul of James Frost by His Family—SH
10:30 AM William R. Metzler by His Grandson—SM
11:00 AM Carmella Coiro DeAngelis by Her Brother and Family—SB
11:30 AM Syro-Malabar Mass—SH

*SB=St. Brigid; SH=St. Helena;
SM=St. Mark the Evangelist*

Church of St. Brigid

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE NEWS

COAT DRIVE

The Social Action Committee will be holding a coat drive **this weekend, January 6 and 7**. It will benefit the less fortunate of Hartford. Please remember the less fortunate by dropping off usable clean coats in plastic bags at our spot in front of the Church on Saturday from 3:00 to 5:00 pm or on Sunday from 8:15 am to 11:15 am. Please do not leave any clothes in the church.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ROAST BEEF DINNER TICKET SALES

The Knights of Columbus are having their annual Roast Beef dinner on Saturday January 13th after the 4:00 p.m. Mass. The Knights will be in the vestibule after all the Masses this weekend selling tickets. This is one of the dinners that often sells out so you may want to pick up those tickets ahead of time to assure yourself of some of the Knights' finest food--and support their good works as well. Tickets will also be available at the Rectory from 8:30-3:00, Monday –Friday until they sell out. The Knights **do not** anticipate that there will be any tickets available at the door for this event!

GOD'S PROMISE TO ALL PEOPLE

Today Isaiah reminds the people of God that the land shall be restored to their possession, they shall rejoice to see their people return from the bondage of exile, and that they shall be a light to the nations. In other words, through the people of Israel, the Savior shall come to all people who seek God with a sincere heart. This brings joy and the radiance of God's glory to all the world and to all people everywhere. Through the fidelity of the people of God, and through God's fidelity to them, all people shall become God's children and rejoice in the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel.

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PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

New Holy Hours for 2018 will be at the following places: Tuesday January 11 at St. Josephine Bakhita Parish, 767 Elm St. in Rocky Hill; Wednesday February 21 at Most Holy Trinity Parish, 68 N. Colony Rd. in Wallingford; Tuesday March 13 at Our Lady of the Angels Convent Chapel, 1315 Enfield St in Enfield; and finally Monday April 16 at St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, 1 East Main St. in Thomaston.

Coffee & Donuts



COFFEE AND DONUTS IS BACK THIS WEEKEND!

After some discussion about our "challenging" winter weather and attendance at coffee and donuts so far this year, we have decided to bring coffee and donuts back for the weekends of the Children's Masses. It begins this weekend, January 7th, and will be held in February and March as well! Come and join us!

MEN- DO YOU NEED WHAT WE HAVE?

Revive your body, soul, and mind by going on retreat. Re-charge through conferences, workshops, prayer services, delicious home cooking, and plenty of free time. Consider attending St. Gianna Parish's Annual Men's Retreat at Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center in West Hartford from Feb. 2 to 4, 2018. For information call Steve Masiuk at 860 236-1475 (St. Brigid), Vic Naleski at 860 521-9419 (St. Helena) or register online at www.holyfamilyretreat.org.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord;
National Migration Week;
Julian Calendar Christmas
Monday: The Baptism of the Lord
Tuesday: First Week in Ordinary Time begins
Saturday: St. Hilary; Blessed Virgin Mary



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PRO-LIFE THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

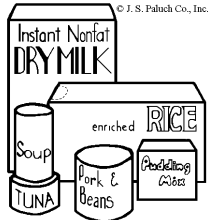
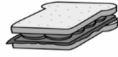
"Heavenly Father, thank you for the precious gift of life. Help us to cherish and protect this gift, even in the midst of fear, pain, and suffering. ... Grant us the humility to accept help when we are in need, and teach us to be merciful to all."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
"Every Life is Worth Living" Prayer Card,
<https://goo.gl/iF9daj>

Church of St. Helena

STREET SANDWICH MINISTRY

The Sandwich ministry collection is the second Wednesday of every month in the parking lots of St. Helena at 4:30 pm and St. Mark's at 5:00 pm. Can you make 10 simple sandwiches to help the Hartford shelters? If you would like to join this ministry please call Susan at 860-561-3648.



FOOD SHARING PROGRAM TO SUPPORT HARTFORD CATHOLIC WORKER HOUSE

The St. Helena Food Sharing program will collect items and can be brought in at any time and left in Fr. Murphy Hall. It is delivered on

the 2nd and 4th weekends but is gratefully accepted anytime during the month. Items needed are: Peanut butter, tuna fish, beef stew, juices, low sugar cereals, pastas, pasta sauce, soups, and macaroni & cheese. Please leave your donations in Fr. Murphy Hall. Thank you for your continued generosity to all who have kept St. Helena's Food Sharing program going for almost 40 years.

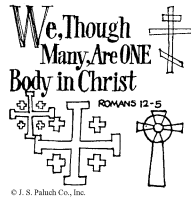


LET'S DO LUNCH!

On Saturday, January 13th, we will be providing lunch to our neighbors at the House of Bread in Hartford. Your donations of fresh fruit, bottled fruit juice and individually wrapped sandwiches are greatly appreciated. Please bring your items to Father Murphy Hall by 9:30AM on Saturday, January 13th. On behalf of our neediest neighbors, thank you for your generosity. For more information, please call Mary Alexander at 860-507-6022.

GIVING TREE THANK YOU

Many, many thanks to all who generously contributed to our annual Giving Tree. Your ongoing generosity assists parish families, inner city children, homeless veterans, and some new refugees both at Christmas and throughout the year.
THANK YOU!



SYRO-MALABAR NEWS

SEASON OF EPIPHANY: The word Epiphany in Syriac is "Denha". It means dawn, revelation, manifestation, etc. This Sunday, January 7th is the first Sunday of Epiphany. This season

commemorates Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan and his manifestation to the world. Epiphany, according to the Latin rite calendar, is the visitation of the Magi, three Wise men from the East who visited Jesus after His birth. The saints who witnessed the revealed mystery of Christ through their lives are remembered by the Syro Malabar Church on the Fridays of this season. This period also reminds us of our baptism and the responsibilities we have undertaken with it.

SYRO MALABAR ENGLISH MASS:

The liturgy of Syro Malabar Church originated in the Middle East and travelled to India first by St. Thomas the Apostle in 52 AD and he preached the Gospel and since then onwards they preserved this language the Aramaic-Syriac in which this liturgy is originally celebrated until 1962 when it translated to the local language

MALAYALAM. The word Syro Malabar is coined from the words Syriac (referring to the East Syrian liturgy) and Malabar (the historical name of the southern state of Kerala). **The next English Mass is on Sunday, January 14th.**

FAMILY NIGHT:

This year's Christmas and New Year celebrations are being held as Family Night on Saturday, January 13, 2018 at the Church hall of Saint Helena starting at 6:00 p.m. Please contact our cultural coordinators: Leena Shaji or Jincy Biju or details.

The Epiphany of the Lord

All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him.

— Psalm 72:11

VOCATION REFLECTION

The Magi brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. What gifts do you have to give? Is God calling you to be a priest, brother, or sister? Call **Fr. Jeffrey Gubbiotti**, Director of Vocations, Archdiocesan Center at St. Thomas Seminary, Tel 860-242-5573, e-mail vocations@aohct.org or visit the web at www.hartfordpriest.com.

Church of St. Mark the Evangelist

WELCOME, JEN!

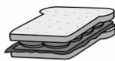
We want to extend a very warm welcome to our new music director, Jen Gadaree

Jen has blessed us with her vocal talents as a member of the St. Mark choir and we wish her all the best as she takes on this new endeavor.

STREET SANDWICH COLLECTION

The monthly Street Sandwich collection will meet Wednesday, **January 10 at 5:00 p.m.** in front of the Parish Center.

If you are interested in making ten simple sandwiches once a month for the hungry in Hartford contact Sue at 860-561-3648 for details.



MONTHLY FOOD COLLECTION

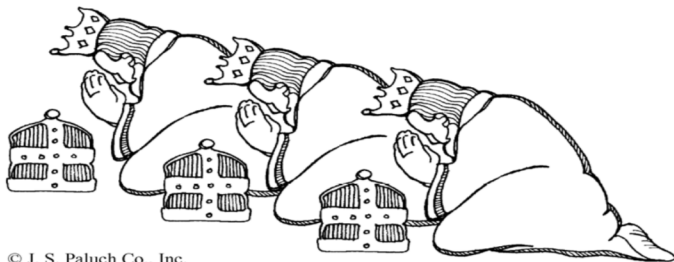
This month's food collection will be January 13 and 14.

Grocery bags with lists of needed items are being distributed after next weekend's masses. Your contributions are important and make a difference in the lives of those who are less fortunate.



PLAN AHEAD

Ash Wednesday is on Valentine's Day this year. If you are making plans to celebrate the holiday you may want to select an alternate date!



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Defending Our Religious Liberty

The Catholic Church is asking that lawmakers safeguard the rights afforded to us in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, so that we will have the freedom to serve the needy and most vulnerable without violating our moral principles and without being penalized with fines.

DAILY MASS ON SNOW DAYS



In the interest of safety if West Hartford Schools are closed for inclement weather there will be no morning liturgy.

If there is a delay we will have Mass but please carefully assess the driving/walking conditions before coming out.

Record of Donations for 2017

If you would like written confirmation of 2017 donations please call and leave a message at the office (860-233-1269) and we will mail them to you when they are ready.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Where on earth would you go to honor the magi? Iran or Saudi Arabia, Tarshish or the Isles come to mind, but Cologne, Germany would be a good choice. There the Shrine of the Three Kings has been the centerpiece of the city's cathedral since the fourth century. Today it is the largest reliquary in the world: a gilded and ornamented triple casket gleaming high above the altar. In the fourth century, the supposed relics of the wise men were taken from Constantinople to Milan, where they remained until the German Emperor with the unlikely name Frederick Barbarossa (Red Beard) gave them to the Archbishop of Cologne. Ever since, pilgrims have streamed into the city to honor the magi, the first of all pilgrims, and thus the heavenly patrons of all who have some holy wanderlust.

This largest Gothic cathedral in Europe today was begun in the mid-1200s to house the relics. In medieval times, the relics in a city's possession were often the key to a sound international economy. The reliquary was last opened in 1864, and the remains of three men were indeed discovered. The cathedral is well worth a visit, with enormous twin spires forming the largest façade of any church in the world (it is the model for St. Patrick's in New York). Construction began in 1248 and ended in 1880, a six-hundred-year project. Today, it is a World Heritage Site, described by the U.N. as "an exceptional work of human creative genius." This great treasure of our tradition suffered fourteen direct bomb hits in World War II but did not collapse. It survived while the city burned around it, preserved, the townspeople say, by three heavenly patrons.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Religious Education

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ST. BRIGID AND ST. HELENA RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

BAD WEATHER CANCELLATION REMINDER

CANCELLATION OF CCD CLASSES DUE TO BAD WEATHER WILL BE MADE KNOWN BY TV CHANNELS 3, 8 and 30. Tuesday and Wednesday snow closings will follow West Hartford closings and early school closings.

ST. MARK RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONFIRMATION RETREAT

All second year Confirmation students and their families are invited to the 10:30 Mass followed by a breakfast hosted by the Knights of Columbus on Sunday, January 21st. Students will then be brought to Holy Family Retreat Center for their Confirmation Retreat followed by a spaghetti supper.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11 or Acts 10:34-38 or 1 Jn 5:1-9; Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10 or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd-6; Mk 1:7-11
 Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20 or 1 Sm 1:1-8 and 1 Sm 1:9-20; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Mk 1:21-28 or Mk 1:14-20 and Mk 1:21-28
 Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Ps 40:2, 5, 7-10; Mk 1:29-39
 Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25; Mk 1:40-45
 Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps 89:16-19; Mk 2:1-12
 Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Ps 21:2-7; Mk 2:13-17
 Sunday: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10; 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — You shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow (Isaiah 60:1-6).

Psalm — Lord, every nation on earth will adore you (Psalm 72).

Second Reading — The Gentiles are copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6).

Gospel — The magi were overjoyed at seeing the star (Matthew 2:1-12).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

St. Brigid St. Augustine Partnership School
 100 Mayflower St. West Hartford, CT 01110
 (860) 561-2130, ext. 106



"It takes teamwork to build a strong Catholic school..."

Parishioners, Alumni, & Friends
 Join Us For Refreshments...
 For Our Catholic Schools' Week

OPEN HOUSE
 Sunday, January 28th
 12:30 PM to 3 PM

Our School Offers

A Nurturing Environment Where We Are Committed to Academic Success!
 Strong Academic Programs
 Tuition Assistance
 Free and/or Reduced Breakfast & Lunch
 Free Bus Transportation

CONTINUE TO SPREAD THE WORD!

SAVE THE DATES!!!!

Comedy Night: Fri., Feb. 9th at 6:30 PM - Tkts: \$20

Global Cuisine & Multi-Cultural Night Fri., March 9th at 6:30 PM \$10

The "2018 GALA" Sat., May 5th at 6:30 PM

Advance Tkt.: Price \$35
 After February 2nd \$50
 VIP Table of 10 \$300

We Need You!

Are You Interested In Volunteering At St. Brigid-St. Augustine Partnership School Or Selling Scrip Gift Cards Or At Our Fundraisers At Mass On Saturdays & Sundays, Please Call Us

Make Sure You Re-register Your Stop & Shop Courtesy Card And St. Brigid-St. Augustine Gets Paid Register it to our SCHOOL ID# 08098

We are still collecting Kellogg's "Box Tops for Education" (Containers are located in the lobby, please let us know if you need one)

School Office Hours

Mon thru Fri.: 8 A.M. to 4 P.M

For more information call:

(860) 561-2130, ext. 106

athompson@stbstapartnership.ed uk12.net

from Father Devine...

As we enter a new calendar year, for many there is opportunity for a fresh start, and for hope. We often make promises/resolutions grounded in such feelings. Nevertheless, it seems that new year's resolutions are made to be broken, and then forgotten. *Why is this so frequently the case?*

One possible answer is that we don't bring God into the picture. Do we consult God in regard to what we should or should not do...talk to Him about it, and then quietly listen - even over a period of days and weeks, as need be? Trust *God's* direction in regard to what is truly for our own good, as well as the best ways to get there!

GENERATIONS OF FAITH: BELIEVE IT! LIVE IT! SHARE IT!

Monastic life is organized around prayer. It is a unique way to live. How can the average person incorporate a life of prayer on the run? Join us on Sunday, January 7th at 4:00 or Wednesday, January 10th to discover the secret to maintaining peace and joy in the midst of busy lives.

NATIONAL MIGRATION WEEK

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Justice for Immigrants Campaign is working on behalf of the Bishops, including our own Archbishop Leonard P. Blair, to promote humane migration policies towards refugees and immigrants that reflect our Catholic values. To add your voice to this urgent issue, send an electronic message to your lawmakers (see: Justiceforimmigrants.org).

National Migration Week, January 7 – 14, 2018, is an opportunity to become aware of the millions on God's children fleeing war, persecution and poverty and to share their journey by walking with them in prayer and support.

In the words of Pope Francis: "Closeness to the poor, the refugee, the immigrant, the sick, the exploited, the elderly living alone, prisoner and all God's other poor, will teach us a different way of resting, one which is more Christian and generous."

Also visit these websites: Sharejourney.org, and/or ArchdioceseofHartford.org.

WINTER READING BOOK SALE

St. Ann's Church in Avon is holding a used book sale from Friday evening January 12 (5:00-7:30 pm, admission \$5) through Sunday January 14.

Admission is free Saturday and Sunday. Times of the sale Saturday are 9:00 am-6:00 pm. Sunday the sale opens at 8:00 am and concludes at 12:45 pm.

Beginning at 5:00 pm on Saturday and all day Sunday prices are \$5 for 20 items. Snow dates are January 19-21. Proceeds benefit the St. Ann scholarship program. The sale will be held in Fr. Bennet Hall, 289 Arch Road, Avon.

LOURDES AT LITCHFIELD

The Grotto Gift Shop at the Shrine of Lourdes in Litchfield, 50 Montfort Rd., Rte. 118, Litchfield will be open on weekends only from 11:30am to 4:00pm, weather permitting. A 30% discount will be given on selected Christmas items during this time. Regular hours will resume in March. For further information, call 860-567-1041 or email: lourdesshrinect@gmail.com.

Parish Annual Collection 2017—Update:

Amount pledged: \$109,867.25
Amount collected: \$96,687.25
Number of contributors: 457
Total number of potential contributors: 1,938

PRO-LIFE MASS

Archbishop Blair will celebrate a Pro-Life Mass Saturday January 13 at 9:30 am at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford. Refreshments and a speaker will follow. For questions, please call the Pro-Life Ministry of the Archdiocese of Hartford at 203 639-0833 or sistersuzanne@prolifeministry.org.