



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

December 23, 2018
The Fourth Sunday of Advent

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
Marie Tofeldt, Administrative Asst.
Office hours: 8:00 am-4:00 pm daily

Website:
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Religious Education

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

Music Ministry

Natasha Ulyanovsky, Music Director
Kelly Boudreaux, Cantor
David Boudreaux, Cantor

St. Helena Church

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Music Ministry

Rebecca Michel
Music Director
Mario Petrella, Cantor
Laure Welch, Cantor

St. Brigid St. Augustine School

See inside the Bulletin for details

St. Mark the Evangelist Church

Church Office:
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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@snet.net

Religious Education

LouAnn M. Warren, M.A., Director
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(860) 236-3545

Music Ministry

Greg Flower, Director of Music

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.

Mass Schedule

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Saturday, December 22, 2018

- 4:00 PM Rita and Albert Lewis by Their Family—SB
 4:30 PM Ann Crombie by Carol Crombie—SM
 5:00 PM All the Deceased Family and Friends of the Calabrese, Koropatkin, Martone & Mancini Families by Maria Martone and Family—SH

Sunday, December 23, 2018

- 8:30 AM Beatrice and Pat McGill by Their Children—SB
 9:30 AM Guise Chien Van Le by His Wife Nhan and Family—SH
 10:30 AM Vincent Quinn, 12th Anniversary, by the Quinn Family—SM
 11:00 AM For the People of St. Gianna Parish—SB
 11:30 AM Syro-Malabar Mass—SH
 2:30 PM Vietnamese Mass—SM

Monday, December 24, 2018

- 8:30 AM No Daily Mass this Morning—SB
 9:00 AM No Daily Mass this Morning—SH
 9:00 AM No Daily Mass this Morning—SM

The Vigil of the Nativity of Our Lord

- 4:00 PM SB
 4:00 PM For the People of St. Gianna Parish—SM
 5:00 PM SH
 7:00 PM Syro-Malabar Mass—SH
 7:30 PM Vietnamese Mass—SM
 10:00 PM For the People of St. Gianna Parish—SM

Tuesday, December 25, 2018--Christmas Day

- 12:00 AM Midnight Mass—For the People of St. Gianna Parish—SB
 9:30 AM SH
 10:30 AM For the People of St. Gianna Parish—SM
 11:00 AM SB
 12:30 PM Vietnamese Mass—SM

Wednesday, December 26, 2018

- 8:30 AM Teresita Marrero by Her Family—SB
 9:00 AM SH
 9:00 AM Fr. Metzler's Birthday—SM

Thursday, December 27, 2018

- 8:30 AM Ramon Alfonzo by His Family—SB
 9:00 AM John David Zehr by Celeste, John, Elizabeth and Catherine—SH
 9:00 AM Cecelia and Anthony Leesha and Hifa Saab by MaryAnn Leesha—SM
 6:00 PM Vietnamese Mass—SM

Friday, December 28, 2018

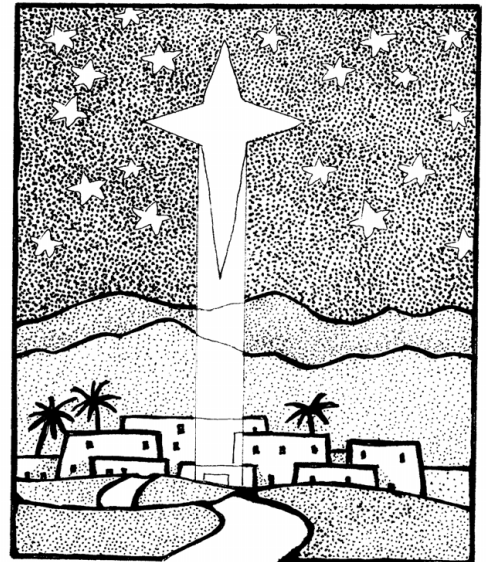
- 9:00 AM SH
 9:00 AM Gerard Charron by Julie Bradley—SM

Saturday, December 29, 2018

- 8:30 AM Rev. Alejandro Moral by a Friend—SB
 9:00 AM Joseph and Agnes, Anniversary, by Their Family—SH
 4:00 PM Jerry Nardi Sr. by His Wife and Family—SB
 4:30 PM Rev. Herbert J. Clarkin—SM
 5:00 PM Mercedes Zegarra, 1st year Anniversary, by Her Family—SH

Sunday, December 30, 2018

- 8:30 AM
 9:30 AM William J Stadelmyer, 20th Anniversary, by Raymond and Karen Bliss—SH
 10:30 AM James Richard, 35th Anniversary, by the Richard Family—SM
 11:00 AM Frank Rovella by His Wife and Family—SB
 11:30 AM Syro-Malabar Mass—SH
 2:30 PM Vietnamese Mass—SM



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

from Father Devine...

Next to the yearly celebration of the paschal-Easter mystery, the Church holds most sacred the memorial of Christ's birth and early manifestations, this is the purpose of the Christmas season.

Thus our Church instructs us on the Christmas season. Christmas is, among other things, a time for families and loved ones – past and present. Do any of these relationships need some of your time and attention?

In situations where there has been hurt...or people have been just drifting apart, you just might be the only person who can take that first step, and make the needed overture of peace and good will...Don't underestimate the importance of this, please! Lord knows there's enough upset and anger rolling around in our society, as the residents of so many cities and towns in our country, as well as parishes in our archdiocese painfully know first-hand!

ST. GIANNA CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Vigil (December 24)

St. Brigid: 4:00 pm

St. Helena: 5:00 pm

7:00 pm (Syro-Malabar Mass)

St. Mark the Evangelist: 4:00 pm & 10:00 pm

7:30 pm (Vietnamese)

Christmas Day December 25

St. Brigid: Midnight (12:00 am) & 11:00 am

St. Helena: 9:30 am

St. Mark the Evangelist: 10:30 am

12:30 pm (Vietnamese)



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SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

December 31

St. Brigid: 4:00 pm

St. Mark the Evangelist: 4:30 pm

January 1, 2019

St. Brigid: 11:00 am

St. Mark the Evangelist: 10:30 am

CALENDARS ARE AVAILABLE AT CHURCH

2019 St. Gianna church calendars are available at our respective churches and here at the Administrative Center.

ATTENTION, ONLINE GIVERS

Please remember that the individual church sites (except St. Gianna) will be shut down on December 31, 2018. Now is the time to move your account to St. Gianna online giving. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER INSERT

Please look for the Flower insert near the Bulletins and not inside them. Because of the short season and the number of Bulletins we now receive, we do not "stuff" the insert inside. Thank you for your understanding.



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St. Gianna Parish Events



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Please Note: there is *no* coffee and donuts this weekend, December 23, at St. Brigid. Thank you, and Merry Christmas!

THANK YOU!

The Social Action Committee thanks all those who donated new and used toys to the toy drive we had last weekend. The San Juan Center, Inc was greatly appreciative of St. Brigid's generosity. We provided many poor families in Hartford with toys to give their children on Christmas.



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COME LISTEN TO THE HOLY MUSIC OF THE SEASON!

Join us thirty minutes before our 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Vigil Mass. Our St Helena choir and instrumentalists will be perform a short concert of traditional sacred music in celebration of this holy time of year.

Mass Intention Bookings at St. Mark

Please note that intentions for St. Mark masses must be booked at the St. Brigid rectory effective January 1, 2019. The masses will continue to be celebrated at St. Mark.

MASS OFFERING FOR 2019

Please note: the Mass offering for St. Gianna Parish for 2019 are \$15 for weekday Masses (including Saturday morning) and \$20 for weekend Masses. Thank you.

MEAT LOAVES FOR THE HOUSE OF BREAD

The meat loaves for the House of Bread are due Tuesday, January 8 and Wednesday January 9. The Kid's Café and the Day Care Center also need the usual items or any items that you might want to donate (**they have made a special request for mayonnaise, and prefer part-boiled rice if you are donating rice**). Please call Gina Giacalone at 860 521-8342 or bring your items to 130 Overbrook Road, West Hartford.

Please join Father Metzler as he celebrates his last Mass here at St. Mark on Sunday, December 30th at 10:30 a.m.

GOOD NEWS

Yes! In 2019, the Wednesday morning Mass will continue to be scheduled at St. Helena's, along with "coffee and" afterward. Mass will be celebrated at 10:00 AM. The only time there will not be Mass will be if a holy day (e.g. Assumption, Ash Wednesday) or funeral(s) falls on a Wednesday. All are welcome to come and join us!

COAT DRIVE

The St. Brigid Social Action Committee will be holding a coat drive the weekend, January 5 and 6. 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 St. Brigid Knights of Columbus are having their annual Roast Beef dinner on Saturday January 19th after the 4:00 p.m. Mass. The Knights will be in the vestibule after all the Masses the weekends of January 5 and 6 and January 12 and 13 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 Administrative Center from 8:30-4:00, Monday-Friday until they sell out. The Knights do not anticipate that there will be any tickets available at the door for this event!

STREET SANDWICH MINISTRY

The Sandwich Ministry collection is the second Wednesday of every month in the parking lots of St. Mark at 4:30 pm and St. Peter Claver at 5:00 pm. There is no longer a pickup at St. Helena. 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.





Celebration for Father Metzler
 Retiring after 47 years of Religious Life
 Please join us as we commemorate
 the retirement of Father Metzler

During this event, Father will be presented with a
 gift on behalf of the entire parish

Sunday, January 6, 2019
 2:00 – 4:00 PM
 St. Mark Pastoral Center

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Advent
 Monday: Vigil of Christmas
 Tuesday: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
 Wednesday: St. Stephen; First Day of Kwanzaa
 Thursday: St. John
 Friday: The Holy Innocents
 Saturday: Fifth Day within the Octave of the
 Nativity of the Lord; St. Thomas Becket

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Dear Faith Community of St. Helena’s Church,

You have been a blessing to me these past 8 years. Through the support of music, we raised our hearts and voices and entered into God’s mysteries at Eucharist. Thank you for expressing your faith through song, which nurtured me spiritually; thank you to Mario Petrella who has been a terrific partner in planning and coordinating the liturgies. He has also enriched our music with his guitar, voice, and microphone expertise; Thank you to our cantors and instrumentalists; Thank you to our volunteers: St. Helena Choir members, who shared their talents and countless hours of rehearsals to enhance our prayer and Chris Pilon who ensured that our piano was always in tune.

To add to my sadness – I am unable to celebrate our last liturgy together on Sunday, Dec. 30th. Every year after the Christmas Day Mass, I fly to Ohio to join my Mom (91 years old) and family. However, you can be sure that I’ll be thinking of you and that the last Mass will be filled with music, with Alex Belair, cantors, and choir.

May we all continue to “sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in our hearts to God” (*Col 3:16*) united as a Eucharistic people wherever our journeys lead us.

With Gratitude,
 Rebecca Michel

MEMORIES AND DREAMS

Throughout our lives, we retain the language and habits of our native region and family of origin. Should we return to our home after a long absence, we quickly revert to its familiar speech and practices. Our deep memory is reflected in old stories and words and speech patterns. This familiarity runs like an underground river and accompanies us wherever we go.

Not only do we remember, we are incorporated into and made part of a greater memory. In remembering and recollecting, we are in turn gathered up and re-collected.

Today we remember Mary, a small figure travelling the country roads to visit Elizabeth. All the great pronouncements and dreams of the prophets point to this time when the Lord’s words to Mary would be gathered and fulfilled. The memories of her people are alive in her, and memories of her nourish our own living faith.

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**Sheehan Hilborn Breen will Continue until further notice as a Food and Personal Care Collection Site to Benefit the West Hartford Food Pantry
 1084 New Britain Avenue, West Hartford**

Most needed items: (canned fruit, canned meats, pasta, pasta sauce, rice, peanut butter, cold cereal, soups and personal care products) Please be sure items are not expired.
 Bring your items to Sheehan Hilborn Breen Funeral Home 1084 New Britain Avenue West Hartford from 9 am-4 pm Monday - Friday. Please place the items in the container just inside the back door. Or if you prefer, call us and someone will come out to your car to pick up the items. 860-561-3800



O COME, LONG FORETOLD

O come, Desired of nations,
Whom priest and prophet long foretold
Will break the captive fetters,
Redeem the long-lost fold.
Dear Savior, haste; come, come to earth,
Dispel the night and show your face,
And bid us hail the dawn of grace.
—Simon J. Pellegrin (1663-1745),
Tr. by Mary of St. Philip (1825-1904)

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — From Bethlehem-Ephrathah shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel (Micah 5:1-4a).

Psalms — Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (Psalm 80).

Second Reading — We have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Christ once for all (Hebrews 10:5-10).

Gospel — Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken by the Lord would be fulfilled (Luke 1:39-45).

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79
Tuesday: **Vigil:** Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]
Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13;
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
Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6;
Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]
Wednesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22
Thursday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Friday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35
Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST. MARK

ATTENTION CONFIRMATION STUDENTS

A big thank you to all of the Confirmation students who baked for the GOF bake sale. The money raised will be put towards the expenses for your retreat, on January 27th. You are an awesome group of young people! We wish you the best Christmas ever!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION VOLUNTEERS

Dear Religious Education Volunteers,
The St. Mark family would like to wish you so many wonderful blessings and surprises during the Christmas season. You give so generously of your time and talent. Your work with the community is invaluable and a treasured gift to all of us. Every good thing for the new year from all of us here at St. Mark Church.

THANK YOU!! To the more than **38,700** generous donors have pledged over **\$9,900,000** to the 2018 Archbishop's Annual Appeal, ***Our Faith, Our Future!!***

As the year is coming to a close, this may be your last chance to help the Archbishop's Annual Appeal achieve the goal of **\$10 Million** in the 2018 tax year!

This year's Appeal goal has been a challenge – but it is nothing compared to the challenge many suffer with each and every day of their lives. For the third year in a row - Thanks to the generosity of the donors to this year's Archbishop's Annual Appeal, ***Our Faith, Our Future***, the Vicariate Outreach Program has been able to provide over **\$1,000,000** in critical funding to over 200 local, community based, organizations. This funding provides support to families and individuals for life's basic necessities: a warm meal, a bag of groceries, a place to sleep, or a place to turn for guidance and support. The Annual Appeal is one way to share our blessings and express thanks for the blessings with which God has graced us with our neighbors.

All funds contributed to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal are used exclusively for the purposes outlined in the Appeal literature, which can be found at www.archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal-impact-2/. No Appeal funds are ever used for legal fees or settlements

If you have not yet made a gift, please prayerfully consider, making your pledge or gift today. Every gift makes a profound difference in the lives of countless individuals and families throughout our Archdiocese, in a way that exceeds anything we could hope to achieve on our own. Please visit the Appeal website at www.archdioceseofhartford.org and follow the link ***Our Faith, Our Future***, to learn more and make your pledge or gift today.

