



Welcome to
Saint Gianna Parish
St. Brigid Church
St. Mark the Evangelist Church

November 29, 2020
First Sunday of Advent

Reverend Joseph Devine, Pastor
Reverend Tuan Anh "Andy" Mai, Pastor, St. Andrew Dung-Lac
Reverend Joseph Pullikattil, Parochial Vicar
Deacon Robert J. Hilliard

St. Brigid Church

Administrative Center: 1088 New Britain Avenue
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Music Ministry

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

St. Mark the Evangelist Church

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Music Ministry

Greg Flower, Director of Music
Jennifer Gadaree, Cantor
Chelsea Lorraine, Cantor

The Celebration of the Grace of God Through The Sacraments

Baptism: Please call the parish Administrative Center in advance to make arrangements.

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

Communion: For parishioners who are homebound or hospitalized, contact the Administrative Center.

Marriage: Please call the Administrative Center six months 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 speak to a parish priest or call the Administrative Center for more information.

MassSchedule

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Saturday, November 28, 2020

4:00 PM Richard Templeton, 11th Anniversary, by His Family—SB

4:30 PM For the People of St. Gianna Parish—SM

Sunday, November 29, 2020

8:30 AM Richard Cipolla—SB

10:30 AM Ralph Lang, 3rd Anniversary and Happy Birthday, by His Wife and Family—SM

11:00 AM Francesca and Giuseppe Abbatemarco by Their Grand-daughter—SB

Monday, November 30, 2020

8:30 AM All Souls Remembrances—SB

9:00 AM Monsignor James Hitchcock by the Thayer Family—SM

Tuesday, December 1, 2020

8:30 AM Elizabeth Demanski by the Saint Brigid Ladies Guild—SB

Wednesday, December 2, 2020

8:30 AM Frank Dalley by His Family—SB

9:00 AM SM

Thursday, December 3, 2020

8:30 AM Lucy and Angela Casale by Antonietta Ragone—SB

9:00 AM SM

Friday, December 4, 2020

9:00 AM Barbara Kilpatrick—SM

Saturday, December 5, 2020

8:30 AM Connie Samuelian—SB

4:00 PM Albert and Rita Lewis by Their Family—SB

4:30 PM Roland Veilleux, 25th Anniversary, by His Family—SM

Sunday, December 6, 2020

8:30 AM For the People of St. Gianna Parish—SB

10:30 AM Anna Pageotte, 32nd Anniversary, by Lonni Bos—SM

11:00 AM Thomas Witkovic by the Parker Family—SB

SB=St. Brigid;

SM=St. Mark the Evangelist

from Father Devine...

ADVENT SEASON - BEGINNING OF A NEW CHURCH YEAR...
A NEW YEAR OF GRACE

The Church instructs us in this way about the Advent season, located at the beginning of our liturgical year/worship cycle. We may be familiar with this message, but God's Wisdom needs *time* to sink into our minds and hearts...over the years!

Advent has a twofold character: as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us is remembered; and a season when that remembrance directs our minds and our hearts to await Christ's second coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period of devout and joyful expectation.

To help with your spiritual preparation for Christmas, these might be very good questions...

What effect have these months of Covid had upon me as a person?

Are there positive things I can see...how have I changed for the better?

(remember – the glass is half-full!)

Where/how/when have I seen God's presence in this for me?

May this truly be a *blessed* seasonal time in the midst of all our schedules, routines, uncertainties, and changing lives.



UNWRINKLED

To keep the heart unwrinkled, to be hopeful, kindly, cheerful, reverent—that is the triumph over old age.

—Thomas Bailey Aldrich

JOIN US FOR HOLY HOUR and EVENING PRAYER

Sunday 6 December, 5:00 p.m. (SB)

Join us for holy hour and evening prayer (SB).

All are welcome.



ARCHBISHOP BLAIR EXTENDS THE MASS DISPENSATION

In light of the recent increase in coronavirus cases within the state of Connecticut and continued uncertainty regarding the extent and duration of the coronavirus in the state and throughout the Archdiocese of Hartford, Archbishop Blair has now extended the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation for all the Faithful of the Archdiocese of Hartford through Tuesday, February 16, 2021, which is the eve of Ash Wednesday.

St. Gianna Parish News and Events

DO YOU LOVE FLOWERS? LOVE CHURCH? WANT TO HELP?

The St. Brigid Ladies Guild Petal Pushers are responsible for purchasing and caring for St. Brigid Church's beautiful plants and flowers that you see on the Altar and around the Church. Each month a different team or person has signed up to decorate the Church by buying the flowers and or plants if needed and to water them once a week throughout their month. There is no cost to the people who do this. After buying the plants and flowers you simply give the receipts to the Church for reimbursement. You don't have to be a Ladies Guild member to join the group. We are looking for a few more teams or persons to help out. If you would like to help please call me at (860) 521-1231. Thank you.

Penny Hickey & Camilla Hynes



MEAT LOAVES FOR THE HOUSE OF BREAD

We are again collecting meatloaves for the House of Bread. This month's collection will be December 2 and 3. Also requested besides previously wanted items are any kind of energy bar that can be passed out to their clients. Deliver all items to 130 Overbrook Drive. If you have questions call 860-521-8342.

St. MARK GIVING TREE

The Giving Trees are up in St. Mark Church and the tags are available. Please take a tag, purchase a gift, and return your purchased gift to the church. We are looking forward to distributing the gifts again this year so the earlier you can return the gifts, the easier the distribution will be for us. As always, thank you for thinking of others this busy Christmas season!

St. BRIGID GIVING TREE

St. Gianna's Parish Council is sponsoring a Giving Tree at St. Brigid Church to brighten the spirits of the residents of the St. Mary's Home. The Tree will be in the church vestibule the weekends of November 27/28 and December 5/6. The tree will be adorned with tags, each of which contains a requested item from St. Mary's 'wish list' of needs/wants for the residents. Please take a tag and return your wrapped gift, with tag attached, to the church vestibule no later than Sunday, December 13. The Social Action Committee will deliver the gifts to St. Mary's home. Please keep this most worthy cause in mind as you prepare for Christmas, and the Social Action committee thanks you very much in advance.



St. Gianna Parish News and Events

St. BRIGID LADIES GUILD

Due to Covid19 concerns, the Ladies Guild will not be having meetings or programs this year and will review the situation next Spring. It is most important for our members to stay safe. Please note, all members will remain on our active list throughout the year. And, though we will not be printing the newsletter, we will have a shorter version posted on the St. Gianna parish's website to help keep members informed.

The Guild also hopes to continue some of our charitable work, especially Caring Hearts that supports families in need (crucial more than ever at this time) as well as our regular parish support. With that in mind, although we will not hold our annual Membership Drive, we would like to have a *Membership by Mail Fundraiser* that will help us support our important causes. We ask each of you to please send in your donation (hopefully, at least your normal membership fee of \$8 or \$10, or more if you're able) to *St. Brigid Ladies Guild* and mail it to

GIVE THE GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP THIS SEASON

Invite a Catholic Man to become a Knight of Columbus. Free online membership* for new online membership applications submitted the **entire month of December**. Visit kofc.org/joinus.

Enter code MCGIVNEY2020.

Questions? Email membership.west@ctcouncil.org.

www.ctstatecouncil.org

Follow us at [Facebook.com/ConnKofC](https://www.facebook.com/ConnKofC)

*regular dues are \$30/year



Upcoming Events:

Bulletin deadline for December 19/20, Friday 11 December

Bulletin Deadline for December 26/27, Thursday 17 December

Bulletin Deadline for January 2/3, Wednesday 23 December

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Thank you for your generous support last week for the collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development! If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give! Visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections.

ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

To the extent that you are not adversely affected financially by the pandemic, please respond to the 2020 Archbishop's Annual Appeal as best you can. Any gift, no matter the size, is truly appreciated and can make a significant difference. This weekend is Commitment Weekend. If you have not made your gift to the 2020 Appeal, please give prayerful consideration to including the Archbishop's Annual Appeal this year in your year-end giving, as all gifts can be paid through December 31, 2020.

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 <https://archdioceseofhartford.com/appeal>. No appeal funds are ever used for legal fees or settlements.

First Sunday of Advent November 29, 2020

Be watchful! Be alert!

You do not know when the time will come.

— *Mark 13:33*

LIKE A CHILD

One who aspires to the grace of God must be pure, with a heart as innocent as a child's.

—St. Nicholas

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8-11;
Mt 4:18-22

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13,
17; Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6;
Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21,
25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14;
Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6;
Mt 9:35 — 10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-14;
2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: First Sunday of Advent

Monday: St. Andrew, Apostle

Tuesday: World AIDS Awareness Day

Thursday: St. Francis Xavier

Friday: St. John Damascene

Friday: First Friday

Saturday: First Saturday

BIG AMBITION

Give up your small ambitions; come with me to save the world.

—St. Francis Xavier

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — We are the clay and you, O Lord, are the potter: we are the work of your hands

(Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7).

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

Second Reading — God is faithful; by God you were called to fellowship with the Son (1 Corinthians 1:3-9).

Gospel — Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. (Mark 13:33-37).

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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION~~ST. BRIGID CAMPUS

Religious Education Thank You!

We wish to thank everyone who contributed food to our Autumn Fall Drive. Because of your generosity, many families in our Caring Hearts program will have a better Thanksgiving Holiday. God Bless!

Sunday Morning Religious Education at St. Mark Church Campus

9th & 10th Grade Confirmation Class Reminder

Our 9th & 10th Grade Confirmation class will be held virtually, via Zoom Meetings, on Sunday, December 6, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Homeschooling extended: Archbishop Blair has extended the dispensation for Mass attendance until mid February. **Our preschool through eighth grade classes will continue with the homeschooling format until the dispensation has been lifted.** Each week we have classes you will receive a reminder about what chapters to complete at home. If you have any questions or concerns, please email your Catechist or Sandy Everett at sandy.st.mark@gmail.com. Of course, you can still register and join us as we learn about our faith.

Children's Liturgy Grab and Go packet for December will focus on Christmas. The packets will be at the exits of the church next weekend, December 5 and 6.

Saint Andrew Christmas Novena

The Saint Andrew Christmas Novena is often called simply the "Christmas Novena", or the "Christmas Anticipation Prayer," because it is prayed 15 times every day from the Feast of Saint Andrew the Apostle, which is November 30 until Christmas Day.

It is a simple and beautiful Advent prayer of preparation and petition, by opening our hearts to both seek and to receive the Christ Child, and the salvation He brings on that cold, silent night, while asking God, with humble confidence, to grant our deepest longings.

Copies of the Saint Andrew Christmas Novena will be available in the vestibule of both churches this weekend for anyone interested in partaking of this beautiful Novena.