



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

February 21, 2021
The First Sunday of Lent

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
Elmwood, CT 06110
Phone: 860 236-5965
Fax 860 233-8016

Karla Dalley, Administrative Officer
Barbara Judycki, Administrative Assistant
Office hours: 8:00 am-4:00 pm Mon.--Thurs.
9:00-4:00 Friday

Music Ministry

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

St. Mark the Evangelist Church

467 Quaker Lane South
West Hartford, CT 06110

Website:
saintgiannaparish.org

Email:
Karla@saintgiannaparish.org
Barbara@saintgiannaparish.org

Religious Education

Donna Wolcott, Coordinator
(860) 543-2607

Music Ministry

Greg Flower, Director of Music
Jennifer Gadaree, 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.

Mass Schedule

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Saturday, February 20, 2021

4:00 PM Katherine Poulin by Annarita and Jerry Erwin

4:30 PM Mary Preneta by Pat and Bob Hilliard—SM

Sunday, February 21, 2021

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

10:30 AM SM

11:00 AM Francesco Cerone, Birthday Remembrance, by His Family—SB

Monday, February 22, 2021

8:30 AM SB

9:00 AM SM

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

8:30 AM Ruth Horn and the Dalley Family—SB

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

8:30 AM SB

9:00 AM SM

Thursday, February 25, 2021

8:30 AM SB

9:00 AM Grace Popovich by Her Family—SM

Friday, February 26, 2021

9:00 AM Anne Crombie by Carol Crombie—SM

Saturday, February 27, 2021

8:30 AM SB

4:00 PM Katherine Poulin by the St. Brigid Knights of Columbus Council SB

4:30 PM Jane DiTaranto by Her Family—SM

Sunday, February 28, 2021

8:30 AM Scott Scaria by Roseann Talbot—SB

10:30 AM For the People of St. Gianna Parish—SM

11:00 AM Maria Deyorio and Agnes Coldwell by Their Family—SB

SB=St. Brigid;

SM=St. Mark the Evangelist

LENTEN SEASON 2021

The annual Lenten season is the fitting time for sacrifice/charity, fasting, and more frequent prayer. This special season has a double focus, namely to prepare both catechumens (adults preparing for baptism) and the faithful (persons already baptized) to celebrate the paschal mystery. The faithful, ever more attentive to the Word of God and prayer, prepare themselves by penance for the renewal of their baptismal promises at Easter...

Weekdays: normal weekday Mass schedule

Weekends: normal Sunday Mass schedule...
Holy Hour/Solemn Vespers...all Sundays, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. (SB)

Tuesdays: seasonal Facebook posts from Fr. Devine

Sacrament of Reconciliation/ Mondays, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. (SB)

Confessions: Wednesdays, 6:00 -7:00 p.m. (SM)

Monday, 6 April @ 6:30 p.m., Penance service/Confessions (SB)

Saturdays, 3:00 – 3:30 (SB) 3:15 – 4:00 p.m. (SM)

No Confessions Saturday, 3 April, Holy Saturday

Stations of the Cross: Mondays, 7:00 p. m. (SB)

Wednesdays, 7:00 p. m. (SM)

Fridays, after 9:00 a.m. Mass (SM)

Fasting and Abstinence: *(see detailed notice below...)*

Lenten **fast** and **abstinence** regulations :

fasting = 1 substantial meal, plus 2 other *light* meatless meals allowed

mandatory on Ash Wednesday & Good Friday

encouraged on other days of Lent

persons 18 - 60 years old

abstinence = no meat, or even soup/gravy made from meat

mandatory on Ash Wednesday, Lenten Fridays, & Good Friday

persons 14 years & older

St. Gianna Parish News and Events

from Father Devine...

LENTEN MEDITATION: FASTING

Fast from thoughts of illness, and feast on the healing power of God.

Fast from words that pollute, and feast on phrases that purify.

Fast from discontent, and feast on gratitude.

Fast from anger, and feast on optimism.

Fasting's purpose is not so much to help us feel better about ourselves, as it is to enable us to reach and maintain a proper perspective on all the blessings which have been given to us, and to not become overly attached to them. As you can see above, fasting is not just limited to food or the like! Perhaps you have reached a point where some kind of sacrifice/fasting year round, and not just Lenten, would be beneficial! This could turn out to be one of the best things you could ever do for yourself!

CATHOLIC SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The Catholic Graduates Club of Greater Hartford, Inc. is offering three scholarships of \$2,000 (each for one year) each to any Catholic student who is a Hartford county resident attending an accredited secondary school and who wants to attend a four year college beginning in the fall of 2021. The basis for selection is need, scholarship, character, leadership and achievement. The application deadline is March 15, 2021. To apply, see your principal or school counselor or if your school does not have this information, please go to go to www.catholicgraduatesct.org.

ARCHBISHOP BLAIR HAS FURTHER EXTENDED THE MASS DISPENSATION

In light of the 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 Sunday, May 23, 2021, which is Pentecost.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

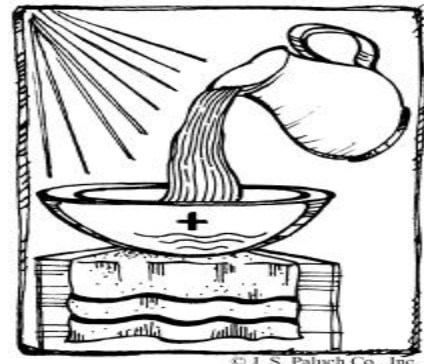
Religious Education Reminders

Bad Weather Cancellation Reminder

Any cancellation of Religious Education Classes due to bad weather will be made known by TV CHANNELS 3, 8 and 30. Wednesday snow closings will follow West Hartford closings and early school closings.

St. Brigid Petal Pushers Brighten up the Church with flowers

The St. Brigid Ladies Guild Petal Pushers are responsible for purchasing and caring for the 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



And So We Grow.....

Thank you to all who contributed to the January Street Sandwich Ministry. We shared approx. 1500 sandwiches with McKinney Shelter, St. Elizabeth's House, and Hands on Hartford. Blessed by the Lord with overwhelming parishioner interest and support we will take on two additional shelters. Beginning Feb. 10th we will also bring sandwiches to The House of Bread and The Greater Hartford Harm Reduction Coalition (this is a mobile unit serving the homeless under the Hartford bridges). Don't worry, we won't run out of places to serve. There are more than 10 homeless shelters in Hartford. Of course, we will need many hands, and sandwiches, to keep this expanding initiative going. To participate, consider making 10 simple sandwiches once a month, year- round. For more info call Susan 860-561-3648.

First Sunday of Lent

February 21, 2021

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me;
teach me your paths.

— *Psalm 25:4*

BEAUTY IN FORGIVENESS

Humanity is never so beautiful as when praying for forgiveness, or else forgiving another.

—Jean P. F. Richter



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4-6;
Mt 16:13-19

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19;
Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13,
18-19; Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25;
Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12

Friday: Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8;
Mt 5:20-26

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8;
Mt 5:43-48

Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps
116:10, 15-19; Rom 8:31b-34;
Mk 9:2-10



SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday: First Sunday of Lent; Rite of Election;
Rite of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion; Rite of Sending
- Monday: Washington's Birthday;
Julian Calendar Lent begins
- Tuesday: St. Polycarp
- Thursday: Purim (Jewish observance)
begins at sunset
- Friday: Abstinence
- Saturday: St. Gregory of Narek

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — I will set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant between me and the earth (Genesis 9:8-15).

Psalm — Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant (Psalm 25).

Second Reading — The water of the flood prefigured baptism, which saves you now (1 Peter 3:18-22).

Gospel — Jesus was tempted by Satan, and the angels ministered to him (Mark 1:12-15)

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REPENT AND BELIEVE IN THE GOSPEL

Lent is the time of year we devote to scrutinizing our lives in the light of our baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus. Today's readings are a nice shorthand catechism of what our baptized lives mean. As Noah passed through the waters of the flood to a covenant with God, so did we enter into a covenant, a promised relationship with God through our baptism.

Peter's letter gives an explicit explanation of what our baptism means: it is an appeal we make to God for a clear conscience. How do we obtain this clear conscience? The words proclaimed by Jesus immediately following his temptation show us the way: "Repent, and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15). It might be a good spiritual exercise to keep these readings before us throughout the entire season of Lent, a means to help us return to a life lived by our baptismal promises.

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FEAST OF FAITH

Seasonal Changes for the Liturgies of Lent

Today is the First Sunday of Lent. During this season of preparation for Easter, our churches look stark and simple—no flowers at the altar, no festive banners or decorations. And our liturgies feel different, too. The organ is quiet except to accompany the singing of the assembly. The Gloria, our Sunday song of rejoicing, is not heard except on solemnities, and we will not sing the Alleluia, our joyful acclamation of praise, until the Easter Vigil. "Alleluia cannot always / Be our song while here below," says an eleventh-century hymn. "Alleluia our transgressions / Make us for a while forego; / For the solemn time is coming / When our tears for sins must flow" (*Alleluia dulce carmen*, J. M. Neale, trans.).

These changes in the liturgy will catch our attention, and make us eager for the festive outpouring of joy that will return with Easter. This year, may the stripped-away liturgies of Lent remind us to strip away what is not essential in our lives to make space for the crucified and risen One, and thus to be ready to sing "Alleluia" once again when Easter returns.

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

ACT of SPIRITUAL COMMUNION...for those unable to be at Mass, or receive the Eucharist for whatever reason....

My Jesus, I believe that You are truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to possess You within my soul.

Since I am unable now to receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as being already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You by sin. Amen.