Church of the Incarnation

240 Main Street, Mantua, NJ 08051
Parish Office 856-468-1314 * PREP Office 856-468-7566
Visit us at www.incarnation-church.org



Third Sunday of Advent * December 14, 2025
We come together as a Christian community to minister the Gospel of Christ

PARISH STAFF

Reverend Stephen J Rapposelli Pastor

Reverend Shaji Muttathottil Parochial Vicar

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Peter Traum Deacon

Phil Curran Deacon

Mr. & Mrs. Casey Corigliano Directors of Music

Mr. Gerald Voltura

Director of Faith Formation

Mrs. Patricia Houwen

Business Manager

PARISH MEMBERSHIP Welcome!

Please register at the parish office or online by visiting our website at www.incarnation-church.org.

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday - Friday.......7 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.
(No 7 a.m. Mass from Memorial Day through early September)
Saturday......8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Vigil Mass)
Sunday......7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m..
Holy Days.......5 p.m. (Vigil Mass)
7 a.m., 8:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Holy Day
Eucharistic Adoration....Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

BAPTISM

Baptisms are held every Sunday and some Saturdays at 1:00 pm. Baptism Preparation Sessions are held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month via Zoom. Please call the office for an appointment.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions are heard Monday through Saturday following the 8:30 A.M. Mass and on Saturdays from 4:00 P.M. to 4:30 P.M. in church or by appointment.

CARE OF SICK

Arrangements should be made through the parish office for home visits with the Eucharist for the sick and elderly. The office should be contacted for the Sacrament of the Sick.

SACRAMENTAL SPONSORSHIP

Sponsors for Baptism or Confirmation must:

Be a registered member of a Catholic parish

Be at least 16 years of age

Received Sacraments of Initiation:

Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation

If married, according to the laws of the Catholic Church

Sunday, December 14 Third Sunday of Advent

Matthew 11:2-11

While in prison, John sends a messenger to Jesus to ask, "Are you He who is to come or do we look for another?" Jesus replies by citing the miracles he has performed for the blind, the deaf, and the crippled. He concludes by identifying John as the messenger He has sent to prepare the way.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 13 – St. Lucy

8:30am Theresa & Bill Hagan r/b Marie McGuirl 5:00pm Tina Daily r/b daughter Christina

Sunday, December 14 - Third Sunday of Advent

7:30am Martha Rastelli r/b Rastelli Family
9:30am Nick Brandemarti r/b Brandemarti Family
11:30am Angelo Grima r/b Christina McNasby
Joseph Lewandowski r/b Peg Wilson & Family
Catherine Sullivan r/b Mary Brooks
Bill Vankat r/b Jacqueline & Paul Reilly
Richard J. Wileczek r/b Eileen & Richard Barca
Robert Obodzinsky r/b Stephen & Nicole Gallagher

Monday, December 15

7:00am Living & Deceased Members of the Parish 8:30am Judith Melleady r/b Family

Tuesday, December 16

7:00am Louis Mozer r/b Mozer Family 8:30am William J. Shaw IV r/b Daughter & Family

Wednesday, December 17

7:00am Frances McKnight r/b daughter Karen Mullen 8:30am Walter Badaracco r/b Dr. & Mrs. David Galetto

Thursday, December 18

7:00am Ginny & Jack Worthington r/b their Children 8:30am William Reilly

Friday, December 19

7:00am Katherine Magin r/b Fran, Sheri, Dennis, Lori, Rob & David Wilgus & Family 8:30am Joshua Richardson r/b his Mother

Saturday, December 20

8:30am Marc Anthony Tromp r/b sister-in-law Helen Olah 5:00pm Tony Nardello r/b daughter Lisa Nardello

Sunday, December 21 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:30am John & Craig Forsman r/b Wife & Mother
9:30am Dennis F. Carolla r/b Giulia, Ava & Luca
Lou Bourquin r/b John & Elizabeth Iannelli
Stephanie Orr r/b Novakis Family
Otto Bonaventure r/b Pat Vukicevich
Katherine Magin r/b Fran, Sheri, Dennis, Lori,
Rob & David Wilgus & Family
Robert Obodzinsky r/b Adele Gallagher
11:30am Gaetano Lisa (39th Anniversary)
r/b Caterina Saya & Family

Readings for the Week

Monday, December 15Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Mt 21:23-27Tuesday, December 16Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32Wednesday, December 17Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17Thursday, December 18Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25Friday, December 19Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25Saturday, December 20Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38

Prayer for Religious Vocations

Priest: Let us pray for vocations

All: O God, we earnestly beseech you to bless the Church with many priests, deacons, seminarians and

religious who will love you with their whole strength, be faithful to their vocation and gladly spend

their entire lives to teach your truths, serve your Church and make you known and loved.

Priest: Bless our families, bless our children.

All: Choose from our homes those who are needed for your work.

Priest: O Mary, Queen of the clergy,

All: Pray for us. Pray for our priests, deacons, seminarians and religious. Obtain for us many more.

All: Amen.



Reading 1 - Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom. They will bloom with abundant flowers, and rejoice with joyful song. The glory of Lebanon will be given to them, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God. Strengthen the hands that are feeble, make firm the knees that are weak, say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you. Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the mute will sing. Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy; they will meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and mourning will flee.

Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 - Lord, come and save us.

Reading 2 - James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another, that you may not be judged. Behold, the Judge is standing before the gates. Take as an example of hardship and patience, brothers and sisters, the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 11:2-11

John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me." As they were going off, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, "What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? Then what did you go out to see? Someone dressed in fine clothing? Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces. Then why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you. Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven: and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

To everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

"...a time to be born..."

Colton James Crawford

"...a time to welcome..."

Elaine Farina, Meredith Sheridan Glassman Family

"a time to be married..."

...a time to be healed..."

Ann Marie Agar, Sam Amaradio, Bernadette Andrews, George Austin, Verna Bisconte, Edward Boyd, Joseph Brickley, Rita Bruno, Charli Burke, Carla Carelli, Colleen, Lynn Collins, Krista Collings, Bob Cooper, Jerrolyn Covely, Bob D'Alessio, Roxanne Day, Robert Deegan, Alberta DiFabio, Lucyna Dinces, Barbara & Vincent DiTullio, Michael Donahue, Mirenda Donnian, Rich Donofrio, Ellie & Les Edwards, Jack Ewen, Francis Ferry, Anna Forsman, Marylou Furfari, Linda Gerwatoski, Jay Gigante, John Gilmore, Margaret Giordano, Michael Groody, Donovan & John Gura, John & Joseph Hart, Kathy Heisinger, Karol Hennessey, Nat Holland, Jason, Adalynne Johnson, Susan Kane, Karen, Carol Taylor-Kearney, Caroline Keenan, Marilyn Angelotti-Kelly, Fred Krumm, Steffanie Lerch, Richard Marcantonio, Michelle Marhefka, Barbara Marker, Elwood Martz III, Maryellen McAteer, John McDevitt, Dorothy McKeever, Anne McMenamin, Barbara & Ira McManus, Christina McNasby, Tim McSorley, Hannah McStav, Joan Morlachetta, Katie Mutek, Peter Myers, Frank Nowak, Nicole P., William Pappernek, Lee Peters, Giovanni Poloney, Helen Powell, Rose Quigley, Janet Rainier, Teri Reed, Joan Reilly, Mary Reilly, George Rein, Angie & Pete Richman, Patti Roberts, Jim Roche, Karen Rucci, Denise Sacco, Marguerite Sadler, Caterina & Santi Saya, Loretta Scardino, Nicholas Simeo, Sr., Linda Sesko, Eda Shannon, Jason Shipman, Frank Smith, Chris Stalker, Nick Stansbury, Janie Talemal, Jason Tallarida, Ernie Tolentino, Evelyne & Tom Tull, Lou Underwood, Rosemarie Villari, William Walsh, John Werner, Nancy Taylor-Williams, Dianne Williamson, Richard Wilson, Theresa Woods, Lois Worthington, Lori Wotypka, Lois Wunsch, Maria Wyzykowski, Catherine Zabrodski, Francesco Zarzycki, caregivers, all others in need of our prayers.

"...a time to die..."

All the Faithful Departed

CELEBRATING JOY DURING ADVENT

During the season of Advent, we await the celebration of Christ's birth and His coming again at the end of time. Over four weeks, we prepare our hearts for Christmas in penitential reflection. But in the middle of the season, Gaudete Sunday calls us to rejoice in hope!

What does Gaudete mean? Gaudete means "rejoice" in Latin.

Why do we light a pink candle on Gaudete Sunday? The Catholic Church uses the color rose to indicate a joyful feast day or holiday. Gaudete Sunday's counterpart in Lent is Laetare Sunday, another break in penance to rejoice in hope as we approach Easter. During both days, a priest will usually wear rose vestments.

PATIENCE STEWARDSHIP

"You too must be patient. Make you hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand."

-JAMES 5:8

Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule; we like things to be convenient. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer God reveals to us what He wants us to do with the gifts He has given us. Stewards are able to better align ourselves with God's will and His plan, which is far better than anything we can come up with on our own.

FORGOT YOUR ENVELOPES?

If you forgot your envelopes, are new to the parish or are visiting the parish and would like to make a donation. You can do so here. Be sure to select one-time gift – as recurring is default.



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You've heard it a million times. But things just aren't coming together. You're still hurting. You need someone to listen and to care, without judging or pushing you to get better. A Stephen Minister can be this person for you. To request a Stephen Minister, call 856-468-5536.

ADVENT HAPPENINGS

Join us for Soup and Scripture the four Mondays of Advent – This year's theme will be Bishop Barron's Catholicism. Soup and bread will be served at 5:30 PM and the talk will begin at 6:15 PM. Take time out from the hustle and bustle and delve deeper into our faith.

Incarnation Insights – Join us on Wednesday, December 17 at 7:00 PM in the Fr. Salerno Room. Deacon Phil will speak about the Shroud of Turin.

Decorating the Church for Christmas Sunday, December 21 at 1:30 PM – All are Welcome!!

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Our altar will again be beautifully adorned for Christmas. If you would like to donate in memory of a loved one or in honor of a loved one, please use the flower envelope found in your Christmas mailing. Extra Christmas Flower envelopes are available in the gathering space and at the parish office.

CHRISTMAS EVE: LIVE NATIVITY PAGEANT

Children will perform the story of Jesus' birth on Christmas Eve prior to the 4:00 PM Mass. The roles will consist of Mary, Joseph, Innkeeper, Wise Men, Shepherds, Angels, and animals. The roles will be based on the age/grade of the child. Any child from Incarnation K through 8 can participate. Practices will be held on: December 11 at 6:00 PM and December 20 at 10:00 AM. Please contact Heather Wilkie at hwilkie@incarnation-church.org to register. Students may receive service hours for both practices and the Live Nativity.

THE LEGION OF MARY

Are you looking for a way to serve God, your parish and the larger Church? The Legion of Mary performs the corporal works of mercy: visiting the sick and homebound, the visiting prisons, providing transportation to church for those without transportation, religious instruction, praying for the deceased and evangelization. Its primary purpose is to develop personal holiness. Active Members meet weekly for prayers, planning and discussion. They devote two to four hours per week working to save souls. There is also Auxiliary Membership which provides prayer support for Active Members. Please join us Thursday morning after the 8:30 AM Mass in the St. Joseph Room. All are welcome.

Like us on Facebook - Incarnation, Mantua



CHRISTMAS 2025

Confessions

Wednesday, December 17 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Christmas Decorating

Sunday, December 21 1:30 PM

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve Wednesday, December 24 4:00 PM, 6:00 PM 8:00 PM and 10:00 PM

Christmas Day Thursday, December 25 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Wednesday, December 31 5:00 PM

Thursday, January 1 8:30 AM

KNIGHTS' KNEWS

Save the date, this year's March for Life Pilgrimage will be on Friday, January 23, in Washington D.C. Join the Knights of Columbus as we march to promote the sanctity of life. Sponsored by Incarnation Council #6364 Inc.

Please call the parish office at 856-468-1314 if you want a seat on the bus.



DONATE YOUR RECIPES!!

Incarnation's Leadership Team is putting together a parish cookbook that celebrates the diversity, love of food and fellowship of our parish community. Please share a treasured family recipe, a holiday treat, a busy night go-to or your favorite comfort dish. Recipes should include Family Name, Recipe Name, Ingredients and Instructions and a short note about the dish's significance (optional). Please email to recipes4goodness@gmail.com or bring a hard copy to the parish office. All proceeds will benefit our parish pantry and those in need in our community.

LIVING AS MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

Our Scripture passage for this Sunday comes from the Gospel of Matthew 11:2-11. John the Baptist prepared as best he could for the coming of Jesus. However, John expected a Messiah who would bring punishment, destruction, and vengeance. His preaching was a message of "fire and brimstone", Jesus however, came as someone who reconciled, converted, healed, and redeemed. These were actions quite different from those of John's expectations. This confused expectation helps us understand why John sought clarification of Jesus' mission and identity. The experience of John teaches us that the best we can do as disciples is to be ready to welcome the Lord in the way He wishes to reveal Himself. Even John's expectations were not completely accurate. John thought the Messiah should punish the wicked and vindicate the righteous, yet John remained unjustly imprisoned by Herod. Perhaps John's personal situation of suffering made it difficult for him to see how God's mercy could act in other people's lives (healing of the blind, lame, and so forth) while not in his own life. Part of our Advent preparation as disciples is to examine the ways in which we have allowed our own expectations of God to blind us to the Lord's action in our world. It takes humility to let God be God! That humility also requires that we study God's works in salvation history so that we can better recognize how surprising and unconventional is the Lord's action.

Think about it: When do I find it difficult to let God be God



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