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



Fourth Sunday of Advent * December 21, 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

Thomas F. O'Brien *Deacon*

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 21 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Matthew 1:18-24

In a brief, straightforward, simple narrative, Matthew recounts the events leading to Jesus' birth. He details the appearance of the angel in a dream to Joseph and stresses that "All this happened to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophets."

Mass Intentions

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

Monday, December 22

7:00am Living & Deceased Members of the Parish 8:30am Kathy Durand r/b Joanne & Fran West

Tuesday, December 23 – St. John of Kanty

7:00am Bill Reilly r/b Kitty & Family 8:30am Margaret Lutz r/b Fred & Marge Lutz

Wednesday, December 24

8:30am Henry J. Talemal r/b wife Janie 4:00pm, 6:00pm, 8:00pm, 10:00pm All Living & Deceased Members of the Parish

Thursday, December 25 The Nativity of the Lord

9:30am All Living & Deceased Members of the Parish 11:30am All Living & Deceased Members of the Parish

Friday, December 26 – St. Stephen

8:30am Kathleen Magnotta r/b Stephen & Nicole Gallagher

Saturday, December 27 - St. John

8:30am Daniel O'Connor r/b wife Diane 5:00pm Armond Verratti r/b Christina McNasby

Sunday, December 28

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

7:30am Donato M. Cristinzio r/b Karen & Joe Mullen 9:30am Teresa Jennifer Nevius r/b McSorley Family 11:30am Robert A. Wilgus r/b Fran & Family

In Thanksgiving to St. Anthony r/b RoseMary Duras Paul Volkwine

Frank Caruso r/b his Granddaughter
Raymond DiClaudio r/b Katherine Caruso
Robert Obodzinsky r/b Steven & Fallon Corcoran

Readings for the Week

Monday, December 22 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56 Tuesday, December 23 Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66

Wednesday, December 24 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79

Thursday, December 25 Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Night: Is 9:1-6; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Day: Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Friday, December 26 Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22

Saturday, December 27 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

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.



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.

Reading 1 - Isaiah 7:10-14

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying: Ask for a sign from the LORD, your God; let it be deep as the netherworld, or high as the sky! But Ahaz answered, "I will not ask! I will not tempt the LORD!" Then Isaiah said: Listen, O house of David! Is it not enough for you to weary people, must you also weary my God? Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.

Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Reading 2 - Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised previously through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, the gospel about his Son, descended from David according to the flesh, but established as Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness through resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him we have received the grace of apostleship, to bring about the obedience of faith, for the sake of his name, among all the Gentiles, among whom are you also, who are called to belong to Jesus Christ; to all the beloved of God in Rome, called to be holy. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel - Matthew 1:18-24

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

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..."

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

Angeline Derolf, Karen Smith

"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, Stephen & 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. Marvellen McAteer, John McDevitt, Dorothy McKeever, Anne McMenamin, Barbara & Ira McManus, Christina McNasby, Tim McSorley, Hannah McStay, 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, Jacqueline Zellner, their caregivers, all others in need of our prayers.

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

Robert J. Wisenauer Richard A. Nardella



The sanctuary candle burns in memory of Peter Colonna requested by sons Nick & Frank

The altar bread and wine are in memory of Michael and Thomas Flood requested by Loving Family

STEWARDS OBEY

"When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home."

-MATTHEW 1:24

Stewards put our complete trust in the Lord without expecting anything in return. Striving to put God first in all things and follow Him wherever He may lead us. Joseph was a model of these pillars of our faith. As we prepare for the birth of our Lord, pray for the strength and courage to be a model of discipleship, just as Joseph was.

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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What a comfort it can be to have a concerned person willing to stay with you through trouble. A Stephen Minister can be that person. To request a Stephen Minister or to talk to a Stephen Leader, please call 856-468-5536.



CHRISTMAS 2025

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

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.

FR. SHAJI'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY TO THE PRIESTHOOD

Fr. Shaji's 25th Anniversary is Monday, December 29. To celebrate Father's dedication to his vocation there will be light refreshments after the 9:30 AM Mass on Sunday, December 28. Please let us know if you are able to bring a dessert – The Parish office number is 856-468-1314.



Heavenly Father, as we gather to celebrate Christmas, we are filled with hope and joy. The birth of your Son brings hope to the world, and we rejoice in the promise of salvation. May this Christmas be a time of celebration and reflection on the hope we have in Christ.

May God bless you and your families this Christmas and throughout the New Year.

Fr. Steve, Fr. Shaji, Deacon Doug, Deacon Mike, Deacon Peter, Deacon Phil, Deacon Tom and the Parish Staff.

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.

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.

LIVING AS MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

Throughout this Advent time, we have been focusing our attention on what it means to prepare for the coming of Jesus. One of the ways Jesus is present to us is through the lives of faithful Christians who manifest "God with us" (Emmanuel) by their actions of saving love for others. God can accomplish His will without us, so it is worth considering why the Lord wants our cooperation in His plan. Perhaps it's because the Lord wants to give us the privilege and joy of bringing His presence to others. God delights in letting us be His co-workers! That cooperation can only happen, however, when we say "Yes" to the will of God and give the Lord permission to use our lives in an active response of generosity and enthusiasm. Part of our Advent journey is about leading us to that moment of faithful surrender so that we can become a selfless conduit of God's grace for others. That's what Mary did with her "Yes", that's what Joseph did with his "Yes," and that's what we can do with our "Yes". People who say "Yes" to eagerly accomplish the Lord's will can change the world. Saint Catherine of Siena challenged Christians in the fourteenth century to be such heroic witnesses of faith when she said, "If you were to become who God intends you to be, you would set the (world) on fire." In the final verse of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus fulfills His earthly ministry by assuring His disciples that He will be "with them always" (Mt 28:20). Our Lord can give this assurance because His presence in the world will always be known through the lives of heroic people of faith who say "Yes" to God's will and offer themselves for the Lord's work.

Think about it: Who has inspired me to want to live a heroic life? Who has inspired me to want to live a holy life?

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, visiting the 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.



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