

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



Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time * September 27, 2026

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

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 at the 11:30a.m Mass. 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, September 27 ~ Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Matthew 21:28-32

Jesus speaks words of rebuke to the chief priests and the elders because they are not believing the teachings of John the Baptist. He warns them that tax collectors and prostitutes, who do believe John, will enter the Kingdom of God before them.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, September 26 –

8:30am Nicholas Brandemarti r/b Family
5:00pm Jackie Reilly r/b Bob and Janice Minor

Sunday, September 27

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30am Ann Marie Zimmerman r/b Dad
9:30am Jennifer Rene Miller
r/b Barbara ad Mike O’Leary
11:30am In Thanksgiving to St. Vincent de Paul
Peter Hodson r/b Julie and Reggie Santos
Anthony Santoro r/b Dempsey Family
Tom and Lisa Hengel r/b Beth Faust and family
Maria Solis Lopes r/b Tom and Katrina Yucis
Amanda M. Metzinger r/b Steve and Rosie Crossan

Monday, September 28

7:00am Gene Taylor r/b Taylor and Gatti Families
8:30am Kathy Voelmle (1st anniversary)
r/b Contemporary Ensemble

Tuesday, September 29 –

Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels

7:00am Living and Deceased Members of the Parish
8:30am In Thanksgiving
r/b Tony and Maryanne Gedaka

Wednesday, September 30 – St. Jerome

7:00am John D. Rastelli, Jr. r/b Rastelli Family
8:30am Pat and Joe Reiners r/b Duer Family

Thursday, October 1 – St. Therese of Lisieux

7:00am Vincent Bruno r/b daughter, Carol
8:30am Caterina Aversa
r/b Anthony and Catherine Silenzio

Friday, October 2 – The Guardian Angels

7:00am Joyce Menzi r/b Taylor and Gatti Families
8:30am Jacqueline Reilly r/b O’Leary Family

Saturday, October 3

8:30am Raymond Copeland r/b Otts Family
5:00pm Louis Cionci and Dawn Worrell
r/b Lisa Letterman
Robert Wnek r/b Taylor and Gatti Families
Joan Wnek r/b Taylor and Gatti Families
Joan Greenwald r/b Diane and Ted Bamford
John “Jack” Persichetti r/b the MacDermott Family
Kathleen Lynch McDevitt r/b husband, James

Sunday, October 4

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30am Deborah Romano r/b sisters, Brenda and Betty
9:30am Wolfgang Licht r/b wife and family
The Intentions of Fr. Shaji
r/b Parish Staff and Volunteers
Roxanne Day r/b Incarnation Bereavement Group
Carol Flick r/b Geri-Ann Deputy
Henrietta Comegno r/b Kathy Higgins and Family
Gloria Kneller r/b Carl and Irene Minniti
11:30am Patricia Quigley-Ayscue (7th Anniversary)
r/b her Mother

Readings for the Week

Monday, September 28	Jb 1:6-22; Lk 9:46-50
Tuesday, September 29	Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12ab; Jn 1:47-51
Wednesday, September 30	Jb 9:1-12, 14-16; Lk 9:57-62
Thursday, October 1	Jb 19:21-27; Lk 10:1-12
Friday, October 2	Jb 38:1, 12-21, 40:3-5; Mt 18:1-5, 10
Saturday, October 3	Jb 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17; Lk 10:17-24

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. Amen.

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Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise You. We bless You. We adore you. We glorify You. We give You thanks for Your great glory. Lord God, heavenly King, O God almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only-begotten Son. Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father: you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. You take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. You are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone, are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

First Reading – Ezekiel 18:25-28

Thus says the LORD: You say, "The LORD's way is not fair!" Hear now, house of Israel: Is it my way that is unfair, or rather, are not your ways unfair? When someone virtuous turns away from virtue to commit iniquity, and dies, it is because of the iniquity he committed that he must die. But if he turns from the wickedness he has committed, and does what is right and just, he shall preserve his life; since he has turned away from all the sins that he has committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9

Remember your mercies, O Lord.

Second Reading – Philippians 2:1-11

Brothers and sisters: If there is any encouragement in Christ, any solace in love, any participation in the Spirit, any compassion and mercy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing. Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but also for those of others.

Have in you the same attitude that is also in Christ Jesus, Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel – Matthew 21:28-32

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: "What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He came to the first and said, 'Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.' He said in reply, 'I will not,' but afterwards changed his mind and went. The man came to the other son and gave the same order. He said in reply, 'Yes, sir,' but did not go. Which of the two did his father's will?" They answered, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you. When John came to you in the way of righteousness, you did not believe him; but tax collectors and prostitutes did. Yet even when you saw that, you did not later change your minds and believe him."

The Nicene Creed

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.

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

Ecclesiastes 3:1

“...a time to be born...”

Domenic Salvatore Iero
Andie Lynne Filewicz

“...a time to welcome...”

Burke Family, Lubin Family, Cleary Family

“...a time to be married...”

Joshua Grey and Megan Fogerty

...a time to be healed...”

Ann Marie Agar, Sam Amaradio, George Austin, Kevon Baldwin, Verna Bisconte, Rita Bruno, Quincy Cao, Colleen, Bobby Cooper, Jerrolyn Covely, Bob D'Alessio, Robert Deegan, Ang DelGrande, Antoinette Deuber, Michael DiBernardo, Susan DiCicco, Alberta DiFabio, Barbara & Stephen DiTullio, Rich Donofrio, Judy Doyle, Donna Dluoik, Bill Dunbar, Ellie & Les Edwards, Thomas Fenerty, Rachel Feudale, Francis Ferry, Marylou and Terry Furfari, Linda Gerwatoski, Margaret Giordano, Patricia Griggs, Michael Groody, Donovan & John Gura, John & Joseph Hart, Kathy Heisinger, Carol Taylor-Kearney, Caroline Keenan, Marilyn Angelotti-Kelly, Fred Krumm, Steffanie Lerch, Patricia Manning, Richard Marcantonio, Anthony & Biago Marciante, Michelle Marhefka, Barbara Marker, Maryellen McAteer, , Barbara & Ira McManus, Anne McMenamin, Christina McNasby, Jack & Tim McSorley, Hannah McStay, Timothy Malloy, Jennifer Morgan, Katie Mutek, Peter Myers, Frank Nowak, Nicole P., William Pappernek, Giovanni Poloney, Rose Quigley, Janet Rainier, Joan Reilly, Mary Reilly, George Rein, Angie & Pete Richman, Patti Roberts, Jim Roche, Karen Rucci, Jason Russell, Denise Sacco, Marguerite Sadler, Caterina & Santi Saya, Loretta Scardino, Charlie Schmidheiser, Mark Serock, Linda Sesko, Nicholas Simeo, Sr., Eda Shannon, Jason Shipman, Chris Stalker, Nick Stansbury, Dot Stronski, Barbara Struzynski, Jason Tallarida, Tom Tull, Rosemarie Villari, William Walsh, Justin Weaver, John Werner, Nancy Taylor-Williams, Dianne Williamson, Richard Wilson, Theresa Woods, Lois Worthington, Lori Wotypka, Lois Wunsch, Maria Wyzykowski, Francesco Zarzycki, all others in need of our prayers.

“...a time to die...”

Elaine Barbuto

HUMBLE STEWARDS

“Do nothing out of selfishness; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves...”

Philippians 2:3

Pride and ego are hard things to control. We see how others act or dress and think we are superior to them. We idolize our own self-image. But, if we truly believe that in stewardship everything is a gift from God, we recognize all the people that God has put in our lives as gifts! We are grateful for how they enrich our lives. Pray every day for the people in your life: your family, your friends and those who make you angry.

Stewardship Report

Sept. 15 through Sept. 21: \$22,896.55

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 by scanning the QR code below. Be sure to select a one-time gift, as recurring is default. Thank you for your generosity!



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Encourage One Another

In 1 Thessalonians 5 Paul writes, “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up. . . Encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone.” God has called us all to build up and encourage one another. For those who are experiencing a really difficult time, our Stephen Ministers can provide the special encouragement, care, and support they need until they are past the crisis. If you would like more information on our Stephen Ministry, please call 856-468-5536.

Saint 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.

FIRST FRIDAY

This Friday is First Friday. We will have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 7 to 8 p.m. in the church. Come and spend a few minutes or an hour with the Lord and rest in His presence.

NEW GROUP FOR MOMS OF YOUNG CHILDREN

A new ministry is forming at Incarnation called "Mamas Abiding: Mothers with Young Children." It can be hard to make time for your relationship with God when you're a mom with young children. We will meet from 9 to 10 a.m. in the Youth Room on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month for a time of fellowship and prayer. The first session will be on Tuesday, Oct. 6. Bring your children. For more information, contact Diane Blenke at dmblenkel@gmail.com.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

St. Francis of Assisi was known for preaching to anyone who would listen, including animals. We will hold the annual Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, Oct. 3 at 9:15 a.m. at the Mary Grotto. All kinds of animals, large and small, are welcome on a leash or in a cage.

ST. FRANCIS MOVIE NIGHT

Eight centuries after his death, St. Francis of Assisi continues to inspire people around the world. But who was he, really? Join us in the Salerno Room on Monday, Sept. 28 at 7 p.m. for the showing of the film "St. Francis of Assisi: Sign of Contradiction" Father Dave Pivonka, TOR, sets out on a journey to discover the heart of St. Francis. He highlights how Francis was a man who struggled and searched for purpose and ultimately found it in Jesus Christ. Even when others called him a fool, St. Francis became a sign of contradiction. His conversion shows us how we, too, can turn back to God.

THE BROWN SCAPULAR DEVOTION

You may have seen our First Communion children receiving the brown scapular at the end of Mass. The scapular is a gift given from the Blessed Virgin Mary to St. Simon Stock in 1251 as a sign of her protection. Those who wear it and pray the rosary daily receive special graces at their death. Have you ever thought about being instituted into the Order of the Brown Scapular yourself? We are having Mass with Institution and reception of the scapular on Weds., Oct. 7 at 7 p.m. If you are interested, please contact the Office.

Like us on Facebook – Incarnation, Mantua

SUPPORTING OUR PRIESTS

The Seven Sisters Apostolate, a ministry of prayer for priests, is seeking an additional woman who is willing to commit to make a Holy Hour each Wednesday for the intentions of our pastor, Fr. Steve Rapposelli. If you are interested in making this commitment, email Geraldine at dontcallmegeeri@yahoo.com or call the parish office. For more information about Seven Sisters, visit www.sevensistersapostolate.org.

PREP FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Children in grades K through 8 with disabilities are welcome to join a PREP program tailored to their individual needs. Class sizes are small and we use the Loyola Press Adaptive Program called "Finding God: Response to God's Gifts." Classes are the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month during the 9:30 Mass from September to April. Meet us at the Kernan Center! For information and to register, visit our website: www.incarnation-church.org/prep-for-children-with-disabilities. For assistance, contact Heather Wilkie at hwilkie@incarnation-church.org.

GOLF FOR GLOUCESTER CATHOLIC

Join us for the Katherine (Kathy McDermott CCHS '57) Campbell Scholarship Golf Tournament on Saturday, Oct. 3 at Pitman Golf Course! For 30 years, this tournament has helped make Catholic education more affordable for families in our community. Last year, your generosity provided \$8,000 in tuition assistance. This year, proceeds will benefit Gloucester Catholic and The Joseph Fund, helping provide support to students and families in need.

Golfers are \$165 and Hole Sponsors are \$200. Golf includes light food and drinks, giveaways, and prizes. For info or registration, contact Kathleen Dougherty at 609-617-9960 or kathleendougherty90@gmail.com.

RETROUVAILLE: REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE

Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille. Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program will be held the weekend of Oct. 2 through 4 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, call 215-766-3944 or visit www.MarriageHelpDelVal.org. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

Visit us at www.incarnation-church.org

NJ STATE MARCH FOR LIFE

October is Respect Life Month, and we continue to pray that all life will be honored at sacred, from conception to natural death. Our local March for Life will be held this year on Thursday, Oct. 8 in Trenton. Infant Jesus Parish in Woodbury Heights is sponsoring a bus trip for those who wish to attend. Seating is limited. The bus will leave at 6:45 a.m. from St. Margaret's Church parking lot. The day starts with Mass at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, and then the march will proceed to the state capital. Anyone interested in going should contact either Bob LaPalomato at 846-994-3476 or Tony Skalski at 856-537-7325 for availability in transportation.

HELP FOR PREGNANT MOMS

If you are facing a difficult pregnancy or need supplies for your baby, you are not alone. First Way Pregnancy Resource Center located at 686 N. Broad St., Woodbury is here to help. They provide free and confidential counseling, pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, clothing in sizes newborn to 2T and other supplies. Call 856-848-1819 for an appointment. Donations and volunteers are also welcome – call the number above or send email to ads@nationallifecenter.com.

Donations of clothing, diapers, wipes, formula may also be dropped off at the parish office.

A WEEKEND AWAY FOR MARRIED COUPLES

When was the last time you and your spouse got away, just the two of you? Now, a tougher question: When was the last time you asked yourselves, "How are we doing? How can we love each other better?" Worldwide Marriage Encounter is an international ministry to encourage deeper love and connection for married couples. Whether you've been married for one year or 70, consider giving yourselves the gift of time away to talk, pray, and reconnect.

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is led by one married couple and one priest. While there are talks throughout the weekend, there are no group discussions or sharing. It's just about the two of you learning to be the best, most loving and thriving couple you can be. Nine in ten couples who attend a Marriage Encounter recognize a long-lasting positive effect on their lives.

Upcoming weekends in our area include:

- Oct. 2-4: Cherry Hill, NJ
- Oct. 9-11: Doylestown, PA
- Nov. 6-8: Rehoboth Beach, DE
- Dec. 4-6: Ocean City, NJ

For questions or for more information, visit www.wwme.org or speak to Fr. Steve.

LIVING AS MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

Our Scripture passage for the Sunday comes from the Gospel of Matthew 21:28-32. In this reading, we hear the story of the two brothers who respond differently to the request of the father. One brother says what the father wants to hear while the other brother eventually does what the father wills. Ultimately it is the one who actually does the will of the father that Jesus esteems. These two practical examples emphasize the importance of action over words when it comes to our lives of faith. Thus, this teaching offers important insights for the life of discipleship.

Jesus tells this parable to the chief priests and elders of the people so that they would realize the mistake they were making by not accepting our Lord's teaching. This reality is that the chief priests and elders didn't want to become followers of Jesus in large part because of those who were already following Him. They considered such followers notorious sinners with whom they did not want to be associated. It was the chief priests' and elders' disdain for other disciples that that actually led them to reject the invitation to discipleship. It is always easier to look around us and focus on other people's need to repent rather than our own need to repent. When it comes to opportunities for discipleship, the question we pose should not be, "Who else is responding?" but rather, "How can I grow closer to the Lord in this moment?" Sometimes we are only comfortable engaging in one opportunity of discipleship or another when we are assured that our friends or people like ourselves or people we respect will be part of it as well. Such a preoccupation with who else is involved can distract us and deter us from pursuing wonderful opportunities for spiritual growth and discipleship. It can also prevent us from encountering the goodness of others whom we may not currently know or have not already met. Jesus wants disciples who will respond to His teaching on their own initiative and without prejudice or preference for who else is responding. Sometimes we can be like the chief priests and elders who paid more attention to the disciples than they did to the Master. Disciples will always be flawed; if we are waiting to find the perfect community of Christians, we would do well to remember the statement, "When you find the perfect Church, join it! Then it won't be perfect anymore!"

Think about it: What ministry opportunity have I been interested in but did not become a part of because of those who were or were not involved in it?

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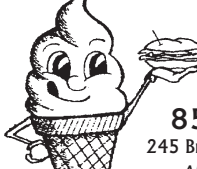

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