

Cathedral of Saint Joseph

Mother Church of the Archdiocese of Hartford



• 7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME •

BE MERCIFUL.

February 23, 2025

©LPI



Mass Intentions

Sunday	February 23 Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time For All who serve to maintain the Cathedral & Pastoral Center †For the Souls: Augustine Udeh & †Chukwuma Nebo requested by Munachiso Iloeje
8:30 AM	
11:00 AM	
Monday	February 24 OCIA Candidates †Holy Souls in Purgatory
7:30 AM	
12:10 PM	
Tuesday	February 25 †Claire Bergin requested by Family available
7:30 AM	
12:10 PM	
Wednesday	February 26 Blessings of good health to all Members of Religious Life & Clergy †Anita Ennis requested by Family
7:30 AM	
12:10 PM	
Thursday	February 27—St. Gregory of Narek available †Jack Leahy requested by His Sister, Joan
7:30 AM	
12:10 PM	
Friday	February 28 †Lucy Dunston requested by Alpha Nicholson †Florence E. Ryan requested by Lois Ann Ryan
7:30 AM	
12:10 PM	
Saturday	March 1 To make a reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary Wedding Anniversary Mass
9:00 AM	
4:00 PM	
Sunday	March 2 Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time †Deborah Cornock & †Joseph Simcic requested by Family All Confirmandi awaiting to be confirmed this Spring
8:30 AM	
11:00 AM	



Pastor:

The Most Reverend Christopher J. Coyne
Archbishop of Hartford

Rector: The Very Reverend John P. Melnick

Parochial Vicar: Reverend Daniel Valente, M.S.A.

Deacons: James McCormack, Norris Taylor

Parish Office: 140 Farmington Avenue

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Lawrence Simpini

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Parish Council

President: James Gentile

Email: jamesm.gentile@gmail.com

Knights of Columbus

Grand Knight: Luis Pollock

Email: lpollock16@gmail.com

The Office of Seminarians and Vocations

Vocation Director: Reverend Anthony Federico

Telephone: 860-761-7456

Website: hartfordpriest.com

Email: vocations@aohct.org



Please remember those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith, **especially, those in Ukraine, Middle Eastern Countries and Myanmar.** We

continue to pray for those being held hostage, our homebound parishioners, and those dealing with illness or recuperating from surgeries or treatments.

We pray for the passengers on the Toronto flight, in thanksgiving for their survival. And we pray for our country and its new leadership.

Schedule of Masses

Sunday: 8:30 AM, 11:00 AM

Daily Mass: Monday through Friday: 7:30 AM, 12:10 PM, and Saturday: 9:00 AM

Virtual Masses: Sunday, 11:00 AM Mass livestreamed on the Parish Website, Cathedral Facebook and YouTube Channel

Holy Day Masses: 7:30 AM & 12:10 PM

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday, 9:30 AM

Adoration: Wednesday, 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Rosary: Saturday, 9:30 AM



OFFERTORY

February 16, 2025

Weekly: \$ 1,046
Online Giving: \$ 538
Total: \$ 1,584

Upcoming Collection: Parish Monthly-March 2

We thank you for your support of the Cathedral of Saint Joseph and its ministries.

Souper Bowl of Caring COLLECTION after the 8:30am & 11:00am Masses on February 23rd

We are currently seeking individuals to assist with the offertory count. This would require you to come to the parish office on Monday mornings or on some occasions, Tuesday mornings. If you are interested in volunteering for this ministry, please call the parish office to offer your contact information.



“Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.” — Lk 6:38

Dear Parishioners,



With the leaving of Dr. Ezequiel Menéndez at the end of last year after 26 years of service, we embarked on a nationwide search to ensure the new director would have the skills to maintain and grow the music ministry at the Cathedral. Dr. Gabriel Löfvall has been selected as the new Director of Music for the Cathedral of Saint Joseph, effective March 13, 2025. Dr. Löfvall, a native of Argentina, comes to us with a Doctorate of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting. He has most recently served as the Director of Music at St. Patrick-St. Anthony Parish in downtown Hartford for the past 16 years. Gabriel is no stranger to the Cathedral as he has been a close collaborator with Dr. Menéndez for concerts and special events. We welcome Dr. Löfvall to our community as he continues to foster the superb sacred music for which the Cathedral is known.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,
Very Rev. John P. Melnick
Rector

IS ASH WEDNESDAY—March 5—A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION?

Despite the often packed churches, you may be surprised to hear that the answer is no! Holy days of obligation commemorate a particular event (such as the birth of Christ at Christmas) or celebrate particular people (such as Mary’s Immaculate Conception or the feast of All Saints). Ash Wednesday is a day of penance, fasting, and abstinence to begin the season of Lent. In a sense, it focuses on a *concept* rather than something particular and concrete.

Of course, repentance ought to be reflected in particular, concrete ways! That’s one of the reasons that attending Mass on Ash Wednesday is a very good idea. It marks the beginning of a solemn season of penance. Despite all its comparisons to the desert, Lent can be very fruitful for our spiritual growth! Beginning this season with the celebration of Mass and the reception of ashes is a sign of our commitment to God and to spiritual growth.

Today’s Gospel is an invitation for us to consider how we engage with people who disagree with us — or maybe even actively dislike us. Much is said these days of the “culture wars.” Certainly don’t disagree that it can often feel like you’re fighting a war when you’re trying to live as the Church teaches. The forces against you often seem overwhelming and nefarious. And guess what? They are. We must interact lovingly with people who think differently and live differently from us. The Christian life absolutely demands it.

Prayer of Christian Life

Dear Jesus,

Help me to pray for and bless everyone I encounter, whether that be easy or hard.

Help me to act in the mercy I have known through you.

Help me to demonstrate generosity, as you have given so much to me.

Amen.

MARK THE DATE

Malta House of Care

Monday–Thursday,
9am–3:30pm:
Call 860-725-0171
for information &
appointments.

Food Pantry

Thursdays, 9:00 am–
11:45am: February 27
& March 6, 2025

CT Food Share

11:30am–12:15pm:
Every other
Wednesday (next
date) March 5

Clothing Pantry

Fridays, 10:00am–
1:00pm: February 28
& March 7, 2025

**Current Needs for
the Clothing Pantry:
Gently used or new
towels

Saturday

April 26, 2025
at Dunkin Park



03/6 - 04/17 THURSDAYS 6:30PM
LENTEN SCRIPTURE SERIES
SS. Isidore and Maria Parish, St. Augustine
Church, 55 Hopewell Rd, South Glastonbury

This FREE transformative series is designed to deepen your understanding of each Sunday reading during Lent. We'll examine the author's intended message, the relationship between the weekly readings, and their meaning for today's spiritual life. For more information or to register, please visit www.isidoreandmaria.org/lentenscriptures2025.



03/9 SUNDAY 3PM
SIGNS OF HOPE LENTEN SERVICE
Church of the Incarnation, 544 Prospect St,
Wethersfield

Join Christ the King Parish in this service, led by Rev. Nicholas Melo, honoring Pope Francis' Jubilee Year of Hope, designated as a time for renewal as "Pilgrims of Hope." Created by parishioner Nancy Kiely, who holds a Master's in moral theology, the service features prayers linked to the eight pillars of the Jubilee Year, music by the church choir, and personal stories from eight pilgrims of hope sharing experiences on peace, life, poverty, illness, incarceration, youth, migration, and the elderly. Fellowship will follow in Father Crawford Hall.



03/7 - 04/4 FRIDAYS 5:30PM
FRIDAY FISH FRY
Our Lady of the Assumption, Church Hall,
81 Center Rd, Woodbridge

Woodbridge Knights are serving fish fry dinners on three Fridays this Lent (March 7, March 21, and April 4). The cost is \$15 for fish and chips, \$7 for grilled cheese/gluten free option and French fries. Proceeds will support charity and parish needs including: OLOA Teen Mission Trip (March 7) Vocations support for local Seminarians and Postulants (March 21) "Build-a-Bed" event in June (April 4). Please support these worthy causes while observing your Lenten obligations and enjoying our wonderful OLOA community. If you wish to help with setting up, cooking, serving, or cleaning up, contact **Bill Fortin** (text: 203-565-4533, email: wfort2000@yahoo.com).



03/19 WEDNESDAY 10:30AM
MASS FOR THE CT MARCH FOR LIFE
Cathedral of Saint Joseph,
140 Farmington Ave, Hartford

Join us for Mass at 10:30 AM at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph before the Connecticut March for Life! After Mass, head to the rally at 210 Capitol Ave, Hartford at noon, followed by the 1 PM march.

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PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL AUCTION

CARNIVAL NIGHT
ADULTS ONLY!

MARCH 8, 2025
6:00PM

Hosted at
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A BIBLICAL
WALK THROUGH THE MASS

This Lent, join us in exploring the profound significance of the Mass, renewing our faith and deepening our devotion to Christ. Beginning March 11th for five (5) weekly sessions.

Program Details
No Registration Fee
Text & Workbook Cost: \$27.00

Location & Times:
10am Tuesday Mornings - St. Teresa of Avila Church - Woodbury
6:30pm Tuesday Evenings - St. Teresa of Avila Church - Woodbury
9am Wednesday Mornings - Church of the Nativity - Bethlehem

To register or for more information scan/click the QR Code above, call parish office at 203-263-2008 or email: princeofpeace@aohct.org.

Soup Sale

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Drive-Thru Pick up 12pm - 4pm

March 5th

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Sales ends March 11, 2025

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NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD

Branches on the Vine

FEBRUARY 22 - 28, 2025



ALPHA PROGRAM LEADS OTHERS ENCOUNTER CHRIST

- Story by Joe Pisani

When she was a student at St. John the Evangelist School in Long Island, N.Y., Diane Dinehart knew her Catechism inside out. But it took some time for her to develop a personal relationship with Jesus.

Today, as pastoral associate of St. Paul VI Parish in Hamden, she is working to help people have an encounter with Jesus through a program called Alpha, designed for those who are "looking for something more" on their spiritual journey.

"We're trying to help people have a deeper relationship with Jesus that's personal, which is what I was missing when I was growing up," says Dinehart, coordinator of the program. "I didn't understand that part, and I think Catholics in general don't understand it."

The 12-week course, with 90-minute sessions, has been a mainstay at the parish and has been taken by 30 million people worldwide. The series explores life and the Christian faith, with talks, videos and small-group discussions designed to engage and inspire conversation and foster personal growth in the basics of Christianity. The sessions are typically preceded by breakfast or dinners with fellowship.

"Alpha has something for everyone," Dinehart says. "Even though it was designed for people who wouldn't describe themselves as churchgoers, it attracts cradle Catholics. It awakens something in you, and it gives you something you never had before."

During the sessions, participants consider questions like, "Who is Jesus?" "What is faith?" and "Does God heal?" Almost 500 people have been through the parish program since it began five years ago.

Midway through the course, there is a time-away segment, which is an opportunity for prayer.

"This lets them learn about the Holy Spirit and come away really on fire," Dinehart says. "For a lot of Catholics, it's a whole new experience because they have the opportunity to be prayed over and experience healing and peace."

The parish priests, deacons, pastoral associates and ministry leaders of St. Paul VI Parish, which includes Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Blessed Sacrament, St. Rita and Ascension churches, have completed the program.

"Alpha has been such a success because we are blessed with so many people who are dedicated to the program," Dinehart says, crediting the volunteers, the hospitality committee, support staff, group leaders and those who pray for the participants.

Gina, a participant says Alpha has helped me renew my faith in Jesus while learning new ways to pray.

Jerry, who participated in a previous course, says he signed up for Alpha because he was been looking for ways to renew and grow his faith in Jesus Christ.

This year, sixth graders in religious education are participating in a new youth Alpha program in the parish, along with their parents who are doing an adult version.


For more information about the Alpha program and the schedule, contact Dinehart at the parish office at 203.248.0141 or visit hamdencatholic.org.



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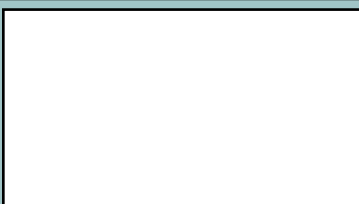
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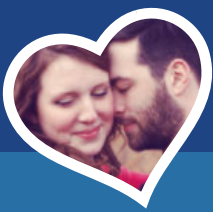
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