



# ANNUNCIATION PARISH

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, FEBRUARY 8, 2026

## **PARISH OFFICE**

626 Willard Ave. (All Mail Please)

Newington, CT 06111

Phone: (860) 666-1591

### **Office Hours**

Monday - Friday:

9:00am - 2:00pm

## **CHURCH OF ST. MARY**

626 Willard Avenue

Newington, CT. 06111

## **CHURCH OF HOLY SPIRIT**

183 Church Street (No Mail Please)

Newington, CT. 06111

### **Confession**

Friday: 8:30-8:50 am, HS

Saturday: 3:00-3:50 pm, HS

Sunday: 7:30-7:50 am, SM

### **Mass Times**

**Daily Mass:** Monday - Friday

9:00 am, HS

**Saturday Vigil:** 4:00 pm, HS

**Sunday Masses:**

8:00 am, SM

9:15 am, HS

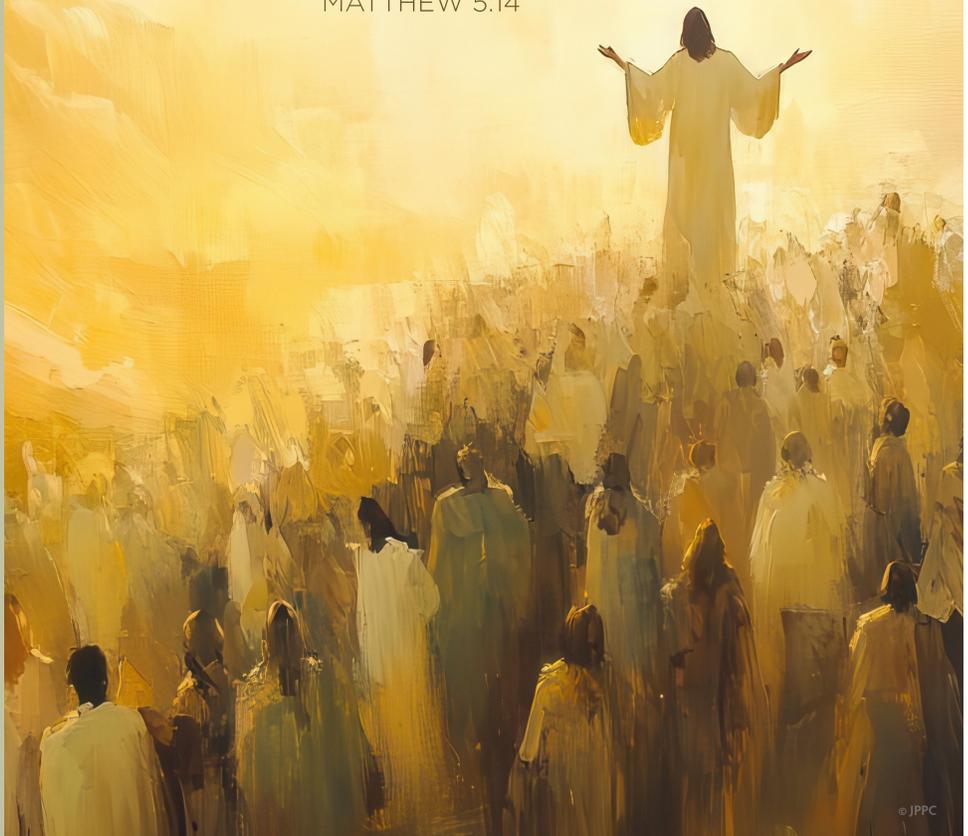
10:30 am, SM

12:00 pm, HS

Visit us on the web @  
[annunciationnewington.com](http://annunciationnewington.com)

YOU ARE THE  
*light of the world*

MATTHEW 5:14



Keep your family safe, O Lord, with unfailing care, that, relying solely on the hope of heavenly grace, they may be defended always by your protection. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

# THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, FEBRUARY 8, 2026

## Welcome To Annunciation Parish, The Roman Catholic Community of Newington

Whether you are a long-time parishioner, a returning parishioner, a new parishioner, or a visitor, welcome to our community. We are glad that you are here and hope that you feel at home. If you are not already a member of our parish, please consider joining us. If you are a member of our parish already, please consider joining one of our ministries.

The Catholic Church welcomes new members of all ages. Children are welcomed into our faith through the sacrament of Baptism. Adults can either join our faith, or complete their sacraments of initiation through our RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) or our Adult Confirmation program. If you are interested, please call the rectory at: (860) 666-1591.

### Parish Priests

**Rev. Janusz Kukulka**, Pastor

fr.kukulka@aohct.org

**Rev. Joseph Pullikattil**, Parochial Vicar

fr.pullikattil@aohct.org

### Weekend Associates

**Rev. Lawrence Bock**

**Msgr. James Kinnane**

### Deacons

**James Blanchette**

deaconjimb@annunciationnewington.com

**Bruce Thompson**, Senior Deacon

### Music Ministry

**Mark Neumann**, Parish Director of Music

neumn@hotmail.com

**David Dyson**, Organist

music.dyson@annunciationnewington.com

**Business Manager**, Deacon Julio Maturana

business@annunciationnewington.com

Phone: (860) 436-4381

### Rectory Office

**Kimberly Marchetti**, Secretary, Annunciation Parish

kim@annunciationnewington.com

Phone: (860) 666-1591

### Religious Education Office

Phone: (860) 729-5032

**Deacon James Blanchette**, Director of Religious Education

deaconjimb@annunciationnewington.com

**Eliza Harris**, Coordinator of Religious Education

CRE@annunciationnewington.com

### Sacramental Ministries

#### Baptism

To schedule a Baptism, visit our website:

www.annunciationnewington.com, *scroll down to* Quick Links (*center of Home Page*), *Select* - Book a Baptism and then once the form is submitted, Deacon Blanchette will call to arrange a meeting.

#### Marriage

Please call the rectory at least **six months** in advance. Couples meet with the priest for an initial pastoral conversation before a wedding date can be set. Please do not make other plans until a date has been confirmed.

#### For the Sick

We are happy to visit with the homebound. If you or a loved one would like a home visit, Holy Communion or the Anointing of the Sick, please contact the rectory office.

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK – The Fifth Sunday In Ordinary Time

**Monday** 1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13 Ps 132:6-7, 8-10 Mk 6:53-56

**Tuesday** 1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30 Ps 84:3, 4, 5 and 10, 11 Mk 7:1-13

**Wednesday** 1 Kgs 10:1-10 Ps 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40 Mk 7:14-23

**Thursday** 1 Kgs 11:4-13 Ps 106:3-4, 35-36, 37 and 40 Mk 7:24-30

**Friday** 1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19 Ps 81:10-11ab, 12-13, 14-15 Mk 7:31-37

**Saturday** 1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34 Ps 106:6-7ab, 19-20, 21-22 Mk 8:1-10

**Sunday** Sir 15:15-20 Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34 1 Cor 2:6-10 Mt 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37

# THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, FEBRUARY 8, 2026

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, February 7th, The Vigil For The Fifth Sunday In Ordinary Time

H/S 4:00 p.m. Rory Michael Flanagan, By Lynn & Michael Lutz

### Sunday, February 8th, The Fifth Sunday In Ordinary Time

S/M 8:00 a.m. The Kafel Family, By Nathan Menoret

H/S 9:15 a.m. Nicola & Filomena Niro, By Their Family

S/M 10:30 a.m. Caroline Sebastian, By The Zacharias Family

H/S 12:00 p.m. Audrey & Richard Schaller, By Their Family

### Monday, February 9th, Weekday

H/S 9:00 a.m. Helen & Richard Murdock, By Carol Ann & Al Slivinskas & The Carmienke Family

### Tuesday, February 10th, Saint Scholastica, Virgin

H/S 9:00 a.m. Fr. Josh Wilbur-For God's Healing Grace

### Wednesday, February 11th, Weekday; Our Lady of Lourdes

H/S 9:00 a.m. Marianna Justynska, By Magdalena

### Thursday, February 12th, Weekday

H/S 9:00 a.m. No intention

### Friday, February 13th, Weekday

H/S 9:00 a.m. No intention

### Saturday, February 14th, The Vigil For The Sixth Sunday In Ordinary Time

H/S 4:00 p.m. Alicia Wakefield, By Her Daughter

### Sunday, February 15th, The Sixth Sunday In Ordinary Time

S/M 8:00 a.m. Salvatore Mangiafico & Gary Clark,  
By The Family

H/S 9:15 a.m. Virginia Barber, By Her Family

S/M 10:30 a.m. Joseph Guerrero, By His Wife & Children

H/S 12:00 p.m. Linus Steck, 15th Anniversary, By His Family

## Parish Support

### February 1, 2026

Weekly \$13,568

Online Giving \$3,396

Total \$16,964

*Generosity*  
changes everything

## Eucharistic Adoration

### Holy Spirit Church

6:00 - 7:00pm

Tuesday Evenings

Spend the whole hour or as much time as you can give!



By assisting devoutly at Mass, we render the sacred humanity of Our Lord the greatest homage. He makes up for many failings and omissions. We should pray like this at the beginning of Mass:  
**“O Most just God, with contrite heart and steadfast hope, I lay my sins upon this sacred altar, in order that they may be consumed by the flames of Your divine Charity, purged away by the Precious Blood of Jesus, and fully atoned for by His infinite merits. Amen.”**



# PARISH CALENDAR, FEBRUARY 8, 2026

## **The Knights Sandwich Ministry**

Our next sandwich collection is Sunday, **February 15th at 4:30 pm** in the Saint Mary School parking lot.

## **K of C Food Collection**

**Sunday, March 1st @** both churches

## **The Prayer Shawl Group**

meets the **third Thursday** of every month at **12:30 p.m.** at The Holy Spirit Church Hall from **September-June**

## **The Men's Club**

...meets on the **third Wednesday** of every month, at **6:00 pm** in St. Mary lower Rectory. Contact: Tom Morris at (860) 666-6331

## **The Men's Fellowship Group**

...meets every **Wednesday** evening from **6:30-8:00 pm @** Holy Spirit Church Hall. Contact: Angelo Marchetti at: (860) 202-1612

## **The Women's Fellowship Group**

...meets every Thursday of every from **6:30-8:00 pm** Holy Spirit Church Hall. Contact: Kim Marchetti at: (860) 202-0020

## **The Women's Guild**

The February general membership meeting will be held on **Tuesday February 10th, 2026** at: **1:00 pm** in the Holy Spirit Church hall. **Please note the time change for this meeting only.** The February program will be: "Fun and Games" with prizes awarded to the winners. All parish women are welcome to join us at this or any other scheduled meeting.

**We are very grateful for the generosity shown by so many to our Annual Parish Collection. If you have not yet had an opportunity to return your gift card, please do so as soon as possible. Every gift is welcome and sincerely appreciated. Thank you!**



## **Mass Cancellation Policy During Inclement Weather**

Daily Mass at 9:00 a.m. is cancelled whenever the Newington Public School System delays or closes for inclement weather. Sunday Masses (Saturday Vigil and Sunday Morning Masses) are cancelled whenever the Governor declares a travel ban, prohibiting or restricting the use of vehicles on the road.

This policy will eliminate the need to call the rectory to ask if there is Mass and serves as an easy way to announce our closing.

No other announcements will be given except for the policy as stated above. Mass intentions will be satisfied by the priest celebrant at his private Mass in the event that a scheduled public Mass is cancelled.

Thank you for your understanding.



**During the months of January - March 2026 the West Hartford United Methodist Church is holding a FOOD DRIVE to support our local Food Pantry.**

Please drop off your non-perishable, unexpired/unopened donations, 24/7/365, in the bin by the front door of the church.

Popular items are spaghetti, pasta sauce, soups, peanut butter, (16-18 oz jars,) jelly, canned fruit, applesauce, rice, (1-2lb packages,) cereal, shelf stable milk, crackers, juice, and canned veggies.

Additionally, we're collecting NEW SOCKS, especially men's to support a local shelter.

The West Hartford United Methodist Church  
1358 New Britain Ave, corner of Berkshire Rd.  
Exit 40 off I-84

1 Block East of Westfarms Mall and Corbin's Corner.

# ANNUNCIATION PARISH

**“Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.” Matthew 5:16**

**The 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A highlights the call to care for others and shine in the world. The readings show how kindness, faith, and good actions bring light and hope.**

- **Helping those in need:** Giving food, shelter, and clothing to others brings healing and joy. When people help those who suffer, they find peace and feel closer to God.
- **Living by faith:** Faith should rest on God’s power, not on human knowledge. Trusting in Him gives strength, even when feeling weak.
- **Being a light:** Jesus calls people to shine by doing good. When others see kindness and love, they are drawn closer to God.
- **Making a difference:** Just as salt changes food, people can change the world. Small acts of goodness bring hope and encouragement.
- **Showing God’s love:** Faith is not just words but actions. Loving others reflects God’s goodness in everyday life.
- **Overcoming fear with trust:** Weakness and fear should not stop people from sharing their faith. Trusting in God’s help brings courage.
- **Glorifying God:** Good works should not be done for attention. They should point others to God and His goodness.

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Kindness  
is the most important  
superpower



Actions  
Speak  
Louder  
than  
Words



**Save the Date: May 2, 2026**

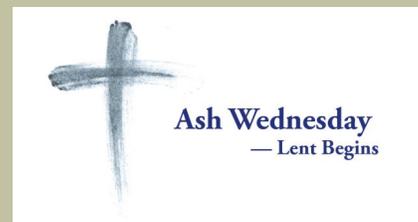
**Annunciation Parish will be hosting “Comedy Night” at  
The Holy Spirit Church Hall.**



# ANNUNCIATION PARISH

## **Ash Wednesday Schedule-February 18th:**

H/S 9:00 a.m. Mass and Distribution of Ashes  
S/M 12:10 p.m. Mass and Distribution of Ashes  
H/S 5:30 p.m. Mass and Distribution of Ashes



**Preparation for the Season of Preparation! During the season of Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday, the Church asks us to spend more time in intentional prayer, to fast and abstain from meat on designated days, and to practice charitable giving for the sake of others. Recalling Jesus' forty day fast in the wilderness, we believe that our constant participation in these practices is a form of purification that deepens our spiritual center by stripping away all that is unnecessary and by reminding us of our sole reliance on God. Participating in a spiritual program during Lent allows us to celebrate the Easter Mystery more worthily and allows that celebration to build in excitement and anticipation. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of both fast and abstinence and all Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence. Abstinence means eating no meat. Fasting means eating only one normal sized meal and two smaller meals not exceeding the size of the one meal and not eating in-between meals (no snacks). Those 14 and older are required to abstain from meat; those 18-59 are required to fast, except in cases of special medical conditions that prevent fasting. The essential spiritual act for the season of Lent is to celebrate God's forgiveness and mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This soul saving sacrament is provided many times a week during Lent. The sacrament is celebrated every Saturday before Mass at Holy Spirit 3:00-3:50 p.m. and Friday morning before Mass at 8:30-8:50 a.m., every Tuesday during Holy Hour from 6:00-7:00 p.m. at Holy Spirit and during the Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent at St. Mary at 12:10 and Holy Spirit at 7:00 p.m. Please see the information below for a special gathering on Fridays before Stations of The Cross for Soup and Bread during Lent. The important thing is that everyone think about and begin a spiritual plan for this season of preparation. This special time of the year that is set apart, in order to be spiritually ready to enter into the great celebration at Easter.**

**Soup & Bread during Lent is Back!!!!** Please come and join us for Soup & Bread every Friday during Lent starting at 6pm (Holy Spirit Hall). A different ministry from our Parish will be providing a meatless soup or soups and plenty of bread. Beverages will include coffee, tea and water. This is a great opportunity to grab something to eat before Stations of the Cross. Here is this year's schedule:

**Friday February 20th - Annunciation Men's Club**

**Friday February 27th - Annunciation Men & Women's Fellowship Group**

**Friday March 6th - Knights of Columbus**

**Friday March 13th - Annunciation Women's Guild**

**Friday March 20th - Eucharistic Ministry**

**Friday March 27th - CCD 9th and 10th Graders**

Please contact Jay Dumais at (860)836-8243 if you have any questions.



## ANNUNCIATION PARISH

**World Marriage Day** is celebrated every year on the second Sunday in February, sometimes coinciding with St. Valentine's Day. This year, it takes place on **February 8th**. World Marriage Day officially began in 1983 in the United States of America. Popularized by the Catholic Church, the purpose of World Marriage Day is to emphasize the beauty of marriage and to honor husbands and wives for their faithfulness and sacrifices. World Marriage Day highlights the promise of a marital union and the beauty of being a lawfully wedded couple under the eyes of Christ. It was brought into order by the Worldwide Marriage Encounter, an initiative that aims to improve the married life of struggling couples. World Marriage Day propagates the ethos of marriage and honors the sacrifices and faithfulness of husbands and wives.



### **A 2026 National Marriage Week Prayer**

**February 7-14, 2026**

**“Almighty and eternal God, we thank You for the gift of marriage and the vocation to live in covenant love. In this National Marriage Week 2026, we ask that You renew our commitment to one another. Strengthen our bond of peace and increase our charity, especially on days that are difficult. As we look toward the future, help us to walk in unity, choosing understanding over pride and faithfulness over comfort. May our home be a place of safety, laughter, and rest, reflecting Your love to the world. For those struggling, we pray for healing and restoration. For all, we pray for a deeper, joy-filled connection with You and each other. We make this prayer through Christ, our Lord. Amen.”**

NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD



## Branches on the Vine

FEBRUARY 7 - 13, 2026



Sister Suzanne Gross, second from left, marches with fellow Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist and other pro-life advocates from the Archdiocese of Hartford at this year's national March for Life in Washington, D.C. PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH

This year Sister Suzanne Gross, a member of the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist in Meriden, will have attended the national March for Life in Washington, D.C., for a total of 26 years. Since she began marching, she has only missed a few years due to a snowstorm and the pandemic.

To top it off, Sister Suzanne has reached another milestone: her 80th birthday. And yet she accompanies young people and adults on this annual pilgrimage in the cold and thinks nothing of it.

"I'm very blessed with good health," says Sister Suzanne, who attended this year's national March for Life events in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 22 and 23. "I think the Franciscan way of life is a good thing. We have a really strong schedule.

"I grew up in Iowa on a family farm. So, I keep busy cleaning and weeding the garden in Meriden. I love that," she says. "I walk a little slower, but I'm doing well." She also continues to work in home health care administration.

This year, Sister Suzanne boarded one of two buses sponsored by the Archdiocese of Hartford that was headed for Washington, D.C. She's a believer that she needs to make her position clear about the critical importance of protecting all human life, no matter what the U.S. Supreme Court thinks.

"You can just look at the abortion statistics or people's attitudes toward unborn life.

### FRANCISCAN SISTER REFLECTS ON QUARTER CENTURY AT THE NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE

I can't say how important this event is because there's such a lack of reverence for life, whether it's for the elderly or for the unborn. And people don't even think a baby is a baby, until when?" Sister Suzanne asks.

"Our Church has such a correct and beautiful presentation of how life is sacred from the moment of conception," she says.

The Washington trip also gives her the opportunity to meet young people from throughout the archdiocese. "This march is something people like to do. More than 150,000 people come together for a peaceful march," she points out. "We're helping to build a culture of life. We're helping young people have their chance. And we have students coming from different Catholic schools," such as from St. Paul Catholic High School in Bristol.

The national March for Life offers two full days of activities, she adds, and she loves it.

"It's always kind of a surprise. That time together on the bus with the young people is always good, and the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Mass is so meaningful.

It's just such a wonderful experience of the Catholic Church," Sister Suzanne says, with bishops and priests present from across the country.

During the actual march from the National Mall to the Supreme Court building, she is thrilled to see the Archdiocese of Hartford banner held overhead, letting people know that a Hartford contingent is present, standing up for the beauty and dignity of all life.

Over the years, fewer buses have departed from Connecticut, she notes, with many people shifting their attention to the Connecticut March for Life in Hartford. "Still, we're grateful to have these two buses," Sister Suzanne says.

The Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist will be present at the state march, too – at the Connecticut March for Life on **March 18** at the Connecticut State Capitol in Hartford. For more information, visit [marchforlife.org/Connecticut](http://marchforlife.org/Connecticut).

- Story by Shelley Wolf



# Upcoming Events



*National Vocation Summit*

2026 Theme: *Awakening Apostles of Hope*

**Inspiring Speakers**



**Msgr. James Shea**  
President: University of Mary



**Curtis Martin**  
President: Focus Campus Ministries

**The Vocation Event not to be missed!**

- Learn from vocation expert speakers
- Build a dynamic vocation culture throughout your local Church
- Connect to a network of Vocation Apostles (champions for vocations)
- Leave inspired to take your vocation work to the next level

**When:** March 13-15, 2026  
**Where:** Legion of Christ Seminary, Cheshire, CT

Register Here or Scan Here






Details: [NationalVocationSummit.org](http://NationalVocationSummit.org)  
Questions? Joann O'Neil, [admin@VocationActionNetwork.com](mailto:admin@VocationActionNetwork.com)



*Come & See*

**RETREAT FOR SINGLE WOMEN AGES 18-35**  
**MARCH 6-8, 2026**  
HAMDEN, CT  
REGISTER BY FEBRUARY 20, 2026

TEXT SR. COLLEEN  
860-368-0826

APOSTLES OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS



**02/18 WEDNESDAY 10AM - 2PM**  
**CAN YOU HEAR THE CALL?**  
**ASH WEDNESDAY REFLECTION**  
Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center,  
303 Tunxis Rd, West Hartford

Still giving up chocolate for Lent? How has that helped you on your spiritual journey? It is our lifelong pilgrimage that is the path of formation. It never happens overnight – or even over 40 days. But Lent affords us the time to really consider our personal ongoing challenges in our formation as a follower of Jesus. Is there something that will make this Lent different from the others? Are you open to real change?

The day of reflection will be offered in-person only and include a presentation, Reconciliation, lunch, and Mass. The same program will be offered in the evening, in-person and online via Zoom, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Offering: \$50

To learn more or register visit:  
[www.holyfamilyretreat.org/calendar/ash-wed-day](http://www.holyfamilyretreat.org/calendar/ash-wed-day)



**BLESSED MICHAEL MCGIVNEY PARISH**

*Catholic Germany & Austria Pilgrimage*

**SEPTEMBER 27 - OCTOBER 7, 2026**

LED BY FR. MITCHELL KENDRIOSKI

**PRAGUE | VIENNA | BUDAPEST | SALZBURG**  
**MUNICH | BAMBERG | MARBURG**

**11 DAYS - \$5,599 FROM JFK**



For more information, itinerary, and registration scan code or visit  
<https://bit.ly/KendrioskiCentralEurope> (link is case sensitive)  
INFO@NEWHAVENCATHOLIC.ORG | 203-562-6193



# **Birtright**

## NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!

860-290-8800

[www.birtrightofhartford.org](http://www.birtrightofhartford.org)

Birtright is an emergency pregnancy service offering caring and practical support to pregnant women in crisis. Our guiding principle: It is the RIGHT of every pregnant woman to give BIRTH and the RIGHT of every child to be BORN.

**HELP A MOTHER GIVE BIRTH TO HER BABY!**  
Opportunities include friendship counseling and clerical and clothing work. Training is provided.