



THE *Parish* OF
ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA AND ST. AGNES

Of one heart and mind

-ACTS 4:32



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD:
JANUARY 3, 2021

Rev. William F. Platt, *Pastor*
Rev. Christopher Johnson, *Resident Priest*

Deacon Renato Berzolla
Deacon Vincent Heidenreich
Deacon Robert Henrey, *Retired*
Deacon John Linsenmeyer
Deacon Eduardo Rodrigues

SACRAMENTAL SCHEDULE

Our updated Mass Schedule, Attendance Guidelines / Directions and *SignUpGenius* link are posted on the **Home Page** of our website at: www.STC-STA.org

Please note: Per guidelines from Bishop Caggiano, everyone must sign up to attend weekend Masses in person.

[VIEW THE LIVESTREAM from LocalLive link HERE](#)

Contact Us

OFFICE

Phone: 203-637-3661

Pastoral Associate of Administration and Faith Formation - Lori Wilson

ext. 315 / Lori.Wilson@stc-sta.org

Director of Youth Formation and Programs - Kelly Myers

ext. 328 / Kelly.Myers@stc-sta.org

Business Manager - Martha Vassar

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Receptionists - Lisa DeLeo, Claire DeLuca & Elle Mistretta

ext. 310 / laurie.mistretta@stc-sta.org

MINISTRIES

Altar Servers - Deacon Berzolla

Baptismal Preparation - Lori Wilson

Care of the Sick and Aging - Fr. Platt

Eucharistic Ministers - Barbara Linton

Barblint@aol.com

Director of Music - Dr. Liya Petrides

ext. 322 / Music.Director@stc-sta.org

Parish Partners - Jeannemarie Baker, RN, NP

ext. 375 / ParishPartners@stc-sta.org

Readers - Barbara Glynn

Barbara.Glynn8@gmail.com

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults - Deacon Berzolla

Parish Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

Saturday 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Faith Formation Office Hours:

By appointment—please call Kelly Myers at extension 328.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

(Individual only)

Please call the Rectory to arrange for a Baptism and a Pre-Baptism Session for parents.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Please call the Rectory 9-12 months before proposed wedding date to arrange for marriage preparation.

Please access **Daily Readings** at this web link:

<http://usccb.org/bible/readings/>

Mass Intentions

Sunday, January 3

8:30 AM Robert Silva

10:30 AM Marion and Thomas Dobson

Sally and Raymond Urso

Monday, January 4

7:00 AM Sidney Scharf

Tuesday, January 5

7:00 AM Kelly Piro

Marguerite O'Connor

Wednesday, January 6

5:00 PM Marry Rafferty, Josie Barbara

and Toni Nardi

Vincenzo and Waldo Iacono and

Joseph Iacono

Thursday, January 7

7:00 AM Nicola Casinelli

Ann and Deborah Sangervasi

10:30AM John Manuli, Mary and Anthony Lalor

Friday, January 8

7:00 AM Catherine LeRose

Saturday, January 9

5:00 PM Robert Morelli

Sunday, January 10

8:30 AM Ambrogio Castellano

10:30 AM Ramon Sanchez

NEXT WEEKEND CELEBRANT SCHEDULE

Saturday, January 9

3:00-4:00 PM (Reconciliation)

Fr. William F. Platt

5:00 PM Fr. William F. Platt

Sunday, January 10

8:30 AM Msgr. Larry Bronkiewicz

10:30 AM Msgr. Alan F. Detscher

11:00 AM Fr. Gilbert D'Souza (French Mass)

Financial Report: Sunday Offertory

(for the last four weekends)

November 28 & 29 SC & SA\$7,358*

Special Donations\$330**

December 5 & 6 SC & SA\$15,137*

Special Donations\$250**

December 12 & 13 SC & SA\$28,999*

Christmas Donations\$11,140

Other Holidays\$380

December 19 & 20 SC & SA\$12,542*

Christmas Donations\$5,590

Other Holy Days\$205

***Offertory** includes **Monthly, Annual** (AEG) and **Online Giving** (OLG)

****Special Donations** to Parish for help with ongoing Operating Budget

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Fond Farewell. . .

Thank you to **Fr. Mark D'Silva** for all of his work and ministry at our parish! On **January 2**, he began his ministry as the *Parochial Administrator* of *Sacred Heart Church* in Greenwich. Fr. Mark has been a blessing and will be dearly missed. We will celebrate him when it is safe to gather after the pandemic.



2020 Thanks-Is-Giving Appeal Status

Total Donations as of December 20, 2020: **\$119,590** (includes *COVID Relief Fund*).

If you would like to make your donation to

The 2020 TIG campaign now via our **ONLINE GIVING** tool, [click here](#) or visit our parish website at www.stc-sta.org/giving/online-giving.

Donations can also be mailed to the rectory at **4 Riverside Avenue, Riverside, CT 06878**.

Thank you for your consideration and support!



Of one heart and mind
-ACTS 4:32



Please pray for the sick members of our parish, especially for

Matt Massulli Lucy Mendenhall Lina Iacono
Deacon Vincent Heidenreich Rose Fiorita Frank Hyson
Sheila Raymond Olga Iacobazzo Barbara Weltz
Isabel Ballesteros Mark J. Marino

Please also pray for the deceased members of our parish.

FAITH FORMATION for YOUTH and ADULTS

Youth Faith Formation

God, our heavenly Father,

In Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, we see a model of family love.

Help our family mirror the understanding, patience and acceptance, we see in this Holy Family.

We pray that our home can be a place of safety for each member.

Help us to treasure the time we have together, to look for the best in each other, to forgive quickly,
and to mirror the love you have for us.

We pray that all families live in peace, without violence, rejection, or division.

We thank you for each member of our family!

Amen

Written by Lori Wilson



Adult Faith Formation



Spiritual Direction

Enter holy ground...if you have a desire to deepen your faith and get in touch with your God Moments, moments when you know for sure that God is present, Spiritual Direction might be the answer. It is for anyone who is seeking a deeper connection with God. You and the director look at God's movement and presence in your life.

Please email Lori Wilson if you are interested at Lori.Wilson@stc-sta.org.



**St. Catherine's
Support Circle**

presents . . .

**Job Search for Challenging Times: Tips for Resilience, Well-being, Mindfulness and More!
via Zoom**

Thursday, January 7, 2021 from 7:00-8:30 PM

Start 2021 off well! Join Miranda DeSantis, HR leader and mindfulness practitioner to learn about practices and tools you can implement right away to feel clear, calm and energized to take the actions needed to boost your job search. During this interactive session Miranda will share tips for stress management, cultivating a mindset for success and energy management

[Click here \(www.stc-sta.org/community-life/st-catherine-s-support-circle\)](http://www.stc-sta.org/community-life/st-catherine-s-support-circle) for details on what you'll learn from this session and RSVP information. **RSVP is required.**

Fr. Chris on the Front Page and on the Front Lines. . .

Chaplain on the front lines of COVID spiritual care

By Robert Marchant

GREENWICH — Like many who are offering care, healing and compassion to those stricken with COVID-19, the Rev. Christopher Johnson has been a very busy man in 2020.

"This is for me, not only the busiest year, but the most stressful. But it is rewarding in a sense," the Catholic priest recalled on a recent break from his

duties as a chaplain at Greenwich Hospital. "The nurses are working so hard, they're also stressed, but we're able to endure and get things done. ... For all of us, it's been a stressful time."

Among the most common issues that arise when a person dies of COVID-19 is a sense of guilt among family members, Johnson said. "What I hear from many family members, they feel

guilty they're not able to be with their loved ones. I tell them they don't have to feel guilty — you love the person, and they know that you love them, and they understand that," he said.

The coronavirus pandemic has created new kinds of challenges for clergy who are attending to the religious and spiritual needs of patients. The up-close and personal ways that chaplains once used to tend to patients on their

sick beds has given way to new flexibility and innovative uses of technology.

Like other chaplains around the country, Johnson has had to adapt the age-old sacraments of the Roman Catholic Church, including the rituals intended to prepare a person for death commonly referred to as the Last Rites, in the presence of a highly infectious disease.

See Chaplain on A4



Tyler Sizemore / Hearst Connecticut Media

Greenwich Hospital chaplain, the Rev. Chris Johnson, chats in the courtyard outside Greenwich Hospital.

CHAPLAIN

From page A1

Most of the rituals that Johnson has performed for dying patients, which include the anointing of the sick and the prayer of commendation of the dying, have been done remotely with a camera. Johnson has also performed the ritual in person on a handful of occasions, as well, wearing full protective equipment.

"The Sacraments are to be physically administered. Oil is to be applied, the Eucharist is to be given. But with COVID, we were not able to go physically to most patients," the priest said.

A decision by church leaders in March 2019 changed the procedures for the Last Rites, permitting services to be held through teleconferencing, as well as offering forgiveness from sin for coronavirus patients. Johnson said the process has been working well, and the technological solutions to the dilemmas posed by the virus have offered meaning and dignity during the final hours of a patient's life.

"All the families are really grateful. With multiple people being able to watch,



Tyler Sizemore / Hearst Connecticut Media

Greenwich Hospital chaplain, the Rev. Chris Johnson, in the courtyard outside Greenwich Hospital.

we didn't feel a sense of absence," he said. "In most cases, the patients and family were very accepting."

Johnson, who has been the priest in residence at St. Agnes Church in Greenwich, found that that the

role of chaplain was a calling that truly appealed to him.

"When I started my clinical training, I was working as an associate pastor, I wanted to get some skills, to work in a hospital setting. After I

working here, I found this was the place where people who are in the most vulnerable or powerless situation, they need someone to talk to and someone to listen to," he said. "In a special way, they want a kind of feeling, affirmation,

and I found this ministry very interesting, and also very positive and fulfilling for me."

The path to becoming a hospital chaplain is not an easy one. It requires months of study and 300 hours of work in a hospital. Chaplains need a strong grounding in medical terminology and procedures so they can offer meaningful guidance and counseling for patients and family. Greenwich Hospital is one of the few institutions in the region that trains chaplains through an internship program. The Department of Spiritual Care and Pastoral Education there has three full time staff, along with part-time and per-diem staffers.

Along with his divinity training, Johnson also earned master's degrees in psychology and in philosophy. And though he is specifically tasked with ministering to Catholic patients at the hospital, he says he's happy to offer counseling and a friendly hearing to patients and family member of any faith tradition, as well as to non-believers.

The work is demanding, as Johnson can attest. Part of the training for chaplains educates them on ways to avoid being over-

whelmed by the job. The Greenwich priest says he takes time regularly for walks and fresh air to clear his head. Prayer, meditation and yoga techniques are also part of his weekly routine. A native of India, where there is a large Catholic community, Johnson said he also found solace in talking with colleagues and fellow clergy, "sharing our struggles."

The religious and spiritual workers on the front lines of the pandemic have been forced into new roles, according to a lecturer at the Harvard Divinity School, Cheryl Giles.

"The need for physical distancing has produced a learning curve in how to do the work of chaplaincy during our present pandemic," she noted in a recent commentary. But the remote services could still offer great benefits and comforts, "a kind of artistry through technology."

Johnson feels he's been able to have a deep impact on those he has counseled and prayed with as the hour of death approaches. "In the Catholic tradition, these sacraments are really important," he said, "And it is truly rewarding."

rmarchant@greenwichtime.com

FAVORITE PIX of the WEEK

The spirit of the season beams on our church campuses!



Many new donors and dedicated frequent contributors help fill five trunks full of donations for *Neighbor-to-Neighbor* last week—a beautiful display of true Christmas spirit!



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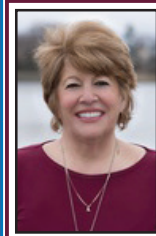
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