the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

**PSALM 146** 

4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! \* whose hope is in the Lord their God;

5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; \* who keeps his promise for ever;

6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, \* and food to those who hunger.

7 The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; \* the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

8 The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger; \* he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

9 The Lord shall reign for ever, \*

your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

THE EPISTLE James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 11:2-11

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to

Matthew.

People Glory be to thee, O Lord.

word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise be to thee, O Christ.

THE SERMON The Very Reverend Canon Michael Sniffen, PhD,

Dean of the Cathedral

THE NICENE CREED BCP 326

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessor Let us pray to the Lord.
People Come, Lord Jesus.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION BCP 331
THE COMFORTABLE WORDS BCP 332

THE PEACE

### THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER II BCP 340

The Presider says the Preface, and at the conclusion, all say

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS

BCP 341

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER II

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 336

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD BCP 337

AGNUS DEI BCP 337

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS BCP 337

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion. If you would prefer a blessing instead, please cross your arms over your chest as you come forward. Gluten free hosts are available.

Prayers for Healing and Anointing of the Sick will take place at the Baptistry for those who wish after receiving Communion as well as at the conclusion of the Mass.

At the end of Communion, all stand and join the Presider in saying

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER BCP 339

THE BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN 59 (stanzas 1, 2 & 5)

Merton

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

#### Announcements

**Dean's Forum** - *Sunday, 10:15-11am in the Mercer Library*Our *Nicea 2025* series wraps up this Sunday with a conversation about the Church.

Christmas Pageant Rehearsals & Sign Up December 14, 20 & 21

Rehearsals for this year's 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Pageant continue on Sundays in December, 10:15-11am, during Fellowship in Faith. To sign up, email Mo. Kate at <a href="mailto:ksalisbury@incarnationgc.org">ksalisbury@incarnationgc.org</a> or fill out <a href="mailto:this online">this online</a> form to join the full cast dress rehearsal Saturday, December 20th, 10am-12 Noon. There's a part for every child!

Fellowship in Faith - Sundays, 10-11am at the Mercer School

During Advent, children who are not rehearsing for the Christmas Eve Pageant are invited to create their own Christmas icons! Inspired by the colorful work of Ukrainian artist Nastja Paruta-Dashko, whose icons of Jesus with children were recently brought to the Cathedral by Director of Music Larry Tremsky, we'll explore a different part of the Nativity story each week as we create our own works of sacred art.

**Today: A Festival of Lessons and Carols at 4PM.** The service is free and open to all. The full Cathedral Choirs will perform favorite and familiar carols in addition to some lesser-known works from around the world

**Blue Christmas Mass** - *Sunday, December 21 at 4pm* This healing service offers solace for those who are facing life after a loss. The Blue Christmas

service allows a space to feel grief during a time when many people feel joy. All are welcome to attend.

Basic Christian Formation – Beginning Sunday, January 11 at 10:15 am in the Mercer School. A multi week course to engage questions of faith from a Christian perspective in the Anglican tradition. It serves both as a preparation for adult confirmation, reception or baptism, or as a refresher for those who want to renew their faith. Register on Realm.

Meditation and Contemplative Prayer – Mondays via zoom at 6:30pm see the Center for Spiritual Imagination website for links, as well as other upcoming events.

In Good Company with the Dean – This year, join the Very Rev. Dr. Michael Sniffen, Dean of Long Island, for a new series of intimate evening gatherings across the Cathedral Close.

These relaxed, 90-minute conversations are open to all and will explore the questions of theology, Christian spirituality, and life in community that matter most today.

First Gathering: "Why We Talk About God" Wednesday, December 17 6:30-8:00pm | See House - Discover how theology lives not only in books but also in our shared stories and daily life. This opening conversation will be held at See House, the historic former residence of the bishops of Long Island, now home to cathedral and diocesan offices. Light refreshments will be served. Space is limited to 30 participants. Register on Realm.

On Sunday, December 14, the masses are in memory of James Albertelli from Anthony and Alison Parks. "It is holy and wholesome to remember those who have died," for they are at rest in the arms of God.

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord. Lord, have mercy.

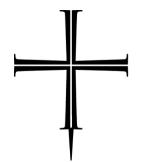
## THE CATHEDRAL OF THE INCARNATION 36 Cathedral Avenue,

Garden City, NY. 11530

For a complete staff directory, please see our website at: <incarnationgc.org>



From the Brooklyn Bridge to Montauk Point A house of prayer for Long Island



# The Cathedral of the Incarnation

Garden City, New York 14 December 2025 at 8:00 AM **Traditional Mass** 

# THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Welcome to the Cathedral of the Incarnation, the historic Cathedral Church for the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island. Page numbers in this leaflet refer to the red **Book of Common Prayer** (BCP). The Holy Eucharist Rite I begins on page 323 of the BCP.

#### **OPENING ACCLAMATION**

SUMMARY OF THE LAW

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY BCP page 323

BCP page 324

BCP page 324 KYRIE ELEISON

Presider Lord, have mercy upon us. People Christ, have mercy upon us. Presider Lord, have mercy upon us.

### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you. And with thy spirit.

Presider Let us pray.

Ctir up thy power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let thy bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

### THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and • blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD,