

Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; then from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Mark 9:7 (NAB)

St. Bartholomew Parish

1180 Greendale Ave.
Needham, MA 02492
781-444-3434

Parish Staff

Fr. Philip E. Mc Gaugh, Pastor
Sr. Julie Connolly, Pastoral Associate
Barbara Dury, Business Manager
Debby Deneen, Parish Secretary
Marianne Germano, Director of Music
Melisa Hughes
Director of Religious Ed./Youth Ministry
Mary Ellen Jennings,
Religious Ed. Coordinator, Grades K-6

Weekend Celebrants

Fr. Hugh Lagen, S.M.A.
Fr. Charles Murphy

Important Numbers & Addresses

Parish Office: 781-444-3434
Religious Ed. Office 781-444-4343
Fax 781-449-7550
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Mission Statement

We are a dynamic community of the People of God who are joined together by our faith in Jesus Christ. Our spiritual life is centered on the celebration of the sacraments, especially the Eucharist in the Sunday Liturgy. We are committed to being an active community of faith that worships together, and reaches out and ministers to the needs of others. Our vision is that St. Bartholomew Parish will be the center and source for the faith development of its people based on the active participation of all its members, women and men, young and old.

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 9:45 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.
Monday - Saturday: 9:00 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays 3:15-3:45 p.m. or by appointment.

Sacrament of Baptism

First Sunday of the month at 12:30 p.m.
Please call one month ahead
to make an appointment.

Sacrament of Matrimony

Arrangements must be made
at least 6 months prior to the wedding.
Please consult the Pastor.

Eucharistic Adoration

The St. Bartholomew/St. Joseph Cluster
gathers every Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 pm in
St. Joseph's Lower Church.

First Saturday Devotion

First Saturday of the month
following the 9:00 a.m. Mass

Rosary & Divine Mercy Chaplet

Prayed immediately following
9:00 am weekday Mass
(except when we have a 10 am Funeral Mass)

Prayer Line

This is a phone network of people,
who pray for special intentions.
Call 781-444-5973 and leave a message for
whom or what you would like prayers said.



At this time I pray that all of us will reach out in prayer, encouragement and other grace-filled ways to help those among us and around the world who are in great need. Thank you and God bless you for all that you do.

Reflection on Second Sunday of Lent: We can be transformed when we truly experience the presence of God in others. We know that Jesus came so that we may have life to the fullest. God wishes us to listen to the experiences of life and see the sacred in each moment. The transfiguration of Jesus gives hope to all. As we journey through Lent, mindful that Jesus intercedes for us, may this Lent be a time of healing and spiritual growth for us.

Holy Hour each Sunday of Lent: There will be a Holy Hour of Adoration on each of the Sundays in Lent following the 11:30 am Mass. Different themes will be highlighted each time. This Sunday, March 8th The Seven Last Words of Jesus will be reflected upon in light of God's Plan for us. On Sunday, March 22nd, the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet will be included in this Holy Hour of Adoration.

The Catholic Appeal begins this weekend, March 7th and 8th. The theme of this year's Catholic Appeal is "Responding to God's Grace, Renewing Our Church". As a Catholic community we are called during the season of Lent and throughout the year to respond to God's graces in our lives. We do this by building up His Kingdom. The Catholic Appeal is an opportunity to respond to the grace of God by sharing our treasures to help others, Catholic and non-Catholic alike. Because of the severe economic times we are experiencing, it is crucial to support the Catholic Appeal this year. If you are able, please participate this year. Those who gave last year should have received a letter from Cardinal Sean. We invite all others to take an information packet home. Our goal for this year is \$95,500.00. We came close to reaching it last year, and I hope we are able to achieve our goal this year. Last weekend we saw how the Archdiocese is working to establish a closer relationship between the parishes and the Archdiocese. Last year's appeal has proven to be helpful to the parish thanks to your generosity. We will be showing a video from Cardinal Sean.

Extra Confessions: This Sunday, March 8, confessions will be heard after all the Masses.

Bible Study: Classes will meet on **Monday, March 9, at 10 am** in the O'Brien Room. Please read the conclusion of St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians and the beginning of St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians.

Fight FOCA Postcard Campaign: With the approval of the U.S. Bishops in their November 2008 general meeting the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the National Committee for a Human Life Amendment are co-sponsoring the Fight FOCA Postcard Campaign. This will take place the weekend of March 28 & 29. More details to follow in coming weeks.

Recommended Reading: Breaking New Ground (Lent for Families 2009) by Peggy Weber, Twenty Third Publications, New London, CT. 2008

Seeking God, Finding God (Lent 2009) by Kathleen O. Chesto, Twenty Third Publications, New London, CT. 2008

The Path to Forgiveness (Lent 2009) by Rev. Paul Boudreau, Twenty Third Publications, New London, CT. 2008.

Vocation Novena to St. Patrick

From **March 9-17** the Archdiocesan Vocation Office is sponsoring a Vocation Novena to St. Patrick. The Vocation Office invites you to join parishioners from all over the Archdiocese of Boston in praying the following novena prayer for vocations through the intercession of St. Patrick, the patron of the Archdiocese:

O Glorious St. Patrick, who was sent to the people of Ireland to spread the faith and spend your life in loving service to God and His people we now turn to you, Patron of Boston, to intercede for us.

Help us to clasp unto our hearts this day the healing strength of the Trinity. May the example of your life, preaching and prayers inspire fervent and loving followers of Jesus in our Archdiocese. May your prayers obtain for us the grace to work together in building up the Church in Boston.

Pray for us to be open to the Holy Spirit and to live the vocation to holiness by loving God above all things and our neighbors as ourselves.

Intercede for us with the Master of the Harvest to send an abundance of workers into the fields. May your prayers obtain for us devoted Priests, Deacons and Religious to serve God and His Church. Amen.

Please... THE DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN CONTENT IS NOON ON MONDAY ...Thank you!

Mass Intentions

Saturday	March 7	4:00 pm	The Donahue, Leen and Hubbard Families
Sunday	March 8	8:00 am	Arthur La Croix
		9:45 am	
		11:30 am	Fred & Mabel Mitchell
Monday	March 9	9:00 am	Bronagh Adams
Tuesday	March 10	9:00 am	
Wednesday	March 11	9:00 am	
Thursday	March 12	9:00 am	
Friday	March 13	9:00 am	
Saturday	March 14	9:00 am	Joseph Doolin
Saturday	March 14	4:00 pm	Elsie Fitzgerald and Martha Dunleavy
Sunday	March 15	8:00 am	Robert Campbell and Family
		9:45 am	The Ramrath Family
		11:30 am	Carmen & Julius Bastien


 *Collections*

Weekend of Feb. 28-Mar. 1

Amount collected \$
 Amount needed \$6,000.00
 Amount over/under \$

(Amounts will be published next weekend.)

Adult Choir

 The Adult Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings from 7:30-9:00 pm in the Church. If you have any questions, please call Marianne Germano at 781-326-3670.

Youth Choir

The next rehearsal will be on **Monday, March 9, at 5:00 pm** in the church. New members are always welcome.

Perpetual Food Drive

We have begun a new ministry to help Needham families and individuals during these tough economic times. We are collecting non-perishable food, toiletry & paper products for donation to the Needham Community Council's Food Pantry.

Contributions may be left in the box in the back of the church. All donated items will be delivered to the Food Pantry on your behalf.

If you would like to help deliver the items (anytime after the 9:45 or 11:30 Masses, after Religious Ed, etc. and delivered any time the pantry is open), please contact Patty Doyle at 781-449-5652 or Kathy Ellison at 781-400-1093.

Amy's Book Club will meet on **Tuesday, March 31st, at 12:30 pm** in the O'Brien Room at the rectory. The book for discussion will be God's Enduring Presence by Joyce Rupp. If you need a copy of the book, you may call Kathy Reilly. Her phone number is 781-444-0862.

Prayer Group

G.I.F.T. (Growing in Faith Together) will meet on **Wednesday, March 10, at 10:00 am** in the O'Brien Room at the rectory.

Social Justice Movies will be shown every **Thursday evening at 6:30pm** throughout Lent. The movies will be based on social justice themes followed by discussion in the O'Brien Room of the rectory. Movies are geared for adult discussion, though would be appropriate for interested students in high school.

Children and Youth

Religious Education

Class Schedule:

Class Schedule:

All grades have class on March 9th
 First Reconciliation Sat., March 14th 1:00pm
 K-6th have class on March 16th

THANKS!

Thanks to those who helped organize and those who enjoyed the **Family Skating party!** It was a huge success and we are looking forward to doing it again next year!!!

Thanks to all our **CYO Basketball** coaches, assistant coaches, parents and players for a great season of Basketball! See you next year ...

Activities & Other News:

Junior Lectors: Any student 6th grade and up interested in trying out being a lector at the 9:45 Mass, please contact melisahughes@comcast.net to schedule training.

Altar Servers: We always welcome new students to participate in this important ministry! Any student in 4th grade and up is welcome to be an altar server. Training sessions will be scheduled in the spring for interested students, please contact melisahughes@comcast.net

Newsletter – Each week, many families receive an email newsletter with news/events, spiritual activities to do at home, and prayer that helps stay and be connected to the parish amid the busy-ness of family life. If you would like to join our mailing list, visit our webpage, www.stbartholomew-needham.org (the subscription link is near the bottom of the front page)

“The Way of the Cross” (see details on page ???) – In order for this performance to be a true parish wide event, help from students is needed:

Students in Middle School and up are needed to help **serve & clean up dinner** for the performers.

Students in 4th grade and up are needed to be **ushers** for the performance.

Artistic talent – Large Posters are needed to help us promote this event

Please contact Melisa to sign up, or for more information. This is a great way to share your talent and can be counted as R.E. or school required Community Service hours.

Liturgy of the Word for Children

takes place at the 9:45 am Mass each week until the end of the school year (except on long holiday weekends). The children gather with the entire assembly and then are invited to come forward with their adult leaders. They then process to a different location in the building and listen to the Word of God using a lectionary for children. They return to church at the Offertory. We invite all children—not only those who attend Religious Ed classes here.

We are in need of volunteers for this beautiful ministry. Please call the rectory if you are interested. The commitment would be approximately once a month. Please call Melisa at 781-444-3434 if you are interested.

Senior Social Club

The St. Patrick’s Day Luncheon with Irish entertainment and a sing-a-long is set for Wednesday, March 18, at 1:00 pm in Ward Hall. Please refer to your mailing for details of the delicious meal. We’re looking forward to a great day for all.

The cost of this luncheon is \$15 for club members and \$20 for non-members. Please make your reservations as soon as possible. The reservation **deadline is Tuesday, March 10**. If you have any questions, please call Anne Carey at 781-444-6531.

St. Patrick Pizza Party: This will be the last weekend to buy tickets for the St. Patrick’s Pizza Party. Tickets may be purchased after all the Masses or by calling Joan O’Brien at 781-449-3991.

Clean Up Day - Saturday, March 28th: Middle and High School students are available to help seniors or individuals with physical difficulties with indoor or outdoor Spring Cleaning as part of their Christian Service. Please contact the rectory to receive help with Spring Cleaning or to recommend someone who would benefit from the clean up day.

Possibilities include:

Window washing
 Bathroom cleaning (tub/shower, countertops, etc.)
 Kitchen cleaning (appliances)

Outdoors:

Raking
 Planting bulbs
 Pruning shrubbery

The Immaculate Heart Central School Mystery Players "The Way of the Cross"

This group from Watertown, New York, will present an unforgettable experience in our parish on **Saturday, March 28th, at 7:30 pm**. Through the use of special lighting, music, pantomime, and paraliturgical readings, this group of high school students and adults presents a moving, dramatic meditation that promises to be the highlight of our Lenten season.

Each year up to 1/3 or more of the senior class tries out for the 16-18 available positions. The group starts practicing in early October and remains together until their final performance on Good Friday.

The group is based on prayer and the players attempt to bring that spirit of prayer to those in attendance. The group spends up to 45 minutes in prayer before the performance. In no way is the group presenting a play as such; instead, the presentation is a powerful meditation on events in the life of Christ.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!
SATURDAY, MARCH 28
7:30 PM

Morning Prayer during Lent will be prayed at 8:45 am on Tuesdays—right before the 9:00 am Mass.

WINGS (Women in God's Spirit) invites you to join us on **Wednesday, March 4th** as we begin our spring season: "What Would Jesus Do? Caring For Others in Today's World." Our speaker that day will be Sister Olga of the Eucharist. WINGS provides a wonderful opportunity for women of all ages to grow in faith by gathering to listen to inspiring speakers and share with one another. Please come for coffee, refreshments, and inspiration on Wednesday mornings from 9:45 to 11:30 a.m. in the Linse Room downstairs at St. Joseph Church in Needham. Newcomers are always welcome and baby-sitting is available. We hope you consider joining us for our spring season, whether you can attend each week or just some weeks.

Protecting God's Children

All volunteers are required to attend the Child Abuse Prevention video training, *Protecting God's Children* prior to starting volunteer responsibilities. This training is only necessary to complete once. A training session will be held on **Sunday, March 22nd, at 1:00pm** in the McCulloch Room of the St Sebastian's School. All new volunteers and any volunteers who have not done this training yet, please contact the rectory to sign up.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sat., Mar. 7	First Saturday Devotions-following 9:00 am Mass (unless there is a funeral)
Sun., Mar. 8	Holy Hour of Adoration-12:30 pm-Church
Mon., Mar. 9	Bible Study-10:00 am-O'Brien Room
Mon., Mar. 9	Religious Ed classes for K-6 only
Mon., Mar. 9	Pre-School Story Hour-4:00 pm in O'Brien Room at the rectory
Mon., Mar. 9	Youth Choir Rehearsal-5:00 pm
Tues., Mar. 10	Morning Prayer-8:45 am-Church
Wed., Mar. 11	Prayer Group-10:00 am
Thurs., Mar. 12	Adult Choir Rehearsal-7:30 pm
Sat., Mar. 14	Sacrament of Reconciliation for 2nd graders
Sat., Mar. 14	St. Patrick's Pizza Party-5 to 7 pm In Ward Hall
Sun., Mar. 15	Holy Hour of Adoration-12:30 pm-Church
Mon., Mar. 16	Bible Study-10:00m-O'Brien Room
Mon., Mar. 16	Religious Ed classes for K-6 only
Mon., Mar. 16	Pre-School Story Hour-4:00 pm in O'Brien Room
Mon., Mar. 16	Youth Choir Rehearsal-5:00 pm
Tues., Mar. 17	Morning Prayer-8:45 am-Church
Wed., Mar. 18	Prayer Group-10:00 am
Wed., Mar. 18	Senior Social Club-1:00 pm-Ward Hall
Thurs., Mar. 19	Adult Choir Rehearsal-7:30 pm
Sun., Mar. 22	Holy Hour of Adoration-12:30 pm-Church
Sun., Mar. 22	Protecting God's Children Training-1:00 pm-McCulloch Room in the school

STEWARDSHIP: A WAY OF LIFE
Sharing: Time Talent Treasure

CONVERSION

ON THE ROAD TO THE CRUCIFIX

Much has been said about what we give up for Lent. Participating in a sacrificial plan is a good thing and a constant reminder for us in Lent as to the concept of sacrifice as Jesus' life and death exemplified. The more important our sacrifice, the greater the impact we notice in our daily life. We feel what we are missing. But little has been said about the importance of what happens after the Lenten 40 days are over. Simple example: giving up candy. On the last day of Lent, do we grab 3 candy bars or more and satisfy the hunger we had for 40 days? On the 41st day, the sacrifice is forgotten and life goes on as before. This is not conversion.

Conversion is the result of letting the Spirit into our lives. Our faith has changed (deepened) and the Spirit works within us. Lenten behaviors can be the catalyst that changes us forever. Our road to the Crucifix has only begun and will never end on Easter morn with old behaviors and attitudes returning. Conversion is a changed forever relationship. Our journey with Christ will never be the same. Nor do we wish it to ever go back to what it was. Our conversion has truly shown us that the Christ centered way of life is the only life we want. We went to a few extra Masses, said a few extra prayers and now we go back to our real life. We gave some more time to church; we gave of our talents by volunteering for an activity; we gave some extra money to the Easter collection. Our Lenten duty has been fulfilled.

Acknowledging conversion is to accept that sharing Time, Talent and Treasure is our only way of life. It is Christ centered. It is knowing that our faith, our church, our relationships are all Christ centered in our lives. When we recognize the Spirit moving within and shaping us, we know conversion has happened. We truly understand and live the two great Commandments. 1. To know and love the one true God above all else in our lives. 2. To love each other as He has love us. Having been converted to this way of life, Time, Talent and Treasure sharing will be such a joy that we could never confine it to just 40 days. "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven.....for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:19-21

Stewardship Questions: Kathy Reilly 781-444-0862 e-mail: kreilly15@yahoo.com

If anyone needs a ride to any Lenten service, please call me. And if anyone wishes a home Communion visit, please call me for this as well.

Surprises on the Mountaintop

It started out to be a routine climb to the mountaintop for some quiet prayer time with Jesus; it turned out to be a wondrous, unforgettable experience: his transfiguration. The apostles weren't sure if it was a vision, a dream, or an illusion, but they did know that it was good to be there. They wanted the moment to last forever. Even after they returned to the valley of reality, the dazzling image of the transfigured Lord would stay with them, especially during the dark days of suffering and near despair.

There are surprises waiting for all of us on the mountaintop of faith. We are amazed again and again at the incredible power of faith. We are amazed again and again at the incredible power and resiliency of the human spirit when it is fired by trust in God. We all experience those high moments when we seem to be transformed. We achieve the impossible. We discover within ourselves resources we never dreamed were there. We are capable of heroic love and generosity. Yes, we too want those moments to last forever. Yet, when we must go back down to the valley of reality, the memory of those surprising victories stays with us and sustains us.

Our faith in Jesus leads us to look forward to the ultimate transformation that is resurrection. So we journey through this Lent, and all our Lents, in the joyful hope that one day we shall experience the final and unending surprise that awaits us. When we complete our journey through the valley of death to arrive at the mountaintop, the risen Lord will welcome us to share his victory forever.