



Be watchful!
Be alert!
You do not
know when
the time
will come.

-Mark 13:33



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
Email: stbartholomew@comcast.net
Website: www.stbartholomew-needham.org

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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.



Reflection for first Sunday of Advent: Advent is a time that is all about hope expectation. We live between the time of the arrival of Jesus and His second coming. Advent is the beginning of a new church year. The Advent Season is a time we might consider taking up a spiritual practice that will bring us calmness, quiet and peace. This can be almost anything from keeping a prayer journal, to more spiritual reading, or listening to how the meaning of activities and events echo throughout our lives. What would it be like for us to focus on Jesus in our lives? What would it be like to let Jesus be born into our lives? Advent is a time to look at the lives of the saints and journey with them. Advent is a time to seek forgives and to extend forgiveness in places where we need to do such. Advent is a time that reminds us that the Lord is near and we give thanks and praise to God for all blessings. Please make use of this special season and the spiritual events to grow closer to the Lord and others. In a special way please remember those among us who are in any need.

Holy Day of Obligation: Monday, Dec. 8th, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and it is a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses will be celebrated at 9A.M. 4P.M. and 7P.M.

Morning Prayer: On Tuesdays during Advent we will pray Morning Prayer at 8:45AM prior to the 9AM Mass.

Extra Confessions: There will be extra Confessions after all the Masses on Sunday, December 14th, and December 21st.

Families in need: If you or someone you know in the parish is in need for the holidays, please call the rectory and let us know. All calls will be kept in strict confidence.

Catholic Appeal: Presently we are at 95% (within \$5,000) of our goal. If you have not already made a contribution, may I ask you to consider this worthy cause. Our parish has had two hundred and eight pledges made to reach this amount. Our designated goal of participation had been set at two hundred and seventy-eight pledges. In any event, thank you for whatever ways you can help.

Bible Study: The next class will be on Monday, December 1st, at 10 am in the O'Brien Room. During Advent we will be studying the Letters of St. Paul.

St. Andrew Dinner: The next St. Andrew Dinner will be held on Tuesday, January 13th, from 5:30 to 8P.M. at St. John's Seminary in Brighton, MA. Any junior or senior young man in high school or older who would like to learn more about the diocesan priesthood is asked to contact the Pastor.

Recommended Readings:

Words For Silence, A year of Contemplative Meditations by Gregory Fruehwirth, OJN, Paraclete Press, Brewster, MA. 2008.

Christmas with the Holy Fathers, compiled by Peter Celano, Paraclete Press, Brewster, MA. 2008.

Hospitality

Parishioners are needed to help with the many aspects of hospitality and welcoming that accompany our many events and activities that go on at St Bart's. Please contact Dorothea O'Connell for information or to sign up for this important ministry at Speechwin@aol.com or call 781-449-4110.

A sampling of St Bart's Hospitality includes:

- Preparing and hosting simple receptions such as those that follow the Bereavement Mass, Parish Missions, and other special events
• Welcoming parishioners before or after Mass
• Visiting new parishioners to acquaint them with the parish
• Visiting and assisting parishioners in need with basic tasks

(You may wish to help with one or more aspects)

Meals Needed:

There is a specific need right now in the parish: one of our parishioners who lives alone, has begun treatment for an illness that has left her with very little energy to recuperate. In order to support her through this treatment, we are asking on her behalf for help with basic tasks, in particular meal preparation. If you could make an extra portion or meal that can quickly and easily be heated in the microwave, please contact the rectory or drop meals off at the rectory. Meals must be fully cooked and labeled with contents and date made.

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

Mass Intentions

Saturday	November 29	4:00 pm	Rose Cioppa
Sunday	November 30	8:00 am	Kevin W. O'Neil
		9:45 am	
		11:30 am	
Monday	December 1	9:00 am	
Tuesday	December 2	9:00 am	Alice Barnes
Wednesday	December 3	9:00 am	
Thursday	December 4	9:00 am	Eugene & Terence McMorrow
Friday	December 5	9:00 am	Herbert & Rose Rosa
Saturday	December 6	9:00 am	
Saturday	December 6	4:00 pm	The McDonough & Schofield Families
Sunday	December 7	8:00 am	
		9:45 am	The Norris Family
		11:30 am	Marie Augeros

 *Collections*

Weekend of November 22-23

Amount collected \$ 5019.17
 Amount needed \$6,000.00
 Amount over/under \$ (980.83)

Campaign for Human Development Collection

Amount collected \$ 2040.24

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Advent Wreaths & Candles

Advent Wreaths and Candles will be available for sale **after all Masses Nov 29-30.**

Parishioners are needed to help sell the wreaths. If it is possible for you to stay for about 20 minutes following a Mass that you are already attending on one of those weekends please contact the rectory.

Thank you to those who sold last weekend!

Amy's Book Club: Book Club meetings will be postponed until after the holidays. The next Book Club get together will be Tuesday, January 27, 2009. Information will follow as to the readings. Have a happy and holy holiday and keep reading.

Prayer Group

G.I.F.T. (Growing in Faith Together) will meet on **Wednesday, Dec. 3, at 10:00 am.** The format is simple: a short social followed by prayer and reflection. For those who have never been to the Prayer Group, we invite you to come and spend some quiet time with the Lord—to grow in your spirituality. Try it...you'll be glad you did.

Adult Choir



Are you looking to join a ministry at St. Bartholomew's? Why not consider the Music Ministry. The Adult Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings from 7:30-9:00 pm in the Church. **No auditions!** Consider joining a fun group of people who enjoy praising God with beautiful and meaningful music. You can also join just to sing for the Little Christmas Concert. If you have any questions, please call Marianne Germano at 781-326-3670.

YOUTH CHOIR:

The next rehearsal will be **Monday, December 1st, from 5-5:45 PM** in the church. This will be our last rehearsal before singing at Mass on December 7th.

New members are always welcome!

Children and Youth

Religious Education

Class Schedule:

K-6 have class on Dec 1st

All grades have class on Dec 8th

All grades have class on Dec 15th

Special Thanks to the 4th grade students for packaging the bread & prayer that was distributed at Thanksgiving Mass!

Thanks!

Arise Together in Christ

Thank you to all who helped make the pot luck dinner not only delicious but also a fun, welcoming evening to come together and share our experience with members of other groups.

We are looking forward to Season II which will start in February.

Look for sign ups to begin in January

BLOODMOBILE

A big "thank you" to the 107 people who presented to donate blood at last week's Bloodmobile. We also must apologize for the considerable length of time the donors spent waiting to donate. This was due to insufficient staffing of the Bloodmobile by the Red Cross.

This Bloodmobile which is sponsored by St. Bartholomew's Church and St. Sebastian's School is made possible by the generous giving of their time by the following Volunteers: Anne Carey, Natalie Carey, Bill Curley, Sheila Foley, Odette Howard, Sheila Howard, Ann MacQueen, Dave MacQueen Mary Maughn and Dorothy Quirk.

Thanks to all - Chairman, Bob Carey

Bereavement Mass & Reception

Thank you to the Hospitality committee for helping to create a touching memorial in honor of parish loved ones who passed on to the Lord this past year. At the 11:30 Mass the names of the deceased were read, candles lit in their honor, and a bell was rung for each name. After Mass, members set up a lovely reception where families who have lost a loved one in the past year gathered to talk and share in the presence of a caring community.

STEWARDSHIP: A WAY OF LIFE Sharing: Time Talent Treasure

ADVENT

November, a difficult month at best, with its least amount of sunshine of any month, its early dark nights and colder days, its view of nature barren. Our church tells us this month to remember our saints and those we mourn, who have left us. It is a month to reassess, to rethink. The liturgical year ends this month with the feast of Christ the King. All this reflection ends in a glorious reminder of what we all search for, pray for, and live in anticipation of---eternity with our Creator, our Lord, our King. And the new liturgical year then begins in the promise of the joy that is to come. ADVENT

"At the name of Jesus, every knee should bend."

Jesus is celebrated as the King at the end of our liturgical year but Advent tells us the story of His beginning. Jesus did not arrive in royal robes, as we know. Rather, the angel tells a simple woman "Be not afraid". She, Mary, has been chosen to be the mother of the Savior. We too have been chosen and given the gift of faith. We too should not be afraid. We should prepare as did Mary for the birth of our Lord to inhabit our souls and every fiber of our being. Advent is our time of preparation. It isn't nine months; but only four weeks. Our time has come.

If we believe our teachings, then we know the whole world is not sugar coated even though the store handouts would have us believe it is. Rather, temptations are more obvious and in our face than is His way. We need to separate these distractions from what is truly meaningful, sacred, and the Catholic way. Christmas preparations have never meant more than the current one we are in. We are given yet another chance to show our love for this new "babe". At His name every knee should bend. This is a little difficult in a strip mall. Christmas is all about Him. What are our preparations going to be? Prayer? A crèche? The Bible story we reread and read to our children? Traditions begun or relived in worship of this miracle? Attending a church service? Perhaps, all this economic mess will make it easier to refocus on the real meaning of Christmas. Spending may even take a back seat to His birth. Whatever your past habits, Advent is here. Count the

days and make your plans to celebrate the miracle and joy. A new baby has been born. HE IS, never was, and never will be. He is and He is ours and we will spend a lifetime trying to know Him, love Him, and serve Him. Advent requires us to prepare.

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

Parish Advent Activities
Mark your calendars

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Monday, Dec. 8th

Mass Schedule: 9:00am; 4:00pm – special Mass for families and children; 7:30pm

Advent Decorating, Sunday, Dec 7th after the 8am & 9:45am Masses

Advent is (almost) here but the Peace Garden is bare!! St. Bart's will be a beautiful public witness of what we are preparing for when people passing by see our Peace Garden decorated for Advent. Come for the hot chocolate and cider; stay to hang lights, install our Nativity set, and get to know someone again or for the first time! If you can bring extra hammers, screwdrivers and ladders, it would be helpful!

Christmas Boutique, Dec 13th & 14th after all Masses

We have invited the Daughters of St Paul (of Pauline Books and Media in Dedham) to have a table of some of their more popular books and gifts which can be purchased as Christmas gifts.

Pancake Breakfast with Santa, Sunday Dec 14th after 9:45 Mass in Ward Hall

We are looking for 2 small photo printers to print the pictures taken of the children with Santa. If you have a photo printer and would be willing to allow the parish to use it, please contact the rectory

We are looking for volunteers to help for a shift of 30 minutes on the day of the event. The shifts will run every 30 minutes between the hours of 8:00am and 11:30. If you are able to assist us, please call Jeanne D'Alleva at 781-400-5083. Thank you.

Advent Candle

Light the Advent candle one

Now the waiting has begun

We have started on our way

Time to think of Christmas day.

Candle, candle burning bright

Shining in the cold winter night

Candle, candle burning bright

Fill our hearts with Christmas light.

Advent Outreach



Tree of Warmth

Again this year we are collecting warmth items for Our Daily Bread. Warmth items for men, women or children may be left unwrapped under the tree located in the sanctuary from **Saturday Nov 29th until Sunday Dec 21st**

NEW items only, these will be given as Christmas gifts!

Please fill our tree with:

Mittens Gloves Hats Scarves

Headbands Coats Snowsuits

Blankets Warm socks Ear warmers

Fleece sweaters Winter boots

Or anything else to keep someone warm this winter!

*Please note: There are no tags to collect, anything that you can bring would be welcome!

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Parish Advent Project – Needham Health Department “Gift of Warmth” Program

Each Advent St Bart's supports a local cause and we ask our parishioners to help through financial donations. This year will be a tough one on many Needham families and so we are collecting donations for the Needham Health Department “Gift of Warmth” Program. This program determines need and distributes funds to help families cover the cost of heating their homes. Please indicate Needham Heath Dept. on donations made.

** This program was incorrectly ascribed to the Needham Community Council in last week's bulletin, apologies for the confusion this may have caused.*

Keep an eye out for the **Annual Advent Mailing!**

All registered parishioners should have received a mailing from St Bart's which included a letter from Fr. Phil, December's calendar, and Advent reflection book.

If you have not received your mailing or if you would like to register with the parish, please contact Debby Deneen, Parish secretary 781-444-3434 or d_deneen@comcast.net

ADVENT

We have begun a new year in the church and a new season in the church year. The other seasons in the church year are Christmas, Ordinary Time, Lent, and Easter.

Advent Explanation:

1. The word Advent means “approaching, moving forward” (like advance) what are we approaching? Christmas/the birth of Christ
2. Advent comes at the darkest time of the year in this part of the world, when we most need a reminder of light warmth and joy. We express this through candles and lights in our homes. In the southern hemisphere, advent comes as the rainy season is coming to an end, the earth is once again renewed and is lush and green, a reminder that God’s presence renews.
3. We use an advent wreath to mark the weeks of preparation; it is round to symbolize God’s eternal presence and the cyclical nature of life. We light 2 purple candles, a pink candle, another purple candle and sometimes a white candle on Christmas Day. Purple symbolizes waiting and pink represents joy. The candles each have additional symbolism, things to remember each week:

1st week – candle of HOPE we think of the Old Testament ancestors of Jesus who prophesied Jesus’ coming as the King of Kings (royalty= purple)

2nd week – candle of PEACE we think of Jesus born in Bethlehem, it is also purple to remind us that it was a King who was born in the manger

3rd week – candle of JOY we remember the shepherds, common people who heard the message of the angels telling of God’s love and faithfulness

4th week – candle of LOVE we remember Mary as she heard the glad tidings and saw the Heavenly hosts sing praises for her newborn son.

Questions to think about and share:

How do we change with the liturgical seasons?

What makes them different both from each other and from year to year? What makes Advent different than the rest of the year?

What sort of traditions do you have for advent? How do they help you prepare?

What sort of preparations have you made for Christmas?

What does decorating our homes have to do with Advent and Christmas?

(Just as the innkeeper welcomed Mary and Joseph we too welcome people into our homes and because we love them, we want to make our homes as special as we can)

Other than decorating and buying gifts, how can we prepare spiritually?

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sat., Nov. 29	Advent wreaths & candles for sale after Mass
Sat., Nov. 29	Tree of Warmth Starts
Sun., Nov. 30	Advent wreaths & candles for sale after all Masses
Mon., Dec. 1	Bible Study-10 am-O'Brien Room
Mon., Dec. 1	Religious Ed classes for K-6 only
Mon., Dec. 1	Pre-school Story Hour-4 pm in the O'Brien Room
Mon., Dec. 1	Youth Choir Rehearsal-5 pm
Tues., Dec. 2	Morning Prayer 8:45am—Church
Wed., Dec. 3	Prayer Group-10 am
Thurs., Dec. 4	Adult Choir Rehearsal-7:30 pm
Sat., Dec. 6	First Saturday Devotion-following the 9:00 am Mass
Sun., Dec. 7	Community Sunday and free blood pressure screening following the 8:00 & 9:45 am Masses
Sun., Dec. 7	Advent Decorating the Peace Garden
Mon., Dec. 8	Bible Study-10 am-O'Brien Room
Mon., Dec. 8	Immaculate Conception Holy Day Masses at 9am, 4pm & 7:30pm
Mon., Dec. 8	Religious Ed Classes all grades
Mon., Dec. 8	Pre-school Story Hour-4 pm in the O'Brien Room
Mon., Dec. 8	Youth Choir Rehearsal-5 pm
Tues., Dec. 9	Morning Prayer 8:45am—Church
Wed., Dec. 10	Prayer Group-10 am
Thurs., Dec. 11	Adult Choir Rehearsal-7:30 pm
Sat., Dec. 13	Kids Night Out 5-9pm - O'Brien Room

Perpetual Food Drive

We are beginning a new ministry to help needy 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. Please leave contributions 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 (which can be collected 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.

