



Prepare
...you also must be prepared, for at an hour
you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.
~Matthew 24:44

1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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 Education and
Youth Ministry
Mary Ellen Jennings,
Religious Ed. Coordinator, Grades K-6

Weekend Celebrants

Fr. Hugh Lagen, S.M.A.
Fr. Charles Murphy
Fr. Thomas O'Malley, S.J.

Important Numbers & Addresses

Parish Office: 781-444-3434
Religious Ed. Office 781-444-4343
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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 on Advent: Advent is a time of expectant waiting. It can be a time of spiritual creativity or a time of no difference in our lives. With the busyness and hectic frenzy that this season always seems to bring with it spiritual renewal can be most helpful as we journey with God. Sometimes we can be so busy that we forget God or the reason for the Season of Advent. I pray that all of us will take the opportunities presented to have a spiritually renewing Advent Season.

Reflection on First Sunday of Advent: Today is the beginning of a new church year. Jesus came among us to help us experience peace and the deepest longings of our hearts. St. Matthew today offers an urgent message to stay awake. How many times in life do we take too many people and too many things simply for granted? Are we sensitive to the realities around us? Advent carries with it the message to start spending time on the important things in life. It is a message to open ourselves to God's graces and welcome Jesus into our hearts.

Three Evenings of Advent Prayer: On Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday evenings of this week at 7P.M. we will have prayer services that will call to mind the beginning of the Advent Season and the bicentennial of our Archdiocese. Here is a most appropriate and wonderful way to begin this important time. Each evening will reflect a theme that will help us doing Advent. We will be covering such topics as Mary's Yes, Mary Visiting Elizabeth, Renewal and Incarnation. Each service will be no longer than one hour lead by three different people from our staff. There will be a prayer service with reflection questions, and time for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available following each service.

Parish Project for Advent: The Sisters of Notre Dame are building a retirement home for their sisters in Ipswich, MA. In honor of Sr. Julie who has given so many years of her religious life to this parish, our project for Advent this year will be to try to raise enough funds to furnish a room. Whatever we can do will be gratefully appreciated. If you would like to participate, please put your donation in a clearly marked envelope with the words "Sisters of Notre Dame Retirement Home" and make checks payable to "St. Bartholomew Parish." Thank you.

Holy Day of Obligation: Saturday, Dec. 8th, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Masses will be celebrated on Friday, Dec. 7th, at 4:00 pm & 7:30 pm, and on Saturday, Dec. 8th, at 9:00 am. Please note that the 4:00 pm Mass on Saturday does not fulfill the obligation for the Holy Day.

Movie Nights: For Advent this year we will be showing a movie on two different Tuesday evenings. On Tuesday, December 11, we will be showing the acclaimed movie "Into the Silence" and on December 18th we will be showing "The Nativity." Since "The Nativity" is such a powerful movie suitable for the whole family, we invite you to bring any children in grades kindergarten and up with you. There will be discussion questions for both movies.

Second Collection: Next weekend there will be a second collection for the Retired Religious Women and Men. The average Catholic sister, brother, or order priest remains in active ministry until around age 74 and some even longer. There are 37,870 men and women religious are past age 70 and very much need our help with the high cost of living and health care. They who have been so generous with their lives and time need our help. Thank you for what you can do.

Bible Classes have been completed for this semester. Classes will resume on Monday, January 7th, at 10 am in the O'Brien Room with the study of the prophet Jeremiah. Please read the book of Jeremiah.

Morning Prayer: On Tuesday and Fridays during the Advent Season Morning Prayer will be prayed at 8:45 am just before morning Mass at 9:00 am.

Vocation Retreats: On Thursday, February 7th, 2008, His Eminence Cardinal O'Malley will lead a retreat day at Blessed John XXIII Seminary for men over 40 thinking about a vocation to the priesthood. From Friday, February 8th, 2008 to Sunday, February 10th, His Eminence will lead a retreat at St. John's Seminary for men between the ages of 18 and 40 who are contemplating a vocation to the priesthood. If you think you might be interested, please speak with the pastor or a member of the parish staff.

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

Mass Intentions

| | | | |
|-----------|------------|----------------|---|
| Saturday | December 1 | 4:00 pm | Alice Barnes |
| Sunday | December 2 | 8:00 am | Eleanor Josephine O'Leary |
| | | 9:45 am | Edward Dunn |
| | | 11:30 am | Robert Murphy |
| Monday | December 3 | 9:00 am | |
| Tuesday | December 4 | 9:00 am | Terence & Eugene McMorrow |
| Wednesday | December 5 | 9:00 am | |
| Thursday | December 6 | 9:00 am | |
| Friday | December 7 | 9:00 am | |
| | | 4:00 pm | Feast of the Immaculate Conception |
| | | 7:30 pm | Feast of the Immaculate Conception |
| Saturday | December 8 | 9:00 am | Feast of the Immaculate Conception |
| Saturday | December 8 | 4:00 pm | Edward O'Brien—22nd Anniversary |
| Sunday | December 9 | 8:00 am | Raymond F. Wagner, Leslie Fish Drew & John X. Foley |
| | | 9:45 am | The Norris Family |
| | | 11:30 am | Marie Augeros |

Scripture Readings

- 2 Sun Is 2:1-5/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44
- 3 Mon Is 4:2-6 (second choice)/Mt 8:5-11
- 4 Tue Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24
- 5 Wed Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37
- 6 Thu Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27
- 7 Fri Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31
- 8 Sat Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
- 9 Sun Is 11:1-10/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

Collections

Weekend of November 24-25

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| Amount collected | \$6,440.31 |
| Amount needed | \$6,000.00 |
| Amount over/under | \$ 440.31 |

Grand Annual Collection

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Amount collected to date | \$41,970.00 |
|--------------------------|-------------|

Thank you for your stewardship.

Prayer Group

G.I.F.T. (Growing in Faith Together) will meet on **Wednesday, December 5th, at 10:00 am** in the O'Brien Room at the rectory. We welcome new members.

The Adult Choir meets for rehearsals on Thursdays at 7:30 pm. We are always looking for new members. All are welcome!

Youth Choir: Rehearsal this week will be on **Monday, December 3rd, from 5:00-5:45 pm** in the Church. We will be preparing for this year's Christmas Concert.

Amy's Book Club

There will be no meeting of the Book Club in December. The next meeting of the Book Club will be on **Tuesday, January 29th, 2008, at 12:30 pm** in the O'Brien Room at the rectory. The book to be read is Mother Teresa: Come Be My Light—The Private Writings of the "Saint of Calcutta", Doubleday, New York, 2007.

We welcome new members!!!

Community Sunday & Free Blood Pressure Screening will be held this Sunday, December 2nd, following the 8:00 & 9:45 am Masses. Come down for coffee and donuts—visit acquaintances and welcome new families!!

Children and Youth

Religious Education Classes

Classes resume on Monday Dec 3rd for all students

Religious Education News:

- **Social Justice Calendar:** students who will be helping with the Pancake breakfast on Dec 16th will have a short planning meeting at the end of class on **Monday Dec 3rd** to divide the tasks needed.

Activities:

- **Following the Star to Bethlehem:** each week of Advent, children are invited to dress up as Angels, Shepherds & Kings to process in as part of the Journey to Bethlehem. Meet in the Sacristy before Mass to get the costume and join in the procession. Children can wear the costume throughout Mass and to Children's Liturgy of the Word and return it to the sacristy at the end of Mass. **This starts Dec 2nd.**
- **BASKETBALL!! The Celtics might be doing great, but tickets will hurt your wallet. Come cheer on the parish teams!**

| Date | Team | Time | Location |
|---------|-------------|-------|--------------------|
| 12/8/07 | Boys 5-6 | 8:15 | St Edward Medfield |
| | boys 7-8 | 4:30 | St Mary Dedham |
| | girls 7-8 | 5:45 | St Sebs |
| | boys 9-10 W | 7:15 | St Mary Wrentham |
| | boys 9-10 M | 2:30 | St Edward Medfield |
| 12/9/07 | Boys 5-6 | 12:15 | St Sebs |
| | girls 7-8 | 1:30 | St Sebs |
| | boys 9-10 M | 2:45 | St Sebs |
| | boys 9-10 W | 4:00 | St Sebs |

Teen Ministry:

Youth Board – The Youth Board is a group of students working to grow the sense of community among Middle School and High School students of our parish, open to any student in 6th grade and up. Next meeting - **Tuesday, Dec 11th**, **6:30-8:00 pm** in the Rectory to plan next event.

STEWARDSHIP: A WAY OF LIFE Sharing: Time Talent Treasure

ADVENT: THE GIFT

"How might Advent's hope for the Lord's second coming and reflection back on His birth long ago shape the way we practice our faith today? During the first phase of Advent the liturgy invites us to embrace and proclaim our troubled world's longing for the final, definitive in-breaking of the kingdom of God, Christ's creation of a new heaven and a new earth whereon the Sun of Justice will never set. We join our hearts and voices, our bodies and spirits, with all of creation-so riddled by war, poverty, disease, and pollution-in the groaning appeal for salvation. But therein lies the gift of the season. If we enter into the liturgical tradition, the groan becomes an expectant cry, a confident assurance that the Lord, who will one day make all things new, renews our strength and grants us peace as we join in His mission of compassion, mercy, and forgiveness. The second and final phase of Advent grounds this confidence in the quiet joy of remembering the Lord's humble birth, the awesome mystery of God's love emptied out in the life of a child, Emmanuel, God with us now." Bruce T. Morrill, S.J.

How will you spend this waiting period? Will you recognize the "quiet joy" when it comes? Will you truly be part of this "awesome mystery" and know God's love on Christmas morning? Or will we all be too exhausted and glad it is over?

A lovely family tradition is that of following the journey of Advent. The crèche is set up on the first Sunday of Advent with the baby, Jesus, absent from His crib. He is placed somewhere in the room, but far away from the manger. Every Sunday in Advent some family member moves Him to a new position in the room and closer to His crib. On Christmas morning, before presents are opened, He is placed in the manger crib. He is born. Our Savior has come. Our real journey begins.

Thank you Father Phil and Sister Julie for the lovely Advent preparation books. Six minutes a day-hopefully, we will all find this short period of time to spend thinking, praying, and meditating on the true meaning of Christmas.

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

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If anyone needs a ride to the Advent Prayer Services, (Dec. 2,3,4) please call.

Tree of Warmth

It takes a community....

Throughout the year, the parish community of St. Bartholomew reaches out to share comfort and assistance to our neighbors near and far.

*With the advance of cold weather, we respond to the need to be warm by collecting **new** warm items for CHILDREN and ADULTS to benefit The Needham Community Council and Project Bread.*



Please be as generous as your means allow.

Mittens Gloves Hats Scarves Coats

Snowsuits Blankets Fleece sweaters Headbands

Winter boots Warm socks Ear warmers

*Or anything else that would keep someone warm this winter!
Please, NEW items only, these will be given as Christmas gifts!*

Warmth items may be left unwrapped under the Tree in the Church

Handbell Choir Concert

The parish community is invited to attend a wonderful handbell choir concert on **Sunday, December 9th, at 2:00 pm** in the church.

The Westwood Ringers, under the direction of Marilyn Downs, will entertain us with Christmas music and other selections.

This group is internationally known and has performed in England, Ireland, Germany and Austria.

Don't miss out on this very special performance.