



Repent
Repent, for the kingdom
of heaven is at hand!
~Matthew 3:2

2nd 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
Fax 781-449-7550
Email: stbartholomew@comcast.net
Web site: 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 on Reconciliation: One of the ways that we prepare for the coming of Jesus is reconciliation—both in sacrament and in relationships. All of us would do well to consider more the importance of reconciliation (forgiveness). When we fail to seek, give or receive forgiveness, poisons have a way of building up and boiling over inside of ourselves in ways that we may not even know. The choice to receive or seek forgiveness is ours. Forgiveness is a gift of the heart. God always stands ready to forgive us. It is not too late for change. Advent is a time to realize that one of the essential elements of forgiveness is self-forgiveness. Self-forgiveness is not just dismissing what has happened but rather it is an honest evaluation, accountability, a self-acceptance and a desire to change. God stands ready to help in the sacrament of reconciliation. This may enable a person to feel happier and more fulfilled. I encourage all of us to look at the people and places in our lives that need reconciliation and make use of the sacrament of reconciliation as well.

Reflection on Second Sunday of Advent: Jesus is coming. I hope that we are all watching. John the Baptist who was the most famous preacher of his day told his people that Jesus was coming and it was time to prepare for the coming of Jesus. His was a very dramatic message of confess and repent of your sins and prepare for a new life. The coming of Jesus was good news for those who lived a god life and bad news for people who were only considerate of themselves. How prepared are we today for the coming of Jesus? After all in only a few weeks once again we will celebrate the coming of Jesus. His coming challenges us to look at who we are as a people of faith, hope and love. May our prayer be that Jesus will continue to strengthen us to be such people of faith, hope, and love.

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.

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: This weekend there will be a second collection for the Retired Religious Women and Men. Many of us in this parish have been blessed for many years by the ministry of 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.

St. Bartholomew's Website: Be sure to visit the website for our parish! It is absolutely fantastic!! Log onto www.stbartholomew-needham.org. It contains all sorts of information about the events that are going on in our parish community.

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

Mass Intentions

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
Monday	December 10	9:00 am	
Tuesday	December 11	9:00 am	Rose Laing
Wednesday	December 12	9:00 am	Sarah & Edward Dowd
Thursday	December 13	9:00 am	Jeanne Dusseault
Friday	December 14	9:00 am	Marjorie McLaughlin—6 Month Anniversary
Saturday	December 15	9:00 am	Mark Hansen
Saturday	December 15	4:00 pm	The Harrington, McCarthy & Igo Families
Sunday	December 16	8:00 am	Robert Moore, Sr.
		9:45 am	Martin Fitzpatrick
		11:30 am	

Scripture Readings

- 9 Sun Is11:1-10/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12
- 10 Mon Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26
- 11 Tue Is 40:1-11/Mt 18:12-14
- 12 Wed Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab
Lk 1:26-38
- 13 Thu Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15
- 14 Fri Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19
- 15 Sat Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Collections

Weekend of December 1-2

Amount collected	\$6,444.10
Amount needed	\$6,000.00
Amount over/under	\$ 444.10

Grand Annual Collection

Amount collected to date	\$47,095.00
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Thank you for your stewardship.

Prayer Group

G.I.F.T. (Growing in Faith Together) will meet on **Wednesday, December 12th, 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!

Christmas Pageant Practices

The next practices for the pageant will be 3:30-4:40 pm on Wednesday, Dec. 12th, and Thursday, Dec. 13th. It is important to be at all practices so we can insure that everything goes smoothly. If you are interested in participating or volunteering, just come to the practice. See Allison Droney, Joan O'Brien or Chris Anastasia if you have questions.

The Bloodmobile that was sponsored by St. Bartholomew's and St. Sebastian's last week was a success. Thanks to our loyal blood donors over 100 people presented to donate. A big thanks also to the following volunteers who assisted in a number of ways to make the Bloodmobile so successful: Anne Carey, Natalie Carey, Patt Casey, Bill Curley, Marian Fahey, Sheila Foley, Odette Howard, Anne MacQueen, Dave MacQueen, Virginia McNamara and Dorothy Quirk.

Thanks to all,
Bob Carey, Chairman

Youth Choir: Rehearsal this week will be on **Monday, December 10th, from 5:00-6:00 pm** in the Church. We will be preparing for this year's Christmas Concert.

Children and Youth

Religious Education Classes

- Dec 17th – Last class of 2007 for all students! Classes resume January 7th

This class will also be a Reconciliation service for students in 3rd grade and up. Parents are welcome to participate once all students have had the opportunity.

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 Room 217 of St. Seb's 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.
- **BASKETBALL!!** The Celtics might be doing great, but tickets will hurt your wallet. Come cheer on the parish teams! Congratulations to our teams last weekend for the great games!

Date	Team	Time	Location
12/15/07	Boys 5-6	12:15	MM Westwood
	Girls 5-6	3:00	MM Westwood
	Boys 7-8	4:15	St Dennis Westwood
	Girls 7-8	5:45	St Mary Dedham
12/16/07	Boys 7-8	12:15	St Sebs
	Girls 7-8	1:30	St Sebs
	Girls 5-6	2:45	St Sebs
	Boys 9-10 M	4:00	St Sebs
	Girls HS	5:15	St Sebs
	Boys 5-6	1:15	Medfield

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.

International Student Exchange is looking for Needham families interested in hosting an exchange student. What a wonderful way to minister to today's youth. These students are hoping to have "host" families by Christmas. So, if you are interested, please call Natasha McKay at 781-249-7231 as soon as possible.

STEWARDSHIP: A WAY OF LIFE Sharing: Time Talent Treasure

"WEEP NO MORE"

by Deacon Anthony R. DiMaggio, SFO Chowcilla, California

In our parish there was a young married lady, who came to Mass every week, reverently received holy Communion, always seemed to carry a sadness about her, and then after Mass would remain in front of our statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus weeping openly. I asked others in the parish if they knew what made her so sad. I was told that she wished to have children, but was unable to conceive. As time went by others began praying for her. Finally, 'I think that Jesus could not stand anymore weeping after Communion'. The parish eventually rejoiced upon learning she was expecting. She now has two children. I often thought she seemed like the woman in Scripture that kept pestering the judge to decide in her favor. 'As a parish deacon, the highlight of my week is being able to raise the Precious Blood at the conclusion of the consecration. This is the same blood that saved all of us. The blood of Jesus, who heard the weeping of one of His humble servants after she received Him in holy Communion!.'

Not only did our Lord hear His faithful servant's pleas, but also the additional prayers of her fellow parishioners. This parish was witness to someone's pain and did something about it. This winter will probably cause a great deal of pain and suffering for many. The price of fuel to heat our homes; the cost of fuel to drive our cars; the cost of medicines and health care; and the price of food will force some to make choices of one over another. Affording enough, heat, food, medicine, for some will be impossible. As the stewards of our great God, we cannot ignore the plight of those around us. Let us pause in this Advent's preparation to see and hear the "weeping" around us and do something. Prayer, yes; but most of us can do more. As many families have all their essential needs met, perhaps we can find a way to share extras. Advent is a time of preparation. For what are we preparing. As His chosen stewards, we must act. How we do this is our choice. As a united community, how much more could we really accomplish? Did not our Lord come to us as a helpless infant? And what about 'no room in the inn'. And still they came to adore Him, once they knew of Him.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sun., Dec. 9 Handbell Choir Performance- 2:00 pm-Church**
- Mon., Dec. 10 Religious Ed classes for K-6 only
- Mon., Dec. 10 Pre-school Story Hour-4:00 pm- O'Brien Room at the rectory
- Mon., Dec. 10 Youth Choir Rehearsal-5:00 pm
- Tues., Dec. 11 Morning Prayer-8:45 am
- Tues., Dec. 11 Movie Night-featuring "Into the Silence"-6:45 pm- McCulloch Room**
- Wed., Dec. 12 Prayer Group-10 am-O'Brien Rm.
- Wed., Dec. 12 Christmas Pageant Practice- 3:30 pm-Church
- Wed., Dec. 12 Yankee Swap-7:00 pm-Ward Hall**
- Thurs., Dec. 13 Christmas Pageant Practice- 3:30 pm-Church
- Thurs., Dec. 13 Adult Choir Rehearsal-7:30 pm
- Fri., Dec. 14 Morning Prayer-8:45 am
- Sun., Dec. 16 "Christmas at St. Bart's" - Pancake Breakfast, pictures with Santa, face-painting, arts & crafts after 8:00 & 9:45 am Masses; Christmas Concert at 4:00 pm**
- Mon., Dec. 17 Religious Ed classes for all grades
- Mon., Dec. 17 Pre-school story hour-4:00 pm- O'Brien Room at the rectory
- Mon., Dec. 17 Youth Choir Rehearsal-5:00 pm
- Tues., Dec. 18 Morning Prayer-8:45 am
- Tues., Dec. 18 Movie Night-featuring "The Nativity" - 7:00 pm in the McCulloch Room**
- Wed., Dec. 19 Social Club Christmas Luncheon- 1:00 pm-Ward Hall
- Thurs., Dec. 20 Christmas Pageant Practice- 3:30 pm-Church
- Sat., Dec. 22 Confession-11 am to 12 Noon & 3:15-3:45 pm
- Sun., Dec. 23 Confessions heard between the Masses

Social Club

Christmas is rapidly approaching, and it is time for our annual Christmas Luncheon. This will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 19, at 1:00 pm in Ward Hall. We will have our usual delicious buffet followed by entertainment by the Needham Retired Men's Glee club. Please refer to the special mailing for full details.

**Also, please note the correct dates are:
Luncheon on Wed., Dec. 19 at 1:00 pm
Reservation deadline in Wed., Dec. 12**

If you have any questions, call Anne Carey at 781-444-6531.

Dear Friends,

"Thank you" to the four people who have already said "Yes" to the ministry for the homebound. I will be in touch with you after the first of the year.

I am hoping that at least two more parishioners will accept my invitation to bring the Eucharist to people who are unable to come to Mass. Please consider this a personal invitation to YOU to share one hour of your time to someone who needs you. Please contact Sr. Julie or Debby Deneen at 781-444-3434 if you are interested.

During the coming week I will pray that your God will inspire you to become part of this ministry

Thank you, Sr. Julie

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the staff and volunteers at Greater Boston Catholic Charities, I want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart for your participation in our Thanksgiving Turkey distribution. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to assist 2500 families with a turkey and a bag of food. St. Bartholomew's Parish has been a strong supporter of the work I do for many years now and I look forward to a continued relationship as we strive to help those who need our support each and every day. As the winter months approach, we always have a number of requests for hats, gloves, scarves, sweaters, coats, and boots. It is thanks to all of you that those who are hungry are fed and those who are cold are warmed.

May God Bless you and your families during this holy season as we await our savior's return.

Beth Chambers
Director of Community Services
Greater Boston Catholic Charities

"Christmas at St. Bart's"

Please join us on Sunday, Dec. 16th, after the 8:00 & 9:45 am Masses for a Pancake Breakfast with Santa. Pictures with Santa, tattoos, face-painting...and more. The festivities will take place in Ward Hall. Come celebrate this magical time of year...hope to see you there.

Also, we invite you to conclude this special day by attending the combined Youth and Adult Choirs for the Christmas Concert which will include the Christmas Pageant put on by the youth of the parish.

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 this **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.