



Rejoice

Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.

~Matthew 11:10

3rd 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 by forgiving. Forgiveness is a gift of the heart. God stands ready to help in the sacrament of reconciliation. Please see the bulletin for the times of confessions. This is a very special time of the year also to seek to reconcile where needed.

Reflection on Third Sunday of Advent:

Reaching the third Sunday of Advent we are always reminded that Christmas is coming very near. One of the great challenges that we face in modern day society is to focus on ways that the Lord is coming into our lives and to pay attention. Given the busyness of our times it would be easy for us to let a time of preparation such that Advent is get away without any difference in our lives. On the other hand, rising above the busyness of the season to find the occasions to reach out will enrich so many and help everyone see the glory of the birth of Our Lord.

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.

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.

Christmas Collection: There will be one collection taken up at all the Masses for Christmas for the support of the sick and retired priests of this Archdiocese. As you know the needs are great. Please be as generous as your means allow. Thank you.

Movie Night: On Tuesday, December 18th, at 7:00 pm we will be showing "The Nativity" in the McCulloch Room in the school. Since this 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.

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.

Catholic Appeal: The Archdiocese has now reached 92% of its goal. We have pledged \$87,245 which is 86.8% of our goal. If you have not already made a pledge, please prayerfully consider this as the needs of the Archdiocese in helping the poor are great. Thank you for whatever you can do.

"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 starting at 4:00 pm.

Christmas Flowers Memorial

If you would like to contribute to our Christmas flowers in memory of or in honor of a loved one, please pick up a Flower Offering envelope at the doors of the church. You may put it in the collection basket or drop it off at the rectory.

We extend our appreciation to the
Doherty Funeral Home for donating
the 2008 calendars to the parish.
We ask that you take one per family.

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

Mass Intentions

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	The Donovan Family
Monday	December 17	9:00 am	
Tuesday	December 18	9:00 am	Paul Connolly
Wednesday	December 19	9:00 am	Patrick Hart
Thursday	December 20	9:00 am	The Blakeney Family
Friday	December 21	9:00 am	The Gillis & Thissell Families
Saturday	December 22	9:00 am	The Chisholm & Lydon Families
Saturday	December 22	4:00 pm	Rita Riley—2nd Anniversary
Sunday	December 23	8:00 am	Natale Scarcella
		9:45 am	Dr. Francis Creedon
		11:30 am	Joseph Cuddemi

Scripture Readings

- 16 Sun Is 35:1-6a, 10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11
- 17 Mon Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17
- 18 Tue Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25
- 19 Wed Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25
- 20 Thu Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38
- 21 Fri Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45
- 22 Sat 1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56
- 23 Sun Is 7:10-14/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

Collections

Weekend of December 8-9

Amount collected	\$5,680.83
Amount needed	\$6,000.00
Amount over/under	(\$ 319.17)

Retired Religious Collection

Amount collected	\$5,632.87
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Grand Annual Collection

Amount collected to date	\$54,880.00
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Thank you for your stewardship.

Prayer Group

G.I.F.T. (Growing in Faith Together) will meet on **Wednesday, December 19th, at 10:00 am** in the O'Brien Room at the rectory. We welcome new members.

Christmas Pageant Practices

The final practices for the pageant will be 3:30-4:40 pm on Wednesday, Dec. 19th, and Thursday, Dec. 20th. It is important to be at all practices so we can insure that everything goes smoothly.

See Allison Droney, Joan O'Brien or Chris Anastasia if you have questions.

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 17th, from 5:00-6:00 pm** in the Church. We will be preparing for Christmas Eve.

Social Club

The Social Club will meet on Wednesday, Dec. 19, at 1:00 pm in Ward Hall for our annual Christmas Luncheon. After we have enjoyed the delicious buffet, the Needham Retired Men's Glee Club will present a musical program. Reservations should be in at this time. If you have any questions, call Anne Carey at 781-444-6531.

We wish all of you the blessings of Christmas.

STEWARDSHIP: A WAY OF LIFE
Sharing: Time Talent Treasure

REJOICE

In this preparation period of Advent, stripped bare of decoration, we are given time to focus without distraction and to anticipate the miracle of Christ's birth. Our Lord will take our human form, humbly and without fanfare. As an innocent baby, God comes to save us and show us the way. In love with us, the only way we can respond to His love is to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him. This we cannot do, if we don't spend some time with Him. Only in quiet time can we hear Him speak to us. Only if we take time to look all about us will we see Him in all of His glorious creation. This is a very special time of year.

Do we still have doubts about Christ? In today's Gospel even John, the Baptist, Christ's cousin, when in jail and hearing about Jesus' works, sent his disciples to Jesus with the question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Jesus answered by telling the disciples to note all the miracles that He had performed and to listen to what He had to say about John to the crowd gathered. He, John, was more than a prophet. "Behold, I am sending My messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you. Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." Could we not strive to be "the least in the kingdom"? In a brief display of church color this week, rose, we rejoice, our Lord is coming. As His stewards, will we be ready? Are we trying to understand the real message of Christmas? Do we care?

With all the horror that exists in the world these days, some doubt His existence? Do we believe God hears our prayers? Does He answer them? Or are we really looking for a God to micro manage the world? Do we remember Him from Mt 7:7-11: "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; and he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks it will be opened. What man is there among you who if his son asks for bread will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him?" But most of us in our anxiety forget that even Jesus in His agony in the garden said: "Not my will, but thine be done." So in this Advent preparation time, let us truly be open to Him; Listen to Him in the quiet of our minds and hearts; and lovingly say, "Father, not mine but thy will be done."

(continued on next column)

Stewardship Note: Several weeks ago we had a Baptismal reunion for families whose babies were baptized last year. A family brought several books to the party and left them on a table. I have them. If you wish them back, please call me.

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

Children and Youth

Religious Education News

- 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!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
12/22	Boys 9-10 Woodward	3:30	St. Jude, Norfolk
12/23	Boys 9-10 Woodward	12:15	St. Sebs
	Boys 9-10 McKittrick	1:00	St. Sebs
12/29	Boys 5-6	11:30	Wrentham (Gibbons)
	Boys 9-10 Woodward	3:00	MM Westwood
12/30	Girls 7-8	1:30	Our Lady, Waltham

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 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
- Wed., Dec. 19 Christmas Pageant Practice- 3:30 pm-Church
- Thurs., Dec. 20 Christmas Pageant Practice- 3:30 pm-Church
- Thurs., Dec. 20 Adult Choir Rehearsal-7:30 pm
- Fri., Dec. 21 Morning Prayer-8:45 am
- Sat., Dec. 22 Confession-11 am to 12 Noon & 3:15-3:45 pm
- Sun., Dec. 23 Confessions heard between the Masses
- Mon., Dec. 24 **PARISH OFFICE CLOSED**
- Tues., Dec. 25 **PARISH OFFICE CLOSED**
- Wed., Dec. 26 No Prayer Group
- Thurs., Dec. 27 No Adult Choir Rehearsal

Men's Retreat

Please save Friday evening, February 1, 2008 through Sunday morning, February 3, 2008 for our Annual Men's Retreat at the Passionist Calvary Retreat House in Shrewsbury, MA. Join with other Needham Catholic men in a weekend period of peace, reflection and prayer as we examine this year's retreat theme "Living in Joyful Hope". More information to come during early January. For "early-bird" information, call Dick Smith at 781-444-0945 or online at rose.rich@verizon.net.

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.

Kids Night Out

Drop your kids off for a movie and pizza while mom and dad enjoy a few hours to themselves.

When: **Saturday, Jan. 12, after the 4:00 Mass until 8:00 pm****

Where: The McCulloch Room in the school

Who: All children grades K-6

All children MUST be pre-registered by Tuesday, Jan. 8th, if they wish to attend. Parents must fill out an emergency form and an awareness food allergy info form when dropping their child off. No one will be admitted at the door without registering. We need to know ahead of time how much pizza is needed. Cost is \$5.00 per child of a parishioner or \$10 per child of a non-parishioner.

To register or to volunteer to help call Debby at the Parish Office at 781-444-3434. Leave your name, how many children will attend, the names and ages of the children, and your phone number.

The movie to be shown is "The Last Mimzy" - and is rated PG. It is a story about 2 children who discover a special box containing Mimzy, a magical stuffed rabbit along with other mystical toys, which give the children exceptional powers of their own. Surrounding the phenomenon of Mimzy is an awesome secret—one that holds the key to saving the future of mankind.

In order to continue Kids Night Out, we need volunteers to help us. We are now down to 2 people, and that is not enough to responsibly and safely watch the children. PLEASE consider this request. Also, you do not have to do it every month. If we get a lot of calls (please, God!), it would mean only once or twice a year.

Gerontology Classes Open at U Mass Boston:

The University of Massachusetts is accepting applications for its Manning Certificate Program in Gerontology, which prepares students to work with the elderly. The program is designed to give students the skills and resources needed to plan for an aging society, work in the aging network, and advocate for elders. Daytime classes are on Wednesdays beginning January 30 for two semesters. There is also a Monday evening and online program available. Credits from the program can also be applied towards a Bachelor's Degree in Gerontology. The program is financial aid approved. For more information or an application, call Mary St. Jean at 617-287-7330.

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

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

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

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE

<p>Saturday, December 22</p> <p>Sunday, December 23</p> <p>Monday, December 24</p> <p>Monday, December 24</p> <p>Tuesday, December 25</p> <p>Monday, December 31</p> <p>Monday, December 31</p> <p>Tuesday, January 1</p>	<p>Confession</p> <p>Confession</p> <p>Mass</p> <p>Masses</p> <p>Masses</p> <p>Masses</p> <p>Mass</p> <p>Masses</p>	<p>11:00 am—12 Noon and 3:15—3:45 pm</p> <p>Between the Masses</p> <p>9:00 am (this does not satisfy the Christmas obligation)</p> <p>4:00 pm in church & school chapel 6:00 pm & 9:00 pm</p> <p>8:00 am, 9:45 am & 11:30 am</p> <p>9:00 am (this does not satisfy the New Year's Day obligation)</p> <p>4:00 pm</p> <p>9:00 am & 12 Noon</p>
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