

And the angel said to her in reply, "The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God."

-Luke 1:35



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 Fourth Sunday of Advent:

The sacred feast of Christmas is very near. Even in the midst of all that is going on in the world we await Jesus' arrival in joyful anticipation. These are times when we truly feel overwhelmed with all that needs to be done particularly the last minute preparations. There is a temptation to see only the wrong and darkness in the world and to respond accordingly. Patience is a most necessary virtue at this time of year. Looking around we see there is much goodness and light in the world. The way you have responded to so many of the parish projects gives me great hope. Thank you. Maintaining perspective these days is challenging for all of us. I would suggest even a short time set aside for prayer each day can help us put things into perspective. Jesus invites us to follow in His example and bring more light and goodness to the world. I hope you are able to find time for prayer and spiritual joy and fun in these remaining days before Christmas.

Morning Prayer will be prayed at 8:45A.M. each Tuesday in Advent. Please join us and then plan to stay for Mass.

Extra Confessions: There will be extra Confessions heard after all the Masses on Sunday, 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.

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.

Bulletin Sponsors: We are very blessed and thankful to have generous bulletin sponsors who make our beautiful weekly bulletins possible. Please thank them and patronize their services when possible.

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

Christmas Day Collection: On Christmas the collection is used for the needs of the sick and retired priests of our Archdiocese. We are grateful for the wonderful priests over the years who have served in this parish or taken care of our families in times of joy and pain. Many influenced our lives in positive ways and may be continuing to be friends. Many of those priests who served God and us so well are now retired or ill and in need of our help. Please be as generous as your means allow. Thank you for always being there to help.

Bible Study: The next class will be on **Monday, December 22nd**, at 10 am in the O'Brien Room. We will be studying the Letters of St. Paul. In preparation, please read St. Paul's Letters to the Thessalonians and his first letter to the Corinthians.

The Twelve Days of Christmas

*In the late 1500's up until 1829, Catholics in England were not allowed to practice their faith openly. During this period, The Twelve Days of Christmas was composed as a catechism. Each element in the carol is a code for a religious reality which children could remember: The **partridge in a pear tree** was "Jesus Christ died on a tree for me," the **two turtle doves** were the Old and New Testaments; **three French hens** stood for faith, hope and love; **four calling birds** were the four gospels; **five golden rings** recalled the Pentateuch, the first books of the Old Testament; **six geese a-laying** stood for the six days of Creation; **seven swans a-swimming** represented the sevenfold gifts of the Spirit (wisdom, knowledge, understanding, counsel, strength, fear of the Lord and Piety); **eight maids a-milking** were the eight Beatitudes. **Nine ladies dancing** represented the nine fruits of the Holy spirit (Galatians 5). The **ten lords a-leaping** were the Ten Commandments. **Eleven pipers piping** stood for the eleven faithful disciples; and finally, the **twelve drummers drumming** symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles.*

Whenever you hear this carol, think of the faith contained within the tradition.

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

Mass Intentions

Saturday	December 20	4:00 pm	The McCarthy, Harrington and Igo Families
Sunday	December 21	8:00 am	Natale Scarsella, Alice Belval and Urban Belval
		9:45 am	
		11:30 am	Joseph Cuddemi
Monday	December 22	9:00 am	
Tuesday	December 23	9:00 am	
Wednesday	December 24	9:00 am	
	December 24	4:00 pm	Christmas Eve Liturgy in Church
		4:00 pm	Christmas Eve Liturgy in School Chapel
		6:00 pm	Christmas Eve Mass
		9:00 pm	Christmas Eve Mass
Thursday	December 25	8:00 am	Christmas Day Liturgy
		9:45 am	Christmas Day Liturgy
		11:30 am	Christmas Day Liturgy
Friday	December 26	9:00 am	George McDermott
Saturday	December 27	9:00 am	
Saturday	December 27	4:00 pm	
Sunday	December 28	8:00 am	For Healing
		9:45 am	The Forte & Crugnola Families and Nina & Tony Crugnola's 63rd Wedding Anniversary
		11:30 am	

 *Collections*

Weekend of December 13-14


Amount collected \$5,904.24
 Amount needed \$6,000.00
 Amount over/under (\$ 95.76)

Retirement Fund for Religious

Amount collected \$5,601.48

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Adult Choir



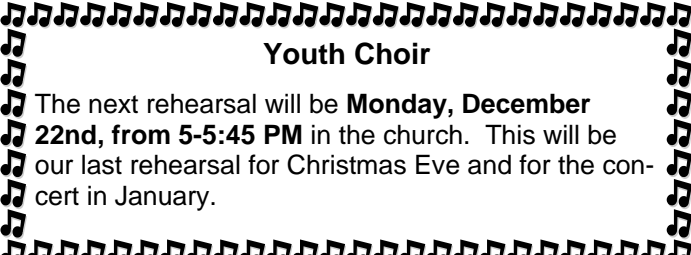
The Adult Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings from 7:30-9:00 pm in the Church. If you have any questions, please call Marianne Germano at 781-326-3670.

Prayer Group

G.I.F.T. (Growing in Faith Together) will not meet on **December 24th or December 31st**. It will resume on Wednesday, January 7th, at 10:00 am.

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. Please have a beautiful and Holy Christmas.

We extend our appreciation to the Doherty Funeral Home for donating The 2009 calendars to the parish. We ask that you take one per family.



Youth Choir

The next rehearsal will be **Monday, December 22nd, from 5-5:45 PM** in the church. This will be our last rehearsal for Christmas Eve and for the concert in January.

Children and Youth

Religious Education

Class Schedule:

- Classes resume for students in K-6 on Jan 5th 2009;
- Students in 7th-10th resume on Jan 12th 2009
- Full Calendar is available online

Confirmation for Catholic School Students – sophomore students attending Catholic schools must register with the parish to prepare for Confirmation. Registration form is available on the website, www.stbartholomew-needham.org under the children and youth page.

Classes begin Monday, Feb 9th, 7:00-8:30pm and continue every other week. Confirmation takes place on Sunday May 17th 3:00pm.

Activities:

Christmas Pageant: All children of the parish are invited to participate in our annual Christmas Pageant, a re-enactment of the Nativity Story that enhances the reading of the story at the 6pm Mass on Christmas Eve.

**There is only one practice –
Monday Dec 22nd 3:30 - 5:15pm in the Church**

Please Mark Your Calendars!!!

The Youth and Adult Choirs invite you to join them in church on **Sunday, January 4th, at 2:30 pm** for a concert. Last years was wonderful! As we know, our calendars get filled very quickly—so be sure to write this in now! Following the concert, light refreshments will be served in Ward Hall.



Senior Social Club: The big day is almost here! The Senior Social Club Christmas luncheon will take place on **Monday, Dec. 22, at 1:00 pm** in Ward Hall. Everything is in place—wonderful food and holiday entertainment. For last minute questions, please call Anne Carey at 781-444-6531. We look forward to seeing you at the luncheon and we wish all of you a very Merry Christmas!

STEWARDSHIP: A WAY OF LIFE

Sharing: Time Talent Treasure

ADVENT 4

“Like sheep without a shepherd”

“Without cost you have received, without cost you are to give”

“Don’t wait to be asked and don’t wait to be thanked”

“The Truth doesn’t change even though discussions about it might”

“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you”

“Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to Your Word”

“God’s announcement of salvation to Mary through Gabriel prepares us well for Christmas”

“I will be a Father to Him and He shall be a Son to Me”

“A little child is born for us, and He shall be called the mighty God; every race on earth shall be blessed in Him”

“At the name of Jesus, every knee shall bend”

Father, hear our prayer. On bended knee on Christmas morning we ask for your blessing in the name of Your Son, Jesus, and pray for a Holy and Blessed Christmas for all. As we look upon the miracle and joy of His birth, may we never forget the sacrifice and gifts He will give us, now and forever.

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

If anyone needs a ride to church for Christmas services, Please call me.

Vocations

The week of Jan 11th is National Vocations Week – a week to pray and consider our vocation. If you are interested in helping to strengthen those who have chosen their vocation and to encourage those still considering their vocation, please speak with Fr Phil or contact the rectory.

Circle of Comfort

In an effort to foster the feeling of sharing, caring, stewardship, and community in our parish beyond the Christmas Season, a new program called Circle of Comfort will be launched in the New Year.

Just as many stories of Jesus surround meal times, the sharing of food can help to create a sense of welcome and comfort in difficult times. The goal of the Circle of Comfort is to have prepared meals available, so that food can be brought to those who need comfort. As needed, parishioners could go to the rectory and take a meal and pie and deliver to someone they know who is in need (people in mourning, post surgery, shut-ins, etc).

Once every two months volunteers will gather for an evening in the rectory kitchen to prepare meals (chicken pot pies, lasagna, casserole types, and apple pies). These would then be placed in a specific freezer in the rectory. We hope to have different groups to make the meals such as a women's night, men's night, father/child, senior night etc.

Certain items are needed in order to make the meals (deep pie tins, canned apples, pie crusts, lasagna, etc) and some things will need to be purchased for which we will need your help. A wish list will be created of specific needs once recipes have been selected.

Currently we are in search of a freezer and/or refrigerator to store the meals, please call the rectory if you know of such appliance

At this time, we simply wanted to inform you of this developing program and to ask you to think about how you may be able to help. What a wonderful way to involve everyone: the parishioners who donate the food items, the volunteers who make the pies, the people reaching out to care for those in need by delivering the meals. A true Circle of Comfort.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun., Dec. 21 Confessions after all Masses
 Mon., Dec. 22 Bible Study-10 am-O'Brien Room
 Mon., Dec. 22 Senior Social Club Christmas Luncheon—1:00 pm-Ward Hall
 Mon., Dec. 22 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal-4:00 pm-Church
 Mon., Dec. 22 No Religious Ed classes
 Tues., Dec. 23 Morning Prayer-8:45 am
Wed., Dec. 24 Parish Office Closed
Thurs., Dec. 25 Parish Office Closed
Fri., Dec. 26 Parish Office Closed

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.

Thanks! to those who helped with the pancake breakfast— it was a wonderful way to enter into the Christmas Season with delicious food, and a chance to talk and laugh with friends old and new! A special thanks to Santa for being with us, the coordinators and the teens who served! We also extend our appreciation to St. Sebastian's School for providing this wonderful breakfast for the parish.

The Pilot Subscription Drive: *The Pilot* has been sending free papers to our parish each week for your enjoyment. Unfortunately, these free papers will be coming to an end at the close of the year. We will be holding a subscription drive for which subscription cards may be found at the back of the church.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 21	Confession	After each Mass
Monday, December 22	Daily Mass	9:00 am
Tuesday, December 23	Morning Prayer	8:45 am (before the 9:00 Mass)
Wednesday, December 24	Daily Mass	9:00 am (this does not satisfy the Christmas obligation)
Wednesday, December 24	Masses	4:00 pm (in church and school chapel) 6:00 pm & 9:00 pm
Thursday, December 25	Masses	8:00 am 9:45 am & 11:30 am
Wednesday, December 31	Daily Mass	9:00 am (this does not satisfy the New Year's Day obligation)
Wednesday, December 31	Mass	4:00 pm
Thursday, January 1	Masses	9:00 am & 12 Noon

The Mystery Kept Secret
By Dr. Scott Hahn

What is announced to Mary in today's Gospel is the revelation of all that the prophets had spoken. It is, as Paul declares in today's Epistle, the mystery kept secret since before the foundation of the world (see Ephesians 1:9; 3:3-9).

Mary is the virgin prophesied to bear a son of the house of David (see Isaiah 7:13-14). And nearly every word the angel speaks to her today evokes and echoes the long history of salvation recorded in the Bible. Mary is hailed as the daughter Jerusalem, called to rejoice that her king, the Lord God, has come into her midst as a mighty savior (see Zephaniah 3:14-17).

The One whom Mary is to bear will be Son of "the Most High" - an ancient divine title first used to describe the God of the priest-king Melchizedek, who brought out bread and wine to bless Abraham at the dawn of salvation history (see Genesis 14:18-19). He will fulfill the covenant God makes with His chosen one, David, in today's First Reading. As we sing in today's Psalm, He will reign forever as highest of the kings of the earth, and He will call God, "my Father." As Daniel saw the Most High grant everlasting dominion to the Son of Man (see Daniel 4:14; 7:14), His kingdom will have no end.

He is to rule over the house of Jacob - the title God used in making His covenant with Israel at Sinai (see Exodus 19:3), and again used in promising that all nations would worship the God of Jacob (see Isaiah 2:1-5). Jesus has been made known, Paul says today, to bring all nations to the obedience of faith. We are called with Mary today, to marvel at all that the Lord has done throughout the ages for our salvation. And we too, must respond to this annunciation with humble obedience - that His will be done, that our lives be lived according to His word.

A service of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology
www.SalvationHistory.com

