



Emmanuel



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.



Please Note: This bulletin has been combined into one to include the weeks of December 23rd and 30th.

Reflection on Fourth Sunday of Advent: The time of Jesus birth is drawing quite near. Notice the great faith that St. Joseph and Mary show in agreeing to do the will of God. How blessed all of humanity is because of their decision to cooperate with God's plan. This week is a very special time to reach out to loved ones we usually do not see and others with the message that Jesus makes all things new. Christmas brings out the best in people because this is what Jesus intends to do with each of us.

Reflection on the Feast of the Holy Family: The busyness of the day affects the quality of all home life. The Holy Family teaches us the virtue of doing things together as a family and waiting with trust in the Lord. One other gift that the readings talk about and Jesus showed is the importance of respect and thanksgiving for our parents and all of the ways that God blesses us. As a parish during the week at daily Mass we have been praying the prayer for the gift of marriage and the strengthening of family life.

Reflection on New Years Day, the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God: Every mother wonders what will their child do in life and how will they turn out. What possibilities will lie ahead? Even in the moments of awe and fascination and working around the clock caring for a child a mother looks at the future of her children knowing that so much is always possible and waiting to happen. Each child is so special but Mary knew there was something extra special about Jesus. Mary wondered but did not know what the future held for Jesus. We remember Mary's relationship to Jesus and to us as our spiritual mother each time we pray the Hail Mary. With Mary's help I pray that 2008 will be a time of blessed new beginnings building on our strengths and blessings from God. Happy New Year.

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 first five chapters in the book of Jeremiah.

Renew: We are looking for people who would be interested in working on the steering committee for the Renew program. This will involve attending not only parish meetings but some Archdiocesan training meetings. The purpose of the Renew program is to introduce small group sharing into parish life as a means of revitalizing the faith experience of all. The training will begin in February and March of 2008 in the different regions of the Archdiocese and parish wide programs begin later in the year. It is my hope that this will be an enriching program for this parish and our Archdiocese. Please pray for the success of the Renew program. If

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. They have given their lives so that others may know the saving love of Jesus Christ. At this time the needs are great. Please be as generous as your means allow. Thank you.



First Saturday Devotion

"Mary promised at Fatima each time that she appeared to help us if we pray to her to banish war and fear. " In response to her promises First Saturday Devotion will take place on **January 5th, following the 9:00 am Mass**. Please plan to join in this effort for peace and unity.

Community Sunday & Free Blood Pressure Screening will be held on **Sunday, January 6th**, following the 8:00 & 9:45 am Masses. Come down for coffee and donuts—visit acquaintances and welcome new families!!

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 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
Monday	December 24 December 24	9:00 am	
		4:00 pm	Christmas Eve Liturgy (Church)
		4:00 pm	Christmas Eve Liturgy (Chapel)
		6:00 pm	Christmas Eve Liturgy
Tuesday	December 25	9:00 pm	Christmas Eve Liturgy
		8:00 am	Christmas Day Liturgy
		9:45 am	Christmas Day Liturgy
		11:30 am	Christmas Day Liturgy
Wednesday	December 26	9:00 am	George McDermott
Thursday	December 27	9:00 am	The Forgotten Souls in Purgatory
Friday	December 28	9:00 am	50th Wedding Anniversary for John & Irene Ryan
Saturday	December 29	9:00 am	Vincent J. Frascatore
Saturday	December 29	4:00 pm	The Fullerton & Fraser Families
Sunday	December 30	8:00 am	The Schmidlein Family
		9:45 am	The Forte & Crugnola Families and the 62nd Wedding Anniversary of Nina & Tony Crugnola
		11:30 am	James Shaughnessy—Active Duty in Iraq
Monday, December 31		9:00 am	
		4:00 pm	Feast of Mary, Mother of God
Tuesday, January 1		9:00 am	Feast of Mary, Mother of God
		12:00 pm	Feast of Mary, Mother of God
Wednesday, January 2		9:00 am	John Clougher
Thursday, January 3		9:00 am	Thomas and Sally Thissell
Friday, January 4		9:00 am	William Thissell
Saturday, January 5		9:00 am	John B. Watt
Saturday, January 5		4:00 pm	
Sunday, January 6		8:00 am	William Keyes
		9:45 am	
		11:30 am	

 *Collections*

Weekend of December 15-16

Amount collected	\$3,169.96
Amount needed	\$6,000.00
Amount over/under	(\$2,830.04)

Grand Annual Collection

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

(The amounts collected for Offertory for Dec. 23rd & 30th and Christmas will be posted in the bulletin for Jan. 6th.)

Prayer Group

G.I.F.T. (Growing in Faith Together) will not meet on December 26th or January 2nd. It will resume on January 9th at 10:00 am in the O'Brien Room at the rectory.

Youth Choir rehearsals have suspended for the holiday season. Youth Choir begins again on Monday, January 7th, at 5:00 pm in the church. New members, third grade through high school, are always welcome.

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

STEWARDSHIP: A WAY OF LIFE
Sharing: Time Talent Treasure

(This is the sharing for the Sunday of December 23rd.)

"OH, HOLY NIGHT"

With Christmas just a few days away, our anticipations are at peak. Hopefully, our excitement and focus includes the miraculous birth that is to come. In joy and wonder, we know that this birth is so special. The Lord, our God, has chosen to come among us in our most humble form. Every baby is a miracle and a life changing experience for all who are blessed to be in the babe's presence. But this baby is a miracle and so much more. This baby has come to save us. We are so blessed to know this. We are so blessed to be Catholic and to have been given this faith. Thank you seems so inadequate. We must say it however, and we must live it. Jesus Christ was born and has come to live among us. As His stewards, we are responsible for listening to His Word and for living it as He has taught us. As we look into the manger, may we recognize this baby with all the joy possible in our hearts and all the hope given us to make this world a better place-the place He created for us to live in and to always be happy.

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

(This is the sharing for the Sunday of December 30th.)

A NEW YEAR

One of the buzz words we often hear is addiction. There are many levels of addiction and many things one can be addicted to. Some addictions are serious, life threatening, family disruptive, expensive, and generally life altering in a less than positive way. These are usually obvious and possibility need professional help to stop. However, even what seems to be a good habit can be a negative, if it becomes addictive and not kept in a proper prospective relative to a healthy life style.

The New Year is for most, a time of reflection on the past year. We once again make promises about how we will work on our weight, our relationships, our work life, etc. (chocolate?)* But how about our secret personal addictions? What are our real personal priorities? What are the things that we just will not live without? And just how much effort do we put into making sure we have them. And does anything or anyone suffer because of our choices? And where is God in these "things that I cannot live without?" The New Year is another gift we are given to stop and Reflect and hopefully, thank God that once again we will try to "start over." Bear in mind that there are no promises that we will be given this opportunity over and over again in the future.

Seize this day---every day and know that "this is the day that the Lord has made." Become addicted to life with the knowledge that all we know and all we have is a gift from God. Have a Happy and Blessed New Year and may God be with you every day in this new year. Have no spiritual regrets this year, knowing that we are all God's children and we will try to know Him, to love Him, and serve Him to the best our ability this year. Then this will be a truly great and blessed year-every single day of it! What a great addiction!!

*(Forget about chocolate-it is now recognized as a healthy food)

Children and Youth

Religious Education News

Classes resume on January 7th for all grades.

Have a Blessed Christmas
 and a wonderful vacation.

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.

Amy's Book Club

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.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS	
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
Mon., Dec. 31	Parish Office closes at Noon
Tues., Jan. 1	Parish Office Closed
Wed., Jan. 2	No Prayer Group
Sat., Jan. 5	First Saturday Devotion following the 9:00 am Mass
Sun., Jan. 6	Community Sunday & Free Blood Pressure Screening following the 8:00 & 9:45 am Masses
Sun., Jan. 6	Baptisms-12:30 –Church
Sun., Jan. 6	Youth and Adult Choirs Concert-3:00 pm-Church
Mon., Jan. 7	Bible Study-10 am-O'Brien Room

Youth and Adult Choirs Concert

You are invited to join us on **Sunday, January 6th, at 3:00 pm** for the concert that was cancelled on December 16th, because of bad weather. Both choirs had worked very hard and look forward to sharing this gift of music with the parish. Following the concert, you are invited to Ward Hall for light refreshments.

Please mark your calendars now!

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.

December 25, 2007 Christmas Message

My dear friends;

With the rapid pace of life today and all of the demands that are placed upon us it would be easy to lose the true meaning of Christmas. Many of us are so busy in our own ways doing good that we might not be as mindful of some of the serious needs of others. We live in a world of sin, imperfection, injustice, poverty, starvation, war, and natural disasters which in many ways is not unlike the world that Jesus was born into.

The Advent season has moved so quick that perhaps we have not focused on the issues of the Lord's second coming. Christmas is the time of the year for awe and wonder as God reveals His unconditional love for each of us. God gives us the greatest expression of His love for us, His Son Jesus. God does all in His power to provide the message, the love, the example in the Christ child. Mary and Joseph shared the blessings of their child with the whole world.

When Jesus entered our world so did hope. Clearly there was something special about Jesus from the beginning. God addresses the concerns and needs of the world through Jesus. God invites us to share this message of love and wonder with others. It is Jesus who brings light, faith, knowledge and the Spirit of God to a world so in need of all this. Jesus heals us and Jesus saves us if we desire this to happen. Jesus desires that each of us experience that peace, satisfaction and love that only He can give.

As we celebrate His birth and prepare for His second coming, we are reminded of the history of all that has gone on and is going on in the world. When we count our blessings we know that we are invited to share who we are with others. Sharing who we are with others can make a difference. We have seen this over and over again this past year. Christmas is an invitation to each of us to bring Jesus to others particularly those most in need. Many times this year you have been asked to help and you have so nicely. Thank you for all of your kindnesses and the ways you share God's blessings with others through your generosity of time, talent and treasure. Please know that you are in my prayers and my thoughts each day and in a special way in the Masses that I celebrate on Christmas day.

God bless you,
Fr. Philip McGaugh

If we have spent so much time shopping that we have little time to spend with those for whom we are shopping, Lord forgive us and give us sensitivity.

If we decorate our houses with bright lights and festive colors, but neglect the deeper need to help those we live with to feel at home, O Lord forgive us and grant us love.

If we are worried about how much Christmas is going to cost us but have given little thought to how much Christmas cost God, O Lord forgive us and give us perspective.

If we are so consumed with thinking about this Christmas that we have little consideration for the meaning of the first Christmas, O Lord forgive us and give us insight.

If we are overextended and bogged down with tiredness and long to see Your face but cannot find it, Lord give us a sign of hope.

If we are too much in a hurry to realize our potential, our destiny, that we are all saints-in-the-making, O Lord slow us down and give us quiet and solitude.

O God of Advent, help us prepare well for this coming Feast of the Incarnation.

This is the prayer that Fr. Lagen recently shared at Mass.