



*And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age
and favor before God and man.*

Luke 2:52

St. Bartholomew Parish

1180 Greendale Ave.
Needham, MA 02492
781-444-3434

Parish Staff

Fr. Philip E. Mc Gaugh, Pastor
Barbara Dury,

Pastoral Associate/Business Manager

Debby Deneen, Parish Secretary

Marianne Germano, Director of Music

Melisa Hughes

Director of Youth Formation & Activities

Mary Ellen Jennings,

Religious Ed. Coordinator, Grades K-6

Weekend Celebrant

Fr. Charles Murphy

Priest in Residence

Fr. Brian Cronin, C.S.Sp.

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

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 for what you would like
prayers said.



Reflection for Feast of the Holy Family: For a great deal of the world Christmas is over and some people feel tired and not refreshed. For Catholics the Christmas Season has just begun and does not end until we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. The readings of this season call us to realize that God wishes all of us to know how much He wishes to be part of our lives and that life extends beyond singular events. God has a plan for all of us for all of life in union with others. God wishes each of us to reach our potential, which begins in our family life. The Holy Family serves as a model for all of us. This is a wonderful time for all of us to reflect upon the way that God extends His love to us.

New Years' Resolutions: At the end of one year and the start of a new year it is appropriate to make plans of a spiritual nature as well as other plans. How open are we to experiencing God's love and wisdom to share with others? I would recommend that each of us come up with a short list of goals for the coming year. It is important to experience and share with others. This means seeking Jesus' healing love in all aspects of our journey through life.

Thank You

There are so many things that I need to thank you for as we end the year of 2009 and are about to begin 2010. New programs have started and others are ready to start. The work, the generosity, the willingness to share in the Advent projects and the others throughout the year, the attitudes and efforts of so many during the Advent and Christmas Season has been nothing short of amazing, heartwarming and exceptional.

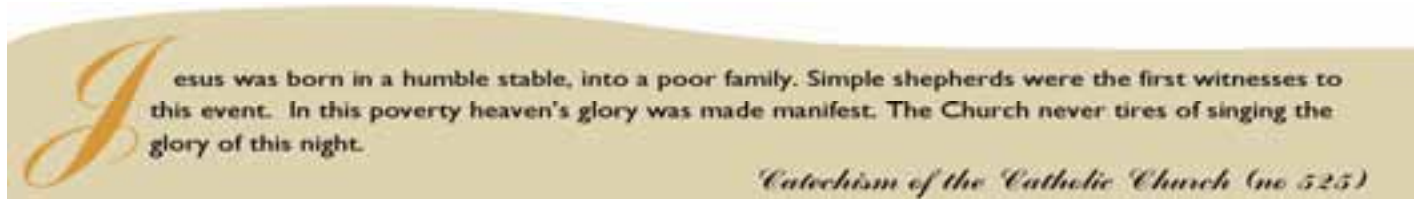
From the parish staff to the volunteers there is a very wonderful spirit. Many people have expressed this throughout the year and God has blessed others through you. Many have been overly generous with their time, talents, and treasures to help others, both within and outside the parish.

Also, many have been so kind, generous and encouraging to me. Whether it has been dropping off food, your prayers, your Mass cards, your gifts or kind words—thank you. It is not my desire to forget anyone deserving of a “thank you” - so I will say that in general to you all.

Thank you, too, for your continued prayers and concern for Sr. Julie who is an example and inspiration to all of us.

You are in my thoughts and prayers. I pray that 2010 will be an exceptional year filled with blessings for this parish and each of us.

*Yours in Christ,
Fr. Phil*



Volunteers are always needed. Please call and let us know that you would like to help your St. Bart's family—even if it is just an hour or two at one function a year. No offer will be refused! We need you.

St. Andrew Dinner: Any junior or senior young man in high school or older who would like to learn more about the diocesan priesthood is invited to this St. Andrew Dinner on Wednesday, January 27th, from 5:30-8:00 pm. Please contact the pastor if you are interested in attending.

Reflection on the Feast of the Epiphany: What would each of say is a special gift that we bring to God and to others? What are our spiritual desires for 2010? Just as the Magi came from all over the world to bring gifts to Jesus...so, too, believers from everywhere today give homage to Jesus. How do we use our spiritual gifts to bring others to Jesus?

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



Saturday	Dec. 26	4:00 pm	Natale & Geraldine Scarcella and Alice & Urban Belval
Sunday	Dec. 27	8:00 am	Jane Marie McDonald
		9:45 am	The Forte & Crugnola Families and Nina & Tony Crugnola's 64th Wedding Anniversary
		11:30 am	Phyllis, Wanda & Frances Obidinski
Tuesday	Dec. 29	9:00 am	Jean Dooley
Sunday	Jan. 3	9:45 am	Marion Fahey
Saturday	Jan. 9	9:00 am	William Keyes and Frederick Keyes
Sunday	Jan. 10	9:45 am	"Called by Name" with First Communicants
		11:30 am	Antonio Colella

Youth Choir

There will be no Youth Choir practice on Sunday, December 27th. Youth Choir members should come to the church at 2:15 PM on Sunday, January 3rd, for the 3 PM concert. Regular Youth Choir rehearsals will begin again on Sunday evening, January 10th, at 5 PM in the church.

Adult Choir



The Adult Choir rehearsal is held every Thursday at 7:30 pm. We welcome new members. If you have any questions, please call Marianne Germano at 781-326-3670.

The Prayer Group (G.I.F.T.) will NOT meet on Wednesday morning, Dec. 30th. It will return in 2010 on Wednesdays at 10:00 am. We hope everyone in the parish and their families have a holy and blessed Christmas and New Year. We, as always, will keep you in our prayers.

SAVE THE DATE!!!

**Please mark your calendars!!!
St. Bart's Skating Party**

**Saturday, January 30th
12:30-1:30 pm**

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

Thanks to all who have donated to our collections for the Needham Food Pantry. Donations overall in town are down and the pantry is really in need of food to help Needham families and individuals during these tough economic times. We are still collecting non-perishable food and toiletry and paper products for donation to the Needham Community Council's Food Pantry. Please bring anything you would like to donate and leave it in the box in the back of the church. All donated items will be delivered to the Food Pantry on your behalf. Thank you for your help.

Amy's Book Club will NOT meet in December due to the meeting dates being so close to the holidays. On the last Tuesday of the month, January 26, 2010, we will meet and discuss 2 books. Our current selection **NO GREATER SACRIFICE—NO GREATER LOVE** by Walter Ford Carter with Terry Golway will be reviewed. And another book, **THE HELP** by Kathryn Stockett will also be discussed. Enjoy the blessed holidays, find the time, and keep reading. Bring any new books that you have enjoyed to our next meeting and share. We welcome all to come and relax with us as we enrich each other with our new finds. Any questions, please call Kathy Reilly at 781-444-0862 or e-mail kreilly15@yahoo.com

STEWARDSHIP: "DO JUST ONE THING"

Financials for November

Offertory	\$24,431.28
Other Offertory	1,660.00
Electronic giving	2,911.26
Total Offertory	29,002.54
Budgeted	30,000.00
Deficit	(997.46)

Collection Retired Religious	\$5,775.36
Campaign for Human Development	\$1,190.31

GRAND ANNUAL TO DATE (12/14) \$58,839.23

Thank you for your generous support of our parish.
Just a reminder that the Christmas Collection is for the retired priests of the Archdiocese.

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I cannot believe that it is the week before Christmas! Many people doing "Just One Thing" have helped make December and the Season of Advent at St. Bartholomew the truly joy-filled time of expectation and preparation for Christmas that it should be. Through the efforts of our many volunteers we have enjoyed Community Sunday, the Pancake Breakfast with Santa, the Yankee Swap and Mary's Peace Garden is ablaze with thousands of light as we await the coming of Jesus Christ, Light of the World and Prince of Peace. Thanks to everyone who made this possible.

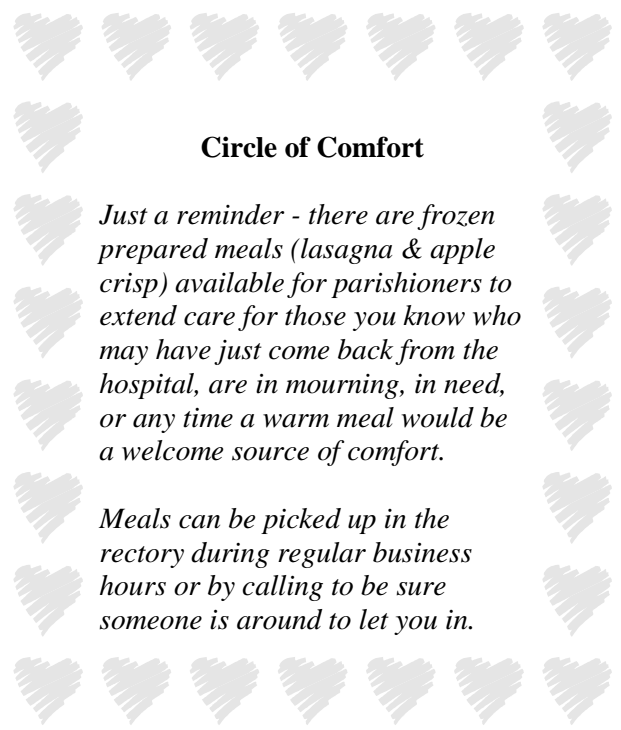
-Barbara Dury

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My church is composed of people like me. I help make it what it is. It will be friendly, if I am. Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them. It will do great work, if I work. It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver. It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship, if I invite and bring them. It will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and a church with a noble spirit, if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these same things. Therefore, with the help of God, I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all the things that I want my church to be.

First Saturday Devotion will be prayed after the 9:00 am Mass on January 2 (unless there is a funeral at 10 am).

Community Sunday & Free Blood Pressure Screening will be held following the 8:00 & 9:45 am Masses this **Sunday, Jan. 3**. Come down to Ward Hall for coffee, donuts and fellowship.



Circle of Comfort

Just a reminder - there are frozen prepared meals (lasagna & apple crisp) available for parishioners to extend care for those you know who may have just come back from the hospital, are in mourning, in need, or any time a warm meal would be a welcome source of comfort.

Meals can be picked up in the rectory during regular business hours or by calling to be sure someone is around to let you in.

Reminder from the Finance Council Regarding the Grand Annual Collection: Thank you to everyone who has already contributed! Given the economy and all that we hope to accomplish in the coming year, we need your help. The end of the year is approaching; if you have not yet donated or would like to increase your Grand Annual contribution, please consider doing so before the end of the year so that it benefits you at tax time. Thank you again.

Children and Youth

Religious Education:

Classes resume in January:

K-6th grade Jan 4th

7th – 10th grade Jan 11th

Called by Name: All students preparing for Reconciliation and First Communion this year will participate in a special ritual where each child is called by name and given a blessing at the **9:45 Mass on Sunday, Jan. 10.**

Confirmation Parents meeting (10th grade) – Important meeting for all parents of students preparing for Confirmation in 2010 - **Monday, Jan 11th, 7:30** in the Church.

Catholic School Students – Sophomore Students in Catholic Schools are invited to register for Confirmation Preparation classes. Classes are every other Monday starting Feb 8th please contact the parish for information. Registration form available online.

Activities:

World Youth Day 2011 – Madrid

World Youth Day (WYD) is the world's largest gathering of young people who gather for a week-long pilgrimage. This Catholic celebration of our faith includes many forms of prayer, dramas, concerts, praise and worship, catechesis, all culminating in an awe-inspiring over-night vigil & closing Mass with Pope Benedict XVI.



Youth Track ages 16-21 (at time of departure)

Young Adult Track ages 21-35 (at time of departure)

Information Meetings about World Youth Day

Sunday Jan 10th 1pm in the McCulloch Room (upstairs in the School)

Tuesday Jan 19th 7pm in the O'Brien Room (basement of rectory)

For other information visit: <http://boston.wydmadrid2011.net>



Feast of the Holy Family

A parenting seminar at our parish featured a segment on faith development in children. Time and again, the speaker stressed the importance of the family in teaching children about the meaning and purpose of religious doctrine and practices. If children do not see it at home, they won't see it—or believe it—anywhere else. Religion is taught, but faith is caught.

We cannot overestimate how important a role the family plays in teaching the basics of faith. Children practice what they see. How many two year olds try to make the Sign of the Cross as the family prays before meals? It is comical at times, but a clear reminder that what a child sees and does in the home forms the basis of his or her own practice of faith. Values, morals, and faith all begin at home, so that what the family teaches, the Church preaches and the child of God reaches.

Make room for faith and time for its practice. In busy schedules, rushed evenings, and overscheduled weekends, we need the time and space to be quiet, to listen, to pray and to worship. Prayer, bible reading, traditional devotions, Mass, and discussions about spiritual and moral issues will make a big difference in the way the whole family sees, understands and practices faith.

~James Gaffney, © 2009 Karides Lic. to St. George Publishing jim@stgeorgepublishing.com

BECAUSE YOU ARE FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST, WHO APPEARED ON THIS DAY AS A LIGHT SHINING IN DARKNESS, MAY HE MAKE YOU A LIGHT TO ALL YOUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS.
Solemn blessing | Roman rite

STEWARDSHIP: A WAY OF LIFE
Sharing: Time Talent Treasure

THE OLD THAT IS ALWAYS NEW AND THE NEW THAT HAS ALWAYS BEEN OLD

Words seem so small and inadequate to express the wonder, the joy, the hope, for all in the wishes for a blessed and holy Christmas. He came in such innocence as a baby; such trust in Mary and Joseph to care for Him; the hope for all who would listen to Him. May the blessings and joy of Christmas be yours and your loved ones always. May we never forget this 'O Holy Night' in 'This Little Town of Bethlehem'. Because 'lying in a manger' is our Savior.

The New Year with its celebrations, its resolutions, its remembrances, has always been a time when we felt we could 'start over' or 'start anew'. With all the promise a New Year Brings, we must always remember the true New Year beginning is the very moment we are in which holds all the promise God constantly wishes for us.

May this New Year Moment last in our hearts and in God's promises for us 24/7 or 365. Let us all live anew in a happy and holy New Year now and forever.

Stewardship: Kathy Reilly



Epiphany

A Global Positioning System (GPS) is a great device to have on a journey. It gives accurate directions and helps the driver navigate unfamiliar territory. With some models, however, it is important to use your computer to update its maps. Otherwise, you might end up short of your destination or taking a very long route to get there—if you get there at all.

The Magi undertake a long and difficult journey because they are convinced that the star they see is of Divine origin. Their GPS is the Glorious Power of a Star and it serves to lead them to Bethlehem where they see the Holy Infant. By their actions, they acknowledge this special Child and leave their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Theirs was a successful journey.

We're all on a journey of faith and in need of guidance. Our GPS is the Great Power of our Savior. He becomes the Way, the Truth and the Light, leading us on the path to eternal life. Make sure you update frequently. Prayer, Scripture, Sacraments and good deeds will keep us in contact with Him, enabling us to recognize Him wherever He may lead us.

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