

*St. Bartholomew Parish
Combined Adult and Children Choirs*



*Feast of the Holy Family
December 31, 2006*

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
Elizabeth Healy,
Religious Ed. Coordinator, Grades 7-10
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.
Benediction is at 7:30 pm.

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.



On behalf of the parish staff we wish you a Happy New Year. New Years Day this year is not a holy day of obligation. Nevertheless attending Mass is a wonderful way to start off the New Year. We will have Mass at 9:00 am.

Thank you- Parish Project for Advent: A word of thanks to so many of you who gave much of yourselves to make the difference in the lives of many people. Many are going to have a much nicer Christmas season because of your generosity and kindness.

Next Scripture Class will begin January 8th at 10 am in the O'Brien Room at the rectory when we begin the study of John's Gospel. Please read chapters 1-4. How does the study of John's Gospel help us with every day living? How do the miracles of Jesus speak to us today?

Boston Catholic Men's & Women's Conference: Anyone interested in information about attending the Catholic Men's Conference on March 17, 2007 or Catholic Women's Conference on March 18, 2007 is asked to speak with the pastor.

Retreat Day for Women Contemplating Religious Life: His Eminence Cardinal Sean O.F.M. Cap will be offering a day of recollection for women thinking about entering religious life on Saturday, March 10, 2007 at Mt. Alvernia Academy, Chestnut Hill Mass. Anyone woman interested is asked to speak with the pastor.

Retreat Days for Men Contemplating the Priesthood: His Eminence Cardinal Sean O.F.M. Cap will lead a Day of Discernment and Reflection on Thursday, February 1, 2007 at Blessed John XXIII Seminary for men age 40 or older. From Friday, February 2, 2007 to Sunday February 4, 2007 Cardinal Sean O.F.M. Cap will lead a Discernment Retreat at St. John's Seminary for men age 18- 40.

CYO: Any parent who is interested in serving on an advisory committee for CYO is asked to let the pastor know. Any CYO age student who would like to share ideas or thoughts is asked to speak with the pastor. Please pray for the success of this. A meeting will be planned after the holidays.

Thank you: There are so many things I need to thank you for as we are about to begin another year. The work, the generosity, the willingness to share in the Advent project and the other projects throughout the year, the attitudes and efforts of so many during the Advent and Christmas Season have been nothing short of heartwarming and exceptional. From many of the parish staff to the volunteers there is certainly a wonderful spirit here. Many have been extremely generous with their time, talents, and treasures to help others both within and outside of the parish.

Also many have been so kind, generous and encouraging to me. Whether it has been dropping off food at the rectory, your prayers and concern, your Mass cards, your gifts, your encouraging words, thank you. I do not wish to forget anyone deserving of a thank you, so I will say in general thank you. Thank you also for your continued prayers for Sr. Julie and Sr. Joan as they are recovering from their illnesses. It is my prayer that 2007 will be a special year of blessings for St. Bartholomew Parish and each of us. Thank you.

Legion of Mary: Anyone interested in forming or joining the Legion of Mary here at St. Bartholomew is asked to speak with the pastor. Anyone interested in more information is asked to speak with the pastor.

New Years Resolutions: At the start of a new year it is important to ask ourselves how we can be open to and showing love for God in such a way as to spiritually enrich our world. I would recommend that we make a short list of doable goals for the coming year. Any ways that we can help people to see the connection between faith, spirituality and life is important. This is the call of seeking holiness which means following Jesus seeking His healing love in all aspects of our journeys through life. May we also be mindful of helping others as love of God needs to include love of neighbor.

Flu Season and the Sign of peace: I have been asked to remind you that with the flu season upon us, not everyone wishes to shake hands at the sign of peace or receive the precious blood of Our Lord from the chalice. At the sign of peace when a person has health concerns or a cold a thankful nod or kind word is appropriate and appreciated. Thank you for your understanding.

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

Mass Intentions

Saturday	December 30	4:00 pm	Jeanne Dawson
Sunday	December 31	8:00 am	Special Intention
		9:45 am	The Forte & Crugnola Families and the 61st Wedding Anniversary of Nina & Tony Crugnola
		11:30 am	Marie Augeros
Monday	January 1	9:00 am	
Tuesday	January 2	9:00 am	
Wednesday	January 3	9:00 am	
Thursday	January 4	9:00 am	Special Intention
Friday	January 5	9:00 am	Alice D. Murray
Saturday	January 6	9:00 am	Knights of Columbus
Saturday	January 6	4:00 pm	Mary T. Morrissey
Sunday	January 7	8:00 am	William Keyes
		9:45 am	George H. Ellison
		11:30 am	

Scripture Readings

Week of December 31, 2006

- 31 Sun** Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/
Lk 2:41-52
- 1 Mon** Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
- 2 Tue** 1Jn 2:22-28/Jn 1:19-28
- 3 Wed** 1 Jn 2:29—3:6/ Jn 1:29-34
- 4 Thu** 1 Jn 3:7-10/Jn 1:35-42
- 5 Fri** 1 Jn 3:11-21/Jn 1:43-51
- 6 Sat** 1 Jn 5:5-13/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38
or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38
- 7 Sun** Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Collections

Weekend of Dec. 23-24

Amount collected	\$5,789.00
Amount needed	\$6,000.00
Amount over/under	(\$ 211.00)

Grand Annual Collection

Amount to date	\$62,956.00
	(96% of goal)

Christmas Collection

Amount collected	\$14,619.30
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Thank you for your stewardship.

Youth Choir:
Our next rehearsal will be on Monday, January 8, 2007.

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

Congratulations To:
Matthew Ahearn,
son of Matthew and Jennifer;
as this child is claimed
by Jesus Christ in the
Sacrament of Baptism
this weekend.





We wish all of you a Happy New Year!!

Peace to All,
Elizabeth Healy & Mary Ellen Jennings
Religious Education Coordinators

America Needs the Message of Fatima

“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 the parish will introduce “The First Saturday Devotion” beginning January 6, 2007 following the 9:00 am Mass. Please plan to join in this effort for peace and unity.

AMY’S BOOK CLUB

The next gathering of Amy’s Book Club will be on Tuesday, January 23, at 12:30 pm in the O’Brien Room at the rectory. We will inform you of the book selection in next week’s bulletin.

Men’s Retreat: Please save **Friday evening, Feb. 2, 2007 through Sunday morning, Feb. 4, 2007** for the 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 theme “Reflecting Christ—You Are the Light of the World.” More information to come during December and early January. For “early-bird” information, call Richard Smith at 781-444-0945.

Christmas flowers have been donated for the following intention: Health for Trudy Valenza and entire Valenza Family

Christmas flowers have been donated in memory of:

- The Carey Family
- Vincenzo DiCenso
- The Gentile Family
- The Mecagni Family
- Romeo Roy
- Antonina Valenza

A Year of Time
by Steven B. Cloud

As we look into 2007 we look at a block of time. We see 12 months, 52 weeks, 365 days, 8,760 hours, 525,600 minutes, 31,536,000 seconds. And all is a gift from God. We have done nothing to deserve it, earn it, or purchased it. Like the air we breathe, time comes to us as a part of life.

The gift of time is not ours alone. It is given equally to each person. Rich and poor, educated and ignorant, strong and weak — every man, woman and child has the same twenty-four hours every day.

Another important thing about time is that you cannot stop it. There is no way to slow it down, turn it off, or adjust it. Time marches on.

And you cannot bring back time. Once it is gone, it is gone. Yesterday is lost forever. If yesterday is lost, tomorrow is uncertain. We may look ahead at a full year’s block of time, but we really have no guarantee that we will experience any of it.

Obviously, time is one of our most precious possessions. We can waste it. We can worry over it. We can spend it on ourselves. Or, as good stewards, we can invest it in the kingdom of God.

The new year is full of time. As the seconds tick away, will you be tossing time out the window, or will you make every second count?

A Prayer for the New Year

Come, Holy Spirit,

Spirit of the risen Christ, be with us today and always. Be our Light, our Guide, and our Comforter.

Be our Strength, our Courage, and our Sanctifier. May this new year be a time of deep spiritual growth for us,

*A time of welcoming your graces and gifts,
A time for forgiving freely and unconditionally,
A time for growing in virtue and goodness.*

Come, Holy Spirit,

Be with us today and always. Amen.

A Note from the Business Manager

Late spring and early summer you may have read in the bulletin a notice about an impending change in the software we use to keep track of our parishioners and your donations to the parish. This change was implemented at the request of chancery as a part of their efforts to standardize the software programs used by the parishes throughout the archdiocese. The conversion from Church Management Systems, a program the parish had used for 15 years, to ParishSoft was accomplished without any cost to the parish thanks to the publishers of our new bulletin. ParishSoft is a versatile and powerful program which will eventually allow us to introduce many changes such as the option of automatic envelope contributions using electronic fund transfers and the option of receiving parish communications via email.

Unfortunately, the actual conversion of our data from Church Management Systems to ParishSoft did not go well. As I prepare to send out donation reports for 2006, I respectfully ask for your patience, understanding and cooperation. The staff has spent the last five months trying to find and correct conversion errors, a task which, as of now, is not yet complete. Much effort has gone in to family by family, donation by donation comparisons between the two databases - over a hundred thousand pieces of data - and making corrections, additions and deletions by hand. Mistakes in this process are inevitable. I apologize in advance for any errors in the donation reports and hope that you will call me at the rectory, 781-444-3434, so any discrepancies in the financial data can be resolved..

Recently an Advent Reflection Booklet and calendar was mailed to each family in the new database. The basic registration information for about one hundred families did not transfer correctly. A family by family comparison between the two databases helped to identify and correct the information for most of the families affected but, once again, it is inevitable that some errors still exist in the new database. May I ask a favor? If you know of anyone affected by this change, please explain to them and let us know.

Once again, I apologize for any inconvenience this conversion may have caused you and ask for your patience, help and cooperation as we try to complete the necessary corrections to the new parish donation and census database.

Thank you,
Barbara Dury

Dear Friends,

My heart is filled with gratitude for your overwhelming kindness and generosity during this time of uncertainty regarding what the Good God is asking of me. Your cards, letters, gifts and most especially your prayerful solicitude have been a source of strength and grace.

The surgery on November 27th was successful and on December 29th I will have my first chemotherapy treatment. Special thanks to those who have already volunteered to be drivers to Beth Israel Hospital in Boston. Debby, our parish secretary will keep a list of those who still wish to volunteer. The treatments will be ongoing for approximately six months—so help is needed.

Please continue to pray for me and for the medical personnel who are caring for me. When I am stronger I will be happy to welcome visitors. Meanwhile, I will pray for you and thank god for the pastoral concern you have shown to me.

Sincerely—and as always God bless,
Sr. Julie



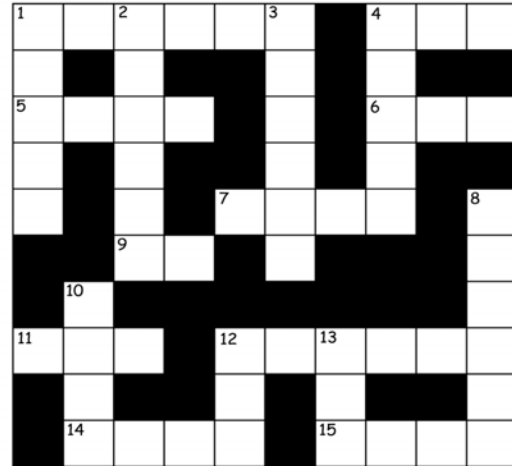
BIBLE RESEARCH

The first reading tells how a boy named Samuel was taken to 'the temple of the LORD in Shiloh.' This temple was not the same one that Jesus knew, much later, in Jerusalem. See what you can discover about this earlier temple at Shiloh.

The Temple in Jerusalem, where Jesus listened to the religious teachers and asked them questions, was a much grander affair than the one at Shiloh. It is often called 'the temple of Herod,' because it was one of King Herod's building projects. You will be able to find a lot of information about this temple, including detailed reconstructions of what it looked like.

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS 1. Father of Jesus 4. Priest at Shiloh
5. Means 'spoke' 6. Same as finish 7. Mother of Jesus
9. Male pronoun 11. Samuel and Jesus were both this
12. Left at Shiloh 14. Contained wine 15. We all have one.



CLUES DOWN 1. Son of Mary 2. There was a temple there
3. Mother of Samuel 4. Like 'each' 8. The age of Jesus
when he was missing for three days 10. Elkanah was going
to fulfil these 12. Jesus and Samuel were both this
13. Jesus and Samuel would both become this

A PICTURE TO COLOR



David Fielding

GOSPEL READING: LUKE 2: 41-52
THE FINDING IN THE TEMPLE

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