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Good News!

December 19, 2010

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Is 7:10–14 / Rom 1:1–7 / Mt 1:18–24

Whatchu talkin' 'bout, Willis? Any fan of the 1980s TV show *Different Strokes* is familiar with that line. In a tone my mother would have labeled "sass," the young character Arnold would question his brother with suspicion when Willis asked him to do something that Arnold found utterly ridiculous.

Every time I hear today's Gospel story, I wonder what crossed Joseph's mind when he heard the angel's message in his dream. Did Joseph momentarily think, "Whatchu talkin' 'bout, Gabriel?" when asked to take his mysteriously pregnant fiancée Mary into his home? Did a look of disbelief flash across his face? In first-century Mediterranean culture, such an action would bring shame upon Joseph. The community would assume he was responsible for her premarital pregnancy. It was a significant risk for Joseph to welcome Mary and her unborn child into his home. Yet he did, and in so doing welcomed the very Son of God.

In this final week of Advent, many of us will welcome others into our homes—family from far away, friends for cocktail parties, neighbors who live alone. We often look forward to these visits, but we may not be thrilled to have all of the visitors join us. Maybe it's the brother against whom we have a long-held grudge. Maybe it's the nagging mother-in-law. Maybe it's our daughter's new boyfriend of whom we don't approve.

Yet might it be possible that in welcoming both the visitors we desire and those we disdain, we welcome God? Perhaps there's an opportunity for forgiveness, for greater understanding, for the deepening of a new relationship. Perhaps the unwanted visitors could even bring the very Son of God in unexpected disguise.

Janel Esker
sundaybulletins@liguori.org



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Fourth Sunday of Advent • December 19, 2010

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Rella Bernabucci

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Organist and Choir Director

Don Benevides 871-0752

Secretary

Mrs. Theresa Ciscon

Office Hours - Tues., Thurs., & Fri. - 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Sick/Shut-Ins

Patricia Cinea 646-0564

Fair and Workshops

Dorli Cloutier 649-6255 Beth Harney 649-1331

Kathy Prentice 742-7175 Peg Rouleau 280-4447

Rev. Wojciech Pelczarski, S.D.S., Administrator

Saint Maurice Church 643-4466

E-MAIL: STMAURICECHURCH@SBCGLOBAL.NET

WWW.STMAURICEKOFCC.ORG

Website: saintmauricebolton.org

WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturdays at 4:00 PM

Sundays at 7:30 and 10:00 AM

Holy Days - 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

Saturday from 3:15 P.M. to 3:45 P.M.

Also by appointment.

BAPTISMAL INITIATIONS:

Please call the rectory (643-4466).

The Sacramental Guidelines define Church Membership in terms of Sunday Mass attendance and Church support. For membership verification and Sponsorship certificate, registration and regular use of the envelope system are the only way we have of verifying this for you. Please notify us if there are changes in your address, marital status, etc., so that we may update your records.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:

Arrangements must start more than 6 months before marriage. Necessary interviews, a pre-cana course and plenty of paperwork is required. We strongly urge you to contact us to begin the Diocesan preparation course as soon as you are engaged to get the most out of it without rush.

WELCOME!

If you are new in the Parish, Please register and introduce yourself to the Pastor. The Parishioners wish to meet and serve you! Drop by at our Coffee Social or Pancake Breakfast after the Sunday Mass, both per the Calendar online or as announced inside the bulletin. We hope you will favor your parish with your prayers, your presence, your talents and your financial assistance according to your means!

VISITATION TO THE SICK

We are most anxious to help anyone who cannot celebrate Mass with us in church because of illness, handicapped or age. If you wish the Sacraments, please call.



"Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means "God is with us." When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home. -Mt 1:23-24

Readings for the Week of December 19, 2010

Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24
 Monday: Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38
 Tuesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45
 Wednesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56
 Thursday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66
 Friday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79
 Saturday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
 Midnight: Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
 Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
 Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
 Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-7, 12-14/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

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NEXT WEEK

SATURDAY, December 25: **CHRISTMAS DAY - THE SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

SECOND COLLECTION for Poor and Needy

10:00 a.m.. Mass offered for Eva and John Wachowski; and for Stanislaw Jablonowski

Altar Servers: Angelica Czercowy and Alex Czercowy

Ministers of the Word: Lynn Mancino

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Linda Wiley, Rita Sheetz and John Sheetz

4:00 p.m. No Vigil Mass for Sunday, December 26th

SUNDAY, December 26: **THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**

7:30 a.m. Mass offered for George Mannegia

Altar Servers: Stephanie Labanowski

Ministers of the Word: Stephen Paul

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Arlene Giglio

10:00 a.m. Mass offered for Jason Bates

Altar Servers: Ryan VanDine and Megan Shorey

Ministers of the Word: Georgette Pelletier

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Kathleen Smythe, Sharon Scorso and Cliff Scorso

GOD'S PLAN FOR TITHING

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Last Week's Collection was: \$3,264

Last Year's Collection was: \$3,008

"Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, and the dead are raised..." - Matthew 11:4-5

When Jesus cured the sick we called it a miracle. Yet God has blessed us with many good things – our eyesight, our hearing, our talents, our health and so much more – and we often take it all for granted. The good steward recognizes every blessing in life as a miracle from God and strives to use those gifts for God's honor and glory.

THIS WEEK FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 18th and December 19th
 USHERS GROUP III

SATURDAY, December 18:

4:00 p.m. Mass offered for Paul and Doris Gidius requested by Richard, Gail and Terri Gidius

After Mass Youth Choir Rehearsal

After Mass Triple Play Café Dinner (Pizza) Sponsored by St. Maurice Knights of Columbus

SUNDAY, December 19:

7:30 a.m. Mass offered for Donald Sullivan requested by The Family

After Mass Pray the Rosary

10:00 a.m. Mass offered for George Maneggia requested by The Radion Family

After Mass Youth Choir Rehearsal

After Mass Practice for Christmas Pageant

9:15 - 10:30 a.m. Faith Formation Classes (K-5) at Sacred Heart

Noon Christmas Food Share Distribution at Parish Center

5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours

6:15 – 7:30 p.m. Faith Formation Classes (6–8) and Confirmation Preparation Sessions at Sacred Heart

7:30 – 8:45 p.m. Youth Group at Sacred Heart

MONDAY, December 20:

No Mass

7:15 p.m. Property Management Committee Meeting

TUESDAY, December 21:

9:00 a.m. Mass offered for Margaret Fontanella requested by the Thursday Morning Prayer Group

After Mass Pray the Rosary

7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting at Parish Center

7:15 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, December 22:

9:00 a.m. Mass offered for Mafalda Ferrero requested by The Armstrong Family

3:00 - 7:00 p.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

4:30 – 5:45 p.m. Faith Formation Classes (1-5) at St. Maurice

6:30 – 7:45 p.m. Faith Formation Classes (6–8) at St. Maurice

THURSDAY, December 23:

9:00 a.m. Mass offered for Lois Dunham requested by Stephanie Labanowski

FRIDAY, December 24:

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 p.m. Mass offered for Mafalda Ferrero and Frank Hilbie requested by Chris and Kate Armstrong

Christmas Pageant During 4:00 p.m. Mass

SECOND COLLECTION for Poor and Needy

10:00 p.m. Mass offered for All Parishioners

SATURDAY, December 25:

3:15 - 3:45 p.m. **NO** Sacrament of Reconciliation

"I saw the Lord seated on a high and lofty throne. ... Seraphim were stationed above; each of them had six wings. ... "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts!" they cried one to the other." Is 6:1-3

UPDATE TO WORSHIP SCHEDULE**December 24 – 26, 2010**

December 24th: This year Christmas Eve falls on a Friday. Masses will be celebrated at 4:00 p.m. and at 10:00 p.m.

December 25th: This year the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) falls on a Saturday. Christmas is a solemnity, ranked second on the Table of Liturgical Days. Mass will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m.; no 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass is scheduled.

December 26th: The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph follows on Sunday, December 26. Masses will be celebrated at 7:30 a.m. and at 10:00 a.m.

January 1 – 2, 2011

January 1st: Mass will be celebrated at 4:00 p.m.

January 2nd: Masses will be celebrated at 7:30 a.m. and at 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, January 1, 2011 marks the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, which in 2011, is not a day of obligation because it falls on a Saturday. The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord follows on Sunday, January 2. Although both solemnities are ranked third on the Table of Liturgical Days, as a solemnity of the Lord, the Epiphany outranks the Solemnity of Mary. Therefore, Mass on the evening of January 1st is the Vigil of the Epiphany.

**TOYS FOR KIDS**

For families attending Mass on Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day, please encourage your child/children to bring a new unwrapped toy to place under our parish Christmas tree in the

sanctuary. These toys will be transported to a parish in Hartford, where the Hispanic community will celebrate Three Kings Day on January 6th. If you have any questions, call Jim Boylan at 860-872-9077.

ST MAURICE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT TEAM

Interested in working with the property management/ building and grounds committee? If so, please join us at the Parish Center on December 20th at 7:15 p.m. If you are not able to attend, please call us and let us know you are interested; call Lou Cloutier at 860-649-6255 or Ron Massimino at 860-647-9859.

**ST. MAURICE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
DECEMBER 24, 2010 - 4:00 P.M. MASS**

The youth of St. Maurice will celebrate mass at 4:00 p.m. on December 24th with a Christmas pageant. If you would like to participate in the pageant, please contact either Mrs. Sherrie Snuffer at 860-647-7363 or by e-mail at b21ssnuf@hotmail.com, or contact Mrs. Sharon VanDine at 860-647-9156 or by e-mail at shtheatre@comcast.net as soon as possible. All youth are invited to participate. Rehearsal is scheduled for Sunday, December 19, 2010 after 10:00 a.m. Mass (around 11:00 a.m.) in the Church.



SUBMITTED BY DEACON LARRY DERALEAU:

THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS

We light the lantern of Christmas
To seek its warm and loving heart
And to prepare for the birth of love in our own hearts.
We read again the story of the first Christmas.
We are reminded that the love brought to the work
By the Christ child
Is needed now more than ever
In each of our hearts.

The heart of Christmas holds for each of us a special meaning.
For as much as Christmas is many voices singing,
So too is Christmas one silent prayer.
And as much as Christmas is a wondrous starry night,
So too is Christmas one candle burning.
And as Christmas is giving gifts,
It is also knowing the gifts we already have.
Christmas is a time to remember special people
Who touch our lives,
And offer loving kindness to people
Whose lives we can touch.

Christmas is a time to love, to share, to celebrate,
To be with others, and a time to be with yourself.
Look deep within this heart of Christmas.
Know its love and feel its light
Entering your heart
And illuminating your life.

Susan Florence

**ST. MAURICE PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING SCHEDULE
7:00 P.M. – PARISH CENTER**

Tuesday – December 21, 2010
Tuesday – February 8, 2011
Tuesday – April 12, 2011
Tuesday – June 14, 2011

A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

Shelby, Mike and Daniel R. would like to thank all the members of the St. Maurice parish community for helping them have a joyous and special Thanksgiving this year. They greatly appreciated the kindness and generosity of everyone!

“When Teens Know One Parent Will Say Yes”

All parents face the tough job of striking a balance between balancing privileges and safety. To minimize the strong emotions and conflicts that tend to happen in the throes of decision-making, consider looking at the USCCB website: www.foryourmarriage.org; under the heading: “Parenting and Family” for information on this and other important family topics. Diocese of Norwich, Office of Family Life.



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