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First Sunday of Advent • December 2, 2012

Good News!

December 2, 2012

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

Jer 33:14-16 / 1 Thes 3:12-4:2 / Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

This may be the beginning of Christian Advent, but secular "Advent" began before Halloween, when stores hung Christmas decorations and encouraged us with irresistible deals. Secular Advent is bright, cheery, and vibrant, while Christian Advent is more serious and reflective—dark colors, quiet music, and some somber readings, including today's Gospel.

Today we hear more about the end time. The season of Advent isn't only about Jesus' coming at Christmas—it's also about his coming at the end of time. The descriptions of the end-time signs are dramatic and frightening. However, Jesus claims that at the exact time these terrifying things are happening, our redemption is near. The moment things look the worst is also the moment salvation and hope are closest.

That may seem hard to believe when you're living with terror or fear. But look at Mary, who found herself an unwed mother in a culture that sometimes executed such women. She must have felt terrified, but hope and redemption entered the world through her pregnancy and Jesus' birth. When Jesus died on the cross, all hope seemed lost, but through his suffering came life for the world. God draws nearest when we experience moments of hopelessness and despair—it's in our brokenness that God brings salvation.

Secular Advent declares everything to be happy and joyful, but sadness, anxiety, and fear don't instantly disappear just because the holly and wreaths are out. Jesus reminds us to stay awake for God's healing actions precisely when we feel most hopeless or anxious.

God moves in unexpected ways and will be found where we least expect—in our most broken places.

Janel Esker
sundaybulletins@liguori.org



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Prayer Line

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Saint Maurice Church 860-643-4466

e-mail: saintmauricechurch@att.net

www.stmauricekofc.org

Website: saintmauricebolton.org

WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.

Sundays at 7:30 and 10:00 a.m.

Holy Days at 9:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

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 our Parish with your prayers, your presence, your talents and your financial assistance according to your means!

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION):

By appointment.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

Please call the rectory (860-643-4466) to arrange for a meeting with the Pastor.

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.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP:

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.

VISITATION TO THE SICK:

We are most anxious to help anyone who is not able to celebrate Mass with us in Church due to illness, handicapped or age. If you wish the Sacraments, please call 860-643-4466.

THIS WEEK
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DEC. 1 – 2, 2012
USHERS GROUP I

SATURDAY, DEC. 1 –

4:00 P.M. Mass offered for a Special Intention request of Mary Mumford

SUNDAY, DEC. 2 –

7:30 A.M. Mass offered for +Alden Chick request of Jennifer and Phil Daly

CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY after Mass

8:30 A.M. – Breakfast for Faith Formation

9:00 A.M. - Faith Formation

10:00 A.M. – Mass offered for +Michael Dennis Willette request of Mike and Marge Mlodzinski

6:00 P.M. Adult Faith Formation in the Parish Center

MONDAY, DEC. 3 – No Mass

5:00 P.M. – Parish BINGO – Food available from 5 P.M. GAMES begin at 6:30 P.M.

TUESDAY, DEC. 4 – No Mass

7:15 P.M. – Adult Choir Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 5 – No Mass

3 to 7 P.M. – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

THURSDAY, DEC. 6 – No Mass

FRIDAY, DEC. 7 – No Mass

SATURDAY, DEC. 8 –

ROSARY BEFORE 4:00 P.M. MASS

Last week's Offertory – November 24 – \$2,891

Last year's Offertory – November 27 – \$3,399

"But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." (Luke 21:28)

Images of the final judgment can be scary, especially if we have not been faithful to God's commands throughout our lives. However, if we have been good stewards, we have left nothing to chance. We have carefully planned our giving and followed Our Lord's example of service and sacrifice. Thus, no matter the day or the hour we will be ready to stand erect and raise our heads to meet God face to face.

NEXT WEEK
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DEC. 8 – 9, 2012

Triple Play Café Breakfast and Mini Fair
Blood Pressure Screening
USHERS GROUP II

SATURDAY, DEC. 8 –

9:00 A.M. Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass Offered for All Parishioners of St. Maurice

4:00 P.M. Mass offered for +Mary Nicholson request of Dolores Lynch

Altar Servers: Ally Cianci

Lector: Georgette Pelletier

Eucharistic Minister: Bert Flynn

SUNDAY, DEC. 9 –

7:30 A.M. Mass offered for +Agnes and +George Murphy request of Mary Anne Murphy

Altar Servers: Shirley Warbeck

Lector: Judy Knox

Eucharistic Minister: Arlene Giglio

CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY after Mass

8:30 A.M. – Breakfast for Faith Formation

9:00 A.M. - Faith Formation

10:00 A.M. – Mass offered for +Armand Aubey +John Frank request of Victoria & Helen Dzadek

Altar Servers: Alex Czercowy

Lector: Jeffrey Monroe

Eucharistic Minister: Louis Cloutier

6:00 P.M. Adult Faith Formation in the Parish Center

MONDAY, DEC. 10 –

9:00 A.M. Mass offered for +Levi Fournier request of Solange Fournier

5:00 P.M. – Parish BINGO – Food available from 5 P.M. GAMES begin at 6:30 P.M.

7:00 P.M. Property Management Meeting

TUESDAY, DEC. 11 –

9:00 A.M. Mass offered for +Dan Salzgeber request of Phil and Jennifer Daly

7:00 P.M. Parish Council Meeting

7:15 P.M. – Adult Choir Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 12 –

9:00 A.M. Mass offered for +Lillian Dufour request of Lou & Dorli Cloutier

3 to 7 P.M. – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

THURSDAY, DEC. 13 – No Mass

7:00 P.M. Knights of Columbus Business Meeting

FRIDAY, DEC. 14 – No Mass

SATURDAY, DEC. 15 –

ROSARY BEFORE 4:00 P.M. MASS

Readings for the Week of December 2, 2012**Sunday:** Jer 33:14-16/1 Thes 3:12--4:2/Lk 21:25-28, 34-36**Monday:** Is 2:1-5/Mt 8:5-11**Tuesday:** Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24**Wednesday:** Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37**Thursday:** Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27**Friday:** Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31**Saturday:** Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38**Next Sunday:** Bar 5:1-9/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

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MINI FAIR

On Dec. 9th there will be a mini Fair along with the breakfast and C C D. Please come for some last minute shopping.

Marriage Preparation Class for Engaged Couples

“God’s Plan for a Joy-filled Marriage”

To register for a 4 session class call the Family Life Office at: 860-889-8346 ext.283.

Cost: \$50.00 per couple.

- Jan. 26, & Feb. 2, 9, 16, 2013 9:30am-11:45am – at St. Joseph Church, Occum.
- Feb. 22, Mar. 1, 8, 15, 2013 6:30pm-8:45pm – at St. Francis Church, Middletown.
- Mar. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2013 9:30am-11:45am – at St. Matthew Church, Tolland.
- Apr. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2013 6:30pm-8:45pm – at Our Lady of Lourdes, Gales Ferry.
- June 28, July 12, 19, 26, 2013 6:30pm-8:45pm – at Our Lady of Lourdes, Gales Ferry.
- Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2013 6:30pm-8:45pm – at St Joseph Church, Occum.

TOYS FOR KIDS:

For families attending Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, please encourage your child or children to bring a NEW UNWRAPPED toy to place under our parish Christmas tree in the sanctuary. Although we expect children to drop off toys during the Christmas Masses, adults can certainly contribute a gift. These toys will be transported to a parish in Hartford, where the Hispanic community will celebrate Three King's Day on January 6th. If you have any questions, please call Cliff Scorso at 860.646.1423. Thank you.

THE GIVING TREE

"The Giving Tree is up in the rear of the Church. We hope you will take a tag and fulfill a wish for someone that is in need. Unfortunately there are way too many of God's children in need. All gifts must be in by Dec. 9th and be placed under the tree.

Please secure the tag to the outside of the gift to help us sort the gifts more easily. If you have any questions you may contact Dorli at 860-649-6255.

Diocese of Norwich Outreach to Haiti is seeking applicants for two full-time positions: **Development Director** and **Hospitality Director**. The Development Director works at our Norwich office and should expect occasional travel to Haiti. Duties span event-planning, grant-writing and donor-database management. Public speaking and social media skills are needed. The Hospitality Director works at our mission house in Port-au-Prince, where we have been for 25 years. For more information, email: info@outreachtohaiti.org, or call: 860.848.2237 x206 (ask for Kyn Tolson). Learn about our work at: www.outreachtohaiti.org

ADVENT

Advent has a two-fold character: as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming is remembered; as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation (*General Norms for the Liturgical Year*, n. 39).

St. Maurice Adult Faith Formation will enter the Advent season with the showing of the DVD series, **Catholicism**, created by Fr. Robert Barron. A prominent author, theologian, and compelling speaker, he is the founder of the **Word on Fire Catholic Ministries**. Sessions will be held on the Sunday evenings of **December 2nd, 9th, and 16th** from **6:00 – 7:45 p.m.** at the Parish Center. Refreshments will be served.

Answering the call for a new evangelization, Fr. Barron presents a multimedia, educational and entertaining documentary that reveals the truth, beauty, and goodness of the Catholic faith. The Catholicism DVD series is described as the most important media project in the history of the Catholic Church.

- Take a virtual trip to 50 locations in 16 countries and see how the Catholic Church's influence on humanity has created a truly global culture
- See the artistic and architectural splendor of the Catholic Faith interpreted in light of the mystery of God revealed in Jesus Christ
- Hear what the Church believes and why
- Feel the depths of conviction that touch the heart, illumine the mind, and stir the soul

"I Have Come to Light a Fire on the Earth."

Luke 12:49

Defending Our Religious Liberty

Religious freedom has never been red or blue, left or right, Catholic or non-Catholic. It is -- and -- has always been American. We need to keep it that way.

If you haven't expressed your opposition to the federal healthcare mandate, please contact the White House at: www.whitehouse.gov/contact or call: 202-456-1111 or 202-456-1414.

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