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Good News!

December 16, 2012

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

Zep 3:14-18a / Phil 4:4-7 / Lk 3:10-18

A priest friend prays the following prayer every morning as he gets out of bed: "You are God, and I am not. Thanks be to God!" What a wonderful way to begin the day! Now, if we could only remember that truth throughout the day...

We do tend to forget who we are and what our limits are. We unknowingly slip into God mode as we try to exercise complete control over our unpredictable lives and smoothly move into Savior mode as we try to fix someone else's. We easily forget who is truly in control and who truly has healing power.

John the Baptist models such humility as he directs attention away from himself and to the coming Messiah. He could have easily claimed the title for himself, but he knew his limits, and he exhorted his followers to know theirs as well. He challenged tax collectors to remain honest in their occupation and soldiers to live with integrity. John didn't ask them to do more, be more, or control more. Instead, he asked them to do what they'd been asked to do—no more, no less—but to do it righteously.

So on this Gaudete Sunday, this "Rejoice" Sunday—are we supposed to rejoice in our limitations? Exactly! It is precisely within our limited human condition that God came to be with us as Emmanuel. It is precisely within our limited human condition that we can experience God's saving power and live out God's love and mercy to others. We needn't do more, be more, control more—we need to be exactly who we are and be that person as humbly and faithfully as possible.

"You are God, and we are not." Thanks be to God indeed!

Janel Esker
sundaybulletins@liguori.org



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Third Sunday of Advent • December 16, 2012

Prayer Line

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Saint Maurice Church 860-643-4466

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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
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DEC. 15 – 16, 2012
Maintenance Collection
Christmas Food & Gift Distribution
USHERS GROUP III

SATURDAY, DEC. 15 –

4:00 P.M. Mass offered for +Eva and +John Wachowski request of Irene Kehl

SUNDAY, DEC. 16 –

7:30 A.M. Mass offered for +Richard Luccio request of Phil and Jennifer 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 +William Miller request of Lou and Dorli Cloutier

Pageant Rehearsal after the 10 A.M. Mass

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

MONDAY, DEC. 17 –

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

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

TUESDAY, DEC. 18 –

9:00 A.M. Mass offered for +Roland and +Clifford Mishio request of Solange Fournier

7:15 P.M. – Adult Choir Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 19 –

9:00 A.M. Mass offered for +Deceased Member of the Maratta and Quagliano Families request of Mr. & Mrs. Silvio Maratta

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

THURSDAY, DEC. 20 – No Mass

7:00 P.M. PARISH CONFESSIONS IN THE CHURCH

FRIDAY, DEC. 21 – No Mass**SATURDAY, DEC. 22 –**

ROSARY BEFORE 4:00 P.M. MASS

Last week's Offertory – December 9 – \$3,545

Last year's Offertory – December 11 – \$6,012

"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." (Philippians 4:6-7)

St. Paul reminds us that our God is an abundant God, the ultimate giver of gifts. He promises to give us all that we need. When we trust that God will take care of us, it is easier for us to share what we have been given.

NEXT WEEK
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DEC. 22 – 23, 2012
USHERS GROUP IV

SATURDAY, DEC. 22 –

4:00 P.M. Mass offered for +Doris & +Paul Gidius request of Rich, Gail & Terri Gidius

Altar Servers: Stephanie Leiner

Lector: Patti Cineca

Eucharistic Minister: Annedda Stiller

SUNDAY, DEC. 23 –

7:30 A.M. Mass offered for +Mary, +Steve & +David Jr. Caruso request of Charles Brown Family

Altar Servers: Shirley Warbeck

Lector: Judy Knox

Eucharistic Minister: Arlene Giglio

CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY after Mass

NO FAITH FORMATION

10:00 A.M. – Mass offered for +Marion & +Bill Miller request of The Family

Altar Servers: Amilia Herasimowicz

Lector: Paul Brown

Eucharistic Minister: Kathleen Smythe

MONDAY, DEC. 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES**2nd COLLECTION FOR THE POOR AND NEEDY****Pageant at the 4 P.M. Mass**

4:00 P.M. Mass offered for +Joseph & +Marie Ann Madore request of Their Daughters & Son

Altar Servers: Ally Cianci

Lector: Jennifer Carvalho

Eucharistic Minister: Sharon & Clifford Scorso

10:00 P.M. Mass Offered for All Parishioners

Altar Servers: Nicholas VanDine & Maria Cineca

Lector: Jeffrey Munroe

Eucharistic Minister: Louis Cloutier

TUESDAY, DEC. 25 – CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

10:00 A.M. Mass offered for +Frank Kwiatkowski request of Irene Kwiatkowski

Altar Servers: Alex Czercowy

Lector: Lynn Mancino

Eucharistic Minister: Linda Wiley

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 26 – No Mass

No Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

THURSDAY, DEC. 27 – No Mass**FRIDAY, DEC. 28 – No Mass****SATURDAY, DEC. 29 –**

ROSARY BEFORE 4:00 P.M. MASS

Readings for the Week of December 16, 2012

Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18
Monday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17
Tuesday: Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25
Wednesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25
Thursday: Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38
Friday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45
Saturday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56
Next Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

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BIRTHRIGHT**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Friendship counselors (training provided), clerical and clothing workers and Church fund raising helpers are needed. Birthright's guiding principle: "It is the RIGHT of every pregnant woman to give BIRTH and the RIGHT of every child to be BORN. Birthright is an emergency pregnancy service offering free pregnancy tests, friendship counseling, and practical support to women in crisis pregnancies. Our office is located in East Hartford and served 424 women in 2010. Please join us and be blessed with the opportunity to help a mother and her child. Call 860-290-8800.

BIRTHRIGHT NEEDS gently worn MATERNITY and BABY CLOTHING and BOOKS on pregnancy and baby and child care. BIRTHRIGHT is an emergency pregnancy service staffed by volunteers dedicated to offering the alternative to abortion. Birthright offers free pregnancy tests, friendship counseling, and caring and practical support. Our office is located in East Hartford. Call 860-290-8800 to arrange for drop off.

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.

HELPING THE POOR IN CUSCO, PERU

If you are interested in helping the poor in Cusco, Peru, such as children in orphanages, children in clinics or hospitals, children abandoned on streets, or children in schools, or to construct new orphanages, etc., from June 30, July 9, 2013, please contact Fr. Michael Sequeira, a retired priest in the Diocese of Norwich, CT: punchamar@snet.net or call 860-304-4588. Cost and Conditions apply. This is the 7th group going to Cusco. Act now!

RETROUVAILLE WEEKEND

Reaching for a lifeline for your troubled marriage? Serious marriage building and repair: Retrouvaille is that lifeline. At a Retrouvaille weekend couples are given tools to heal, re-establish communication, work on their issues and gain new insights. A series of 6 post sessions follows the weekend phase. For information or to sign up for the next weekend on January 18-20 in Meriden call 413-525-1634.

Website www.retrouvaille.org.**MARRIAGE PREPARATION CLASSES**

"God's Plan for a Joy-filled Marriage" offered by the Office of Family Life. To register for the 4 session class please call 860-889-8346 ext.283.

Date: Saturdays, Jan. 26, & Feb. 2, 9, 16, 2013**Time:** 9:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.**Location:** St. Joseph Church Hall, 11 Baltic Rd., Occum**Cost:** \$50.00 per couple**RACHEL'S VINEYARD SPANISH RETREAT WEEKEND**

If you are silently grieving after an abortion; then healing, forgiveness and peace can have a beginning with a **Rachel's Vineyard Retreat**. Retreats are for women and men who have been struggling emotionally and spiritually. **Spanish Retreat** Jan. 11-13 in Providence, RI. Call Carol at 401-421-7833 ext.118. www.rachelsvineyard.org "Project Rachel" is a Diocesan outreach for anyone in need of healing. Priests in "Project Rachel" can help you through healing and forgiveness. Call 860-889-8346 ext.283. All inquiries are confidential.

PRO-LIFE MASS


Join our Diocesan family for the monthly Pro-Life Mass on Saturday, January 5th ~ 8:30 a.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral in Norwich. Following the Mass the Rosary will be prayed both in the Cathedral and at the Planned Parenthood. There will *not* be a brunch after the Rosary this month. Join us with your presence as we work together to bring about a culture of life.

Defending Our Religious Liberty

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is urging the Obama Administration and the Health and Human Services Department to make the accommodations that they promised before the election, by not requiring Catholic organizations to pay for surgical procedures and drugs that induce abortion and go against moral teachings. To date, nothing has been done.

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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