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December 1, 2013 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

Is 2:1-5 / Rom 13:11-14 / Mt 24:37-44

The hike wasn't long—less than a mile—but the trail ran steeply up one side of a cliff face and down just as steeply into the next valley, where the ocean lapped the sand and a waterfall fell lazily in the distance. I was having a hard time going up. I thought about the times I blew off exercise in favor of more sedentary pursuits and laughed about being in shape. "Round is a shape," I'd say to myself.

Despite the encouragement of my family, I had to stop climbing eventually. I went back down to wait for them, enjoying the beautiful surroundings from my perch on a rock a bit closer to the starting point.

In today's Scripture reading, Isaiah describes the Lord's mountain and the joy with which Israel approaches the climb, an apt metaphor for the beginning of the Church year. But make no mistake, the climb won't always be easy. Both Paul and Matthew tell us to stay awake, because it will start before we know it. Paul urges us to get some spiritual exercise by throwing off things that weigh us down—like excessive indulgence for food, drink, sexual intimacy, power, and wealth. Rather, says Paul, "Put on Christ."

The question for all of us this first Sunday of Advent is, "How *spiritually* fit am I?" If we've regularly put on Christ and practiced our faith, the climb up the Lord's mountain won't seem so arduous and long.

And when we arrive, the Lord will greet us with joy.

Mary Katharine Deeley I sundaybulletin@liquori.org

Please welcome Mary Katharine Deeley to the *Liguori Sunday Bulletins!* Currently the pastoral associate for Sheil Catholic Center at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL, Mary has a master of divinity degree from Yale and a doctorate in Hebrew Scripture and early Christian literature from Northwestern. Her latest book is *Remembering God: Resting in the Midst of Life* (Liguori, 2013).

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First Sunday of Advent • December 1, 2013

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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

ST. MAURICE CHURCH

BOLTON, CT (01)

THIS WEEK 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT NOV. 30– DEC. 1, 2013 USHERS GROUP I

SATURDAY, NOV. 30 -

4:00 P.M. Mass offered for +Jason Bates & Rudolph

Schuster request of Donna Bates

Baptism of Noah Matthew Liebeskind

Coffee Social after 5 P.M. Mass in the Church Basement

SUNDAY, DEC. 1 -

7:30 A.M. <u>Mass offered for +Henry Leonard</u>

CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY after Mass

NO FAITH FORMATION

10:00 A.M. – Mass offered for +John Garvan request of Rita

Sheetz

CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY after Mass

5:30 P.M.— LITURGY OF THE HOURS

MONDAY, DEC. 2 –

9:00 A.M. <u>Mass offered for +Samuel Guglielmino</u>

5:00 P.M.—Parish **BINGO**—Food available from 5 P.M. Games

begin at 6:30 P.M.

TUESDAY, DEC. 3 -

9:00 A.M. <u>Mass offered for +Henry Leonard</u>

7:15 P.M.— CHOIR REHEARSAL

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 4 -

9:00 A.M. <u>Mass offered for +James P. Bloznalis request of</u>

the Dean & Bloznalis Families

THURSDAY, DEC. 5 - No Mass

FRIDAY, DEC. 6 - No Mass

7 to 9 P.M. Junior Youth Group, The Disciples—in the

Church Basement

7 to 9 P.M. Senior Youth Group—in the Parish Center

Library

SATURDAY, DEC. 7 –

3:30 P.M. – ROSARY BEFORE 4 P.M. MASS

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

"For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." Matthew 24:42

Preparations for the Christmas season remind us how much we all want to be generous. We all want to give good gifts to one another. Yet, often when it comes to giving back to God our response is, "Not yet!" We put off sharing our time, talent and treasure for another day. We say we will give when we have more time or more money. Yet, none of us knows when God will come and ask for an accounting of how we used the gifts entrusted to our care. The start of Advent reminds us not to put off our stewardship. The Lord is coming!

NEXT WEEK 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DEC. 7- DEC. 8, 2013
USHERS GROUP II

SATURDAY, DEC. 7 –

4:00 P.M. Mass offered for +Richard Barnes request of Edward

Bachl Family

Altar Servers: Maria Cinea Lector: Patti Cinea

Eucharistic Minister: Bert Flynn

Coffee Social after 5 P.M. Mass in the Church Basement

SUNDAY, DEC. 8 -

7:30 A.M. <u>Mass offered for +Agnes & George Murphy</u> request

of Mary Anne Murphy

Altar Servers: Lynn Mancino Lector: Lynn Mancino Eucharistic Minister:

CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY after Mass

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

9:00 A.M. - Faith Formation

10:00 A.M. – <u>Mass offered for +John Garvan</u> request of Melvina

Klebauskas

Altar Servers: Elena & Catherine Fiano

Lector: Barbara Fiano

Eucharistic Minister: Kathleen Smythe

CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY after Mass

5:30 P.M.— LITURGY OF THE HOURS

MONDAY, DEC. 9

9:00 A.M. <u>Mass offered for +James P. Bloznalis</u> request of the

Dean & Bloznalis Families

5:00 P.M.— Parish **BINGO**—Food available from 5 P.M. Games begin

at 6:30 P.M.

TUESDAY, DEC. 10 -

9:00 A.M. Mass offered for +Samuel Guglielmino

7:15 P.M.— CHOIR REHEARSAL

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 11 -

9:00 A.M.

Mass offered for +Barabara Sposito request of Lou &

Dorli Cloutier and Family

THURSDAY, DEC. 12 - No Mass

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BUSINESS MEETING

FRIDAY, DEC. 13 - No Mass

SATURDAY, DEC. 14 -

3:30 P.M. - ROSARY BEFORE 4 P.M. MASS

Readings for the Week of December 1, 2013

Sunday: Is 2:1-5/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44

Monday: Is 4:2-6/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

Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27 Friday: Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Mt 9:35--10:1, 5a, 6-8

Next Sunday: Is 11:1-10/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

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SAINT MAURICE PARISH

THE GIVING TREE

"The Giving Tree" is up and is 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 unwrapped and it would be most helpful if you provided the wrapping paper. Please have your gifts in by December 8th and place them 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.

MINI FAIR

On December 15th there will be a mini Fair along with the breakfast and Faith Formation. Please come for some last minute shopping.

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.

Defending Our Religious Liberty

The Archdiocese of St. Louis and Catholic Charities of St. Louis have joined with others in re-filing a lawsuit against the federal government challenging the federal health care mandate stating that "...no citizen should be forced to pay for or provide products or services they find morally objectionable. We will continue to demand that conscience rights of every citizen are protected."

If you haven't done so already, please voice your opposition to the mandate by calling President Obama at the White House at 202-456-1111 or Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius at 202-205-5445. Let them know that the mandate is in violation of our First Amendment right to religious freedom.

IS SUNDAY OF ADVENT





FROM THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH

Diocesan Pro-Life Mass at the Cathedral of St. Patrick in Norwich on Saturday, December 7th ~ 8:30 a.m. Please join us and our Celebrant, Rev. Ray Introvigne, at Mass as we pray to end abortion and for the healing for those who have had an abortion. Following the Mass, the Rosary will be prayed both at the Cathedral and Planned Parenthood. A brunch will follow the Rosary.

Year End Giving - Support the Annual Catholic Appeal

The end of the calendar year also marks the end of our year of "Faith with Charity and Love," the 2013 Annual Catholic Appeal. Thank you to all who have made a gift. The ACA supports thousands of our neighbors in need through the work of over 25 ministries and programs which provide emergency services, housing assistance, food for the hungry, pregnancy and adoption services, and so much more. There is still time to make your gift. Year end gifts of stock and monetary donations to the 2013 ACA can be made through December 31st. Donations are fully deductible to the extent allowed by the law. Visit www.norwichdiocesedevelopment.org to donate online, or call 860-886-1928 for more information.

The Catholic Latino People of the Diocese of Norwich invite you to join us in our Celebration

Thursday, December 12, 2013 Cathedral of St. Patrick 203 Broadway Norwich, CT

6:30pm Rosary & Sacrament of Reconciliation

7:00pm Holy Mass (bi-lingual) Most Rev. Michael R. Cote, D.D. Celebrant

Following the Liturgical celebration, please join us for a fiesta of delightful music, delicious food & warm fellowship, as together we honor Our Lady and ask her intercession for peace in our hearts, in our homes, and in our land.

A good-will offering will be asked to cover the cost of the buffet. For more information, please contact the Office for Hispanic

Ministry: 860-456-3349 / e-mail:

aposthispano@gmail.com

<u>Interested in learning about Adoption?</u> Catholic Charities provides services for all members of the adoption triad: infant adoption placements, domestic and international home studies and adoption searches.

Contact our Adoption Coordinator at: 860-889-8346 ext.282 or susansedensky@ccfsn.org for more information

Home Buyers and Foreclosure Prevention Classes: For help with purchasing a home, fallen behind on mortgage payments or help with budgeting or filling out applications for EMAP. All services are provided free at Catholic Charities, a HUD approved Counseling Agency. The Free ongoing Foreclosure Prevention and 8 hour Home Buyers Education Classes are offered by Catholic Charities in Norwich, New London and Plainfield locations. For information: 860-889-8346 ext.271.



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