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A TITHING PARISH

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Parish Center 860-643-8374
Prayer Line 860-649-5449 or 860-643-2837

Good News!

December 8, 2013

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

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

About this time of year, nearly everyone is preparing to visit or be visited as families gather for traditional Christmas preparations, concerts, and meals. At our house, we also make way for those who have no one to visit—whether because of distance or circumstance.

I wonder, though, whether we'd welcome a stranger or someone who challenged the way we live or think about things. Paul tells everyone to welcome one another and to glorify God with one voice.

That's easier when everyone thinks alike. Not all of us want to reflect on the possibility that we may be wrong.

This is the issue facing the religious leaders when John the Baptist bursts onto the scene, calling on everyone to repent and prepare for the kingdom of God. John recognizes that they came to him for show—not because they sought repentance for sin. He wastes no time demanding evidence of the “good fruit” repentance brings and warning about the consequences if it's not forthcoming.

John is a challenging guest for us as well. Sometimes we want to dictate the outcome of our discussion and our lives, but John demands that we show the fruit of our efforts. It's not enough to go through the motions of living faithfully—we must give our very selves over to the will of God and the conversion of our lives.

Only then can we welcome everyone in love and in the praise of God.

Mary Katharine Deeley
sundaybulletin@liguori.org

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Second Sunday of Advent • December 8, 2013

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**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

Coffee Social after 4 P.M. Mass in the Church Basement

SUNDAY, DEC. 8 –

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

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 +John Garvan request of Melvina Klebauskas

CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY after Mass

5:30 P.M.— LITURGY OF THE HOURS

MONDAY, DEC. 9 –

9:00 A.M. Mass offered for +James P. Bloznalis 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.— Progressive Jackpot \$800 **MUST BE PAID OUT THIS NIGHT**

TUESDAY, DEC. 10 –

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

7:00 P.M. Parish Council Meeting in the Parish Center

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

Last week's Offertory—December 1 — \$2,978

Last year's Offertory—December 2 — \$5,655

"Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." Matthew 3:10

Do you bear good fruit for Christ? Or do you spend your time, talent and treasure constantly acquiring more toys, clutter and junk. As we are immersed in the Holiday shopping season now might be a good time to evaluate what gifts do we give to God?

NEXT WEEK**3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT****DEC. 14– DEC. 15, 2013****Triple Play Café Breakfast & Blood Pressure Screening****Maintenance Collection****Mini Fair****Christmas Food Distribution****USHERS GROUP III****SATURDAY, DEC. 14 –**

4:00 P.M. Mass offered for +Paul Francoeur request of Marge & Bert Flynn

Altar Servers: Maria Cinea

Lector: Bert Flynn

Eucharistic Minister: Annedda Stiller

Coffee Social after 4 P.M. Mass in the Church Basement

SUNDAY, DEC. 15 –

7:30 A.M. Mass offered for +James P. Bloznalis request of the Dean & Bloznalis Families

Altar Servers: Shirley Warbeck, Jason Dean

Lector: Judy Knox

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. – Mass offered for +William Maneggia request of Marge & Bert Flynn

Altar Servers: LeeAnn & Ben Snuffer

Lector: Paul Brown

Eucharistic Minister: Betty Aitkin

CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY after Mass

5:30 P.M.— LITURGY OF THE HOURS

MONDAY, DEC. 16 –

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.

TUESDAY, DEC. 17 –

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

7:15 P.M.— CHOIR REHEARSAL

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 18 –

9:00 A.M. Mass offered for +Barabara Sposito request of Saint Maurice Church Ushers

THURSDAY, DEC. 19 – No Mass**FRIDAY, DEC. 20 – No Mass****SATURDAY, DEC. 21 –**

3:30 P.M. – ROSARY BEFORE 4 P.M. MASS

Readings for the Week of December 8, 2013

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

Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Friday: Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Next Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

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SAINT MAURICE PARISH

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.

THE MEANING OF ADVENT

Advent is the beginning of a new liturgical year for the Roman Catholic Church. The season of Advent begins 4 Sundays before Christmas. The four candles of the Advent Wreath represent the four weeks of Advent. The four outer candles represent the period of waiting during the four weeks of Advent, which themselves symbolize four centuries of waiting between the prophet Malachi and the birth of Christ. The word Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means "to come

to". Some of the symbols of Advent are the Advent Candles and Advent Wreath. The Advent Wreath, circular in shape, with no beginning and no end, symbolizes eternal life through Jesus, our Savior. The wreath has four outer candles, and one inner. The outer are lit in sequence over the four Sundays. The 3 outer purple

candles, along with purple vestment worn by the priest, represent the royalty and majesty of Jesus Christ as King of Kings. They also represent the **Candles of Hope, of Love, and of Peace**, as well as our preparation, prayer, penitence and good works during this time. The rose (pink) candle, the **Candle of Joy**, lit the 3rd Sunday, along with rose colored vestment, takes a break midway during this season and characterizes the joyful expectation to come. The central white candle, the **Christ Candle**, is lit on the Vigil and Christmas Day Masses. The **Christ Candle** symbolizes Jesus Christ as the **Light of the World**, and its center placement reminds us that Jesus always should be at the center of our lives.

Assumption School's Breakfast with Santa

Breakfast with Santa will be Saturday, December 14th; seating's are at 8:00, 9:00 and 10:00 AM. There will be home baked goodies to buy and children's raffle baskets to take chances on. Bring your camera for pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Advanced tickets may be ordered: \$4.00/adult, \$3.00/child, at the door \$5.00 adult, \$4.00 child. To order tickets please contact Meghan Kearney at 860-212-6122.

FROM THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Norwich, is accepting Christmas Food Donations for Families in Need

Donations of turkeys and food baskets are being accepted for families in need. Gift cards to grocery stores are also a great help. Thank you for making Christmas special for a needy family. Please drop off donations at the Catholic Charities Norwich Office, 331 Main St., Norwich. Call 860-889-8346 ext. 260 for information.

Marriage Preparation Class for Engaged Couples

"God's Plan for a Joy-filled Marriage". To register for a 3 session class call the Family Life Office at: 860-889-8346 ext. 283.

Upcoming classes:

- Sat., Feb. 8, 15, 22, 9:30am-12:00pm at St. Joseph Church, Occum.
- Fri. Mar. 7, 14, 21, * 6:00pm-8:30pm at St. Francis Church, Middletown.
- Sat. 15, 22, 29, 9:30am-12:00pm at St. Matthew Church, Tolland.

The Gift of Generosity**Please consider making your pledge to the ACA**

This holiday season, we thank our generous supporters of the Annual Catholic Appeal. Your gift helps to strengthen the ministries of the Diocese of Norwich and the work of the Church. Unfortunately, there are still many people in Eastern Connecticut who need your help. If you are looking for a convenient way to share your resources with those less fortunate, consider making a gift to the Annual Catholic Appeal through one of our electronic giving options. As the pace of life speeds up this time of year, electronic giving provides a safe, effective and convenient way to serve others through your financial contribution. Please visit www.norwichdiocesedevelopment.org to make an online donation, or call the Diocesan Development Office at 860-886-1928 for further information. Thank you for being a good steward and sharing your gifts with those less fortunate. May God bless you for your kindness and mercy.

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Norwich is looking for individuals to sponsor two additional families for the Christmas Holiday Season's Adopt-A Family Program. Sponsors will be matched with a family in need who would have a special Christmas Holiday filled with happiness and gratitude with your help providing for their gifts and Christmas dinner. For information on sponsoring a family in need please call 860-889-8346 ext. 260.

Defending Our Religious Liberty

The Catholic Church has always been a provider and advocate for accessible, affordable and life-affirming health care. Had the federal government made accommodations to protect religious freedom for all Americans, dozens of lawsuits filed around the country challenging it could have been avoided.

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.



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- William Newton Clarke

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