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A TITHING PARISH

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Good News!

December 22, 2013

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

Is 7:10-14 / Rom 1:1-7 / Mt 1:18-24

Lately I've come to appreciate Joseph in ways that belie his rare appearance in Scripture.

We know very little about him. At Christmas, he's the husband who didn't abandon Mary when Jewish law told him he could. In Christian art, he's frequently the "third wheel" in pictures of the nativity focused on Mary and Jesus.

In today's readings, we have one of the three Joseph stories that appear in Matthew's Gospel. After reading all of them, I've concluded that Joseph never got a full night's sleep and was remarkably attentive to messages conveyed by angels, because in each story he's awakened from a dream and told what to do.

And then he does it.

I envy his absolute confidence in God's unusual form of communication and admire the care he exhibits for his wife and adopted son.

So many times we spend energy trying to be the center of attention. We want to control our lives and dictate the path we'll follow. Joseph is our reminder that they serve God who simply do his will without question.

Paul talks about service in a different way. He calls himself a slave of Jesus', in whose service he gladly preaches and even suffers. And Paul reminds us we're called to holiness, which has nothing to do with being the center of attention. Holiness is aligning ourselves with God's will and being willing to change course when the angel of the Lord comes in with a different plan.

Maybe the question for us this Advent is, "Where is God calling us to holiness *now*?"

Mary Katharine Deeley | sundaybulletin@liguori.org

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Fourth Sunday of Advent • December 22, 2013

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WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturdays at 4:00 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

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DEC. 21– DEC. 22, 2013
Sunday— Coffee Social After Masses
USHERS GROUP IV

SATURDAY, DEC. 21 –
4:00 P.M. Mass offered for +The Maratta & Quaglino Families request of Josephine Maratta

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

SUNDAY, DEC. 22 –
7:30 A.M. Mass offered for +William Rosewell request of Sharon Snuffer

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 +Mary & +Steve & +Dave , Jr. Caruso. request of Charles & Shirley Brown

CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY after Mass

11:00 A.M. PRACTICE FOR CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

5:30 P.M.— LITURGY OF THE HOURS

MONDAY, DEC. 23 –
9:00 A.M. Mass offered for +James P. Bloznalis request of the Dean & Bloznalis Families

NO BINGO

TUESDAY, DEC. 24 – Christmas Vigil — 2nd collection for the Poor & Needy

4:00 P.M. Mass offered for +Marie Madore request of her 2 Daughters and Son

10:00 P.M. Mass offered for All Parishioners of St. Maurice Church

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 25 – Christmas Day — 2nd collection for the Poor & Needy

10:00 A.M. Mass offered for +Lois Dunham request of Linda Wiley

THURSDAY, DEC. 26 – No Mass

FRIDAY, DEC. 27 – No Mass

SATURDAY, DEC. 28 –

3:30 P.M. – ROSARY BEFORE 4 P.M. MASS

Last week's Offertory—December 15 — \$2,928

Last year's Offertory—December 16 — \$3,028

"The Lord's are the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it. For he founded it upon the sea and established it upon the rivers." Psalm 24:1-2

How can we take credit for the good things in our lives when Psalm 24 reminds us that God created absolutely everything and everyone on the earth? Surely we all have an obligation to return a portion of our good fortune to the Lord, for without Him nothing would be possible.

NEXT WEEK

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH
DEC. 28– DEC. 29, 2013
USHERS GROUP I

SATURDAY, DEC. 28 –
4:00 P.M. Mass offered for +Eva & +John Wachowski request of Irene Kehl

Altar Servers: Maria Cinea

Lector: Georgette Pelletier

Eucharistic Minister: Jean Gately

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

SUNDAY, DEC. 29 –
7:30 A.M. Mass offered for +Richard Hein request of the Family

Altar Servers: Shirley Warbeck

Lector: Joel Cohan

Eucharistic Minister:

CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY after Mass

NO FAITH FORMATION

10:00 A.M. – Mass offered for The Fair Group request of Father Wojciech

Altar Servers: Nicholas Van Dine

Lector: Jeffrey Monroe

Eucharistic Minister: Sharon Scorso

CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY after Mass

5:30 P.M.— LITURGY OF THE HOURS

MONDAY, DEC. 30 –
9:00 A.M. Mass offered for a Special Intention request of Mary Mumford

NO BINGO

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

TUESDAY, DEC. 31 – Vigil — Octave of Christmas— Mary, the Holy Mother of God

6:00 P.M. Mass offered for Parishioners of St. Maurice Church

Altar Servers: Maria Cinea

Lector: Bert Flynn

Eucharistic Minister: Patti Cinea

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 1 – Octave of Christmas— Mary, the Holy Mother of God

10:00 A.M. Mass offered for +James P. Bloznalis request of the Dean & Bloznalis Families

Altar Servers: Alex Czercowy

Lector: Paul Brown

Eucharistic Minister: Linda Wiley

THURSDAY, JAN. 2 – No Mass

FRIDAY, JAN. 3 – No Mass

7-9 P.M. JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP, THE DISCIPLES in the Church Basement

SATURDAY, JAN. 4 –

3:30 P.M. – ROSARY BEFORE 4 P.M. MASS

Readings for the Week of December 22, 2013

Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

Monday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66

Tuesday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79

Wednesday: 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

Thursday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22

Friday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a and 2-8

Saturday: 1 Jn 1:5--2:2/Mt 2:13-18

Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

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Defending Our Religious Liberty

As your new Archbishop, I will be grateful for your support in the effort that is being made to uphold religious freedom for all Americans. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) reports that there are now at least 84 lawsuits filed by over 200 plaintiffs against the HHS mandate and the heavy burden it places on the free exercise of religion. Please consider 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 you are opposed to the violation of our First Amendment right to religious freedom. – Archbishop Leonard P. Blair

WARMEST WISHES AND HOPES FOR GREAT JOY FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON!



SAINT MAURICE PARISH

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.

Attention Prayer Line Members

The calendar books for 2014 are ready for you to pick up. They are in a basket on an ushers table in the back of the Church. They are in alphabetical order. Please pick yours up at your first opportunity.

FROM THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH

Diocesan Pro-Life Mass at the Cathedral of St. Patrick in Norwich on Saturday, January 4th ~ 8:30 a.m. Please join us 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.

Catholic Charities FT Position Available: Primary Service Manager for DSS grant funded, Empowering People for Success Program (EPS). Applicant will provide outreach, case management, and advocacy for home based families with barriers to employment. BA/BS in a human service field or Associates with home visitor experience. Office based in Willimantic with cases located throughout Windham County. Extensive travel required. Bilingual preferred. Benefits. Send resume to Search Committee, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Norwich, 331 Main Street, Norwich, CT 06360. Closing date: December 23, 2013.

March for Life – January 22, 2014 in Washington, DC Bus Trip. January 22, 2014 marks the 41st anniversary of the Supreme Court's legalization of abortion. From that decision, over 50 million pre-born babies have died from abortion. On January 22nd people from across our nation will assemble in the largest Pro-life event in the world, with a peaceful demonstration in Washington, D.C. to March for Life and end abortion. Consider attending if you have never experienced being a part of the March for Life. On Tuesday, January 21st at 9 P.M., buses sponsored by the Southeast Chapter of Connecticut Right to Life will leave from the Norwich Municipal Parking Lot (Exit 80, I-395) and travel to D.C. to attend the March. Bus fare is \$65 per person. For information, to reserve a seat or if you cannot go, to sponsor a seat, please call Margaret Becotte at 860-822-1362.



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- William Newton Clarke

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