

THE PARISH COMMUNITY OF saint maurice

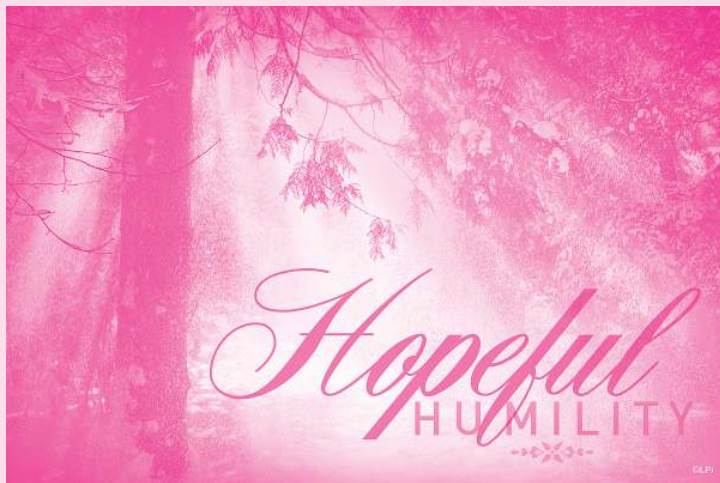
A TITHING PARISH

32 Hebron Road Bolton, Ct 06043

Rectory Phone 860-748-4560
Parish Office 860-643-4466
Parish Center 860-643-8374
Prayer Line 860-649-5449 or 860-643-2837



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT — DECEMBER 17, 2017



"There is one ... coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." Untying sandal straps was no prestigious job. In the days of John the Baptist, those straps would have been especially unpleasant to deal with. Besides the usual odors that accompany sockless leather footwear, there would have been the grime and dirt from the sandy roads and paths that swirled around the people who went everywhere on foot. Taking off someone's shoes upon their arrival was the task of the lowly servants. So when John says he's unworthy of doing this task for the "one who is coming after me," he is putting himself in a very humble position. And rightly so.

John realizes that the Christ-the Anointed One, the Messiah -is so far above him, so far above any of us, that we are truly unworthy of him. Indeed, the Son of God is not just the greatest of men; he is God-made-man and in his presence we most appropriately should bow in humble homage. Yet this God chose to stoop down to our human level and walk among us. He chose to get his sandals dirty. And still today he chooses to allow us to encounter him as a friend and companion.

But as John reminds us by his example, this encounter with the Lord is not the result of our own merits or accomplishments. We are sinners who stand in need of Christ's help. But thanks be to God, he is always willing to extend this help to us. As St. Paul says in today's epistle, "May the God of peace make you perfectly holy." Indeed it is God who does the perfecting, not us by our own power. So let us approach the Lord this Advent season with a spirit of hopeful humility, trusting that God alone can make us worthy of welcoming his Son.

Prayer Line

Carol 860-643-2837 Mary Ann 860-649-5449

Administrator

Rev. Leon J. Susaimanickam

Director of Faith Formation

Amie Tillmann

860-646-6314 or saintmauriceccd@gmail.com

Organist and Choir Director

Don Benevides 860-871-0752

Secretary

Mrs. Theresa Cison

Office Hours - Mon., Tues., & Fri. - 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Telephone: 860-643-4466

e-mail: saintmauricechurchbolton@gmail.com

Eucharistic Minister to Homebound

Patricia Cinea 860-646-0564

Fair and Workshops

Dorli Cloutier 860-649-6255

Beth Harney 860-649-1331

Website

www.saintmauricebolton.org

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 a Pancake Breakfast after the Sunday Mass, 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):

Saturday 4:15 p.m. — 4:45 p.m.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

Please call the rectory (860-748-4560) 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 860-748-4560.



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 16 — 17, 2017

USHERS GROUP IV

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

4:00 P.M. Mass offered for Steve & Mary & Dave Jr. Caruso
request of Shirley and Charles Brown

CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY after Mass

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

7:30 A.M. Mass offered for †James Hurst
request of Laurie Chamberlain

CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY after Mass

8:00 A.M. TRIPLE PLAY CAFÉ BREAKFAST
Parish Center from 8:00AM to 10:00AM

9:00 A.M. FAITH FORMATION CLASSES
*Students will be sorting and packing
Christmas food and gifts for Bolton families*

CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY after Mass

10:00 A.M. Mass offered for †Barbara and †Donald Sullivan
request of Patrick and Daniel Sullivan

CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY after Mass

Christmas food and gifts delivery

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT PRACTICE AFTER 10:00 A.M. MASS

5:30 P.M. EVENING PRAYER
FROM THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

9:00 A.M. Mass offered for †James Hurst
request of Lou and Dorli Cloutier

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

9:00 A.M. Mass offered for †Leah O'Neill-Fichtner
request of Tony and Kathleen Conneely & Family

7:15 P.M. CHOIR REHEARSAL
New members are most welcome

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

9:00 A.M. Mass offered for †Ronald Morra
request of Dennise Budrick

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21 — NO MASS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22 — NO MASS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

3:30 P.M. ROSARY BEFORE 4:00 P.M. MASS

FROM SAINT MAURICE PARISH

CHRISTMAS FOOD & GIFT DISTRIBUTION



We have 25 Bolton families to feed this Christmas.

We try to provide a holiday meal plus a couple of weeks of groceries to each family. Donate online or make your check payable to "Church of St. Maurice" with the memo "Christmas Food" and put in the regular collection. The Faith Formation students will be sorting and packing, but we can use some help with delivery.

If you can drive, come to the Parish Center right after the 10:00 Mass on 12/17. (tmanning818@sbcglobal.net)

Christmas Pageant



Saint Maurice will continue the long standing tradition of having a Christmas Pageant at the 4:00 p.m. mass on Christmas Eve; Sunday, December 24th. All generations enjoy seeing the children act out the story of the birth of Jesus at Mass. There are roles for all ages

from sheep in the manger to Mary and Joseph. Sharon VanDine and Amie Tillmann will be coordinating the play, and parent participation is always welcome! We always appreciate your help guiding the children during the play.

If you or your child are interested in participating, please contact Amie Tillmann at saintmauriceccd@gmail.com.

Practice will be the Sunday prior to Christmas Eve, December 17, after 10:00 a.m. mass.



STEWARDSHIP

Last week's Offertory: December 10 — \$2,224
Projected Amount needed \$2,980

"Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you"

— 1 Thessalonians 5:16 - 18

This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. "Rejoice always" means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. "Pray constantly" means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. "Give thanks in all circumstances" means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations.

^ Tear off

Memorial Mass Form

Drop in collection ^

Father Leon, please offer a weekend ___ (or) weekday ___ Mass for the soul ___ (or) intentions ___ (as applicable) of:

Name _____

Person requesting _____

Street Address _____ E-mail Address _____

City State Zip _____ E-mail Address _____

Home phone _____ Cell phone _____

Check enclosed ___ Envelope No. _____ We will Donate Online ___ (Customary donation \$10 weekday, \$20 weekend)

I will bring up the gifts at the Mass celebrated. Yes ___ No ___

FROM SAINT MAURICE PARISH



ST. MAURICE PRAYER LINE

Please remember all the special intentions on the St. Maurice Prayer Line.

Especially the new requests for this week: Bobby, Jen, Marge, Mary, Bob, Joe, Rachel, Grace.

Candle Intentions - Nicholas

Special prayers for Collin Patrick Crandall who was Baptized recently and prayers for his family.

The sufferings, the need, and the elderly, may they find peace and joy in God as well as receive the sufficient help from friends and neighbors.

For our youth in particular: that they be given the encouragement and the guidance to resist the immoral and sinful presence of current pagan culture.

Prayer shawls are available upon request

Thank you. Carol & Mary Ann



The entire Hurst Family wishes to thank the staff of Care & Share for the lovely luncheon they prepared for Jim's reception. We were most grateful.

The Hurst Family



CYBER DEAL AT SAINT MAURICE GIVE THE GIFT OF A MASS

Since Jesus is the reason for the Christmas season, during the month of December, all weekend Mass placed requests for 2018 (and any available openings in December)

will be discounted to \$10. Masses can be offered for the intention of a loved one, living or dead, or for a specific appropriate intention. Please contact Theresa at

saintmauricechurchbolton@gmail.com
or **860-643-4466** during office hours.



THREE KINGS TOY DRIVE

St. Maurice is continuing its tradition of assisting the Hispanic communities of St. Augustine and St. Anne Immaculate Conception in Hartford by gathering toys for their Three Kings Day celebration. Please bring a new, unwrapped toy for a child of any age to

any of the Christmas Eve, Christmas Day or New Year's Day masses. (If your toy requires batteries, kindly provide these too, as even batteries can be a difficult expense for these families.) Toys can be placed under the tree before or after the mass, or during the Christmas offertory. All gifts will be delivered by Three Kings Day, a Hispanic celebration which remembers the day the three kings brought their gifts to the infant Jesus. Thank you to our parish for your continued generosity! For more information, contact Sharon VanDine at 860-803-4478.

Father Leon is available at all times for any Spiritual needs, to call or meet with him personally, you're always welcomed. Reach him direct at (860) 748-4560.

FROM THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH

Nominations are underway for the

Longest Married Couple

search sponsored by Worldwide Marriage Encounter. Nominations are open to all husband and wife couples regardless of religious affiliation through January 10, 2018. Email the couple's name, wedding date and city and state where they reside to bkberland@gmail.com. Include your contact phone or email address. Or, visit the national website at www.wwme.org. For more information, contact the Catholic Family Services Office at 860-848-2237, Ext 306.

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest".

Visit the **NEW Caregiver Spirituality Webpage** Sponsored by the Office of Faith Events. Resources for caregivers include prayers, articles, books and websites that offer both practical and spiritual support

www.norwichdiocese.org/caregiver-spirituality-support-group

Is your marriage tearing you apart? Is there little or no meaningful communication? Are you considering separation or divorce? For serious marriage building and repair: Retrouvaille is a lifeline. At a **Retrouvaille** weekend, couples are given tools to re-establish communication, work on their issues, gain new insights and heal. The weekend is presented by three married couples and a priest. A series of 6 post sessions follow the weekend phase.

For more information or to sign up for the **January 19-21, 2018** weekend in the Hartford area,

call 413-525-1634, or 203-710-6207, or visit the Website at **www.retrouvaille.org**.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

"The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me." Let your spirits be augmented by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are Feb 2-4, 2018 in Manchester, CT and Jul 6-8, 2018 in MANCHESTER, CT. For more information, call Dennis & Jane Lamondy at 860-481-3720 or visit them at <https://wwmectw.org/>.



Defending Our Religious Liberty

Pope Francis has warned, "When a sick person is not placed at the center and considered in their dignity, attitudes arise which can even lead to profiteering on other people's misfortunes. The growing health poverty among the poorest segments of the population is due precisely to the difficulty of access to care . . ." Let us pray that in transforming the HHS federal mandate, religious rights of the Catholic Church will be safeguarded.

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