

THE PARISH COMMUNITY OF saint maurice

A TITHING AND M-E-R-C-Y PARISH

32 Hebron Road Bolton, Ct 06043
Rectory Phone 860-643-9553
Parish Office 860-643-4466
Parish Center 860-643-8374
Prayer Line 860-649-5449



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 20, 2020



In Blaise Pascal's work, *Pensees*, he says: "What else does this craving, and this helplessness, proclaim but that there was once in man a true happiness, of which all that now remains is the empty print and trace? This he tries in vain to fill with everything around him, seeking in things that are not there the help he cannot find in those that are, though none can help, since this infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite and immutable object; in other words by God himself."

We have a difficult time accepting that fulfillment and happiness are not achieved by our own merits but through a relationship with God. We are hardwired for this relationship and it is in our DNA. The simple fact is that we come from God and are designed to return to God. If our beginning and our end define who we are, why would we not want to seek the One who can truly satisfy? The world does not realize that it is waiting. It is waiting for the birth of God in time, within one's soul and in eternity. We get so confused by seeking other momentary satisfactions that we misinterpret the hunger within. We crave God.

The union of God and humanity, revealed in Jesus Christ, is precisely what sets us on a straight path, orders our relationships, establishes proper focus and goals and tells us whose kingdom we really are meant to serve. We are so lost. God is with us. The prophet Nathan told this to King David, the angel said this to Mary and the birth of Christ brings this Good News to us. We do not need to be busily looking for more things but must learn to find contentment and blessing in the One Presence. This is the beautiful simple message of Advent!

If you are feeling unsettled, anxious, angry, disgruntled, disconnected, unhappy, worried, fearful, off center, becoming overly self-indulgent, unable to spend time alone and without distraction, then there's a good chance you are lost. Now is the time to allow God to find you! Ponder the holy simplicity of Mary's call to be the Mother of God. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." When we are helpless and at home with our emptiness, God will fill us. Our Savior has come.

Prayer Line

Mary Ann 860-649-5449

Pastor

Fr. Bill Olesik

Director of Faith Formation

Arnie Tillmann

860-646-6314 or saintmauriceccd@gmail.com

Organist and Choir Director

Don Benevides 860-871-0752

Secretary

Mrs. Theresa Cisson

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

Telephone: 860-643-4466

e-mail: saintmauricechurchbolton@gmail.com

Note: during the pandemic office hours are not regular as stated above, but you can continue to call the telephone number and leave a message.

Eucharistic Minister to Homebound

Patricia Cinea 860-646-0564

Fair and Workshops

Dorli Cloutier 860-649-6255

Beth Harney 860-649-1331

Sharon Scorsio 860-646-1423

Website

www.saintmauricebolton.org

WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturdays at 4:00 p.m.

Sundays at 7:30, 9:15 and 11:00 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 3:25 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

Please call the rectory (860-643- 9553) 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 860-643-9553.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 19 — 20, 2020

Usher Group I

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

4:00 P.M. Mass offered for the Soul of Gary Zdrojowy — request of Irene Zdrojowy

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

7:30 A.M. Mass offered for All Souls in Purgatory

9:15 A.M. Mass offered for All Parishioners of St. Maurice Church

11:00 A.M. Mass offered for the Souls of Marion and Bill Miller - request of The Family

5:30 P.M. Evening Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21 — No MASS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22 — No MASS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23

9:00 A.M. Mass offered for All Souls in Purgatory

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24



4:00 P.M. Mass offered for All Parishioners of St. Maurice Church

Also livestreamed on YouTube:
https://youtu.be/QiV_FXlaFfE

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

THERE WILL BE A SECOND COLLECTION FOR THE POOR AND NEEDY

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26

4:00 P.M. Mass offered for All Souls in Purgatory



Christmas Eve
at St. Maurice on YouTube
The 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass
on December 24, 2020 will be
livestreamed on YouTube!

Follow this link: https://youtu.be/QiV_FXlaFfE

Blessed Sacrament Parish

will be live-streaming Christmas Masses at
8:00 PM Christmas Eve | 9:00 AM Christmas Day.



STEWARDSHIP

Projected Amount needed — \$3,130

Offertory: December 13 — \$3,482

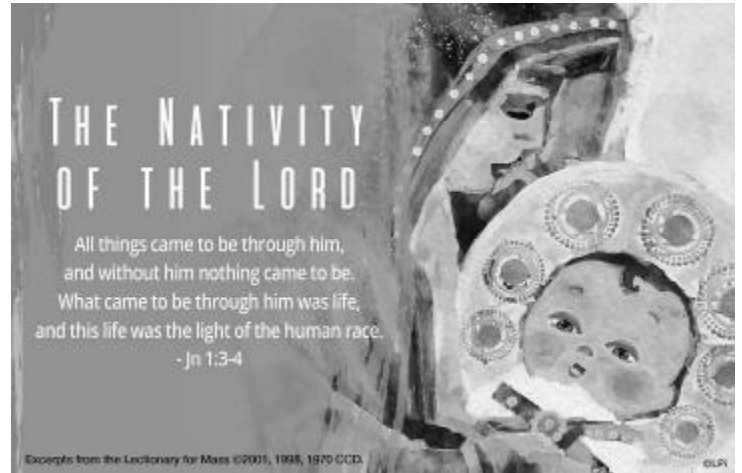
"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!"

— LUKE 1:28

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God's call. Mary teaches us to live with joy for all we have been given. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ's light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.

FROM SAINT MAURICE PARISH

Merry Christmas



If the salutation, "Merry Christmas," is more than just the expected greeting we use today, then what is the "more" really all about? Today is a sacred day and the birth of Christ has changed not only history but how human beings perceive and relate with God. God has become one with humanity in the Person of Jesus Christ. All of these truths remain just pious sentiments unless they take flesh in the heart and soul of each one of us. We need to absorb and immerse ourselves in what is meant by these truths so that we can be changed by them. Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord! A woman once recounted her journey with poverty and how she went from "doing" for the poor to "being with" the poor. It's transforming and life changing. It's easy to simply give alms to those in need, and yet another thing to be with them in their poverty and become poor ourselves. A change of the axis from vertical to horizon puts a whole new twist on things. Our souls understand the experience in ways that our minds simply cannot. Christmas requires this same change of axis.

It is one thing to sing out the words, "Joy to the World," and quite another to experience that joy ourselves. Many have not experienced the full impact of that first Holy Night because they choose to keep the manager at a distance rather than make a home with the Holy One who resides there. The birth of Christ levels the playing field of life and we have to allow ourselves to be leveled. There is no way to truly be human unless we understand that God is with us and blesses every fiber of the human experience. We cannot be truly human unless we listen to the words of the Word Made Flesh and work so that justice and peace can be realized by all, and God's sacred earth cared for and nurtured.

The axis of Christmas begins to shift when we realize it's not about, "I and me," but, "we and us," and there's an order and purpose to how God fashions and sustains things. The world hasn't really given Christ a full shot yet to understand that Truth has been born in our midst. We pick and choose what suits us in the message and leave the rest behind.

What needs to change about you so that Christ can truly be born in you?

FROM SAINT MAURICE PARISH



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24 — CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 P.M. Mass intention is for All Parishioners of St. Maurice Church

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD — CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 A.M. Mass intention is for All Parishioners of St. Maurice Church

There will be a second collection for the Poor and Needy



We are delighted to see attendance increasing at Mass, especially as we move closer to Christmas. Many volunteers work hard to insure that the church is a clean and safe environment for all. In that spirit, we ask that any family of **more than 3** planning to attend Mass during Advent and especially over the Christmas and New Years weekends, to please contact the office and leave information on number and Mass time so ushers can prepare a reserved space. This will be extremely helpful.

The office number is (860) 643-4466. Many thanks.



SLEIGH BELLS RING
SEASONAL SHARING

Our town has identified 30 families who need extra help and support this Christmas. As we have done in the past, this year the St. Maurice faith community will support the less fortunate in Bolton too. Volunteers will sort an package the food and gifts for each family on **Sunday, December 20th**. We are able to provide couple weeks of groceries as well as a special holiday meal and gifts for all in the families.

We want to thank all parishioners who donated food, Christmas gifts for the Giving Tree and money to help us create a special Christmas for Bolton families in need.

Thank you all for being so generous with those gifts.



FROM SAINT MAURICE PARISH



ST. MAURICE PRAYER LINE

Please remember all the special intentions on the St. Maurice Prayer Line and Faith Formation Students Prayer Requests.

New requests this week: Simone, Maria, Joe, John, Eileen. Thank you, Mary Ann



St. Maurice Surpasses 2020 ACA Goal

St. Maurice has now achieved more than 100% of its goal for the Annual Catholic Appeal.

Thank you for your continuing generosity!



ST MAURICE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry are making full size prayer shawls and mini pocket prayer shawls for our long term care parishioners.

If you can help in anyway in this ministry please call Linda Wiley at 643-8684 or Mary Ann Murphy at 860-5449.

Thank you.

FROM THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH



The Office of Faith Events and the Norwich Diocesan Women's Conference Committee are looking for donations of unwanted **BASKETS**. If you have a basket or baskets you would like to part with, **please contact Marianne at 860-848-2237 ext. 304 or manicholas@norwichdiocese.org**

Thank you!



Great Fun!
Prizes!

Bingo played on the internet!

Virtual Bingo will take place December 31st from 3:30-5 p.m.

Cards are \$6 each and will be e-mailed to players

To register: Go to <https://bit.ly/3kohQtJ>

or call Marianne at 848-2237 ext. 304



Please share your e-mail with The Office of Faith Events of the Diocese of Norwich. Be the first to know about all the virtual programs we are offering throughout the coming year, and also receive our own Advent and Lenten

reflections! Send your e-mail address to:

manicholas@norwichdiocese.net to be added to the list!

^ Tear off

Memorial Mass Form

Drop in collection ^

Father Bill, 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 ___



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