

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 860-643-2837



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 10, 2023



2ND SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

“Prepare the way of
of the Lord.”
- Mk 1:3

We like to think we are totally free, but the bitter truth is we simply are not. Or better put, our freedom is limited on every side — by governments, corporate giants, physical and mental frailties, genetic shortcomings, and even the boundaries of time and space, and above all, the burden of our sins and pending deaths. In our day, we are perhaps particularly aware that we are not free to disconnect from the technocratic rulers of the air. If you doubt me, try not paying your internet bill and see what happens. We are not totally free.

It's nothing new, of course. In Jesus' day, everyone felt the crushing weight of the Roman Empire. You can say you're free all you want. But try not paying your taxes to Rome and see what happens.

Once we feel this burden in our own lives — however it comes — we are ready to hear the stunning announcement that commences Mark's gospel, “**The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.**” It's not a simple perfunctory introduction, but a dramatic announcement of new freedom. The word “gospel” was a political, even military, term. It meant: a great victory has been won and a new king is in charge. This Jesus — not the Roman emperor — is God's son, and he has defeated all that crushes human freedom. It's time to follow him and be truly free. This week let's refuse to submit our freedom to false rulers — especially that of sin. And let's rejoice that Christ is coming to make us perfectly free from all our oppressors.

— *Father John Muir*



Pastor
Fr. Bill Olesik

Prayer Line
Carol Zabielski 860-643-2837

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 Ciscion
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
Beth Harney 860-649-1331
Sharon Scorso 860-646-1423

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 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.



**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 9 — 10, 2023**

Ushers Group IV



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

- 3:30 P.M. **Knights' Rosary** (in the Cry Room)
- 4:00 P.M. Mass offered for All Souls in Purgatory
Chaplet of Divine Mercy (in the Cry Room)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

- 7:30 A.M. Mass offered for All the Parishioners of St. Maurice Church
Chaplet of Divine Mercy (in the Cry Room)
- 9:00 A.M. **FAITH FORMATION CLASSES**
- 10:00 A.M. Mass offered for All Souls in Purgatory
Chaplet of Divine Mercy (in the Cry Room)

Christmas Pageant practice after the Mass
All children are welcome to participate.

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11 — No MASS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12 — No MASS

- 7:15 P.M. **Choir rehearsal** in church.
We are practicing music for Christmas.
New voices are always welcome!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

- 3:30 P.M. **Rosary** (in the Cry Room)
- 4:00 P.M. Mass offered for All Souls in Purgatory
Chaplet of Divine Mercy (in the Cry Room)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 — THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Ushers Group I

- 7:30 A.M. Mass offered for All Souls in Purgatory
Chaplet of Divine Mercy (in the Cry Room)
- 9:00 A.M. **FAITH FORMATION CLASSES**
- 10:00 A.M. Mass offered for All Souls in Purgatory
Chaplet of Divine Mercy (in the Cry Room)

Christmas Pageant practice after the Mass
All children are welcome to participate.

*Delivery of food and other groceries to Bolton families in need.
Drivers needed.*

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

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: Anne, Stacia, Erica, Cecile, Denis, Shawn, Tom, Janice, Special Needs, Amy, Al, Lou Ann, David, William, Susan, Tom, Barbara, James.
Candle Intentions: Special prayers for the Intentions in the Candle Note Book.

Please call Carol Zabielski at (860) 643-2837

ST. MAURICE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



Members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry are making full size prayer shawls for our long term care patients. Also, mini pocket prayer shawls are available for everyone.

If you can help in any way in this Ministry, please call: Irene Zdrojowy (860) 533-1733



STEWARDSHIP

Offertory: December 3 — TBD
Projected Amount needed — \$3,670
"Prepare the way of the Lord..."

- MARK 1:3

We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, puts us on the path to holiness and is an example for others to be holy, too. We are responsible not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well. How are you helping others get to Heaven?

^ Tear off

Parish Membership Form

Drop in collection ^

Please enroll the following as members of the Church of St. Maurice:

Adults _____

Children (under 18) _____

Street Address _____ E-mail Address _____

City State Zip _____ E-mail Address _____

Home phone _____ Cell phone _____

Send offertory envelopes _____ Send form for EFT (electronic donation) _____ We will Donate Online _____

We can help out as: Altar server _____ Lector _____ Usher _____ Eucharistic Minister _____ Choir _____ Crafts workshop _____

FROM ST. MAURICE PARISH

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; Saturday, 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. 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 is interested in participating, please contact Amie Tillmann

at saintmauriceccd@gmail.com.

Practice will be the Sunday December 10th and 17th, after 10:00 a.m. Mass.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter:

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11: *"Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. A voice cries out in the desert prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God."* Give your spouse a gift. Be transformed. Love your spouse always. Attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience. You can find one by looking up WWME.org Some of the dates to sign up are:

- January 26-28, 2024 in Derby Line, VT
- February 9-11, 2024 in Huntington, NY
- March 15-17, 2024 in Upton, MA

Worldwide Marriage Encounter sponsors a variety of in-person and virtual marriage experiences, some on weekends and some on seven weekdays. Couples explore their relationship with each other, God, and the Church. Registration is limited; there is a \$100 application fee. For more information or to apply, call

Frank & Margie Pearson at 860-337-2447 or <https://wwmectw.org/>.

FROM SLEIGH BELLS RING CHRISTMAS FAIR GROUP



SLEIGH BELLS RING SEASONAL SHARING

As we have done in the past, this year the St. Maurice faith community will support the less fortunate in Bolton too.

Please drop off non-perishable food donations at the Church or Parish Center by **Sunday, December 17th for Christmas food delivery.**

If you prefer to give money, please make your check payable to "Church of St. Maurice" with the memo "Christmas food" and put in the regular collection or mail.

Thank you for your support. It does make a difference!



CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

with the bells for Bolton Families in need is in the church. If you can help by purchasing a requested gift for a Bolton resident in need this Christmas take a bell of the tree and return unwrapped gifts with the bell attached by **Sunday, December 10th.**

If you can't shop at this time, please send a check to St. Maurice with "Seasonal Sharing" in the memo line, and we will do the shopping for you.

FROM THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH



Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe! All are invited to join Bishop Cote and the Latino people of the diocese in our annual bilingual celebration of the Feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Tuesday, **December 12, 2023.** The celebration begins with the Rosary at 6:30pm, followed by Holy Mass at 7:00pm. Fiesta following.

We look forward to honoring Our Lady with you. For more information, please contact the Office for Hispanic Ministry, Tel: 860-456-3349 email: aposthispano@gmail.com

PROJECT RACHEL ROSARY AT THE CATHEDRAL

The third Tuesday of each month at the Cathedral of St. Patrick following the noon mass, join the Office of Faith Events as we pray the Project Rachel Rosary. The Project Rachel Rosary focuses on hope, healing, and forgiveness for those affected by an abortion and also for an end to abortion. Please join us for this in-person Project Rachel Rosary on Tuesday, December 19th following the noon mass at the Cathedral of St. Patrick in Norwich.



BROTHERS IN CHRIST WITH ALEX SOUCY

Brothers in Christ would like you to join us on Thursday-December 14th from 7pm – 7:45pm for our virtual session with Alex Soucy of Crossroads for Christ to discuss St. Joseph. Brothers in Christ is a gathering of men who share faith, personal experiences, and discussion. Brothers in Christ fellowship meetings are held the second Thursday of the month either virtually or in person. If you are interested in developing fellowship and discipleship with other men devoted to Christ, please register for the group by email Liza Roach at

lroach@norwichdiocese.net or call (860)848-2237 ex. 305




Seven Sorrows of Mary

If you are seeking to find hope, strength and comfort from a loss, burden, or sorrow, join us for A Journey with Mary Through Her Seven Sorrows, a virtual seven-week program that will explore each of the seven sorrows of Mary's life and the message of strength and encouragement each one contains.

The program will meet online Monday nights from 7-8:15 P.M. **January 8, 15, 22, 29 and February 5, 12, and 19.** Each week will include a reflection on one of Mary's sorrows, guided prayer imagery and discussion. The program is free, but registration is required. To do so, or, for more information, contact the Catholic Family Services Office, 860-848-2237, Ext. 312, or email mmclaughlin@norwichdiocese.net

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