

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



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 17, 2023



3RD SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

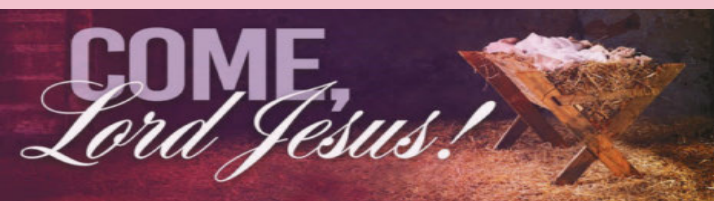
A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.
- Jn 1:6-7

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1979 CCD

Why do we believe in Jesus and the Catholic Church? Why should we continue to do so? We've never seen him face-to-face (at least not most of us, I assume). Most of us have never had mystical visions of angels or saints. We live in the same world as our atheist and secularists friends. Why do we believe in Christ if we've never seen him?

The simple, symbolic answer the Gospel presents to us this week might surprise us: we believe because of John the Baptist. Early in John's Gospel we hear: "**There was a man sent from God, his name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him.**" The Baptist powerfully announces Jesus. This is a historical fact, and it is also now a *pattern* at work in our lives.

John the Baptist stands for the entirety of the old covenant, everything entrusted to the Jewish people. And yet he prophetically opens the door to something entirely new in Jesus, to the revival and fulfillment of God's promises. In every generation, and in every human life, God continues to do this. He has done it through people named Augustine, Francis, Catherine, Theresa, and countless others. In my life, the Baptist's spirit has come through persons named Eric, Paul, Mary, and Ron. I challenge you to name at least three people through whom God has announced the coming of Jesus in your life. Consciously thank God for their testimony. And let's commit ourselves to listening to the spirit of John the Baptist testify again this week so that we might more strongly believe in the light. — *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 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
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.



**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 16 — 17, 2023**

Ushers Group I

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

- 7:30 A.M. **Mass offered for All 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 the Souls of †Barbara and †Donald Sullivan**
requested by Patrick and Daniel Sullivan
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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18 — No MASS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19 — No MASS

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

- 9:00 A.M. **Mass offered for the Soul of †Jane Hilbie**
requested by Linda Armstrong

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

- 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 24 — FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Ushers Group II

- 7:30 A.M. **Mass offered for All Souls in Purgatory**
Chaplet of Divine Mercy (in the Cry Room)
NO FAITH FORMATION CLASSES
- 10:00 A.M. **Mass offered for All Souls in Purgatory**
Chaplet of Divine Mercy (in the Cry Room)
- 4:00 P.M. **Mass offered for All Parishioners of St. Maurice Church**
Christmas Pageant at the 4:00 P.M. Mass
- 10:00 P.M. **Mass offered for All Parishioners of St. Maurice Church**

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

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 — CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

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

Christmas Pageant at the 4:00 P.M. Mass

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25 — CHRISTMAS DAY

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



STEWARDSHIP

Offertory: December 10 — TBD

Projected Amount needed — \$3,670

“Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.” – 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 and shows our dependence on God.

^ 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, 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 17th, after 10:00 a.m. Mass.



**St. Maurice Council 6199
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

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Married Couples Day Retreat - 1/20/24 at St. Bernard Church, Rockville. "IT TAKES THREE": A MARRIED COUPLES RETREAT is Designed to renew & rejuvenate your relationship as a married couple & with God. The retreat's environment is one of acceptance, confidential sharing, music, & fun! We invite any married couple - newlywed or married for decades. The day includes morning Mass, a special mid-day dinner, & a full program of music, inspired talks by team couples, private couple sharing time, small group discussions, & a marriage blessing ceremony with special memento.

Cost is only \$25/couple payable by check to "CT State Council K of C" mailed to retreat leaders, Jim & Elizabeth Percy, 11 Kent Lane, South Windsor, CT 06074.

Join us & register at SignUpGenius,

signupgenius.com/go/MCR

or contact the Percys at tiggpercy@gmail.com or 860-648-2615. Space is limited and is filling up quickly.



FROM SLEIGH BELLS RING CHRISTMAS FAIR GROUP



**SLEIGH BELLS RING
SEASONAL SHARING**

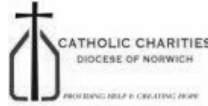
As we have done in the past, this year the St. Maurice faith community will support the less fortunate in Bolton too.

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!

FROM THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH



**CATHOLIC CHARITIES
ASKS YOU TO HELP OUR FAMILIES
CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS**

Catholic Charities will be providing "A Very Merry Christmas" to our families and we are asking the parishioners to join in this special celebration of gifts and prayers for our many families and individual in financial need. Your gift of an unwrapped children's toy, for a child up to the age of 12 or a gift card to Walmart or Target for a teenager will be greatly appreciated. Grocery store gift cards are also enjoyed by the families. Our Food Pantry is busy throughout the year as food assistance is the single largest service provided and it is often the entry point for people to receive additional necessary services, utility, rental assistance, Financial Empowerment classes for self-sufficiency to identify a few services. Please bring your unwrapped toy to Catholic Charities 331 Main Street Norwich CT, 06360 or send the gift cards or checks with Christmas 2023 written in the memo line to the same address. Our kids, parents and grandparents look forward to Christmas as much as your family and our staff, as we all prepare for the true meaning of Christmas, the Birth of our Lord and the Holy Family. **Thank you from the staff at Catholic Charities and we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**



2023 ACA update as of November 28:
Congratulations to Saint Maurice Parish for surpassing its goal! The current amount donated is \$12,161.29 with 31.31% of our parishioners donating. We are striving for as close to 100% participation as possible.

URGENT – PLEASE HELP US REACH GOAL - THERE IS STILL TIME TO DONATE!

Our campaign year ends December 31, 2023. With your donation, our ACA supported ministries do the work of Christ every day. If you have not made your contribution to the 2023 Annual Catholic Appeal, "One Faith, One Family", or would like to make an additional gift, donation envelopes are still available within the church or you can contact the Development Office at (860) 886-1928 or

www.norwichdiocesedevelopment.org.

Thank you to everyone for your support!




**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.



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