

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



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 24, 2023



Life is troubling. Who among us has not struggled with anxiety and difficulties, sometimes massive ones? I certainly have, as have many of my loved ones. If we do, does this mean that we don't trust the Lord or just need to toughen up?

I don't think so. How encouraging for us anxious and troubled souls to hear Luke describe the Blessed Mother Mary in these words, "**But she was greatly troubled at what was said.**" An archangel has visited her. An inconceivable promise has been made to her. Her life has become wildly unpredictable, perhaps more so than any person before or since. The first point for us: the Lord is with her *precisely when she is troubled*. Her anxiousness and God's presence are not mutually exclusive. Christianity is not about a trance-like robotic indifference. It's about the presence of divine love. Even in — especially in — troubled circumstances.

Our troubled soul can become our greatest treasure. What seems so troubling at first to Mary becomes the best possible thing, Jesus, the Savior and Lord, is now her son. All the difficulties and troubles remain, and yet her movement into the fullness of God is accelerated. What is troubling you right now? This scripture invites us now, this week, to hear the Lord's messenger say to us what he said to Mary, "**Do not be afraid! You have found favor with God.**"

— 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](mailto: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](mailto:saintmauricechurchbolton@gmail.com)

**Eucharistic Minister to Homebound**  
Patricia Cinea 860-646-0564

**Fair and Workshops**  
Beth Harney 860-649-1331  
Sharon Corso 860-646-1423

**Website**  
[www.saintmauricebolton.org](http://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.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 23 — 24, 2023

Ushers Group II

POOR AND NEEDY COLLECTION

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

- 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
5:30 P.M. Evening Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours
10:00 P.M. Mass offered for All Parishioners of St. Maurice Church

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25 — CHRISTMAS



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

- 10:00 A.M. Mass offered for the Souls of +Marion and +Bill Miller
requested by The Family



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26 — NO MASS

7:15 P.M. Choir rehearsal in church.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27 — NO MASS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28 — NO MASS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29 — NO MASS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

- 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 31

Ushers Group III

- 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 Parishioners of St. Maurice Church
Chaplet of Divine Mercy (in the Cry Room)
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

Women's Retreats. How much of your life is devoted to taking care of others? A weekend retreat at Our Lady of Calvary is your chance to let someone else take care of you. The Sisters of the Cross and Passion and devoted laywomen with a special gift for nurturing and caregiving staff at our retreats. Our women's retreats have the deep spirituality of a quality Catholic retreat in a cozy, intimate atmosphere. Experience the best of what any "girls' weekend" offers: friendship, relaxation, shopping, and delicious food...

Many women consider this place their "home away from home" and love bringing their loved ones along. New retreatants can use the code OCR70 for a 10% discount when registering online and paying in full.

Learn more about Women's Retreats at Our Lady of Calvary and choose your weekend from the list of 2024 retreat weekends. https://www.ourladyofcalvary.net/retreat-weekends/

STEWARDSHIP

Offertory: December 17 — TBD

Projected Amount needed — \$3,670

"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.

^ 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 \_\_\_\_\_

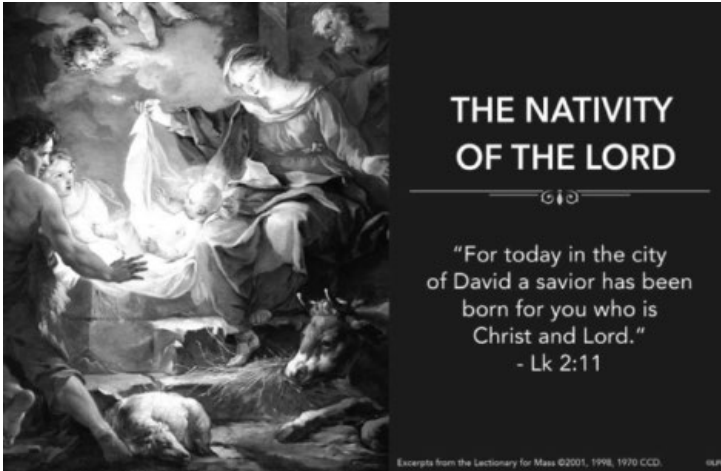
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Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

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**



**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

“For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord.”  
- Lk 2:11

“She gave birth to her firstborn son.” The pain of childbirth is something that boggles my mind. I’m sure I couldn’t handle it. I can’t even watch scenes in movies in which a woman gives birth. I understand it’s a beautiful part of nature, but there’s still something awful about it and the attendant suffering.

Which is why it’s worth pondering an often neglected and currently unpopular part of the Church’s theology around the birth of Christ, his was miraculous because it caused no pain to his mother. Even her physical virginity remains intact. Of course, we modern scientific people scoff at such an idea.

Without obsessing over the obstetrical details, we discover a glorious illumination in the symbolic meaning of this birth that we moderns find so embarrassing. *God comes into the world in an utterly non-violent way.* He himself will suffer his own bloodshed but will never shed that of others. He is so peaceful and non-violent that he will even rise from the dead without breaking the seal of the tomb. All of humanity, in the Church, will give birth to him in the Church free from the terrible pain due to original sin. How badly we need the truth of this miraculous birth today!

Let’s delight in this great mystery and miracle of Jesus’s birth. He is the Prince of Peace and always nonviolent. We need not fear him, ever. — *Father John Muir*



**FROM SLEIGH BELLS RING CHRISTMAS FAIR GROUP**



A HUGE Thank you to all the parishioners at St. Maurice for their generosity during this holiday season. Our gift bags for Bolton’s needy families were overflowing with warm, wonderful and thoughtful presents for over 100 recipients. It is so heartwarming to see the outpouring of love and care from our church family - Thank you once again for being such a caring community!



Beth Harney, Sharon Scorso and Marilee Manning.

**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.**



**DEEPENING OUR FAITH THROUGH THE SACRAMENTS**

Join us on Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> from 7 – 8:15PM virtually for a deepening of our faith through the

**Sacrament of Vocation- Marriage.** Our keynote is Sr. Elissa Rinere, C.P. the former Diocesan Chancellor. When the Catholic Church teaches that marriage is a Christian vocation, it is saying that the couple’s relationship is more than simply their choice to enter a union which is a social and legal institution. In addition to these things, marriage involves a call from God and a response from two people who promise to build, with the help of divine grace, a lifelong, intimate and sacramental partnership of love and life. Let’s explore Marriage together.

To register, please contact Marianne at [manicholas@norwichdiocese.net](mailto:manicholas@norwichdiocese.net) or call 860-848-2237 ext.304.


**VIRTUAL BINGO FOR ALL AGES**

The Office of Faith Events invites people of all ages to participate in Virtual Bingo! **Bingo will take place on Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 – 5pm.** You will receive your cards online, mark them and even remark them for the next game or you can print them and play. Through video conferencing, we will call the numbers and play different BINGO games from regular bingo, double bingo, picture frame, and finally black out! It will be great fun with lots of gift certificates for prizes! The cost is \$6 per card for the whole Bingo event! To purchase your Bingo cards, go to: <https://bit.ly/2Laol7Y> or call Marianne at 860-848-2237 ex. 304.

**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 19<sup>th</sup> following the noon mass at the Cathedral of St. Patrick in Norwich.

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