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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT — DECEMBER 7, 2014

# Good News!

December 7, 2014

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Is 40:1-5, 9-11 / 2 Pt 3:8-14 / Mk 1:1-8

In the weeks before Christmas, preparations for the holiday seem all-consuming. We cook, we shop, we clean; we buy or make presents for our families and friends. Sometimes we break into song, and often we give more generously than at other times. We'll probably have guests, and we'll want to do a little extra to make ready for them.

Today's readings turn our gaze to a more significant kind of preparation for Christmas and remind us that Jesus Christ, who was born in Bethlehem more than 2,000 years ago, waits to come again in the fullness of time. More to the point, he waits for us to open our hearts and our lives to him.

What does that take exactly?

Think about the way we clean house for special guests. Not content with simple wiping and dusting, we get out the polish, clean the top of the refrigerator, and even double check for dust bunnies that have wandered to the corner under the bed. That's a fine metaphor for what we need to do with our souls.

Advent is the time to check the dark recesses for thoughts and actions that indicate we're less than ready to meet Christ face to face.

Advent is the time to sweep away the cobwebs and put our inner house in order, knowing that Christ is on his way.

Maybe in the midst of cooking and cleaning the house we live in, we can find the time for prayer and reconciliation so that when he comes, we can stand before him with doors open wide in welcome.

Mary Katharine Deeley  
[sundaybulletin@liguori.org](mailto:sundaybulletin@liguori.org)

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**WEEKEND MASSES:**

Saturdays at 5:00 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 our Coffee Social or Pancake Breakfast after the Sunday Mass, both 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):**

By appointment.

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:**

Please call the rectory (860-643-4466) 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 860-643-4466.

**THIS WEEK**

**2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**DECEMBER 6 – 7, 2014**

**USHERS GROUP II**

**2<sup>ND</sup> COLLECTION — ST. MAURICE FUEL FUND**

**SATURDAY, DEC. 6**

4:00 P.M. — Mass offered for +Wanda Aubey  
 request of Joanna Wilson

*COFFEE SOCIAL after Mass in the Church Basement*

**SUNDAY, DEC. 7**

7:30 A.M. — Mass offered for +Agnes and +George Murphy  
 request of MaryAnne Murphy

*CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY after Mass*

8:30 A.M. — **BREAKFAST FOR FAITH FORMATION**

9:00 A.M. — **FAITH FORMATION CLASSES**

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

*CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY after Mass*

*COFFEE SOCIAL after Mass in the Church Basement*

6:00 P.M. — **ADULT FAITH FORMATION** in the Parish Center Library

**MONDAY, DEC. 8 — Immaculate Conception of the Blessed**  
**Virgin Mary (Holy day of obligation)**

9:00 A.M. — Mass offered for All Parishioners  
of St. Maurice Church

7:00 P.M. — Mass offered for +Samuel Gugliemino

**TUESDAY, DEC. 9**

9:00 A.M. — Mass offered for +John Swart  
 request of The Cloutier Children

7:00 P.M. — **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** in the Parish Center

7:30 P.M. — **CHOIR REHEARSAL**

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 10**

9:00 A.M. — Mass offered for +Henry Leonard

**THURSDAY, DEC. 11 — NO MASS**

**FRIDAY, DEC. 12 — NO MASS**

**SATURDAY, DEC. 13**

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

**STEWARDSHIP**

Last week's Offertory: Nov. 30 — \$2,919  
 Projected Amount needed \$3,370

“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, does just that – it puts us on the path to holiness and it invites others to be holy, too.

**NEXT WEEK**

**3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**DECEMBER 13 – 14, 2014**

**USHERS GROUP III**

**2<sup>ND</sup> COLLECTION — ST. MAURICE FUEL FUND**

**SATURDAY, DEC. 13**

4:00 P.M. — Mass offered for +Robert Cassel  
 request of Barbara Cassel

*Altar Servers: Maria Cinea*

*Lectors: Georgette Pelletier*

*Eucharistic Minister: Annedda Stiller*

*COFFEE SOCIAL after Mass in the Church Basement*

**SUNDAY, DEC. 14**

7:30 A.M. — Mass offered for +Ruth Mattison  
 request of Gloria Holbrook & Family

*Altar Servers: Lynn Mancino*

*Lector: Lynn Mancino*

*Eucharistic Minister: Arlene Giglio*

*CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY after Mass*

8:00 A.M. — **Triple Play Café Breakfast** from 8:00AM to 10:00AM

8:00 A.M. — **Mini Fair** from 8:00AM to 12:00AM in the Parish Center

9:00 A.M. — **FAITH FORMATION CLASSES**

10:00 A.M. — **Youth Mass**

Mass offered for +Jessie & +William Rosewell  
 request of The Snuffer Family

*Altar Servers: Emilia & Marta Herasimowicz*

*Lector: Jessica Merry*

*Eucharistic Minister: Lou Cloutier*

*CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY after Mass*

*COFFEE SOCIAL after Mass in the Church Basement*

**MONDAY, DEC. 15**

9:00 A.M. — Mass offered for +Henry Leonard

**TUESDAY, DEC. 16**

9:00 A.M. — Mass offered for All Parishioners  
of St. Maurice Church

7:30 P.M. — **CHOIR REHEARSAL**

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 17**

9:00 A.M. — Mass offered for +Samuel Gugliemino

7:15 P.M. — **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BUSINESS MEETING**

**THURSDAY, DEC. 18 — NO MASS**

**FRIDAY, DEC. 19 — NO MASS**

**SATURDAY, DEC. 20**

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

**Readings for the Week of December 7, 2014**

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Next Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

**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. Thank you. Carol and Mary Ann.



**Our sincere thanks to all who helped make our Christmas Fair a great success. So many people helped it is impossible to name all of you - the bakers of so many goodies, donations of items, shoppers and well wishes - our thanks. Dorli, Kathy, Beth and Patti**



**THE CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE** is in the rear of the church and still has some needs for Bolton Families in need. We hope you will consider being a part of this worthwhile program of helping people of Bolton in need. All gifts should be returned by December 14<sup>th</sup> for delivery.

If you have any questions please call me at 860-649-6255. Thank you for caring, Dorli

Shopping online for Christmas? Use the link Shop Amazon.com on our website to benefit St. Maurice.



**On December 14<sup>th</sup> "Sleigh Bells Ring" Mini Fair** will take place at the Parish Center **from 8 to 12.** We still have some gift items and canned goods packages for gift giving. Come take a look for those last minute items. See you there.



**Advent is the beginning** of a new liturgical year for the Roman Catholic Church. The season of Advent begins 4 Sundays before Christmas. Each Sunday represents the four centuries of waiting



between the prophet Malachi and the birth of Christ. The word Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means "to come to". Some of the symbols of Advent are the Advent Candles and Wreath. The Advent Wreath, circular in shape, with no beginning and no end, symbolizes eternal life through Jesus, our Savior. The wreath has four outer candles, and one inner. The outer are lit in sequence over the four Sundays. The 3 outer purple candles, along with purple vestment worn by the priest, represent the royalty and majesty of Jesus Christ as King of Kings. They also represent the *Candles of Hope, of Love, and of Peace*, as well as our preparation, prayer, penitence and good works during this time. The rose (pink) candle, the *Candle of Joy*, lit the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, along with rose colored vestment, takes a break midway during this season and characterizes the joyful expectation to come. The central white candle, the *Christ Candle*, is lit on the Vigil and Christmas Day Masses. The *Christ Candle* symbolizes Jesus Christ as the *Light of the World*, and its center placement reminds us that Jesus always should be at the center of our lives.

**FROM THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH**



**Our Lady of Guadalupe!** All are invited to join Bishop Cote and the Latino people of the Diocese in our annual celebration of the Feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Friday, December 12, 2014. The celebration begins with the Rosary and opportunity for confession at 6:30, followed by Holy Mass at 7:00pm celebrated by Bishop Cote. Fiesta following. We look forward to honoring Our Lady with you.

**Is your marriage tearing you apart, little or no communication, 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. A series of 6 post sessions follows the weekend phase. For information or to sign up for the next weekend on **January 16-18** in Hartford area call 413-525-1634. **Website [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org).**

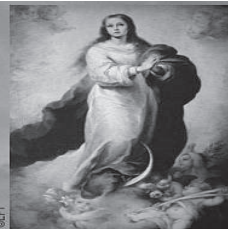
**The March for Life in Washington, D.C. Bus Trip.** January 22, 2014 marks the 42<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Supreme Court's legalization of abortion. From that decision, over 50 million pre-born babies have died from abortion. On January 22<sup>nd</sup> people from across our nation will assemble in Washington D.C. for the largest ProLife event in the world, to March for Life and end abortion. Consider attending if you have never experienced being a part of the March for Life. **On Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 9 P.M.,** buses sponsored by the Southeast Chapter of Connecticut Right to Life will leave from the Norwich Municipal Parking Lot (Exit 80, I-395) and travel to D.C. to attend the March. Bus fare is \$65 per person. For information, to reserve a seat or if you cannot go, to sponsor a seat, please call Margaret Becotte at 860-822-1362. Reserve a seat by January 7, 2015.

**SAINT MAURICE PARISH**

**TOYS FOR KIDS:**



For families attending Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, please encourage your child or children to bring a **NEW UNWRAPPED** toy to place under our parish Christmas tree in the sanctuary. Although we expect children to drop off toys during the Christmas Masses, adults can certainly contribute a gift. These toys will be transported to a parish in Hartford, where the Hispanic community will celebrate Three King's Day on January 6th. If you have any questions, please call Cliff Scorso at 860.646.1423. Thank you.



**Immaculate Conception**  
of the  
*Blessed Virgin Mary*  
December 8

**Defending Our Religious Liberty**

Religious freedom has never been red or blue, left or right, Catholic or non-Catholic. It is -- and -- has always been American. If you haven't done so already, please voice your opposition to the mandate by calling President Obama at the White House at 202-456-1111 or U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Sylvia Mathews Burwell at 202-205-5445. Let them know that the mandate is in violation of our First Amendment right to religious freedom.



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