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A TITHING PARISH

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT — DECEMBER 21, 2014

# dear Padre

December 21, 2014

## Was Jesus actually born December 25?

How do we know the date of Jesus' birth? I've checked my Bible, and I can't find any mention of the date.

**You're right:** The Bible doesn't say Jesus was born December 25. The Gospels of Matthew and Luke are the only Scriptures to give much detail about Christ's birth and infancy. They name the key political figures of the day, but not much else (Luke 1:5 and 2:1-2). Neither evangelist included specific information about the dates.

Dates were apparently not important to the earliest Christians. Besides, the first few generations of Christ's followers were far more interested in celebrating Christ's resurrection each Sunday, and eventually on Easter, than they were in celebrating his birth.

Christians started to associate December 25 with Christ's nativity centuries after the fact: the year 336, according to the earliest evidence.

The most popular theory is that the Church chose to replace a popular pagan Roman sun festival celebrating the winter solstice (December 21 or 22) with a Christian feast that could overtake the pagan festival and use its sun imagery to speak of Christ as the unconquered "Sun of Righteousness."

FR. MATTHEW ALLMAN, CSsR  
[sundaybulletin@liguori.org](http://sundaybulletin@liguori.org)

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Carol 860-643-2837 Mary Ann 860-649-5449

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Saint Maurice Church 860-643-4466

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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



**4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**DECEMBER 20 – 21, 2014**  
**USHERS GROUP IV**

**SATURDAY, DEC. 20**

4:00 P.M. — Mass offered for +Eva & +John Wachowski  
 request of Irene Kehl

*COFFEE SOCIAL after Mass in the Church Basement*

**SUNDAY, DEC. 21**

7:30 A.M. — Mass offered for All Parishioners  
of St. Maurice Church

*CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY after Mass*

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

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

**CHRISTMAS FOOD DISTRIBUTION**

10:00 A.M. — Mass offered for the deceased of +Maratta & +Quagliano  
Families request of Mr. & Mrs. Silvio Maratta

*CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY after Mass*

*COFFEE SOCIAL after Mass in the Church Basement*

**MONDAY, DEC. 22**

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

**TUESDAY, DEC. 23**

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

7:30 P.M. — **CHOIR REHEARSAL**

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24 — CHRISTMAS VIGIL**

2<sup>nd</sup> collection for The Poor and Needy

4:00 P.M. — Mass offered +Marian Herasimowicz  
 request of The Family

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

**THURSDAY, DEC. 25**

**CHRISTMAS: NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

(Holy day of obligation) 2<sup>nd</sup> collection for The Poor and Needy

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

10:00 A.M. — Mass offered for +Clara Stygar  
 request of Helen & Bill Andrychowski

**FRIDAY, DEC. 26 — NO MASS****SATURDAY, DEC. 27**

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

**STEWARDSHIP**

Last week's Offertory: Dec. 14 — \$3,492

Projected Amount needed \$3,370

"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" — LUKE 1:28

Faith is a gift from God. During this Christmas season take time in silence and pray to God. Thank Him for all the gifts He has given you. Try to set aside any anger or resentment you have and really open your heart to receive the gift of God's grace.

## NEXT WEEK

**HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**

**DECEMBER 27 – 28, 2014**

**USHERS GROUP I****SATURDAY, DEC. 27**

4:00 P.M. — Mass offered for +Wanda Aubey

*Altar Servers: Maria Cinea*

*Lectors: Bert Flynn*

*Eucharistic Minister: Georgette Pelletier*

*COFFEE SOCIAL after Mass in the Church Basement*

**SUNDAY, DEC. 28**

7:30 A.M. — Mass offered for +Henry Leonard

*Altar Servers: Lynn Mancino*

*Lector: Lynn Mancino*

*Eucharistic Minister: Arlene Giglio*

*CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY after Mass*

**NO FAITH FORMATION CLASSES**

10:00 A.M. — Mass offered for +Dave Caruso, Jr., +Mary and  
+Steve Caruso request of Charles and Shirley Brown

*Altar Servers: Alex Czercowy*

*Lector: Jeffrey Monroe*

*Eucharistic Minister: Sharon Scorso*

*CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY after Mass*

*COFFEE SOCIAL after Mass in the Church Basement*

**MONDAY, DEC. 29**

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

**TUESDAY, DEC. 30**

9:00 A.M. — Mass offered for the Intentions of Patti Cinea  
 request of Mary Mumford

**NO CHOIR REHEARSAL**

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 31 — NEW YEAR'S EVE**

6:00 P.M. — Mass offered for All Parishioners  
of St. Maurice Church

*Altar Servers: Emilia & Marta Herasimowicz*

*Lector: Jeffrey Monroe*

*Eucharistic Minister: Georgette Pelletier*

**THURSDAY, JAN. 1 — MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**  
(Holy day of obligation)

10:00 A.M. — Mass offered for +William and +Marion Miller  
 request of The Family

*Altar Servers: Shirley Warbeck, Alex Czercowy*

*Lector: Joel Cohan*

*Eucharistic Minister: Linda Wiley*

**FRIDAY, JAN. 2 — NO MASS****SATURDAY, JAN. 3**

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

**Readings for the Week of December 21, 2014**

Sunday: Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3 or Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Heb 11:8, 11-12,  
 17-19 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

Monday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Lk 2:36-40

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Jn 1:1-18

Thursday: Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Friday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Jn 1:19-28

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:29--3:6/Jn 1:29-34

Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

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**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.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL PARISHIONERS**



"For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." Lk 2:11-12

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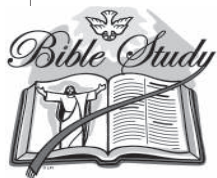
**ADULT FAITH FORMATION:**

**REVELATION:**

**THE KINGDOM YET TO COME**

The next session on the *Book of Revelation*, Chapters 16 and 17, will be on **Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M.** in the **Parish Center Library**.

Session is 55 minutes in length. All are welcome.



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



**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 Clif Scorso at 860.646.1423. Thank you.



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 Clif Scorso at 860.646.1423. Thank you.

St. Maurice has a long standing tradition of having a **Christmas Pageant at the 4:00 pm Mass on Christmas Eve**. All generations look forward to seeing the children act out the story of the birth of Jesus and we hope to carry on this tradition again this year. There will be a short practice immediately following the 10:00 am Mass on Sunday, December 21st with Mrs. VanDine. Help with costumes is provided. All interested children will be included but we need at least 7 participants to go forward with the play. Please email Sherry Snuffer b21ssnuf@hotmail.com



**Defending Our Religious Liberty**

The passage of the federal health care mandate was supposed to provide affordable health care to all Americans. By most accounts this is not happening, and in the process our First of Amendment Right, which is supposed to safeguard our religious freedom has been taken away. 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.

**FROM THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH**

**Diocesan Pro-Life Mass at the Cathedral of St. Patrick in Norwich on Saturday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> ~ 8:30 a.m.** Please join us and our celebrant **Rev. Brian Romanowski** at Mass as we pray to end abortion and for the healing for those who have had an abortion. Following the Mass, the Rosary will be prayed both at the Cathedral and Planned Parenthood. There will not a brunch following Mass.

**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. (Reduced rate available for students) 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.

**Director of Business Practices Catholic Charities, Norwich Position Available.**

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Norwich is currently seeking to fill the newly created position of, Director of Business Practices. The successful candidate will report to the Executive Director, and work to create efficient processes and implement the infrastructure and systems needed to effectively support substantial program and financial growth. The successful candidate will build, modify and manage effective and streamlined administrative/financial systems. Areas of responsibility include financial, accounting, budget planning and adjustment, business practice report including payroll and file maintenance, legal, information technology, and physical plant maintenance and infrastructure.

Ideal candidates will have the following experience and attributes; CPA or an MBA with at least two years in financial management, or a Bachelor's degree in accounting and at least 5 years in financial management, including experience with third-party payments including Medicaid billing in a not-for-profit environment. The ideal candidate will have significant experience working with and creating reports for Federal, State and local funding sources including agencies such as DCF, CSSD, DMHAS, HUD and CHFA. Additionally, he or she will have experience in creating and driving the analytic framework for planning and managing departmental change in a fast paced environment.

Interested Candidates should submit a cover letter and resume by mail to: Catholic Charities DBP Search Committee  
331 Main Street Norwich, CT 06360  
or email: searchcommittee@cchfn.org

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