

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
 Monday: 1 Jn 3:22---4:6/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Mk 6:34-44
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Mk 6:45-52
 Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19---5:4/Lk 4:14-22a
 Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Lk 5:12-16
 Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Jn 3:22-30
 Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11/Acts 10:34-38
 or 1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11

YOU ARE INVITED

AN OPEN HOUSE

AT FATHER STAN'S RESIDENCE
 157 TALLWOOD DRIVE, VERNON

THIS SUNDAY, JANUARY 4
2 – 4:30PM

PLEASE COME!

PASTORAL COUNCIL

*Your Pastoral Council would like to remind you that
 they are here for YOU!*

ELECTED MEMBERS

Sergio Dosouto
 Carol Duhamel
 Cyndi Gagnon
 Bette Gonsalves
 Jim Higgins
 Don Maxa
 Trish Michaud
 Matthew Powell
 Mary Ann Simcoe (chair)
 Donna Valli (secretary)

EX-OFFICIO & APPOINTED MEMBERS

Rella Bernabucci
 John Crane (trustee)
 Larry Deraleau
 Fr Tony DiMarco
 Ernie Golnik
 Mike Kurban (finance)
 Sandy Rice
 Maureen Staggenborg (trustee)
 Fr. Stan Szczapa

“The Pastoral Council is mandated by Bishop Cote. Its role is advisory in helping the Pastor to meet the pastoral and spiritual needs of the parish. The Pastoral Council may make suggestions to the Finance Council through Michael Kurban who is the liaison to the Finance Council.”

– Pastoral Council Minutes, October 22, 2008

LETTER FROM BISHOP COTE

You'll find the Pastoral Letter from Bishop Cote to all parishes in the Saint Maurice section of this bulletin. Be sure to read it!

HERE FOR YOU – 24 HOURS A DAY

Keep up-to-date when you are away by reading this bulletin online at www.sacredheartchurch.net. All the bulletins from the past four years are available there. Post-yoking bulletins from Saint Maurice are there, too! Sacred Heart makes it easy for you to stay connected.

HAITI NEEDS...

Our Haiti Ministry **needs these school supplies** to finish the school kits to send to Haiti in March for the next school year:

Rulers
 Erasers
 Pencil Sharpeners
Gallon-sized Zip-Lock Bags

The school supplies are needed for the Faith Formation classes. **The school supplies are least expensive at the “Dollar Stores.”**

Dear Sacred Heart Family,

It is obvious to me that this is a parish where the people show love, care and concern for one another. This is consistent with being a family, the Body of Christ. There are times, for a number of reasons, where we may not see a parishioner at Mass for weeks or months at a time, the yoking of our parish with Saint Maurice and the new Mass schedule has made this more evident. We may lose touch with them. They lose touch with us. They may feel forgotten.

As parishioners we are all responsible for our brothers and sisters. If you haven't seen someone at Mass for a while, I invite you to call them or pay them a visit

To show them our love
 To see if they are well
 To tell them they are missed
 To show them we care
 To tell them we need them
 To see if we can help

Some people already do this. But if we are going to hold this parish together and make it grow, we all need to do it. However, if you are not comfortable making a call or visit, let me know and I will make the connection.

We are less than a month from Advent, the beginning of a new church year. A good time to tell people that we care. A good time to gather our family back home for Christmas at Sacred Heart.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Larry Deraleau

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

A "THANK YOU" FROM CORNERSTONE

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you for your continued support and generous donation of \$375.00. These donations were made at Thanksgiving and made in memory of Deacon Chuck White. Your consideration is very much appreciated.

For your information:

On Friday December 12th we held our 25th Annual children's Christmas party at St. Bernard's Church Hall. One hundred & fifty children & their parents attended.

Twenty young students from South Windsor High School who are connected with the Rotary Club helped us by decorating, manning the games, handing out refreshments and distributing toys. Moms, Dads and their children danced and played games together. It was a good thing to see. According to one of the chaperones it was an eye opening experience for some of the students who were helping us. (Perhaps a life changing experience). They saw how much more they had then the people they were interacting with. They said they would like to come back again to help.

We are in the process of planning our Christmas Day meal and have had a prayer answered. We have received a generous donation of roast beef for our Christmas day meal.

As I reflect on the past and up-coming events I think, "how blessed we are to be able to reach out in this way" We also know that without the support of people such as you this could not happen. **As we celebrate Christmas and the New Year, know that because of your consideration you will have helped many people.**

Thank you for sharing & caring. You have made a difference.

Have a Merry Christmas & A Blessed New Year,

Helen Syriac

Executive Director
The Cornerstone

Please keep us in your prayer.

ATTENTION: FAITH FORMATION CLASSES

The Wednesday Faith Formation classes will resume on Wednesday, January 7 at the regularly scheduled time.

The Sunday Faith Formation classes will not meet on January 4 because of the New Year break. The Sunday Faith Formation classes will resume next Sunday, January 11 at the regularly scheduled times.

you said you wanted answers to these questions

IF WE BUILD IT, WILL THEY COME?

- A Series of Evening Retreats
at Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center.

Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center in West Hartford is sponsoring *If We Build It, Will They Come?* - a three-part series on parish life that will take place at the retreat center this winter. Some Catholics have suggested that parish life needs to be reinvented or at least reexamined. Many pastors and parish leaders are asking themselves, how can we organize our parish communities so they better foster a sense of fellowship and community; how can the parish be a place where people are empowered to share their gifts; how can the parish respond to the needs of the greater community and world?

Part 1 – January 14, 6pm: *The Catholic Parish: Can We Live Without It?* Msgr. Larry Carroll will explore the role of the Catholic parish in today's society and how parishes can become more vibrant. The dialogue will examine the obstacles to and opportunities for creating parishes with a dynamic sense of community, a prayerful liturgy, and an active outreach. Msgr. Carroll is pastor of St. Pius X in Fairfield and Assistant Director of Clergy Personnel in the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Part 2, *Is There Really a Priesthood Shortage? If Not, Then What?* presented by Sr. Elissa Rinere, C.P. will be January 28 and part 3, *Is This the Church We Want for Our Children?* presented by Shawnee Baldwin will be February 11.

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group will not meet on January 4th because of the New Year breaks. We will meet again on January 11th.

YOUTH GROUP RAFFLE WINNERS

The following parishioners were the winners of the recent Youth Group Raffle that was held on Sunday, December 21st:

*Floral Arrangement by Michelle's Florals –
the Pisano family*

*Evergreen Floral Arrangement by Christie Quaranta –
Edith Hilton*

*Dunkin' Donuts Basket –
Dorothy Regan*

The Youth Group congratulates these winners **and thanks those who donated the prizes.** A special "Thank You!" goes out to all who purchased tickets for the raffle. **Your support is greatly appreciated.**

PLEASE NOTE

Rella will not be in the office on Wednesday, January 7 in order to attend a meeting of the Northwest Faith Formation Leaders in Hebron. The Faith Formation Office will open at 12:30pm on this day.

JANUARY 4, 2009

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

- SATURDAY** THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (FS)
5:45pm **Mass: *Frank Craca*, requested by Pat & Grace Settembrino**
- SUNDAY** THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (FS)
10:45am **Mass: *Beverly Schneider*, requested by Joe & Elaine Brown**
- and -
Connie Glennon, requested by Ceil Ray
- MONDAY** JOHN NEUMANN, BISHOP
9:00am **Liturgy of the Word with Communion**
- TUESDAY** BLESSED ANDRÉ BESSETTE, RELIGIOUS
9:00am **Mass: *For the People of the Parish***
- WEDNESDAY** RAYMOND OF PEÑAFORT, PRIEST/ORTHODOX
CHRISTMAS
9:00am **Mass: *Deceased Members of the Labbadia & Davia Families*, requested by Maria Davia**
- THURSDAY**
7:00pm **Mass: *For Those in Whose Memory Christmas Flowers Were Donated***
7:45pm **Intercessory Prayer**
- FRIDAY**
10:30am **Mass at Vernon Manor**
- SATURDAY** THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (FT)
5:45pm **Mass: *Fred Sears*, requested by Stella Sears-Tessier**
- SUNDAY** THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (FT)
10:45am **Mass: *Stella Golnik*, requested by the Sacred Heart Liturgical Ministers**
- and -
Gardner Ruggles, requested by the Sacred Heart Parish Family

MEETINGS

- SATURDAY**
6:45pm **Haiti Ministry Lasagna & Pasta Dinner**
7:30pm **Narcotics Anonymous***, South Rooms
- SUNDAY** **Fellowship before and after Mass**
2:00-4:30pm **Open House at 157 Tallwood Drive**
- MONDAY** Offices Closed
7:00pm **Knights of Columbus**, South Community Rooms
7:00pm **Haiti Ministry**, Deacon Chuck White Memorial Haiti Ministry Room
- WEDNESDAY**
8:00pm **Alcoholics Anonymous***, South Community Rooms
- THURSDAY**
10:00am **Bible Study**, South Community Rooms
8:00pm **Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book***, South Rooms
- SATURDAY**
7:30pm **Narcotics Anonymous***, South Rooms
- SUNDAY** **Fellowship before and after Mass**

WEBSITE ADDRESS FOR ST. MAURICE
WWW.STMAURICEKOFCC.ORG

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY / JANUARY 3 – 4, 2009

4:00 p.m Vigil Mass: Franklin Delany, request of Mary Simmons and Richard Hein, request of the Hein family.

8:45 a.m.: Kathleen Leiner, request of Kiessling family

NEXT SUNDAY JANUARY 10 – 11, 2009

4:00 p.m., Vigil Mass: Jerome Chemerka and Doris Grisel

8:45 a.m: John Ciscon and deceased members of KofC Council 6199

GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING – TITHING

Last week's collection was \$

Last year's collection was \$ 4,686.00

Projected amount needed \$ 4,204.00

(for projected obligation, expenses, repairs and tithing the tithe).

The Epiphany of the Lord. *"Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh."* The question we must ask ourselves is "What are we offering to the Lord? Are we offering the frankincense and myrrh of our time and talents? And what of the gold of our treasures?" It's something for us to think and pray about. We pray we can bring our gifts as openly and lovingly as the Three Kings of the East did. And we need to remember that God will not be outdone in generosity and love.

WINTER WEEK DAY SNOW POLICY

On weekdays when the BOLTON schools are closed due to snow/sleet etc. there will be no morning Masses at St. Maurice's.



Choir rehearsal Tuesday evening at 7:15 P.M.
The more voices we have, the better we sound.
Please join us in song.....



THIS WEEK

SUNDAY – JANUARY 3 – 4, 2009 THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD / Fr. Tony, celebrant / Ushers Group I /

Meeting of Confirmation Candidates prior to the Generations of Faith Meeting after the 8:45 Mass. Generations of Faith Meeting starts at 10:00 A.M. with light breakfast after 8:45 A.M. Mass.

MONDAY – 1/5, Mass at 9:00 a.m. for a special intention.

TUESDAY – 1/6, Mass at 9:00 a.m. for Henry Agudelo, Choir rehearsal at 7:15 p.m.

WEDNESDAY -1/7, Mass at 9:00 a.m. for Walter & Helen Fagan, request of Noel & Cindy

ADORATION RESUMES TODAY 3 p.m. – 7 p.m.

THURSDAY - 1/8, Mass at 9:00 a.m. for Donald

Sullivan, request of Mary Ann Murphy

K of C business meeting at the Parish Center, 7:15 p.m.

FRIDAY - 1/9, Mass at 9:00 a.m. for a special intention

SATURDAY – 1/10, Confessions 3P.M. – 3:45 P.M.;

NEXT WEEK

JANUARY 10/11 BAPTISM OF THE LORD

4:00 VIGIL MASS

ALTAR SERVERS: Maria Cinea

LECTOR: Lisa Anderson

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: Patti Cinea, Peggy Peruccio, Linda Wiley

8:45 A.M. MASS

ALTAR SERVERS: Brendan & Katelyn Donahue, Kirsten Cianci

LECTOR: Thomas Marrison

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: Lou Cloutier, Maureen Mozzer, Betty Aitkin

BAPTISM OF Luke Robert Preuss at the 8:45 Mass.



Pancake Breakfast Sunday

A LETTER FROM OUR BISHOP

MESSAGE FOR THE EPIPHANY
OF
THE LORD

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Sunday, January 11, 2009 marks for us again the beginning of National Vocation Awareness Week throughout the country. The celebration begins on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

This year I ask all of you to make a personal commitment to assisting me and our Vocation Office in the work of "Building a Culture of Vocation Awareness" throughout our families, schools, parishes and communities. You, the People of God, have been called by Him to make the Church and more particularly, Christ, present in the work-a-day world, and yet there are those in the family of God who are being called specifically to serve God's family, the Church, through the particular vocations of either diocesan priesthood or religious life.

Prayer, awareness, and the willingness to support those we can identify together as being called by God to serve in the vocations of priesthood or religious life is particularly important to the continued spiritual health and well being of the Church, both in our country and more particularly in our diocese.

Presently, we have six men studying for the priesthood in our diocese: Deacon Christopher Schuh who, God willing, may be called to ordination this spring; Mr. Christopher Feeney, Mr. Henry Aguielo, Mr. Jonathan Ficara, Mr. Brian Maxwell, and Mr. Ian Bothur. We also have men who are presently in the application process and many other who all are at varying points in their discernment process. Please keep all of them in your prayers.

Please also keep me, your unworthy servant, in your prayers that God, through His Holy Spirit, may continue to direct me as I seek to guide his holy people.

May Christ, the Eternal High Priest, through the intercession of Saints Patrick and Ann and Saint John Vianney, bless you and open the hearts of those He is calling to share in these particular vocations.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
+ Michael R. Cote
Bishop of Norwich

Why did the Magi set off from afar to go to Bethlehem? The answer has to do with the mystery of the "star" which they saw "in the East" and which they recognized as the star of the "King of the Jews," that is to say, the sign of the birth of the Messiah (Mt. 2:2). So their journey was inspired by a powerful hope, strengthened and guided by the star, which led them toward the King of the Jews, toward the kingship of God himself. The Magi set out because of the deep desire which prompted them to leave everything and begin a journey. It was as though they had always been waiting for that star. It was as if the journey had always been a part of their destiny, and was finally about to begin. This is the mystery of God's call, the mystery of vocation. It is part of the life of every Christian.... When the Magi came to Bethlehem, "going into the house they saw the child with Mary his Mother, and they fell down and worshipped him" (Mt. 2:11) Here at last was the long-awaited moment – their encounter with Jesus. "Going into the house": this house in some sense represents the Church. In order to find the Savior, one has to enter the house, which is the Church..."They fell down and worshiped him...and offered him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh" (Mt. 2: 11-12). Here is the culmination of the whole journey: encounter becomes adoration; it blossoms into an act of faith and love which acknowledges in Jesus, born of Mary, the Son of God made man...The secret of holiness is friendship with Christ and faithful obedience to his will.

(excerpt from writings of Pope Benedict XIV as published in Zenit, ZE05081905)

May God bless each and every one of us
With Peace, Love and Prosperity
In this New Year of our Lord.