

## Advent Day of Prayer and Reflection

**This Tuesday, December 9, 2008**, Sacred Heart Parish will be hosting an 'Advent Day of Prayer and Reflection' from 8:45am to 1:30pm. Our presenter will be **Sister Virginia Sheehan, SND**, a dynamic and gifted speaker who has given many retreats and days of reflection throughout New England.

The day will begin with registration at 8:45am, followed by Mass at 9am celebrated by our pastor, Father Stan. Included in the program will be reflection, fellowship and lunch served by the ladies of the parish. This is a wonderful way to prepare for the coming of the Lord. Bring along a friend and take some time for yourself this Advent. All are welcome! There is no charge. Donations will be accepted.

**To register or for further information, call Larry & Carol Deraleau at 749-4139 or the parish office at 875-4563. you'll be glad you did.**

### *The Exonerated*

**The Church of the Holy Family in Hebron (185 Church St.)** will be hosting a presentation of a nationally renowned film entitled *The Exonerated* today, **Sunday, December 7, 2008**. It is presented by Connecticut State Prison Chaplains, Sr. Patty Cook, RSM and Deacon Tom Casey.

*The Exonerated* tells the true stories of six people sent to Death Row for crimes they did not commit. You will hear six riveting stories about innocence, injustice and redemption.

The presentation begins at **4pm** with the movie and discussion followed by a pot luck supper from 5:30-6:30pm. (Last name beginning with A-L – Main Dishes; last name beginning with M-Z – Salads/Desserts/Bread). Coffee/Tea/Soft Drinks provided. Closing prayer is at 6:30pm.

### thank you

The Youth Group thanks everyone who purchased Thanksgiving pies. We were able to raise \$456 which will be used to help us defray the cost of transportation to our annual retreat in March.

### please note

Rella will not be in the Faith Formation Office on Friday morning, December 12, in order to attend a Diocesan Evaluation Committee meeting. The Faith Formation Office will open at 1:00pm on this day.

### considering god's invitation?

Join Bishop Cote, Fr. Greg and others also thinking about the priesthood for dinner on Thursday December 18<sup>th</sup> from 5:00pm – 7:00pm. For more details e-mail (vocations@norwichdiocese.net) or call Christine (860-887-9294).

### youth group raffle

The Youth Group will be having a raffle on Sunday, December 21 during the Pancake Breakfast. *Tickets will be available after all Masses on December 13 & 14, and 20 & 21.* Two Christmas floral arrangements will be raffled as well as a gift basket from Dunkin' Donuts. Watch the bulletin for updates!

### save the date

The Youth Group will host a **Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, December 21 after the 10:45am Mass**. Members of the Youth Group will be cooking pancakes and scrambled eggs and serving breakfast to you. There is no charge for breakfast although a free will offering will be accepted.

### coming on december 28 – the 3 ½ stories of christmas!

Save this date and join us on **Sunday, December 28** when the Christmas angel himself (performed by actor, Frank Runyeon) will tell us **The 3 ½ Stories of Christmas**

### Why 3 ½ Stories?

The story of Christmas is simply: "the story of how LIGHT came into the world," according to Frank Runyeon's comically imperfect angel-in-training – who arrives with a crash from Brooklyn.

The story begins with light being created in the beginning: "PPPP! The Boss spoke, and there was light. Just like that!" It continues in the story of the light given to Grandpa Abraham, King David, and his descendants: "It was a new kind of light – not light 'out there' but light 'in here,' by listening when the Boss spoke." And the story climaxes in the coming of the Word of Light into the world: "it all began when Gabriel – my hero! – came to Mary..."

As the story unfolds, more and more members of the audience suddenly discover themselves center stage, helping to bring the story of Christmas alive, in ways they never thought possible.

And the final ½ story? Oh, it starts with St. Nicholas and it ends with . . . **but that's a secret.**

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### readings for the week

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 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

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,

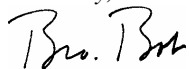
Larry Deraleau

### thank you

Dear Parishioners,

*My family and I are deeply grateful to the parishioners, members of the staff and especially the Caregivers of Sacred Heart for your gracious personal support at the time of my mother's death. Your generous help in preparing for the Mass of Christian Burial and the luncheon that followed is so very much appreciated. Sacred Heart is truly the parish with a heart.*

Sincerely,



Robert K. Moriarty, S.M.

### covenant to care

**Remember: ALL GIFTS ARE DUE BACK BY DECEMBER 13TH/14TH.** If you drop off gifts earlier, make sure they are given to someone like Rella, Sandy, Ernie, or Father Stan so they can be placed somewhere for safe keeping.

Do not wrap the gifts, please use a non-religious gift bag. No gift bag is needed for a gift card.

IF YOU TOOK A TAG, PLEASE RETURN IT WITH THE GIFT. IF YOU RECEIVED AN ASSIGNMENT OVER THE PHONE, PLEASE MAKE A TAG FOR YOUR GIFT. I NEED TO KNOW WHAT CHILD YOUR GIFT IS FOR..... THANK YOU!!!!

God Bless!

Claire Crane

### an evening with thomas merton

On Dec. 10, 2008 Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center in West Hartford will sponsor a day or evening retreat on **Merton's Message for the 21st Century, Exploring Great Themes of Thomas Merton**. The retreat will take place from 10am to 2pm and will repeat from 6pm to 9pm. The requested offering of \$30 includes lunch or dinner. Thomas Merton is one of the most influential Catholic thinkers of the 20th century. Presenter Brandon Nappi, M.Div., is Associate Retreat Director at Holy Family and a graduate of Notre Dame and Yale Universities. He will explore Merton's insights on Christian life and how his thought can chart a course for Christian spirituality in the new millennium. Register online at [www.holyfamilyretreat.org](http://www.holyfamilyretreat.org) or send the offering to HFPRC, 303 Tunxis Rd., West Hartford, CT 06107. For more information, visit [www.holyfamilyretreat.org](http://www.holyfamilyretreat.org) or call 860-521-0440 ext. 118.

**DECEMBER 7, 2008**

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## **the work of the church**

**SATURDAY** SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - FS  
5:45pm **Mass: *Maria Silvestro, 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary*,**  
requested by the Sacred Heart Parish Family

**SUNDAY** SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - FS  
10:45am **Mass: *Anthony Fornabi*,** requested by Marie Whitham  
- and -  
**Robert Brown,** requested by the Sacred Heart Caregivers

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY – HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION</b>
9:00am	<b>Mass: <i>For the People of the Parish</i></b>
7:00pm	<b>Mass: <i>Wesley Whitham</i>,</b> requested by Marie Whitham

**TUESDAY** JUAN DIEGO, HERMIT  
9:00am **Mass: *Vincenzo Craca*,** requested by Pat & Grace Settembrino

**WEDNESDAY**  
11:00am **Mass at Welles Village**

**THURSDAY** DAMASUS I, POPE  
4:30-6pm **Sacrament of Reconciliation,** living room  
7:00pm **Mass: *Zooleck*,** requested by  
7:45pm **Intercessory Prayer**

**FRIDAY** OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE  
10:30am **Mass at Vernon Manor**

**SATURDAY** THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - FT  
5:45pm **Mass: *Jakielo Family*,** requested by Helen Jakielo

**SUNDAY** THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - FT  
10:45am **Mass: *Kathleen Horvath*,** requested by the Kurban Family  
- and -  
**Robert Brown,** requested by Sandy Rice

## **meetings**

**SATURDAY**  
7:30pm **Narcotics Anonymous\*,** South Rooms

**SUNDAY**  
9:15-10:30am **Fellowship before and after Mass**  
6:30-7:45pm **Faith Formation Grades 1-5**  
7:45-9pm **Faith Formation Grades 6-Conf Prep**  
**Youth Group**

**MONDAY** Offices Closed

**TUESDAY** Offices Closed

**8:45am-1:30pm** **Advent Day of Prayer**

**WEDNESDAY**  
4:00pm **Faith Formation Grades 1-3 & 5**  
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**  
9:15-10:30am **Fellowship before and after Mass**  
6:30-7:45pm **Faith Formation Grades 1-5**  
7:45-9pm **Faith Formation Grades 6-Conf Prep**  
**Youth Group**

**WEBSITE ADDRESS FOR ST. MAURICE**  
[WWW.STMAURICEKOFC.ORG](http://WWW.STMAURICEKOFC.ORG)

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**SUNDAY / DEC. 6 - 7, 2008**

4:00 p.m Marion Santomenno, request of Richard, Gail & Terri Gidius; and, in honor of St. Jude for many blessings received, request of a parishioner.

8:45 a.m. David Caruso, Jr., request of Mom and Dad; and for Kim Auger & Orlando Santana, request of Auger family.

**NEXT SUNDAY** Dec. 13 – 14, 2008

4:00 p.m. Lemaire, Gervais & Lavigne families and for Mr. Willey O. Lemaire

8:45 a.m Frank Hilbie; Michael Gallacher

**SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS**

Because of the change in the number of Masses to be celebrated each weekend at St. Maurice Church and Sacred Heart Church, Fr. Stan requested permission from the Chancery to celebrate Masses with multiple intentions. Permission was granted with the following conditions:

- a. *The faithful must knowingly and voluntarily agree to have their intentions combined in a single celebration;*
- b. *The date, time, and place of this celebration is be publicly announced.*
- c. *Such celebrations may occur, at most, only twice each week in any church.*

**GOD’S PLAN FOR GIVING” – TITHING**

Last week’s collection was \$ 3,051.00

Last year’s collection was \$ 4,069.00

Projected amount needed \$ 4,204.00

(for projected obligation, expenses, repairs and tithing the tithe). *“John was clothed in camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist.”* St. John the Baptist’s Advent message is, *“Prepare, Prepare, Prepare.”* This is very different from the media’s Christmas message of *“Buy, buy, buy.”* At this time of the year the good steward is most definitely challenged to embrace the simplicity of St. John the Baptist more than the commercialism of the season.

**CHRISTMAS FAIR NEWS.....**

**On Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>, we will have our Mini Fair before and after both Masses: 3:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M. and also 8:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M. Hope to see you there.....**

**THIS WEEK**

**SUNDAY** – Dec. 6 – 7 / The Second Sunday of Advent/ Fr. Tony celebrant./ Usher Group I. **2<sup>nd</sup> COLLECTION WILL BE TAKEN UP TODAY FOR THE DIOCESAN FUEL FUND**, please be generous. Confirmation Candidates meeting prior to Generations of Faith / Generations of Faith Meeting 10:00 a.m., breakfast after Mass. / Children’s Christmas Choir rehearsal after 8:45 Mass.

**MONDAY, 12/8 FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY/ MASSES AT 9 A.M. AND 7 P.M.**

**HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**

**TUESDAY, 12/9** Mass at 9:00 A.M. for Kathy Leiner Choir Rehearsal 7:15 P.M.; Council Meeting at the Parish Center, 7:15 P.M.

**WEDNESDAY 12/10** Mass at 9:00 A.M. for Donald Sullivan, request of the Palliardi family / Adoration at 3:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.

**THURSDAY 12/11** Mass at 9:00 A.M. for Kathy Leiner / K of C Business meeting at Parish Center

**FRIDAY, 12/12** Mass at 9:00 A.M. for special intention.

**SATURDAY 12/13** Confessions 3P.M. – 3:45 P.M. Christmas Youth Band rehearsals at 9:00 A.M; Children’s Christmas Choir rehearsal after 4:00 P.M. Mass; Mini Fair before and after 4:00 P.M. Mass.

**FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**  
**DEC. 8, 2008**

9:00 A.M. Mass  
Lector: Joel Cohan  
Eucharistic Ministers: Maureen Mozzer, Lou Cloutier, Arlene Giglio  
7:00 P.M. Mass  
Altar Servers;Brendan & Katelyn Donahue, Kirsten Cianci  
Lector: Richard Carpenter  
Eucharistic Ministers: Margaret Maneggia, Cynthia Fagan, Annedda Stiller

**Sunday, DEC. 13 - 14 , THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Saturday Vigil Mass 4:00 P.M.**

**ALTAR SERVERS:** Maria Cinea, Emily Fiano  
**LECTORS:** Charles Luchinni  
**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:** Patti Cinea, Georgette Pelletier, John Anderson

**Sunday 8:45 A.M.:**

**ALTAR SERVERS:** Angelica Czercowy, Miranda Van Allen  
**LECTOR:** Jennifer Carvalho  
**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:** Craig & Paula Fioravanti, Donna Bradford

**THE ANNUAL SHARE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

THE TREE IS UP, THE BELLS ARE BACK,  
CHRISTMAS IS COMING QUICKLY,  
ALL THAT IS NEEDED IS YOUR HELP.  
WHITE BELLS ARE FOR BOLTON FAMILIES,  
RED BELLS ARE MACC WISHES  
GREEN BELLS ARE HELP FOR WAIM

If you choose a green bell: a check made out to St. Maurice, placed in an envelope and attached to a green bell and returned will be consolidated with others, and one check will be sent to WAIM. WAIM will then make out vouchers to participating stores in the amounts they deem appropriate.

**All gifts must be returned by December 14,**  
unwrapped, with bell attached.

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON DEC. 9,**  
**AT THE PARISH CENTER, 7:15 P.M.**

**2008 ABA CAMPAIGN RESULTS**  
**ST. MAURICE PARISH**

# Families 381  
#Gifts/Pledges 90  
Parish Goal \$16,000.00  
\$ Amount Gifts/Pledges \$12,471.83  
Over/under Goal (3,528.17)  
% of Goal Achieved 77.95%

**We are still short of our goal by \$3,528.17. If you have not made a pledge, please do so as soon as possible. It would be most appreciated.**

**Thanks....Fr. Stan**

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT****TOYS FOR KIDS**

For families attending Masses on Christmas Eve and Day, please encourage your child/children to bring a **New unwrapped** toy to place under our parish Christmas tree in the sanctuary. These toys will be transported to a parish in Hartford, where the Hispanic community will celebrate Three Kings Day on January 6<sup>th</sup>. Any questions call Jim Boylan at 8672-9077.

**Prepare The Way of the Lord**

*On Tuesday, December 9, 2008-11-20  
Sacred Heart Parish in Vernon  
Will be hosting an  
"Advent Day of Prayer and Reflection"  
from 8:45 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.*

*Our presenter will be Sister Virginia Sheehan, SND, a dynamic and gifted speaker who has given many retreats and days of reflection throughout New England.*

*The day will begin with registration at 8:45 a.m. followed by Mass at 9:00 a.m. celebrated by our pastor, Father Stan.*

*Included in the program will be reflection fellowship, and lunch served by ladies of the parish.*

*There is no charge, Donations will be accepted.*

*To register or for further information, call Larry & Carol Deraleau at 749-4139 or the parish office at 8675-4563.*

*You'll be glad you did.*

**ADVENT MEANS PRESENCE**

"Advent" is a Latin word that can be translated as "presence" or "coming." In the ancient world, it was a technical term, denoting the arrival of a person in office such as a king or an emperor. It could also indicate the coming of the deity, in which case the god's advent was his emerging from concealment and making his presence known in power or else having it solemnly celebrated in an act of worship. Christians took over this word in order to express their particular relationship with Jesus Christ. For them, he was and is the king who has entered this wretched province, the earth, and enables it to celebrate his visit. What Christians mean in general by this word "Advent," then, is: God is there. He has not withdrawn from the world. He has not left us alone. Even though we cannot see him or touch him as we can the things that surround us, he is still there and, what is more, he comes to us in many different ways. We have mentioned the word "visit" in this context. This word can be used in its happy, original, and almost literal sense of "going to see" a person, persons, or a place. It is, however, also used in the less pleasant sense of afflicting or punishing, when it is associated with such concepts as trouble, famine, plague, or illness. This word should therefore enable us to see that something of beauty of Advent can be found even in difficulty. Illness and suffering can therefore, like a great joy, also be a personal Advent – a visit by God who wants to enter my life and turn toward me.

*(Excerpt from "Seeking God's Face" by Pope Benedict XVI)*