

Saint Charles Borromeo

December 20, 2015

Fourth Sunday
of Advent



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Woonsocket, RI 02895

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Pastor: Rev. Gerald F. Finnegan, S. J.

Parish Secretary: Lucille Hannon

Bookkeeper: Jennifer Collins

bookkeeper@stcharlesborromeo.com

Religious Education Director: Donna Zannelli
(401) 766-2890

Music Ministry: Wayne and Becky Kilcline

Brian's Pantry: (401) 766-3088

Office of Community Services & Advocacy
Woon. Satellite: Antonio Andreu Galvan
(401) 762-2849

Cemetery Care: Jack Marzini, Superintendent
(508) 883-6838

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 PM

Sunday: 9:00 AM

Brazilian Mass 12:00 noon

Rev. Adriano Lessa

Weekday Masses

(in the lower-level Chapel)

Tuesday - Friday: 9:00 AM

Confessions: Saturdays 3: - 3:30 PM
or by appointment

Adult Religious Education

Wednesday: 9:30 - 10:15 AM

Holy Days

9:00 AM and 7:00 PM

If you are new to the parish, WELCOME!

Please introduce yourself. We want to know you and to serve you. We hope you will favor your parish with your prayers, your presence, your talents and your financial assistance - according to your means.

This Week's Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 19	4PM - Dominic Gizzarelli by the family
Sunday, December 20	9AM - Mary Mello, Irene & Albo Cesaroni, by Bobbyt Bosco
Tuesday, December 22	9AM - Anthony Caracuzzo by daughter Anne
December 23	9AM - Georgiana David by Bobby Bosco
Thursday, December 24	4PM - Loretta Lamarche & Therese Beausoleil by the family
Friday, December 25	9AM - Parishioners of St. Charles
Saturday December 26	4PM - Armando Glittone by P. & R. Angelini
Sunday, December 27	9AM - Leo & Martha McIntyre Barbara & Roger Peloquin



This past Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent, Bishop Tobin celebrated the beginning of "A Year of Mercy" proclaimed by Pope Francis. Bishop Tobin was the first to enter through the new door constructed to mark the beginning of this Holy Year. He was followed immediately by a family recently come from another country. Thus this family's presence was a concrete expression of our diocese's attempt to live the mercy which this year proclaims. May we follow Bishop Tobin's example!

This Sunday we ask your help after Mass to decorate the church for Christmas. It won't take long, but we do need help. This Sunday we will also have the joy of participating in our annual Christmas Concert. Both the children of our CCD program and our adult choir will take part. Please come to support them.

In the Sunday Call a John Larrabee wrote about Woonsocket as a city that won't let the poor go hungry, mentioning the many churches and organizations which distribute food. Our Brothers of the Sacred Heart were mentioned for their daily distribution of sandwiches at 4 P.M. So too was our pantry here at St. Charles. The author described Lorraine Doherty, who works each Thursday at the pantry, as someone who could make cats march in formation. We who work with her congratulate her on her abilities, even if we know that we are sometimes a little harder to deal with than cats would be. But she puts up with us. The author also gives religious people a salute for their good work, pointing to the fact that it is they who staff all these efforts.

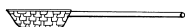
Fr. Finnegan, S.J.



Last Weekend's Offertory

Offertory Envelopes	\$ 2,570.00
Loose Money	\$ 245.00
Retirement Fund for Religious	\$ 1,025.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 3,840.00

Thank you



Scripture for the week of December 20, 2015

Sunday:	Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45
Monday:	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45
Tuesday:	1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-8/Lk 1:46-56
Wednesday:	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5, 8-10, 14/Lk 1:57-66
Thursday:	Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27,29/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25
Friday Day:	Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1-6/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18
Saturday:	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3-4, 6, 8, 16-17 / Mt 10:17-22

"In switching on the light of the Nativity scene, we wish for the light of Christ to be in us. A Christmas without light is not Christmas. Let there be light in the soul, in the heart; let there be forgiveness to others; let there be no hostilities, which are dark. Let there be the beautiful light of Jesus. This is my wish for all of you, when you turn on the light of the crib." ~Pope Francis

Announcements



EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT is held every Friday in the lower church from 1 to 2 PM.

Our annual **St. Charles Borromeo Christmas Concert**, featuring both the children and the adult choir, will be this Sunday December 20th at 3 PM in the upper church. FREE concert... donations of a non-perishable food item accepted.



When writing your Christmas cards this year, please consider sending a card to a recovering veteran.

Address to: A Recovering American Soldier
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue, NW Washington, D.C. 20307-5001

Thurs., Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve
4PM

Fri., Dec. 25 - Christmas Day 9AM

Sat. & Sun. Dec. 26 & 27- Feast of Holy Family 4PM & 9AM

Thurs. Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve
4PM

Fri. Jan 1 - Solemnity of Mary 9AM

Sat. & Sun., Jan. 2 & 3 - Epiphany
4PM & 9AM



The Diocese urges anyone who has been the victim of sexual abuse or has credible knowledge of such abuse, by any member of the Catholic Church in Rhode Island, to report the information to Kevin O'Brien, Director of the diocesan Office of Compliance at (401) 941-0760.

To seek assistance for victims or family members affected by such abuse, please contact Paula Loud, Director of the diocesan Office Outreach & Prevention at (401) 946-0728.

The Greater Woonsocket Catholic Regional School System will be hosting a **Super Bingo** on Sunday, January 10th at Precious Blood Church Hall. A total of \$6,650 in prizes will be given away! Tickets are \$30 for 18 cards plus specials. (Additional cards will be available for purchase.) Only 275 tickets will be sold. For more details on the event or how to purchase tickets, contact GWCRS Regional Office at (401) 762-1095.

If you wish to receive a daily email or text message dur-

ing the Year of Mercy you can sign up at:

Flocknote.com/mercy

The following **mini-retreats** will be held at Sacred Hearts Retreat House in Wareham, MA this winter and spring on the second Wednesdays of the month. All are welcome - men and women, Catholics and non-Catholics.

Time: 10:00am to 12:30pm

Cost: \$20

Registration: In order to prepare seating and materials, please pre-register at least two days in advance by contacting Peggy at 508-548-9149 or timeoutretreats@comcast.net. The fee can be paid on arrival. *A February 10th special flyer with details and a registration form is available. Because of lunch, earlier registration will be required for this retreat.

January 13: *Embracing Mystery*

There is much about life we do not understand. Why do bad things happen to good people? Just how does a seed grow? What happens after we die? Life is filled with mystery, "and by its very nature, mystery cannot be solved; it can only be lived," says physician Rachel Naomi Remen. The darkness of winter is a good metaphor for the soul seeking answers to the unknown. To grow spiritually, we must learn to reverence, embrace and ultimately surrender to Mystery.

February 10, Ash Wednesday: *Growing in Compassion ~ A special all-day retreat ~ 9:00am to 3:45pm

Life provides innumerable opportunities to apply either judgment or compassion. It is often easier to criticize and judge than to try to understand and forgive. Lent challenges us to become more like the all-loving Christ. This retreat day includes Mass, a morning of reflection, lunch, the award winning documentary "Dreamcatcher," (the story of Brenda Myers-Powell, a former teenage prostitute who now is a powerful advocate for change in her community), discussion and prayer. A portion of the day's retreat income will be donated to Sophia's Circle, women in recovery from prostitution and drugs. Brenda is a peer leader in the program, which is co-facilitated by Edwina Gateley and Peggy Patenaude.

WHERE TRUTH LIES

In the readings for Sunday, there is the sketch of a wonderful world.

In that world, there are angels who take care of human beings. There is a ruler who shepherds people and protects them. By his power and his goodness he brings peace to all the earth.

There is peace for the troubled psyche of every person, too. God turns each unsettled, uneasy, unhappy heart to himself; and, turned to God, every heart can be at peace.

There is salvation from sin and even holiness. God has redeemed his people and consecrated them to himself. They are the saints of God.

And there is glory. Who was Elizabeth? A ordinary Jewish woman of her time, distinguished by her barrenness and not much more. And yet look at her in the Gospel, filled with the Holy Spirit and exercising the office of prophet to Mary, mother of the Lord. She is glorious in this story, isn't she? In the world sketched in the Readings, there is the glory and beauty of holiness available for all God's people.

But consider the everyday world we live in. Take it from the top: angels, majestic rulers, goodness protecting the people, peace in the world, holiness in our hearts, glory in our lives. Look around the mall, listen to the news media. What world are the writers of the Readings living in?

And yet our own experience of grace gives us hope in the world of the Readings, doesn't it? The ugliness and the evil so easy to see overlie a deeper reality, which we can sense in the quiet moments of our lives, when, like Mary, we are open to the call of the Lord. The everyday world of the mall and the news media, which looks so compelling, is a thin thing which will crumple and dissolve in time. What will remain is the world of the Readings.

In Deuteronomy, Moses tells the people, "The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms!" (Deut 33:27). Underneath, in the refuge of the everlasting arms, is where the truth of the Readings lies. And the Truth behind the Readings lies in the womb of Mary, waiting to be born.

Eleonore Stump, Philosophy Professor, St. Louis University

Sacrament of Baptism

Please call the rectory after your baby's birth to prepare for this initial Sacrament of spiritual life.

Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick (and Communion Calls)

Please notify us if anyone is ill, in the hospital or homebound and may wish to receive Holy Communion at home.



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