

# SACRED HEART

N E W T O N



January 1, 2017

# PARISH RESOURCES

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 2:30 to 3:30pm or anytime by appointment

**BAPTISM** Arrangement for this Sacrament of Initiation may be made by contacting the Rectory.

**MARRIAGE** Arrangements for Marriage should be made with the parish priest at least eight months in advance to allow for adequate preparation.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

Grades 1 through 5 - Tuesdays 4:00 to 5:15pm

Grades 6 through 10 - Tuesdays 7:00 to 8:30pm

**VISITATION TO THE SICK** We are eager to help anyone who cannot celebrate Mass with us in Church. If you wish to receive the sacraments of Confession, Communion, or the Anointing of the Sick, please call the Rectory. Please notify us of any hospitalization so that we may help.

## MASSES

Weekends (Upper Church)

Saturday: 4:00pm

Sunday: 9:00am, 11:00am in ASL (also Voiced)

12 Noon (Lower Church)

Weekdays (Lower Church)

Monday—Saturday: 9:00am

Saturday following Mass: Rosary, Exposition, Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, concluding at 10:30am

Holy Days (Upper Church)

7:00am at Our Lady Help of Christians

9:00am at Sacred Heart

12:00 noon at Our Lady Help of Christians

7:30pm at Sacred Heart. This Mass is in both English and ASL

Holidays (Lower Church)

9:00am

## WEBSITES :

[www.sholnewton.org](http://www.sholnewton.org)

[www.bostondeafcatholic.org](http://www.bostondeafcatholic.org)

**WELCOME:** If you are new in the parish, please introduce yourself after Mass or at the rectory office. We want to know and serve you.

## OFFICE MAILING ADDRESS

1321 Centre Street, Newton, MA 02459

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, 9:30am to 5:00pm; Wednesday, Thursday, 8:30am to 3:30pm; **Fridays** 9:00am to 12:00pm.

## PHONE AND E-MAIL

Rectory Office 617-969-2248

Pastoral Associate 617-969-4021

Religious Education 617-969-4031

MacKenzie Center 617-332-7220

Fax 617-965-7515

Our Lady Help of Christians 617-527-7560

[sacredheart@sholnewton.org](mailto:sacredheart@sholnewton.org)

[jsassani@sholnewton.org](mailto:jsassani@sholnewton.org)

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[pmiller@sholnewton.org](mailto:pmiller@sholnewton.org)

## STAFF

Rev. John Sassani, Pastor: 617-515-1743

Rev. Robert J. Blaney, P. Vicar: 617-527-7560 x212

Rev. Adrian Milik, P. Vicar: 617-527-7560 x224

In Residence: Rev. Michael Hahn

In Residence at OLHC: Msgr. Dennis Sheehan

Mr. William B. Koffel, Deacon

Mrs. Marie Buckley, Pastoral Associate

Mr. Brian Niemiec, Pastoral Associate

Mr. Michael Bliss, Business Manager

Mr. Manny Lim, Interim Director of Music

Mrs. Michelle Solomon, Religious Education

Director

Mrs. Margaret Miller, Administrative Associate

Mrs. Marisa Cimino, Activities Coordinator,

MacKenzie Center

Mr. David Nahabedian, Facilities Manager



# OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

## MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, January 1, 2017

9:00am, Parishioners of Sacred Heart and  
Our Lady Help of Christians

Saturday, January 7

4:00pm, Donald J. Burke

Sunday, January 8

9:00am, Parishioners of Sacred Heart

11:00am, Lucy Davis

## CELEBRANTS FOR NEXT WEEK

Saturday, January 7, 4:00pm: Fr. Sassani;

Sunday, January 8, 9:00am: Fr. Blaney;

11:00am, Fr. Carey; 12:00 Noon, Fr. Milik

## SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Sunday January 1, Solemnity of Mary, the holy  
Mother of God

*Numbers 6:22-27; Ps. 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8;*

*Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21*

Monday, January 2, St. Basil the Great and  
St. Gregory Nazianzen

*1 John 2:22-28; Ps. 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4;*

*John 1:19-28*

Tuesday, January 3

*1 John 2:29—3:6; Ps. 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6;*

*John 1:29-34*

Wednesday, January 4, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

*1 John 3:7-10; Ps. 98: 1, 7-8, 9; John 1:35-42*

Thursday, January 5, St. John Neumann

*1 John 3:11-21; Ps. 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5;*

*John 1:43-51*

Friday, January 6

*1 John 5:5-13; Ps. 147: 12-13, 14-15, 19-20;*

*Mark 1:7-11 or Luke 3:23-38 or*

*Luke 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38*

Saturday, January 7

*1 John 5:14-21; Ps. 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b;*

*John 2:1-11*

Sunday, January 8, The Epiphany of the Lord

*Isaiah 60:1-6; Ps. 72: 1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13;*

*Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12*

## CALENDAR NOTES

Festive Coffee Hour: Sunday, January 1,

10:00am—1:00pm, Parish Center

Prayer Group: Wednesday, January 3, 7:30pm,

Convent Chapel

Coffee Hour: Friday, January 5, Following

9:00am Mass, Parish Center

Liturgy, Holy Hour, Rosary: Saturday, January 7,

9:00am—10:30am, Lower Church

Extended Coffee Hour: Sunday, January 8,

10:00am—1:00pm, Parish Center

## CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

Thanks to all who contributed to the Christmas collection for our priests. If you did not have the opportunity to give but you'd like to make a gift, please visit [clergytrust.org](http://clergytrust.org) or pick up an envelope in the pew or the back of the Church. To learn more about the Trust and stay up to date on what's going on with our priests, find the Trust on Facebook by searching "[@ClergyTrust](https://www.facebook.com/ClergyTrust)." Thank you for your prayers and generous support.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Rejoice! God is with us! He came as a gift, in a family just like we did, to show us the way to our true home in Heaven. May we all become one holy family as we strive to imitate Jesus, Mary and Joseph in this brand new year.

All CCD teachers are asked to attend a Teacher workshop on Sunday, January 8th, from 6:30-8:30 in the Convent. **Please confirm your attendance.**

CCD classes resume on Tuesday, January 17th. Happy and Holy New Year!

Michelle Solomon, Director of Religious Ed

## NEW INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY FOR THE NEWTON COLLABORATIVE

Effective immediately: If Newton Public Schools are closed or have a delayed opening, the weekday morning Masses at both Sacred Heart and Our Lady's will be cancelled. Check your local television or radio station for a list of cancellations. This is for the safety of those who attend Mass and it also allows us to clear the parking lot and stairways. If the scheduled Mass has an announced intention, the intention will be rescheduled at the next available daily Mass. Thank you for your understanding.



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## SACRED HEART NEWTON

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### CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

The following is an updated list of people in whose memory donations were made for our beautiful Christmas flowers. Please keep them in your prayers:

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Francis J. Daley  
Eleanor Martin

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### ST FRANCIS HOUSE

Thank you for your donations during the month of December. The items needed for January are canned vegetables. You may bring in your donations at any time during the month and place them in the bins at the church entrances. For those of you who wish to plan ahead, here is the schedule for the year:

- January Canned vegetables
- February Hot cereal
- March Fruit juice
- April Cold cereal
- May Sugar
- June Vegetable oil
- July Condiments
- August Fruit juice
- September Dried pasta and sauce
- October Peanut butter and jelly
- November Condiments
- December Instant coffee and tea bags

### CHRISTMAS GIFT DRIVE THANK YOU

Thank you to all of our incredibly generous parishioners for once again making the Christmas gift drive a tremendous success. We collected over 200 gifts for St. Ambrose Family Inn, Julie's Family Learning Program, New England Homes for the Deaf and The Learning Center for the Deaf's Walden School. The staff and volunteers at the agencies are as always overwhelmed by your generosity.

A special thank you to Peg Miller for her help; to Stacey Richard for help distributing the cards; to Marty Solomon, Margaret LeBlanc, and Isabelle Albeck for help with checking in and organizing the gifts as they were received at the Advent party; to Bobby Lovett, Mark Donato and Will Bucci from the Confirmation class for their help organizing and moving the gifts over to the convent; and lastly the largest thanks go to Nadine Gan who not only helped with check-in but with the long crosscheck process at the end. The true spirit of Christmas sharing and giving is manifested every year in this project!

Beverly Spencer

### AN INVITATION FROM THE SACRED HEART HISTORY GROUP

Why not join the Sacred Heart History Group! During 2017 we begin celebrating the 125th anniversary of the parish. Our main interest is to bring the history of the parish up to date. First, we go back to the early stories of the parish starting with 1890! We do research on the window, the donors, and the early members of the parish. We would like to bring the history of the parish up to date by interviewing long time parishioners for their memories and recollection. So if you are a history buff, interested in visiting long time members of the parish, or ARE a long time member of the parish - think about joining us; you have much to offer.

There will be a celebration in the early summer near the Feast of the Sacred Heart so please think of joining our group to have input and give ideas for the celebration. Connect with Joe Sanroma at [jsanroma@computer.org](mailto:jsanroma@computer.org) or Kathie Long at [longlongjj@verizon.net](mailto:longlongjj@verizon.net) or call the parish office.

### TV MASS MONDAY, JANUARY 2

Fr. Adrian, along with some of the altar servers from the collaborative, can be seen on Catholic TV this Monday, January 2, at 9:30am with a repeat at 7pm, as well as anytime on the Catholic TV website. That day is a day off for the staff at the station so the Mass is prerecorded, so joining in the live Mass will not be possible but all parishioners are invited to experience the Mass on video.

### PRAYER SERVICE CELEBRATING REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING:

A prayer service to celebrate the life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King will be held on January 16, 2017 at 9:00 am at St. Katharine Drexel Parish, 517 Blue Hill Avenue, Grove Hall. Featured guest speaker is Professor Randall Kennedy, Harvard Law School. Tickets are \$15.00 and **MUST** be purchased in advance. Space is very limited. For tickets, please call Lorraine Smith 857-249-7773 or Ruth Andrews, 617-610-5579.

### COVER ART NOTES

"The Adoration of the Shepherds," Bartolome Esteban Murillo, 1655, Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid, Spain.





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## SACRED HEART NEWTON

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### FROM THE SACRED HEART HISTORY GROUP:

Sacred Heart Rectory  
1321 CENTRE STREET  
NEWTON CENTRE 59, MASS  
MOST REV. RICHARD J. CUSHING  
December 31, 1943

My Dear Friend:-

The First Friday of the year comes on January 7th. Please make a good start for 1944 by going to Confession on the 6th, the Feast of The Epiphany, and Communion at the seven o'clock Mass in the upper church on the following morning.

Years ago I learned the following spiritual memory gem. I pass it on to you as a spiritual invitation to the sacraments of Penance and the Holy Eucharist for the 1st Friday of January.

‘ And I said to the man who stood at the gate  
of the new year,  
Give me a light that I may tread safely  
into the unknown!

He replied: Go out into the darkness and put  
things into the Hand of God.

That shall be to thee better than light and  
safer than a known way.’

Accepting my invitation to the Sacrament of Penance and the Holy Eucharist for the First Friday of January you literally put your hand in the Hand of God and start with God's blessing along the unknown ways of 1944.

You know that I wish you and yours the best throughout the New Year, but it is nice to repeat that old familiar phrase A HAPPY AND BLESSED NEW YEAR TO YOU!

Blessed be its beginning, blessed be its progress and thrice blessed be its ending.

Your devoted and grateful friend,  
(Signed) Bishop Cushing

### DAYS OF PRAYER FOR PASTORAL VISITORS

In collaboration with the Chaplaincy Office, the Office of Spiritual Life offers Days of Prayer for Pastoral Ministers and Ministers of Communion to the Sick. The Day of Prayer consists of a conference common prayer, quiet time and time for fellowship. *Companions in Christ* is offered at Our Lady Help of Christians Church on February 25 from 10-12. To register, call the Office of Spiritual Life at 617-779-3640 or email: spiritual\_development@rcab.org.

**MONSIGNOR HADDAD MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
OPEN HOUSE – JANUARY 29, 1 – 3 PM - Come learn what makes Monsignor Haddad Middle School such an amazing place! MHMS is a Catholic, stand-alone middle school that is part of St. Joseph Parish in Needham and draws from 20 communities. Join us for an Open House on Sunday, January 29th from 1—3pm. Meet the teachers, tour the campus with our student leaders, and learn more about why MHMS is a great choice for middle school.

### QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION ON TODAY'S GOSPEL

1. What kind of sense would you make of shepherds and messages from angels and mangers? Did Mary get any final answers from Gabriel or the shepherds? Can you make sense of everything in your life? What do you mull over in your heart? What do you treasure and remember and preserve?
2. “Son, behold your mother” ([John 19:27](#))! Does Mary now love all people with the same love she had for her son? Pope Francis mentions in his homily for Mary, Mother of God, that Mary shared our condition and that her heart was enlarged through sorrow. How does she help us on difficult and obscure paths in life's “pilgrimage of faith?”

It is said that the residents of Ephesus used to gather at the gates of the basilica where the bishops were meeting and shout, “Mother of God!” The faithful, by asking them to officially define this title of Our Lady, showed that they acknowledged her divine motherhood. Theirs was the spontaneous and sincere reaction of children who know their Mother well, for they love her with immense tenderness. But it is more: it is the *sensus fidei* of the holy People of God, which, in its unity, never errs.

Mary has always been present in the hearts, the piety and above all the pilgrimage of faith of the Christian people. “The Church journeys through time... and on this journey she proceeds along the path already trodden by the Virgin Mary” (*Redemptoris Mater*, 2). Our journey of faith is the same as that of Mary, and so we feel that she is particularly close to us. As far as faith, the hinge of the Christian life, is concerned, the Mother of God shared our condition. She had to take the same path as ourselves, a path which is sometimes difficult and obscure. She had to advance in the “pilgrimage of faith” (*Lumen Gentium*, 58).

Her sorrowing heart was enlarged to make room for all men and women, all, whether good or bad, and she loves them as she loved Jesus.

Pope Francis, [Holy Mass on the Solemnity Of Mary, Mother of God](#), January 1, 2014



## SIGNINGS

Happy New Year! Many of us may have our New Year's resolutions by now and hope to make them successful. This tradition marks a new beginning, a chance to start over again. As you all have heard me saying over and over, "Get another shot at it! Why not?", the truth behind this saying is that taking as many chances as we can won't hurt us. Doing so gives us more perspective on what life is all about. That is why we should be proud to be Catholics! We know we can start over again once we hit a certain bump in our lives. WE could make no better resolution than to pray for a practical and profound faith that will move us to make Christ the center and the heart of our lives. Will we notice any difference once we make our lives more Christ-centered? If I am to gamble, I'd bet it all that we will notice a MAJOR difference in our lives! That difference is an amazing grace from God! Blessings on your New Year!

In Christ,  
Fr. Shawn

## CALM

"Let it be done unto me according to your will," Mary said.

A real Archangel appeared, handing out shocking news of the Annunciation. What a jolt this must have been for someone so unassuming, so self-effacing as Mary.

Did she flinch? No, she reacted with calm. Simply put, "I accept. Tell me how this wonderful birth will happen." ([Luke 1:38](#))

But the series of events that followed do not at all seem worthy of her calm. Mary was a betrothed woman who had been found pregnant! Her husband-to-be had been about to divorce her! Until an angel explained things in a dream.

And walking was the mode of transportation in those days, sometimes for astonishing distances, so the census call did not make her promise easy. She was the in the last part of her pregnancy—the most difficult time of all to travel from Nazareth in the far north of Israel down to Bethlehem, which is south of Jerusalem. Not an impossible distance, but in the last month of pregnancy, a tremendous challenge. Joseph in his kindness got a donkey for Mary to ride.

**It was the presence of God deep within her, so deep that she let her life unite with his.**

When they finally got to Bethlehem, a very small village, there was no room for them in the inn. And

since the infant was "lying in a manger" and there is not a word in scripture about a cave, the most likely birth place would have been in some kind of barn or stable for domestic animals. This birth was not bathed in satin finery, not luxurious. Jesus was born into poverty and discomfort.

This Sunday we see Mary just days after the grueling journey and the amazing birth ([Gospel](#)). She is carrying out the promise she had made to Gabriel. All is well. The child is healthy and cuddly, and the angels, unable to contain their joy, have once more danced hugely into Mary's life. Even the animals understand. Breathtaking.

It would seem that Mary's calm could now seek some quiet and rest after all that had happened. But no. Unkempt shepherds, straight from the fields, "went in haste" to the shelter, announcing in their craggy voices that they had been told who this baby was. The angels had trumpeted it to them! Wise men, or as we say now, kings, found the holy shelter and barged right in, bearing royal gifts.

Does this all impinge on Mary's peace? It seems not. She is good to her word. The Gospel says that she quietly "kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart."

Part of it was her personality, of course, but even more, it was the presence of God deep within her, so deep that she let her life unite with his. This produced a son. Existence on this earth is never free from hazards and setbacks and stunning difficulties, but as Mary watched each movement of the newborn baby, she breathed in a holiness, a pitch of holiness that even she had not known before.

Her calm took place within a crowded, difficult, cramped stable, one we can only imagine within our own hearts.

"Let it be done unto me according to your will." Let each of us try to be able to echo her words, at least for a few moments. Try it now.

"Let it be done unto me according to your will."

John Foley, SJ

## WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

"And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." Sometimes we need to reflect how to let God live with us in our marriages. Explore how by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next WWME Weekends are Jan 20-22, 2017 in Duxbury, MA and Mar 17-19, 2017 in South Kingstown, RI. For more information, call Stephen & Michelle O'Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit us at [www.WWMEMA.org](http://www.WWMEMA.org).

