

SACRED HEART

N E W T O N



Rejoice

Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.

~Matthew 11:10

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 11, 2016

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

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, Wednesday, Thursday, 9:30am to 5:00pm. **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

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Our Lady Help of Christians 617-527-7560

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STAFF

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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, December 11

9:00am, Eulalia Viana

12:00 Noon, Parishioners of Sacred Heart

Sunday, December 18

9:00am, Parishioners of Sacred Heart

12:00 Noon, Andreana Simonetti

CELEBRANTS FOR NEXT WEEK

Saturday, December 17, 4:00pm: Fr. Sassani

Sunday, December 18, 9:00am: Fr. Sassani

11:00am: Fr. Carey; 12:00 Noon: Fr. Hahn

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Sunday December 11, Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35: 1-6a, 10; Ps. 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10;

James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

Monday, December 12, Our Lady of Guadalupe

Zechariah 2: 14-17; or Revelation 11:19a;

12:1-6a, 10ab; Ps. Judith 13: 18bcde, 19;

Luke 1:39-47 or Luke 1:26-38

Tuesday, December 13, Saint Lucy

Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps. 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18,

19 and 23; Matthew 21:28-32

Wednesday, December 14, Saint John of the Cross

Isaiah 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25; Ps. 85:9ab and 10,

11-12, 13-14; Luke 7:18b-23

Thursday, December 15

Isaiah 54:1-10; Ps. 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and

13b; Luke 7:24-30

Friday, December 16

Isaiah 56:1-3a, 6-8; Ps. 67:2-3, 5, 7-8;

John 5:33-36

Saturday, December 17

Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Ps. 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17;

Matthew 1:1-17

Sunday, December 18, Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-14; Ps. 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6,

Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24

CALENDAR NOTES

Advent Party: Sunday, December 11,

10:00am-1:00pm. Parish Center

Social Justice Forum: Sunday, December 11,

4:00pm, lower church

Adoration, Taize Prayer, Reconciliation: Wednesday,

December 14, 6:30-8:00pm, Lower Church

Prayer Group: Wednesday, December 14, 7:30pm,

Convent Chapel

Knights of Columbus: Wednesday, December 14,

7:00pm, Christmas party : MacKenzie Center

Coffee Hour: Friday, December 16, Following

9:00am Mass, Parish Center

Liturgy, Holy Hour, Rosary: Saturday, December 17,

9:00am—10:30am, Lower Church

Extended Coffee Hour: Sunday, December 18,

10:00am—1:00pm, Parish Center

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

It has been our happy custom to accept donations for Christmas flowers in memory or in honor of loved ones. If you use the envelope system, you will find an envelope for this purpose in your December packet. If you do not use envelopes but would like to make a donation in memory/honor of a loved one, kindly write the names of those you wish to remember and include them with your donation. You can either mail this to the rectory or place an envelope clearly labeled "Christmas Flowers" in the collection basket by this weekend so that these names will be included in our Christmas Bulletin.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

This Christmas, the collection will once again benefit the Clergy Health and Retirement Trust which cares for the needs of our priests. **Our priests are always there for us;** they share Christ's good news, perform good works, and build communities of good faith. All are welcome to learn more and make a gift online at clergytrust.org. And don't forget to find the Trust on Facebook by searching "@ClergyTrust." Thank you in advance for your prayers and support.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULES

As you prepare your travels and celebrations this month, please see below the Mass times for Christmas

4:00PM (12/24) Our Lady's

4:00PM (12/24) Sacred Heart

6:00PM (12/24) Our Lady's

7:00PM (12/24) Sacred Heart (American Sign

Language with voice interpretation)

10:00PM (12/24) Sacred Heart

12:00AM (12/25) Our Lady's

10:00AM (12/25) Our Lady's

10:00AM (12/25) Sacred Heart



SACRED HEART NEWTON

PLEASE NOTE THERE IS NO MIDNIGHT MASS AT SACRED HEART ON CHRISTMAS; THE VIGIL MASS IS AT 10:00 PM !

OFFERTORY INCOME

Income for the month of November	
Envelopes, cash, checks	\$ 18,141
On Line Giving	1,748
Campaign for Human Development	1,015
Retired Sisters	2,642

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Holy Mother Church in her wisdom sets aside the 4 weeks of Advent to ponder and prepare for the great mystery of God becoming one of us! He comes at Christmas as a little child so that we would not be frightened by his power and might. He entrusts Himself to our care as an infant and draws us to love him, celebrate him and show us himself as a gift. Consider taking the time to anticipate His coming with lighting a candle on an Advent wreath and praying that we will make room for him in the manger of our hearts on Christmas Day. Then no matter how imperfect the day turns out to be, we will see, hear and sing with joy the love God has for us and our hearts will find His peace!

Our CCD classes will be collecting food bags for the Missionaries of Charity in Dorchester until Tuesday, December 13. Please consider sharing your wealth so that families will have a Christmas Dinner this year! Please leave your double bagged items in the lower church in front of the St. Anthony Statue. Here is a list of items needed:

1 bottle of vegetable oil, 1 bag of rice, 1 box of pasta, 1 box of cereal, 1 jar of peanut butter, 1 jar of jelly, 1 can each of: peas/carrots/corn, one can of cranberry sauce, 1 can of gravy.

There are copies of these items in all entrances of the Church.

Michelle Solomon, Director of Religious Ed

2016 CHRISTMAS GIFT DRIVE

Please bring your unwrapped gifts with their cards to our Advent Party in the Parish Center this Sunday, December 11, any time between 10am and 1pm!

ADVENT PARTY DECEMBER 11, 2016

Please join us for a celebration of Advent on Sunday December 11 following the 9:00am Mass in the Mackenzie Center. Come enjoy light breakfast snacks, coffee, arts and crafts, and conversation with Santa.

ADVENT ADORATION, TAIZE PRAYER, AND RECONCILIATION

Enter more deeply into the Advent season with Taize Prayer, Adoration, and the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Wednesdays December 14th and 21st from 6:30 - 8:00pm.at Sacred Heart (Lower Church).

JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMITTEE ROBERT DESIMONE FORUM

Join the Justice and Peace Committee for a video presentation and discussion on the "Care for our Common Home," the Pope's latest encyclical on the care of creation, the environment, and the effects of global warming. The video will feature Fr. Bryan Hehir of the Archdiocese of Boston, and a discussion of his presentation will follow. The forum will be held THIS Sunday, December 11th at 4pm in the Lower Church at Sacred Heart. A light reception will follow.

FATHER BOB ON YOUTUBE

If you were unable to attend Father Bob's show, you can now watch and share it online on YouTube.com using the search words "A Musical Encore with Father Robert Blaney." And while you're there, you might also want to check out "Interview with Fr. Bob Blaney" which documents his journey into the priesthood, reminding each of us that we're all called – in unique and particular ways – to respond to God's invitation to share His Good News through our own lives.

YOUNG FAMILY GATHERING –

All families with young or recently baptized children are invited to gather at Coffee Hour after the 9:00am Mass on Sunday, December 18th in the MacKenzie Center. There will be activities for the kids, and food and fellowship for all. Questions? Email Brian Romer Niemiec (bniemiec@sholnewton.org).



CANCELLATION POLICY FOR WEEKDAY MASSES

If the Newton schools are closed because of weather, there will be **no Mass** celebrated that day at Sacred Heart Parish. Please check your TV and radio announcements for the Newton school cancellation.



SACRED HEART NEWTON

SACRED HEART HISTORY: No Bells in the Belfries

You may have noticed that although Sacred Heart has two impressive bell towers each 88-feet tall, they house no bells. Joseph Donovan (1881 – 1926), a wealthy Studebaker dealer and parishioner, tried to correct the problem in the late 1920's. At that time when Chestnut Hill was still part of the parish, Donovan of 373 Commonwealth Avenue bequeathed in his will a sum of money to be used for chimes in the towers. However, on testing, it was found that the towers could not support the weight of the chimes. In 1994, cell phone antennas were installed in the towers where they resided for about 10 years. Now, once again, the towers sit empty save for a bird or two.

MASS FOR THE SICK

The next Monthly Mass for the Sick, sponsored by the Faith-Based Cancer Support Group of Sacred Heart and Our Lady Help of Christians Church, will be on **Monday, December 19 at 6:30 p.m. at Our Lady's Church.** Fr. Leroy Owens, former priest at Our Lady's, will celebrate the Mass and Anointing of the Sick. **Following Christmas cookies and punch, we will enjoy a sing-along of familiar carols.** The evening is designed to bring joy, hope, and peace to those who are affected by illness, including family and friends. The Mass and program will both be held downstairs at Our Lady's church, located at 573 Washington Street in Newton. For questions or more information, please contact Pat Enright at 617-467-4482 pme1130@aol.com, or Lorraine Higgins: 617-244-0267 or higlor1@msn.com, or the parish offices. All are welcome!

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The letter of Saint James – four little verses packed with meaning. Patient or patience appears four times. Do you think he's trying to tell us something? We live in an instant world. The average You Tube video is four minutes, 20 seconds – and that's too long for some viewers. Advent is a time to put the brakes on – slow down, breathe. The world will tell us that time is running out – buy, buy, buy. Now! The Church tells us that Jesus will come whether the stockings are filled or not. Patience. This week, try to build in some quiet time – really. You can do it. Just five minutes – a bit longer than a TV commercial or You Tube video. Take the time to

remember a loved one in prayer. Now that's a gift – for the giver and recipient.

Our week begins with “Gaudete Sunday.” *Gaudete* means “rejoice” in Latin. It comes from the first word of the Entrance antiphon on Sunday. The spirit of joy that begins this week comes from the words of Paul, “The Lord is near.” This joyful spirit is marked by the third candle of our Advent wreath, which is rose colored, and the rose colored vestments often used at the Eucharist.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER ON THIS WEEK'S READINGS

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

1. Isaiah said God would give signs to tell the Israelites of their delivery from slavery. What were these signs? Are there signs of God's loving presence in your life? What about in the world of medicine and social justice today?

2. Who does God use to transform the world now? Name one thing you can do in your home, community, parish, work or environment to make the world a better place.

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

1. “See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth.” How does this statement relate to Advent? What part does nature play? What is the farmer doing? What do you do? What does God do in you during this time? Is patience involved in both situations?

2. What are some qualities that patience brings with it? What does impatience bring? St. James warns his community against complaining about one another. Is this a fault peculiar to St. James' community? How does it relate to patience?

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

1. Explain in both the literal and metaphorical senses “the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, and the dead are raised.” John asked Jesus if he was “the one who is to come.” Jesus answered with the above statement. The people who came to John were seeking the deepest desires of their hearts. How was Jesus' response an answer to those desires?

2. John the Baptist might have expected a mighty one and was confused at the gentle, healing Jesus. Does God always come into your life the way you expect?

Anne Osdieck

Anne Osieck is on staff at St. Louis University



SIGNINGS

What does it feel like when we are halfway through Advent season, halfway toward our goal? It can feel exhausting and frustrating, we can be especially tempted to lose our patience at this point. We have been used to the culture of “instantness” and “promptness” when using technology as the “sole source” for communication, entertainment, and work needs. It has already “overly” consumed our minds and hearts. Hence, humanity can be easily lost. We can think that God does not understand our humanity. If we think this way, then how come God sent His Only Begotten Son to us in a human form like all of us, but we don't have His divine form? Also, we have been made in God's image. Indeed, technology can be an awesome tool for our various needs in this 21st century; if, however, we use it in moderation. Why not? This Advent season is our opportunity to recognize the value of our patience and as well as endurance. In the First Reading today, Isaiah uses nature imagery to convey the sense of joy that the Jewish people would experience in their return from Babylonian exile. This is what is meant by the statements that the desert will sing and be covered with flowers that, “see the glory of the Lord.” It depicts God's coming with vindication to save his people after their exile, and it urges patience until He arrives. I am certain that our minds right now are saying, "ugh, patience... here we go!" Many of us have always said, “I have no patience for this...” When we participate in sports or any other challenging hobbies, do we expect good results overnight? We know we have to practice and practice until we reach our goal. Practice requires endurance. The prophets we read about had to endure hardship and patience because their mission caused opposition, just as the Christian message did and still does. However, we need to remember that we will be rewarded with our faith and patience. Even God has rewarded the prophets and their people! So, like John the Baptist, we need to put away our doubts and be faithful in knowing that our endurance and patience will bring us to the glory of God! For our own “Advent test”, maybe for one day, we can try to put away our phones and let our eyes be opened to what God's nature has to offer us! Then we can realize the difference and appreciate it! This would be a good “Advent test” for our preparation to welcome God's very own Son, Jesus into our lives on Christmas! Blessings on your Advent journey!

In Christ, Fr. Shawn

STEUBENVILLE EAST YOUTH CONFERENCE

The annual Steubenville East Youth Conference will be held in Lowell, MA again this coming year from July 14th – 16th, 2017. If you are interested in learning more about this event, an information session is being held at the Pastoral Center in Braintree, and will also be available via webinar on December 8th at 6:30pm. Please email Mike Drahos at MDrahos@rcab.org for more information. *Please note: Registration will open on January 15th, 2017 and this event is known to sell out quickly.

ALATEEN AT NEWTON NORTH

Alateen is an anonymous program for teens and pre-teens whose lives have been affected by someone else's drinking. The meeting is held every Tuesday from 6-7pm at Newton North High School, 457 Walnut St., Newton, in Room 103. More information is available at afgofma@aol.com and www.ma-al-anon-alateen.org.

WORLD WIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

“The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom.” As we await the coming of the Lord, let us rejoice and encourage our marriages to bloom by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next WWME Weekends are January 20-22, 2017 in Duxbury, MA and March 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.



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AT LASALLETTE SHRINE IN ATTLEBORO

Illuminations from 5:00 – 9:00pm daily featuring 300,000 lights illuminating over 10 acres. Come see the International Crèche museum with hundreds of crèches from around the world open 5-9 weekdays, 2-9 weekends. There is also an outdoor crèche with Clopper the Christmas donkey. There are concerts with Father Pat Tuesday through Friday - 3:00pm & 7:00pm Saturday & Sunday - 3:00pm & 7:30pm. The National Shrine of Our Lady of La Salette is located at 947 Park St. Attleboro, MA 02703.

