

readings for the week

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/1 Thes 5:16-24/
Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17
Thursday: Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25
Friday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25
Saturday: Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38
Next Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Rom 16:25-27/
Lk 1:26-38

covenant to care

Remember: ALL GIFTS WERE DUE BACK BY DECEMBER 13TH/14TH.

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 AND 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

considering god's invitation?

Join Bishop Cote, Fr. Greg and others also thinking about the priesthood for dinner on Thursday December 18th 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.* A Christmas floral arrangement 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, scrambled eggs and bacon or sausage. They will also be serving breakfast to you. There is no charge for breakfast although a free will offering will be accepted.

wanted – needed!

****GREENS** for holiday decorating.**

Please drop off by the kitchen door or call Sandy at 875-4563. THANK YOU!

Coming on December 28

The 3 1/2 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 1/2 Stories of Christmas.**

Needed for 3 1/2 Stories of Christmas!

For our presentation of 3 1/2 Stories of Christmas, we will need the following:

2 or 3 “clamp lamps”

with 100-watt spotlight bulbs

Please contact Rella if you are able to lend us a clamp lamp for the day. You may reach her at the office (875-4563) or by e-mail (rella@sacredheartchurch.net).

correction

The intention published for last Thursday's mass was incomplete. It should have read: **Thomas Zooleck**, requested by Bill & Mary McIntyre. We apologize for the error.

ministers at mass

It's time to make another schedule. If you're going to be away and would like us to omit you from the schedule on certain weekends in January and February, please call the office or email ernie@sacredheartchurch.net. Thanks!

Advent Communal Penance Service

~ This Week ~

Tuesday, 7pm

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

holiday gifts

Holy Family Gift Shop - 54 West Main St. Baltic (822-8241) – Gorgeous rosaries, holy water bottles, lots of gift ideas for Christmas – puzzles, candles, fruitcake and fudge. Children's coloring books, rattle board books, medals, pamphlets. Videos, DVDs, CDs. Hours 8:00 am to 7:00 pm or call for special times suited to your schedule.

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

you saw me hungry and fed me

You are cordially invited to join in a Christmas Celebration at *St. Vincent de Paul Place*, 10 Railroad Place, Norwich, on Thursday, December 25, 2008

First Seating - 11:30am (Please plan to arrive by 11:15am)

Second Seating - 1pm (Please plan to arrive by 12:45pm)

St. Vincent de Paul Place is in the process of planning their Christmas dinner this year. In the past, Mohegan Sun has played an integral part in this special celebration, by supplying us with prepared food for 300 people. We are asking the community to help us with some of the other items to include:

Orange Juice, Drinks (juices/soda/iced tea, etc.), Sugar, Napkins, Cold/Hot drink Cups, Vegetable Oil, Butter/Margarine (sticks or pads are best), Garlic Powder, Boxed Mashed Potatoes, Oranges and bananas, Milk, Coffee Creamer, Coffee and Tea, After Dinner Mints, nuts, Red plastic table cloths, Centerpieces (30 - call first) Placemats (240 - call first) & Decorations

If you would like to donate for either meal, please contact Betty at 860-889-7374. For more information, visit their website at www.svdpp.org

thank you

Dear friends,

We greatly appreciate your support of the Basic Needs programs at Hockanum Valley Community Council. The Board of Directors, Staff and Volunteers of HVCC wish to thank you for thinking of HVCC. Your recent donation of **food to our food pantry** is greatly appreciated.

This comes at a time when our pantry shelves are extremely low. Thank you again for your continued support.

This year has been a challenging year for many of our clients and we are also seeing new families coming in for the first time. They are very grateful when coming in for help for any assistance we can give them. Your help has gone a long way. You have also given much-needed moral support to the many volunteers and staff at HVCC who work hard to meet the needs of people who need help. We at Hockanum Valley Community Council, Inc. extend our sincere gratitude and best wishes to you, whose cherished support makes helping our community possible.

Thank you for helping Hockanum Valley help.

Sincerely yours,

David A. Engelson
Executive Director

the work of the church

SATURDAY 5:45pm	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - FT Mass: <i>Jakielo Family</i> , requested by Helen Jakielo
SUNDAY 10:45am	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - FT Mass: <i>Kathleen Horvath</i> , requested by the Kurban Family - and - Robert Brown , requested by Sandy Rice
MONDAY 9:00am	<i>Liturgy of the Word with Communion</i>
TUESDAY 9:00am	Mass: <i>Gaspere Davia</i> , requested by Maria Davia 7:00pm Communal Penance Service
WEDNESDAY 9:00am	Mass: <i>For the People of the Parish</i>
THURSDAY 4:30-6pm 7:00pm 7:45pm	<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation</i> , living room Peter Pozzato , requested by his wife, Angie <i>Intercessory Prayer</i>
FRIDAY 9:00am	Mass: <i>Mr. Robert Rattigan</i> , requested by Mr. & Mrs. Edward Riordan
SATURDAY 5:45pm	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - FS Mass: <i>Szczapa Family</i> , requested by Helen Jakielo
SUNDAY 10:45am	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - FS Mass: <i>Maryann Tessier</i> , requested by the Sacred Heart Parish Family - and - Walter Schneider , requested by Joe & Elaine Brown

meetings

SATURDAY 7:30pm	Narcotics Anonymous* , South Rooms
SUNDAY 9:15-10:30am 6:30-7:45pm 7:45-9pm	Fellowship before and after Mass Faith Formation Grades 1-5 Faith Formation Grades 6-Conf Prep Youth Group
MONDAY	Offices Closed
TUESDAY 7:00pm	Advent Communal Reconciliation
WEDNESDAY 4:00pm 8:00pm	Faith Formation Grades 1-3 & 5 Alcoholics Anonymous* , South Community Rooms
THURSDAY 10:00am 8:00pm	Bible Study , South Community Rooms Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book* , South Rooms
SATURDAY 7:30pm	Narcotics Anonymous* , South Rooms
SUNDAY 9:15-10:30am After Mass 6:30-7:45pm 7:45-9pm	Fellowship before and after Mass Faith Formation Grades 1-5 Pancake Breakfast , courtesy of the Youth Group Faith Formation Grades 6-Conf Prep Youth Group

**WEBSITE ADDRESS FOR ST. MAURICE
WWW.STMAURICEKOF.C.ORG**

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY / DEC. 13 - 14, 2008

4:00 p.m Vigil Mass, Lemaire, Gervais & Lavigne families and Willey O. Lemaire, request of Mr. & Mrs.

Raymond Lemaire

8:45 a.m. Frank Hilbie, request of Chris & Kate Armstrong, and for Michael Gallacher, request of Mark Fiano family

NEXT SUNDAY Dec. 20 - 21, 2008

4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass, Paul & Doris Gidius, and for Matteo Quagliano and for Nicola Maratta

8:45 a.m Mary and Steve Caruso

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 \$ 3,963.00
 Last year's collection was \$ 4,414.00
 Projected amount needed \$ 4,204.00

(for projected obligation, expenses, repairs and tithing the tith). *"The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted..." Isaiah 61:1* The Lord God has anointed all of us through Baptism and He has sent each of us on a mission. Each of us has been given unique gifts and talents so that we can help fulfill God's mission here on earth. Are you doing the things Jesus sent you here to do?

Musical notes: **Christmas Youth Band** rehearsals Saturdays at 9:00 A.M.

Children's Christmas Choir rehearsals after the 4:00 Vigil Masses and after the Sunday 8:45 Masses. Children make beautiful and joyful noise before the Throne of God in celebration of Jesus' birth.

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY – Dec. 13 - 14 / The Third Sunday of Advent/ Fr. Stan, celebrant / Usher Group II / Children's Choir rehearsal after Mass /Mini Fair at the Parish Center before and after Mass / Pancake Breakfast and food drive.

MONDAY 12/15, Mass at 9:00 a.m. for Ian Bothur.

TUESDAY, 12/16, Mass at 9:00 A.M. for Christopher Feeney / Choir Rehearsal 7:15 P.M.;

WEDNESDAY 12/17, 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 12/18, Mass at 9:00 A.M. for Jonathan Ficara

FRIDAY, 12/19, Mass at 9:00 A.M. for Brian Maxwell

SATURDAY 12/20, 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. Vigil Mass;

Sunday, DEC. 20 - 21 , THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday Vigil Mass 4:00 P.M.

ALTAR SERVERS: Kyle Toce
LECTORS: Robert Lacombe
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: Vi Sobol, Peggy Peruccio, Linda Wiley

Sunday 8:45 A.M.:

ALTAR SERVERS: Ryan & Benjamin VanDine, Kevin Dean
LECTOR: Michael Leiner
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: Jennifer Carvalho Robert Rouleau, Margaret Maneggia

THE ANNUAL SHARE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

ALL GIFTS MUST BE RETURNED TODAY UNWRAPPED, WITH BELL ATTACHED

If you chose 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.

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 6th. Any questions call Jim Boylan at 8672-9077.

CONFIRMATION NOTES

December 21: Christmas Food & Gift Distribution following Sunday 8:45 Mass.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NOTES

December 28: Coffee Social following Sunday 8:45 Mass.

On Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2008, Rocco's Pizza and Grill Restaurant, 35 Center Street, Manchester, will be donating 10% of their proceeds for the day to "COMMUNITAS" of Manchester.

"Communitas" is a charitable organization servicing persons with physical disabilities. If you are looking for a great night out and would like to help out this worthwhile organization, consider Rocco's.

**There will be a Christmas Celebration at
At St. Vincent de Paul Place
10 Railroad Place, Norwich, CT 06360
Thursday, December 25, 2008**

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Orange Juice; Drinks, such as juices/soda/iced tea, etc.; Sugar; Napkins; Cups; Vegetable Oil; Butter; Garlic Powder; Boxed Mashed Potatoes; Fruit; Milk; Coffee, tea; Mints, nuts; Red plastic table cloths; Centerpieces; Placemats; Decorations. If you would like to donate, please contact Betty at 860-889-7374. You saw me hungry and fed me. Thank You.

SCRIPTURE READINGS OF THE COMING WEEK

Dec. 15: Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a /Ps. 25:4 /
Mt. 21:23-27

Dec. 16: Zeph. 3:1-2, 9-13 /Ps. 34:7a
Mt. 21:28-32

Dec. 17: Gen. 49:2-8, 8-10 /Ps. 72 /Mt. 1:1-17

Dec. 18: Jer. 23:5-8 /Ps. 72 /Mt. 1-18-25

Dec. 19: Jdg. 13:2-7 /Ps. 71 /Lk. 1:3-25

Dec. 20: Is. 7:10-14 /Ps. 24 /Lk. 1:26-38

Dec. 21: 2 Sam. 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 /Ps. 89
Rm. 16:25-27 /Lk. 1:26-38

THE FIDELITY OF GOD IN HISTORY

The thing that counts in Christianity is obedience, humility in the face of God's Word... Salvation does not come from man's greatness but from God's gracious mercy. This sign of God's descent, the saving sign that is his self-humbling, should imprint this passage of the Gospel deep in our hearts once again. It should once again convert us into persons who do not shun a similar descent, persons who know that precisely in their descent and in the little services life asks of them they are on the way to Jesus Christ. Matthew's genealogy begins with Abraham. It bears witness to the fidelity of God who carried out the promise he had once made to Abraham... The entire genealogy, with all the disorders, all the ups and downs, that it represents is a luminous testimony to the fidelity of God who kept his word despite all of man's failure and unworthiness. Luke the Evangelist... traces the Lord's ancestry back not simply to Abraham but to Adam and the hands of God that formed man. He thus makes it clear that the community Jesus has established is not simply a new Israel, a people who God gathers for himself in this world, but that the mission of Jesus embraces instead the whole of the human race. His mission is not aimed at salvation for one group, one set of people alone, but is directed to the whole race, the entire world. In Jesus Christ the creation of man first attains its true goal; in him the Creator's conception of man finds its full expression; in him the beast that lurks in all of us is overcome for the first time, and the human in its fullness comes on the stage of history.

(except from "Dogma and Preaching, pp 22-23
by Joseph Ratzinger/Pope Benedict, XVI)

