

# ST. BARTHOLOMEW PARISH

NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*



*“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her, She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus.”*

*~ Matthew 1:20,21 ~*

OUR MISSION

As a warm and welcoming community, we strive to live out our Catholic faith and share Christ's loving message of salvation. We nurture the gifts and talents of all, to serve our local and global community joyfully.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW PARISH

1180 Greendale Ave.—Needham, MA 02492  
(781) 444-3434

CONTACT INFORMATION

**Parish Office:** (781) 444-3434

**Fax:** (781) 449-7550

**Email:** [stbartholomew@comcast.net](mailto:stbartholomew@comcast.net)

**Website:** [www.stbartholomew-needham.org](http://www.stbartholomew-needham.org)

**Office Hours:** (M – F) 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM

PARISH STAFF

**Rev. J. Thomas Gignac**, Administrator

**Gisele Byda**, Business Manager

**Ann Mullin**, Administrative Assistant

**Maryellen Jennings**, Religious Ed. Coordinator, Grades K - 6

**Andrea Fidurko**, Religious Ed. Coordinator, Grades 7 - 10

PRAYER LINE

This is a network of people who pray for special intentions. Call the parish office and leave a message regarding for whom you would like prayers said.

WEEKLY PARISH OFFERTORY

December 3— 9 2022

|             |         |
|-------------|---------|
| TOTAL →     | \$7,196 |
| OFFERTORY → | 2,726   |
| ONLINE →    | 3,460   |
| MAIL-IN →   | 1,010   |

DONATIONS—KIND REMINDERS

- Make checks payable to ST. BARTHOLOMEW PARISH, with your note on the memo line.
- Click here, [stbartholomew-needham.org](http://stbartholomew-needham.org), to discover the many ways to donate.
- Don't forget to update your online payment information.
- Call us to order weekly giving envelopes, at no charge to you.
- Let us know if your personal information has changed, so we can update our parish database.

Mass IntentionsSATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

4:00 PM Natale & Geraldine Scarcella  
Urban & Alice Belval

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

8:00 AM For the People of the Parish  
9:45 AM William & Nora Niland & Family  
11:30 AM George Madaus

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

9:00 AM Hugh Gallagher

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

9:00 AM Jose Antonio Mendoza Rojas  
(living)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

9:00 AM Patrick Hart

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

9:00 AM William Risio

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

9:00 AM Joseph Cuddemi

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

9:00 AM Nancy L. Wetherell

*May these intentions and all the prayers of the faithful be ever in the Heart of Jesus.*

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 PM

Sunday: 8:00 AM, 9:45 AM, 11:30 AM

Daily Mass: Mon — Sat, 9:00 AM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 2:30 PM — 3:15 PM or by appointment

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

First Sunday of each month at 12:30 PM

Please call a month in advance to schedule Baptisms.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Arrangements must be made with the parish priest at least 6 months prior to the wedding.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Eucharistic Adoration takes place at St. Joseph every Friday after 6:50 AM Mass until 12:00 noon.

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION

After the 9:00 AM Mass the first Sat. of each month.

ROSARY & DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

Prayed immediately following weekday Mass (except when there is a 10:00 AM funeral).

## CONFESSIONS BEFORE CHRISTMAS

**Confessions will be heard on Friday,  
December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30-8:00 PM.  
(No confessions on Christmas Eve.)**

## A NOTE FROM FR. TOM

Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

**℟: (7c and 10b) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

The LORD's are the earth and its fullness;  
the world and those who dwell in it.

For he founded it upon the seas  
and established it upon the rivers. **℟**

Who can ascend the mountain of the LORD?  
or who may stand in his holy place?

One whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean,  
who desires not what is vain. **℟**

He shall receive a blessing from the LORD,  
a reward from God his savior.

Such is the race that seeks for him,  
that seeks the face of the God of Jacob. **℟**

We have reached the Fourth Sunday of Advent, and with Christmas falling on Sunday this year, we still have a full week of prayer and penance in preparation for the Lord's coming. As we enter the last week before Christmas, the Responsorial Psalm on this fourth and final Sunday of Advent is a procession psalm, which would be sung or chanted as a liturgical procession entered the city of Jerusalem or the Temple, especially if the procession bore the Ark of the Covenant, considered to be the presence of God: *Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory.*

Psalm 24 is particularly appropriate at Mass this week as we await the entrance of God into human history with the birth of Jesus. *Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory.* The conception of Jesus in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary is the great entrance of God into the human temple of Mary, *whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean, / who desires not what is vain.*

In these final days of Advent, pray this psalm in preparation for the Lord's entrance into human history. Through the sacrament of confession, prepare your soul to be a suitable temple for the Lord, and then, with a clean heart, *Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory.*

God bless you,  
Fr. Tom

## Saint Bartholomew Parish

Masses for Christmas & the New Year

### The Nativity of the Lord [Christmas]

Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

3:30 PM\* Christmas Concert

4:00 PM\* Vigil Mass, with Choir

4:00 PM Vigil Mass (Ward Hall)

6:00 PM Vigil Mass

Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

Midnight Mass during the Night

8:00 AM Mass at Dawn

11:00 AM\* Mass during the Day

### Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup> 4:00 PM

Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup> 8:00, 9:45\* & 11:30 AM

### The Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup> 4:00 PM

Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> 8:00, 9:45\* & 11:30 AM

\* Livestreamed



## SAINT BARTHOLOMEW PRAY FOR US



*Here is a true child  
of Israel.  
'There is no guile in him.'  
Bartholomew/Nathanael  
answered him: '  
Rabbi, you are the  
Son of God; you are the  
King of Israel.'  
~ John 1:47-48 ~*

# Getting into the Christmas Spirit at St. Bartholomew Parish

## Giving Tree of Warmth



Place new, unwrapped gifts of winter hats, gloves, socks, blankets, and other warm items under our Giving Tree of Warmth. In partnership with St. Sebastian's School, all donations will be delivered to Catholic Charities of Boston for distribution to those in need of warmth this winter. The first delivery was made this week. Thank you to all who have contributed items to date. Thanks also to the residents, family, and friends at Avita of Needham for their participation in the parish's Giving Tree of Warmth.

## Christmas Flowers

Offering envelopes for Christmas flowers are available at the doors of the church and can be placed in the offertory baskets after Mass or dropped off at the Parish Office. Contributions can also be made online at our website. The names of all those to be remembered will be published in a special insert in the Christmas bulletin. Thank you for your help in making our sanctuary even more beautiful this Christmas.



## Christmas Choir Concert

A combined Adult and Youth Christmas Choir will present a concert of Christmas music at **3:30 PM on Christmas Eve, before the 4:00 PM Vigil Mass**. Please join us in the church for a memorable musical presentation to begin our celebration of Christmas. Thank you to Charlie Kanelos for directing this special choir, and to all the choir members, old and new.

### SPECIAL COLLECTION CHRISTMAS CLERGY TRUST

The one collection taken up at all the Christmas Masses throughout the Archdiocese of Boston benefits the Clergy Trust to support the retirement, health, and wellbeing of Boston priests in good standing. On behalf of all our priests, thank you in advance for your generosity. For more information, please visit [www.clergytrust.org](http://www.clergytrust.org)

### CHRISTMAS CHOIR

A combined adult and youth choir will return to St. Bartholomew for the 4:00 Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve. New members are welcome! All interested adults, and the parents of interested youth, are asked to contact Charlie Kanelos: [cnkanelos15@gmail.com](mailto:cnkanelos15@gmail.com) or (781) 223-7456.

### ST. BARTHOLOMEW MEN'S GROUP

The parish Men's Group meets every **3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday** of the month (**7:30—8:30 AM**) in the Parish Office. The next meeting is **December 20**. The group discusses the Mass readings for the next Sunday, along with some friendly talk and fellowship. Any man interested in expanding his understanding of Scripture, and helping others to do the same, is invited to meet at the Parish Office on Tuesday morning. For more information, call Marty Cunniffe at (781) 444-9033 or (617) 694-6221 (cell).

### GIFT—GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

Join us for the St. Bartholomew Parish Women's Prayer Group each **Wednesday, 10:00 AM**, in the rectory O'Brien room—easy, no stairs, access through the garage. Refreshments are available, followed by the coming Sunday Gospel, prayers, and discussion. A Bible scholar one does not have to be. We are all joining together to raise our thoughts and voices to God for one blessed hour. PLEASE JOIN US! Questions, Kathy Reilly (781) 444-0862, [kreilly15@yahoo.com](mailto:kreilly15@yahoo.com)

### ST. BARTHOLOMEW BOOK CLUB

Meetings are held every **1<sup>st</sup> Monday** of the month at **1:00 PM** in the rectory O'Brien room — easy, no stair access through the garage. Our recent Book Club meeting resulted in an enthusiastic discussion of the chosen book, *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict. It was most agreeable and informative to all. Our next meeting will occur a week LATER than usual on **January 9**, as the first Monday of the month occurs January 2, which is too close to the holidays. Our chosen book for January 9th is *DINNERS WITH RUTH* by Nina Totenberg. This book is a memoir on the power of friendships (Ruth Bader Ginsberg and Nina Totenberg). Have a wonderful holiday season and please find a moment for yourself to read the above. Please join us! For questions, Kathy Reilly (781) 444-0862, [kreilly15@yahoo.com](mailto:kreilly15@yahoo.com)

### SPACED SEATING, CRY ROOMS, LIVE-STREAM MASS

There is **no longer a general dispensation** from attending Mass in person. Spaced seating is available on one side of the church for those desiring more room. Cry rooms are available for reservation on [Sign Up Genius](http://SignUpGenius.com). The 9:45 AM Sunday Mass is livestreamed on our Facebook page for those who cannot attend in person because of serious health reasons.



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SUPPORT OUR PRIESTS THIS CHRISTMAS

Your gift helps care for the health and well-being of priests in good standing.

## A note on the Clergy Trust from Fr. John Mulloy

Since the day of my ordination more than 50 years ago, I have been grateful that God called me to the priesthood. Being committed to serving others' needs as a living sacrament of God's presence is a distinct privilege. However, it often leaves very little time for self-care. For myself and the more than 500 other active and senior diocesan priests, self-care is made easier and has become more natural thanks to the support of the Clergy Trust.

This support was made very clear to me years ago when, while skiing out of state, I had a heart event. All the care I received was covered by the Clergy Trust. What a relief! Now, as an aging senior priest facing increasing health challenges, I have moved into the Regina Cleri Residence in Boston. This community has given me more joy and provided me with more peace of mind than I ever could have imagined.

Operating Regina Cleri is just one of the three programs that the Clergy Trust provides to priests in good standing. The Dedicated Care Team is available anytime for healthcare or wellness guidance and support, and the Intentional Living Program provides resources, seminars, and communications to help us maintain our health.

From ordination to the moment we are called home to God, the Clergy Trust cares for us. Your generosity to the parish collection this Christmas will allow the Clergy Trust to continue carrying out its mission so that we can continue carrying out our mission to serve Christ and you. On behalf of my brothers in Christ, thank you. May God bless your generous hearts. Have a blessed Christmas. - Fr. John Mulloy



### Nativity Crèche

In its present form, the custom of displaying figures depicting the birth of Christ owes its origin to St. Francis of Assisi, who made the Christmas crèche for Christmas Eve of 1223.

The blessing of the Christmas manger or nativity scene may take place on Christmas Eve or at another time:

Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

### NEW ALTAR CRUCIFIX



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

*Fr. Daniel J. Kennedy- Needham Council # 1611*

The beautiful new priest's crucifix at the center of the altar was made possible by a generous gift to the parish by the Needham Knights of Columbus, Fr. Daniel J. Kennedy Council 1611.

The crucifix faces the priest so that he has an image of the crucifixion in front of him while offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at the altar.

Thank you to the Knights of Columbus for all that they do for both St. Bartholomew and St. Joseph Parishes.



Eucharistic Adoration is held each Friday at St. Joseph Church following the 6:50 AM Mass, until 12:00 PM.

**ST. BARTHOLOMEW PARISH CALENDAR**

| SUN   | MON   | TUE   | WED  | THU  | FRI  | SAT   |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| December 18   | 19  | 20  | 21   | 22   | 23   | 24  |
| Fourth Sunday of Advent   |   |   |  |  |  |   |
| MASSES:<br>8:00, 9:45, 11:30 AM<br><br>4:00—5:00 PM,<br>Christmas Choir—<br>Youth & Adult | 9:00 AM, Mass<br><br>4:00 PM<br>RE Class (1—6)                            | 9:00 AM, Mass<br><br>7:30 AM, Men's<br>Group—Parish<br>Office<br><br>6:30—8:00 PM,<br>Christmas Choir—<br>Adult | 9:00 AM, Mass<br><br>10:00 AM<br>GIFT - O'Brien Rm | 9:00 AM, Mass                                  | 9:00 AM, Mass                                    | 9:00 AM, Mass<br><br>3:30 PM, Concert<br><br>4:00 PM, Vigil Mass<br>(with choir)<br><br>4:00 PM, Vigil Mass<br>(Ward Hall)<br><br>6:00 PM, Vigil Mass |
| December 25   | 26  | 27  | 28   | 29   | 30   | 31  |
| The Nativity of the Lord  | St. Stephen<br>The First Martyr   | St. John<br>Apostle, Evangelist   | The Holy Innocents<br>Martyrs                      | Fifth Day within the<br>Octave of the Nativity | The Holy Family of<br>Jesus, Mary, and<br>Joseph | Seventh Day within<br>the Octave of the<br>Nativity   |
| Midnight, Mass<br><br>8:00 AM, Mass<br><br>11:00 AM, Mass                                 | 9:00 AM, Mass<br><br>Office closed  | 9:00 AM, Mass   | 9:00 AM, Mass<br><br>10:00 AM<br>GIFT - O'Brien Rm | 9:00 AM, Mass                                  | 9:00 AM, Mass                                    | 9:00 AM, Mass<br><br>2:30—3:15 PM,<br>Confession<br><br>4:00 PM, Mass   |
| January 1   | 2   | 3   | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7   |
| Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God   | Ss. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen<br>Bishops, Doctors of the Church |   | St. Elizabeth Ann Seton<br>Religious               | St. John Neumann<br>Bishop                     |  |   |
| MASSES:<br>8:00, 9:45, 11:30 AM   | 9:00 AM, Mass<br><br>Office closed  | 9:00 AM, Mass   | 9:00 AM, Mass<br><br>10:00 AM<br>GIFT - O'Brien Rm | 9:00 AM, Mass                                  | 9:00 AM, Mass                                    | 9:00 AM, Mass<br><br>2:30—3:15 PM,<br>Confession<br><br>4:00 PM, Mass   |

**Fourth Sunday of Advent | December 18**

Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)

**Reflection.** Sometimes the signs God gives are unmistakable. Sometimes the signs are not so obvious. What signs do we see when we look around us? Sometimes it is hard to see God's signs because the signs of our world are so ever present and large. How many times this month have you seen this sign: "ONLY 20 (or 18, or 10, or 6 or...) MORE SHOPPING DAYS 'TIL CHRISTMAS." Do we ever stop to think, "How many praying days left until Christmas?"

**Prayer for the Advent Wreath.** Lord, our God, we praise You for Your Son, Jesus Christ, for He is Emmanuel, the Hope of all people.

He is the Wisdom that teaches and guides us. He is the Savior of us all. O Lord, let your blessing come upon us as we light all candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise of salvation. May He come quickly and not delay. We ask this in His holy name. Amen.

**Advent Action.** Look around you for a sign of God's presence. When you find it, share it with someone.

**Prayer.** O come, O Key of David, come and open wide our heavenly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.

*This article is taken from the [EWTN website](http://www.ewtn.com).*



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*"Jesus Wept." John 11:35*

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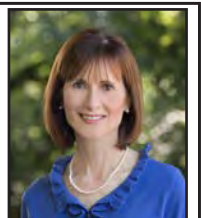


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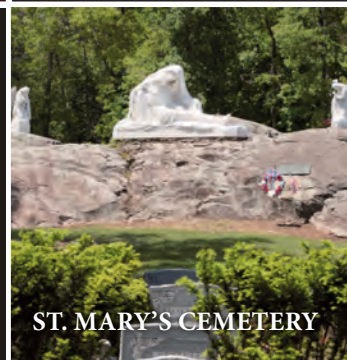
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ST. MARY'S CEMETERY

St Mary's Cemetery in Needham, founded in the 1870's, is the parish cemetery of Mary Immaculate of Lourdes. The Cemetery is a reverent resting place for those awaiting reunion with the Risen Lord. The decision to pre-plan and purchase interment rights is a responsible and thoughtful gesture, sparing loved ones the stress of making difficult decisions during a time of grief and loss.

For information, call the cemetery staff at Mary Immaculate of Lourdes Church at 781-235-1841. St. Mary's Cemetery | 1 Wellesley Avenue, Needham, MA 02494

