

"When Joseph awoke from the dream he did as the angel told him and took Mary into his home."

December 23, 2007
4th Sunday of ADVENT
December 24 & 25
CHRISTMAS

THE READINGS:

Isaiah 7:10-14. *The virgin shall conceive and bear a son.*

Romans 1:1-7. *Jesus, descendant of David, is the Son of God.*

Matthew 1:18-24. *Joseph dreams that Mary will be the Mother of God.*

MASS INTENTIONS:

Sat. Dec. 22 4PM Maria L. Resendes & Leonora Resendes
 Sun. Dec. 23 8:30 Maria L. Duarte
 10:30 Mildred & Adrian Bolduc
 Mon. Dec. 24 9AM Intention at the discretion of priest
 4PM Our Parishioners
 6PM Our Parishioners
 12 Midnight Our Parishioners
 Tue. Dec. 25 8:30 Our Parishioners
 10:30 Our parishioners
 Wed. Dec. 26 9AM Roslyn Arruda
 Thu. Dec. 27 9AM Florence Mallen
 Sat. Dec. 29 4PM David T. Sullivan – 13th Anniversary
 Sun. Dec. 30 8:30 Ryan P. Nolan – 1st Anniversary
 10:30 Tancredo Custodio
 2:30 Wedding – David Allen Zukowski
 & Andrea Marie Soracco

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

December 22 & 23rd

4PM Bob Nogueira
 Claudette Laffan
 Denise Branco
 8:30AM Diane Barboza
 Roxie Leary
 Pat Canto
 10:30AM Lucille Benoit
 Sharyn Fitzgerald
 Joanna DeCosta

December 24th & 25th

4PM Roxie Leary
 Beth Lawton
 Diane Barboza
 6PM Jeannine Conroy
 Judy Norman
 Joe Andrews
 12 Midnight Carol Levesque
 Lucille Benoit
 Denise Branco
 8:30AM Linda Smith
 Joanna DeCosta
 Susan Plonka
 10:30AM Ellen Demetrius
 Opening
 Opening

LECTORS:

Paul Levesque
 Carolyn Reilly
 Ernie Benoit
 Ernie Benoit
 Carolyn Reilly
 Janine Perry
 Ernie Benoit
 Linda Rodrigues
 Michael Patrick

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:

CHRISTMAS EVE, Monday, December 24th

4 PM Children's' Mass with Children's Choir with
 Special Homily Theme: "What Happened To
 'Merry Christmas'?"

6PM Christmas Vigil Mass music by our Parish Choir**

12 Midnight – Solemn Mass of Christmas Midnight
 Procession to the Crib and Blessing of Crèche –
 sung Christmas Proclamation

**Please note the addition of the 6PM Mass for those who
 might want a less crowded Mass.

CHRISTMAS DAY, Tuesday, December 25th

Masses at 8:30 and 10:30AM

Masses for New Year's Day –

Holyday of Obligation – Mary Mother of God
 Mass on New Year's Eve – December 31st, 2007 at 4PM
 Mass on New Year's Day, January 1, 2008 at 9AM

PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED:

In your prayers please remember FLORENCE MALLEN whose funeral was celebrated here last Saturday, for MABEL HARTFORD who died this week and will have a Memorial Mass celebrated here in the spring, for EVELYN LORANGER (Fr. Mike's great aunt), and DEACON MAURICE LAVALLEE of St. Joseph-St. Therese Parish in New Bedford. May Florence, Mabel, Evelyn and Deacon LaVallee now experience loving peace in Eternal Life.

DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER LAST SUNDAY.....(to say the least)...today we present:



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

TODAY! December 23, 2007

Come downstairs today and say hello to Santa! While you are there, enjoy a delicious breakfast prepared by Chef Jeff: Pancakes or French toast, scrambled eggs, home fries, ham or sausage, breakfast pastries, juice, coffee or hot chocolate! Yummy!!! Tickets are on sale at the door: \$6 adults and \$3 children under age 12. Breakfast with Santa is sponsored by the KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS.

THE WOMEN OF ST BERNARD

will provide a gift wrapping service in the library while Breakfast with Santa is taking place from 8-noon for a nominal fee. This is a great opportunity if you are one of those people who hate to wrap gifts, you can have your Christmas gifts wrapped while you have breakfast. Boxes and tissue paper will be available if needed. Monies will be donated to help defray the church debt.

THE CANDLE IN THE SANCTUARY is lit during the month of December in memory of JAMES J. HASKINS.

From Father Mike: ADVENT CONTINUES: Today we light the fourth and final candle of the Advent wreath; it's a short time as Christmas Eve is Monday. The fourth candle represents love. We read the account of Christ's birth today in the Gospel. As we prepare to celebrate this great feast of Christmas, may we always show love to one another not only on Christmas, but every day.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL should be submitted in writing by Jan. 5th via the parish email or dropped off at the Church Office for our Jan. 9th meeting at 6:30PM in the parish center.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL should be submitted by Jan. 12th for our next meeting on Jan. 16th at 6:30PM in the rectory.

CALENDARS: 2008 Home calendars are available at all the entrances of the Church. They are provided through the courtesy of the Cross of Christ Council of the Knights of Columbus and the Hathaway Family Funeral Homes.

GIFTS FROM BETHLEHEM: A representative from Gifts from Bethlehem will be present this weekend in the Church basement displaying and selling traditional handcrafted olivewood religious items. **This is not a fundraiser for our church**, but all proceeds are sent directly to the Holy Land who relies on this support to make an everyday living. Individuals from this company have visited other parishes in our area and comment so positively of the generosity of the people. Items for sale (all made of Olivewood) will include rosaries, full and individual manger pieces as well as other religious items. Perhaps you have a child or grandchild receiving Baptism, First Communion or Confirmation in the coming months, or looking for a very special last minute Christmas gift or even something for your own spiritual renewal. Items for view will be ready by 3PM in the church hall on Saturday and all of Sunday. Parents are highly encouraged to bring their children to see these beautiful pieces of work.

THE GIVING TREE – A sincere word of thanks to all who gave so generously to our parish giving tree so many people whose Christmas would have not been so bright has been made so because of your generosity. Thanks to all our volunteers who made the tags, sorted and delivered the gifts, another sign of a great parish community working together.

FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS – May be donated in memory of a loved one. Their names will be memorialized on the bulletin board at the main entrance to church. Please use the envelopes provided with the budget envelopes or use the ones available in the pews.

DURING THIS HOLY SEASON the parish is happy to announce the creation of a new pro-life committee committed to upholding and promoting the Church's teachings on the sacredness and dignity of all human life from conception to natural death. Additional information will be available in the near future.

LATEST UPDATE FROM OUR COACHING STAFF: The CYO B team stayed undefeated in a hard fought 20-13

game against their toughest competition yet – Holy Name. ANDREW MAHONEY led scorers with 6 pts, JOHNNY HILL contributed 5 pts and JOHN MATTIE added another 3. CAMERON CHRISTO, MIKE MAHONEY and SAM MCGOWAN showed great ball handling skill against a very aggressive press. Hey, who needs the Celtics? The B Team's record is now 6-0. Next game is Thursday, 12/27 at 7PM at the CYO in Fall River. All spectators welcome!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES resume Jan. 6th, 2008.

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ON YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH? Did you ever wonder why we bow before the crucifix? Why do we use incense at Masses? Check out the new feature on our parish website: ASK THE PASTOR. Simply click on the email link on the website, or send an email to StBernardAssonet@aol.com with your questions. Fr. Mike will post the questions along with the answers on our website.

THE CENACLE PRAYER GROUP will have two weeks off due to the Christmas and New Year's holidays. They will meet again on Tuesday, January 8th, 2008.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT: The regular parish collection last weekend was \$1,624.54 due to the inclement weather. \$1,148 was given towards the Church Mortgage, \$5 for Building & Maintenance and \$10 for Utilities. Bills paid recently: \$924.37 payroll, \$203.37 telephone & internet, \$1,679.54 heat, \$900.00 poinsettias, \$253.00 religious education, \$63.00 liturgical supplies, \$435.00 charity, \$101.29 rectory supplies, \$254.00 Christmas decorations, \$570 snow removal & sanding, \$41 postage, \$999.64 employee medical, and \$191.62 employee dental. We appreciate parishioners' sense of responsibility towards their parish finances even if the weather interferes with their attendance at Mass.

THE SECOND COLLECTION TODAY is for the Parish Emergency Fund.

THE COLLECTION ON CHRISTMAS is for our parish operating expenses.

THE SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND is for the Parish Emergency Fund.

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

On behalf of all the staff here at St. Bernard Parish, I want to extend to all of our parishioners and your families a Holy and Blessed Christmas. Christmas is about so many things, but as we have reflected throughout the Advent Season, it's about the peace, love, hope and joy that Christ brought to the world over 2000 years ago and still brings into our lives through the happy and difficult times. Without Christ there would not be so many things, but with Christ there are so many things that we can bring into our lives and homes each day.

A Blessed Christmas to All!

Father Mike