

December 4, 2016

SECOND SUNDAY

of

Advent



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John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying,
“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”

Matthew 3:1



MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, December 3rd

Vigil: Second Sunday of Advent

4:30 PM: Catherine Levesque req by Mr. &
Mrs. James Bean

SUNDAY, December 4th

Second Sunday of Advent

8:30AM: Deceased members of the Richmond family req
by their family and for all parishioners

10:30AM: Joann Schuettinger req by Josephine Plant

MONDAY, December 5th

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Jean Marc Bechard req by his family

TUESDAY, December 6th

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30 AM: Delphis Caron req by his daughter & family

WEDNESDAY, December 7th

**Vigil: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed
Virgin Mary**

NO MORNING MASS

7:00 PM: Bette Tyloch (25th anniv) req by Bruce &
Janet Angus

THURSDAY, December 8th

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:30AM: Deceased members of the Gutierrez family
req by José Gutierrez

FRIDAY, December 9th

8:10AM: Morning Prayer

8:30AM: Edward Decourcy req by his wife & family

SATURDAY, December 10th

Vigil: Third Sunday of Advent

4:30 PM: Donna Lewis req by her family

SUNDAY, December 11th

Third Sunday of Advent

8:30AM: William Fleming req by the Fleming family

10:30AM: Dorothy Graci req by her loving daughter and
for all parishioners

GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

Part of Isaiah's hopeful description of the Messiah contains the traditional seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Messiah, and looking forward to his coming in glory, let us take a look at those gifts and see how we can use them.

Wisdom is the gift of seeing God in creation. It means that we value the things of this world only as they help us to know and love God more. The second gift, understanding, follows from wisdom. We understand what God expects of us in dealing with creation and other people. This gift helps us know how to act in a world that seems to ignore God.

Counsel follows from understanding as the gift of making correct judgments on how to act. For example, understanding can lead us to love others; counsel guides us to love them in appropriate ways.

Strength, or fortitude, is the gift that enables us to do those things inspired by understanding and counsel, even if they are difficult. John the Baptist displays that gift in the Gospel. Fortitude gave him the courage to die for his faith.

Knowledge is similar to counsel in that we begin to see what God wants for us in this world. Knowledge leads us to deeper revelations of the truths of our faith. This can lead to the sixth gift, piety (seventh in Isaiah's text--"delight in the Lord"), a willingness to worship and love God, a desire to be close to God in prayer.

The final gift, fear of the Lord, is the awe and wonder of recognizing how great God is, how much God loves us, and how much we want to stay close to God. And the desire to be close to God circles back to the wisdom with which we see God in creation.

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Mass Schedule

Saturday: 4:30 pm

Sunday : 8:30 am and 10:30 am

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 8:30 am

Holy Days: anticipated Mass (evening before) @7:00
pm & 8:30 am on the Holy Day

Parish Office/Rectory: 424-3757

Pastor: Rev. Msgr. Paul Bouchard

Email: FrPaul@olmnh.org

Deacon: Mr. John Castelot

Email: deaconjohn@olmnh.org

Pastoral Associate: Marie Dancy

Email: mdancy@olmnh.org

Director of Parish Religious Education: Elaine Lamb

Email: emlamb2@olmnh.org

Office Manager: Catherine Guman

Email: cguman@olmnh.org

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the
souls of **Jean Gagne & Doris Hartnett.**



Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to the families of Jean & Doris. We pray that the God of compassion be with you during this time of sorrow and that He welcomes Jean & Doris into His eternal kingdom of peace.



Christmas Mass Schedule

December 24, 2016

Saturday — 4:00 PM; 7:00 PM; 12:00 AM (midnight)

December 25, 2016

Sunday — 10:30 AM

New Year's Schedule

December 31, 2016 ...4:30 PM

January 1, 2017...8:30 AM & 10:30 AM



How Many People does it Take to Hold Up a giant Rosary?

(answer 65)

The Life Matters Ministry invites everyone to join us after the Mass of the Immaculate Conception, on Wednesday, **December 7th**. Mass is at 7:00 pm and the Rosary begins right after Mass. The Knights of Columbus will be there with their giant Living Rosary. What an awesome feeling it is to join your fellow parishioners in praying the Rosary, one of the most powerful prayer tools we have! Come and hold a bead and pray with us this Advent to the Blessed Mother for peace in our world and for all people to recognize the dignity of life at all stages.

***Advent Penance Service
Sunday, December 11, 2016
St John Neumann Parish
Merrimack, NH
2:00 PM***

***Deanery-Wide Advent Penance Service
Sunday, December 18, 2016
St. Joseph's Parish
Nashua, NH
2:00 PM***

As we prepare for Advent, come to the Lord and experience the extraordinary grace of His forgiveness!

Parish Stewardship

Weekend of 11/12 & 11/13: \$6360.00

Human Development: \$2451.00

Weekend of 11/19 & 11/20: \$5742.00

Flower Fund: \$2301.00



Thank You for Your Continued Generosity!!

Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary Lamp for the week of December 3rd through December 9 is lit in memory of **Roger Bonenfant.**

If you would like an opportunity to dedicate the Sanctuary Lamp, over the Tabernacle, in memory of a deceased loved one or for a special intention, please contact the parish office at 424-3757.

Advent/Christmas Outreach



Please have all gift cards returned by Sunday, December 11th. This is a way to enable many to make Christmas merry!!

NOTE: For those of you who chose one of the gas station gift cards, we recently became aware that some of the stations do not give out gift cards. Please purchase a gas card from whatever station has this option.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception Of the Blessed Virgin Mary A Holy Day of Obligation



The Immaculate Conception refers to the condition that the Blessed Virgin Mary was free from Original Sin from the very moment of her conception in the womb of her mother, St. Anne.

Masses to celebrate this holy day will be held on Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm and on Thursday morning at 8:30 AM.

Baptisms



We would like to welcome into our parish community: **Sydney Natalie Elliott & Julie Marie Lavallee.** May your child bring you joy and happiness in the years ahead.

Be assured of our support and prayers as you exercise the responsibility of training your child in the practice of the faith.

Thank You

The Knights of Columbus would like to thank everyone in the parish for their support of the 17th annual Craft Fair. Thank you to everyone who came to the fair to patronize all our vendors and our Ladies Guild's Penny Sale. We'd especially like to thank everyone who donated baked goods for our bake table, food items for our kitchen, and the items for our raffle. The proceeds of the craft fair go directly to support our charities, and this year's fair was our most successful one ever. Thanks again to all!

The Knights would also like to thank the community for their participation in making the November 17th Blood Drive a success. Fifty pints of blood were donated.

The Outreach Wreath

It is the goal of our outreach effort to help the poor of this community. Some of the outside organizations also helped by this outreach effort are:



Anne Marie House provides services to homeless families. At AMH keeping families together is of utmost importance in ensuring successful and sustainable lifestyles.

Maguerite's Place provides housing & supportive services to homeless women and their children.

The Sisters of St Joseph Learning Center assists refugees and the poor of Manchester.

Rose Haven is an assisted living facility in Merrimack that encourages residents to maintain healthy lifestyles.

People are asking...

The Ribbon Processional poles. You may have noticed these poles and wondered....what's that about?.... We have left Ordinary Time and entered into the Season of Advent. Advent comes as we approach the darkest time of the year. You will notice that the ribbons are dark blue and purple, with a few slivers of gold and silver. Keep an eye on the poles. As we move toward Christmas the colors will become lighter, and on Christmas....wow! we will celebrate the coming of Jesus, the light of the world.

Thank You

The Parish would like to thank Doug Kabel and his wife for donating the new American Flag which is now on the altar. The flag was donated in honor of their daughter and all military personnel for their service to our country.

The Parish would also like to thank all parishioners who donated gift cards and food during our Thanksgiving Outreach. Our ministry to the needy is combined with St. John Neumann to better facilitate assistance to our neighbors in need. Many families benefitted from your support of this program.

GIFT IT FORWARD

An Advent suggestion: Gift it Forward during Advent. So often our Advent is filled with the fast paced planning and preparations for Christmas. Give your love in a gift of yourself during this Advent season.

- A young child might consider keeping his room clean as a gift to a parent
- A spouse might clean up after dinner as a gift to the other spouse
- A friend might make extra time to do something with a friend as a gift.

There are many wonderful ways to gift it forward. Come up with your own special ways to give the gift of love.

Information Page

Acct #: 694750

Our Lady of Mercy Parish
16 Baboosic Lake Road
Merrimack, NH 03054

Contact Person: Kathleen Rush

Phone: (603) 424-4477 or (603) 424-3757

Fax: (603) 424-1780

Email Address: kjrush1@olmnh.org

BULLETIN FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 4, 2017

Kathy
