

St. Mary Star of the Sea Parish
253 Cabot Street ~ Beverly, Massachusetts

Rev. David J. Barnes, Pastor

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



HYMNS & READINGS

PRO: 357—“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

READ: 776

REC: 357—“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

Rev. David J. Barnes, Pastor

253 Cabot Street—Beverly, Massachusetts 01915

Rectory Telephone Number: 978-922-0113

St. Mary Star of the Sea Parish Website: www.stmarystar.org

St. Mary Star of the Sea School Website: www.stmarystarschool.org

Principal, St. Mary's School

Pre K through 8th Grade

Mr. Kevin Cushman—978-927-3259

Director RCIA

Mr. Neil Yetts—978-922-0113

Director of Maintenance

Mr. James Weston—978-922-0113

Parish Secretary

Ms. Nina Sudak—978-922-0113

St. Mary's School, Development Director

Mrs. Anna Bertini—978-998-6848

Administrator, Religious Education

Mrs. Christine O'Brien - 978-922-0799

Organist/Choirmaster

Mr. Frederick MacArthur – 978-609-4302

Business Manager

Mrs. Diane Macedo

Baptism

Celebration on the Third Sunday of the Month

Baptismal Catechesis Required for First Time Parents ~ Third Monday of the Month at Rectory

Marriage

Engaged couples are advised to call the Rectory at least six months prior to their wedding date.

Participation in a Marriage Preparation Program is required.

Mass Schedule

Monday thru Saturday 7:00 AM (Except Thursday's)

Saturday 4:00 PM ~ Sunday / 8:15 AM / 10:30 AM / 5:00 PM

Holy Day Masses

See Parish Calendar for Mass Times

Confessions

Saturday ~ 2:30 PM ~ 3:15 PM Lower Church, or by Appointment

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, December 21 ~

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sm 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16 / Ps 89:2-5,27,

Rom 16:25-27 / Lk 1:26-38

Monday, December 22 ~

Sm 1:24-28 / Sm 2:1,4-7,8a-d / Lk 1:46-56

Tuesday, December 23 ~

Mal 3:1-4,23-24 / Ps 25:4bc-5ab,8-10,14

Lk 1:57-66

Wednesday, December 24 ~

Sm 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16 / Ps 89:2-5,27,29

Lk 1:67-79

VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS

Is 9:1-6 / Ps 96:1-3,11-13 / Ti 2:11-14 / Lk 2:1-14

Thursday, December 25 ~

**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
(CHRISTMAS)**

Is 52:7-10 / Ps 98:1-6 / Heb 1:1-6 / Jn 1:1-18Acts

6:8-10;7:54-59 / Ps 31

Friday, December 26 ~

Acts 6:8-10;7:54-59 / Ps 31:3-4,6-8,17-21 / Mt

10:17-22

Saturday, December 27 ~

Jn 1:1-4 / Ps 97:1-2,5-6,11-12 / Jn 20:2-8

Sunday, December 28 ~

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND
JOSEPH**

Sir 3:2-7,12-14 / Ps 128:1-5 / Col 3:12-21

Lk 2:22-40

Parish Calendar

SUNDAY

9:15 AM Bible Discussion-Lower Church
 9:15 AM RCIA
 9:20 AM Religious Education—K-8
 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal—Main Church
 11:30 AM Baptisms

MONDAY

NO CONFIRMATION CLASSES
 6:30 PM Confessions—Lower Church

WEDNESDAY

NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SATURDAY

NO MEN'S GROUP

WEEKLY NEED:
\$9,200.00
LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION:
\$7,859.00
PLUS THOSE CONTRIBUTING
THROUGH PARISH PAY:
\$1,149.50

HANDELS' MESSIAH
 Presented by:
 Combined Beverly Church Choirs & Guest Singers
 Under the Direction of:
 Robert F. Littlefield
 Frederick MacArthur, Organist
 Monday, December 22—8:00 PM
 First Parish Church ~ 225 Cabot Street
 Admission is Free

Mass Intentions
Monday, December 22
 Helen & Alfred Rossi
 Lucia & Guiseppi Freddura
Tuesday, December 23:
 Vito Calitri
Wednesday, December 24:
 Ernest Santin

PRAYERS
 Kindly remember in your prayers the intentions in our PARISH PRAYER BOOK, the deceased members of our parish, all who have asked for our prayers and for those who have no one to pray for them.

Special prayers are requested for:
JOHN E. PANZERO who recently passed away.

Sanctuary Light Donated
 in Memory of:
 Linda A. Bushey

SATURDAY MORNING ~ MEN'S GROUP
 St. Mary's Men's Group meets at 8:00 AM Saturday mornings in the Lower Church. Coffee and refreshments are provided, with talks on selected topics by members. Any questions or topic ideas please call: Ferde Rombola at 978-922-8502.

Saturday, 20 December ~ St. Francis of Assisi
Frank Kwiatkowski

Saturday, 27 December ~
 No Men's Group: Christmas Break

GRAND ANNUAL 2008
PLEDGED SO FAR: \$139,269.00 RECEIVED: \$125,005.00
TOTAL CONTRIBUTORS: 469

Please help us make our goal. For those who have not yet contributed, Grand Annual Envelopes are available in the back of the Church.
 Please consider contributing. St. Mary's depends upon your generosity.

I notice that the liturgical color for Christmas is white. Why?

The history of liturgical colors is fascinating, but although there are strong sympathies for red and green as the decorator's color du jour for Christmas, liturgical law does indeed weigh in for white. Within the Christian family, you may find churches that opt for our culture's theme colors, yet we are certain that white was the standard when the church crumbled apart at the Reformation. Scholars of color believe that the full range of color options were only solidly in place in the great cathedrals, monasteries and palaces, since most poor village churches were lucky to own one unbleached chasuble, much-repaired and seldom cleaned. The medieval church was therefore kind of carefree about color, and paid more attention to the quality of the vestment than the color. Since red is just about the least used color in liturgy, many places probably had a fine red vestment worth trotting out for Christmas. One English carol, the holly and the ivy, is an ancient clue as to how the green wreath and the red sash landed on your door. The green is a token of new life, and the red is a sign of the Lord's Passion. In the United States, we are accustomed to the glorious red and green of the poinsettia, a hardy and beautiful plant from Mexico that flourishes in our winter greenhouses. If you tune into Christmas Mass from the Vatican however, you will likely see more white flowers than red, and the northern European evergreen wreaths nowhere to be found. So, don't be afraid of red and green in decorating, since it helps us think about the one who comes to die to give us eternal life. But make sure the best white vestments are in good shape, because that's the universal color of Christmas in the liturgy!

ST. MARY STAR OF THE SEA ~ CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE OF MASSES

CONFESSION:

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 22
6:30—7:30 PM LOWER CHURCH**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24
4:00 PM LOWER CHURCH
4:00 PM MAIN CHURCH
6:30 PM MAIN CHURCH
MIDNIGHT MASS ~ MAIN CHURCH
*FULL CHOIR, TRUMPET, TIMPANI AND ORGAN***

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25
8:15 AM MAIN CHURCH
10:30 AM MAIN CHURCH**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31
4:00 PM MAIN CHURCH**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 1
10:30 AM MAIN CHURCH**

ADORATION: We are in need of persons to spend an hour each week praying before the Blessed Sacrament.

Monday—	7:30—8:30	Tuesday—	9:30-10:30	Wednesday—	1:30—2:30
	10:30—11:30		12:30—1:30		3:30—4:30
	11:30—12:30		1:30—2:30		4:30—5:30
	4:30—5:30		3:30—4:30		
	5:30—6:30				
Thursday—	10:30—11:30	Friday—	7:30—8:30		
	2:30—3:30		10:30—11:30		
	3:30—4:30		11:30—12:30		
	4:30—5:30		3:30—4:30		
			4:30—5:30		
			5:30—6:30		

There will be NO ADORATION: Wednesday, December 24 / Friday, December 26.

ST. MARY STAR OF THE SEA SCHOOL NEWS ~ "A Spirited, Faith-filled Community"

As our students light the last candle on our St. Mary's School life-sized Advent Wreath, let's listen to the words of these 4th graders:

Advent is a time to wait but not quite time to celebrate by: Lauren Fortini
GoD promised His people He would send a Messiah
Virgin Mother will have Jesus Christ when Advent is over
Each candle stands for Hope, Love, Joy, Peace
News fills the world with peace because our Saviour is coming
The best gift in the world is God's love, His Son

Advent is a time to prepare for the coming of Christ by: Sarah Kelley
During December we light the candles
Violet candles for 3 weeks and a rose one for another
Each Catholic should go to confession
Not Christmas until December 25th
Themes from the basis of our Advent season: hope, love, peace and joy

Advent is a time to wait by: Dante Egizi
During December we light four candles
There are three Violet candles and one pink
Each person should do something special
Not yet Christmas season
This is the time to go to Reconciliation, not to sin, and to prepare the for birth of Jesus

Advent is a time to wait, not quite time to celebrate by: Caroline Collins
GoD promised to the people that He would send a Messiah to save them
Virgin Mother is going to have Jesus Chris very soon
Each candle stand for one idea: Hope, Joy, Peace, Love
News fills the world with peace because our Savior is coming
The greatest gift of all is going to be in the world very soon: God's only Son

THANKS to **Rick & Helene Stevens** and their elves for a very successful Christmas Tree & Wreath sale!
And thanks to our parishioners for your support.

CHILDREN'S ADVENT HOLY HOUR – thank you to **Carol Augulewicz** and St. Mary's School parents for organizing a beautiful Advent Holy Hour for the children of St. Mary's School and St. Mary's Parish.

St. Mary Star of the Sea School students and staff wish all our friends at St. Mary Star of the Sea Parish a blessed Merry Christmas and all the best for a happy, healthy New Year!

We pray that the Peace and Promise of Christmas fill your hearts with Joy

Dear Friends in Christ,

I suppose for the rest of their lives, the shepherds pondered why it was that God chose them to be present that night at the manger. I imagine that as the years passed, they would sit in their pastures late at night, looking up at stars and recalling the night the heavens came down to earth; the night that the skies filled with angels. And, lost in their thoughts, their hearts would fill with wonder and awe. "Why," they would ask, "did God choose me to witness such a marvelous event?"

Often enough, in quieter moments in my own life, I ask this same question. Why indeed would God choose me to be the witness of his presence in the world? Often enough, the question arises in my heart after having spent time in the company of those whom the Lord has given to me as companions on the path. The question arises when I see the generosity and fidelity of those to whom the Lord has given to me. It arises when I see friends living out their varied vocations in humility and fidelity. The question will inevitably arise when the pipe organ intones the first notes of *Adeste Fideles* on Christmas. The question that arises in my heart is the same as the question that had to be in the hearts of the shepherds. The Son of God present in the arms of the Blessed Virgin Mary and under the gaze of St. Joseph is the same Christ who dwells among us in our life together.

The answer to this question always returns us to the infinite mercy, love, and goodness of God. We have done nothing to earn such a gift. He gives us His Presence as a pure act of love. In a sense, we are helpless in front of this Mystery.

Today, as we approach the Feast of Christmas, I give thanks to the Father for having given me the privilege of encountering the presence of His Son, here in our communion together. I join the shepherds in being lost in wonder, awe, and praise that God has been so good to me. This gift when meditated upon evokes a response from us. In the face of such extraordinary love, we are drawn to love in return.

In my own name and in the name of all of our staff, I wish you all a Blessed Christmas.

I include below, a beautiful but not so well-known Christmas Carol.

Your Brother in Christ,

Fr. David Barnes

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

In the bleak midwinter, frost wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
Worshiped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

