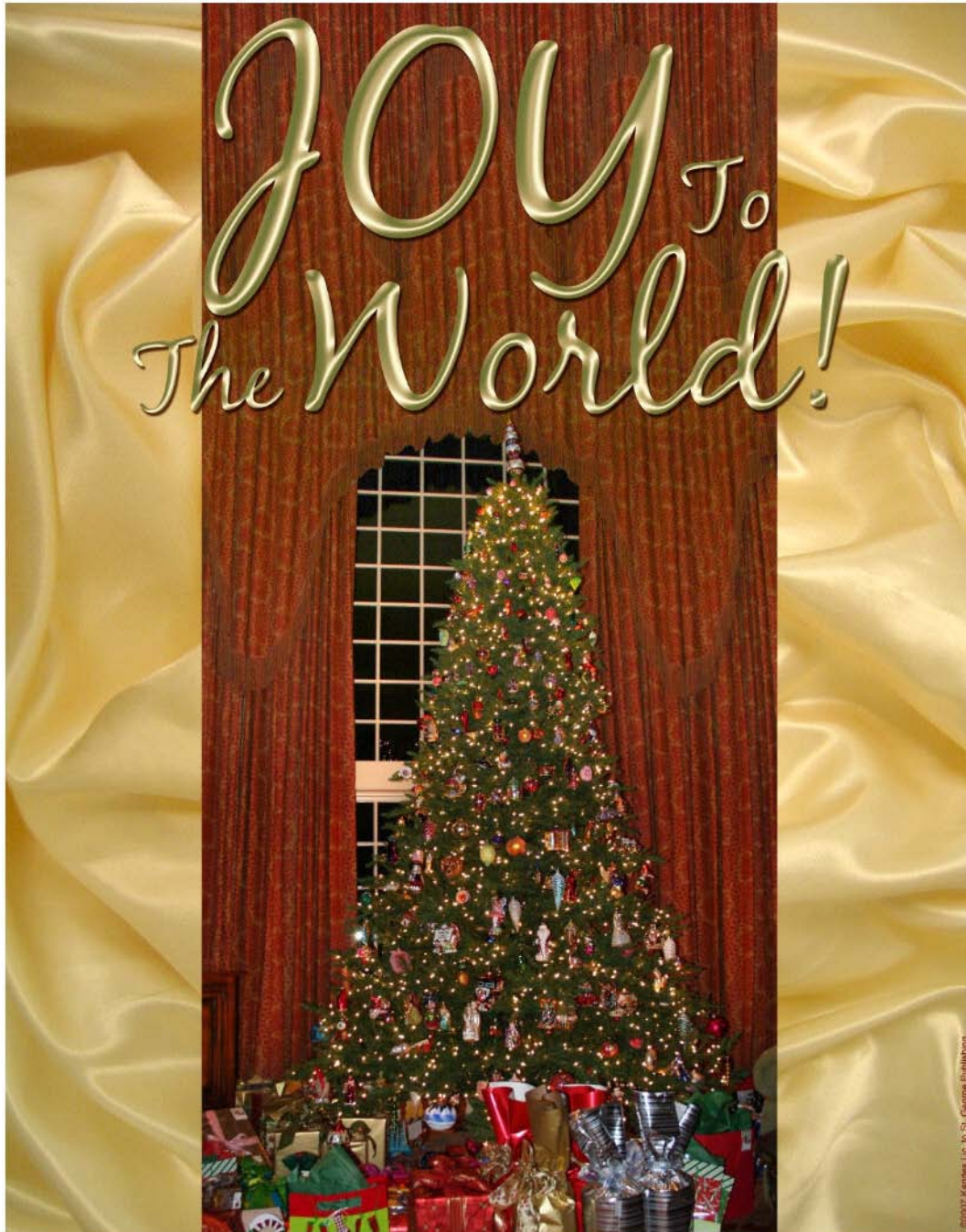


St. Margaret's Parish
Burlington, MA



December 20, 2009

Fourth Sunday of Advent

St. Margaret's Parish

111 Winn Street, Burlington, MA 01803

Phone 781-272-3111

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Fax 781-272-9204

web site www.saintmargaretschurch.net

Parish Staff

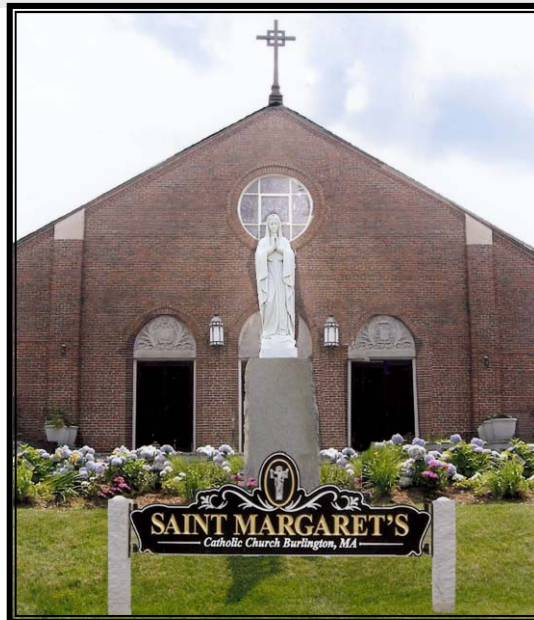


Rev. Joseph Robinson
Rev. Harry Kaufman
Deacon Dick Bilotta
Mrs. Peg Kelly
Mrs. Tina Braceland
Mrs. Mary Murgo
Ms. Mary Meehan
Mrs. Marge Fusco
Ms. Christine Field
Mr. Sonny Dirienzo
Mr. John Reale
Mrs. Maureen Crowe

Pastor
Associate Pastor
Permanent Deacon
Business Manager
Parish Secretary
Director of Religious Education
Music Director and Soloist
Choir Director
Cantor
Facilities Manager
Asst. Facilities Manager
Housekeeper

Finance Council

Rev. Joseph Robinson
 Rev. Harry Kaufman
 Beverly Broderick
 David Cox
 Dick Donovan
 Carl Humphreys
 Arthur Huse
 Jack O'Keeffe
 Nick Rosato
 Warren Russell



Pastoral Council

Rev. Joseph Robinson
 Deacon Dick Bilotta
 Gerry Broderick
 Lydia Brown
 Peter Dutton
 Julia Eggleston
 David Hanafin
 Mary Ippolito
 David Johnson
 Cynthia Kendall
 Art & Diana MacDonald
 Mary Lou McQuinn
 Stephen Morecroft
 Peter O'Keeffe
 David Peterson
 Tony Sulfaro
 George Vallas

Lectors & Eucharistic Ministers

Dick Donovan

Home Visitation

Cynthia Kendall

Pro-Life

Charles & Rose Hanafin
Bob Rigby

Landscaping

Jim Brine
Mary Lou McQuinn
Pat Moreno

Ministries

Sacristan

Mary Peck

Baptisms

Eleanor Hutchinson
Andrea Lamb

Confirmation

Joanne Mackey
Lydia Brown
Simone Tigges

Helping Hands

Peg Kelly

Ushers

Frank McGonagle

Altar Servers

Judy Hanafin
Matthew Hanafin

Bulletin/Website

Deacon Dick Bilotta
Tina Braceland
Janet Fitzgerald
K.G. Varghese

Dear Parishioners:

Friday of this week is Christmas. The schedule for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses is on the announcement page.

Night is the setting for two great Christian festivals: the birth of Jesus and His rising from death to glory. In many respects both feasts affirm the same thing: there is no darkness so powerful that it can destroy Christ's light, no sin so destructive that it cannot be overcome through the presence of Emmanuel, God-with-us. This is the night that brings peace to the restless and joy to the frightened. Salvation history reminds us that we have not earned our redemption, it was freely given. It has been wholly God's work! Merry Christmas everybody!

As is the case each year, at all Christmas Masses the proceeds from our collection are directed to the Priest Pension and Healthcare Funds, which provide for the retirement, and medical care, and financial needs of priests throughout the Archdiocese. By ensuring appropriate care for our senior priests and those facing medical difficulties, we express our gratitude for all that our priests have done for us, often in our times of great need. I ask you to join me in generously supporting this collection.

There are 752 priests who rely on the Priest Pension and Healthcare Funds to provide for their healthcare and financial needs. In addition, there are 274 senior priests who also rely on the Priest Pension and Healthcare Funds for their retirement benefits. In recent years, the Priest Pension and Healthcare Funds have been stressed with the increase in medical costs and with continually rising housing and living expenses. The need to stabilize this fund is critical and a top priority of Cardinal Sean and all the priests.

The Archdiocese has established a new website highlighting stories and profiles of our senior priests. To access the site, please visit www.CareForSeniorPriests.org

Fr. Robinson



Eternity's Clock and Crown

What is this advent wreath whose four candles help us mark the passing of weeks before Christmas? It is eternity's clock - a circle that says "In our ending is our beginning." It is the wheel of time - a circle of evergreen branches - cut and left to wither - revealing that death and life are both of a piece. It is also a crown, the victor's laurel hat, the sign that the race is done, the prize won. It is the crown of us as a people, a chosen race, a royal priesthood. It is the crown of each of us as individuals - *baptized* individuals (all of a piece) whose heads were smeared with that royal oil, chrism. We are marked for eternity. With all four candles lit, the Advent wreath is the fiery crown that we give to Christ the King, the Savior who returns in the growing gloom to gather us into our eternal home, the new and heavenly Jerusalem.



Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil	4:30 pm 7:30 pm
Sunday	7:30 am 10:00 am (Upstairs) 10:00 am (Downstairs) 12:00 noon
Weekday	6:45 am 9:00 am
Saturday	9:00 am

Sacraments

- Baptism** On the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 2:00 p.m. Please call for an interview with any priest at the rectory to fill out the baptismal form. If you have a priest coming for the Baptism, you are most welcome to schedule the Baptism at your convenience.
- Confirmation** Begins in the Ninth Grade and concludes in the Tenth Grade. Attendance includes class, liturgy, and ministry.
- Penance** Every Saturday in the lower church from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Marriage** Congratulations on your engagement ! Please schedule an appointment with a priest at least 6 months prior to the wedding. Engaged couples contemplating marriage are required to take a marriage preparation course. Available programs may be found on the Family Life website (www.familylifeboston.com) or by calling 617-746-5801.
- Anointing** Please call the rectory and we will visit at home. If anyone is confined to the house and would like to receive a Communion visit, please call us. Our eucharistic ministers assist us in these visits.
- Funerals** Arrangements are made through the funeral directors. They are most compassionate and experienced, and will be of great assistance to you at this particular time in your life. A priest from St. Margaret's will lead a prayer service at the wake and graveside, as well as preside at the Funeral Mass. Our parish hall is available after the funeral, if needed.

Private Devotions

- Rosary** – Daily after the 9:00 a.m. Mass in the upper church.
- Eucharistic Adoration** – Every first Friday after the 9:00 a.m. Mass until 5:00 p.m. at which time there is Benediction.
- Holy Hour** – Wednesdays from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. in the upper church. We pray to Our Lady of Fatima for the sick, the elderly, and the homebound.
- Bible Study** – Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the rectory.

Mass Intentions

Saturday	Dec.	19	9:00 am	Stephen McGowan
			4:30 pm	Charles & Mary Reynolds
			7:30 pm	George McQuinn (17th Anniversary)
Sunday	Dec.	20	7:30 am	Rose & Nicholas Saia
			10:00 am	Nicholas Dardeno III (2nd Anniversary)
			12:00 pm	Rev. James Shaughnessey
Monday	Dec.	21	9:00 am	Joseph Hrubí
Tuesday	Dec.	22	9:00 am	Jerome C. Cronin & Julia McMorrow
Wednesday	Dec.	23	6:45 am	Frank Broderick (16th Anniversary)
			9:00 am	Natalina Presti
Thursday	Dec.	24	6:45 am	Msgr John Kinneen (30th Anniversary)
			9:00 am	Mary Farren
		(up)	4:30 pm	Connie, Margaret, Connie Jr., George, Jim, Jack & Donal Dignan
		(down)	4:30 pm	George & Mary Dykas
			10:00 pm	Guy, Josephine, Guy Jr. & Stephen DeFilippo
Friday	Dec.	25	7:30 am	Max Stubbs
			10:00 am	Jerry & MaryMcGillicuddy & John McGillicuddy
			12:00 pm	Gary Faretra
Saturday	Dec.	26	4:30 pm	Angelo Nappa
			7:30 pm	Bob Robbins

Memorial Prayers: Gordon S. Watkins

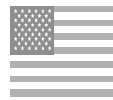


Prayers for the Sick



Maryellen C.
Grace Tramantozzi
Lisa Aylían.
Laura
Sis
Jim R.
Chandra
Baby Hayden
Ginnie Petrone
Jean Simpson
Bea Reece
Francis Ellis
Baby Declan
Helen Vaughn
Mary C.
Colleen
Cathy Fichtner
Cathy Sullivan
Mary Mazzolla
Charles Corlin
Robert W. Taylor II
Stephen D. Taylor

Barbara Churchill
Barbara Danner
Maria DaRosa
Robert Menzies
Ruth M.
Harry B.
Doris F.
Dick Butler
Nicholas
John Nagle
Baby Haley
Baby Courtney
Ollie Muir
Bella Russo
Alice Welch
Helen Feehan
Michael Munafa
James Griffiths
William Morrissey
Marisa Copp
Ronald Magliozzi
John F. Taylor



Prayers for Protection



PFC Paul Marchese	Army	Afghanistan
Ens. Stephen Dutton	Navy	At Sea
Lt. Christopher Hanafin	Marine	Afghanistan
CPL Richard Schaufus	Marines	Okinowa
T.Sgt. Kerry McDonough	Air Force	Iraq
MA-3 James Marchese	Navy	Italy
LCPL Steven Colombo	Marines	USA
Lt. Vince Lynch	Army	Germany
STS2 Kyle J. Marchese	Navy	At Sea
CW02 Scott Munger	Marines	Hawaii
TSGT. Jeremy Brooks	Army	Iraq
Lt. Jennifer M. Delaney	Navy	USA
Sgt. Shawn Weidman	Marines	USA
CPO David Sweet	Navy	Iraq
Sgt. Kaitlyn Guastaferró	Army	USA
SPC Todd Miller	Military Police	Iraq
Patrick Hurley	Army	Iraq
Staff Sgt. Brian Ladner	Marines	USA
Sgt. Mark Orr	Marines	USA
A1C Michael L. Flanagan	Air Force	Iraq



Announcements

Christmas Mass Schedule

Thursday December 24	4:30 p.m. (up)	Friday December 25	7:30 a.m.
Thursday December 24	4:30 p.m. (down)	Friday December 25	10:00 a.m.
Thursday December 24	10:00 p.m.	Friday December 25	12:00 Noon

Christmas Confessions

Saturday December 19 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Banns of Marriage - II George Sweet & Carolanne Saia

Baptisms - This week we welcomed our newly baptized into St. Margaret's Parish. We pray for them and congratulate the parents.

Thomas Joseph Cullen

Emma Cecilia Donadio

School Hall Rental - All bookings must be scheduled with our facilities manager Mr. Sonny DiRienzo at 781-221-0335.

Free Books - Anytime there is a box of free books at the entrance to the church, please take whatever is of interest to you. But, you have to pass it along to someone else when you are through with it. Books get very lonely when left alone on shelves. They are meant to be in constant circulation.

Free - with one condition. The rectory has one six foot freezer and one six foot refrigerator & they are yours for the asking. However, you are responsible for their removal. Call Fr. Robinson at 781-272-3111.

Memorial Prayers - Fr. John F. Lincoln, Alice & Carlton Lincoln, Emily & Bobby Lincoln, Bee Pat & Patricia Guihen, Kathleen Mawn, Marie & Pete Barlush, Maryanne Callahan, Charles Lucregiane

Arlington Catholic - The following parishioners have earned Honor Roll for first marking period.

First Honors
Abigail Horgan

Second Honors
Andrew Grasso
Emily Hart
John Hennigan
Alexandra Noonan
Kara Noonan
Rebecca Wallace
Rachel Yeadon

Honors
Natalie Casey
Kyle Daly
Michayla Hogan
Bryan Hunt
Danielle Hunt
Kyleigh Judge
Kristin Kapuza

Altar Ministries – Dec. 19/20



Saturday
4:30 PM
Celebrant: Fr. Robinson
Cantor: Christine Field
Eucharistic Team: Janet Fitzgerald, Tom Bova, Judy Curtin, Rosemarie Hrubci
Server(s): Kevin Coluci, Ryan Farrow

Saturday
7:30 PM
Fr. Kaufman

 Mary Lou McQuinn, Ron Kurtz, Stephen Morecroft
 Joe, Sean, & Tim Maguire

Sunday
7:30 AM
Celebrant: Fr. Robinson
Cantor: ---
Eucharistic Team: Carl Humphreys, Arthur Hughes, Brian Walsh
Server(s): August Kaminski

Sunday
10:00 AM Upper Church
Fr. Kaufman
 Christine Field
 Dick & Donna Donovan, Frances Heartquist
 Matt, Mike, & Rob Ackerman

10:00 AM Children's Mass
Celebrant: Fr. Robinson
Cantor: April Healy, George Vallas
Eucharistic Team: Mary Rigby, Jim Brine, David Murgo
Server(s): Rachel & Emily Murgo

12:00 Noon
Fr. Kaufman
 Christine Field
 Paul & Kathleen Blanchard
 James & John Kuczynski

Our friends and neighbors above will be serving at the Lord's Table this weekend. We are always in need of Readers and/or Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) at Mass. If you are interested, please contact Dick Donovan at 978-670-2660. Assignments above are subject to change.

December 13, 2009
Latest Financial Figures

\$6,949 - Weekly Offertory Collection
\$2,346 - Holy Day Collection
\$12,515 - Weekly Amount Banked
\$328,880 - Amount Banked YTD
\$252,000 - Budget YTD
\$76,880 - Budget Variance YTD

Second Collections

\$4,492 - Retired Sisters

Having finalized our 2009-2010 St. Margaret's budget, our Finance Council estimates the parish needs \$10,500 per week in revenue to avoid running a deficit.



Religious Education



Mary Murgo – Director

School Phone: 781-272-5810

Stmargccd@hotmail.com

GRADE 2: CONGRATULATIONS to Brianna Abruzzese, Carley Ananian, Megan Burke, John Campbell, Kathryn Collina, Katelyn Conley, John Cormier, Cameron Costa, Timothy Cox, Nicholas Latsis, Krista Magnarelli, Anna Leia Mathew, Nicholas Ponzini, Spencer Reith, Jacquelyn Scola, Kevin Sebastian, Katie Surabian, and Joseph Vigliotta for successfully passing their prayer tests. All of these students received a certificate of completion and a prize.

GRADES 2-8: Last class before Christmas vacation is Sunday, December 20 for grades 2, 3, 4, and 5 and Monday, December 21 for grade 8. Thursday classes ended December 17. Have a very Merry Christmas!

2010 Religious Education Schedule:

GRADE 2: January 3, 10, 24; February 7, 21, 28; March 7, 14, 21, 28; April 11 and 25. First Communion practice will take place on April 25. **FIRST COMMUNION** will take place on **May 1st, 2010**. Additional information will be sent via e-mail.

GRADES 3, 4, and 5: January 3, 10, 24; February 7, 21, 28; March 7, 14, 21, and 28. Please note, this is slightly different from our original schedules. Grades 3, 4, and 5 have fewer classes than the second grade!

GRADES 6 and 7: January 7, 14, 21, 28; February 4, 11; March 4, 11, 18 and 25th.

GRADE 8: January 4, 11, 25; February 1, 8, 22; March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29th.

CLASS CANCELLATIONS will be posted on **whdh.com** and on **wbztv.com**. Cancellations may also be broadcast on radio stations WRKO or WBZ and on television channels 4 or 7. To receive automatic class cancellation notification from Channel 7 on your cell phone, just go to www.whdh.com and click on "Closing Bell on Your Cell." Weeknight classes will be cancelled if Burlington Public School classes are either cancelled or released early due to inclement weather.



Parish Pastoral Council Minutes

Date: Dec. 13, 2009

Time: 7:00 - 9:05 p.m.

Announcements

1. The front stairs repairs and replacement of the railings have been completed. It was recommended not to extend the railings as it would detour people from using the two side ramps. Since there was only one step to the street and not two or more steps, the recommendation was to leave things as they are.
2. The garage roof has been re-shingled, matching that of the rectory roof. All property roofs are a similar gray.
3. The school windows have all been caulked and the trim painted. The Kiley brothers are always very thorough in what they do and we are most pleased. They are the people who painted the inside of our church.
4. The grounds have been thoroughly cleaned. It's about as good as it can get. We encourage all parishioners to let Fr. Robinson know of any suggestions for improvement.
5. Bob McFadries, a parishioner, has donated a second sign for the parish. It has been placed in front of the school, very near to Winn Street. Thank you Bob!
6. We thank Roger and Kathy Cook for donating shrubbery and plants these past two years. When these things bloom, our grounds look terrific, especially around and in front of our school.
7. We recently transferred \$60,000 to our Cash Reserve Fund in Chancery. The balance there is \$340,000. Our hope is that we can maintain that through the current fiscal year (June 30, 2010). We need to think of this fund as both a rainy day fund for unforeseen catastrophes and/or a capital improvement fund for the future.

Old Business

1. The Parish Report (2008 – 2009) and the proposed budget were reviewed once again.

New Business

1. The Grand Annual currently stands at \$80,707 for its official closing, although some envelopes will continue to arrive through the month of December. We appreciate all giving, be it the Grand Annual, the Offertory, or the second collections. They all add up to the final count which either meets or falls short of our budget. So far, we have kept our heads above water. This year is another challenge. We have two projects that lie ahead of us. The Fire Department has just notified us that we need to update the hard-wire alarm system to code. Failure to do so would compromise the "certificate of occupancy" compliance. Hence, the two fire alarm boxes connecting all our buildings need to be corrected at significant cost. Secondly, we would like to "beautify" the parish hall as best we can at some point in the year 2010.
2. Now that the parish has had two years to adapt to the reconfiguration of the pews, the air conditioning, the painting, the rugging of the church, and the landscaping, we reviewed everyone's opinion. The consensus is that all have worked out for the better.
3. Weekend Masses are very well attended with 2200 – 2400 in attendance. It is where we connect with the majority of our parishioners. We are always concerned that we provide good liturgies that are relevant and inspiring. We have to be in the top ten attendance wise in the archdiocese.

The date and time of our next meeting will be announced in the bulletin.

The Promise of Christmas

One of my favorite Christmas stories is the event known as the Christmas truce. It happened in France on Christmas Eve, Dec 24th, 1914. It was the first year of World War I. The war had been going on for five months at the time. By then there had been many battles; many thousands of men killed and wounded; and the trench system that so came to characterize that war was already well developed. But, as December 25th approached, many of the soldiers on both sides began to think that it just didn't seem right to be fighting on Christmas. Along some sections of the battlefield, firing began to slacken spontaneously on the afternoon leading up to Christmas Eve. And, early on the evening of the 24th, at many places along the lines, there began to be signs that people were celebrating Christmas as best they could. Soldiers were putting up Christmas trees and lights; bands were playing; Christmas carols were being sung. In many places, the trenches were close enough that the soldiers on each side could see and hear what the other side was doing.



Little by little, throughout Christmas Eve, very hesitantly at first, soldiers from both sides, German and Allied troops, began to contact each other. Someone would yell across to the other side "let's have a truce. If you don't shoot me, I won't shoot you." As daylight dawned on Christmas day. Groups of soldiers all along the battle lines set aside their guns, crawled out of their trenches, and met their enemies in the middle of No Man's Land. They exchanged Christmas greetings, maybe gave each other small gifts, and otherwise fraternized with each other. In some places, they even played soccer.

The war had put on hold. It was all very spontaneous. There was no formal truce; no orders from the high command. The common soldiers had embraced the Spirit of Christmas and, in return, enjoyed a moment of peace from that bloody war.

Sadly, the truce was not to last. When the generals in both armies heard what was going on, orders quickly came down to get back in the trenches and continue fighting. A golden opportunity had been thrown away. The soldiers did as they were ordered, with some resistance. Within a few weeks, the war had resumed its normal course and, as we know, continued for four long years.

Christmas is a special time and a special day. There is nothing else like it in our human experience. And, why should there be? Christmas memorializes the most unique event in all of human history. At Christmas, we celebrate the Incarnation – the day on which God became man -- the day on which the Creator became one of His creations. It was the day on which began His journey among us to preach and teach a message of love, peace and, most importantly, hope for our own future; a message so important that He had to deliver it personally.

The Christmas truce of 1914 shows us that the promise of Christmas is a reality even now. God is always with us, even amidst the horrors of a battlefield.

In all of our holiday preparations, let us never lose sight of what Christmas is really about. It was not the 'holiday' season that made those soldiers crawl out of their trenches to shake hands with their foes. Rather, it was the holy day – it was Christmas.

Deacon Dick