



"Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man." - Lk 21:36

Readings for the Week of November 29, 2009	
Sunday:	Jer 33:14-16/1 Thes 3:12---4:2/Lk 21:25-28, 34-36
Monday:	Rom 10:9-18/Mt 4:18-22
Tuesday:	Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday:	Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37
Thursday:	Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday:	Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31
Saturday:	Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Mt 9:35---10:1, 5a, 6-8
Next Sunday:	Bar 5:1-9/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

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Faith Formation Question of the Week

**1st Sunday of Advent
"The Habit of Prayer"**

Key Passage Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man. Luke 21:36

Adult What have been the strengths of your prayer life? What habit of prayer could you strengthen during this Advent season?

Child What prayers will you say each day and each week during Advent?

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FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

..... Jim Russell, chairman 767-4398	
Weekly Goal	\$6,432
Offertory Collection Nov. 22, 2009	\$4,465
Weekly Electronic Giving	<u>825</u>
Total	\$5,290

The **Women's Group** meets every **Tuesday at 10:00 am**. All women of the parish are invited to show up and have a good time.

First Sunday of Advent -- November 29, 2009

"Strengthen your hearts in holiness." Are you being called to grow in holiness as a priest, deacon, religious brother or sister? Call Fr. Bob Vaillancourt @ 207-773-6471 / robert.vaillancourt@portlanddiocese.org or Sr. Rita Mae Bissonnette @ 207-773-6471 / ritamae.bissonnette@portlanddiocese.org.



Small Blessings

Parents with their infants and preschool children are invited to attend our **St. Nick/Advent gathering on Monday, Nov. 30th from 10:00-11:00 a.m.** Our leader will be Emily Garvin. If you want to join our group, please contact Emily Garvin at esgarvin@yahoo.com or just come to one of our gatherings!



Chester's Kids Children's Liturgy of the Word

Dec. 6th – 2nd Sunday of Advent (C)
9 AM Prayer & Reader: Sherri Supple
Homilist: Jennifer Haines
11AM Prayer & Reader: Emily Mitchell
Homilist: Lynn Blank



Faith Friends Grades 2, 3, & 4

4:15-5:30 pm Dec. 1st Christmas Pageant Practice.



GOOD NEWS DISCIPLES Grade 5 & 6

Dec. 1st 4:14-5:30 pm **NO SESSION**
 Permission slips for roller skating due Dec. 1st.
 Sun., Dec. 6th Christmas Social: Roller Skating noon-3 pm.

RECONCILIATION MINI-RETREAT

Tuesday Dec. 1st 7-8 pm

God's Forgiveness – Who can live without it?

Parents and their child(ren) will share some games, and activities to help them better understand the Sacrament of Reconciliation. **Completed workbooks and Shalom Boxes will be collected on this day. A parent must attend with their child(ren). Fourth grade classes (4:15-5:30 pm) will be cancelled on this day to allow you to attend the retreat.**

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE & FIRST RECONCILIATION

7 PM Thursday, Dec. 3rd

Copies of several different Acts of contrition will be available for you and your child to use. Your child's workbook and Shalom Box will be returned on this day.



JrYM (Edge) and YM (Lifeteen) will help with Advent Wreath workshop from noon to 2 pm on Nov. 29th.

HELP

Does a parishioner have a binding machine that YM could borrow to create a recipe book for the Christmas Prelude? Please call Heidi at 799-5528 ext 104.

My Sister's Keeper needs size 8 boots. Thank you.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Advent Prayer Services with Holy Cross School

Every Tuesday during December, Holy Cross Students will gather in the church at **9:00 for an Advent Prayer Service**. Please feel free to join us. The first service will be Tuesday **December 1st** and will be presented by Grade 5.

Catholic Charities Maine Refugee & Immigration Services is in need of a large variety of donations to meet the resettlement needs for this year's projected 300 new arrivals. Since refugees arrive with very few belongings we need to help them get settled and find furnishings. The following items are needed: chairs, dining room tables, dressers, hangers, alarm clocks, sofas, loveseats, twin and full beds, coffee tables/end tables, desks, linens (sheets and pillowcases, blankets, comforters, and towels). Please contact Tarlan @ 523-2729 to arrange for pick-up if you have any of these items to donate. Thank you for your support.

MY SISTER'S KEEPER

My Sister's Keeper, a mentoring program for women in transition from corrections, will host a New York-based women's advocacy organization from **8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 5, at First Congregational Church UCC, 301 Cottage Road, South Portland.**

The group, Women On the Rise Telling HerStory, is comprised of formerly incarcerated and incarcerated women who are helping to transform the lives of women directly impacted by incarceration by changing public perception and policy. WORTH members do this via **mentoring, mutual support, leadership development and telling their stories.**

Keynote speaker Tina Reynolds, co-chair of WORTH, will address challenges, solutions and policies that women offenders face during and after incarceration.

Space is limited for this event. The suggested donation is \$15-\$20 and includes refreshments and lunch. To register, please contact Kelly Dell'Aquila, director of services for My Sister's Keeper, at kcoggs@aol.com or 712-5962.

Adoption . . . a beautiful way to give your child life and a loving family. Pregnant women facing unexpected pregnancies deserve to know about all their options. For an understanding ear and information on life affirming choices call **Catholic Charities Maine Birthline**, call 871-7464 (Portland), Ext. 2670; toll-free at 1-800-CARE-002; or e-mail: psm@ccmaine.org. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

CATHERINE MCAULEY

Catherine McAuley High School will be holding its second **High School Placement Test** for the class of 2014 on **December 5, 2009**. Students who take this exam will be eligible for an Academic Excellence Scholarship. This scholarship is for the 8th grade student who has shown academic excellence by being the top ranking student and has ranked in the 97 percentile or higher nationally on the exam. This student will be awarded full tuition. Registration for the exam begins at 8:15am and the exam will end at 11:30am. For further details, call the admissions office today at 797-3802. Walk-ins are welcome.

Continued from Nov. 22nd bulletin: Our ongoing adult education focus presents a glossary of Catholic Words from the Catechism of the Catholic Church which has been composed with reference to the language of the Catechism itself: the numbers in parentheses refer to the number(s) in the Catechism where the term or concept is explained.

CONTEMPLATION: A form of wordless prayer in which mind and heart focus on God's greatness and goodness in affective, loving adoration; to look on Jesus and the mysteries of his life with faith and love (2628, 2715).

CONTRACEPTION, ARTIFICIAL: The use of mechanical, chemical, or medical procedures to prevent conception from taking place as a result of sexual intercourse; contraception offends against the openness to procreation required of marriage and also the inner truth of conjugal love (2370).

Advent Wreath Workshop TODAY from noon to 2:00 PM

FOOD CUPBOARD

What a month we have had, setting all time records. We had a total of 252 families (557 men, women & children). All received food, a gift certificate, or a turkey. Many cried, thanked us profusely, and wanted to volunteer to pay us back for our generosity. As much as we enjoyed the giving, we were all exhausted by the 19th! Our volunteers are the most kindest, helpful, wonderful, women & men. They make coming to our Cupboard a happy & rewarding experience.

We now concentrate on the next holidays. We have families, young people, and volunteers coming to help us sort out what we have accumulated so far. We still need more items for children and teens. Slightly used books, toys, games, gift certificates for teens from "Forever Young or Targets" all will help. We have families for you to adopt for Christmas giving too.

You have always answered our requests, and made us very successful, so we look forward to your donations. We are at the Food Cupboard Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday mornings to drop off articles, or call 874-0379 and we can arrange a pick up.

The Good, the Bad, and the Merciful Understanding the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Forgiveness

Come join Kathy Williamson on **Monday, Nov. 30th 7-8:30 pm** at St. Bartholomew's Church for a candid look at the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession, or Penance) for adults. If you haven't received the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the last 10 years or the last 5 years and want to update yourself on the changes of this sacrament, please join us. We will explore the historical roots of the sacrament; discuss common questions surrounding the sacrament; and address the difficulties of forgiveness. What is a sin? Why do I need to confess my sins to a priest? How can I forgive someone who doesn't want to be forgiven? Can I forgive someone if I continue to remember the hurt? Please call Gail Atkins to sign up and register for this mini-retreat or sign up on the sheet in the Narthex, so there will be enough handouts. There is no fee.

*Mass for the
Intentions Week*

Monday, November 30

8:30 AM Eucharistic Service

Tuesday, December 1

8:30 AM †Steve Pearlswig
Requested by Gary and Joanne Warren

Wednesday, December 2

8:30 AM Eucharistic Service

Thursday, December 3

8:30 AM †Margaret Kilgallen
Requested by John and Maura Kilgallen

Friday, December 4

8:30 AM Eucharistic Service

Sunday, December 6

9:00 AM †Theresa Carey
Requested by Bob and Alicia Danielson
11:00 AM Intentions of Cluster 22 Parishioners

Servers

Sunday December 6

	<u>9:00 AM</u>	<u>11:00 AM</u>
Altar Ser	C.Coburn P.Coburn	E.Canarie A.Godfrey
Euch Min	T.Meyers M.Meyers D.Miley B.Miley	L.Brennan D.Canarie K.Williamson M.Rauth
Lector	G.Prince C.Hagen	P.Yantakosol C.Tierney
Ushers	J.Kilgallen	J.Kneeland

ATTENTION LITURGICAL MINISTERS: Please contact Gail Atkins with any dates that you will be unable to serve for January thru March. **DEADLINE:** November 30.

**COFFEE AND DONUTS IN THE
PARISH HALL**



Coffee and donuts are served each week after Sunday Mass during the school year. Please stay, catch up with old friends, and meet new ones.

Coffee Servers

Nov. 15 9 Mass In Narthex Haines family
11 Mass NO COFFEE--ADVENT

WREATH WORKSHOP

Dec. 6 NO COFFEE AND DONUTS. INSTEAD
PURCHASE TICKETS FOR THE PANCAKE
BREAKFAST WITH ST. NICK. \$6 ADULTS \$3
CHILDREN (2-13 YEARS) OR \$15 FAMILY



LOOK FOR POINTSETTA SALE COMING SOON
TO BENEFIT THE FAITH FORMATION
COMMISSION.

ADULT EDUCATION

Little Rock Scripture Study: Parables through Holy Cross/St. John **beg. Dec. 2.** Contact 772-7489.

Waiting with Luke and Mary

An Advent Mini-Retreat led by Barbara Smith

On **Thursday, Dec. 10th 6:30-8:00 pm** at St. Bartholomew's Church, we are lucky enough to have Barbara Smith take us on a journey of waiting for the Messiah with Luke and Mary. What a great reflective pause in the midst of the hustle and bustle of Christmas preparations to give us that sense of purpose surrounding our Christmas traditions! Gather for prayer, reflection, and some light refreshments sponsored by the Faith Formation Committee. Please call Gail Atkins in the parish office to sign up and register for this mini-retreat or sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. There is no fee. This mini-retreat will be repeated at St. Maximilian-Kolbe on Thursday, Dec. 17th 6:30-8:00 pm. Call the faith formation office at St. Max (883-1742) to register for this date.

**SEE THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE NARTHEX FOR
UPCOMING RETREATS AT
THE MARIE JOSEPH SPIRITUAL CENTER TO
ENHANCE YOUR ADVENT EXPERIENCE.**



"Giving Tree" Christmas 2009

This weekend St. Bartholomew Parish continues its Giving Tree program. This program, which provides holiday gifts to those in need, has been very successful in the past, thanks to your generosity. Gift limit is \$20 and tags are available on the Christmas tree in the Narthex, at all masses the weekend of November 30th and December 6th, with **gifts due by Sunday December 13th**. If you take a tag, record your name and leave it with a volunteer or in the basket near the tree (**Please do not take the whole tag!**) Then return the other half of the tag attached to your gift, on the weekends of November 29th or December 6th. All gifts must be returned by Sunday December 13th at noon. It's not too late to make a difference in someone's holiday! Still haven't had time? Take advantage of our 'buying program'. If you have any questions please call Kate Stewart at 799-3903 or Nancy O'Sullivan at 767-5502.

HOLIDAY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Please join us for a special service for those who have suffered the loss of a loved one this past year on **Sunday, Dec. 6th at 2 pm at St. Max.** There will be light refreshments at the conclusion of the service. Sponsored by Conroy-Tully Crawford Funeral Homes and Cremation Services. Guest Speakers will be Msgr. Henchal and Rev. Philip Shearman, Ret. Pastor of the First Congregational Church of Gorham. If you plan to attend, please call 773-6511 or email at info@ctcrawford.com with the number of family members who will be joining us, as well as the name of your deceased loved one.



**THE SANCTUARY LAMP WILL BURN THIS
WEEK November 29-December 5
For Special Family Intentions
Requested by Barbara and Jim Jordan**

The sanctuary candle will burn for one week as a continuous prayer before God. If anyone would like to schedule the Sanctuary Lamp for an upcoming week, please call the parish office at 799-5528. Donation is \$10.



**St. Bartholomew's Christmas
Prelude Dec. 4th-6th**

Friday, December 4th Polar Express Adventure 6-9 pm

Saturday, December 5th Christmas Craft Fair 9-3 pm

Sunday, December 6th Pancake Breakfast with Saint Nicholas

Christmas Prelude Planning

Anyone willing to help out with the Christmas Fair planned for Dec. 4-6th should contact Gail Atkins at 799-5528 or Gail.Atkins@portlanddiocese.org. Some activities in the planning are: "Polar Express" movie adventure, craft tables, snack bar, pancake breakfast with Santa, Silent Night raffle and bake sale. If you, your business, or someone you know would be interested in donating an item or a service to our raffle, please contact Gail.

Didn't Sell Everything at your Garage Sale?

The Christmas Fair Committee is looking for new or gently used jewelry, CDs, DVDs, books (adult or youth), or other good quality items that are still useful for our Wisemen's Treasure Chest. Please bring in items between Nov. 15th and Nov. 29th to Room 2.



***Feast of the Immaculate Conception Tues.,
Dec. 8th is a Holy Day of Obligation.***

Cluster Masses are as follows:

Holy Cross 7:30 am

St. Bartholomew 8:30 am

Holy Cross School at 9:00 am (open to all)

St. Maximilian Kolbe at 6:00 pm

St. John the Evangelist 6:30 pm

Liturgical Minister Training

Training for people who would like to get involved with the following liturgical ministries is as follows:

Altar Server – please contact Gail Atkins if you would like to be trained as an altar server. You must be at least in the 4th grade and have experience attending Sunday Mass. Thom Meschinelli will provide the training on Sunday, Dec. 13th between Masses (10:00-11:00 am).

Usher/Greeter – please contact Kathy Williamson. Training is on TODAY BETWEEN MASSES. You must be at least in the 7th grade, have experience attending Sunday Mass, and have a welcoming disposition.