



John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. - Lk 3:3

Readings for the Week of December 6, 2009	
Sunday:	Bar 5:1-9/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6
Monday:	Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday:	Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday:	Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30
Thursday:	Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15
Friday:	Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19
Saturday:	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Lk 1:26-38 or 1:39-47
Next Sunday:	Zep 3:14-18a/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

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Faith Formation Question of the Week
2nd Sunday of Advent
“Prayer of Repentance”

Key Passage John went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Luke 3:3

Adult In what areas of your life do you need God’s forgiveness right now? What Advent practice would assist you in expressing your repentance?

Child What do you want to ask God to forgive you for? What can you do during Advent to show you are sorry?

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FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

..... Jim Russell, chairman 767-4398

Weekly Goal	\$6,432
Offertory Collection Nov. 29, 2009	\$4,945
Weekly Electronic Giving	<u>825</u>
Total	\$5,770

November Heat and Fuel \$1,423
 Catholic Campaign for Human Development \$478

Retirement Fund Helps Senior Religious. Your tax-deductible donation supports the care of elderly and frail religious and helps to provide such basic necessities as prescription drugs and medical services. Please see bulletin insert and give generously to next week’s second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.



Small Blessings

Parents with their infants and preschool children are invited to attend our **Nativity gathering on Monday, Dec. 14th from 10:00-11:00 a.m.** Our leader will be Julie Halter. 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. 13th – 3rd Sunday of Advent (C)
9 AM Prayer & Reader: Nancy O’Sullivan
Homilist: Stephanie Bowe
11AM Prayer & Reader: Anyo Staszko
Homilist: Lynn Blank



Faith Friends Grades 2, 3, & 4

4:15-5:30 pm Dec. 8th Preparing Christmas Ornaments and Christmas Pageant Practice.



GOOD NEWS DISCIPLES Grade 5 & 6

Dec. 8th 4:14-5:30 pm: Moses.
 Permission slips for cookie and gift delivery due.



JrYM (Edge) and YM (Lifeteen) will help with the Christmas Prelude weekend Dec. 4-6th.

Dec. 13th: Jr. YM 1-2 pm. YM 1-2 pm Poor Me” Preferential Option for the Poor.

If you would like to be a part of any of the choirs at St. Bartholomew at Christmas, it is not too late. AND looking for instrumentalists for all of the Christmas liturgies. No matter which Mass you plan to attend on Christmas, if you would like to share your gift of music contact Irene (893-0329 or e-mail).



RETROUVAILLE.....a Lifeline

Rediscover a loving marriage with a Retrouvaille marriage is tearing the two of you apart, if there is little or no meaningful communication, if you are considering separation or divorce, we believe Retrouvaille can help you. The next New England Retrouvaille marriage renewal weekends will be held January 15-17, 2010, and April 16-18, 2010 in Massachusetts. To register for the weekend or for more information, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com or call 1-800-470-2230.

Second Sunday of Advent – December 6, 2009

Are you seeking “knowledge and full insight to help you determine” your vocation in Christ as a priest, deacon, or in consecrated life? Call Fr. Bob Vaillancourt @ 207-773-6471 / robert.vaillancourt@portlanddiocese.org or Sr. Rita Mae Bissonnette @ 207-773-6471 / ritamae.bissonnette@portlanddiocese.org.

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.

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.

UNUSUAL CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

To benefit Holy Cross School, we are having a sale of various items which are at the St. John Parish Center, 29 Aspen Ave.

Items for sale: **church pews: 2 at 54” long, 2 at 64” long and 1 at 30” long, two bookcases, one large desk, 4 desk chairs, 9 student desks, 11 student chairs, an altar chair, medium size stand, a few large Christmas wreaths and maybe a few more items.**

Some of these furnishings could be used for your home, porch, family room, home office. They make great holiday gifts or furnishings for summer homes and camps.

The Sale is on Saturday, Dec. 12 from 9-noon. Please enter the Center at the Office door. You will need to be able to take any item(s) that you purchase to your car or truck by yourselves. Remember, all proceeds go to the Holy Cross School. All reasonable offers will be accepted for this very worthy fundraiser for the school.

Join Catholic Charities Maine and FEMA Region I in a session designed to help understand the role of faith-based organizations in responding to disasters. If members of your parish are interested in attending, please notify Mike Pedersen at mikepede@drtmucc.org or call Bonnie Bagley @ Catholic Charities Maine 781-8550 (x 1153) for more information. The meeting is at the United Church of Christ, 115 Main St., Yarmouth on Dec. 7 from 1-3 pm.

Continued from Nov. 29nd 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.

CONTRITION: Sorrow of the soul and hatred for the sin committed, together with a resolution not to sin again. Contrition is the most important act of the penitent, and is necessary for the reception of the Sacrament of Penance (1451).

CONVERSION: A radical reorientation of the whole life away from sin and evil, and toward God. This change of heart or conversion is a central element of Christ's preaching, of the Church's ministry of evangelization, and of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation (1427, 1431, 1423; cf. 821).

FOOD CUPBOARD

We have had so many food donations this past 2 weeks, First United Methodist Church donated 4 baskets with gift certificates again this year. These went to South Portland families. Troop 37 Scouts, Town & Country CU, Michael Bowser, A Best Window, Appletree School, Cross Ins. Agency, and Hannaford Cooperate Headquarters employees donating 68 "Fund a Feast" boxes and \$600 in gift cards, our cup runneth over. What a great time to give to those in need. The 12% increase over last November, had us purchasing much more food than we intended so this all helps. Thank you everyone, and those who gave turkeys. I hope we can do this again in March when our shelves are low.

We have not been open the week of Thanksgiving and will close the week of Christmas too. We are expecting another busy month as we have the extra items for families to select for Christmas. **Donations of slightly used or new toys, gift certificates, books are welcome.**

Young Adults' Advent Retreat: Keeping Our Eyes Fixed on Jesus

December 11-13, 2009 ~ with Fr. William Brown, OMV & Fr. David Nicgorski, OMV

In preparation for Christmas, this Advent retreat for young adults in their 20's and 30's will provide an opportunity to discover how the disordered attachments in our lives keep us from ordering our life to Christ and experience the freedom He desires for us.

Cost: \$145.00 FMI and to register, call Marie Joseph Spiritual Center - 207-284-5671

The Nonviolent Jesus: His Nonviolent Way in A Violent World

December 18 - 20, 2009 ~ with Fr. Emmanuel Charles McCarthy

Original Christianity, (first 300 years), forbade the use of violence. The Church's near abandonment of this Way of Christian life marked a visible, revolutionary alteration of the Church and a betrayal of the truth as revealed by Jesus, affecting us historically, spiritually and religiously, and blinding us to salvation's path. A return to authentic teachings is the duty and privilege of the Christian.

Cost: \$155.00 FMI and to register, call Marie Joseph Spiritual Center - 207-284-5671

*Mass for the
Intentions for the Week*

Monday, December 7

8:30 AM Eucharistic Service

Tuesday, December 8

8:30 AM †Roger Keyser
Requested by Gloria Keyser

Wednesday, December 9

8:30 AM Eucharistic Service

Thursday, December 10

8:30 AM †Peter Polet
Requested by Gary and Joanne Warren

Friday, December 11

8:30 AM Eucharistic Service

Sunday, December 13

9:00 AM †Joseph Carignan
Requested by the Carignan family

11:00 AM †Joyce McCann
Requested by Eleanor DiPietro

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.

Servers

Sunday December 13

	<u>9:00 AM</u>	<u>11:00 AM</u>
Altar Ser	H.Bauman	M.Pinette
	A.Stewart	T.Pinette
Euch Min	G.Atkins	M.FitzGerald
	J.Boyington	K.Ornatek
	D.Conley	M.Rauth
	L.Laberge	C.Reid
	P.Russell	K.Williamson
Lector	L.Bauman	R.Beaudoain
Ushers	J.Koller	W.Pinette

**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

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

**Dec. 13 9 Mass Joe and Bobbi Rosolino
11 Mass Capobianco family**

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.



Free Advent Resources are located on the tables at the back of the church.



"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 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.

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.

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.

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

Cluster Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve December 24th

4 pm Holy Cross
4 pm St. John the Evangelist
4 pm St. Maximilian Kolbe
4 pm St. Bartholomew
6 pm St. Maximilian Kolbe
7 pm St. Bartholomew
7 pm St. John the Evangelist
9 pm St. Maximilian Kolbe
10 pm St. Bartholomew

10 pm Holy Cross

Christmas Morning December 25th

9 am St. John the Evangelist
10 am St. Maximilian Kolbe
10 am St. Bartholomew



Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God, Friday, Jan. 1st is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Cluster Masses are as follows:
Dec. 31st 6:30 pm St. John the Evangelist
Jan. 1st 9 am St. Bartholomew
10:30 St. Maximilian Kolbe
9 am Holy Cross

Catholic School Myths

Myth: Teachers are only teaching at a Catholic school to get experience and then they move on to public school and better salaries.

Fact: Holy Cross teachers are very well qualified to teach where ever they wish. They choose to teach in Catholic school as their calling or mission, their way to serve God through bringing His children closer to him. Of the current teachers at Holy Cross, 25% have their Master's degrees. (One teacher even has 2 advanced degrees!) Their years of teaching in Catholic education range from 2 to 43 years, with the average being just over 9 years. Several of our teachers have always considered teaching in Catholic education their dream but when their children were younger, they were unable to teach in one because of the financial limitations. Now that their children are grown, and their financial burdens are eased, they are free to follow their dreams. Come see for yourself how dedicated and wonderful our teachers are and what they can do for your child!