



Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." - Lk 1: 41, 42, 45

Readings for the Week of December 20, 2009	
Sunday:	Mi 5:1-4a/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45
Monday:	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45
Tuesday:	1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56
Wednesday:	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66
Thursday:	Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79
Friday:	Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
	Midnight: Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
	Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
	Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
Saturday:	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22
Next Sunday:	Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

©Liturgical Publications Inc

**Faith Formation Question of the Week**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent  
"Obedience to God's Will"**

**Key Passage** Elizabeth said, "Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." Luke 1:45

**Adult** When was it hardest for you to trust in God's plan for you, as Mary did? What can help you at such times?

**Child** When is it hardest for you to obey a parent or teacher? What can help you obey with more trust?

Reprinted with permission from *Heritage of Faith*, by Jo Rotunno. Copyright ©2004; all rights reserved. Published by Twenty-Third Publications, Mystic, CT 06355; (800) 321-0411.

**FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**

.....Jim Russell, chairman 767-4398	
Weekly Goal	<b>\$6,432</b>
Offertory Collection Dec. 13, 2009	\$7,889
Weekly Electronic Giving	<u>825</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,714</b>

December Heat and Fuel \$1,792



The office will be closed Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup> and Friday January 1<sup>st</sup>.



**Small Blessings**

Parents with their infants and preschool children are invited to attend our Epiphany/Kings gathering on Monday, Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:esgarvin@yahoo.com) or just come to one of our gatherings!



**Chester's Kids** Children's Liturgy of the Word

Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> – NO CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD



**Faith Friends** Grades 2, 3, & 4

Next session for children will be Jan 12<sup>th</sup>.



**GOOD NEWS DISCIPLES** Grade 5 & 6

Next session for children will be Jan 12<sup>th</sup>.



**JrYM (Edge) and YM (Lifeteen)**

Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> Jr. YM Christmas Social with session to follow from 11-2 and YM Christmas Social from 11-2 with session to follow "Big Feet!" Charity and Justice.

Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> 5:30-7:30 Service Project-help at Soup Kitchen



Please help cook and serve at the Wayside Evening Soup Kitchen at the corners of Preble and Oxford Streets in Portland on **December 27<sup>th</sup>**. Cooks should arrive at 4 pm and servers at 5:30 pm. FMI contact John Koller at 885-5236 or Jim Huebener at 767-1754. It is a cold and dark time of year to be hungry. Please share your time and energy to bring light into someone else's world.

**LOOKING FOR THAT LAST MINUTE CHRISTMAS GIFT OR STOCKING STUFFER?**

Purchase a 400 Club membership from Holy Cross School. Membership forms are on the tables on the way out of church. Yearly memberships are \$55 and every month six prizes are awarded, ranging from \$25 to \$200. You have 72 chances of winning!

**STRUGGLING WITH ALCOHOL/DRUG ISSUES?**

Catholic Charities Maine Counseling Services offers confidential substance abuse and mental health counseling for those experiencing problems and/or family members needing assistance. Immediate appointments available. Walk-ins welcome. Mon-Fri. 10 am-4 pm@250 Anderson St., Portland. Call 775-5671

**HOLY CROSS SCHOOL NEWS**

**School Vacation Schedule:** Holy Cross will close at 12:00 noon on Tuesday December 22<sup>nd</sup> for the Christmas vacation. We will re-open on Monday January 4<sup>th</sup>. Please leave a message on the machine if you need assistance during this time. The machine will be checked periodically. We wish everyone a very blessed Christmas!

**Thank you Monsignor Henchal**

On the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Monsignor Henchal presided over mass for the school community as well as some of our parish members. Grade 5 did a wonderful job with the readings. Monsignor Henchal, as always, had plenty to teach us during his homily. He first asked the children about their personal Patron Saints and asked if they pray to their Patron Saint for guidance. He told us he often prays to his Patron Saint, the Archangel Michael. Next he asked if countries have Patron Saints and several children answered with France and Joan of Arc and Ireland and St. Patrick. Most of the church was stumped by the question of who is the Patron Saint of the United States of America. One 8<sup>th</sup> grader knew the Patron Saint of the United States is Mary, under the title of the Immaculate Conception. Monsignor explained that this was because just as the original settlers came to the New World for a new beginning, to escape all that had become bad and wicked in their old world, God knew that his people also needed a new beginning. Many of his people had strayed away from what is right, and God knew we needed the living example of His Son among us to remind us of how to live. (Sister Theresa also told the children that Mary of the Immaculate Conception is also the Patron Saint of the Portland Diocese, as our Cathedral is named the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.)

**New Year/New Start!**

Holy Cross School has limited openings in grades Pre-K through 8. If your child needs a fresh start with the start of the New Year, please call Sister Theresa at 799-6661 to discuss if Holy Cross might be right for your child. New enrollments may begin at any time.

Our Pre-K has a new session beginning in January. We accept 4 and 5 year olds into our program with a focus on Kindergarten readiness. Our schedule is flexible, with 3 and 5 day programs, either half or full day available. (Before and After Care is also available from 7:00 am-5:30 pm.) Our Pre-K is fully integrated into the rest of the school, with our Pre-K students enjoying art, gym, and music classes, as well as weekly meetings with their 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Prayer Partners for reading, projects and fun! For more information, please call Mary Anne Landry at 799-0702.

Continued from Dec. 13th 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.

**COVETOUSNESS:** A disordered inclination or desire for pleasure or possessions. One of the capital sins, it is proscribed by the ninth and tenth commandments (2514, 2534).

**CREATION:** The act by which the eternal God gave a beginning to all that exists outside of himself. Creation also refers to the created universe or totality of what exists, as often expressed by the formula "the heavens and the earth" (290).

***Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 20, 2009***

“It is by God’s will that we have been sanctified.” How is God calling you to grow in holiness? If He may be inviting you to the priesthood, diaconate or 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.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

For many years, St. Bartholomew Church has been relying on **Joe Bieber** as our one and only acolyte. (An acolyte is an adult altar server for funerals only.) Joe has done an exceptional job in this ministry. Grieving families appreciate a well run funeral service. We need a few people to step forward and train to become acolytes. Please contact Gail Atkins at 799-5528 if you would like to be trained for this ministry.

**FOOD CUPBOARD**

We are overwhelmed with food donations, a Mrs. Watson left a large quantity of food outside with the men who bring clients food to their cars. Whoever you are Mrs. Watson, thank you very much! Coastal Wellness in Cape Elizabeth, Cross Insurance Agency, Paul Meehan, Maine Med Partners and Longfellow Chapter #61 all brought food in. This is so wonderful.

Mary Godfrey and her girl scout troop made the cutest stockings for the children, and the Cindy & Bob Convey's family gave food to the Cupboard in lieu of Christmas gifts.

The "Giving Trees" @ St. John's have so many gifts for teens, that we are very happy with and excited to give out this week(12/17).

You know, we have so much fun making people happy. Thanks to the support of so many of you, we do help so many.

**Prayerline requests**

St. Bartholomew Parish offers participation in a “prayer line” for special intentions. **If you have an ailment, unemployment, safety issue, etc. for which you would like prayers, please call Ted Dalton at**



**767-3469. All intentions can be kept confidential. Also call Ted if you would like to join this ministry and share your devotion to the “power of prayer.”**

*Mass Intentions for the Week*

**Monday, December 21**

8:30 AM Eucharistic Service

**Tuesday, December 22**

8:30 AM †**Martin Casserly**  
Requested by John and Maura Kilgallen

**Wednesday, December 23**

8:30 AM Eucharistic Service

**Thursday, December 24**

4:00 PM †**Marie Graziano**  
Requested by Carl and Denny Maddaleni

7:00 PM †**All Souls**  
Requested by our parish

10:00 PM **Vocations to the Priesthood**

**Friday, December 25**

10:00 AM †**Deceased Family Members**  
Requested by a paishioner

**Sunday, December 27**

9:00 AM †**Marty Mullen**  
Requested by the Totten family

11:00 AM †**John F. Gibbons**  
Requested by Kathy Gibbons

**Servers**

**Sunday December 27**

	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>
<b>Altar Ser</b>	A.Conrad N.Shedd	E.Canarie C.Kelley
<b>Euch Min</b>	L.Laberge T.Meschinelli J.Meschinelli D.Miley B.Miley	C.Reid K.Williamson M.FitzGerald K.Ornatek P.Yantakosol
<b>Lector</b>	R.Shevenell	V.Herrick
<b>Ushers</b>	G.Laberge	A.Dell' Aquila

**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. 20 9 Mass Dineen family  
11 Mass—NO COFFEE AND DONUTS—Jr.  
YM and YM Christmas Social  
Dec. 27 NO COFFEE AND DONUTS

**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.

**DESPERATE NEED**

**My Sister's Keeper needs outerwear including coats, boots, hats and gloves of all sizes. Drop off at St. Bartholomew. Thank you.**

**Christmas Hide and Seek Pageant Sunday Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:15**

St. Bartholomew parishioners are invited to stay after the 9 Mass or come early for the 11 Mass to learn that Christmas is more than just presents.



The social event of the St. Bartholomew Parish year is approaching. On Saturday evening, January 30<sup>th</sup> we will hold our annual **Italian Dinner**. This is not some typical parish spaghetti supper but a marvelous true multi-course Italian feast and it has been loads of fun every year. **Msgr. Henchal** is warming up his vocal chords to lead us in a few Italian songs of yesteryear and even the year before that. **Tickets are \$30 per person, but \$200 for a table of 8.** Save the \$40 and find yourselves a table full of amici to sit with. Tickets will go on sale the first weekend in January after the Masses. Grazie

**CATHOLIC TRAILBLAZERS**

*St. Augustine of Hippo, Saint Albert the Great, St. Alphonus Ligori, Saint Theresa of Avila*

Join us for four weeks as we explore these great trailblazers of our faith in shaping Western Christianity. See how they show us the way to a greater understanding of God and our relationship to him. Monday evenings at St. Bartholomew from 7-8:30 pm on January 21, 28, and February 4 and 11. Presented by Laurel Grassin-Drake. Contact the office for more information 799-5528.



Vern Deprey, a sales representative from Liturgical Publications, Inc., our bulletin publisher was here last week soliciting ads. We would like to thank our present advertisers and those who have supported them. Keep in mind; our advertising sponsors make this publication possible. We would ask that our parishioners support these local businesses. **THANK YOU ALL.**



THE SANCTUARY LAMP WILL BURN THIS WEEK December 20-26  
**For Joan Barrasso**  
Requested by her loving family

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.

**Cluster Christmas Masses**

**Christmas Eve December 24<sup>th</sup>**

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 25<sup>th</sup>**

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

**CHRISTMAS COLLECTION:** In the past, in this diocese, the Christmas collection was given to the pastor as part of his annual remuneration. A few years ago this changed. Priests were given an increase in their monthly salary and the Christmas collection became part of the regular income of the parish to offset operating expenses. In the process of equalizing the salary of all priests, some priests at the top of the scale received a reduction in total income because of the loss of the Christmas collection, while others, especially in more economically challenged parts of the state, received an increase in total income. In the end, all priests now receive the same salary regardless of their responsibilities and this has been good for priestly morale. This change does not preclude parishioners from making monetary gifts to their pastors, if they wish. However, the gift is not tax deductible and if made by check should be made out to the priest, not to the parish. The Christmas collection, often the largest collection of the year, constitutes a significant and important part of the income of the parish.



**Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God, Friday, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> is a Holy Day of Obligation.** Cluster Masses are as follows:

Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> 6:30 pm St. John the Evangelist  
Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> 9 am St. Bartholomew  
10:30 St. Maximilian Kolbe  
9 am Holy Cross