

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 3rd—Vigil: 2nd Sunday of Advent

4:00 PM Catherine, James and Eileen Murrhy,
requested by Clare and James Murrhy

Sunday, December 4th—Second Sunday of Advent

8:30 AM James Bontempo (4th Anniversary),
requested by Quintin Family
11:00 AM Joaquim Monteiro Novo, requested by
Family

Monday, December 5th—Advent Weekday

9:00 AM St. Thomas Aquinas, requested by
Elizabeth DiLullo

Tuesday, December 6th—Advent Weekday

9:00 AM Deceased Members of the Smith Family,
requested by Susan and James McManus

Wednesday, December 7th—Ambrose, † Holy Saturday, 397; born in Trier of noble parents and classically educated; while a catechumen, chosen by popular acclaim as bishop of Milan and consecrated December 7, 371; his allegorical exegesis and rhetorical skill made him a compelling preacher; defender of orthodoxy against Arianism; brought Theodosius to public penance; composed several liturgical hymns; baptized Augustine; along with Jerome, Augustine, and Gregory I, one of the four great doctors of the Latin Church.

9:00 AM Victor and Rose Quintin, requested by
Family

Thursday, December 8th—Immaculate Conception

9:00 AM In Honor of Our Lady
5:30 PM Saint Stephen Parish Family

Friday, December 9th—Advent Weekday

9:00 AM Mary Keniry

Saturday, December 10th—Advent Weekday

8:00 AM Anton Chen, requested by Family

Saturday, December 10th—Vigil: 3rd Sunday of Advent

4:00 PM Thomas and Peg Geenty, requested by
Linda Smelser

Sunday, December 11th—Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 AM Saint Stephen Parish Family
11:00 AM Saint Stephen Parish Family



Welcome to all who are celebrating the Eucharist with us today. We hope you are inspired to join us in worshipping the Lord every week. If you have any observations or suggestions in regard to the parish, please use the Suggestion Box in the vestibule. Please contact us here at the rectory if we may be of any service to you. God bless!

COLLECTION

Weekly Budget: \$3,800 . . *Actual 11.21.2011:* \$2,826.00
Weekly Budget: \$3,800 . . *Actual 11.28.2011:* \$2,492.75
Campaign for Human Development: \$ 695.75

VOCATIONS

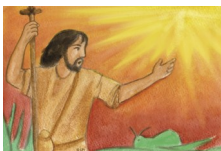
John the Baptizer appeared in the desert proclaiming the Lord. Who will proclaim him in this generation? If you are being called to proclaim the Lord as a priest or religious, please call Father Michael Dolan, Director of Vocations, Archdiocesan Center, located at the St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield, at 860/761-7456, send him an email at vocations@stseminary.org, or you may also visit the web at www.vocationshartford.org.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 4th

Sunday: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14;
Mark 1:1-8
Monday: Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26
Tuesday: Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14
Wednesday: Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 11:28-30
Thursday: Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12;
Luke 1:26-38
Friday: Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19
Saturday: Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11;
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24;
John 1:6-8, 19-28

NEW PARISHIONERS: Please register with the parish by calling the rectory or completing this form and returning it in the offertory basket:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ # of Family Members: _____



Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."
—Mark 1:2b-3

ADVENT TABLE

The Liturgy Committee has a table of items in the front vestibule that will help you get ready for Advent. We invite you to check it out. There are:

- Advent candles and wreaths for you home
- Little Blue Books with daily six-minute reflections for the Advent/Christmas season (*also @ side door*)
- Christmas Mass Remembrance cards to insert in the cards you send.
- Catholic UPDATE ADVENT Day-by-Day

FOOD DRIVE

87 bags of groceries and 13 turkeys were donated to our Thanksgiving Food Drive—all of which we donated to St. Ann Soup Kitchen. We used some of our Change for Change money to purchase twenty (20) \$10 Stop and Shop gift cards for the Hamden Elderly. Thanks to all of you for your generosity.

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon and 1:00-4:00 p.m.
We are closed from 12:00 noon-1:00 p.m. for lunch.
Please call or visit during normal business hours.



Our Lady of Calvary Retreat Center, located at 31 Colton Street in Farmington, will be hosting a number of programs in December. They are:

Iris Folding Workshop, Wednesday, December 7th, 6:30-9:00 p.m. Iris folding is a fun and exciting way for all people to make beautiful greeting cards and/or framed art. The craft uses a simple paper technique with a template and colored paper strips. Cost is \$20. Please call 860/677-8519 for more information.

Mary's Advent Journey, Thursday, December 8th, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or 7-9:00 p.m. Reflect upon Mary's journey and discover how your own journeys are similar to hers. Our time together will consist of prayer, presentations, quiet time and discussion. Fee is \$25. For information, call 860/677-8519.

Advent Retreat at Our Lady of Calvary Retreat Center: *Sweet Jesus is There Hope for Us?* The retreat begins Friday, December 16th at 7:00 p.m. and ends at 3:00 p.m., Saturday, December 17th. There is a reason why a helpless child was born into this world—to bring HOPE to a struggling world, then and now. This retreat will focus on the virtue of HOPE. Reflecting on this gift we will prayerfully put a stop to many of the secular obligations that take us away from the holiness of the season. Come and be energized by the truth that God will come in a special way to those who truly HOPE in His coming. The cost for the retreat is \$60. To learn more, call 860/677-8519.



THE SAINT STEPHEN CAROLERS will be making their rounds for a third year, singing songs of the season! If you would like them to visit your doorstep with glad tidings on **Sunday, December 18th between 5-8 p.m.**, please call Art Bellucci at 203/248-2308, *no later than December 11th*. Also, if you'd like to join us as one of the "carolers," please let Art know by the same date.

**Monday, December 5th**

- Liturgy Committee, 7:00 p.m.
- Come As You Are, 7:00 p.m. @ church hall

Wednesday, December 7th

- Adult Choir, 7:00 p.m.
- Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 8th

- Mass, 9:00 a.m./5:30 p.m.
- Knights of Columbus, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 10th

- Return Giving Tree Gifts this weekend
- Knights of Columbus Bake Sale

Sunday, December 11th

- Return Giving Tree Gifts this weekend
- Religious Ed, Grade K-5, 9-10
- Knights of Columbus, 7:30 p.m.
- Family Mass, 11:00 a.m.
- Social after both Masses



The deadline for the next bulletin is Tuesday, December 6th at 10:00 a.m. Please send your articles to Marcia at rectory@ststephenparishhamden.com, or drop them through the rectory mail slot.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Why is it so hard to forgive, yet so easy to get even? Listen to John the Baptist in today's gospel and repent the anger and ugly feelings which block your ability to forgive. This Christmas give a gift which makes a difference. Give forgiveness.