

In case of a pastoral emergency, please call the church and leave a message. Messages are checked daily, and someone will get back with you. Please tell the office of any pastoral emergency as soon as possible. Fr. Stephen Secaur may be contacted directly at 440-541-8359 or by email at FrStephen.saintbartohio@gmail.com.

LOOKING AHEAD:

St. Luke's West Side Ministry: We will be filling backpacks or duffle bags again this year for St. Luke's. Please refer to the "Stocking Stuffer Lists" provided in your announcement for ideas of items to fill the bags. The bags need to be at the church no later than Thursday, December 10th. If you have any questions please contact **Molly Duffy**: 216 973 6734.

TODAY: December 20: Sunday at 11:30 am Greening of the Church

TODAY: December 20: Family Fun Sunday from 6:00 pm to ... Please join in this fun event with the entire family!

December 24: Thursday at 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

December 24: Thursday at 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

December 25: Friday at 10:30 a.m. Christmas Service Day

December 31: Thursday at 7:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Service

January 6: Wednesday. At 7:00 p.m. Epiphany - Holy Eucharist

January 17: Sunday, at 9:15 a.m. Annual Parish Meeting with covered dish.

NOTE:

All parishioners should turn in pledge cards as soon as possible so Vestry and Finance will have time to make up a budget for Calendar Year 2016.
Thanks for your cooperation!

THE ADVENT BANNER

Many times in the Book of Revelations, God says "I am the Alpha and the Omega", the beginning and the end. Sarum Blue, our color for Advent, symbolizes hope, expectation, and anticipation. We begin this new Church Year with Alpha, the first letter of the Greek alphabet. As we enter the beginning, we know with certainty, that there will be an end (Omega, the final letter).

Until recently, purple has been our color for both Lent and Advent. Purple, however, signifies penitence, and is out of place in the season of Advent, which is a season of looking forward, with anticipation.

In the Middle Ages, there was an Old English rite, called the Sarum Rite, on which was based the liturgy of the Anglican Book of Common Prayer. Blue, if affordable, was the color for this rite. Blue has been used for Advent, at England's Salisbury Cathedral, since the 11th Century.

Blue is Mary's color, and Advent is when we look forward, with Mary, to a time of hope, confidence, and expectation. reproduce

This shade of blue is called "Sarum Blue" or "Salisbury Blue" (Sarum being the Latin name for Salisbury). It represents the color of the sky, just before dawn, as we await the arrival of the blessed baby Jesus.

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

20 December 2015

Welcome! Please enter the nave quietly and reverently as there may be people already in prayer and contemplation.

Thank you for worshiping with us today. Your presence is important to all of us. If you are just passing through, we wish you Godspeed on your travels and hope that you will join us whenever you return. If you live in this area and are new to this parish, we welcome you and invite you to make Saint Bartholomew your church home. If you are a long-time member who has been gone for a while, welcome home--we've missed you! And if you are a member of this parish who generally shows up every week, thank you for your commitment to our parish family--well done, good and faithful servant!

About Today's Lessons

The theme of the Fourth Sunday of Advent is the role of the Virgin Mary in the events that brought about our salvation. A related theme is the Lord's human nature.

It was as an obedient human being that Jesus made the willing offering of himself for our salvation, says the author of the Letter to the Hebrews. The salvation of humanity was accomplished within human life not apart from it.

Human nature has a real and definitive role to play, a role revealed in the story of Mary. Today's Gospel reading is the story of Mary's visit to Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist. Both Elizabeth and her unborn son rejoice in Mary's role. [When the longer reading is used: Mary then praises God in the words used by the church at Evening Prayer, "My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."] God's blessing of Mary, the lowly servant, will be extended in the ministry of Christ to all, especially the poor and the lowly. In her acceptance and cooperation with God's will, Mary becomes the model for our response to God and the human agent of God's gift of the redeeming Christ to the world.

From *The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year*. Copyright 1998 by Michael W. Merriman. Church Publishing Incorporated, New York.

Celebrant: The Rev. Stephen Secaur
Eucharistic Ministers: Linda Price (8:00) and Richard Wise (10:30)
Lectors: Diane Bellas (8:00) Matt Matthews and Tom Robinson(10:30)
Ushers: Matt and West Matthews
Teller: Matt Matthews
Organist: Aleksandr Leybkind

Worship through the Week

A guide for Prayer and Study at Home

We pray for those who are infirm, and for the continued healing of:

Ben and Dorothy, Richard and Mary, Frank, Dottie, Betty, Rob, Fr. Jim, Kristin Ed and Drew, Michelle and Josh, Brigid and Kent, Jennifer and Pat, Niki and Jeff, Liam, Will, Jan, Kelly, Kim, Jean, Alice, Shirley, Lauren, Cathy, Laurie, Brian, Kevin, Jane, Jim, Annie, Tom, Val, Kate, Joey, Lou, Dolores, Jessica, Susan, Matt, Pat, Halle, Mary Ellen, Brooke...

And we offer our thanksgivings for your many blessings upon us especially for:

The offering for December 13th was \$1,131.00 and the attendance was 65.

The birthdays of : ...

The anniversary of : ...

We pray for those serving in the Armed Forces...

Lt. Colonel Dan Knaup, Corporal Jason Thompson, Major David Marcinski, Sgt. Mark Ditchman, Pvt 2nd Class Kyle Lewis, Col. Howard Pearce, Quartermaster Mike Thoumire, Lieutenant Joanna Chmielecki, Staff Sgt. Paul Workman, Seaman Kyle Knowlton, Senior Airman Rebecca Voigt, Pvt. Jack Rolf, Lance Corporal Anthony Worst, Robert Register.

We also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, especially:

Marie Connelly, Norma Louise Brooks, ...

and those who have died this week in the service of their country.

Outreach – Giving Tree: For the month of **December** we will be collecting laundry soap, soap dish, detergent, bar soap, etc. Thanks so much for the outpouring of gifts to the Giving Tree.

The Shawl Ministry: Do you like to knit, crochet and pray? Please consider joining a group of women from St. Bart's and other surrounding churches as we create prayer shawls. We meet here at St. Bart's at 7:00 p.m. every 1st and 3rd Wednesday. As shawls are created, we share shawl stories and pray over each shawl. If you know of an individual, a group or an institution that may benefit from a shawl blessed with love and prayers, please let one of us know or pick one up in the library.

Liz York: 440-946-3374

Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

If there is an enclosure (envelope or separate sheet) in the announcement folder, and you do not plan to use it at this time, please leave it on the table in back, instead of the trash. We can save a lot of paper that way. Thanks!

***This time of year we all receive 2016 Calendars.
Any you are not going to use, please place in giving free basket. Thanks!***

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

21	Monday	6:00 - 7:00 pm	SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE
		6:00 pm 6:30 pm	Yoga with Betty Rendlesham Finance Meeting Vestry Meeting
22	Tuesday		Henry Budd, Priest, 1875
		6:00 pm 4:30 pm	Jenny Dance Office Open - Francys
23	Wednesday		
		8:00 am 4:30 pm 4:30 pm	TMCC West Side Shared Ministry Office Open Franco
24	Thursday		Eve of the Nativity
		5:00 pm 11:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service with H.E. Christmas Eve Service with H.E.
25	Friday		THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST: Christmas Day
		10:30 am	Christmas Day Service
26	Saturday		SAINT STEPHEN, DEACON AND MARTYR
27	Sunday		THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY
		8:00 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am 4:00 - 6:00 pm	Holy Eucharist, Rite I Bible Study Choir Practice Holy Eucharist, Rite II Community Meal at Epiphany

This Week's Readings

From the Daily Office for the week of December 21st through December 27th, 2015

Monday: Psalm 61, 62, 112, 115
Zeph. 3:14-20; Titus 1:1-16; Luke 1:1-25

Tuesday : Psalm 66, 67; 116, 117
1 Samuel 2:1b-10; Titus 2:1-10; Luke 1:26-38
Wednesday : Psalm 72, 111, 113
2 Samuel 7:1-17; Titus 2:11-3:8a; Luke 1:39-48a

Thursday: Psalm 45, 46
Baruch 4:36-5:9; Gal 3:15-22; Luke 1:67-80

Friday: Psalm 2, 85; 110:1-5 (6-7), 132
Micah 4:1-5, 5:2-4; 1 John 4:7-16; John 3:31-36

Saturday: Psalm 28, 30; 2 Chronicles 24:17-22; Acts 6:1-7
Psalm 118; Wisdom 4:7-15; Acts 7:59-8:8

Sunday: Psalm 24, 29; 8, 84
Gen 3:8-15; Rev. 12:1-10; John 3:16-21

How to use the Daily Office: For each day, the Psalms are split into AM (morning) and PM (evening) readings by the "&" You may read them this way or together at one time. Optional readings are in [brackets]. Below the Psalms you have an Old Testament, New Testament, and Gospel reading for each day. The entire Bible can be read in two years following this format from the Book of Common Prayer.