

Mary Immaculate of Lourdes

(Formerly St. Mary's Parish, 1870-1910)

Newton/Needham, Massachusetts

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Syriac-Rite Catholic Community: Our Lady of Mesopotamia



December 7th 2014 in the Year of Grace
The Second Sunday of the Advent of the
Lord

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Mary Immaculate of Lourdes Parish

270 Elliot Street Newton, MA 02464

Parish Staff

PASTOR: FATHER CHARLES JEREMIAH HIGGINS

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE: MR. DAVID ALLEN

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: JEAN JOHNSON (DIRECTOR)

PATTI STROM (LATIN MASS CHILDREN'S CATECHISM)

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: MRS. BOBBIE HOFFMANN

PARISH & CEMETERY SECRETARY: MARGIE BIBBO

FIRST SACRISTAN: MANNY GOGUEN

SECOND SACRISTAN: ANGELUS DAVULIS

SACRISTANS: FRANCIS GALLAGHER, TOM GOGUEN,

PETER GOGUEN, JONATHAN PHILLIPS, EARL SMITH

SEXTON: SEAN WARD (RET. CEMETERY SUPERINTDT.)

PARISH/CEMETERY BUSINESS OFFICE: SHARON HOGAN

Telephones

Parish Office: 617-244-0558 / FAX 617-965-4815

Email: miol@parishmail.com

Website: www.maryimmaculatenewton.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/MIoLnewton



Parish Cemetery of Saint Mary's, Needham GUARDIAN ESTATE MANAGEMENT INC.

Mr. Ron Goguen, Superintendent .

Guardian Staff on-site for service hours Mon.-Fri.,
9 AM—3 PM, April through November.

The Cemetery Office is located at the parish
rectory on 270 Elliot St, Newton Upper Falls and is
open Monday-Friday, 8 AM—5 PM.

Telephone: 781-235-1841

Mass Schedule

Sunday: 4:00 PM (Saturday Vigil), 7:30 AM
9:00 AM, 10:30 AM (Traditional Latin), 5:30 PM

Weekdays: Mon.-Tues., Thurs.-Fri. 7:30 AM

Traditional Latin Low Mass:

Mon., Wed. & Fri., 12:30 PM; Thurs., 5:30 PM,
Sat. 9:00 AM.

Holy Days: if Mon-Fri., 7:30 AM., 12:30, 5:30 &
7:30 PM.; if on Saturday, 7:30, 9:00 & 10:30 AM

Christmas Eve: 4:00 PM & 12 Midnight

Christmas Day: 7:30, 9:00 & 10:30 AM

January 1st: 7:30, 9:00 & 10:30 AM

SACRAMENTS

Baptism: Upon request. Please contact Father Higgins.

Penance (Confession):

Saturday 8:30-9:00 A.M. and 3:30-4:00 PM
Sunday, before and after the 10:30 a.m. AM Mass,
Weekdays, before and after the Latin daily Masses

Matrimony:

Engaged couples should make arrangements with the
parish church so as to allow for adequate sacramental
preparation (six months), including a Pre-Cana program.

Pastoral Care of the Sick

Anointing of the Sick (for those who are gravely ill or
facing serious surgery); **Communion of the Sick for
the Homebound:** Please contact Father Higgins.

DECEMBER IS THE MONTH OF THE HOLY INFANCY



FRONT COVER: “The Madonna of the Shadows” by Fra Angelico, ca. 1450 A.D.

Pastor’s Note

FULFILLING THE “SUNDAY OBLIGATION”

During the course of these Advent days, when we try to “stir up our hearts” to celebrate the feast of God’s coming to earth as Man, it is useful for us to consider the importance of that first religious duty we have as Catholics to assist at Mass on every Sunday of the year and Holy Day of obligation. This “Sunday Obligation” is a fulfillment of the Third Commandment “Remember keep holy the Sabbath Day” and is defined by a positive law of the Church.

Certain conditions are required. A person must attend a complete Mass, from the beginning of the Mass to the last blessing (it is at least a venial sin to deliberately come late and leave early); it must be a duly authorized Mass in a duly authorized site of worship; a person must be physically present and have the necessary intention and attention for the worship of God.

Although this Sunday Obligation is a hard and fast rule any “moderately grave reason suffices to excuse one from assistance at Holy Mass, such as considerable hardship or corporal or spiritual harm either to oneself or another. (Jones/Adelman *Moral Theology*, 1946 edition)”

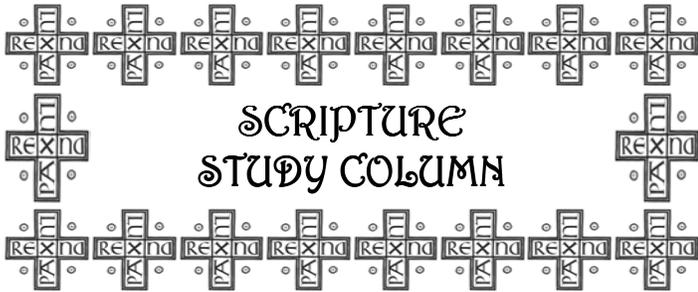
Watching the Mass on television or on the computer does not fulfill the Sunday Obligation. For people who are already excused from assisting at Mass on account of their age, illness or isolation, it is a way to bring the Mass prayer to them. Able-bodied people who could well go to church but don’t are sadly mistaken if they think watching a TV Mass at home is just as good.

Nowadays we have the spectacle of large numbers of Catholics who don’t consider themselves fallen-away but who nonetheless are very negligent about their Sunday Obligation. This may seem like a new problem but we have evidence from it in the New Testament. In the Epistle to the Hebrews we read: “Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”(Hebrews 10:24-25)

In the note for the Navarre Bible, it is explained: “The passage includes a call not to neglect to attend Christian assemblies. We know that the first Christians were expected to come together daily or weekly (cf. Acts of the Apostles 2:46; 20:7) and as we can see here, some gave up going to those meetings through carelessness, or because they preferred private to public prayer, or because they did not want others to know they were Christian...On the basis of the apostolic tradition, the Church has established a grave obligation to attend Mass on Sundays (cf. Code of Canon Law, can. 1247). ‘On this day Christ’s faithful are bound to come together into one place. They should listen to the Word of God and take part in the Eucharist, thus calling to mind the Passion, Resurrection and Glory of the Lord Jesus and giving thanks to God, “who has begotten them anew to a living hope through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (I Peter 1:13)’ (Vatican II, *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 106)

(Fr. Higgins)

KNOW YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH



GOSPEL OF SAINT LUKE BIBLE STUDY

(Luke 14:1-6)

By David Allen

Even though the Pharisees were trying to get Christ to leave town by conveying the message of Herod's malicious intent in chapter 13, we nevertheless see Jesus at table with them in the beginning of chapter 14. This dinner was not a joyous or relaxing

occasion, however, but a tense one. St. Luke tells us that "the people there were observing him carefully" (v. 1). The sense of the text is really that they were *scrutinizing* Him, so as to find fault. In a sense, Christ's Passion had already begun: "*Many dogs surround me...they stare at me and gloat*" (Ps. 22:17-18).

In a recent conversation I had with Fr. Higgins, he aptly applied this text to the way certain of the faithful scrutinize Pope Francis, lying in wait to criticize his every move and to tear it to shreds (how quickly we forget that *he* is the Vicar of Christ, not we). Let us not contribute to the devil's ill will directed against our Holy Father by cultivating a spirit of suspicion and accusation. Let us rather admire the pope for his courage in a frightening spiritual and geo-political landscape, and pray for wisdom and strength for him as he leads and provides for us lambs (cf. Lk. 22:32, Jn. 21:15-17).

In the midst of this dinner, which St. Luke describes as taking place on a sabbath, Jesus heals a man with dropsy, a dreadful disease of bodily swelling. The natural human instinct when seeing a person with such a disease should be compassion. The Pharisees, however, were eager to see if Christ would heal the man, so that they could accuse Him of working on the sabbath, and thus, of violating the law. St. Luke has prepared his readers to see how Jesus handles the situation, since he had already healed a crippled woman on the sabbath, squashing the objection of His enemies, and putting them to shame (cf. 13:10-17).

In v. 3, Jesus preemptively asks them, "Is it lawful to cure on the sabbath or not," to which they make no reply. After healing the man, Jesus asks them another question in v. 5: "Who among you, if your son or ox falls into a cistern, would not immediately pull him out on the sabbath day?" Again, the Pharisees do not respond, even though the answer is obvious, thus manifesting their pride and obstinacy. *No one* would hesitate to assist a son or a lucrative farm animal in need. The Venerable Bede points out the Pharisees' covetousness in regard to the latter, for they would rescue their livestock on a sabbath, yet they ignored the man with dropsy on the sabbath. Thus, as he explains, Jesus implies that they were *already* violating the sabbath through their covetousness. According to St. Augustine, the scenario Jesus presents in His second question is related to the actual scene. In the hypothetical scenario, a man falls into a well of water, and in the real case of the sick man, he was swelling with fluids. In each situation, a life is endangered by water. Jesus' manner of teaching is stunning in its wisdom and directness.

For us who live in a workaholic and relativistic culture, the Pharisees' religious legalism does not usually strike a chord. We can, however, find the Pharisees' lack of compassion in the recesses of our hearts. When we examine our consciences, we can acknowledge the selfish thoughts, words, and deeds which lead us to ignore the needs of our families and friends, causing them pain. Each day we should strive to make a firm resolution in our morning prayers to be more attentive to the needs of the people God puts in our lives. Our Lord would have us be formed in his likeness. "Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make my heart like unto thine."

LATIN MASS PROPERS: SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

INTROIT: *Psalm 30: 30* People of Sion, behold the Lord shall come to save the nations: and the Lord shall make the glory of His voice to be heard, in the joy of your heart. *Psalm 79: 2* Give ear, O Thou that rulest Israel: Thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep. Glory be to the Father.

COLLECT Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the ways of Thine only-begotten Son; that through His coming we may attain to serve Thee with purified minds. Who with Thee liveth and reigneth.

EPISTLE: *Romans 15: 4-13* Brethren, What things soever were written, were written for our learning: that, through patience and the comfort of the Scriptures, we might have hope. Now the God of patience and of comfort grant you to be of one mind one towards another, according to Jesus Christ; that with one mind and with one mouth you may glorify God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Wherefore receive one another, as Christ also hath received you unto the honour of God. For I say that Christ Jesus was minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers but that the Gentiles are to glorify God for His mercy, as it is written: Therefore will I confess to Thee, O Lord, among the Gentiles and will sing to Thy name. And again He saith: Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with His people. And again: Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and magnify Him, all ye people. And again, *Isaias* saith: There shall be a root of Jesse; and He that shall rise up to rule the Gentiles, in Him the Gentiles shall hope. Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing: that you may abound in hope, and in the power of the Holy Ghost.

GRADUAL: *Psalm 49: 2-3, 5* Out of Sion the loveliness of His beauty: God shall come Manifestly. *V.* Gather ye together His saints to Him, who have set His covenant before sacrifices. **ALLELUIA:** *Psalm 121: 1* Alleluia, alleluia. *V.* I rejoiced at the things that were said to me: We shall go into the house of the Lord. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: *Matthew 11: 2-10* At that time, when John had heard in prison the works of Christ, sending two of his disciples, he said to Him: Art thou He that art to come, or look we for another? And Jesus making answer, said to them: Go and relate to John what you have heard and seen. The blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead rise again, the poor have the gospel preached to them: and blessed is he that shall not be scandalized in Me. And when they went their way, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: What went you out into the desert to see? A reed shaken with the wind? But what went you out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Behold they that are clothed in soft garments are in the houses of kings. But what went you out to see? A prophet? Yea I tell you, and more than a prophet. For this is he of whom it is written: Behold I send My angel before Thy face, who shall prepare Thy way before Thee.

OFFERTORY: *Psalm 84: 7-8* Thou wilt turn, O God, and bring us to life, and Thy people shall rejoice in Thee: show us, O Lord, Thy mercy, and grant us Thy salvation.

SECRET Be appeased, we beseech Thee, O Lord, by the prayers and offerings of our humility: and where we have no merits to plead for us, do Thou help us with Thine aid. Through our Lord.

Preface of Advent

COMMUNION: *Baruch 5: 5; 4: 36* Arise, O Jerusalem, and stand on high, and behold the joy that cometh to thee from thy God.

POSTCOMMUNION Filled with the food of this spiritual nourishment, we suppliantly entreat Thee, O Lord, that through our participation in this Mystery Thou wouldst teach us to despise earthly things and to love heavenly ones. Through our Lord.

Calendar of Masses

(Intention of the Mass—Special Remarks—Requested by)

SATURDAY December 6th	4:00 PM	Edward Hinds	7th Anniversary	Hinds Family & Raschel
SUNDAY December 7th <i>Second Sunday in the Advent of the Lord</i>	7:30 AM 9:00 AM 10:30 AM 5:30 PM	Pro Populo Teolina & Marcos Fonseca Jean Ward Sodality (Liv/Dec) John Drohan Jr. & Henry Bambrick Jr. Elaine Goffredo Robert Quagan Harold Engler Nora Foley Theresa Kerns Marguerite Mills	Memorial Memorial Month's Mind Health of the Sick Memorial Memorial Health of the Sick Memorial	John & Emma Riley Cindy Fagrey Sodalists Therea Rusnack Goffredo Family Judy Spaulding Laura Harvey Bennett Family Bennett Family Mark & Anne Tomchik
MONDAY December 8th IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	7:30 AM 12:30 PM 5:30 PM 7:30 PM	Purgatorial Society of Mary Immaculate of Lourdes Parish Commemoration of the Faithful Departed Our Nation, the USA Pro Populo	Memorial Memorial	
TUESDAY December 9th <i>St. Juan Diego</i>	7:30 AM	Joseph & Victoria Bedus	Memorial	Lempitski Family
WEDNESDAY December 10th <i>Advent Feria</i>	12:30 PM	Lauren Ferris		
THURSDAY December 11th <i>Advent Feria/ St. Damasus</i>	7:30 AM 5:30 PM	All Humanitarian Relief Workers & Missionaries Leo & Grace Feeney	Special Intention Memorial	Patricia Feeney Norton
FRIDAY December 12th <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>	7:30 AM <i>Health of the Sick</i> 12:30 PM	Jerry Higgins Kwash/Rizzo/Rulnick 7 Steinkrauss Family	35th Anniversary Memorial	Kwash Family
SATURDAY December 13th <i>St. Lucy</i>	9:00 AM 4:00 PM	Lita Uilaoghairé Alice Nyhen All Souls Ted Dada	Special Intention Memorial Memorial Birthday Memorial	Catherine Dinon Barbara & Maureen Nyhen Annie Procopio Mullen Family

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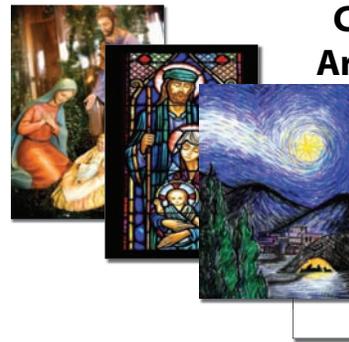
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 For information, call the cemetery staff at Mary Immaculate of Lourdes Church at 781-235-1841.
ST. MARY'S CEMETERY
 St. Mary's Cemetery | 1Wellesley Avenue, Needham, MA 02494