

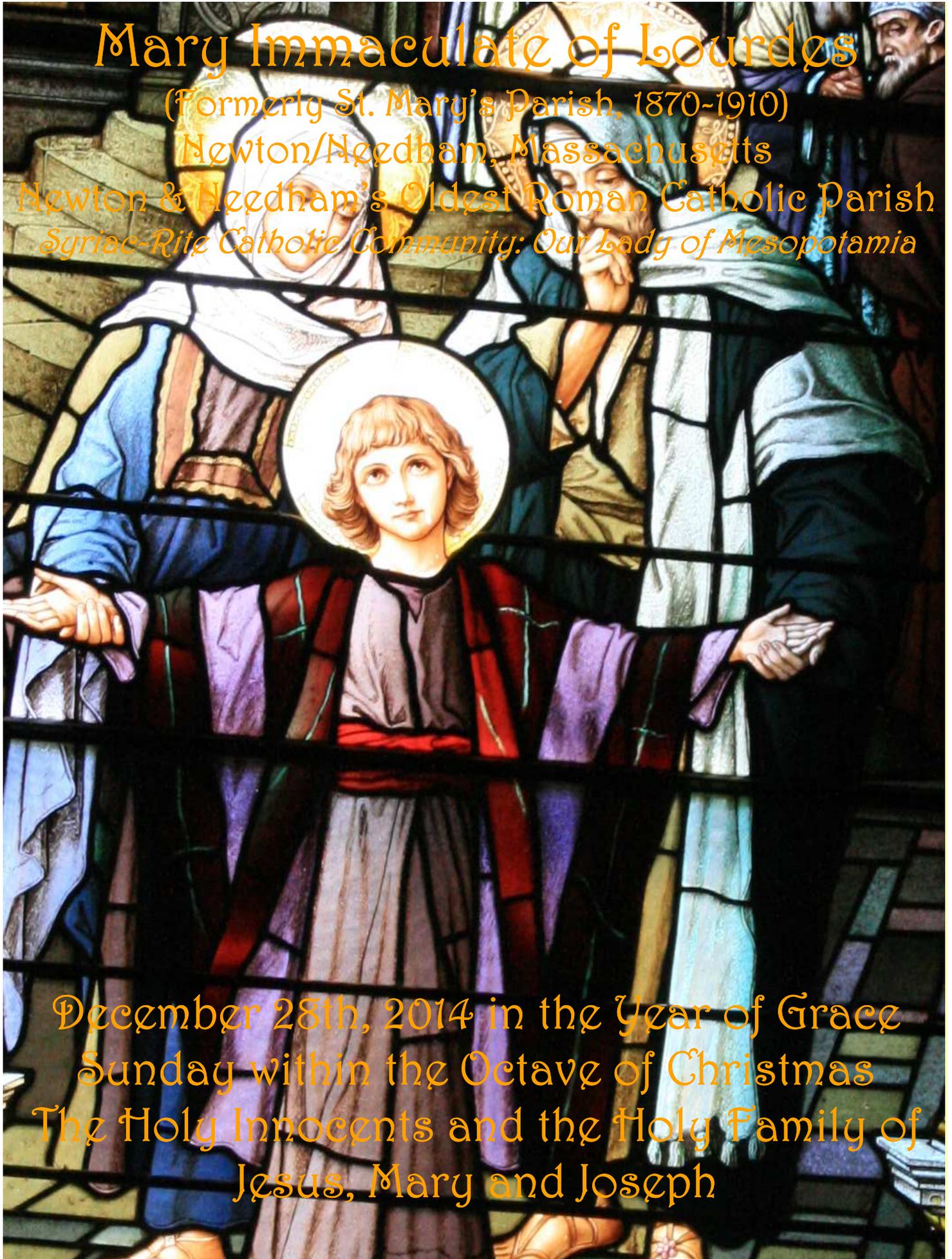
Mary Immaculate of Lourdes

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

Newton/Needham, Massachusetts

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Syriac-Rite Catholic Community: Our Lady of Mesopotamia



December 28th, 2014 in the Year of Grace

Sunday within the Octave of Christmas

The Holy Innocents and the Holy Family of

Jesus, Mary and Joseph

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Mr. Ron Goguen, Superintendent .

Guardian Staff on-site for service hours Mon.-Fri.,
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The Cemetery Office is located at the parish
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Telephone: 781-235-1841

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

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 Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple*, stained glass window in our parish church. (PHOTO by Paul Eldridge.)

Pastor's Note

THE "MAGNUM MYSTERIUM" AND THE ANIMAL KINGDOM

In the Night Office of Matins for Christmas Eve (Roman Breviary) the Responsory to the Fourth Lesson gives a touching tribute to the animals who witnessed the Christ Child's Birth and saw Him laid in the manger by His Mother Mary:

O magnum mysterium ... O great Mystery and wonderful sign that animals should see the Lord, new-born, lying in a manger! Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was privileged to carry Christ the Lord. Hail Mary, full of grace; the

Lord is with thee.

The animals at the Crib have become a standard piece of any manger scene and have captured popular imagination. As Fr. Francis Weiser relates of Christmas in the Middle Ages:

Other legends tell of how animals could talk like humans at midnight [on Christmas Eve]. Their favorite language seemed to be Latin. In an old French mystery play the cock crows with a piercing voice, 'Christus natus est' (Christ is born): the ox moos 'Ubi' (Where?): the lamb answers 'Bethlehem,' and the ass brays 'Eamus!' (Let us go!). In the Austrian Tyrol the animals in the stable are said to gossip about the public and hidden faults of those who listen in on their conversation. In Lithuania, the cattle and sheep and horses compare notes as to how they were treated by their masters during the past year. (The Christmas Book)

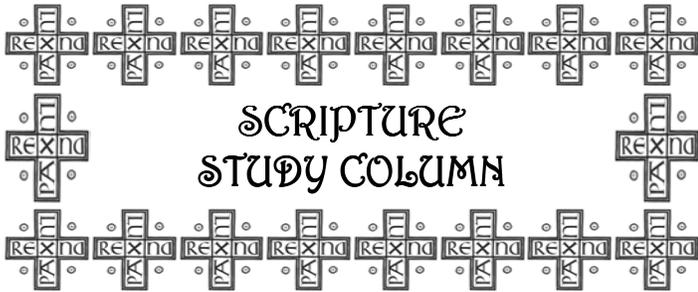
It was reported recently how Pope Francis comforted a grieving little boy who was disconsolate over the death of his beloved pet dog: "One day we will see our animals again in the eternity of Christ," the Pope said to him. "Paradise is open to all of God's creatures."

As has become the predictable reaction to almost any utterance of Pope Francis, he is assailed in some quarters of loyal Catholics for undermining orthodoxy and praised by others for...undermining orthodoxy. In this case some of the most eccentric advocates of animal-human equality saw Pope Francis's kind words to a little boy as an endorsement of their views.

We do better to place Pope Francis's words in the context of the Christmas animals in the manger-scene, and rest there in the most consoling thought of all: that Christ the Savior has indeed redeemed all Creation. What drudgery to put unnecessary limits to the imagination of what "restoring all things in Christ" may mean.

(Fr. Higgins)

KNOW YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH



Christmas 2014 Bulletin Note

In this calendar year of 2014, the Sunday within the Octave of Christmas coincides with the feast of the Holy Innocents. In the Ordinary Form, today is the Feast of the Holy Family with the Gospel passage Luke 2:22-40. The Sunday Feast is a cause of great joy as we think about the happi-

ness and holiness in the home of Nazareth. The feast of the Holy Innocents, however, is somewhat less ebullient, as we mark the deaths of innocent children. This feast, while sobering, is certainly not devoid of joy, for we celebrate the heavenly triumph of children who became martyrs.

Simeon prophesies the future sufferings of Our Lord in his public ministry and on the cross, as well as the sufferings of Our Lady at the foot of the cross. In Luke 2:34-35 we hear these words: "*Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted- and you yourself a sword will pierce- so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.*"

Why think on suffering during a time of joy? Why meditate on sadness in a seemingly premature manner, when we would rather think about the happy cooing of the Christ Child?

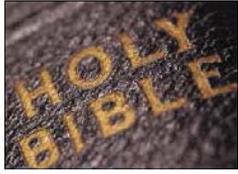
Firstly, we must be ever mindful that Jesus' birth occurred so that He might possess a full human nature that would bear the weight of our sins on the Cross. One of the earliest heresies in Church history was Docetism, which taught that Christ never really had a human nature, but only *appeared* to be man. This is an erroneous position, for, if Jesus was not fully human, and could not really suffer, then He never really paid for our sins on the cross. The Church has always been clear: He was born so that He could die.

Secondly, Christ's kingdom was and remains a kingdom of love and humility, not political power, and thus, the world persecutes it (cf. John 18:36). Sadly, worldly powers persecuted Christ and anyone associated with Him from the moment of His coming into the world until his glorious death. The infants and toddlers of Bethlehem bear witness to this gruesome reality. In Simeon's terms, they "rise" to glory, because of their connection with Christ, while tyrants like Herod "fall" to the realms of hell through their cruelty against Him and His servants.

In every way, the Holy Innocents share the mystery of Christ's birth and cross, for they testify to the vulnerability of Christ's sacred humanity, and the gratuity of God's tender love unto death. They are a foreshadowing of the Church, who, like Christ, is a "sign of contradiction," ever reaching out to the world in love, and yet is despised by the world, the victim of its hate.

A few weeks ago, a story appeared on catholicculture.org, which told of the martyrdom of four Iraqi children who refused to convert to Islam, because of their love for Christ. Even during Christmastide, more Holy Innocents are killed in our world, and our prayerful solidarity should not be lacking in their behalf. We pray for an end to terrorism. We pray for the protection and salvation of all suffering Christians, especially vulnerable migrant families, who share in a special way the suffering of the Holy Family in Egypt. May the merits of the Holy Family, as well as the Holy Innocents, ancient and modern, strengthen our families in holiness and love.

(David Allen)



WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY: "ACTS OF THE APOSTLES"

David Allen, our Pastoral Associate, hosts a weekly Bible Study on the Acts of the Apostles every Friday morning at 8:20 AM (after the 7:30 Parish Mass). The Bible Study meets in the Lower Rectory Conference Room (in rectory basement). It is an open group and all are welcome to attend.

Refreshments provided. Please bring your Bible.

Mr. David Allen is the lay Pastoral Associate for our parish of Mary Immaculate of Lourdes. He is currently working towards a Master's Degree in Theological Studies (MTS) at St. John's Seminary.



CHRISTMAS CAROLING VISIT TO THE STONE INSTITUTE: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28th

TO ONE & ALL: Please join the Ladies' Sodality on a visit to the Stone Institute (right across Elliot Street) to sing Christmas Carols to the residents on the Sunday after Christmas, DECEMBER 28th, 2013.

We will gather on the front steps of the church after the



PARISH OPEN HOUSE AT THE RECTORY NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 4th,

the 11th

DAY OF CHRISTMAS from 8:30 AM until 2:30 PM

Please join us!



PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

SOLEMNITY OF MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD, (OCTAVE DAY OF CHRISTMAS), HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION JANUARY 1st:

Parish Masses at 7:30 & 9:00 AM (Ordinary Form) 10:30 AM (Tridentine Latin)

Please note there will be no evening Masses on January 1st.

PARISH FELLOWSHIP



WE INVITE EVERYONE TO JOIN US FOR COFFEE HOUR DOWNSTAIRS EACH SUNDAY AFTER THE 10:30 LATIN MASS.

LATIN MASS PROPERS: THE HOLY INNOCENTS (CHILDERMAS)

INTROIT: Ps. 8.3 Out of the mouths of infants and of sucklings, O God, Thou hast perfected praise, because of Thy enemies. *Psalm* O Lord, our God, how admirable is Thy Name in the whole earth! *V.* Glory be to the Father.

COLLECT O God, whose praise the martyred Innocents confessed this day, not in speech, but by death: mortify within us all vices: that Thy faith which our tongues profess, our lives also by their actions may confess. Through our Lord.

EPISTLE: *Apocalypse 14:1-5* In those days I saw upon Mount Sion a Lamb standing, and with Him an hundred forty-four thousand, having His Name and the Name of His Father written on their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the noise of many waters, and as the voice of great thunder: and the voice which I heard was as the voice of harpers, harping on their harps. And they sung as it were a new canticle before the throne, and before the four living creatures and the ancients: and no man could say the canticle, but those hundred forty-four thousand who were purchased from the earth. These are they who were not defiled with women: for they are virgins. These follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth. These were purchased from among men, the first-fruits to God and to the Lamb: and in their mouth there was found no lie: for they are without spot before the throne of God.

GRADUAL: *Psalm 123. 7-8* Our soul hath been delivered as a sparrow out of the snare of the fowlers. *V.* The snare hath been broken, and we have been delivered. Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. **ALLELUIA:** *Psalm 112.1* Alleluia, alleluia. *V.* Praise the Lord, ye children, praise ye the name of the Lord. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: *Matthew 2: 13-18* **At** that time an Angel of the Lord appeared in sleep to Joseph, saying: Arise, and take the Child and His mother, and fly into Egypt, and be there until I tell thee. For it will come to pass that Herod will seek the Child to destroy Him. Who arose and took the Child and His mother by night and retired into Egypt: and he was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which the Lord spoke by the Prophet, saying: Out of Egypt I have called My Son. Then Herod, perceiving that He was deluded by the wise men, was exceeding angry, and sending killed all the male children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the borders thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently acquired of the wise men. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by the Jeremias the Prophet, saying: a voice in Rama was heard, lamentation and great mourning: Rachel bewailing her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.

OFFERTORY: *Psalm 123.7* Our soul hath been delivered as a sparrow out of the snare of the fowlers: the snare is broken and we are delivered.

SECRET May the devout prayer of Thy saints now be wanting to us, O Lord: may it make our offerings acceptable to Thee and ever obtain for us Thy pardon. Through our Lord.

Preface of Christmas

COMMUNION: *Mark 2.18* A voice in Rama was heard, lamentation and great mourning: Rachel bewailing her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.

POSTCOMMUNION Do Thou grant, we beseech Thee, O Lord, through the prayers of the saints, that these votive offerings, partaken by us, may gain help both in this life and in the life to come. Through our Lord.

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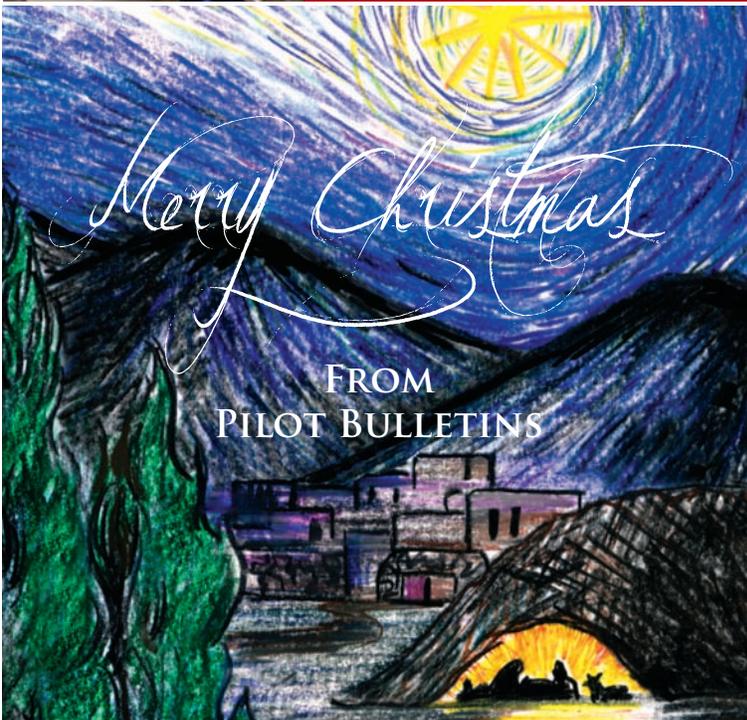
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 For information, call the cemetery staff at Mary Immaculate of Lourdes Church at 781-235-1841.
ST. MARY'S CEMETERY
 St. Mary's Cemetery | 1Wellesley Avenue, Needham, MA 02494