

December 8, 2019  
Second Sunday of Advent

Welcome Child of God!

No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church,  
No matter your personal history, age, income, background, gender, race, ethnicity or spirituality, or marital situation,  
No matter your own self-image of holiness or virtue,  
You belong to Jesus Christ and you belong to us!  
You are invited, accepted and respected here at the Parish of Saint Thomas More.

Take our hands, Lord Jesus, leading us in courage to confront with courage the forces which oppress and divide.  
Take our hearts, Lord Jesus, and open them to the truth which will set others free.  
Accompany us on our way, Lord Jesus, as we seek to share our Roman Catholic faith and life in your Spirit.



Vinita Hampton Wright, author of "Days of Deepening Friendship," has written the following: "I saw Jesus today"—

*"I saw Jesus on the train today. He had worked a long shift, his coveralls a patchwork of sweat and grime; yet he joked with a coworker in the adjacent seat. I saw Jesus a while later, as the crowd filed onto the stairs to the street below – he was a young girl with two small children in tow, her nerves clearly frayed. And then, in the grocery store, there was Jesus again, a checkout clerk who smiled and wished me a good evening. The next time I saw him he was stuck in traffic, his business suit rumpled and his eyes weary. And when I walked by my neighbor's house, Jesus sat on the front step, passing time with a friend."*

A hallmark of Ignation Spirituality is the idea of finding God in all things. Advent is a wonderful reminder that there is a holy possibility we may see Jesus where we least expect..

A blessed, joy-filled Advent,  
Fr. Andrew

**CHURCH OF SAINT THOMAS MORE**

A Community of Parish & University Ministry  
PO Box 620, Durham, NH 03824; 868-2666; stmdurham@comast.net

**OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK:**

Mon, Tues, Thurs: 9am - 3pm; Weds: 9am - 1pm  
Office closed Friday

Weekday Masses:

Mon 12:10pm & 7pm (Immaculate Conception),  
12:10pm Tues & Wed; and Thurs (Guadalupe) at 7pm

Food Pantry: Thurs 4-6pm (Closed 12/26/2019 & 1/2/2020)

**December 15: Third Sunday of Advent**

Reading I: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10  
Reading II: James 5:7-10  
Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11



**For December 7th – December 12th**

Saturday, 5pm – † DJ Ober  
Sunday, 9am – † Stella Thomas (1st Anniv)  
Sunday, 11:15am – † Terry Miller  
Thursday, 7pm – † Marian Arnoldy

**For December 14th – December 15th**

Saturday, 5pm – † Ronald Way  
Sunday, 9am – † Helen Bourque (1st Anniv)  
Sunday, 11:15am – † Martha Cox and Neula & Billy Halpin

**STEWARDSHIP UPDATE:**

**Average Weekly Regular Offertory Amount Needed  
to Meet Our Annual Budget = \$5,234**

<b>Offertory for Nov 24:</b>	<b>\$ 4217</b>
<b>Offertory for Dec 1:</b>	<b>6123</b>
<b>Catholic Campaign for Human Development (Nov 24):</b>	<b>991</b>

*"Give and it shall be given to you." - Luke 6:38*  
**Thank you for your generous contributions.**

## LIFE LONG FAITH FORMATION



### This weekend (12/8):

- + **Whole Parish Faith Formation (WPF):** in the gym. All are welcome!
- + The whole parish is invited to learn more about the symbols of Advent and to create an Advent wreath (made of felt) to take home to celebrate this Holy Season. Change: there is no Saturday afternoon session because of the Christmas Fair. Sunday, December 8th, parishioners can meet in the gym after either the 9am or 11:15am mass to make a wreath. Come join us!

### The following week (12/15):

- + **Children Faith Formation Classes (CFF):** Children have classes in their classrooms; and
- + **Adult Faith Formation (AFF):** Adults meet in the gym. Miriam Hanlan will be giving a talk on our lady. All adults are welcome!

**January:** No Faith Formation classes in January. Next Faith Formation class is **February 2**.



### Middle School Faith Formation

Next sessions are **Dec 16** and **Feb 10** (no January classes) from 6-7:30pm. **Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass at 7pm on Dec 12.**

### High School Youth Ministry



Whole Parish FF: Sunday, Dec 8; 10am  
 DTS: Sunday, Dec 15; 6-8pm (meal)  
 Life Teen: Sunday, Jan 5; 6-8pm (snacks)

### CARING & SHARING



For this week the Pantry needs are:  
 jelly, condiments, tuna, juice, vegetable soup,  
 other soups except tomato and chicken

Thank you!!

### **Christmas Memorials**

Honor or remember a loved one with a donation to our Advent/Christmas environment. Donation envelopes are on the window sills in the church. Memorials and honorariums will be listed in the bulletin.



### **Second Collection...**

...this weekend is for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Thank you for your generosity!



### **Immaculate Conception Masses:**

Mon, Dec 9, 12:10pm & 7pm

It is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year.



### **Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass:**

Thursday, Dec 12, 7pm

### **200 CLUB - NOVEMBER WINNERS**

200 Club winnings warmed a cold Sunday for:

*Linda Tatarczuch, Ed & Helen Donnelly,  
 Martha Sifnas*

*Congratulations to All!*



### **200 Club Special Announcements**

1. As of December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 a new membership level has been added to the annual/\$200 and semi-annual/\$100.

**A 3-month membership is now available for \$50**

2. In celebration of the 2nd anniversary of the 200 Club, the prizes at a special drawing [date to be determined] will be \$500, \$300, and \$100.

In order to be eligible for the higher prizes at the anniversary drawing, members must be enrolled by December 31, 2019 and be up to date in their dues payments at the time of the anniversary drawing.

*More reasons to become a member  
 or renew your subscription!*

The next regular monthly drawing: January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020

The Yarn Crew will resume meetings on

**Monday, Dec 10 at 10:00 am**  
 in the church hall.

All are welcome. Hope to see you there!



### **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults RCIA Journey to the Easter Sacraments**

Please pray for our catechumens and candidates who have begun the next phase of their formation and faith journey to the Easter sacraments.

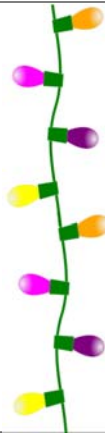
If you are interested in joining the Catholic church, **BEGIN THE CONVERSATION** with Roberta MacBride  
 stmpastoralmin@comcast.net ~ 603-868-2666 x115

# Christmas Fair!!

## A Big THANK YOU



to everyone who helped make our Fair a social and financial success!



### *"I am the Resurrection and the Life"*

*We extend our deepest sympathy and continued prayers for the family, friends and loved ones of:*



✠ Maggie Nicoloff  
wife of Phil Nicoloff

✠ Jeannette Lassonde  
longtime parishioner

✠ Steve Bradley  
brother-in-law of Patrick Murphy



*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

## Christmas Baskets



Its time to start thinking about Christmas Baskets, we will be giving out around 75. No completed baskets are needed, but these are the items we do need:

Can pie filling - apple, cherry or blueberry - NO pumpkin please; boxed pie crust; pickles & olives; salad dressing - bottles or packets; applesauce or cranberry sauce; cake mixes & frosting or brownies, bars or sweet breads; crackers & nuts; napkins; NO canned veggies.

We will be putting baskets together Friday 12/20 @ 6:30 PM for anyone interested in helping. Contact Cindy Racic with any questions. [cynth95419@aol.com](mailto:cynth95419@aol.com) or 603-781-0945.



Our parish family rejoices as we welcome newly Baptized

*Michael Evan Hopkins*

to our faith community.

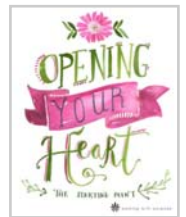
Many blessings upon Michael and his parents David and Kathleen and their beautiful family.

## WWP ~ Who is the Holy Spirit?

No experience necessary, just come as you are for some coffee and a chance to see what Walking with Purpose is all about!

**Dec 12, 2019; 10:30am**  
**STM Student Center Library**

Walking with Purpose Women's Bible Study is held weekly Oct - May. For more info: Michelle Dunbar at [STMDurhamWWP@gmail.com](mailto:STMDurhamWWP@gmail.com) or 498-2778.



## Important... Post Office Parking

NO parking now through January in the upper Post Office lot (even on Sundays) or in ANY post office marked parking space.



## Community News

**ADVENT EVENSONG & BENEDICTION** at Corpus Christi Parish. **Dec 8th, 15th & 22nd:** 5:30pm exposition of the Blessed Sacrament; 6pm: prayerful, half-hour Candlelight Service of reflective prayer & song, concluding with Benediction. Confession 5:30pm - 7pm. Candlelight Rorate Masses Weds: **Dec 4, 11, 18** at 7pm. For info: 436-4555 or [www.corpuschristinh.org](http://www.corpuschristinh.org)

**NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM** at St. Michael Parish, Exeter. **Fri, Dec 13,** 5:30 - 8:30pm. Come follow the footsteps of Mary and Joseph on the night Jesus was born. Tours leave every 15 minutes. [www.stmichaelparish.org](http://www.stmichaelparish.org)

## SENHS Annual Fund Drive

In the months of November and December we are often encouraged to donate to different organizations and to help support good causes. This year, consider making a donation to Southeastern NH Services in Dover. SENHS is a private, nonprofit agency dedicated to helping people who are struggling with a substance use disorder. Roughly 80% of the people we serve have co-occurring conditions (anxiety, depression, addiction, etc.) and have found the most success by providing mental health and addiction treatment at the same time, in the same setting, by the same treatment team. Help support the dignity of those often most forgotten or frowned upon in our society with a donation to SENHS. The contact information for SENHS is as follows: Email: [SENHS@co.strafford.nh.us](mailto:SENHS@co.strafford.nh.us), Phone: 603.516.8160 and **donations can be sent to:** 272 County Farm Road, Dover, NH 03820. Thanks!

More info about SENHS at <https://senhs.org/>

# UNH Campus Ministry

Fall 2019– Vol. 14

As we enter into a new liturgical year in Advent we are reminded by the readings to wait and prepare the way. Wait a second? Jesus was born over 2000 years ago, what are we waiting for? We prepare ourselves– our hearts, our minds, our souls for Jesus’ second coming! It’s true, Jesus came already at the first Christmas to show us what true incarnate love looks like and brought us the message that we are the body of Christ. So as we spend time in quiet prayer, joyfully anticipating the wonderful celebration of Christmas, let’s ask ourselves– How can I be a beacon of light in our dark world? How can I better love those around me? How can I proclaim the hope and peace that Jesus came to Earth to show us?

We prepare the way for Jesus’ second coming in a way that Fr. Greg Boyle, author of NY Times Bestseller *Tattoos on the Heart* and founder of Homeboy Industries, calls

**Inching ourselves closer to creating a community of kinship such that God might recognize it. Soon we imagine, with God, this circle of compassion. Then we imagine no one standing outside of that circle, moving ourselves closer to the margins so that the margins themselves will be erased. We stand there with those whose dignity has been denied. We locate ourselves with the poor and the powerless and the voiceless. At the edges we join the easily despised and the readily left out. We stand with the demonized so that the demonizing will stop. We situate ourselves right next to the disposable so that the day will come when we stop throwing people away. The prophet Habakkuk writes, “The vision still has its time, presses on to fulfillment and it will not disappoint...and if it delays, wait for it.” Kinship is what God presses us on to, always hopeful that its time has come.**

Our hope is that when Jesus comes again, the world that God finds will be one of hope, love, compassion, and kinship. Happy Advent!

Ryan Cornelissen, Campus Minister, [unhstm@gmail.com](mailto:unhstm@gmail.com)

## Weekly Events!

### SUNDAY–

5 PM- Student Mass will resume on January 26, 2020!

6 PM– Student Supper will resume on January 26, 2020!

### TUESDAY–

Community Lunch will resume on January 28, 2020!

### WEDNESDAY–

CSO Meetings resume on January 29, 2020!

### FRIDAY–

Men’s and Women’s groups will resume in the new year!

## Tattoos on the Heart

THE POWER OF BOUNDLESS COMPASSION



Gregory Boyle  
FOUNDER OF HOMEBOY INDUSTRIES  
READ BY THE AUTHOR

Quote from page 190 of Fr. Boyle’s, *Tattoos on the Heart* (also makes a great Christmas gift– 100% of proceeds benefits Homeboy Industries)

## Prayer of the Month! Advent

Since we only have one student Mass in Advent – December 8th, I am providing some options for Advent reflection available online for free! Feel free to reach out if you have questions!



### “Catholic Mobilizing Network”

Reflections rooted in Restorative Justice  
[Catholicmobilizing.org](http://Catholicmobilizing.org)– sign up for e-mail reflection

### “Catholic volunteer Network”

Reflections by recent college grads in service programs  
[Catholicvolunteernetwork.org](http://Catholicvolunteernetwork.org)–  
Home>Resources>Current Volunteers>Reflection Guides