



SAINT ANDREW PARISH
NORTH BILLERICA, MA

DECEMBER 14, 2014

Third Sunday of Advent

*He said: "I am 'the voice of one crying out in the
desert, "Make straight the way of the Lord,""*

as Isaiah the prophet said."

John 1:23

SAINT ANDREW PARISH

45 Talbot Avenue, North Billerica, MA 01862
Office 978.663.3624 • Fax 978.670.1433 •

BillericaCatholic.org

mass schedule

SATURDAY:	St. Andrew	4:00 PM
	St. Mary	4:00 PM
	St. Theresa	4:00 PM
SUNDAY:	St. Andrew	7:30 & 10:00 AM
	St. Mary	9:00 AM and Noon
	St. Theresa	8:00 & 10:30 AM and 5:00 PM

PARISH CLERGY

Very Rev. Shawn W. Allen, VF, Pastor
Rev. Martin Dzengeleski, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Gerald Souza, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Hal Obayashi, Parochial Vicar
Rev. John J. McCormick, Senior Priest in Residence
Deacon Allan Shanahan, Permanent Deacon
Deacon Phillip DiBello, Permanent Deacon,
Director of Ministry and Faith Formation
deaconphildibello@gmail.com

PASTORAL STAFF

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Adrienne Cullen
Adrienne.Cullen@parishmail.com

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT / FINANCE

Pamela Newfell
Pam@saintandrewbillerica.org

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

Christopher Wood
music@saintandrewbillerica.org

COORDINATOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Christine Kilburn
chrisk@saintandrewbillerica.org

EUCHARIST SCHEDULE

Saturday: 4:00 PM
Sunday: 7:30 AM and 10:00 AM
Daily: 12:05 PM Monday, Thursday &
Friday
Holy Days: As Announced

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays: 3:15 PM, and on request at any
reasonable time.

INFANT AND ADULT BAPTISM

Please contact the rectory for information.

WEDDINGS

Congratulations on your engagement! Please
schedule an appointment with Adrienne Cullen,
the Pastoral Associate, at least 6 months prior to the
wedding.

ADULT INITIATION AND EDUCATION:

Please call the rectory for more information.

SICK AND HOMEBOUND

Our parish has a ministry to the homebound. If
you know someone in the parish who is sick or
homebound and would like a visit from a priest or
to receive the Eucharist, please notify the rectory.

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF BILLERICA NEWS



HOLY HOUR DURING ADVENT

Where: St. Andrew Church

When: Monday Evenings from 6:00—7:00 PM

Parishioners, family and friends are encouraged to spend an hour with the Lord from 6:00-7:00pm on Monday evenings during Advent at St. Andrew Church. The Holy Hour will include time for silent prayer, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction. Take some time for yourself and come to rest before Lord. Fr. Gerald will hear confessions during this time for those who may wish to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

The priests of the Catholic Community of Billerica will conduct a town-wide Advent Penance Service at **St. Theresa Church this Sunday evening, December 14 at 6:30pm**. This is a wonderful opportunity for all to come to the beautiful Sacrament of Reconciliation before Christmas.



CHRISTMAS MASSES

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF BILLERICA

Wednesday, December 24

Saint Andrew Parish: 4:00 pm and Midnight

Saint Mary Parish : 4:00 & 6:00 pm

Saint Theresa Parish : 4:00 pm Church & Hall and 10:30pm

Thursday, December 25

Saint Andrew Parish: 9:30 am

Saint Mary Parish: 8:30 am

Saint Theresa Parish: 10:30 am

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS



CHRISTMAS GIVING

St. Andrew Parish has been asked again to assist the Christmas Program at the Billerica House of Correction by providing toys for the 280 children of inmates. In some cases, these are the only gifts the children receive for Christmas. We are asking parishioners to select a card (s) from the "Giving Basket" located in the narthex and purchase an item that is age appropriate for the child. **Then, please return the purchased item(s), WRAPPED WITH THE TAG ATTACHED, to the narthex on or before Monday, December 15th.** As always, your generosity is much appreciated by those boys and girls who will receive a gift!

FOOTPRINTS OF GOD

December 17—Paul—Contending for the Faith

All are invited to join Fr. Marty and Deacon Al for the video series called "**Footprints of God**". A fast-paced, entertaining biography, travel documentary, Bible study, apologetics course and Church history study rolled into one remarkable adventure! **The program will be held this Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM at St. Theresa Parish Hall.** Each week we will visit the places where salvation history took place, and examine the scripture that relates to these holy people and holy sites. All are welcome, consider bringing a snack to share with the group during the break time.



CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS

All who wish to have their beloved family members and friends listed on our Christmas Flower Memorial are welcome to pick up a Christmas Flower envelope on the tables at the entrances to the church. Simply **print** the names on the envelope and place it in the offertory basket or return it to the rectory.

SUNDAY PARISH OFFERTORY

Your Stewardship

Last Weekend's Offertory: \$ 4204

Thank you for your continued generosity!

PARISH MAINTENANCE COLLECTION

The monthly Parish Maintenance Collection will be taken up at all the Masses **this weekend, December 13 & 14.** This collection is essential, as it helps meet the expenses of the parish. *Thank you for your continued support.*

ST. ANDREW FOOD PANTRY WEEKEND

Next weekend, December 20 & 21, will be St. Andrew Food Pantry Weekend. Parishioners are asked to bring at least one nonperishable food item to Mass and deposit it in the receptacles provided in the narthex. Donations from this collection benefit the Billerica Food Pantry. Thank you for your support!

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

CLERGY FUNDS

This Christmas, the collection will support the health and well-being of our priests. Our priests have dedicated their lives to serving the Catholic faithful. Now, it is our turn to help fulfill the promises made to care for them in their time of need. Please give generously to the Christmas collection, which will directly benefit the 628 active and senior diocesan priests whose health and well-being are cared for through Clergy Health and Retirement Trust. All are invited to make a gift online at www.clergyfunds.org or use the envelopes provided. Thank you in advance for your prayers and generous support of this critical effort.

PRAY THE ROSARY

All are invited and encouraged to come and pray the Rosary on Monday, Thursday and Friday mornings at 11:30am in the church. The Rosary is followed by daily Mass at 12:05pm for those who are able to stay.



CHRISTMAS TABLEAU

CALLING ALL ANGELS, SHEPHERDS AND ANIMALS!

Calling all angels, shepherds and animals in Grades 1-6 participate in the annual Christmas Tableau at the 4:00 PM Mass on Christmas Eve. Please contact Chris Kilburn, our Coordinator of Religious Education at chrisk@saintandrewbillerica.org or speak with her when you drop off your child for religious education class.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Grades 1-6 students are in the midst of their December Service Project. This year they are coloring and decorating Christmas cards for our homebound parishioners, residents at Life Care Center and the seminarians at St. John Seminary. Last year, these cards were our most talked about service project for both our students and recipients! As the students are coloring and decorating the cards, they will say prayers for the recipients. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Kilburn at chrisk@saintandrewbillerica.org.

SICK RELATIVES, FRIENDS AND THOSE IN THE MILITARY

St. Andrew Parish continues to list the names of sick relatives, friends and those serving in the military. Should you wish to have a name placed on the list, please call the rectory at 978-663-3624. Please pray for the following: Kyle Bates, Sofia Jaskowiak, Irene Wyllie, Timmy Buckley, Michelle Morris, Michael Mead, Jack & Donna Robinson, Michael Culpon, Emily Mattson, Madison Greco, Marie Monteleone, Ralph Amentola, Patricia Roy, Edward Dionne, Carol Harris, Edward Coneeny, Kathy N., Lou Perella, Annemarie Gillespie, Linda Fraize, Marie Hughes, Gladys Fitzpatrick, Kathy St. John, Rita Surprenant, Bobby Smith, Michaela Smith, Scott Pilla, William Engler, Kay Riley, Patricia Gobie, Bryan Murray, Tayla O'Neill, Joan Iannota, Billy Pestana, Regan Meehan, John Cammall, Stephanie Reeves, Helen Coyne, Neva Carboneau, Kathy Street, John Saia, Charlie Ryan, Derek Parsons, Susan DeLucia, Noreen Coady, Margaret Cornett, Mary Brennan, Cindy Mackey, and Tony Oliveri.

Mass Intentions for the Week

December 13-21

Saturday, 12/13, 4:00 PM—Patricia Newfell, Month's Mind

Sunday, 12/14, 7:30 AM—Marilyn Finnegan

Sunday, 12/14, 10:00 AM—Thomas Murray, 22nd Ann.

Saturday, 12/20, 4:00 PM—Paul Finnegan

Sunday, 12/21, 10:00AM—Joseph Malandrino

DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday, December 15

6:00-7:00 PM—Holy Hour

Tuesday, December 16

No Daily Mass

Wednesday, December 17

No Daily Mass

Thursday, December 18

12:05 PM—Daily Mass

Friday, December 19

12:05 PM—Daily Mass

Saturday, December 20

8:00AM—Men's Group—Saturday Morning Disciples



CHRISTMAS DECORATING

Would you like to help decorate the church for Christmas? If you have some time **around 9:00 am on Wednesday, December 24** and would like to share in the decorating, your time and talent would be appreciated! The wreaths will need bows attached; candles will need to be changed; greens will need to be hung and the poinsettias will need to be unwrapped and placed in their locations.



A MESSAGE FROM FATHER GERALD

Dear friends,

Recently, I had the pleasure of reading Dr. Angela Franks' *Contraception and Catholicism: What the Church Teaches and Why*. Dr. Franks succinctly lays out God's vision for relations between husbands and wives as well as for sexuality in general. The goal of the conjugal embrace of husband and wife is love and life, babies and bonding, unity and procreation; Dr. Franks points out that this is a part of "God the Father's plan of loving goodness." Indeed, God's plan for each person includes his or her greatest happiness in this life and the next—not an arbitrary list of things that say, "Don't do this..." Rather than mere moralizing or listing of rules, Dr. Franks makes Church teaching relevant to us.

Regrettably, our society is afflicted by the hookup culture and contraceptive mentality. Dr. Franks writes: "Support for contraception is usually framed in positive terms, about what we can achieve and gain from birth control. But the question that should make us think even more is the negative one: what are we fleeing from? In other words, what are we all so afraid of?" Questions such as these, and others that Dr. Franks proposes, help us to become more intentional with regards to our actions.

Much confusion and misinformation exists on what people *think the Church teaches with regards to sexuality and family planning*. Dr. Franks clearly and succinctly presents the what and why of Church teaching, but more importantly she shows how couples and individuals can enjoy a happier, more fulfilled life. With regards to family planning, Dr. Franks has a chapter entitled: *NFP: Not Your Grandmother's Rhythm Method*. In this chapter she highlights the sympto-thermal method and shows how it is scientifically based and highly reliable—not medieval and impractical. Towards the end of the book, practical actions are provided that couples and individuals can take to improve relationships.

Recognizing that people come from different places in their spiritual journey and that couples are at different places in their relationships, Dr. Franks presents her own family's story as well as the stories of two other couples. This is significant because God has a plan for every individual and couple. Regardless of what your practice is now, God wants to meet you where you are and take you where you need to go. *Contraception and Catholicism is a great aid for us as we walk along the path God lays before us*.

Part of my vocation as a priest is to make people happy—not happy in the sense of being amused or entertained, but happy as in possessing the joy which only God gives. Dr. Franks writes that, "No technology can make us happy. The only way to be really happy is to be virtuous." Chastity is a virtue which is necessary for every person, regardless of one's state in life. Chastity keeps our desires aright and opens our hearts to love. I recommend *Contraception and Catholicism because I believe that it will help us to have happier, more fulfilled lives*. In particular, I strongly recommend this short book to parents and those who are at the beginning stages of forming a family. As Dr. Franks writes, "the Church's teaching on contraception is a call to embrace a happiness that is infinitely greater than what we can piece together from the shreds of our own plans."

In Christ,
Fr. Gerald Souza



Meet Fr. Huy – *Bringing the Hope of Christ to Others*

It is mid-morning in November, and Jim Thompson greets his pastor, Fr. Huy Nguyen, at his front door. “I cannot see,” Jim reflects, “but when Fr. Huy goes out of his way to bring me communion or to just visit, it makes my day. He gives me the strength to keep going.”

As a young child, Fr. Huy fled Vietnam with his family as one of the “boat people.” He knows what true sacrifice is and feels blessed by the grace of hope in his own life. “It gives me great joy when I visit homebound people such as Jim,” says Fr. Huy. “I never thought I would be a priest in America. Now, even though Jim cannot come to the Church, I can help give him hope by bringing Christ to Jim. God does work in very miraculous ways.”

Fr. Huy, like so many priests in our Archdiocese, is there to bring the Sacraments to homebound parishioners every day of the week. This Christmas, please consider making a generous gift to your parish collection to show our priests you truly care.

Thank you for helping to ensure a continuum of care and quality of life for all of Boston’s priests.



“Support your priests with your love and prayers, that they may always be shepherds after Christ’s heart.”

- Pope Francis

To submit your special intentions to be remembered by our senior priests during the celebration of Holy Mass at Regina Cleri each week, please visit www.clergyfunds.org/intentions.

To watch a short video of Fr. Huy Nguyen, please visit our website at www.clergyfunds.org.



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 1 John 4:8

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