

**Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 23, 2007**



**Saturday, December 22**  
4:00 PM Katherine M. McCarroll  
- 13th Anniversary

**Sunday, December 23**  
8:30 AM Henry Brouillard  
10:30 AM George McGunnigle - 16th Anniversary

**Tuesday, December 25**  
8:30 AM The Hamill Family  
10:30 AM Robert L. Kay

**Wednesday, December 26**  
7:30 AM Marilyn Lawson

**Thursday, December 27**  
7:30 AM Jack Tracey

**Friday, December 28**  
7:30 AM James A. Conway

**Saturday, December 29**  
4:00 PM Bolduc & Dumont Families

**Sunday, December 30**  
8:30 AM Michael Tierney &  
Frances & Leonard Dybick

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**Music Selections for Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Processional:** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel # 19  
**Offertory:** Wake, O Wake and Sleep No Longer # 34  
**Communion:** Bread of Life # 361  
**Post Communion:** Dona Nobis Pacem # 150  
**Recessional:** City of God # 374

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**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE  
2007**

**Confessions**

Saturday, December 22  
3:00 - 4:00 PM

Monday, December 24  
11:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

**Masses**

**Christmas Eve**

4:00 PM Vigil Mass - Christmas Pageant  
9:00 PM - Christmas Eve Mass

**Christmas Day**

8:30 and 10:30 AM

**New Year's Day  
Feast of Mary, Mother of God**

9:00 AM

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**Offertory Goal: \$ 7,000. Last weekend: \$ \$5200.40**  
**Flowers \$ 5.00 Christmas \$ 10.00**  
**Immaculate Conception: \$ 20.00**  
**Religious Retirement \$ 151.00**

**From the Desk of Our Pastor**

In 2008, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of St. Timothy's parish. God has been good to us this half-century and we want to thank Him/Her through a year-long celebration. The inaugural event will take place on January 27 at 10:30 when Archbishop Henry J. Mansell will celebrate the Mass of our patron St. Timothy. A reception will follow.

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**50th Anniversary Pictures**

The 50th Anniversary Committee is looking for your pictures of the Church of Saint Timothy through the Ages.(Weddings, Confirmation, Holy Communion) along with a paragraph or two explaining the picture. We ask that you leave the picture and information at the rectory attention Paul Travers along with your return address. These pictures may be used in our Jubilee Celebration.

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**Men's Retreat**

The Men's retreat at Holy Family Center is scheduled for February 1st thru February 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2008. It is a time for reflecting, sharing, and relaxing at a facility that is located close by in West Hartford. For further information, please call Mike Conway at 523-8725.

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**The Knitting Ministries** are receiving increased numbers of requests for knitted and crocheted shawls. We have been delivering our shawls to our parishioners, local cancer centers and anyone requesting but the demand is outpacing the supply. We encourage anyone who does basic handwork, knitting or crocheting, to join us in this extremely gratifying and socially fun ministry. We can use your talents to tie fringe, shop yarn, or provide simple social support. We will even teach you! And remember real men knit also! We would be delighted to talk with anyone with interest or questions about either of the two convenient times or days - Monday evening or Thursday morning - or keep an eye open for the next bulletin announcement of a gathering. You may call Jane at 242-4430 or Bertina at 233-8928.

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**Coming in January 2008**

**ANNULMENT INFORMATION NIGHT**

"The ABC'S of Annulments", an informational program designed to answer questions about the process of Annulments, will be held on Friday January 25<sup>th</sup> 2008 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM in Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church 109 Goodwill Avenue, Meriden, Connecticut. Brother Larry Lussier, CSC, Pastoral Associate at St. Gabriel Church, Milford, will be the presenter. Questions and answers will be provided following the presentation. The event is open to all seeking an annulment in the Catholic Church. Attending this session is required to attend the six follow up Annulment Writing Sessions. For further information, please call Brother at (203) 937-7040, Deacon Eyles (203) 467-3538, Deacon Macaluso (203) 488-0195, or Deacon Yatcko at (203) 248-6958.

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*Merry Christmas*

Saint Timothy Middle School  
225 King Phillip Drive  
West Hartford, CT 06117

Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year!  
from

The students and staff at Saint  
Timothy Middle School

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**Academic excellence through the light of faith**

St. Timothy Middle School is now accepting applications for the 2008-2009 school year. If you would like an application mailed to your home please contact us at 236-0614 any day between 8am and 3pm For more school information please visit our website at [www.stmswh.org](http://www.stmswh.org).

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**It is Cold and Flu Season!** On all fronts we are being asked to be careful in flu season. Therefore we remind everyone that if you or those around you are not feeling good, it is entirely appropriate to simply wave your hand or nod your head at the Kiss of Peace as you offer a gesture of peace. Also, common sense dictates that we refrain from drinking from the cup if you are not feeling good. The real presence of Christ is fully present to us in each of the sacred species. Although preferable, it is not necessary to receive Eucharist under both forms.

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**Attention All Artists, Authors, Creative Souls:** We have had a very fine response by artists and authors who will be part of an exhibit of parish talent in May as part of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. If you are an artist or an author (and this invitation certainly includes the talented youth of our parish) and have not as yet signed up to be part of this wonderful effort, please call Pat Piano at the rectory, 232-8594 for more details.

**Closed Circuit TV:** Occasionally, there will be times when, for some reason, you will need to leave the body of the church. Please know that there is a closed circuit TV located in the music room of St. Timothy Middle School on which you may continue to follow the Mass.

**St. Timothy Parish is Fifty Years Old:** Our opening celebration for our Jubilee year will be on January 27. We would like to have representatives marking the diversity of our parish. If you have the native dress of your country of origin and would like to be part of this opening celebration, please call Pat Piano at the rectory.

**Lectionary Scripture Study:** If you would like to have a richer experience of the Liturgy of the Word on Sunday mornings join us for a study of the readings on Mondays at 9:00 A.M. in St. Timothy Middle School. We are in Milligan Hall. Everyone welcome!

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Today's scripture passages describe the experiences of two men confused by the events surrounding their lives. The first, king of Judah, Ahaz, faces the probability of foreign invasion and finds himself and his nation in a state of turmoil. God speaks to him through the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah offers a message that seems folly to the king – trust in God alone and abandon all foreign alliances. Ahaz struggles, afraid that he will put his kingdom at risk. In the gospel, Joseph is also troubled. The young maiden to whom he is betrothed is pregnant. This was a breach of sacred law for practicing Jews, for their betrothal was binding and any sexual infidelity was considered adultery. Joseph's heart went cold at the thought of putting Mary to death (penalty for infidelity before marriage) so he decided to divorce her privately. God speaks to the conflicted heart of Joseph through an angel who appeared in a dream. The message was clear, yet difficult to believe: "[F]or the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

The above passage speaks of one of the greatest mysteries of our faith, the virgin birth. The term itself seems a contradiction, yet the teaching of the Catholic Church on this doctrine is not about biology but concerns a unique manifestation of God's power and grace breaking into the world in an unfathomable mystery.

- The virgin birth refers to Mary's perpetual virginity before, during, and after the birth of Jesus. The first aspect, virginal conception, underscores the traditional belief that Jesus, the Messiah, has only one Father in heaven and is truly God; second, Mary, a virgin even in birth, indicates that she, conceived without sin or the effects of sin, did not suffer the pains of childbirth; and third, how perpetual virginity after the birth of Jesus indicates Mary's wholehearted commitment to Jesus' mission and ministry.
- This tradition, upholding the Virgin Mary, Mother of God and our Lord Jesus Christ, has been constant throughout Catholic history from the earliest days of the Church.

Isaiah invited Ahaz to step out in faith, an angel invites Joseph. Today we ask that we have the courage to step out in faith and be awakened to God's vision of a world that speaks of "God with us," even when human wisdom would suggest otherwise.

And so we pray on this the Fourth Sunday of Advent: Mysterious God, You call us to let go of the limits we ourselves place around You. We cannot imagine the surprises of Your limitless love. You create the universe and ground its order for love and life, and You invite us to share in this work.

Speak to us today of letting go of tired expectations and rules that foreshorten Your creative love.

Lead us, like Joseph to dream an impossible new vision of "God is with us" here in West Hartford in 2007.

Wake us up to the life of divine love. Amen.

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