

Parish of the Good Shepherd



**Christmas at Good Shepherd**



**Christmas Eve**

**4:00 p.m.**

**Holy Eucharist with Carols & Story for  
Children**

**10:00 p.m.**

**Solemn High Mass**

**Christmas Day**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Holy Eucharist (no music)**

*This Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, the children of the parish present their annual Advent/Christmas pageant in place of the sermon at the 10:00 eucharist.*

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Good Shepherd would be a most grateful recipient of your end-of-year charitable contributions.

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Use all due caution, but note that Good Shepherd never cancels services because of inclement weather.

**December 11, 2013**

**Christmas flowers**

The season of Advent began December 1 and continues until Christmas Eve. During the four Sundays in Advent the tradition at Good Shepherd has been to have simple seasonal greens surrounding the Advent wreath rather than the traditional bouquet of flowers during the Sunday morning worship service. When the Christmas season begins the church will be decorated with wreaths, seasonal plants and flowers once again - a wonderful way to celebrate the birth of Christ. You are invited to help make this happen by using the enclosed Christmas Flowers envelope to make a donation in any amount in memory of or in thanksgiving for family members and/or friends who are special to you. **Please return envelopes to the church office by December 17 by mail or by putting them in the offering plate this Sunday. You may also email your request to [office@goodshepherdnewton.org](mailto:office@goodshepherdnewton.org)**

**From the church office**

With the year-end approaching we would like to remind everyone that all contributions should be sent directly to the church office to expedite processing or put into the offering plate on Sunday. All checks should be made out to the Parish of the Good Shepherd indicating what it is for in the memo area (ie, pledge, flowers, discretionary fund).

Also, due to IRS regulations please note any contributions you would like to be credited to the year 2013 must be dated and received by the church office no later than December 31, 2013. If you mail your contribution, as long as the postmarked date is 12/31/2013 it will be put toward your 2013 pledge. (Please note: the office will be closed Dec. 31).

**Pledge cards**

Stewardship 2014 is underway and pledge cards have been mailed out. If you misplaced yours there are extras in the back of the church or downstairs on the tract table.

**The Flower Chart for 2014**

A new flower chart is posted downstairs in the Common room if you would like to sign up to give flowers in memory of, in honor of or in thanksgiving for a loved one. Suggested donation is \$75.

**Something new at Good Shepherd:** Please note that Good Shepherd now offers parishioners who can't attend the service the option to view live or recorded versions remotely over the internet on a password protected website. If you would like access, please email Lynette at [office@goodshepherdnewton.org](mailto:office@goodshepherdnewton.org).

**FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION & PROGRAMS**

*Nursery is available every Sunday*

**15 - Advent 3 – Pageant Sunday**

8:45 AM: Pageant Dress Rehearsal

10:00 AM - Pageant offered during service— No

Church School Classes

5:30 Confirmands' Yankee Swap Party

**22 - Advent 4**

8:45 AM: Level I Atrium

9:45 AM: Children's Chapel Atrium through Grade 5  
6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> gr to Youth Room

**24 - Family Christmas Eve Service 4:00 PM**

**25 - Christmas Day: The Nativity of Our Lord, Jesus Christ**

**29 - The First Sunday after Christmas Day**

No Atrium or Christian Ed Classes

**JANUARY 2014**

**5 - The Second Sunday after Christmas Day**

10:00 AM: Children's Chapel for Christmas & Epiphany, Loring Room (Atrium Level I through 5<sup>th</sup> grade; no formal

Atrium Level I or II until next Sunday,

January 12, 2014)

6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> gr into Church

**12 - The First Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

8:45 AM: Level I & II Atrium

10:00 AM: 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> gr to Loring Room

6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> gr to Youth Room

A note of joyful expectation marks this Sunday's worship with the children's Pageant offering and in the various readings: Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom; James exhorts patience. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even we rejoice at his presence among us in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's Advent among us.

In the buzz that is the holiday season, it is quite likely that each of us brings with us a mix of hope and desperation – and the space between them makes all the difference in the world. As we reach the midpoint of Advent, may our desperation be dampened and our hope be manifest as we put Christ at the center of it all.

*God willed that the Blessed Virgin Mary play a central part in the Mystery of the Incarnation and of our Redemption. He willed that the salvation of the world should depend on her consent. Mary is the "royal way" by which the King of Glory descended into the world in order to restore fallen mankind to its destined place in heaven...If we leave her out of the Sacrament of Advent we shall never fully penetrate its mystery, since we need to go forth to meet our Savior on the same road by which He came to us. ~ Thomas Merton, Seasons of Celebration*

*Advent blessings, Mary Ann.*