

A close-up photograph of an Advent wreath. It features four lit candles: three red and one white. The candles are set against a background of dark green evergreen branches and silver, shimmering ribbons. The scene is warmly lit by the candle flames.

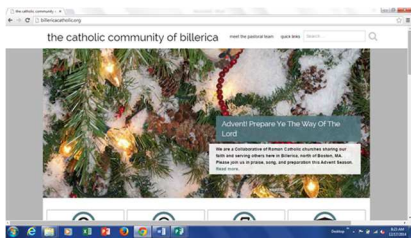
SAINT MARY PARISH

WWW.BILLERICACATHOLIC.ORG

Fourth Sunday of Advent

You shall name him *Jesus*. He will be great
and will be *called* Son of the *Most High*.

Luke 1:31-32



Introducing our new and improved website!

We are pleased to announce that we have updated www.BillericaCatholic.org to be more modern and also work well on tablets and smart phones. Our work is not done, but it is a large first step. Should you discover any missing information, any inaccuracies, or any issues with the site, please e-mail Deacon Phil at Deacon.Phil.DiBello@gmail.com.

Thanks to Ted Collins for his enormous help in setting up the new web site! To keep moving with this momentum, though, we are looking for a volunteer to help keep [BillericaCatholic.org](http://www.BillericaCatholic.org) up-to-date. If you have experience with WordPress and can spare a few hours per week, please contact Father Shawn or Deacon Phil - we would be happy to chat about what needs to be accomplished.

And, while you're at it, why not make <http://www.BillericaCatholic.org> your home page? It is a great way to keep up-to-date on everything that is going on in the Parishes of our Collaborative!

Christmas Hospitality

It won't be a surprise to anyone that we anticipate the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses to be packed to overflowing. We know that these celebrations can be difficult for you who attend mass week after week, and whose attendance we cherish and rely upon.

As a Parish Family we can respond to the larger number of Parishioners as either a blessing or a curse. We can easily complain about someone else sitting in our pew or grumble about not being able to park in our usual spot. Or, we can welcome them with a warm smile and open arms.

We need your help to make the Christmas Mass experience the best that it can be for all. Let's go out of our way to greet those whom we do not recognize or whose names we do not know. Let's be understanding and patient with the children who attend. Let's move in from the ends of the pews so that we can all find places to sit.

After all, *together* we are God's family in Billerica, a blessing to all.



VIDEO SERIES: "FOOTPRINTS OF GOD"

Fr. Marty and Deacon Al will be offering a video series called "Footprints of God". This series is a fast-paced, entertaining biography, travel documentary, Bi-

ble study, apologetics course and Church history study rolled into one remarkable adventure! All are welcome, consider bringing a snack to share with the group during the break time.

The next presentations will be at St. Theresa's Hall on ~

January 7, 2015 – Jesus- The Word Became Flesh

January 21, 2015 TBA- Last Night

COME JOIN US !!!

2015 CALENDARS



We would like to thank Susan & Fran Burns from Burns Funeral Home for donating our new parish calendars for the Billerica Catholic Community.

VOCATIONS

Would you like to help support vocations in our Parish and Diocese? We are widening our efforts for Vocations, both for Priests and for Marriage.

If you have some time to help with the programs, please

contact Deacon Phil at deaconphildibello@gmail.com.





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.



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF BILLERICA

Wednesday, December 24 Christmas Eve

4:00 PM

Saint Andrew, Saint Mary, Saint Theresa
(Church & Hall)

6:00 PM Saint Mary

10:30 PM Saint Theresa

Midnight Saint Andrew

Thursday, December 25 Christmas

8:30 AM Saint Mary

9:30 AM Saint Andrew

10:30 AM Saint Theresa



WILL YOU BE ALONE ON CHRISTMAS DAY?

BILLERICA COUNCIL ON AGING

25 Concord Road, Billerica, MA 01821

978-671-0916

CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER

For Billerica Seniors

As a special gift to our seniors on Christmas Day, members of Temple Shalom Emeth's Social Action Committee cordially invite you to enjoy a **FREE TURKEY DINNER** at the **Senior Center Thursday, December 25, 2014, at 12:00 Noon.**



Please RSVP by calling Jeanne, Mary or Pam at 978-671-0916. Transportation can be arranged.

Also, if you know of anyone who would like to attend, please have them call and sign up.

COME JOIN OUR

BIBLE

Study

BIBLE STUDY
THURSDAYS 12:30 - 2:PM

The Catholic Community of Billerica holds a Bible Study Group that meets at St. Mary's in the church hall. All are welcome to attend!

For more information, please contact Kent at Kent68@juno.com

Artifacts from the Archives

The Three Wise Men of the East brought gold, frankincense and myrrh to the infant Jesus. Frankincense is a gum resin used as a base for incense. Myrrh, also a gum resin, was valued as a perfume and unguent used in embalming.

Little Known Yet Interesting Facts, Events & Definitions



Mass Schedule

Saturday	December 20 2014
9:00	Theresammal, <i>Memorial</i>
4:00	Virginia Stimpson, <i>Memorial</i>
Sunday	December 21, 2014
9:00	Rosemarie Caratelli, <i>3rd Anniversary</i>
12:00	Lawrence & Frances Vereker; <i>Memorial</i>
Monday	December 22, 2014
9:00	
Tuesday	December 23, 2014
	<i>No Mass Scheduled</i>
Wednesday	December 24, 2014
	<i>Christmas Eve</i>
4:00 PM	
6:00 PM	
Thursday	December 25, 2014
	<i>Christmas Day</i>
8:30	
Friday	December 26, 2014
	<i>No Mass Scheduled</i>
Saturday	December 27, 2014
9:00	Virginia Stimpson, <i>Memorial</i>
4:00	Robert Wade, <i>3rd Anniversary</i>
Sunday	December 29, 2014
9:00	Joseph Lally and the Joyce & Lally Families, <i>Anniversary</i>
12:00	

You are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved and respected at St. Mary Parish and the Catholic Community of Billerica. No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church, no matter what your current family or marital situation, no matter your personal history, age, background, race, or color, no matter what your own self-image or esteem. If you are new to our parish, please introduce yourself after Mass, or call our Parish Office to register. We want to know and serve you.

PASTORAL TEAM

Very Rev. Shawn W. Allen, Pastor
Rev. Martin Dzengeleski, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Gerald Souza, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Hal Obayashi, Parochial Vicar
Rev. John J. McCormick, Senior Priest in Residence
Rev. Robert Caprio O.F.M., Weekend Assistant
Deacon Phillip DiBello, Permanent Deacon and Director of Ministry and Faith Formation
Deacon Allan Shanahan, Permanent Deacon
Adrienne Cullen, Pastoral Associate

WEEKEND MASSES

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

WEEKDAY MASS

Monday, Wednesday, Saturday 9:00AM
 Confessions—Saturday 3:15-3:45PM

OFFICES

Rectory Phone: 978-663-2215
 Rectory Fax: 978-663-0127
 Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 8:00AM - 1:00 PM
 Email: parish@stmarybillerica.com

OFFICE STAFF

Christine Kilburn, Office Manager
 parish@stmarybillerica.com
 Angela Nice Director of Music Ministry
 Karen Dubbs, Coordinator of Religious Education Grades 1-6
 Jim Spinale, Asst. Director of Religious Education Grades 7-10
 ccd@stmarybillerica.com





The Christmas tree

is "an ancient custom that exalts the value of life" because the evergreen tree remains unchanged through the harshness of winter. When gifts are arranged under the tree, it becomes a symbol of "the tree of life, a figure of Christ, God's greatest gift to all".

~ Pope John Paul II



SECOND COLLECTION MONTHLY MAINTENANCE COLLECTION

This collection, taken once per month, is used to benefit the upkeep of the parish grounds and maintenance. In **DECEMBER** this collection will take place, **THIS WEEK**, on **December 20th and 21st**.

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT !!



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS®

Join our fraternal organization of Catholic Men and help us in our works supporting the sick, poor, elderly, disabled and the unborn.

Next event - Tootsie Roll Charity Golf Tournament on Sept 22nd
Call Steve at 667-6536 or go to www.BillericaKofC.org



WEEKLY OFFERTORY

**Weekend of
12/13 & 12/14/2014**

**Weekly Goal - 6,500.00
(Needed to maintain the parish)**

Total Offertory Collected : \$ 4,582.50

Weekly Deficit: \$ 1,917.50

*Thank you to the parishioners of St. Mary's for your
generosity*

Your Questions Answered



For questions about the parish or information on any of the following topics, please contact the person listed below.

Are you new to the area and have questions about the parish?

Please feel free to call Chris Kilburn at 978-663-2215 or email her at parish@stmarybillerica.com and she will be happy to speak with you.

Mass Intentions

Please call Chris Kilburn at 978-663-2215 or email her at parish@stmarybillerica.com and she will be happy to help you.

Religious Education

If you have questions regarding Religious Education, please call Mrs. Dubbs (Grades 1-6) at 978-663-2215 Ext.11 or Mr. Spinale 978-663-2215 Ext. 20.

Infant & Adult Baptism and who can be a Godparent ?

Please contact Chris Kilburn at 978-663-2215 to obtain more information.

Weddings

Congratulations on your engagement! Please call 978-663-3624 to schedule an appointment with Adrienne Cullen, the Pastoral Associate, at least 6 months prior to the wedding.

Adult Conformation

For more information on this, please contact Deacon Phil DiBello at Deacon.Phil.DiBello@gmail.com.

Homebound and Sick

Do you know of someone who is homebound and would enjoy a visit from a priest or Spiritual Care Companion? Our parish has a ministry to the homebound. If you know someone in the parish and would like a visit to receive the Eucharist, please call the rectory at 978-663-2215 to arrange a visit.



FAITH FACTS

THE APOSTLES: MATTHEW

We are not exactly sure what happened to Matthew after the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles at Pentecost.

Early writers tell us that he preached among the Jews for fifteen years before going into other countries. Before leaving, he wrote one of the four gospels.

We are not sure which countries were visited by Saint Matthew. It seems, though, that he was put to death as a martyr for the faith.

Saint Matthew is often represented in art as a winged man carrying a lance. The picture above is taken from the Book of Kells, an ancient collection of the gospels.



CODE -- BREAKER!

The sentence below is to be found in one of today's readings. Can you break the code and write in the sentence?

Here are two clues:

Q = T, and E = H.

Crossword solution from last week

M	E	R	C	Y	R	I	C	H
E	E							O
N	A	T	I	O	N	S		L
	A	N		O	N	L	Y	
B	R	I	D	E	U	A		
O		N	O		P	L	A	N
D		O	U	R		D		
Y	E	A	R		A	S	K	S
	L		Y					A
C	A	L	L	S		G	O	O
D								

QEB ELIV PMFOFQ TFII

ZLJB RMLK VLR XKA QEB

MLTBO LC QEB JLPQ EFDE

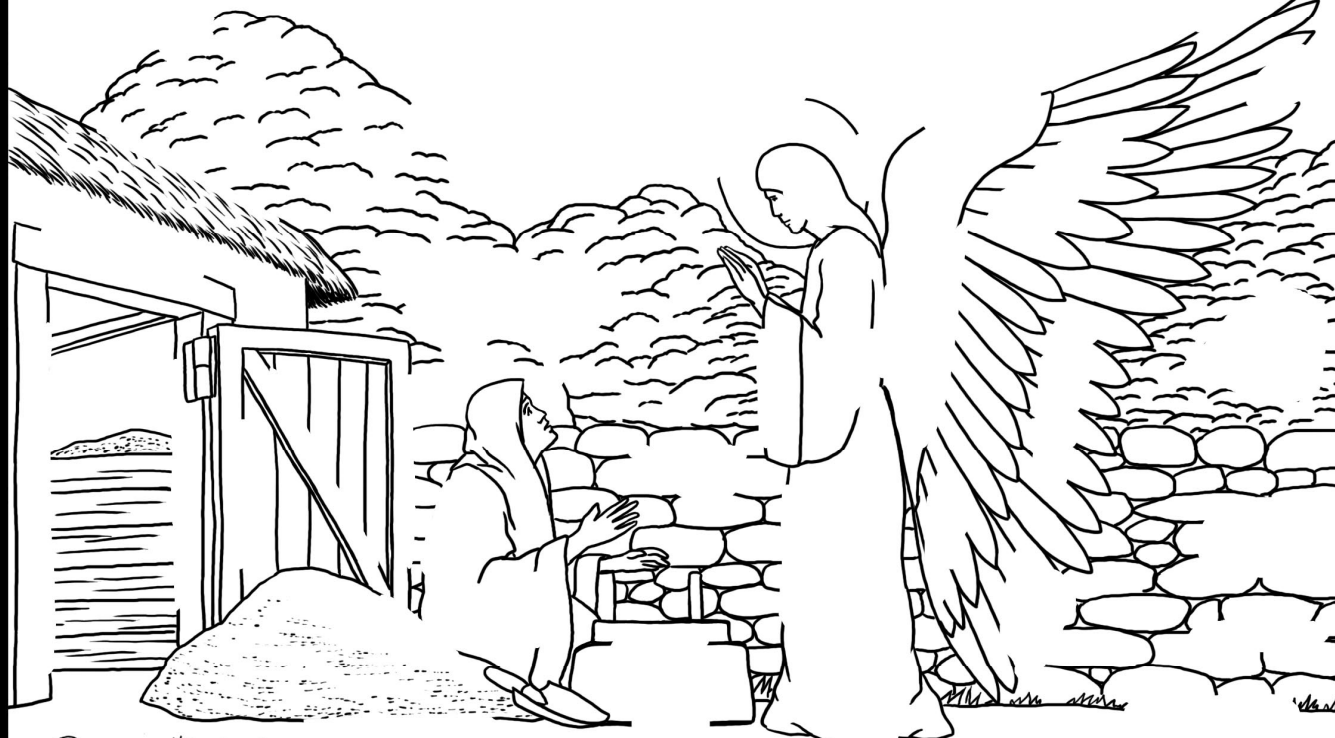
TFII LSBOPEXALT VLR.

ANSWER

The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.

A PICTURE FOR YOU TO FINISH

READING: LK 1, 26-38
THE ANNUNCIATION



David Fielding