

Mary Immaculate of Lourdes

(Formerly St. Mary's Parish, 1870-1910)

Newton/Needham, Massachusetts

Newton & Needham's Oldest Roman Catholic Parish

Syriac-Rite Catholic Community: Our Lady of Mesopotamia



January 4th, 2015 in the Year of Grace

The Most Holy Name of Jesus and the

Epiphany of Our Lord

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Mary Immaculate of Lourdes Parish

270 Elliot Street Newton, MA 02464

Parish Staff

PASTOR: FATHER CHARLES JEREMIAH HIGGINS

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE: MR. DAVID ALLEN

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: JEAN JOHNSON (DIRECTOR)

PATTI STROM (LATIN MASS CHILDREN'S CATECHISM)

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: MRS. BOBBIE HOFFMANN

PARISH & CEMETERY SECRETARY: MARGIE BIBBO

FIRST SACRISTAN: MANNY GOGUEN

SECOND SACRISTAN: ANGELUS DAVULIS

SACRISTANS: FRANCIS GALLAGHER, TOM GOGUEN,

PETER GOGUEN, JONATHAN PHILLIPS, EARL SMITH

SEXTON: SEAN WARD (RET. CEMETERY SUPERINTDT.)

PARISH/CEMETERY BUSINESS OFFICE: SHARON HOGAN

Telephones

Parish Office: 617-244-0558 / FAX 617-965-4815

Email: miol@parishmail.com

Website: www.maryimmaculatenewton.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/MIoLnewton



Parish Cemetery of Saint Mary's, Needham GUARDIAN ESTATE MANAGEMENT INC.

Mr. Ron Goguen, Superintendent .

Guardian Staff on-site for service hours Mon.-Fri.,
9 AM—3 PM, April through November.

The Cemetery Office is located at the parish
rectory on 270 Elliot St, Newton Upper Falls and is
open Monday-Friday, 8 AM—5 PM.

Telephone: 781-235-1841

Mass Schedule

Sunday: 4:00 PM (Saturday Vigil), 7:30 AM
9:00 AM, 10:30 AM (Traditional Latin), 5:30 PM

Weekdays: Mon.-Tues., Thurs.-Fri. 7:30 AM

Traditional Latin Low Mass:

Mon., Wed. & Fri., 12:30 PM; Thurs., 5:30 PM,
Sat. 9:00 AM.

Holy Days: if Mon-Fri., 7:30 AM., 12:30, 5:30 &
7:30 PM.; if on Saturday, 7:30, 9:00 & 10:30 AM

Christmas Eve: 4:00 PM & 12 Midnight

Christmas Day: 7:30, 9:00 & 10:30 AM

January 1st: 7:30, 9:00 & 10:30 AM

SACRAMENTS

Baptism: Upon request. Please contact Father Higgins.

Penance (Confession):

Saturday 8:30-9:00 A.M. and 3:30-4:00 PM
Sunday, before and after the 10:30 a.m. AM Mass,
Weekdays, before and after the Latin daily Masses

Matrimony:

Engaged couples should make arrangements with the
parish church so as to allow for adequate sacramental
preparation (six months), including a Pre-Cana program.

Pastoral Care of the Sick

Anointing of the Sick (for those who are gravely ill or
facing serious surgery); **Communion of the Sick for
the Homebound:** Please contact Father Higgins.

JANUARY IS THE MONTH OF THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS



FRONT COVER: Photograph of a Christmas Crib set up in an Iraqi Christian refugee camp in Kurdistan. The Arabic writing on the tent flap reads “JESUS’ TENT”. The photos were forwarded by Sermed Ashkouri, from our Iraqi community Our Lady of Mesopotamia, following up on his presentation in the parish last Sunday on the situation of Iraqi Christians.



Pastor’s Note

“JESUS’ TENT”

Two Sundays ago parishioner Sermed Ashkouri made a presentation here at Mary Immaculate of Lourdes on raising awareness of Iraqi Christians. Making use of photographs on a

projector screen it was a very effective and informative presentation.

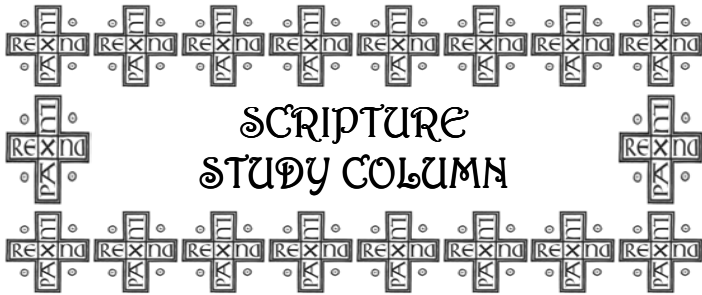
Among other things we learned that the expulsion of Christians and other religious minorities by the Islamic State raiders was more violent and murderous than has been generally been reported. Christian men were killed by crucifixion or beheading. Women and children were abducted and have been sold into slavery in the Sunni-Arab Gulf States. Many people lost their lives on the desert treks. Perhaps at some future point an official record of this genocide will be attempted, but right now the most urgent matter is the care of the people who have made it to the refugee camps.

“What can we do?” That is a question that we were asking Sermed after his presentation. It is obvious that there is an enormous gap between the need and the resources up till now made available to meet that need. Only a co-ordinated, sustained effort by the international community could possibly meet that need, which is not happening. (For those who may wish to give private alms, the Catholic Near East Welfare Association is a worthy recipient: 1-800-442-6392, www.cnewa.org) Sermed reminded us that it is our prayers which are essentially important and that we can certainly continue to do. In our parish Masses and our prayers of petition we will keep lifting all of these afflicted people up to the Lord.

We stand in solidarity with the members of the Mission of Our Lady of Mesopotamia who now share our parish life.

(Fr. Higgins)

KNOW YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH



GOSPEL OF SAINT LUKE BIBLE STUDY (Luke 14:25-35)

The world has given an unexpected amount of attention to Pope Francis ever since his election in 2013. One can hope that this is a sign for good, and that people are considering Christ and His Church more seriously than they previously have. Many of us, however, know

people who do not really care to hear what Pope Francis is *actually* saying, but only what they *think* he is saying. As with the reigning pontiff, so also with Christ. Mobs of people flocked to Christ. Some people demonstrated real repentance and faith in His presence, while many others came to see Him only out of curiosity, self interest, or because it was fashionable. Such people wanted their "selfie" with Jesus, but afterwards had no place for religion or prayer.

In 14:25-35, Christ proposes what are often called "hard sayings" on discipleship, so termed, because they are challenging, and tend to separate real followers from fake ones. In v. 25, Jesus declares, "*If anyone comes to Me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.*" Christ does not positively command hatred. Rather, as the commentaries indicate, He uses this expression to

indicate the preeminently higher degree at which we must value Him above our earthly loves. St. Paul helps us to grasp the meaning of Jesus' words in his letter to the Philippians. Reviewing his accomplishments as a Pharisee in view of his relationship with Christ, he says "*I even consider everything as a loss, because of the supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord...I consider them...rubbish*" (cf. Phil. 3:8).

Jesus offers another hard saying in v. 27: "*Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.*" Christ calls us to accept our sufferings and turn them into sacrifices of love. This is most difficult, but it is the essence of the petition "*Thy will be done,*" as Jesus Himself shows us in Gethsemane (cf. Luke 22:42).

Jesus offers two parables in vv. 28-32 that speak to the reality of counting the cost of weighty endeavors before entering into them. He compares a royal military campaign or a builder's construction plans to the serious consideration one must give to the costs of being a real disciple. Jesus concludes these parables thus in v. 33: "*In the same way, everyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be My disciple.*" One can interpret this two ways.

Firstly, the literal interpretation. Many crowds were journeying with him (v. 25). They likely did not consider what continuing to travel with Jesus would mean in practical terms. One *would* have had to abandon one's trade and possessions, and rely on the hospitality of others. There were few comforts for Jesus and the Twelve (cf. Lk. 9:57-62). Not all are called to observe this saying literally, however. One could be a believer without joining the itinerant ministry.

Here, we come to the second interpretation of this passage, which speaks to the critical reality of inner detachment from possessions. This aspect of discipleship, unlike the divestment of wealth, is required of anyone who wants to put Christ first in their life, as St. Bede indicates.

Jesus concludes His teachings in vv. 34-35 by considering the uselessness of salt that has lost its preservative value for protecting food from spoiling. As the commentaries indicate, real disciples must work at preserving and strengthening their faith. Without humility, faithfulness, and devotion, mere religious affiliation risks being totally useless.

(David Allen)

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

PARISH OPEN HOUSE AT THE RECTORY TODAY SUNDAY, JANUARY 4th, the 11th DAY OF CHRISTMAS from 8:30 AM until 2:30 PM



Please join us!



THE EPIPHANY PROCLAMATION FOR 2015 IN THE YEAR OF GRACE



The Announcement of Easter and the Moveable Feasts:

Know, dear brethren, that as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, so by leave of God's mercy we announce to you also the joy of His Resurrection who is our Savior:

The Sunday of Septuagesima is the 1st Day of February.

On the 18th Day of February will fall Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of the Fast of the most sacred Lenten Season.

On the 5th Day of April you will celebrate with joy Easter Day, the Paschal Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the 14th Day of May will be the Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the 24th Day of May, the Feast of Pentecost.

On the 4th Day of June, the Feast of Corpus Christi.

On the 29th Day of November, the First Sunday of the Advent of Our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom is honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.



TUESDAY, JANUARY 6th:
SPECIAL EVENING LATIN
MASS TO CELEBRATE THE
EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

7:30 PM (Tridentine Latin)

Please join us at the rectory for a light reception directly following the Mass of Epiphany.

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LATIN MASS PROPERS: THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS

INTROIT: Phil. 2. 10-11 In the Name of Jesus let every knee bow, of those that are in heaven, on earth and under the earth: and let every tongue confess that the Lord Jesus Christ in the glory of God the Father. Ps. O Lord, how admirable is Thy Name in the whole earth! V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. In the Name of Jesus . . .

COLLECT O God, Who didst appoint Thine only-begotten Son to be the Savior of mankind, and didst bid that He should be called Jesus; mercifully grant that we, who venerate His Holy Name on earth, may also enjoy the vision of Him in Heaven. Through the same Lord.

EPISTLE: Acts of the Apostles 4. 8-12 In those days Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said to them: Ye Princes of the people and ancients, hear: if we this day are examined concerning the good deed done to the infirm man, but what means he hath been made whole, be it known to you all, and to all the people of Israel: that by the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God hath raised from the dead, even by Him this man standeth here before you whole. This is the stone which was rejected by the builders, which is become the head of the corner: neither is there salvation in any other. For there is no other name under heaven given to men, whereby we must be saved.

GRADUAL: Psalm 105. 47; Isaias 63.16 Save us, O Lord our God, and gather us from among the nations: that we may give thanks to Thy holy Name, and may glory in Thy praise. V. Thou, O Lord, our Father and our Redeemer: from everlasting is Thy Name. **ALLELUIA:** Psalm 144. 21 Alleluia, alleluia. V. My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord, and let all flesh bless His holy Name. Alleluia.

GOSPEL Luke 2. 21 **At that time, after eight days were accomplished, that the Child should be circumcised: His Name was called Jesus, which was called by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.**

OFFERTORY: Psalm 85. 12, 5 I will praise Thee, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify Thy Name for ever: for Thou, O Lord, are sweet and mild: and plenteous in mercy to all that call upon Thee. Alleluia.

SECRET We beseech Thee, most merciful God, that Thy blessing by which every creature liveth, may sanctify this our sacrifice, which we offer unto Thee to the glory of the Name of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ; that it may please Thy majesty as an act of praise and profit us unto salvation. Through the same Lord.

Preface of Christmas

COMMUNION: Psalm 85. 9-10 All the nations Thou hast made shall come and adore before Thee, O Lord, and they shall glorify Thy Name: for Thou art great, and dost wonderful things: Thou art God alone. Alleluia.

POSTCOMMUNION Almighty and everlasting God, Who hast created and redeemed us, graciously be mindful of our prayers, and vouchsafe to accept with a benign and favorable countenance the sacrifice of the saving victim which we have offered to Thy majesty, in honor of the Name of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ; that, through the infusion of Thy grace in us, we may rejoice to see our names written in heaven under the glorious Name of Jesus, as a pledge of eternal predestination. Through the same our Lord.

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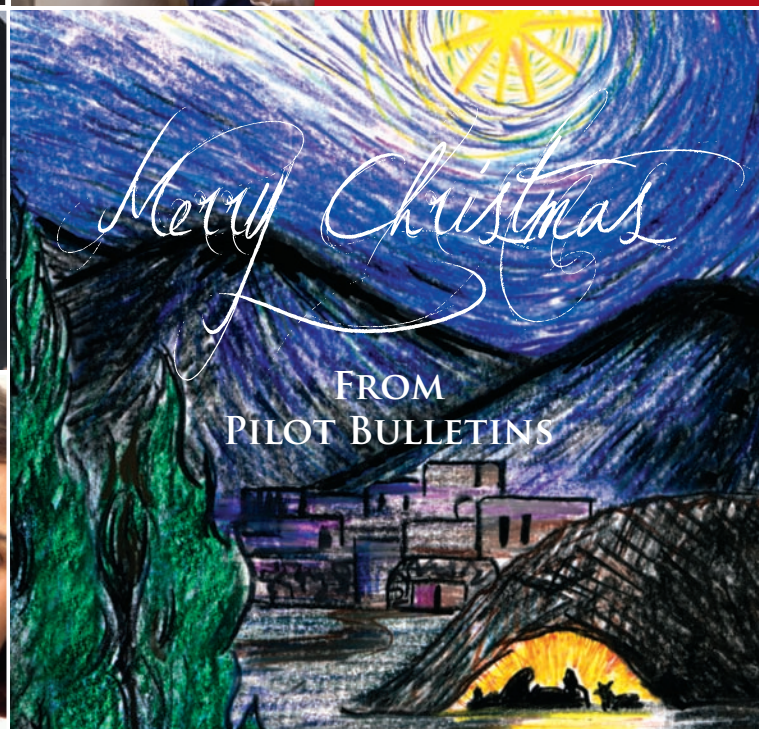
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St Mary's Cemetery in Needham, founded in the 1870's, is the parish cemetery of Mary Immaculate of Lourdes. The cemetery is a reverent resting place for those awaiting reunion with the Risen Lord. The decision to pre-plan and purchase interment rights is a responsible and thoughtful gesture, sparing loved ones the stress of making difficult decisions during a time of grief and loss.
 For information, call the cemetery staff at Mary Immaculate of Lourdes Church at 781-235-1841.
ST. MARY'S CEMETERY
 St. Mary's Cemetery | 1Wellesley Avenue, Needham, MA 02494