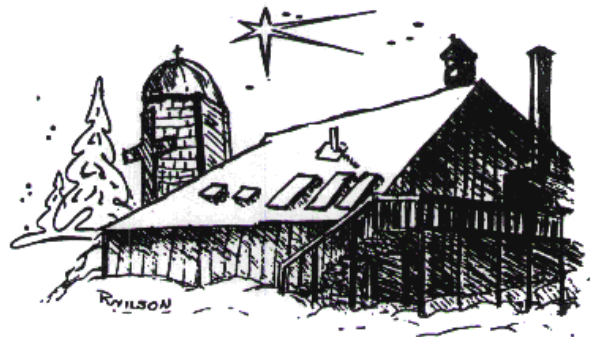




Bethany Charismatic Catholic Church

December 2022

Vol. 26, Issue 12



Chapel of Mercy

Bishop: THE MOST REV. RAYMOND CONTOIS
 Assistant Pastor: FATHER JUDE PAIYAGALA BADUGE DON
 Deacon: REV. MR. ROBERT MORRISSETTE
 Deacon: REV. MR. PAUL LAFLAMME

“At Bethany there is no Past, only the Present and Future Hope !”

The world today is beset by so many difficulties that at times conditions can seem hopeless. Among them are the intractable war in Afghanistan, nuclear threats from Iran, uncertainty about how or when the United States and other economies will revive, and natural disasters such as the floods in Pakistan, which have devastated a fifth of that nation. Personal issues may also seem beyond hope: illness, delayed healing, fear of aging and mental decline, loss of one’s home or income. Human institutions are often helpful in fostering an improved outlook, but something deeper is needed if one is to achieve permanent, rock-solid hope. What is needed is beautifully captured in the motto of one Christian denomination: “Divine Love always has met and always will meet every human need.”

This isn’t merely a comforting philosophical comment, as the Bible’s many examples of divine Love (or God) in action bring out.

If you think about the forbidding walls of Jericho strictly from the standpoint of human logic, there was no reason why anyone should expect them to fall down flat after marching around them a total of 13 times and the subsequent blowing of trumpets. The Bible doesn’t tell us if the Israelites, who were featured in this experience, grumbled about their assignment or doubted its value – as they seemed fond of doing. But they did obey the inspiration that came to their leader Joshua. And through their obedience to this divine direction, the walls came down.

There’s a message of hope for these times in this event. Today’s walls, whatever form they take, do come down. As the Psalmist put it, “Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God” (Ps. 42:11). It isn’t always easy to trust the inspiration that comes from hope, but it truly is the shortest distance between fear and renewed confidence, between heartache and healing.

Hope involves refusal to accept conditions as they may seem – unchangeable, overwhelming. It is the conviction that right where the walls seem high and the darkness deep, right there is the provable presence of God, divine Principle, Love. The Law of Love, metaphysically understood, presents a divine precept that can be learned, practiced, and relied on in the face of any condition. It is the law of demonstrable hope and spiritual fruition. It removes fear, provides strength, and heals hearts.

Under this law, the walls come tumbling down, removing the belief in materiality as real and defining, whether one is facing joblessness, declining health, fear for a loved one, or economic disaster. Hope in God turns thought toward the spiritual nature He has given each one of us, and insists that this is a provable reality. The growing conviction that God does respond to prayer, even if in ways we don’t expect, will open the way to answers. The need is to go forward with the understanding that under God’s care there are no walls to shut out progress and growth.

There are times, perhaps in the face of terminal disease or other deep trouble, when hope seems impossible but, Jesus’ life provides the ultimate example, which supports our modest attainments and further progress in healing. The religious and political authorities certainly felt their work was done when they had him safely put away in the tomb, his side pierced by a spear. As well, a large stone and armed guards added to their assurance of victory.

Who would have expected that under such conditions Jesus could rise again and even burst open the tomb? But through his obedience to His Father, Jesus Christ did rise, and the women who came to anoint his dead body instead found the living Christ.

The walls of age, doubt, loneliness, and other negative conditions may say that Jesus was special and exceptional – and He is. But he promised that we would do the same works – and greater ones. This promise from the Master is for each of us. It can empower our hopes, even in the midst of despair. No matter who we are or where we are, we are designed to perceive this hope, which will not die, and which knows our Lord to be right at hand. This is the hope that brings down walls, removes mountains, and heals the heart. It’s hope we can trust.

In His Light,

Bishop Raymond Contois

167 Dunhamtown Rd. Brimfield, Massachusetts U.S.A.
 Just 1 mile off route 20

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WEEKLY MASSES

Saturday - - 4:00 PM *
 Sunday - 9:00 AM *
 Wednesday* - Cancelled



RECONCILIATION & PASTORAL MEETINGS

By Appointment (413) 324-1164

December Schedule

Eucharistic Ministers

Ministers of the Word

4th Clergy Only
 11th Clergy Only
 18th Clergy Only
 25th Clergy Only



Paula M, Beth
 Catherine, Heather
 Darryl, Jayne
 Sandy, Beth



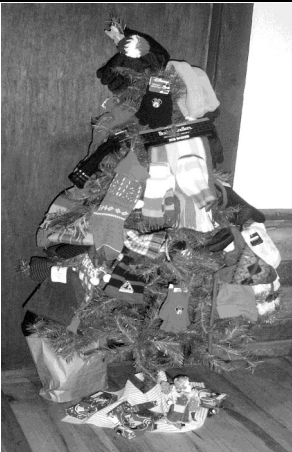
Notify Deacon Paul 24 hours in advance if you are unable to serve.

Bethany Food Drive

We will continue collecting non-perishable food items for area food pantries. Please drop off your donations of canned goods and dry goods, and leave them in the foyer. Thank You for your constant generosity.



“Hunger never takes a vacation.”



Bethany will begin its tradition of using the “Warming Tree” to collect scarves, mittens, and hats for children who, due to personal circumstances, live in group children’s homes. Please join us in our effort to provide warmth-giving clothing to children in need by decorating our “Warming Tree” with your gifts of Winter apparel. Thanks to your generosity last year, many children were blessed with your gifts or warmth.



Through the month of December, we will continue collecting donations for the poinsettias used to decorate the Chapel of Mercy for Christmas. Please help us prepare the chapel to joyfully receive the infant Jesus on Christmas Day.

CCD Classes

CCD Classes will be at 10:20 am, on the 2nd and 4th Sundays, following mass.



Be sure to Check out our Web Site at www.bethanyvcc.org for more information about Bethany Charismatic Church.



**Dates to Remember
 December 2022**

3rd: Sat. 4:00 PM Evening Mass

4th: SUN. 9:00 AM Lord’s Day Mass

2nd Sunday of Advent



8th: Thur. 7:00 PM Immaculate Conception of Mary



Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us.

10th: Sat. 4:00 PM Evening Mass

11th: SUN. 9:00 AM Lord’s Day Mass

3rd Sunday of Advent



17th: Sat. 4:00 PM Evening Mass

18th: SUN. 9:00 AM Lord’s Day Mass

4th Sunday of Advent / Poinsettia Sunday



24th: Sat. 10:00 PM “Midnight” Mass begins

25th: SUN. 9:30 AM “Christmas Day” Mass

Jan. 1st: SUN. 9:30 AM Mary Mother of God



“Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, for He has visited and brought redemption to His people.”

Luke 1:68

