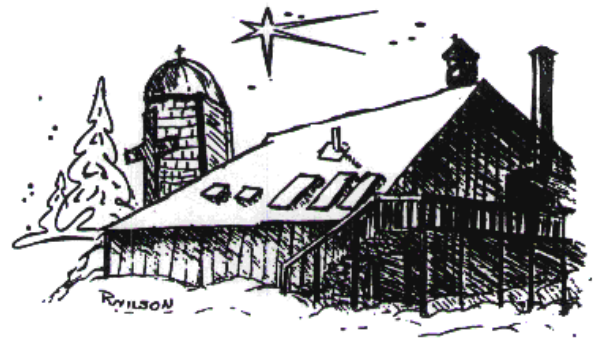




Bethany Charismatic Catholic Church

December 2025 Vol. 29, Issue 12



Chapel of Mercy

Bishop: THE MOST REV. RAYMOND CONTOIS
Assistant Pastor: FATHER JUDE PAIYAGALA BADUGE

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

Does your family have any special Christmas traditions? Perhaps you make cookies for all of your friends at the holidays. Or, maybe you volunteer at a soup kitchen, or buy a present for a child that doesn't have as much as you do. I know a couple who started to make their own ornaments because when they were first married they couldn't afford to buy ornaments for their tree. It grew into a family tradition with their children. They made their ornaments out of gold cord and colored glue.

They made different shapes out of the cord, setting them on pieces of plastic wrap and gluing them together to make circles, diamonds, etc. They would also make shapes within the shapes such as stars, swirls, even letters of the alphabet. They let the outlines dry and then used bottles of glue dyed with food coloring to fill in the outlines. The creations were then hung on the tree with ornament hooks.

Before the lights were turned on, the ornaments looked a little dull. However, suddenly with the light, they began to twinkle. It was like having a tree covered in stained glass windows. There was color and sparkling light everywhere. When I think about these ornaments they are special to me because they remind me of my friends' creativity and love but, they also remind of something else. They remind me that Christ is the true reason for this season.

I imagine these ornaments as a way of thinking about all the different people in the world, in all their different colors and uniqueness. Furthermore, just like the ornaments, we need light to see all that is true and right about each person and the real beauty that is there. The light takes the focus away from the little imperfections. In the case of the ornaments, it might keep us from thinking about a place where two colors ran together. In the case of people, it helps us to see what is right about a person, even if he or she is not acting so nicely. Looking for the good in everyone we meet helps us see each person for who they really are. This light, this goodness in each person, is Christ.

Jesus is the One who gave us perfect example and who entreats us to be Christ-like as well. He demonstrated His godliness in all that He said and did. His presence within us gives us life and it is that presence which makes you and me good. It also means that Christ didn't just disappear once Jesus ascended to the Father. Furthermore, we don't have to wait until Christmas to celebrate the light in each of us. We can celebrate it every day, just by seeing what is good, by seeing Jesus in every person we meet.

Even after the Christmas tree comes down, and my friends' glue-and-cord ornaments are put away, I know that the light and color that make Christmas so special never really disappear. Christ, the true light and color of Christmas, is always with me. He can be with you the whole year, too.

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 - Cancelled

Sunday - 9:00 AM *

Wednesday* - Cancelled

RECONCILIATION & PASTORAL MEETINGS

By Appointment (413) 324-1164



December Schedule

Eucharistic Ministers

7th Ron, Paula Anne
14th Ron, Paula Anne
21st Ron, Paula Anne
28th Ron, Paula Anne



Ministers of the Word

Beth, Ron
Catherine, Jayne
Paula Anne, Ron
Beth, Paula Anne



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.

Dates to Remember

Sunday, November 30th, Advent Begins (Advent Wreath)
Sunday, December 7th, Immaculate Conception of Mary 9:00am.
(2nd Sunday of Advent)
Sunday, December 14th 3rd Sunday of Advent (Decorating Tree)
Sunday, December 21st, 4th Sunday of Advent
(Poinsettia Sunday)
Wednesday, December 24th, Midnight Mass celebrated at 10:30pm
Thursday, December 25th, there will be a 9:30am Lord's Day Mass.
Please join us in celebrating Jesus' birthday.
January 1st, there will be a 9:30am Mary, Mother of God mass

Dates to Remember December 2025

November 30th: SUN. 9:00 AM Advent Begins



7th: SUN. 9:00 AM Lord's Day Mass

and Sunday of Advent



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



14th: SUN. 9:00 AM Lord's Day Mass

3rd Sunday of Advent



21st: SUN. 9:00 AM Lord's Day Mass

4th Sunday of Advent / Poinsettia Sunday

24th: Wed. 10:30 PM Midnight Mass

25th: Thur. 9:30 AM "Christmas Day" Mass

28th: SUN. 9:00 AM Lord's Day Mass



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



In the event of bad weather, please check cancellations on WWLP Channel 22. This is the only station that will list Bethany closings due to foul weather.

