



CCB Parent Connector



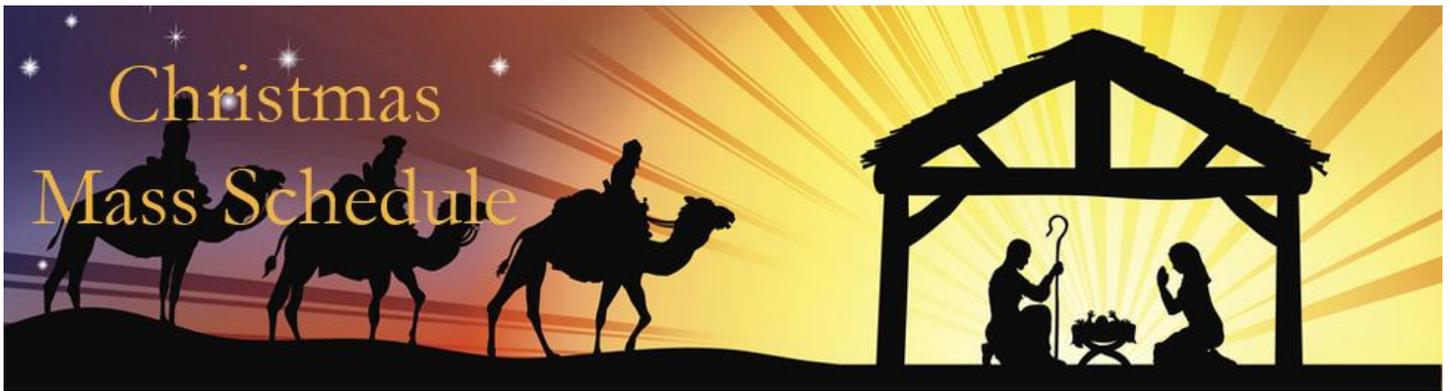
DECEMBER 2018

www.billericacatholic.org

Dear Parents,

Well, it's that time of year again. We have actually just begun the season of Advent (Dec. 2) in preparation for Christmas. But, with all of the frantic shopping and activities it feels anything like a time to prepare our hearts to welcome Jesus. Instead, these weeks leading up to Christmas Day are filled with stress rather than joy. Why? For one thing, our expectations are way too high regarding being able to do all the shopping, decorating, Christmas cards, cleaning, etc. and still have time for quiet time with Jesus. Our expectations also extend to Christmas Day itself. We want the picture perfect celebration and we lose sight of what we are celebrating: the birth of Jesus, our Savior. So often I hear people say, "It just doesn't feel like Christmas," as if after spending our days shopping and stressing that somehow when Christmas arrives we will feel relaxed and joyful rather than exhausted. It doesn't work like that. It would do us good to recall the story of the birth of Jesus in Scripture. The First Christmas. A very pregnant Mary, and Joseph, had to travel to Bethlehem. They could not find shelter, and ultimately Mary gave birth to Jesus in a stable. This was not ideal. But it was an incredible miracle of love that they were witness to. And they knew it! Perhaps, if we slow down a bit and focus on what Christmas is all about we would realize that we are witnesses to this incredible miracle of love as well. It all begins with us, the adults. If we celebrate the birth of Jesus by loving more & giving more to those in need rather than focusing on ourselves, what a beautiful gift we would be giving our children! The gift of knowing the true meaning of Christmas: That God loved us so very much that He sent His precious Son to live among us and ultimately die on the cross so we could have eternal life. Now, *that* is something to celebrate!

At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving the others with God's own love and concern." -Mother Teresa 



Christmas Mass Schedule

Please join us for Mass to celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of Christ:

Christmas Eve – Monday, December 24th

- 4 PM Mass at St. Andrew's, St. Mary's and St. Theresa's, as well as St. Theresa Hall
- Midnight Mass at St. Andrew Church

Christmas Day – Tuesday, December 25th

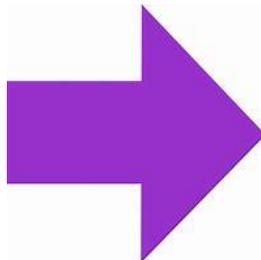
- 8:30 AM at St. Mary Church
- 9:30 AM at St. Andrew Church
- 10:30 AM at St. Theresa Church



Join the Catholic Community of Billerica for a
Christmas Pageant

on the Feast Day of the Three Kings

Sunday, January 6 at 3pm, St. Theresa Church



Advent Prayer

4, 3, 2, 1... Count the weeks
til Jesus comes.



Each week we add another light.

Our hope for Jesus growing bright.

We pray, we share, we do our part...

to welcome Jesus to our heart!

