

SCOUTS TO DISTRIBUTE PEACE LIGHT IN EAST FREETOWN

MEDIA RELEASE

DECEMBER 14, 2015

EAST FREETOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

Every November a Scout from Austria fetches the Peace Light from the Grotto in Bethlehem where Jesus was born. This flame travels from Tel Aviv, Israel to Vienna, Austria where it is distributed at a Service of Dedication to delegations from across Europe. They then take it back to their own countries with a message of Peace. The Peace Light then makes its way to New York City where Boy Scouts further distribute it across the United States. Boy Scout Troop 333 has the honor this year of distributing the Peace Light in southeastern Massachusetts.

Estimates are that the lamp in the grotto has been burning for as long as 1,500 years and each year since 1986, during the weeks before Christmas, Scouts distribute the light across Europe. The light is then given from one person to another as a symbolic gift with reference to the meaning of Christmas and the wish for Peace and Forgiveness among human beings.

Churches, organizations, and the public may obtain their own Peace Light from Boy Scout Troop 333 on Saturday, December 19 which will be available at the conclusion of the 5:00 p.m. Mass at St. John Neumann Church, 157 Middleboro Road, East Freetown.

To receive the Peace Light residents should bring their own oil lantern (preferable) or enclosed candle. They are invited to keep the flame burning as long as they would like but are asked to please share it with at least one other person before extinguishing the flame. Some extinguish it after Christmas, some keep it through Epiphany. Some keep the light burning all year. Make plans now as to how you will share your Peace Light, especially with family, friends and neighbors. Please help spread the word of Peace. To learn more about the history of the Peace Light please visit www.peacelight.org.

Boy, Girl and American Heritage Scouts and Scout leaders are asked to wear uniforms.

For additional information please contact Michael McCormack, Chair of the Fall River Diocese Catholic Committee on Scouting at 508-965-1075 or Michael@FallRiverScouting.org.

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