

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 17

4:30pm Fred Robinson

3rd Anniversary Remembrance

Sunday, December 18

8:00am Rose Gink

Requested by Dick & Julia Buckley

10:00am Nicholas Duckworth

Requested by family

12:00nn Lisa Brennan Matthews

Requested by the Boyle family

Monday, December 19

7:00am Candy Gootee

Requested by Jeff & Kathleen

Tuesday, December 20

7:00am James DeLuca

Requested by family

Wednesday, December 21

7:00am Luke & Henrietta Pucella

Requested by family

Thursday, December 22

7:00am Michael Posillo

Requested by family

Friday, December 23

7:00am Virginia Gately

Requested by family

CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:30pm For the Parish

10:00pm For the Parish

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

8:00am Thu & Chi Thi Anna Tran &

Thanh John Ha Req. by Family

10:00am Kerri Bessette

Requested by Mom, Dad & Scott

12:00nn For the Parish



St. Romuald Chapel Mass Intentions

Sunday, December 18

10:00am Mary Marchand

Requested by Gerri & Al Marsocci

CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY

Saturday, December 24

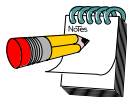
5:30pm Henry H. Thayer

Requested by family

Sunday, December 25

10:00am Theresa L. Casey

Requested by family



For Your Information



2016 CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

ST. FRANCIS CHURCH

4:30pm CHRISTMAS EVE

Celebrant: Fr. Henry Bodah

Children's Choir

10:00pm CHRISTMAS EVE*

Celebrant: Fr. Henry Bodah

Adult Choir

**Preceded at 9:30pm by a*

Prelude of Christmas Carols

8:00am CHRISTMAS DAY

Celebrant: Fr. Henry Bodah

Organ with Cantor

10:00am CHRISTMAS DAY

Celebrant: Fr. Henry Bodah

Organ with Cantor & Trumpet

12:00nn CHRISTMAS DAY

Celebrant: Fr. Gene McKenna

Organ with Cantor

ST. ROMUALD CHAPEL

5:30pm CHRISTMAS EVE

Celebrant: Fr. Gene McKenna

Young Musicians with flute and organ

10:00am CHRISTMAS DAY

Celebrant: Fr. Randy Chew

Adult Choir

PARISH SUPPORT

Weekly Support

		December 11
Budget envelopes used (252)	-	\$6,311.00
Loose Donations	-	\$1,071.00
Online Giving (# of donors-57)	-	\$1,884.50
Total Budget	-	\$9,266.50

Retired Religious

Budget envelopes used (182)	-	\$2,971.50
Other Donations	-	\$ 559.00
Total Monthly Collection	-	\$3,530.50
Immaculate Conception Collection	-	\$1,164.00

This week's second collection is for Ongoing Maintenance. Next week's second collection is the Christmas Offering.

As always, thank you for your continued generosity.

From the Pastor

I'm writing this on Monday, December 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, one of the most interesting appearances of our Lady. The story goes that the Spaniards were not making much headway in converting the native peoples of Mexico to Christianity, which seemed to the locals to be a foreign religion of their conquerors. Some converts had been made, however, and among them was a man named Quauhtlatoatzin, who was given the baptismal name of Juan Diego.



One day in the last month of 1531, Juan Diego was heading into town for Mass when he heard someone calling him: "Juanito, Juan Dieguito." A beautiful woman stood before him and told him that she was the "Ever-Virgin Mary, Mother of the true God through whom all things live." She asked him to go to the bishop and tell him that she would like a church built on the spot where she had appeared, "So that here I can show and bestow my love, compassion, help and protection to all who inhabit this land and to all those who love me." Of course, the bishop gave the poor Indian short shrift and told him to come back another time. The beautiful lady told him not to be discouraged but to go back and tell the bishop that the Mother of God had personally sent him. Bishop Juan de Zumárraga of Mexico City, a Capuchin Franciscan, had been praying earnestly for a sign from heaven that ships would arrive with food and arms for the Spanish who were in fear of an Aztec uprising. The bishop told Juan Diego that he would need a sign in order to believe this message.

A couple of days later Juan Diego set out for town again, this time to request a priest to anoint his uncle who was seriously ill. In order not to be held up by the lady, he went by another route, but she came to meet him anyway. "Listen and understand, my humblest son. There is nothing to frighten and distress you. Do not let your heart be troubled and let nothing upset you. Am I not here who am your mother? Are you not under my protection? Are you not in the crossing of my arms?"

She showed him a bush, blooming with Spanish roses, although it was December. He cut them and put them in his *tilma* or cloak and brought them to the bishop, and when he dropped open the cloak and the roses spilled to the floor, there, on the cloak, was the image of the Blessed Virgin, our Lady of Guadalupe. The tilma of Juan Diego with the image of our Lady is still in the shrine in Mexico City, just as fresh as it was 485 years ago. And the words are written in Spanish on the wall beside it (although she spoke to him in Nahuatl, the Aztec language): "¿No estoy yo aquí que soy tu Madre? Am I not here who am your Mother?"

Fr. Bodah



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Sunday, December 18th

8:50-9:50am GRADES K, 1 & 2 (FGC)

10:00 Children's Liturgy of the Word
and St. Francis' Little Friends Child Care

10:50-11:50am GRADES 3-6 (FGC)
GRADE 7 & 8 (Upper Room FGC)

Wednesday, December 21st

4:15-5:15 Grades 3-6 (FGC)

7:00-8:15 Grades 7 and 8 (FGC)



*Calling all shepherds, angels
and wise men*

**St. Francis of Assisi's
CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**
will be on

Sunday, January 8th at 11:00am
at Fr. Greenan Parish Center

*If you are in grades K-6 and would like
to participate, have your parents call the
Religious Education Office at 792-8684 or
call Mrs. Cullen.*



STEBENVILLE EAST YOUTH CONFERENCE

Registration for the 2017 Steubenville East Youth Conference to be held on July 14-16 at the UMass, Lowell Campus will open up in mid-January. Our teens get a lot out of this weekend. Here are some of their reflections: "It was nothing like I expected. I felt so close and connected to God." "I definitely feel like a stronger Catholic and I think as many people that have the option to come should." Each year we reserve spots for our teenagers who are current 8-12th grade students. We are trying to get a feel for how many spots to reserve so if you are interested in participating, contact the Religious Education Office before January 7th. At this point, you are not under any obligation to attend.

**CALL BARBETTE CULLEN OR DIANE CASTRO
AT 792-8684 FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

This Week

Sunday, December 18
Haitian Project Artisan Sale
(After all masses-HBH)

Monday, December 19

7:30am Adoration (SF)

Tuesday, December 20

5:30-6:30pm Children's Choir Rehearsal (loft)

7pm Choir Rehearsal (loft)

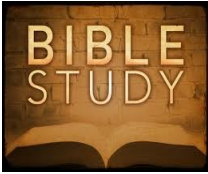
7:00pm Bible Study—with Christmas Celebration (↓FGC)

Thursday, December 22

7:00pm Men of St. Joseph (↓FGC)



Thank you for supporting senior religious. A sister from Indiana writes, "Because of your kindness, our elderly sisters will have the comfort, security, and joy of living out their remaining years here in their home. You truly honor them and their many years of service by your generosity." Religious across the United States offer sincere thanks for your generosity to last week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.



Bishop Barron writes; "I think one of the best ways to enter into Advent is to get reacquainted with the bible. Vatican II called for a revival in biblical studies.

St. Francis holds a Bible Study every Tuesday evening in FGH at 7PM from September to March or April (depending on when Easter begins). We study Scott Hahn's work book and listen to the gospel readings on DVD. Deacon Moynihan has been joining us to give his insightful teachings on the topics of Acts this year. Please join us for insightful fellowship and a cup of coffee! It is never too late to get involved and broaden your knowledge of God's word.

Join us on the 20th of December for our Christmas party and a teaching on Acts 15 directed by Deacon Moynihan.

Come & Behold Him

*A festival of lessons and
carols*



The Saint Francis of Assisi Choir, with orchestra

Sunday, January 8 at 3:00pm (In the church)

Free Admission—Donations Accepted

Contact information for further inquiry:
StFrancisWakefieldMusic@gmail.com



HOLIDAY SALE of Artisan Creations from Haiti **This Weekend (HBH)** (After All Masses)

**All the proceeds of these sales benefit 360 students
in Port-au-Prince, Haiti...**

UNIQUE GIFTS INCLUDE:

- ◆ Handmade Jewelry: (Earrings & Necklaces) Cows' Horns, Crystal
- ◆ Up-Cycled, Recycled Grocery Sacks, Book Bags, Beach Bags
- ◆ Used Petroleum Barrel Metal Art
- ◆ Greeting Cards

***RCIA classes** will continue at 10am on Wednesdays in the rectory. Anyone interested in learning about our Catholic faith and/or would like to become a practicing Catholic is invited!

***Women's group** on Thursdays at 1:00pm in the rectory. Children invited!

For more information contact Christina Moynihan at 401-783-4411.



**Good news and great joy to
all the world:
today is born our Savior,
Christ the Lord.**

Please join us for our
Christmas Pageant
January 8th at 11:00
in Fr. Greenan Parish Center
followed by light refreshments.
All are welcome!