

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)



Mass Intentions

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

Monday, December 26

7:00am Terrence J. Daly
Requested by family

Tuesday, December 27

7:00am Mass for the People

Wednesday, December 28

7:00am Sylvia DeLuca
Requested by Rosemarie Allen

Thursday, December 29

7:00am Madeline & Walter Johansen
Requested by Jude Alarie

Friday, December 30

7:00am James Flynn
Requested by Kathleen & Jeff Carney

Saturday, December 31

4:30 pm Clara E. Latowski
Requested by family

SOLEMNITY OF MARY

THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Sunday, January 1

8:00am Rose & James Gilgun
Requested by family

10:00am

12:00nn Anthony Ramieri
Requested by wife and children



St. Romuald Chapel Mass Intentions

CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY

Saturday, December 24

5:30pm Henry H. Thayer
Requested by family

Sunday, December 25

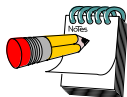
10:00am Theresa L. Casey
Requested by family

Saturday, December 31

4:00pm *Mass by way of exception—open to the public*

Sunday, January 1

10:00am Robert Alarie
Requested by James & Marsha Corcoran



For Your Information

SANCTUARY LAMP

This week's sanctuary lamp at St. Francis Church burns in memory of Louis & Marion Maggio.



THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

The Church Universal celebrated the Motherhood of the Blessed Virgin Mary on January 1st. Preserved from the stain of sin from the moment of her conception, Mary was prepared to be a worthy dwelling for the King of kings and Lord of lords, Jesus Christ. This special solemnity commemorates not only her generous willingness to cooperate with God's plan of salvation, but her motherhood over the whole Church. *Please see the mass schedule shown to the left under the mass intentions (This Holy Day falls on Sunday and will follow normal Sunday mass times—see exception at Chapel).*

PARISH SUPPORT

Weekly Support		December 18
Budget envelopes used (244)	-	\$8,053.50
Loose Donations	-	\$1,221.00
Online Giving (# of donors—55)	-	\$1,434.50
Total Budget	-	\$10,709.00
Ongoing Maintenance		
Budget envelopes used (152)	-	\$1,820.50
Other Donations	-	\$ 451.00
Total Collection	-	\$2,271.50

This week's second collection is the Christmas Offering. Next week's second collection is for the Solemnity of Mary.

As always, thank you for your continued generosity.

From the Pastor

A few topics as we celebrate the Lord's birth and the coming of the new year:

Many thanks to all who helped get the church, chapel and properties ready for Christmas. What would we do without the many volunteers who contribute so much of their time and talent to the parish? My personal thanks, too, go to all who have sent me cards and gifts for Christmas. Your thoughtfulness is above and beyond the call of duty, but nonetheless much appreciated. God bless you for your good wishes and support!

What a great job Christina Moynihan and the Men of St. Joseph did in organizing a "Spa Day" for homeless and low-income men! It's great to see how much our parish community does for those in need. Make sure to read Christina's report on this event in this weekend's bulletin.

Thanks to all of you who were able to support last weekend's sale to support the Haitian Project. I hope we can form a great and permanent group of support for this effort in Haiti, to which Deacon Patrick and Christina Moynihan and their family have dedicated so much time and energy.

With the 'flu' season upon us, the Bishop's office has once again suggested that we forgo the chalices at Mass until Eastertide. The whole Christ is present in each species, so we do not receive less of Christ by receiving only the Host. When spring comes we'll return to communion under both species, a good sign of eating and drinking the sacrificial banquet of the Lord.

The time between Masses on the weekends is used by the organist and the choir to practice for the upcoming liturgy. Experience should teach us that churches are not always the best places for private prayer, especially before and after weekend Masses. Even during the week, someone is sure to show up with a vacuum cleaner or a mop and bucket and begin banging around. This was the experience of the spiritual writer C. S. Lewis and I must say I have often seen it myself. It's quite uncanny.

The year of our Lord 2017 has been designated by Bishop Tobin as a year dedicated especially to the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is in honor of the 100th anniversary of the apparitions at Fatima, Portugal. We'll learn a brief refrain next weekend that we can use to honor her at the weekend Masses through the coming year. "De Maria numquam satis," said St. Bernard of Clairvaux. "About Mary, never enough."

Fr. Bodah



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

No Classes this week and next: Classes will resume Wednesday, January 4th and Sunday, January 8th.

The Religious Education Office will be closed for school vacation Dec. 25th-Jan 2nd

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.



STEUBENVILLE 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

Monday, December 26

NO ADORATION-PARISH OFFICES

CLOSED

Tuesday, December 27

No Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 29

7:00pm Men of St. Joseph (↓FGC)

Monday, January 2

NO ADORATION-PARISH OFFICES CLOSED



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

HAIRCUTS FOR HOPE WAS A SUCCESS!

*On Tuesday, the 13th, 50 gentlemen enjoyed the
fellowship and services of our St Francis of Assisi's
generosity!*

- ◆ The gentlemen were guests from Welcome House, Galilee Mission, Providence Rescue Mission, and Crossroads.
- ◆ They were shuttled to our parish hall and returned home in a limousine van by the Lesarbeau Family.
- ◆ They enjoyed home baked goods, sweets, coffee and pizza throughout the day made and delivered by our parishioners.
- ◆ The gentlemen “shopped” for jackets and clothing. (Some discarded their clothing immediately and left in their new outfits!)
- ◆ They were hosted and accompanied by the young men from Phi Mu Delta from URI.
- ◆ They received the royal treatment from the 5 barbers at Pedro Torres’ Jordan New Style Shop on Main Street.
- ◆ The gentlemen were entertained by the toe-tapping, hand-clapping, face-smiling up-beats of Mark Castro and Alan McLaughlin.
- ◆ **Reaching out to men in our community never looked so good!!**

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE...



THE VISITATION PROGRAM

We, Friends of St. Francis, are committed to creating and nurturing strong, stable, safe and reliable relationships with adults and caregivers.

Our home visits are meant to continue the tradition of charitable and compassionate care for the community members of St. Francis of Assisi parish.

Please call the rectory to recommend family, friends, or parishioners who are unable to get out and about. Our companions will reach out, visit, and develop relationships with those in need of comfort and care.



***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. If you
would like to provide a baked good
please call the Religious Education Office
at 792-8684 and leave a message.
All are welcome!**