

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD



Mass Intentions

CHRISTMAS EVE

Saturday, December 24

4:30pm Robert C. Wilson

Requested by Concetta

10:00 pm For the Parish

CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday, December 25

8:00am Walter L. McNulty family

Requested by Marilyn, Jack & Jimmy

10:00am Kerri Bessette

Requested by Mom, Dad & Scott

12:00NN Agnes & Robert O'Donnell

Requested by family

Monday, December 26

7:00am Sonny & Betty Goodwin

Requested by daughter Kathy Cawley

Tuesday, December 27

7:00am Rosemarie Silva-McNulty

Requested by daughter

Wednesday, December 28

7:00am Maureen Gray-McNulty

Requested by family

Thursday, December 29

7:00am Albert Bianco

Requested by Janice Filippi

Friday, December 30

7:00am James & Margaret Flynn and

Rosemary Flynn Walsh

Requested by Jeff and Kathy

Saturday, December 31

4:30pm Anna & Andrew Sebastian

Requested by family

Sunday, January 1

8:00am Mass for the People

10:00am James L. Taft, Jr.

Requested by Miriam & Bob O'Neill

12:00NN Dorothy A. Tiernan

Requested by family



St. Romuald Chapel Mass Intentions

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24

7:00pm Martin D'Attilio

Req. by Elizabeth & Michael D'Attilio

CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 25

10:00am Grace & John Carpinelli

Requested by family

Sunday, January 1

10:00am Grace & John Carpinelli

Requested by family



For Your Information

PARISH SUPPORT for December 18 was Budget-\$8,424; Ongoing Maintenance—\$2,701. This weekend's second offering is the Christmas Offering. Next weekend's second offering will be the Monthly offering for January. Thank you for your continued generosity.

SANCTUARY LAMPS

This week's sanctuary lamp at St. Francis Church burns in memory of Louis and Marion Maggio. The sanctuary lamp at St. Romuald Chapel burns for a special intention.

BIBLE STUDY: BREAKING OPEN PAUL'S LETTERS

Our parish Bible Study will resume on Tuesday evenings January 3rd through February 14th from 7-8:30 pm in Father Greenan Parish Center. The Ignatius Study Guide of St. Paul's Letters to the Philippians, Colossians and Philemon is \$10.00 and will be ordered for anyone registered. Please call the rectory at 783-4411 if you are interested. We will resume the same book in an 8-10 week segment this coming Spring.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT!

St. Francis of Assisi's Christmas Pageant will be on Sunday, January 8th from 11:00-12:00 at Fr. Greenan Parish Center. If your child is participating, be aware that rehearsals will be held on Thursday and Friday, January 5th and 6th from 4:00-5:30PM in Fr. Greenan Parish Center. Please call Barbette Cullen at 792-8684 for more information.

FIRST FRIDAY DEVOTIONS will be held on **Friday, January 6 at 6:30PM** in St. Francis Church. One of our parish priests will be available during the First Friday Holy Hour to hear confessions from 6:30-7:15pm. *Simply use the door to the Reconciliation Room right by the elevator, so as to avoid walking through the sanctuary.* We hope that this additional time for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be convenient for those who are unable to go on Saturdays. If you have never participated in devotions before, consider joining us for this special time of prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Eucharistic Adoration, readings, prayers and hymns constitute the devotions, which conclude with Benediction. We hope you can join us!

O COME, LET US ADORE HIM!

Join us on the Feast of the Epiphany, **Sunday, January 8 at 7:00PM** for a PRAISE Holy Hour in Saint Francis Church. What better way to celebrate the ongoing Christmas Season than by worshipping Christ in the Eucharist! The music at a PRAISE Holy Hour is led by our youth ensemble. If you have never heard them, now is the time! Their ministry of song is truly inspiring! The Holy Hour also includes the reading of Sacred Scripture, time for quiet prayer, and Benediction. Join us! *O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*



Don't forget to check out St. Francis on the Web:

<http://stfranciswakefield.com> or
<http://facebook.com/stfranciswakefield>

DECEMBER 25, 2011

FROM THE PASTOR...

Our Advent time of waiting is now complete ... ***"For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ the Lord!"*** (Luke 2:11). Our God takes flesh and is born into the world to demonstrate his great love for us. Certainly there has never been any greater Christmas gift than the gift of God's presence in our midst...a presence that can provide us with mercy, love, strength and hope if we simply open our minds and hearts and invite the Lord to dwell within us. As we celebrate the birth of the Christ, we have a great opportunity to reflect on our own lives and renew our commitment to the Lord. Christmas reminds us that God is always faithful to his people and so we have every reason to be faithful to Him!

The Feast of Christmas is so great that the Church celebrates not only for a day but for two weeks...until we meet the three kings on the Feast of the Epiphany. Among other things, Christmas is a time of friendly greetings, generous giving, and family celebration. We should all do our best not only to demonstrate this "good cheer" on Christmas day, but extend it throughout the season and perhaps even throughout the New Year. Likewise, just as we promoted a prayerful spirit for the days of Advent, we should continue to be spiritually reflective in the days ahead.

As we celebrate Christmas in St. Francis Church and St. Romuald Chapel, I offer a special prayer of gratitude for all who have contributed to the beauty and dignity of our celebration. A special thanks to Mimi Battey, Karen Graham, our choirs, cantors and musicians who prepared so well for this day. Thanks also to Father Joe and those who helped him with the decorations. We are grateful to the many people who made contributions toward the Christmas flowers. Of course, thanks are also due to Deacon Iacono and to our servers, readers, extraordinary ministers, sacristans, and all who assist in any way with our parish liturgy not only on Christmas, but throughout the year as well.

Along with Father Joe and the Parish Staff, I pray that you and your family will truly experience the Lord's peace and love this Christmas and that the New Year will bring many blessings.

Msgr. Theroux

WE CELEBRATE GOD'S FORGIVENESS

A joyful celebration of God's forgiveness and peace took place on Monday, December 12th, as young members of our parish family received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Congratulations! May they always see in that Sacrament a source of grace and healing that only Christ can bring!



Religious Ed. Notes

NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES
Classes resume on Wednesday, January 4th for the weekday classes and on Sunday, January 8th for the Sunday classes.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!



This Week

Monday, December 26
PARISH OFFICES CLOSED

Tuesday, December 27
NO RCIA CLASS
NO CHOIR

Wednesday, December 28
NO CLASSES

Thursday, December 29
7:00pm Couples in Recovery (HBH)

The Octave of Christmas



Christmas is too special to celebrate for just one day!

While the shops and businesses will begin taking down the decorations tomorrow, the Church is just beginning her celebration of Christ's birth! For **eight** whole days, the Church rejoices as if celebrating one long Christmas day! And the Christmas Season itself stretches into January until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (celebrated this year on Monday, January 9). Why not spend a few extra days celebrating Christmas around your own home? Savor the peace and joy that the Christ-child brings!

Merry Christmas!

Please note that **ALL Parish Offices will be closed on Monday, December 26th and on Monday, January 2nd.** Thank you.

MASS SCHEDULE FOR
JANUARY 1ST
MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

ST. FRANCIS CHURCH
SATURDAY—4:30 PM
SUNDAY—8:00 AM, 10:00 AM & 12 Noon

ST. ROMUALD CHAPEL
SUNDAY—10:00 AM



THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Each year on January 1, the Church Universal celebrates the Motherhood of the Blessed Virgin Mary. 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. Because this Solemnity falls on a Sunday, it takes the place of the Feast of the Holy Family, which will be transferred to Friday, December 30. Masses will be celebrated at the usual times.

THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Because Christmas falls on a Sunday this year, the Feast of the Holy Family will be celebrated on Friday, December 30. The Feast of the Holy Family reminds us that the first "school of the Gospel" is the home. The family is the basic building block not only of society but also of the Church. May we never fail to place Christ and his Church at the center of our families, our homes and our hearts! Mass will be celebrated in St. Francis Church at 7:00AM. Please join us as we invoke the intercession of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph over our families and our world!



THE SAINTS OF CHRISTMAS

In the week immediately following Christmas, the Church commemorates some of the most fascinating saints in our tradition. On December 26, we celebrate **Saint Stephen**, the first disciple of Christ to die for his Christian faith. On December 27, we celebrate **Saint John the Evangelist**, who is known as the "beloved disciple" of Jesus and who taught the young Church so much through his gospel. On December 28, we celebrate the **Holy Innocents**, those little children who died in place of the infant Jesus because of the wrath of Herod. And on December 29, we celebrate **Saint Thomas Becket**, twelfth-century bishop of Canterbury who died because he defended the freedoms and rights of the Church. We are truly surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses! Take some time this week to learn more about these remarkable saints!

Christmas Pageant
Sunday, January 8th,
11:00am
at Father Greenan
Parish Center



YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

Last weekend, our parish hosted several activities for our parish high-schoolers and young adults. Many thanks to Jacqui Bertrand, Dan Mahoney, Deidra Graves, Jeb Stroble and Nick Soltysiak for their dedicated service to our parish youth. And many thanks to Mimi Battey and the members of our worship ensemble PRAISE for contributing so much to the festivities! Parish youth (some of whom are home from college!) were able to catch up, check out the newly appointed Upper Room, bake cookies, watch Christmas movies, decorate, sing carols, exchange gifts, and even build gingerbread houses! We are truly blessed to have so many exemplary young people in our parish family, and to have so many parishioners who are eager to encourage and affirm our parish youth! Remember that the Youth Group meets every other Sunday night in the Upper Room of Fr. Greenan Center; all are welcome! Check the bulletin for upcoming activities and check out some pictures from our Advent Party last Sunday!



Visit <http://facebook.com/stfranciswakefield> for more pictures!