

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 3

4:30pm James DeLuca, Sr.
Requested by family

Sunday, December 4

8:00am Gloria Carney
Req. by Jeff and Kathleen Carney
10:00am Mass for the People
12:00NN Hugh & Catherine McGee
Requested by Boyle family

Monday, December 5

7:00am John Vieira

Tuesday, December 6

7:00am Dagmar Pucella Pignataro
Requested by parents

Wednesday, December 7

7:00am Walter DiPrete
Requested by family

Thursday, December 8

7:00am Robert Cote
Requested by family
12:00pm Clara Latowski
Requested by family
5:30pm Rose & Matteo Calvitto
Requested by daughter

Friday, December 9

7:00am Dr. Leonard Staudinger
Requested by wife

Saturday, December 10

4:30pm James DeLuca, Sr.
Requested by family

Sunday, December 11

8:00am John Vieira
Requested by family
10am Thomas S. Hogan &
Dr. Charles L. Farrell—*by family*
12:00NN Mass for the People



St. Romuald Chapel Mass Intentions

Sunday, December 4

10:00am David Bruyere
Requested by family

Sunday, December 11

10:00am Michael and Susan Murray
Requested by family



For Your Information

PARISH SUPPORT for November 20 was Budget-\$7,841; Campaign for Human Development-\$2,590. Parish support for November 27 was Budget-\$7,481. This weekend's second offering is the Monthly offering for December. Next weekend's second offering will be the Retirement Fund for Religious Offering. Thank you for your continued generosity.

SANCTUARY LAMPS

This week's sanctuary lamp at St. Francis Church burns in memory of Gloria Carney. The sanctuary lamp at St. Romuald Chapel burns in memory of Louise H. Beaulieu.

SOCIAL OUTREACH COMMITTEE meets on the first Monday of the month and will be meeting on THIS Monday, December 5 at 7:00pm in the Mary Cummings Conference Room located in the Rectory. All are welcome.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

A donor to the Retirement Fund for Religious writes, "We thank God for every religious sister who taught us in school, not only our ABC's, but also to love God." Show your support for the senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who have made a positive difference in so many lives. Please Share in the Care and give generously to next weekend's second collection.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception commemorates the conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the womb of her mother, Saint Ann. In view of the saving merits of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God the Father preserved Mary from the stain of original sin so that she could perfectly carry out in his will in bearing the Messiah. This year, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses on December 8th will be held at the following times: 7:00am, 12:00NN and 5:30pm.

MINISTRY OF READER

If you would like to be a part of reading holy scripture during Mass please contact Monsignor Theroux, Father Joe or Doug Carr (789-1103). The new Reader schedule for January - June (2012) is currently being planned. Readers, please notify Doug Carr by December 9th if you have any special requests or needs for the next schedule.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CHOIR

It's that time again! Time for our Children's Choir to begin rehearsals for Christmas Eve Mass! Calling all boys and girls ages 7-12! Rehearsals will be on Wednesdays, 5-6:15pm. Please note: This year our Christmas Eve Mass will be at 4:30pm. Make this the year you try choir! We need YOU to make our celebration truly joyful and glorious!! See YOU in the loft! Bring a friend!! Questions? Please call Mimi Battey at 792-8301.

LOOKING FOR A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA?

Bruce Martin, a local artist, was commissioned several months back to produce separate pen-and-ink drawings of both St. Francis Church and St. Romuald Chapel. They are remarkable in detail! (They currently grace the cover of our parish bulletin.) The prints are available for purchase in several formats at very low prices. They would make great Christmas gifts! Choose between St. Francis Church or St. Romuald, or order sets of both! Ten notecards with envelopes are only \$10.00, prints (matted) range in price from \$10.00 to \$20.00. Please call Laurie Friel at 782-2711 for more information. Act fast in order to get the cards or prints by Christmas!



FROM THE PASTOR...

I'd like to begin by congratulating our parish community for the fine response to our **new translation of the Mass** that began last weekend. The first week went remarkably well and everyone seemed very attentive to the new responses. I am very grateful to Fr. Joe who prepared the bulletin articles for months in advance as well as other initiatives behind the scenes to facilitate the transition. I also give special thanks to Mimi Battey, the choir and cantors who have helped us with the new musical settings. I am sure that it will still be a little awkward for a few weeks until we are used to the new texts, but if we continue to respond with the enthusiasm of the first weekend, we will have it down pat in no time.

As you may recall, at the beginning of November I mentioned in my column that we had purchased some new **vestments** and I offered the opportunity for parishioners to donate them in honor of loved ones. I am happy to say that within two weeks all eight vestments had been donated. In fact, two more donations have been received and we are ordering additional vestments for special celebrations. Also, without even making a request, we received a memorial donation for the new Roman Missal that is being used at St. Romuald Chapel. This is another great example of the generous spirit of our parish community. I am very grateful for this outstanding response.

As we count down the shopping days until Christmas, please be mindful of our spiritual preparation for Christmas offered by the season of **Advent**. Check this bulletin for information about special opportunities for Advent devotion ...the Taize Prayer Service...Morning Prayer on Wednesdays. At the very least, try to devote at least a few moments each day to be still and mindful that we await the coming of our Savior!

Msgr. Theroux

My Soul in Stillness Waits: Advent 2011

Throughout this holy season of Advent, our parish will be reflecting on the theme: **"My Soul in Stillness Waits."** You have seen it on our parish bulletin cover; you will hear it during our weekly Prayer of the Faithful; you will sing it during the Communion procession; this theme will influence our preaching, teaching and praying as a parish family. Advent is the season of waiting, of watching in joyful anticipation for the coming of Christ, not only at Christmastime, but at the end of time, when he will definitively establish his kingdom. But waiting for Christ requires stillness of heart and mind because he also comes to us *daily*, often unannounced and unseen. The challenge of Advent is to wait in stillness for the Christ who chose to come in humility and meekness rather than pomp and splendor. **"For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits. Truly my hope is in you."**



Religious Ed. Notes

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Sunday, December 4

8:50-9:50am GRADES 1 & 2

9:50-10:50am KINDERGARTEN

10:50-11:50am GRADES 3-5 (FGC)
GRADE 6 (HBH)

Monday, December 5

7-8:30pm Confirmation I and II

Wednesday, December 7

4-5:00pm GRADES 3-6 (FGC)

7-8:15pm GRADES 7 & 8 (FGC)

Saturday, December 10

First Reconciliation Retreat from 9-12—begins in church. All students preparing for their first Reconciliation **MUST ATTEND**. A parent or other interested adult must accompany each student.



This Week

Sunday, December 4

Religious Ed. Classes see above

4-5:15pm Light Up a Life—Home & Hospice (FGC)

5:30-7:00pm Praise Rehearsal (FGC)

7:00pm AA (HBH)

Monday, December 5

7:00pm Social Outreach Mtg. (MCCR)

7-8:30pm Confirmation I & II (FGC)

Tuesday, December 6

6:30-8:00pm RCIA (MCCR)

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (loft)

Wednesday, December 7

4-5:00pm Religious Ed Classes (FGC)

5-6:15pm Children's Choir (loft)

7-8:15pm Grade 7/8 (FGC)

Thursday, December 8

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Masses at: 7am, 12Noon, 5:30pm—SF

7pm Couples in Recovery (HBH)

Saturday, December 10

9-12 First Reconciliation Retreat (HBH/FGC)

ST. FRANCIS CEMETERY

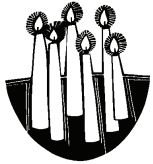
Please help us keep the cemetery looking beautiful. All summer and fall ornaments should be removed by now. If you have something on a loved one's grave and want to keep it, kindly remove it this week. A general clean-up will take place soon and all arrangements, pots etc. will be disposed of at that time. If interested in purchasing a lot or for more information, please call Laurie in the Cemetery Office at 782-2711.



AWAKE, MY SOUL!

MORNING PRAYER DURING ADVENT

Every Wednesday during Advent, immediately following the 7:00AM Mass we will pray *Morning Prayer* at Saint Francis Church. Morning Prayer is a simple liturgical celebration based on the praying of psalms. It is a brief service intended to lift up our hearts in gratitude to God at the beginning of the day, and to consecrate the work and activities of the day to his glory. The texts will be provided for you, all you need to do is stick around after the 7AM Mass on Wednesday's. What a great way to start the day! A "two-fer" special: Mass and Morning Prayer! *"In the morning, let me know your love..."*



WAITING FOR THE LORD THROUGH SONG AND LIGHT: A TAIZE PRAYER SERVICE

Mark your calendar for a distinctive Advent prayer-experience! The Taize Community is an ecumenical fellowship in France that has become famous for their distinctive prayer services. Please join us as we bring a little bit of France to Wakefield! **NEXT Sunday, December 11th, at 7:00PM**, our choir will lead a Taize Prayer Service in Saint Francis Church. The service will be unlike anything you've experienced! Using light and darkness, gentle song and silence, we will lift up our hearts to God in contemplative prayer! Candles, sacred images, scripture, and repetitive, easily-singable songs will be a part of this special gathering! Take a seat in your favorite pew or get comfortable on the sanctuary floor! You won't want to miss this!

CALLING ALL HIGH-SCHOOLERS!!!

You are invited to be a part of our
Advent Youth Group Extravaganza!
3 Evenings of Faith, Fellowship and Fun

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

Cookie baking and decorating the Upper Room!
Followed by a showing of "A Christmas Story"
on the big screen!

Bring your favorite cookie recipe and ingredients!
7-10pm in the Upper Room of Fr. Greenan Center

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

Candlelight Youth Mass at **6pm** in St. Francis!
Gingerbread building: Make the best model of
St. Francis Church or St. Romuald Chapel!
Followed by a showing of "It's a Wonderful Life"
on the big screen!

7-10pm in the Upper Room of Fr. Greenan Center

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

Youth Group and PRAISE Advent Party!
Yankee Swap, prizes and caroling!
6-9pm in the Upper Room of Fr. Greenan Center

ALL HIGH-SCHOOLERS ARE WELCOME; BRING A FRIEND!

DID YOU KNOW?

The Mass Readings for every day of the month can be found online at: <http://www.usccb.org/nab/>

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASS READINGS

1st Reading: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11

2nd Reading: 1 Thes 5:16-24

Gospel Reading: Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



FOOD & COMMODITY NEEDS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

Stuffing, pumpkin pie and fruit pie fillings, pie crust, potatoes, cranberry sauce, spaghetti sauce, jelly, soup and laundry detergent. Donations may be dropped off at the entrances of the church/chapel. They are taken weekly to the Jonnycake Center and/or Welcome House.

CAN YOU HELP? As you may know, St. Francis of Assisi Parish has been hosting Santa's Workshop for several years (formerly Adopt-a-Family) as well as a contributor (our annual Giving Tree). This event, sponsored by the Jonnycake Center of Peace Dale, allows families to select toys and gifts for their children. We are looking for volunteers to serve hot cocoa & cookies, which will be provided. The event takes place over three days, Dec. 14-15, from 9:30am-6:00pm and Dec.16, from 9:30am-2:00pm. There are three shifts, 3-hours in duration for two days & two shifts on the last day. If you can help, please call Paula Thayer at 789-8825.



THE GIVING TREE

Although the trees are down at the church and chapel, we still have tags and will be placing them on the tree in Father Greenan Parish Center for anyone who is still looking to provide a gift for someone in need. **Gifts MUST be returned no later than December 11th, that's NEXT SUNDAY.** We ask that all gifts be returned "unwrapped" so that we can provide these gifts to the Jonnycake Center's Santa's Workshop Program which will be distributing the gifts December 14-16 out of our own Helen Bouchard Hall. Please see above announcement if you'd like to help out with that program. Thank you.

PLEASE NOTE: The pew cards with the newly translated prayers from the Roman Missal should be left in the pews after Mass. Please give us a hand by placing them either in the hymnal racks or at the ends of each pew. Thank you!