

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Mass Intentions

Saturday, November 30

4:30pm Rev. William J. McCombe
115th Anniversary—1st Pastor of St. Francis

Sunday, December 1

8:00am John and Angelina Vieira
Requested by family

10:00am Mary and Nelson Burke
Requested by family

12:00NN Mass for the People

Monday, December 2

7:00am Rev. Robert A. Allaire
9th Anniversary—13th Pastor of St. Francis

Tuesday, December 3

7:00am Elaine Sherman
Requested by Ted and Denise Carlson

Wednesday, December 4

7:00am Gloria Carney
Requested by Kathleen and Jeff

Thursday, December 5

7:00am John and Angelina Vieira
Requested by family

First Friday, December 6

7:00am Dagmar Pucella Pignataro
Requested by family

First Saturday, December 7

8:00am First Saturday Mass
4:30pm James DeLuca, Sr.
Requested by family

Sunday, December 8

8:00am Clara Latowski
Requested by family
10:00am The Calvitto Family
Requested by Theresa Ramieri
12:00NN Mass for the People



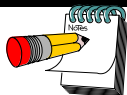
St. Romuald Chapel Mass Intentions

Sunday, December 1

10:00am Owen and Maureen Rielly
Requested by family

Sunday, December 8

10:00am Louis Alarie
Requested by Jude and Bob



For Your Information

SANCTUARY LAMP

This week's sanctuary lamp at St. Francis Church burns in memory of Maureen, Rosemarie, Peggy, John, Donny and Joe.

ST. FRANCIS BIBLE STUDY resumes for 2014 on Tuesday, January 7 at 7-8:30 pm in FGC with the **Gospel of John** commentary by Ignatius Press. **Please register your name at the rectory (783-4411)** if interested and a study book will be ordered, the cost is \$10. If questions, please contact Mary Vitiello at maryalri@yahoo.com.



GIVING TREE

If you feel that you can share the gift of giving this Advent/Christmas season, take a tag from the tree and bring back your gift, unwrapped with the tag from the tree, no later than **Sunday, December 15th**. Gifts will be distributed the week of the 15th.

CHASTITY AND PURITY TALK

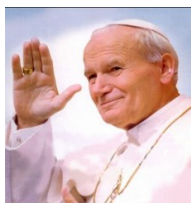
On **Monday, December 2nd** from 7-8:30pm Confirmation II will have guest speaker – Dr. Michelle Cretella give a presentation on Chastity and Purity. Dr. Cretella is a RI pediatrician and Catholic. Parents are invited and welcomed to attend this presentation. Your presence will allow you to engage in further conversation with your teen.

THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF LASALETTE

2013 Christmas Festival of Lights Middle School Trip

Wednesday, December 18

Bus leaves St. Francis parking lot at 5 pm and returns at 9 pm. Cost is \$8 per child. Families are welcome to attend (Total family cost is \$16).



PILGRIMAGE FOR JP II CANONIZATION

St. Mark Church, Cranston is sponsoring a pilgrimage to the Shrines of Italy from April 25, 2014 to May 3, 2014. This pilgrimage is special because we will be a part of the canonization ceremony of a saint whom we have been very blessed to have experienced and know in our lifetime. **LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE. ENROLLMENT DEADLINE, DECEMBER 2, 2013.** If you are interested, please contact Sr. Angelina Giramma, M.P.F. at: 401.942.1616 or outreach.stmarkri@verizon.net

PARISH SUPPORT for November 24 & December 1 will be published in NEXT weekend's bulletin due to the holiday publishing deadline. This weekend's second offering is the monthly offering for December. Next weekend's second offering will be the annual Religious Retirement Fund collection. **As always, thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.**

DECEMBER 1, 2013

From the Pastor...

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving celebration. Now Christmas and the New Year are just around the corner!

With Thanksgiving behind us, on behalf of our parish **Social Outreach Committee**, I would like to offer **special thanks to all our parishioners who responded so generously with donations of food for the Jonnycake Center**. At this time of year the need is great and I am certain that your generosity made a big difference for many families in the local community. However, we have to keep in mind that the need does not go away. We will be counting on your continued support and donations in the weeks and months ahead.

This weekend we begin the season of **Advent**, a time of prayerful preparation for our celebration of Christmas. Amidst the hectic activity of the season, **Advent reminds us of the real meaning of Christmas – the birth of our Savior**. I encourage you to take some time during Advent to pray and to appreciate the great gift of the Lord's presence in your life. Please be sure to take a copy of our Advent booklet, *"five minutes with the Word"* and read the daily reflections at home. **Even just a few minutes a day spent in spiritual preparation for Christmas will make our celebration all the richer.**

Msgr. Theroux

SR. PIA'S PROFESSION OF FINAL VOWS

Sr. Pia's Profession of Final Vows, November 9th, was filled with grace and blessings ... a little taste of Heaven!

The expressions of well wishes and prayers for Sr. Pia from family, friends and our parish family have been abundant and have deeply touched our hearts! These past few months Monsignor Theroux and Father Joe so often prayed from the altar for her and put notices in the bulletin requesting prayers for Sr. Pia. Frequently, we heard from fellow parishioners, "Is it your daughter who is the Religious Sister professing final vows? I am praying for her!"

We were able to spend time with Sr. Pia the evening before her final vows and shared all your prayers, kind words and brought your messages to her. Sr. Pia is very appreciative. Be assured she prays for all of you. Thank you so much Monsignor Theroux, Father Joe and each of you! We are very blessed to be part of the family of St. Francis of Assisi Parish!

St Francis is the very special patron saint for our daughter as a Capuchin Franciscan and for all of us at this parish...a special connection! We pray St. Francis, bless each one of you!

God's blessings,
Jim and Susan Meehan



Religious Education

CLASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 1st

No Classes Today Grades K-6

Monday, December 2nd

7-8:30 Confirmation II (FGC)

Wednesday, December 4th

4:00-5:00 Grades 3-6 (FGC)

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

Saturday, December 7th

First Reconciliation Retreat from 9-12:00. Begin in St. Francis Church

All First Communion students must attend with a parent or adult family member.



This Week

Sunday, December 1

Religious Ed. Classes see above

1:00pm Advent Wreath Workshop (FGC)

7:00pm AA (HBH)

Monday, December 2

7:00pm Confirmation II Class (FGC)

Tuesday, December 3

7:45am Finance Council Mtg. (MCCR)

6:30-8:30 Fra Angelico Open Studio (HBH)

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (loft)

Wednesday, December 4

4-5pm Grades 3-6 Religious Ed Classes (FGC)

5-6:15pm Child's Choir Rehearsal

7-8:15pm Class Grades 7 & 8 (FGC)

7-8:30pm Bereavement Support Group (HBH)

Thursday, December 5

2:00pm Mass at Scallop Shell NRC

7:00pm Men of St. Joseph (FGC)

7:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry

First Friday, December 6

6:30pm Holy Hour w/confessions

Saturday, December 7

8:00am 1st Saturday Mass (SFC)

9am-12nn Reconciliation Retreat (HBH/FGC)

ADVENT 2013: LORD, COME AND SAVE US!

Throughout the Advent Season our parish family will hear repeated in praying and singing the theme, *"Lord, come and save us!"* We invite the Lord Jesus to come again into our lives and save us with the power of his grace.

- First and foremost, we acknowledge that Jesus is the **LORD**, the one and only King of our hearts and lives. We acknowledge his reign and ask to be drawn into his kingdom in all that we say and do.
- Next, we pray that the Lord of our lives will **COME** to us anew, that he will knock at the doors of our hearts, and that with the help of his grace, we will be able to offer him a loving welcome.
- Next, we ask that the coming king will **SAVE** us! We acknowledge that without him, we can do nothing. Advent is a time for recognizing that sinful habits and unhealthy attachments wound our relationships with God and with each other. Just as Jesus came as an infant two-thousand years ago in Bethlehem to save us from sin and death, so too, now Jesus can come into our lives to save us from all that oppresses us.
- Lastly, we pray that Jesus will come to **US**, as a community of faith. We recognize that no man is an island and the coming of Jesus also means the gathering of his people together into the family of the Church.

May these five small words help to guide your praying and preparation as we look forward to the birth of Christ at Christmas!



We offer a secure and convenient way for you to contribute to St. Francis Parish!

Online donations may be made at any time from the privacy and comfort of your own home or any place with internet access. Online donations are credited to your tax statement for the end of the year (except when made anonymously), and each user can change his or her preferences or desired donation amounts at any time!

Visit our website for more information on how to get started: www.stfranciswakefield.com.



Symbolism of the Advent Wreath

The Advent Wreath is very symbolic. The evergreens used for the wreath itself are a reminder of continuous life. The

shaping of them into a circle reinforces that meaning. The circle is also a sign of everlasting life as well as the eternity of God. The four candles, three purple and one pink, mark the Sundays of Advent before Christmas. The purple candles are reminders that this should be a time of prayer and sacrifice to prepare us for the second coming of Christ. On the third Sunday, the pink candle is lit to announce *Gaudete* Sunday, a Sunday of rejoicing for Christ is coming near. With the lighting of that candle, the light has won out over the darkness (three candles lit vs. the one that remains unlit).

Various meanings have been assigned to the four candles. One interpretation has each candle representing 4000 years, the Biblical time between Adam and Eve and the coming of Christ. In another interpretation, the first candle represents the patriarchs, the second the prophets, the third reminds us of John the Baptist, and the fourth of Mary, the mother of Jesus. They have also been described as the prophets' candle, the Bethlehem Candle, the shepherds' candle, and the angels' candle. A fifth white candle in the center representing Christ can also be used. It is lit on Christmas Eve as a remembrance of Christ coming into the world. Sometimes, all the other candles of the wreath are removed and replaced with white candles on Christmas.

The Advent Wreath serves as a powerful visual reminder of the holiness of the season. The light of the candles invite us to quiet ourselves during this busy time and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Whether at home or at Church, it provides an invitation to wait and pray in hopeful anticipation for the coming of Christ. We are called to welcome the light of Christ into our lives.

"Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts ... shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light ... shine in your Church gathered today!"