

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH



Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 26

4:30pm Robert C. Wilson

Requested by Concetta

Sunday, December 27

8:00am Flynn and Carney families

Requested by Jeff and Kathleen

10:00am Virginia Gately

Requested by family

12:00pm Virginia Buchanan

Requested by family

Monday, December 28

7:00am Owen B. Gilman

Requested by Aimee and John Mongillo

Tuesday, December 29

7:00am Madeline and Walter Johansen

Requested by Jude and Bob

Wednesday, December 30

7:00am Manuel A. Lima

Requested by Hood family

Thursday, December 31

7:00am Celebrant's Intention

Vigil Mass for Mary, the Holy Mother of God

4:30pm John Lima

Requested by Tran family

MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Friday, January 1

9:00am Barbara "Babs" Menihan

Requested by parish family

11:00am Celebrant's Intention

Saturday, January 2

4:30pm Margery Hunt, Nancy Caswell

Mary-Frances Esty

Requested by family

Sunday, January 3

8:00am Rosemary Flaherty

Requested by Social Outreach Committee

10:00am Anthony Ramieri

Requested by family

12:00pm John T. McNulty

10th Anniversary



St. Romuald Chapel Mass Intentions

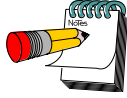
Sunday, December 27

10:00am Mary Marchand

Requested by Gerri and Al Marsocci

Sunday, January 3

10:00am Celebrant's Intention



For Your Information

PARISH SUPPORT

Parish support for December 20th was not available at bulletin transmittal time. Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.

SANCTUARY LAMP

This week's sanctuary lamp at St. Francis Church burns in memory of all deceased parishioners.

BIBLE STUDY resumes for 2016 on Tuesday, January 5 at 7-8:30 pm in FGC. We will continue our study of the Book of Exodus commentary by Ignatius Press. All are welcome!



MASS SCHEDULE FOR MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

A Holy Day of Obligation

Masses at St. Francis Church:

THURSDAY, Dec. 31—4:30 PM

FRIDAY, Jan. 1—9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

The Church Universal celebrates 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 listed above and take note that there will be no Mass at the chapel.

THANK YOU!

Our immense thanks to all who transformed the church to the Joyful Celebration of Christmas. Bob Kelly and his team of new recruits in addition to the return of some of our favorite decorators from years past—did an awesome job at St. Francis Church!

We'd also like to thank Bill Harding who transformed St. Romuald Chapel. As always, both Church and Chapel were beautifully decorated!

CALLING ALL SHEPHERDS, ANGELS AND WISE MEN...

St. Francis of Assisi's Christmas Pageant will be on **Sunday, January 3rd 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 Rel. Ed. Office at 792-8684 and let Mrs. Cullen know ASAP.*

** You must be able to attend rehearsal on Saturday, January 2nd from 10:00-11:30am in Fr. Greenan Parish Center.*

DECEMBER 27, 2015

From the Pastor

The Christmas season brings to mind the saying of our Lord to the Samaritan women in John's gospel, which Pope Francis quotes in his prayer for the Jubilee Year of Mercy: "If you knew the gift of God!" The generosity that marks the season is a good lesson for us not to take for granted the gifts given us, yes, by our fellow human beings, but above all, by the Father who sent his son to share in our weaknesses and difficulties. The Eucharist is the weekly and even daily thank-offering to God for the outpouring of his mercy in his divine and human Son. How great is the mercy of God: he accepts the perfect obedience unto death of Jesus as compensation for the disobedience of every human being from Adam and Eve till the end of time. All is grace; all is gift. We can do no boasting before God.

I'd like to express my appreciation to all of you who give so generously of your time, talent and treasure to the parish. It's particularly gratifying to see the younger couples with school-aged children getting involved in the various ministries and outreach opportunities of the parish. And words cannot express my admiration for so many of our older parishioners who once bore the heat of the day and now can offer only the support of their prayers. We are but carrying on the work that they did for so many years. Recently, too, several teen-agers have come forward to offer their time in service to us; more about them in a future writing. Let me also say thanks to our parish staff, who are here year-round to provide service to the community and lend their assistance to me and to all of you. Few people can see how much they do behind the scenes in addition to their public service.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to express my personal thanks to the many who remembered me during this Christmas season. I shall of course write to them individually, but I wanted publicly to say thanks to all who showed their support in a personal way.

Blessings to all, both near and far, who have remained faithful to the Lord and to our parish.

Fr. Bodah

CHRISTMAS CONCERT
TODAY! Sunday, December 27th
at 3:00PM

in St. Francis of Assisi Church
Bring your friends ~ bring your family!



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Religious Education Office will be closed for school vacation, December 27th through January 2nd.

Sunday, December 27th

No Classes

Wednesday, December 30th

No Classes

Saturday, January 2nd Christmas
pageant rehearsal 10:00-11:30 FGC



This Week

Sunday, December 27

No Religious Ed Classes

Monday, December 28

7:30-12nn Adoration (SF)

Tuesday, December 29

7:00pm NO Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 30

No Religious Ed Classes



Thursday, December 31

4:30pm VIGIL MASS FOR MARY, THE
HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (SF)

Friday, January 1

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY
MOTHER OF GOD

A Holy Day of Obligation

9:00am Mass at St. Francis

11:00am Mass at St. Francis

*All parish offices will be
closed on Friday, January 1st.*

Saturday, January 2

10-11:30am Christmas Pageant
Rehearsal (FGC)



2016 Steubenville East Youth Conference

Registration for the 2016 Steubenville East Youth Conference to be held on July 15-17 at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell Campus will be opening up in mid-January. To give you an idea of what the teens get out of the weekend, here is a reflection that one of our teens wrote after last year's conference. "This was my first time going and it was incredible. 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. It is my plan to keep coming as long as I can." 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 to reserve so if you are interested in participating in this powerful retreat, contact the Religious Education Office at 792-8684 before January 8th. At this point, you are not under any obligation to attend.



**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 3rd at 11:00 in Fr. Greenan Parish Center ... followed by light refreshments. If you would like to provide a baked good please call the Rel Ed Office at 792-8684 and leave a message. Thank you!

The Feast of the Holy Family

is not just about the Holy Family, but about our own families too. The main purpose of the Feast is to present the Holy Family as the model for all Christian families, and for domestic life in general. Our family life becomes sanctified when we live the life of the Church within our homes. This is called the "domestic church" or the "church in miniature." St. John Chrysostom urged all Christians to make each home a "family church," and in doing so, we sanctify the family unit. Just how does one live out the Church in the family? The best way is by making Christ and his Church the center of family and individual life. Ways to do this include: reading scripture regularly, praying daily, attending Mass at least on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, imitating the actions of the Holy Family, and so forth, all done together as a family unit.

St. Paul gives us some advice on family life in Colossians 3:12-21:

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ... (RSV).

The Holy Family feast is a good time to remember the family unit and pray for our human and spiritual families. We also may take this feast to reflect on the value and sanctity of the family unit, and to evaluate our own family life. What ways may it be improved? What would Jesus, Mary, and Joseph do? Finally, we can use this feast to ask ourselves, what are we doing to promote the family within our own cultures, neighborhoods, and communities.