

4th Sunday of Advent

MASSES December 19, 2009 - December 27, 2009

Sat	4:00pm	Frank LaPorta, Mary & Domenic Palumbo Mary Sauro Jay, Gerald, Cesidia & Antonio Tramontozzi Mr. & Mrs. Conrad Larosee Natalino & Luisa DeFilippis Mr. & Mrs. Albert Marchand & Family The Matthew, O'Hare & Stack Families	Thurs	7:00am 4:00pm 6:00pm	Joseph Joerg Dan & Catherine Cleary For All Parishioners of Our Lady's Christmas Eve Mass For All Parishioners of Our Lady's Christmas Eve Mass For All Parishioners of Our Lady's Christmas Midnight Mass For All Parishioners of Our Lady's Christmas Day Mass For All Parishioners of Our Lady's Winifred Conneely & Mary Celi Mary Annese Michael D. Caira Antonio Marini Al Sakakini Maria, Chumaceiro, Pierre Paul Pacanins Ramono & Betty Matos
Sun	8:00am 10:00am	Ann Marie & Mary Peltier Ernest & Isabel Magazu Robert Antonellis Janice Muzi Yolanda & Salvatore Utano Victorio Stracqaleuris, Maria DiFiori	Fri	12:00 Midnight 10:00am	
	6:00pm	Anna Louise Fecteau Jose & Cecilia Matos Felipe & Mercedes Lopez	Sat	4:00pm	
Mon	7:00am	For the Sick of the Parish	Sun	8:00am 10:00am 6:00pm	
Tues	7:00am	All Men & Women Serving in the Military			
Wed	7:00am	Mamie Rose Orr-Mullane			

In your prayers please remember Patricia Carney, Anthony Malizia, Raymond Foley, Ryan J. Mancini and all who have died.
May they experience the new life promised by Christ's Paschal victory.

Our Lady's Is Pleased To Announce These Upcoming Marriages:



Elizabeth Morey	&	Nathan Blecharczyk
Melanie Busa	&	William Myers
Kathleen Quinn	&	Kevin Sutter

Scripture Readings can be found at www.usccb.org

Sun., December 20	Mi 5:1-4a; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45
Mon., December 21	Sg 2:8-14; Lk 1:39-45
Tues., December 22	1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56
Wed., December 23	Mal 3:1-4,23-24; Lk 1:57-66
Thurs., December 24	2 Sm 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16; Lk 1:67-69
Fri., December 25	Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18
Sat., December 26	Acts 6:8-10;7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22
Sun., December 27	Sir 3:2-7,12-14; Col 3:12-21;Lk 2:41-52
Sun., January 3	Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a,5-6; Mt 2:1-12

Offertory Collection Update

The Offertory Collection total for the weekend of December 5th-6th:
\$12, 141.00

The Offertory Collection total for the weekend of December 12th-13th:
\$11,177.00
(includes \$830 for Immaculate Conception)

A Word from Father John on the Sunday before Christmas 2009

As you read these words, we are only days away from celebrating the birth of Christ. There are all sorts of experiences that come along with the count down – double checking the travel plans, wrapping gifts, preparing a list for Santa, and then checking it twice, grocery shopping, finishing the decorations around the house... and so on! Yet, in the midst of it all, Christmas calls out to us, in another way – it is a call to pray. The next time we gather for the Eucharist, on Christmas night or day, we will hear the story of the birth of Christ told to us by Saint Luke (Luke 2:1-16). Luke paints a scene for us that artists have continued to imagine down through the ages: the sight of the Child Jesus, lying in a trough full of hay, with Mary and Joseph, thrilled, exhausted and amazed, in a night that was silent except for the wistful stirrings of this new born baby boy, gently breathing and whimpering. We could barely resist being drawn into this scene – it tugs at the heart – and the soul. There is a wonderful description of prayer by Saint Theresa of Lisieux, a French Carmelite nun, who died in 1897 at the age of 24. She said: “Prayer is a surge of the heart - it is a simple glance turned toward heaven - it is a cry of recognition and of love - embracing both trial and joy!”

Perhaps, a way of praying during these hectic days and nights might be this simple. If you have a crèche, a nativity set, in your home, sit near it when the house is quiet. If you do not have one, just use your imagination. The following words can be read slowly, over and over, to help you be with the Lord in a moment of prayer, simple prayer that can offer more than you might imagine.

Take a moment to remember that you are sitting in the Lord's presence – because he is always present to us. Ask the Lord to help you be peaceful and available to him. Let the nativity set, the crèche, help you imagine the mystery of the Lord's birth: a young woman giving birth, assisted by her loving husband, far from home, all alone, and yet graciously provided for by God. Look at the new born baby, with the first cries of life filling his lungs. Mary watches as Joseph wraps the baby and lovingly places him in the feeding trough, the manger. The two of them fall off to sleep. Ponder the mystery that you are watching, the mystery of yet another child being born into the world, and yet this is no ordinary child. As Mary and Joseph sleep, and as you watch, this is the mystery that you are blessed to see: this child has come into the world to give life, abundant life to all people. Look closely at the child Jesus. He has come to give life to you and your loved ones: life in abundance - life marked by meaning and purpose, guided by faith, grounded in hope, offering love beyond measure. Look at Jesus, considering all that he means to you and all that you long to know about him. As you look at him, recall that this baby is God's son and yet he is your brother. Speak to him from your heart and ask him to bless you and yours on Christmas and every day of your lives. Tell him of your needs and concerns, and the deepest longings of your heart. Perhaps you might just sit quietly with him who has come to offer you all the best that life can give – and more. That is what faith in him is all about.

Blessed Christmas to you and yours!

Come One! Come All! Adults and Children, individuals and families. If you are interested in Christmas Caroling with other parishioners, please meet in the lower church hall Tuesday, December 22nd at 5:00pm.

Childcare for Christmas Eve 4:00pm Mass: There will be childcare available for the 4:00pm Mass on Christmas Eve in the McPherson Room.

Jeffrey Beatrice Family Fund: As many of you know, The Beatrice Family (11 children) - fellow parishioners - recently lost their 49 year old Dad. A fund has been established to assist them in their needs and to help save their home from auction. If you would like to contribute please send donations to The Jeffrey Beatrice Family Fund, c/o The Village Bank, 307 Auburn Street, Auburndale, MA 02466.

Baptism Team Volunteers Needed: We have recently lost two baptism team members who have moved away and we are in need of additional volunteers. Please contact Rosemary at extension 213 if you are willing to serve in this joy-filled ministry. The schedule is very flexible.

Coffee Hour Volunteers Needed: We are looking for volunteers to be part of a team of people who serve at our Sunday Morning Coffee Hour after the 10:00am Mass. It is a great activity to do as a family, an opportunity for parents and children to offer service together and is just plain old fun. Families serve as part of a rotating team and serve approximately every four weeks or less during the year. If you would like to volunteer or find out more about this ministry, please contact Bob Gill at bob.gill@kw.com or call him at 617-584-8452.

Workcamp Coffee Cakes for Sale: If you missed out in ordering a coffee cake our Workcampers will be selling them after all the masses this weekend. They are \$10 each and the flavors are Cinnamon Walnut, Lemon, Blueberry, Marble and Chocolate Explosion. All sales go to helping rebuild homes in Scranton, Pennsylvania next summer. Thank you for your support!

Helping Hands Volunteers Needed! If you are able to cook and deliver meals once a month to people in our parish community who are in need, please contact Jo-Anne Vergilio at vgilio2@yahoo.com or Robin McManus at robinhelpinghands@gmail.com. You can also call the parish office for more information. Thanks to all who help in this important ministry.

Our Lady's Scripture Study and Faith Sharing Group generally meets every other Tuesday from 7:00pm-8:30pm in the Colella Room of the Parish Center. The upcoming meeting dates are December 22nd, January 5th and 19th, February 2nd & 23rd, and March 9th and 23rd. ALL ARE INVITED TO COME WHENEVER POSSIBLE. The full text of all these readings can be found in your bible or at: <http://www.usccb.org/nab/>.

CARING FOR THE EARTH: Reflection on the conclusion of the UN summit on climate change: *“The brutal consumption of creation begins where God is not, where matter is henceforth only material for us, where we ourselves are the ultimate demand, where the whole is merely our property and we consume it for ourselves alone ... I think, therefore, that true and effective initiatives to prevent the waste and destruction of creation can be implemented and developed, understood and lived, only where creation is considered as beginning with God.”* ~ Pope Benedict XVI, August 2008

Christmas Shopping with GoodSearch: When you do your online christmas shopping, purchase used books, send flowers, please make sure to use goodsearch.com. Up to 5% of sales of the stores listed (half.com, Barnes&Nobles, Apple Store, iTunes, Best Buy, hotels, Travelocity, Target,...and 1200 more stores) give to non-profits who are registered. Our parish high school, Trinity Catholic is registered. Just click on goodsearch.com, search for Trinity Catholic High School (Newton, MA) or enter in Trinity Catholic's access code (895282). The great part of this GoodSearch site is that once you go through their website it takes you directly to the store's website for the transaction. Spread the word..

Applications Currently Being Accepted for Trinity Catholic High School 2010-2011 School Year: All interested 8th grade students and families are encouraged to submit applications for the 2010-2011 school year at Trinity Catholic. Applications can be downloaded from the website at www.trinitycatholic.com under the Admissions tab. Applications and financial aid applications are due by January 8, 2010. If you have questions, please contact Carrie Kotecki, Director of Admissions, at 617-244-1841, x312 or ckotecki@trinitycatholic.com.

What Do Shaw's and Trinity Catholic Have in Common?

They want to support education! Help support Trinity Catholic High School by simply using your Shaw's Rewards Card! By shopping on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday and using your card, Shaw's will donate a percentage of your spending to Trinity Catholic. To register your card, go to www.shaws.com, click 'learn', then 'community rewards', and 'shopper's login.' Enter your Shaw's card number and phone number and click on 'submit.' Trinity Catholic's number is: 49001022471. Or you may complete this information on the Shaw's registration cards located at the entrances of the church. Thank you for supporting Trinity Catholic!

"Be the Change You Want to See in the World..." Trinity Catholic High School students embody this quote from Gandhi in many ways and in many places. Service-learning is an essential curriculum component in the lives of Trinity Catholic High School students. Each year Trinity Catholic students and staff offer their time and talents to such experiences as: Cradles to Crayons, Breast Cancer Walk, Project Smile, Walk for Hunger and immersion trips to Camden, NJ and the Dominican Republic. Not only do they serve but they are inevitably affected by their experiences. Their eyes, hearts and minds are opened to the world around us and the impact they can have in it. This is truly vocation in action! We continue to invite your prayers and support for our service endeavors. In January there will be a number of opportunities. To hear more about them, contact Melanie Piendak at mpiendak@trinitycatholic.com.

Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline: 1-800-645-8333 TTY: 1-800-377-1292. With the high cost of living in the Commonwealth and more than 522,000 people across the state struggling to put food on the table, chances are that a friend or neighbor of yours is having difficulty making ends meet this winter. Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline can help. The FoodSource Hotline is the only comprehensive information and referral service for the hungry in Massachusetts. Counselors can provide information and screen callers for food stamp eligibility, connect them to school meal programs, and direct them to emergency food resources right in their neighborhood. Counselors can assist callers in 160 languages and the calls are both personalized and confidential. Extend your goodwill and reach out to those in need.

Grand Annual Collection

To date we have raised over \$157,000 from 425 parishioners in our grand annual collection. Our goal is \$190,000 and we need everyone to take part in order to attain that goal. We recognize that these are difficult financial times and we certainly understand if your situation doesn't allow you to give. However, we are asking that you give according to your means. Whether you give \$100 or \$300; \$1,000 or \$5,000, your gift will be appreciated as it promotes the well being of Our Lady's. Thank you for your support.

A call to Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline may be all it takes to provide comfort to someone who is struggling. In response to the increased demand for help, Project Bread's Food Source Hotline has extended its hours to: Monday – Friday: 8:00am – 7:00pm ; Saturday: 10:00am – 2:00pm.

Former Students and Graduates of the Jackson School and Walnut Park Montessori, Newton, both sponsored ministries of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, we want to re-connect with you! Please send contact information to alumni@jacksonwalnutparkschools.org or write to Jackson Walnut Park Collaborative, 71 Walnut Park, Newton, MA 02458.

Focus on Worship

"And the Word became flesh and pitched his tent among us." This is the good news from the opening lines of Saint John's gospel. It's a splendid summary of the mystery of God who comes among us as a baby at Christmas. Be sure this Christmas not to leave the mystery of faith at the doors of the church. Bring your faith in the Word made flesh home with you. Here is your prayer for the fourth week of Advent:

"Lord fill our hearts with your love, and as you revealed to us by an angel the coming of your Son as one of us, so lead us through his suffering and death to the glory of his resurrection. He lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen"

Here is a prayer for your Christmas gathering: *"Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth. Lord Jesus in the peace of this Christmas our hearts rejoice; With the beasts and angels, with the shepherds and stars, with Mary and Joseph, we praise you. By your coming may the hungry be filled with good things, and may our home and table know your blessing. Glory to God in the highest".*