

December 4, 2011
Second Sunday of Advent



SATURDAY, December 3

4:00PM Robert Peloquin by his wife

SUNDAY, December 4

8:00 AM John Sousa by his daughter Joanne

9:30 AM Oscar Fontaine by his son & daughter-in-law
Frank Crook by his family
Frank Storey by the Crook family

11:00 AM Caroline Roderigues by Tony & Judy

MONDAY, December 5

9:00 AM Anna & Thomas Comer & Catherine Comer
by niece Ellie & family

TUESDAY, December 6

9:00 AM Harold Hodkinson by wife & family (2nd anniversary)

WEDNESDAY, December 7

9:00 AM Helen Kulpa by Conrad & Phyllis Fortier

THURSDAY, December 8 *Holy Day of Obligation*

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

9:00 AM Deceased Priest and Religious

7:00 PM Deceased of our parish and families

SATURDAY, December 10

4:00PM Walter Theriault by Elizabeth & Don Roussel
(Birthday remembrance)

SUNDAY, December 11

8:00 AM Gilbert L. Mello & Manuel O. Amaral by their family
(Birthday remembrances)

9:30 AM John Viveiros by wife & family
(Birthday remembrance)

11:00 AM Lucille Reis by her children & grandchildren

Jeannette Attar Halliwell by the Attar family

Joseph & Maria Azevedo by their daughter & grandchildren

Joey Gonsalves, 3rd, by his parents (birthday remembrance)

December Memorial Candles

Sanctuary Lamp in memory of the Seery & Mascarelli Families

Tabernacle Candles in memory of Robert Peloquin by his wife and family

Altar Candles in memory of Henry & Adele Dion by their daughter, Jeannine Moss

Crucifix Candles in memory of Philippe Parent by his wife, Lorraine.

November 27, 2011 Collections:

Budget.....\$ 3,777.00
2nd Collection – Fuel Offering.....\$ 2,330.82

Reminder: Second collection next weekend, Dec. 11th, will be for Retirement Fund for Religious.



Family Life
Committee

The next meeting will be held in the church hall on **Wednesday, December 7th at 7 p.m.**
Please note: our meeting days have changed to the first Wednesday of the month

Cookie Exchange - Sunday Dec. 18th at 12 noon. Please don't hesitate to attend this event, even if you don't consider yourself a good baker. We have wonderful time and enjoy the company of fellow parishioners more than the treats themselves! This event has grown over the years and is a great way to get a variety of cookies the easy way! For those of you who have never attended a "cookie exchange", the premise is that you arrive with 3 dozen of the same cookies. During the event, we enjoy a sampling of each and the remainder is laid out on a table for each to fill a plate with a variety of delicious, homemade cookies to take home.



Mass Book for 2012 is available to schedule masses for **January thru June, 2012.** Mass dates can be scheduled by calling the parish office at 508-673-2808. In order to accommodate everyone, we must limit the number of masses scheduled to 3 weekend masses and 3 weekday masses. **Requests for the Sanctuary Lamp, Tabernacle Candles, Altar Candles, and Crucifix Candles for January thru June can also be scheduled.** In an effort to accommodate the most frequently requested masses (weekends), we will be scheduling a multiple intentions mass at a different mass each weekend. Once parishioners have had a chance to schedule masses, the mass book will be open for the scheduling of additional masses

St. Francis of Assisi Youth Group

The next Youth Group meeting will be held in the church hall on **Sunday, December 18th, from 6 to 8 p.m.** All Grades 8-12 students are welcome. Bring a friend! If you have any questions, contact Fr. Michael at 508-673-2808.

The Case High School music students will be available on December 10, 11, 17, & 18th between the hours of 6 & 9 p.m. for caroling at Christmas parties or for sending a Carolgram to someone you love. Donations are \$20.00 for 15 minutes of music. Please contact Paula Gonsalves at 508-673-9877 for more information

50 WEEK CLUB DRAWING – Congratulations to the December 4th winner

**“Thank You” to all who continue
to support our parish.**



Classes for grades 1 – 7 are held from 4 p.m. – 5 p.m. as follows:
TUESDAY – GRADES 4 & 5
WEDNESDAY = GRADES 6 & 7
THURSDAY – GRADES 1, 2, & 3

Confirmation 1 and 2 retreat will be held in the church hall, **today, Sunday, Dec. 4, 2011 from 12 noon to 6 p.m.** Please keep these young men and women in your prayers. The next two scheduled classes will be on Dec. 11th and Dec. 18th.

Knights of Columbus News



The Grand Knight's Facts You Didn't Know

Fact: THERE WILL BE ONLY 3 WEEKENDS LEFT TO BUY A TRIP TO ROME/\$3000.00 RAFFLE TICKET. The

purchase of a ticket will not only **HELP YOUR CHURCH** but will also make an incredible Christmas stocking stuffer. Tickets will be sold and the church doors on the 3 weekends prior to Christmas. By saving your loose change you can buy a ticket and give back to a Parish that has given us so much! The proceeds from this raffle will go towards Parish projects that will benefit all of us.

The WINNER will be selected at our "KNIGHT IN ROME" Pasta Dinner on **Sat. Jan. 21st at 5:30.** Tickets for this incredible evening will be \$8.00 for adults and \$20.00 for a family of 4 and will start going on sale Dec. 3rd. Our next gathering will be on **Dec. 5th at 7:00 in the parish hall.** You can also call Stephen Amaral at 508-567-1900 for further information. **MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!!**

St. Vincent de Paul



In Need of Assistance? Are you facing utility shutoffs and or high food bills? If you are a family in need of assistance, please contact the St. Francis Vincent de Paul Society at 508-673-2808.

A container for used clothing has been installed in the parking area behind the church. We encourage you to support the Saint Vincent de Paul Society by using this container to deposit used clothing, both reusable and not reusable

Annual Socks, Hats, Mittens, Scarves & Coat Drive Nov. 1st to Dec. 8th - The 9th Annual socks, hats, mittens, scarves, and coats drive for needy families will be held from **Nov. 1 to Dec. 8.** Collected clothing will be distributed at a Fall River public school or wherever there is a demonstrated need. During the winter months many children are observed at schools without proper clothing to protect them against the cold weather. This drive will help to relieve that situation. Containers for donations will be at the church entrances.

Prayer Shawl Ministry - As the holiday season approaches, the Prayer Shawl Ministry realizes that everyone will be so busy during the month of December, we have decided not to meet again until January. We would like to alert our parishioners that if any of our shawls, lap robes or chemo caps are needed during this Holy Season, you may call Claire Morissette at 508-672-0104 and we will see that your needs are met. Have a Holy and Happy Christmas Season.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Watch the TV Mass Online - The Television Mass airing each Sunday at 11 a.m. on WLNE-TV, channel 6, is now available online! For nearly 50 years, the Fall River Diocese has sponsored the Mass for those unable to attend a parish Mass because of age or infirmity.

Advent Night of Recollection – Friday, Dec. 9th at 6 p.m. **St. Francis Xavier Church 125 Main St. Acushnet.**

"Lessons from the Lives of Four Great Lay Saints for Our Times" is the focus of this Advent Night of Recollection to be lead by five priests of the Diocese. **Schedule is as follows:** **6 p.m.** St. Benedict Labre & the Mystery of Vocation, presenter, Fr. Andrew Johnson; **6:30 p.m.** Bd. Pier Giorgio Frassati & Putting the Beatitudes into Practice, Fr. Jay Mello ; **7 p.m.** Bd. Franz Jagerstatter on Following One's Conscience and Heroically Loving God First, Fr. Ron Floyd; **7:30 p.m.** Mass celebrated by Fr. Gerard O'Connor with a homily on St. Juan Diego & the School of Mary by Fr. Roger Landry. **Confessions will be heard from 5:45-7:30 p.m.** Program is free and open to all.

Theology on Tap – The next Theology on Tap will be held on **Tuesday, Dec. 13th** at Olive Garden (Rte 140) Taunton. The topic, "Praying the Songs of Advent" will be presented by Dan Couet. Theology on Tap is a discussion series for **young adults in their 20s and 30s**, married or single. The evening begins at 6:30 p.m. with fellowship; the presentation starts at 7 p.m. and ends at 9:30 p.m. For more information please contact Crystal-Lynn Medeiros, Assistant Director Youth & Young Adult Ministry, at 508-676-2828

The Power of Kindness – Everyone needs a little kindness, especially when we are hurting. A simple act of kindness can make a powerful and lasting impact. Ralph Waldo Emerson advises us to not postpone kindness when he says, "You cannot do a kindness too soon because you never know how soon it will be too late." As we prepare for Christmas, a feast that commemorates Christ bringing Light into our world, let us explore how we too might lift others up and be a source of light in their lives. **When:** Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2011

Where: Sacred Hearts Retreat Center, 227 Great Neck Rd., Wareham, MA. **Time:** 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. **Cost:** \$20.00.

Mass: Fr. Stan Kolasa will celebrate Mass at 9 a.m. for those who wish to come early. **Registration:** Contact Peggy at 508-548-9149 or timeoutretreats@comcast.net at least two days in advance.

Come Follow Me: HOW You Get There Determines WHERE You Arrive is a Young Adult Retreat for **men and women between college age and 35 years old** who are married or single. This weekend retreat will be held at Sacred Hearts Retreat Center, 226 Great Neck Rd. in Wareham **beginning at 6 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 20th and concluding with lunch on Sunday, Jan. 22nd**. This retreat will be facilitated by Deacon Bruce Bonneau, Asst. Dir. Adult Evangelization and Spirituality, Crystal-Lynn Medeiros, Asst. Dir. Youth & Young Adult Ministry, and Fr. David Frederici, UMass Dartmouth Chaplain. The cost of the weekend is \$150 per person which includes meals & accommodations. A discount is offered to those willing to share a room if additional space is needed. To register, download the form at www.fallriverfaithformation.org. Registration deadline is Friday, Jan. 13th. For more information, contact Crystal-Lynn Medeiros at 508-678-2828, or at cmedeiros@dfrcce.com

December 4, 2011 Second Sunday of Advent

I am offering a little different form of the Daily Reflection for these last three Sundays of Advent. Instead of reflecting specifically on the Scripture readings of these weeks, I wish to offer some Advent thoughts on three differing Advent themes. This Sunday the theme is "stillness".

It amazes me how our active dog, who shoots from room to room and always passes through the kitchen in doing so, can freeze into statue-like stillness when I begin petting his humbled head. This image of the prophet Isaiah petting Israel's head and heart with words of "comfort" begins our liturgy's readings and our Advent musing. As long as I pet the dog, no other invitation or tasty stimuli distract him. Israel's being in captivity brought them to a condition of needing some hope that all was not lost.

St. Ignatius, the founder of the Jesuits, was physically stilled by a cannonball to the leg. This physical immobility brought him eventually to a spiritual freeze in which he came to a deep awareness that much had been lost in his life and did he want to have some saved. There is a quieting of voices when an announcement is about to be made which allows for increased hearing and understanding. There is a calm before the storm, we say and a silence before a great act of physical achievement in athletics or artistry.

We are invited by the season of Advent to almost hold our breaths as God does a fantastic athletic act of leaping from eternity into time, from heaven to earth, from Spirit to Flesh, and from mystery to history. We are invited to stand still as the Divine Artist begins painting and sculpturing our image within His.

I remember standing with several members of my family in front of the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris while the tremendous bells above pealed away our need for words. We walked to le Louvre after that and not one of my witty brothers could match the voices whispering there from the Mona Lisa.

The famous American writer and columnist, Will Rogers, once wrote, "Never pass up an opportunity to shut up." Listening takes "shutting up" and silence takes some "Opening up". Silence is golden only after we devalue the tinniest of noise, especially of our own making. Being quiet does not mean that nothing is going on; rather, something is going in. The more two friends must speak to each other, the more they should be doubting their friendship. Actually, the more there is intimacy, the less there is the "must" to say words. Good friends can talk, but silence can be a deeper experience and expression of their trust, ease, and commitment.

The prophet Isaiah invites Israel to quiet their personal and collective cries of guilt and shame as they sit in exile. As long as their inner voices of self recrimination keep shouting, the words of "comfort" cannot be heard. The good news of their going back to their homes would be drowned by their tears of abandonment. "The mouth of the Lord has spoken. 'Cry out at the top of your voice' and cry out so that all might hear, 'Here is your God!'"

The good tidings center around the reality that the mountains and valleys and deserts are all in the past and their rough ways toward home have been readied for a safe return, but they must stop complaining, guiltifying and bemoaning. John also cries out to the people of Israel and to us, "prepare", "One mightier than I is coming after me." His message was hard to listen to, because listening might involve a change, a "repentance". Keeping on the move and keeping our minds full is a wonderful preventive defense. What we listen to will determine what we hear. What we hear does form our attitudes and hence our actions.

We do not want to hear bad news, but good news can be dangerous as well. The Good News of Jesus' birth might not be as good, because He will be saying something by His arrival and permanent stay which, if listened to, would rearrange my ways. All the more reason to keep Advent at a distance by keeping stillness only a convenient concept. Being still does not eventuate into being stale. Taking action out of time and allowing simple truths to amaze us is the spice of living. The very place from which we would most desire to flee is the very place where we should kneel, or sit and do nothing, but receive that which we would desire from being unstill and busy.

My Irish grandmother would often chide us, "Just don't sit there; do something!" Advent reverses that. Advent becomes a way of living more gently. We love to sit by a quiet stream. We love to be close to a person who has a gentle stream within them. Perhaps the best gift each of us can receive through quiet prayer is a quieter-inside self whose mountains of resistance have been leveled, whose valleys of inferiority have been filled in and whose roughness has been smoothed by God's gentle presence. We do prepare for Christ's coming to us that He might more gently flow through us.

"Be still and know that I am God." Ps. 46, 10

Larry Gillick, S.J.

*St. Francis of Assisi Parish
Swansea, MA
Second Sunday of Advent ~ December 4, 2011*



*Feast of the
Immaculate Conception
of the
Blessed Virgin Mary*

*... in the first instance of
her conception, by a
singular privilege and
grace granted by God, in
view of the merits of Jesus
Christ, the Savior of the
human race, was
preserved from all stain of
original sin ...*

*-- Pope Pius IX
Ineffabilis Deus*

*Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Thursday, December 8, 2011*