

**December 18, 2011**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**



**SATURDAY, December 17**

4:00PM John Carvalho by his family  
 Paul Boulay by Mr. & Mrs. James Daugherty & family  
 Helen, Alfred, Joey & Al Gadbois & Richard Brochu by family

**SUNDAY, December 18**

8:00 AM Guy Touchais by his sister (birthday remembrance)  
 9:30 AM Angelo Colucciello by his family (3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary)  
 11:00 AM James Sousa by his family (birthday remembrance)

**MONDAY, December 19**

9:00 AM Stanley Treloar, Jr. by his wife and family

**TUESDAY, December 20**

9:00 AM Katie Fleet by her Mom

**WEDNESDAY, December 21**

9:00 AM Joseph Ciryak

**THURSDAY, December 22**

9:00 AM Eileen A. Keating by her husband and family  
 Robert Peloquin by his wife

**SATURDAY, December 24 *Christmas Eve***

4:00 PM All parishioners and their families  
 6:00 PM All parishioners & their families (Children's Choir)  
 12:00 AM (Midnight) All parishioners and their families

**SUNDAY, December 25 *Christmas Day***

**PLEASE NOTE: NO 9:30a.m. OR 11:00 a.m. Mass**

8:00 AM All parishioners & their families  
 10:00 AM All parishioners & their families

***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.

**December 11, 2011 Collections:**

Budget.....	\$	3,876.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection: Retirement Fund for Religious	\$	1,354.50
Dec. 8 <sup>th</sup> : Immaculate Conception.....	\$	1,170.00

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

***Christmas Flowers & Decorations Donations***



An envelope has been included in your budget packet for your memorial donation towards the purchase of Christmas flowers and decorations. If you do not use budget envelopes, we invite you to consider making a donation in memory of a deceased loved one. Mark the front of your donation envelope:

Christmas Flowers /Decorations Offering  
 In memory of.....

Donations should be received by **Sunday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>**. All envelopes/names will be placed before the altar Christmas weekend.

***Christmas Eve***  
***(Saturday)***  
 4:00 p.m.  
 6:00 p.m. (Children's Choir)  
 12:00 Midnight

***Christmas Day***  
***(Sunday)***  
 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.



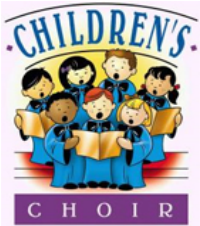
**Join us at 11:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve for a Festival Prelude to the Midnight Mass. The Prelude will feature a carol sing and Christmas music for oboe and organ. This is a joyful way to prepare yourself for Midnight Mass in anticipation of the birth of our Savior!**

*Advent* is a good opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance. This Sacrament is available on Saturdays from 3:00 pm - 3:40 pm, or by calling the rectory for an appointment.



**Gift Bearers** - If you are a family member or friend who would like to bring the gifts to the altar at a loved one's Mass, we would be happy to have you do so. Just stop by the Sacristy before Mass and tell Fr. Michael you will be gift bearer that day. Thank you.

**50 WEEK CLUB DRAWING** – Congratulations to the December 18<sup>th</sup> winner.....Frank Silvia.



**The Children's Choir** will be singing at the 6 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>, and at the 9:30 a.m. Mass on Holy Family Sunday, Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>. **Choir practice will be held in the church hall from 5 – 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>, and from 5 – 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> (dress rehearsal).** All children, ages 6 thru high school are welcome. **One other adult is needed at these rehearsals to comply with the Diocesan Child Safety Regulations.** Thank you.



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 classes will be held today, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>.**

## *Knights of Columbus News*



### *The Grand Knight's Facts You Didn't Know*

**Fact:** Oh the looks and sounds of last minute Christmas shopping. Have you seen those long lines? There are so many people just waiting to get their hands on the hottest item before it's gone. Think I'm talking about all the stores? **THINK AGAIN!** It's happening right at OUR CHURCH! People are standing in line to get a CHANCE OF A LIFETIME. **That's because as of Midnight Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> the Rome/\$3000.00 Raffle tickets will be OUT OF STOCK!** These tickets make a great Christmas present, and cannot be found at Wal-Mart or Target. **ACT NOW!!**

The WINNER will be selected at our "KNIGHT IN ROME" Pasta Dinner on Sat. Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:30. Tickets for this incredible evening will be \$8.00 for adults and \$20.00 for a family of 4 and have started going on sale. **SEATING WILL BE LIMITED!! Our next gathering will be on Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 in the parish hall.** You can also call Stephen Amaral at 508-567-1900 for further information. **MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!!**

## **St. Francis of Assisi Youth Group**

The next Youth Group meeting will be held in the church hall , **today, Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 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.



**GIVING TREE** - Our parish "Giving Tree" is back! Please take one, or more, of the gift tags hanging on the tree. **All wrapped gifts should be placed under the tree by Sunday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>.** Thank you for continuing to help those in need.

### **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.

**Divorced-Separated Support Group** = Thursday, December 22, 2011 at 7 p.m. St. Julie Billiart Parish Center 494 Slocum Rd. North Dartmouth. Support group will take time this evening to gather socially during a season which group leaders know can be difficult. Refreshments will be available. This Divorced-Separated Support Group usually meets on the second and last Thursday of each month. Meetings feature guest speakers, discussion, and refreshments. New attendees welcome. Call Bob Menard for details: 508-673-2997.

## *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.

**9<sup>TH</sup> Annual Socks, Hats, Mittens, Scarves & Coats Drive**  
**HANK YOU** to everyone who donated hats, scarves, mittens, gloves, socks or coats. As always, your generosity is greatly appreciated.

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter** - Are we willing to have the faith of Mary in believing the angel? Do we have faith in God that all things are possible in our marriage? . The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends in New England are January 13-15 and February 10 - 12. For more information call Ralph & Jane Becker at 1-800-710-WWME or visit our webpage at [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org)

## *Family Life Committee*

**Cookie Exchange – TODAY DEC. 18<sup>th</sup>  
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.

### **December 18, 2011 Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Yahweh reminded David of His Providential care through the prophet Nathan in today's First Reading. He took David from the fields and made him king and He cared for him in life and gave him honor after death. This was not a reward for David's loyalty but a vehicle for the divine will. Through the covenant He offered David, God revealed His intentions and His nature. He was a loving, even doting God. As Christians, we see the fulfillment of God's covenant with David in Jesus. Why, because He was a "Son of David" not only in His lineage, but also in His revelation. The mission and ministry of Jesus revealed God as that loving deity David enjoyed. But, now, we enjoy the loving initiative David enjoyed so long ago. God declared David "His son." Through Christ, we are sons and daughters of God. How have you enjoyed God's favor this week? How can you show others they, too, are children of the Almighty?

The Responsorial Psalm was appropriate for the early Christian understanding of the Messiah. Jesus of Nazareth fit the model of fulfillment. Through despair and death, God kept His promise. Through defeat, God created victory, through death came life! Our faith can be shaken if our expectations are unmet or turned upside down. Are these really crises' of faith or simply our own problems? Doesn't God work in His own time and in His own way? Reflect on your own "crises' of faith". How has God helped you to survive and drawn you closer to Himself in the process?

The Second Reading from a letter to the Romans reminded them and reminds us that obedience built on faith formed the early Christian communities, and this is the same relationship God expects of us. God calls us to praise Him for the same reasons Paul gave: tradition, presence, and community. God strengthens us with His word in the Scriptures. He is present to us now in a way that reveals "mysteries hidden in the past." And, He fortifies us with the gift of faith found in a relationship with Him and in fellowship with other Christians. Why praise God, because He likes it and for

the gifts He has given us. May we use Scripture, His grace, and our fellowship within the community as sources of strength, not as part of the Christian landscape we take for granted. A couple of things to ponder this week might be: How do you use the gifts God has given you and how have you praised Him for them?

In today's Gospel we experience Mary's openness to God's will for her, her "yes". Mary's greatest gift was her absolute openness to God's love. God speaks to us through inspirations and the inner stirrings of our heart. We must be open to willingly accept the inspirations it may please God to send us. By inspirations is meant all good interior desires, i.e., acts of regret, thoughts and affections God places in our hearts to awaken and attract us to authentic virtues, holy love, and good resolutions. Any thought that causes us anxiety and fear should be let go, as it does not come from God who is the Prince of Peace. When such an inspiration comes, receive it openly and approach it simply and gently. Listen calmly to God's proposal while giving it complete, loving and permanent consent by peacefully accepting it, and trusting that God will give you the love you need to fulfill it. Sometimes when God asks us to do some good work, all He really wants is our "yes," our willingness to do what He asks, not the accomplishment of it.

Come, O Come, Emanuel!



***VISITATION OF MARY***