

January 1, 2012
Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God



SATURDAY, December 31

4:00 PM Debora Patterson & Brenda Rogers by Mom & Dad

SUNDAY, January 1

Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

8:00 AM All parishioners and their families

9:30 AM All parishioners and their families

11:00 AM All parishioners and their families

MONDAY, January 2

9:00 AM Noel Peloquin by Wanda (birthday remembrance)

TUESDAY, January 3

9:00 AM Frank Storey by his family

WEDNESDAY, January 4

9:00 AM Gaston Plante, Sr. by his family

THURSDAY, January 5

9:00 AM Jean & Joseph Ciryak

SATURDAY, January 7

4:00 PM Paul Boulay by his wife Lorraine and family
 Simonne Touchette by her family

Stella (20th anniversary) and Dominic Troy by their family

SUNDAY, January 8 The Epiphany of the Lord

8:00 AM Deceased priest and religious

9:30 AM Deceased parishioners and their families

11:00 AM Deceased parishioners and their families

January 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 25, 2011 Collections:

Budget.....	\$ 4,287.30
Christmas Offering.....	\$ 3,120.07

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

Reminder: Next weekend the second collection will be for the Monthly I.M.E. Fund.

**HAVE YOU EVER MADE A WILL?
ARE YOU THINKING OF MAKING ONE?**

Would you consider leaving something to your parish? Many people (even recently) have done so here and in other parishes, and their generosity has a lasting effect on many people. Just a little food for thought.

In observance of
New Years,
the Parish Office
will be **CLOSED** on
Monday, January 2.



Classes for grades 1 thru 7 will resume, this week as follows:

Grades 4 & 5 – Tuesday, Jan. 3rd

Grades 6 & 7 – Wednesday, Jan 4th

Grades 1, 2, & 3 – Thursday, Jan 5th

Confirmation I and II classes will resume on Sunday, January 8th

CONFIRMATION DATE - We have been informed by the Diocese that Confirmation at St. Francis will take place on **Sunday, March 11, 2012 at the 11:00 a.m. Mass.**

FIRST COMMUNION DATE – First Communion will be celebrated on **Sunday, April 15, 2012 at the 11:00 a.m. Mass**

Letters of Eligibility for Godparents/Sponsors

Letters of Eligibility to act as Godparents or Sponsors can be issued only to active members of the parish who are registered and in good standing, i.e., they attend Church regularly and evidence supports it. If the requesting person is married, the marriage must have taken place in conformity with the laws of the Church.



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.

ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASSES - The Office of Faith



Formation will be offering Adult Confirmation Classes again this year. Candidates must be 18 years of age. Call the parish office at 508-673-2808 for registration forms and schedule of locations, dates & times. There is no charge for the class, however the cost of the book and materials is \$25.00. There is a class that will start in January, so don't wait too long to call.

Daily Mass Snow Storms - Ice Storms

We remind parishioners in the event school is cancelled due to inclement weather, daily Mass will also be cancelled. Also, please note the Mass Intentions for that day will be rescheduled.

Thank you to all of our Advent and Christmas volunteers. The nativity set, Crèche, flowers, tree and wreaths look beautiful. Awesome job!!

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.

2012 Calendars are available at the doors. Please take one and give another to a friend or neighbor who is unable to attend Mass.

50 WEEK CLUB DRAWING – Congratulations to the first winner of 2012James Lanczycki

Knights of Columbus News



The Grand Knight's Facts You Didn't Know

Fact: IT'S PASTA/MEATBALL TIME!! On Saturday Jan. 21st at 5:30 we invite you to "A KNIGHT IN ROME". This Pasta Dinner

promises to be even better than the last one. The **FREE DOOR PRIZES** will be worth the price of admission alone. The highlight of the night will be the drawing of the winning ticket for the ROME TRIP/\$3000.00 Raffle.

Prices for this incredible meal will be **ONLY \$8.00 for adults and \$20.00 for a family of 4 or more!** Tickets will be sold at the doors each weekend leading up to this incredible night. **SEATING WILL BE LIMITED!** You cannot get a dinner ANYWHERE that will serve you this quality and quantity for this ridiculous low price! Watch the bulletin for an insert that will have your mouth watering and eyes popping out at the OUTSTANDING VALUE and AWESOME Dinner that this will be. Wish to help your church and community? Stop in and join our next gathering on **Jan. 2nd at 7:00** in the church hall. **MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!**

St. Francis of Assisi Youth Group

The next Youth Group meeting will be held in the church hall, **Sunday, January 8th, 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 Thank you to all who helped others through our "Giving Tree". Your generosity has made this Christmas brighter for many people

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Courage Group Meeting – Saturday, Jan. 7th at 7 p.m. Courage is a welcoming support group for Catholics experiencing same-sex attraction who gather to seek God's wisdom, mercy and love. For location details and further information, please contact the group's spiritual moderator,

Fr. Richard Wilson. Contact Fr. Richard Wilson at 508-992-9408 for more information.

Theology on Tap - Tuesday, January 10th at 6:30 p.m. at Olive Garden Restaurant, 1013 County St., Rt. 140, Taunton. Young adult Catholics, college age through mid-30s, single or married, are invited to Theology on Tap, an opportunity to learn, share faith, enjoy camaraderie -all in a comfortable setting. Generally meets monthly; program topics vary. No charge to participate. Attendees cover their own costs for food/beverages ordered from the menu. Sponsored by the Fall River Diocesan Faith Formation Office. Contact the Faith Formation/Youth & Young Adult Ministry 508-678-2828 for more information.

Scripture Alive: Bible Sharing – 4th Letter of the Corinthians will be the focus for 6 Tuesdays beginning **Jan. 10, 2012**, offered from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at St. John Neumann Hall, E. Freetown, MA; or from 7-9 p.m. at the Office of Faith Formation, 423 Highland Ave., Fall River, facilitated by Frances Thomas, RSM. \$20 fee for books and materials, (please bring your own Bible). Bible Sharing necessitates that the group be limited to 15 participants. Please register by contacting the Faith Formation Office at 508-678-2828 or online at www.faitformation.org no later than January 4, 2012.

Divorced-Separated Support Group, Wed., Sept. 12th at 7 p.m. at St. Julie Billiard Parish Center, 494 Slocum Road, North Dartmouth. This 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.

Young Adult Retreat for those College Age to 35 years old who are married or single, at Sacred Hearts Retreat Center in Wareham at 6 p.m. **Fri. Jan. 20th and concluding with lunch on Sun. Jan. 22nd.** The cost is \$150 which includes meals and accommodations. To register visit www.fallriverfaithformation.org. Registration deadline is January 13, 2012.

ST. MARY'S EDUCATION FUND 7th ANNUAL WINTER BRUNCH: Sunday, January 22, 2012, at the Coonamessett Inn at 12:00 Noon. Proceeds benefit the St. Mary's Education Fund which provides "need-based" scholarships to children in need of financial assistance to attend one of the schools of the Diocese of Fall River. Please call Jane Robin at 508-759-3566 for reservations or to make a donation. Tickets: Adults \$25, Youth \$14 (under 13), Kids (under 7) complimentary.

MY ONE WILD and PRECIOUS LIFE: a favorite among women, will be held **January 27-30, 2012** at Miramar Retreat Center in Duxbury, MA. For more information, contact Peggy Patenaude at 508-548-9149, timeoutretreats@comcast.net or visit her website at www.timeoutretreats.com. To register, contact Miramar at 781-585-2460 or at Miramarma@aol.com. **Worldwide Marriage Encounter** - The LORD bless you and keep you! The LORD let his face shine upon you, and be

gracious to you! The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace! Let the Lord's graces pour out on your 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

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.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society of our Parish wishes to thank the staff at the East Bay Surgery Center for all they gave to our Thanksgiving food drive and also for their generosity toward our Giving Tree.



Prayer Shawl Ministry News.....

We hope everyone had a Happy Blessed Christmas. We are resuming our workshops on Tuesday, January 17th and Tuesday January 31st at 1:30 P.M. in the church hall. **All are welcome.** We continue to distribute shawls, lap robes, and chemo caps. If anyone is need of any or these items, please call Claire Morissette at 508-672-0104. Happy New Year to you all.



Congratulations to Matthew Young and Janine Carreiro who were married at St. Francis of Assisi on December 17, 2011. May their marriage be blessed with faith, love, and joy.



We welcome into our faith community Adam Manuel Sousa, son of George and Elizabeth Sousa, Baptized at St. Francis on Sunday, December 4, 2011.

Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God January 1, 2012

It is interesting that today, a day on which we celebrate the feast of Mary, the Mother of God, we hear very little about Mary in the readings.

Mary plays a vital role in Salvation History, and today we celebrate a key part of that role. But when we reflect on what it means for Mary to be the Mother of God, when we ponder her importance in the life of the Church, she brings us back to her Son, the focal point of today's readings, the focal point of Salvation History, the focal point of the Church's life.

Indeed, all of the Church's doctrines pertaining to Mary, while they speak of Marian truths, actually emphasize a truth about Christ and bring us into a deeper understanding of who Christ is, and, we can be sure, that's how Mary would want it to

be. After all, when the angel declared to Mary that she would conceive the Lord and she gave him her "yes," she surrendered her will to the Father. She gave Him her life and became the first disciple — the first steward — living her life in complete selfless service for the Lord.

Her title, "Mother of God," speaks of a profound truth about her Son. It tells us that, from the moment of His conception, Jesus Christ was fully God and fully man. It is a mystery and one we must believe as Catholics. And, today, as we honor Mary for her role in our salvation, we are called to ponder this mystery, to come to a deeper understanding of the reality of the incarnation.

We are also called as stewards to follow in Mary's footsteps. She is the first disciple. And, as Christ's disciple, she has given herself in service to Him. May we all follow suit. Like hers, may our lives be ones that proclaim Christ to others.

Through what we say and do, through the sharing of our time, talent, and treasure, may we bring others closer to Christ, just as Mary does.

**WISHING ALL
OF OUR
FAMILIES
A
HAPPY,
HEALTHY,
AND
PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR**

*ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH
SWANSEA, MA*

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

JANUARY 1, 2012



