

January 22, 2012
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



SATURDAY, January 21

4:00 PM Irene Fairhurst by her family

SUNDAY, January 22

8:00 AM Thomas Storey by his family

9:30 AM Mary Garganta, Everett Dias, Peter Hoss, Miriam Dolan, Catherine Marques, & Leon Wojtowicz

11:00 AM Normand J. Beaulieu by wife Ruth (3rd anniversary)

MONDAY, January 23

9:00 AM Richard P. Roderigues, Sr. by Tony & Judy

TUESDAY, January 24

9:00 AM Joanne S. Silva by Joanne

WEDNESDAY, January 25

9:00 AM Joseph Kulpa by Connie & Al Abdallah

THURSDAY, January 26

9:00 AM William & Irene Mello by their daughter

SATURDAY, January 28

4:00 PM John Carvalho by his family

SUNDAY, January 29

8:00 AM Manuel S. Medeiros by his wife Mabel
 (birthday remembrance)

9:30 AM Arlene White by her family (1st anniversary)

11:00 AM

January Memorial Candles

Sanctuary Lamp in memory of Vincent and Stella Penkala by their daughter.

Tabernacle Candles

Altar Candles

Crucifix Candles

January 15, 2012 Collections:

Budget.....\$ 3,807.20
 Catholic Communication Campaign.....\$ 1,003.23

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

**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.

Daily Mass Snow Storms - Ice Storms

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

Knights of Columbus News

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



Fact: Even though we are in the middle of winter, your GK is already thinking of spring.

The planning has started for our painting and maintenance projects. Your KofC will soon be picking up the paint brushes and giving our beloved church a face lift that would even make Phyllis Diller proud. We have plenty of small easy painting projects that can be done alone or can be a family fun project. **You DO NOT have to be part of any group to help with this effort.** So if you have some spare time and would like to help your church contact Stephen Amaral at 508-567-1900 for more information.

Are you searching for a way to help your church and community? Come join us at our next gathering on **Feb. 6th at 7 p.m.** in the church hall, we may have just what you are looking for. **MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!**



Classes for grades 1 thru 7 are held from 4 – 5 p.m. as follows:

Grades 4 & 5 – Tuesday

Grades 6 & 7 – Wednesday

Grades 1, 2, & 3 – Thursday

Confirmation I and II classes for January will be held today, Sunday, Jan 22nd and

Sunday, Jan. 29th from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

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

St. Francis of Assisi Youth Group

The next Youth Group meeting will be held in the church hall, **tonight, Sunday, January 22nd, 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.

50 WEEK CLUB DRAWING – Congratulations to the January 22nd winner.....Patricia Wood.

Mass Book for 2012 is available to schedule masses for January thru June.. 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.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Pro-Life Hour of Prayer – Sunday, Jan. 22, 2012 at 2 p.m. at Holy Rosary Church, 80 Bay Street, Taunton.

The Pro-Life Committee of the Taunton Deanery invites all to this Pro-Life Hour of Prayer. Service will include exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the Rosary, prayers and a presentation by Gregg Bettencourt. Contact [Holy Rosary Parish 508-823-3046](mailto:HolyRosaryParish@tauntondiocese.org) for more information.

Day of Prayer for the Unborn - On Monday, Jan 23rd, the St. John Neumann Women's Club of East Freetown, MA, with the parish Pro-Life Committee, will have a Day of Prayer for the Unborn. Mass will be a 7:30 a.m., recitation of the rosary at 9:00 a.m., Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:00 p.m., and Benediction at 6:00 p.m. Both organizations would appreciate if you could take the time to stop by sometime during the day. We really would like this day to be well attended.

Divorced-Separated Support Group - Thursday, January 26, 2011 at 7 p.m., St. Julie Billiart Parish Center 494 Slocum Road North Dartmouth. This evening's program is scheduled as an open one to allow those who wish to discuss personal difficulties regarding separation and divorce. 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.

Presentation on Catholicism – All are welcome to take part in a five session **Presentation on Catholicism**, looking at the beauty and truth of the Catholic Faith using the art, architecture, literature, music and the treasures of the Catholic tradition. Each session includes a DVD presentation by Fr. Robert Barron. Join us at **Holy Name Parish Center**, intersection of President Ave. & Stetson St. on Wednesdays Jan. 25, Feb. 1, 8 and 19 and Tuesday, Feb. 28, from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. **Witness the Catholic Faith as you have never seen it before!** For further information, call 508-679-6732.

Life in the Spirit Seminar on Saturday, February 4, 2012 at St. Patrick's Church Hall, 82 High Street, Wareham from 8:30 am-3:30 pm. Brown bag lunch; beverages provided. Join us as we focus on deepening our personal relationship with God. For information, please contact Peggy (508) 295-8165; Robin (508) 295-6650.

A Day with Mary = Saturday, February 4, 2012 at 8:45 a.m. at Our Lady's Chapel. 600 Pleasant St., New Bedford. Come spend a day-or some part of one-with the Blessed Virgin Mother. Program will include a video presentation, procession and crowning of the Blessed Mother along with Mass, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and an opportunity for Reconciliation. Contact [508-996-8274](tel:508-996-8274) for more information.

Open House – St. Michael School, 209 Essex St., Fall River will be holding an Open House on **Tuesday, February 7, 2011 at 9-11 a.m., 2-5 p.m. and 6-8 p.m.** We have a Full Academic Program, the latest technology: Smart Boards & Wireless, Art, Music, Physical Education, NEASC Accreditation, Before & After School Program, Extracurricular & Sports Programs, Family Atmosphere. Please stop by and take a tour. If you cannot make it on Tuesday, Feb. 7th, call us at 508-678-0866 to make an appointment.

Walking on Water with Feet of Clay – Sacred Hearts Retreat/Spirituality Center and the Office of Faith Formation will be offering two retreats, one for men and one for women. The retreats entitled **"Walking on Water – With Feet of Clay"** will be guided by Fr. Stan Kolasa, SSCC and Deacon Bruce Bonneau at the Sacred Hearts Retreat Center, 226 Great Neck Rd., Wareham, MA. **The men's retreat** will be held on the weekend of February 10th – 12th, 2012.

The women's retreat will be held on the weekend of February 17th – 19th, 2012. For more information, call the Retreat Center at 508-295-0100, or visit the Office of Faith Formation website at www.fallriverfaithformation.org.

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. **Classes for the Fall River Deanery will be held from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 pm. in the library at Bishop Connolly High School, Fall River, on February 28th, March 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th.** Conferral of Adult Confirmation will be held on Sunday, June 2, 2012 at St. Mary Cathedral at 6:00 p.m.



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.

Prayer Shawl Ministry News - The next gathering will be on Tuesday Jan. 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 in need of any or these items, please call Claire Morissette at 508-672-0104.

Diocesan Seminarian, Jason Brillhante was ordained to the Transitional Diaconate by Bishop Coleman on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2012 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Fall River. Please keep Jason in your prayers as he continues his preparation to the priesthood.



Parish contriubiton for 2011- If you would like a statement stating your parish contributions for 2011, please fill out the clip-off below and place in the collection

basket. Your statement will be mailed to you *as soon as they are received*. **Note:** If you want your statement to reflect your donations, please be sure to use budget envelopes or a plain white envelope with your name, address and budget number, (if known), on it. Unfortunately, loose checks and will not be reflected on your statement.

2011 Tax Statement

I would like a statement of my contributions for 2011.

Budget Envelope # _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time January 22, 2012

It is important to notice in the First Reading as well as the Gospel how quickly the call of God to Jonah and the early followers of Jesus, respond. Jonah hears the invitation to get up, go, and preach repentance to all the people of a large city. He does that immediately.

The people of this city, after only one day of Jonah's preaching, hear it; they get up, put on garments of penance and change their ways. God hears their response and immediately repents of the threats made through Jonah to the people. We can wonder about what kind of preacher Jonah was and why were the people so easily moved to change and what were they changing from?

Other prophets of the Hebrew Scripture did not experience such radical success. Jeremiah had his hat handed to him and got locked up for his good words. Jonah seems to be a book which models how God can work through human and personal cooperation to bring about order. It is a strange history of God's way with us humans. Some respond to God easily, but others drag their spiritual feet. Some proclaimers of God's word have great success and others moan with discouragement. Some proclaimers get knocked off their horses, get up and give their lives to announcing the goodness of God. Other prophets desire to just sit down and die from the burdens of their call. The various forms of call do encourage us in our variety of responses to the personal ways God calls us.

I was reading a book recently about the history and the impact of commercial advertising in the United States. The author

estimated that each of us is exposed to about five thousand advertisements during each day. He posed that the only way to be free from them is either sleeping or praying. Jesus comes into the lives of four hard-working, not-sleeping or praying men in today's Gospel. He comes as a visual advertisement to their buying into the kingdom. Had they been sleeping, Jesus would have had to pass them by again to invite them. This is a most important aspect of His calling.

We might easily say, that had they been asleep they would have missed Him and their lives would have been so different. Sleeping, inattentiveness, unawareness, and personal density are elements of the human experience which are normal and God visits them reverently, patiently, whispering and sometimes shouting to bring us around. Jesus never could pass by, but once; He is the ever-invitation which just keeps awakening, stimulating, advertising God's existence and love.

As readers of the Gospel, first we are told the message or product being sold and then we hear about the enlisting of the first four salesmen who would be sent out to make the product saleable. They seem so ready, so free to respond. Perhaps they were disenchanted with their humble work. Perhaps the fish weren't biting or nettable that season. Perhaps they had problems with their parents or owners. Whatever the issues were, they jumped up and out and after the Caller.

There seems to be something in the human construction that is "callable" or available or attracted to the beyond, the ultimate; we call that God. Jonah jumped up, even though he had been thrown overboard and left to drown after responding to God's first call. This quartet of fisherers responded not only from the external call of Jesus, but to something deeper inside their souls. Something in them wanted to be called to mystery, mission, and the more of life. They certainly were not totally aware of the changes which the product would require, but they felt something common to all four and common to us. This common sense might be belonging, identity, or a strong sense of importance. The product, the Gospel reverences all that is appropriately human and calls to that. This is "repentance" or the change from pure self involvement to living under the influence of our imbibing the Product.

Many of us do not know exactly why we are Christians and Catholics. We might have some reasons which satisfy, it seems, those who might ask. In truth, it just seems like a good idea, or scheme of good ideas. It seems suitable or fitting. There is just a something inside us, unexplainable, which wants to respond to His call. Now this response is not always consistent, but His call is always in the air surrounding our boats and nets. We pray to stay awake, attentive, aware of life and aware of that receptiveness or contactability within us. The noise of our boats, the entanglements of our nets can deafen that inner sense, but Jesus, like the good advertiser He is, keeps repeating His divine "1-800 number". His call is free and if we buy into the product, we will be free as well.

Larry Gillick, S.J.