

January 8, 2012
The Epiphany of the Lord



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

MONDAY, January 9

9:00 AM Mr. & Mrs. Gerry Fortin by their daughter Collette

TUESDAY, January 10

9:00 AM Loretta Batts Johnson

WEDNESDAY, January 11

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

THURSDAY, January 12

9:00 AM Roger Lamonde by Wanda Peloquin

SATURDAY, January 14

4:00 PM Robert F. McConnell by his wife Veronica

SUNDAY, January 15

8:00 AM Jeannette & Clifford Johnson by their family
 9:30 AM
 11:00 AM Anna Fernandes by her children (5th anniversary)

January Memorial Candles

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

Tabernacle Candles

Altar Candles

Crucifix Candles

January 1, 2012 Collections:

Budget.....\$ 3,186.88
 Initial Envelope Offering.....\$ 825.00

**“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

Cover picture by Gentile da Fabriano (c. 1370 – 1427)



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, Jan. 8th,

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.

ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASSES - The Office of Faith



Formation will be offering Adult Confirmation Classes again this year. Candidates must be 18years 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.

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.

50 WEEK CLUB DRAWING – Congratulations to the January 8th winner.....Antone Miranda.

Dear family,
As we bring our Christmas season to a close, I want to thank all those who made Advent and the Christmas season so beautiful. On a personal note, thanks to all those who sent me Christmas gifts – cards, baked goods, and other gifts. God bless you for your generosity!
With gratitude, Fr. Michael

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

Knights of Columbus News



The Grand Knight's Facts You Didn't Know

Fact: You are all invited to experience an evening of fine Italian cuisine, music, **FREE giveaways**, and much more at our "Knight in Rome" dinner. Even if you did not buy a Rome Raffle ticket you can still be a winner by enjoying a great meal with fellow parishioners. Can you imagine being able to support your church by just eating pasta and meatballs, what a country! We will be selling only 200 tickets for this incredible night to remember, so **SEATING WILL BE LIMITED. Tickets are \$8.00 for Adults and \$20.00 for a family of 4 or more.** The highlight of the evening will be the drawing for the winner of the Rome/\$3000.00 Raffle.

Are you searching for a way to help your church and community? Come join us at our **next gathering on Jan. 15th at 7:00 in the church hall**, we may have just what you are looking for. **MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!**

St. Francis of Assisi Youth Group

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

AROUND THE DIOCESE

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., Jan. 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.

Workshop on Naturalization Process - Thursday, January 19, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. at Holy Name School 850 Pearce St. Fall River. Catholic Social Services is sponsoring this program to assist legal permanent residents in becoming naturalized U.S. citizens. Workshop will offer help on completing applications, preparation for the interview and legal assistance if needed. Those planning to apply should know that each will be responsible for paying the application fee of \$680.00. Please bring your green card for admittance to this workshop. Questions? Call Catholic Social Services at 508-674-4681

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.

RETREATS FOR MEN AND WOMEN

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.

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.



Parish contriubiton for 2011 - If you would like a statement stating your parish contributions for 2011, please fill out the form 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: _____

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 - .Workshops for the month of January will be on **Tuesday, Jan. 17th** and **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 need of any or these items, please call Claire Morissette at 508-672-0104.

The Epiphany of the Lord January 8, 2012

The theme of this Sunday's Scripture readings is two-fold: God manifests Himself, and man responds to that manifestation with gifts of gratitude and conversion of heart.

The Magi, who were likely astrologers and magicians, made the long journey from somewhere far away to see the Savior, and when they saw him, they gave Him themselves. The gold, frankincense and myrrh were likely "tricks of the trade" that they surrendered to the Lord upon meeting Him.

They had an encounter with Christ that fateful day and, upon recognizing him as Lord and Savior, they offered Him the gifts of themselves. Then, the Gospel tells us, they departed from another way.

Such language tells us, not simply that the Magi traveled home on a different route, but on a deeper level, that their lives were changed that day. Their encounter with Christ made a huge

impact on their lives, calling them to give of themselves and then to live the remainder of their lives accordingly.

Their story is a great example to all of us. It speaks of some universal truths.

God manifests himself in innumerable ways. We see Him in the beauty and wonder of creation, we see him in the goodness of others, and we see his goodness in the many gifts we have been given – all of which come by way of gift from Him. As stewards, we are called to recognize His greatness and His generosity and respond to Him in gratitude, offering Him the first fruits of our time, talent, and treasure. In this, we offer Him the gift of ourselves, much like the Magi.

God became man so that we might have salvation. He offered us the greatest possible gift, and, through our gifts of time, talent, and treasure, we respond with gratitude for the gifts He has given. He has given Himself, and we give Him ourselves in return.

This exchange leads to a conversion of heart. As the first reading tells us, "Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow."

Having recognized and received God's gifts gratefully, our lives should become a witness to others as we share the gifts He has given us. We call others to Him hoping that, through the way we live our lives others might encounter Christ and be changed.

As Christian stewards, we live for God. Everything we do and say ought to proclaim the Gospel and bring others closer to Christ so that one day, as the psalmist sings "Every nation on Earth will adore" Him.

God has given each one of us many good gifts. As stewards, let us use the gifts He has given us – our time, our talent, and our treasure – at home, at church, at work, and wherever else we find ourselves, to glorify Him and, in so doing, call others to encounter Christ and live for Him.

Msgr. Thomas McGread



*St. Francis of Assisi Parish ~ Swansea, MA
The Epiphany of the Lord
January 8, 2012*



*They came bearing gifts
of
gold, frankincense,
and myrrh*