

November 27, 2011
First Sunday of Advent



SATURDAY, November 26

4:00PM John V. Medeiros

SUNDAY, November 27

8:00 AM Joey Gonsalves, III by his parents

9:30 AM Carol Berard by Ron & Edith Courville

11:00 AM Joao & Belmira Moreira by daughter & son-in-law

MONDAY, November 28

9:00 AM Harold Hodgkinson by his wife and family

TUESDAY, November 29

9:00 AM James Bird by his wife & family (15th anniversary)

WEDNESDAY, November 30

9:00 AM John & Edward Mello by Pauline Golden & family

THURSDAY, December 1

9:00 AM Antone Botelho by the Brodeur Family

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

November Memorial Candles

Sanctuary Lamp in memory of Joseph & Hilda Estrella by their family,

Tabernacle Candles in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Kern by Elizabeth & Don Roussel.

Altar Candles in memory Mary & Herman Costa by their granddaughter Mary Ann & David Tuttle.

Crucifix Candles in memory of Nelson C. Mello by his Mom and Dad.

November 20, 2011 Collections:

Budget.....\$ 3,894.92

2nd Collection – Monthly I.M.E.....\$ 1,345.05

Reminder: Second collection next week end will be for the Monthly I.M.E. Fund.

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

Family Life Committee

“TODAY”, Nov. 27th at 12 noon

“Advent Wreath Making and Soupfest Luncheon”



Come kick off the Advent season by making an Advent wreath with your family. All supplies, plus a delicious lunch, will be provided.

Advance registration and a **\$10.00 fee per family**, for supplies, is required.. Donations of hard candy, sugar-free candy are needed to make our gifts for the residents of Clifton Nursing Home.

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 are 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

The 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



Remembrance Book will be placed in front of the church to enter the names of loved ones who have passed away. Names previously entered do not

need to be entered again. All names entered in the book are remembered during the month of November.

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.

50 WEEK CLUB DRAWING – Congratulations to the November 27th winner.....Amy Golden

Knights of Columbus News

The Grand Knight's Facts You Didn't Know



Fact: There is still time to **save your loose change** and get in on the chance of a life time to win a trip to Rome or \$3000.00. With just 6 weeks left to buy a winning ticket, that's \$3.34 a week till the end of Dec. That's a large coffee at Dunkin Donuts, a pack of cigarettes, and a few days of not buying scratch tickets. Small price to pay for a chance of a life time and to **HELP YOUR CHURCH!!**

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!!!**

Faith Formation



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 on held in the church hall on Sunday, Dec. 4, 2011 from 12 noon to 6 p.m.. Please keep these young men and women in your prayers.

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.



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 donated items will be located at church entrances.

Annual November Brown Bag Sundays

The holidays are fast approaching. Our St. Vincent De Paul Society is asking for non-perishable food donations to replenish their food pantry and also to provide Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners to needy families. You may bring your donations to the church entrances at any weekend Mass or daily Mass.



Food Pantry
Donations Needed

Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated to defray the cost of turkeys and perishable fruits and vegetables. Mark your donation envelope **BROWN BAG DONATION** and you may deposit it in the Sunday collection basket. If you are a family in need please call the rectory at 508-673-2808, give your first name and telephone number and the St Vincent de Paul Society will be notified.

The results for the Walk for the Poor are finally in, and our parish is to be congratulated for the outstanding results we achieved. We are **NUMBER ONE** again in the Fall River Deanery; most money raised (\$2,194.25), highest number of walkers (17). The generosity of our parishioners is second to none. These funds will be utilized to relieve suffering in the greater Fall River area. Thank you to all who participated in any way.

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.

Catholic High School

Application Day



Catholic High Schools in the Diocese of Fall River, **Bishop Connolly, Fall River; Bishop Feehan, Attleboro; Pope John Paul II, Hyannis; Bishop Stang, North**

Dartmouth; Coyle-Cassidy, Taunton, will accept applications and administer an Entrance Examination for new students on **Saturday, Dec. 3rd** with the make-up exam on **Saturday, Dec. 10th**. Students wishing to enter any of these schools next September should report to the school of their choice on the dates and times as follows: **Entrance Exam Dates at all schools:** Dec. 3rd & Dec. 10th; **Arrival Time at all schools:** 7:45 a.m.; **Testing Time at all schools:** 8:00 a.m.

The examination and application procedure will last until approximately 11:30 a.m. There will be a \$20.00 fee, payable at the time of application. The students need bring no records with them, nor do the parents have to accompany them. Complete information as to courses, activities, financial aid, etc. will be given at the time of the examination.

St. Mary's Fund Education Fall Dinner Wednesday, Nov. 30th at 5:30 p.m. Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer and historian Doris Kearns Goodwin will be this year's guest speaker. Proceeds benefit the St. Mary's Education Fund, which provides need-based scholarships to students attending Catholic elementary and middle schools in the Diocese. Reception begins at 5:30 p.m.; an elegant, multi-course meal will follow. Contact for more information.

November 27, 2011 First Sunday of Advent

In the First Reading Israel makes some dramatic statements: some are pleas, some chide God, and some are humble reflections on their own guilt and shame. When all is said, much is needed to be done.

Israel experiences itself as distant from God and pleads that God would look down from heaven and come right down here and change our behavior.

There is a hint that it is actually God's fault that Israel has wandered away and been so sinful. If God were closer, Israel would be better. And for all their mild and prayerful complaining, the Prophet Isaiah does recall the name of God in Israel is "Abba" and "Potter". Israel, who was created as God's people, now admits it needs to be refashioned, renamed and recreated.

There is a strong sense of longing to belong again in this reading. There are some pitiful cries for God to not seem so far away, but return to the intimacy of ages past. Our human condition is equally scattered and we're quite unsure to what or whom we belong. Our personal prayer is that of all humanity as well, "Why do you let us wander?" "Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down."

The Gospel is a section from Mark's lead-up to Christ's Passion. The entire chapter deals with the ending of things. For all the images of coming disasters possible, Jesus is exhorting His followers to states of readiness: "Be watchful. Be alert." "Watch!" These are strong words which catch the ear of His disciples. They are also words by which Jesus Himself has lived His personal mission of redeeming this world. Awareness can be a function of fear, but also of love. If being redeemed is our final end and if Jesus' mission was to redeem us and bring us all back to the Hands of the "potter" - the Creator - then fear of His coming is not the final disaster, but the final revelation of God's creative love.

Jesus uses a little image which is important, but can be easily overlooked. Jesus uses the image of a land owner who goes on a journey, but leaves his servants, "each with his own work" to do. The challenge is not just to stay awake, but awake so as to do the work of bringing light and life to God's world. Waiting and watching out of fear is passive and paralyzing. Waiting in faith is eager and exciting. We can wait expecting to be caught, or expecting to be caught up in our part in His coming into this world.

Now that I admit to being a bit older, I am waiting more actively for Christmas and enjoying Advent more. As a younger person Advent was easily endured, because I had my eyes on the prizes of Christmas underneath the largest Christmas tree my father could convince my mother to allow in the house. Emptiness in our living room was replaced with branches whose fullness promised completion. Darkness was replaced by as many lights as our electrical system would permit. Silence was moved out by carols and stories of the old times. We kids enjoyed it all of course, but it was all about having and waiting for more.

I sound like an old fuddy now, but what I ask of Christmas has changed and the days bringing Christmas to me are different. There is the song from the musical play, *Mame*, whose main line is, "We need a little Christmas, right this very minute". Before I need Christmas, I need a little emptiness, darkness and silence. These Advent days do get busier, packed, brighter and louder. What I need is some sense that I need an experience of being redeemed, recreated, renamed, and reborn. I would like to be more watchful and alert to how loved I am and how many ways there are to bring Christ to life in the world around me.

. So stay awake, alert and watchful for what's coming and who's coming next.

Larry Gillick, S.J.



MASS PRAYERS AND RESPONSES

(Text in bold represents the wording that has changed in the Roman Missal)

GREETING:

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with your spirit.**

PENITENTIAL ACT (FORM A)

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have **greatly sinned,**

STRIKING YOUR BREAST, SAY:

**through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;**
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

PENITENTIAL ACT (FORM B)

Priest: **Have mercy on us, O Lord.**

People: **For we have sinned against you.**

Priest: **Show us, O Lord, your mercy.**

People: And grant us your salvation.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and **on earth peace to people of good will.**

We praise you,

we bless you,

we adore you,

we glorify you,

we give you thanks **for your great glory,**

Lord God, heavenly King,

O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ,

Only Begotten Son,

Lord God, Lamb of God,

Son of the Father,

you take away the **sins** of the world, have mercy on us:

you take away the sins of the world,

receive our prayers,

you are seated at the right hand of the Father,

have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

Amen

DIALOGUE AT THE GOSPEL

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People **And with your spirit.**

Priest: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to N.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

NICENE CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all **things visible and invisible.**

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only **Begotten** Son of God, **born** of the Father **before all ages.**

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, **consubstantial** with the Father; through him all things were made, for us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, **and by** the Holy Spirit **was incarnate** of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, **he suffered death** and was buried, **and rose again on the third day,** in **accordance with** the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, **who** with the Father and the Son **is adored** and glorified, **who** has spoken to the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.

I **confess** one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins **and I look forward to** the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, (AT THE WORDS THAT FOLLOW UP TO AND INCLUDING the Virgin Mary, WE BOW)

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended **into hell**; on the third day, he rose again **from the dead**;

(OVER)

he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of **God** the Father **almighty from there** he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

INVITATION TO PRAYERS

Priest: Pray brethren (brothers and sisters) that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

People: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his **holy** Church.

PREFACE DIALOGUE

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with your spirit.**

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right and just.**

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of **hosts**.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Priest: The mystery of faith.

People:

(A) **We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.**

or (B) **When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.**

or (C) **Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.**

SIGN OF PEACE

Priest: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **And with your spirit.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Priest: **Behold** the Lamb of God, **behold** him who takes away the sins of the world.

Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

People: Lord I am not worthy **that you should enter under my roof**, but only say the Word and my soul shall be healed.

CONCLUDING RITES

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with your spirit.**