

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 3

4:30pm Ronald W. Anderson

Requested by family

Sunday, December 4

8:00am Gloria Carney

Requested by Jeff & Kathleen Carney

10:00am

12:00nn Dagmar Pucella Pignatano

Requested by family

Monday, December 5

7:00am Walter DiPrete

Requested by wife

Tuesday, December 6

7:00am Joseph Costanza

Requested by son

Wednesday, December 7

7:00am Mass for the People

Thursday, December 8-Immaculate Conception

Holy Day of Obligation

7:00am Special Intention

12:00nn Clara Latowski

Requested by family

6:30pm Calvito Family

Requested by Theresa Ramieri

Friday, December 9

7:00am Rita & Tom O'Rourke & Warren Behie

Requested by family

Saturday, December 10

4:30pm Robert Wilson

Requested by wife, Concetta

Sunday, December 11

8:00am James & Sarah Folcarelli

Requested by family

10:00am

12:00nn Perpetual Mass Association Members



St. Romuald Chapel Mass Intentions

Sunday, December 4

10:00am Robert Alarie

Requested by the Hood family

Sunday, December 11

10:00am Robert Alarie

Requested by Margie & Jerry Swanson



For Your Information

SANCTUARY LAMP

This week's sanctuary lamp at St. Francis Church burns in memory of Gloria Carney.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Thursday, December 8

Holy Day of Obligation

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception commemorates the conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the womb of her mother, Saint Ann. In view of the saving merits of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God the Father preserved Mary from the stain of original sin so that she could perfectly carry out his will in bearing the Messiah. The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is a *Holy Day of Obligation*. **Masses on Thursday, December 8th will be at: 7:00am, 12:00NN and 6:30pm at St. Francis Church.**

THE GIVING TREE



The Giving trees are now up in St. Francis and St. Romuald. If you feel that you can share the gift of giving this Advent/Christmas season, take a tag from the tree and bring back your gift unwrapped and place it under the tree, *no later than next Sunday, December 11th* (*Gift cards should be placed in collection baskets or brought to the rectory—please do not place them under the tree*). Gifts will be distributed the week of *December 12th*. Thank you.

THE SOCIAL OUTREACH COMMITTEE will meet on Tuesday, December 6 at 6:00pm in Hellen Bouchard Hall.

PARISH SUPPORT

Weekly Support

Budget envelopes used (242)	-	\$6,112.00
Loose Donations	-	\$1,231.50
Online Giving (# of donors-52)	-	\$1,491.50
Total Budget	-	\$8,835.00

Campaign for Human Development

Budget envelopes used (147)	-	\$1,822.00
Other Donations	-	\$ 393.00
Total Monthly Collection	-	\$2,215.00

Weekly Support

Budget envelopes used (270)	-	\$6,880.00
Loose Donations	-	\$1,171.50
Online Giving (# of donors-53)	-	\$1,334.50
Total Budget	-	\$9,386.00

Did you know that our average weekly expenses total approximately \$14,000.00?

This week's second collection is the Monthly Collection. Next week's second collection is for the Retired Religious Fund.

As always, thank you for your continued generosity.

From the Pastor

On Monday evening, thirty of our young parishioners and their families will gather in the parish church to celebrate the sacrament of Penance. This will be the first time for the second graders.

All seven of the sacraments of the Church work in the same way: they continue the work that the Lord Jesus did in his earthly ministry and they make visible, audible, tangible what the Lord is doing at that moment through the power of the Holy Spirit. In our Catholic tradition we say that “the sacraments effect what they signify.”

The sacrament of Penance makes little sense unless we recognize the Church as the Body of Christ. My sins affect my relationship not only with Jesus in heaven but also with his body on earth, the Church. The scriptures portray the Church as the Bride of Christ, with whom he has become “one flesh.” I am united with Christ by being incorporated into his body, the Church. If our sins separated us only from the heavenly Jesus, we could confess to him alone; since our sins separate us also from his body, the Church, the sacrament reconciles us with the whole Christ, in heaven and on earth.

There is no need for anyone to bear the weight of guilt alone; Christ died for our sins and has given the Church the ministry of dispensing this forgiveness, reconciliation and healing. Every parish has regularly scheduled times for confession. At St. Francis confessions are from 3:30-4pm every Saturday. Other parishes in the area have similar opportunities available. What a great way of readying ourselves for the coming of Christ!

Fr. Bodah

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“Not by appearance shall he judge, nor by hearsay shall he decide. But he shall judge the poor with justice and decide aright for the land’s afflicted. He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. Justice shall be the band around his waist, and faithfulness a belt upon his hips... When John the Baptizer made his appearance as a preacher in the desert of Judea, this was his theme ‘Reform your lives. The reign of God is at hand.’”



If the Kingdom of God is at hand, what must I do to make it real in my life? What can I do to build that kingdom now? How often Jesus taught using parables to tell us what the kingdom of heaven, what the kingdom of God is like. It is found today in our church. *Advent summons us to listen and recognize that the kingdom is here and we are to make it apparent. ‘Come Lord Jesus.’*



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

CLASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 4th

8:50-9:50am GRADES K,1 & 2 (FGC)

10:00 Children’s Liturgy of the Word during Mass

10:50-11:50am GRADES 3-6 (FGC)

10:50-11:50am GRADE 7 (Upper Room FGC)

7-8:30pm High School Youth Night

Monday December 5th

First Reconciliation for our First Eucharist students and their families at 6pm in the church.

Wednesday, December 7th

4:15-5:15 Grades 3-6 (FGC)

7:00-8:15 Grades 7 and 8 (FGC)



St. Francis’ Little Friends

Child Care for children from **infant to 4 years old** will be available every

Sunday during the 10am Mass in the lower church.

PLEASE CALL BARBETTE CULLEN OR DIANE CASTRO AT 792-8684 FOR MORE INFORMATION.



DID YOU KNOW? This

past summer we installed a baby changing station in the women’s rest room in the lower church, a welcome addition for our families!

This Week

Sunday, December 4
7-8:30pm Youth Night (FGC)

Monday, December 5
7:30am Adoration (SF)

6:30pm Event Committee (FGC)

Tuesday, December 6
5:30-6:30pm Children's Choir Rehearsal (loft)

6:00pm Social Outreach Committee (HBH)

6:30pm "Coping With the Holidays" (rectory)

7pm Choir Rehearsal (loft)

7:00pm Bible Study (↓FGC)

Thursday, December 8

Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation) see first page for Mass times

7:30pm Young Adult Catholics (↑FGC)

Friday, December 9

7:00pm Parenting Group (FGC-3rd floor)



RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS-DECEMBER 11

Your donation works for aging religious. "I read that roughly 95 percent of donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious aid senior religious," a donor writes. "That's wonderful when we truly want our donations to *work*." Your gift works for elderly religious by helping to furnish medications, nursing care, and more. Please support next week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious, and give to those who have given a lifetime.

Drawing Contest

The Office of Vocations invites all elementary and middle school students to submit drawings for the Vocations Drawing Contest. Last year, the Office of Vocations received close to 1,000 entries in the contest and we once again are offering this popular and fun way to begin a discussion about vocations.



The contest invites students to think about how a priest or religious sister or brother serves others. This could be in the celebration of the sacraments, teaching, counseling, praying with them, to give just a few examples. **All entries are due by December 21, 2016.** Winners will receive a certificate and \$50 gift card. For more information please contact Christina Moynihan at 783-4411.

THANK YOU FROM THE SOCIAL OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Social Outreach committee would like to thank our parish family for your generous response to our recent Thanksgiving Food Drive. As a parish we collected over 400 pounds of food in two week-ends. The Jonnycake Center of Peace Dale will use our food donations to feed hundreds of families during the holidays. Our faith reminds us that the greatest blessing comes in sharing what we have with others. **Thank you again for your continued generosity!**

CALLING ALL YOUNG ADULT CATHOLICS (Ages 25-35) Thurs., December 8: Upper room Father Green Center Following the 6:30pm Mass for the Feast of The Immaculate Conception

No matter what your vocation: single, married, with children, religious...You are invited to a casual forum filled with food, fellowship, and friends all focusing on Faith. Your presence will contribute to a safe and optimistic space where people your age can share spirituality. Your voice will be represented in our Pastoral Council meetings. For more information email reaper_alucard@yahoo.com.

Our Lady of Sorrows Bereavement Support Program Tuesday, December 6 @ 6:30pm "Coping with the Holidays"

The Our Lady of Sorrows Bereavement Support Program provides a peaceful group environment for adults who have experienced the death of a loved one. This Bereavement Support Group is a place for Catholics to learn about grief, share their experiences and feelings with other, and a place to seek the spiritual support and comfort offered through our Catholic faith. The meetings are most appropriate for adults who are at least three months beyond their loss. Join us on Tuesday, December 6 @ 6:30pm in the rectory to focus on coping with holidays. With support and God's grace, you can begin to have healing in your journey of grief. Any questions contact Christina Moynihan at 783-4411.

HOLIDAY MUSIC FESTIVAL Sunday, December 11th : 1 to 2:30pm Father Green Center



Joy to the World!

Come begin your Holiday Season with the A Capella sounds of THE ALLEY CATS and the creative talents of Mark Bode! Refreshments provided!



HOLIDAY SALE of Artisan Creations from Haiti Sat. & Sun.: December 17th & 18th (After All Masses)

All the proceeds of these sales benefit 360 students in Port-au-Prince, Haiti...

UNIQUE GIFTS INCLUDE:

- ◆ Handmade Jewelry: (Earrings & Necklaces) Cows' Horns, Crystal
- ◆ Up-Cycled, Recycled Grocery Sacks, Book Bags, Beach Bags
- ◆ Used Petroleum Barrel Metal Art
- ◆ Greeting Cards

FOR SALE: 128 PIECE LIMOGES CHINA

"Haviland and Company, Limoges for Tilden-Thurber Company" Porcelain with gold trim. Set includes 4 piece set for 12, serving platters, tea cups, casserole dish, bread, salad, and dessert plates, etc. Come by the office to view display set. All offers considered. For more information contact Christina Moynihan at 783-4411.