

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD



Mass Intentions

SOLEMNITY OF MARY THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Saturday, December 31

4:30 pm Clara E. Latowski

Requested by family

Sunday, January 1

8:00am Rose & James Gilgun

Requested by family

10:00am

12:00nn Anthony Ramieri

Requested by wife and children

Monday, January 2

7:00am Carolyn Draper

Requested by friend

Tuesday, January 3

7:00am Mass for the People

Wednesday, January 4

7:00am The Murphy Family

Requested by Gerard X. Murphy

Thursday, January 5

7:00am Fr. Robert Randall

In Celebration of his 90th birthday

Friday, January 6

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

Requested by family

Saturday, January 7

4:30 pm Domenic Capalbo, Jr.

Requested by Dennis & Anna DeLuca

Sunday, January 8

8:00am Donia Nigrelli

Requested by family

10:00am Archie Kenyon

12:00nn Jason Drury, 1st anniversary remembrance

Requested by Aunt Vicky



St. Romuald Chapel Mass Intentions

SOLEMNITY OF MARY THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Saturday, December 31

4:00pm *Mass by way of exception—open to the public*

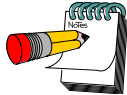
Sunday, January 1

10:00am Robert Alarie

Requested by James & Marsha Corcoran

Sunday, January 8

10:00am Jane Benz



For Your Information



**Good news and great joy to all the world:
today is born our Savior,
Christ the Lord.**

Please join us for our
Christmas Pageant
Next Sunday, January 8th at 11:00
in Fr. Greenan Parish Center
followed by light refreshments.
All are welcome!



Come & Behold Him

A festival of lessons and carols

**The Saint Francis of Assisi Choir,
with orchestra**

Next Sunday, January 8 at 3:00pm

(In the church)

Free Admission—Donations Accepted

Contact information for further inquiry:
StFrancisWakefieldMusic@gmail.com



PARISH SUPPORT

Weekly Support

Budget envelopes used (242)	-	\$6,633.00
Loose Donations	-	\$3,940.00
Online Giving (# of donors-54)	-	\$1,279.50
Total Budget	-	\$11,852.50

Christmas Collection

Budget envelopes used (298)	-	\$13,349.00
Other Donations	-	\$ 1,904.00
Total Collection	-	\$15,253.00

Christmas Flowers - \$2,297.00

This week's second collection is for Solemnity of Mary. Next week's second collection is the Ongoing Maintenance.

As always, thank you for your continued generosity.

JANUARY 1, 2017

From the Pastor

As one year ends and another begins, I'd like to say a word of thanks to the parish staff for their year-round service to all of us.

Deacon Patrick Moynihan, although his work with the Haitian Project frequently keeps him away, has done all the baptisms, with their attendant preparation, which has been an invaluable help to me. He has also been able to preach on several occasions: always a nice change for everyone.

Christina Moynihan, the parish Pastoral Assistant, has done a monumental job in providing so many opportunities for people to get more involved in parish life. She has spent many hours preparing for several series of talks and events, for example: the family Masses with their receptions; the Better Part series on spiritual formation; the Affairs of the Arts series, drawing on the skills of our parishioners. All these in addition to her work behind the scenes such as visiting the sick and shut-ins, arranging for and working with Bonnie Ingalls and others on the landscaping around the statue of Our Lady outside the church. I have seen how often parishioners call the rectory and ask to speak with Christina because she had reached out to them in their sickness or need.

I wrote in this column on October 30 about our new secretary, Jacki Hunt, and our new bookkeeper, Mary Clarke. I can only repeat here my gratitude for the skills they bring to their positions and what an asset they've been to the parish.

In the same column I thanked Bobby Kelly, who has maintained our properties for the last 30 years. He's worth his weight in gold.

Barbette Cullen and Diane Castro have overseen the catechesis of our younger parishioners for years. Anyone who has had children in our religious education program can testify to their tireless work and their upbeat spirits.

Stephen Higgins and Karen Graham are directors of music at the church and the chapel respectively. Probably no one has a greater impact on the quality of our liturgical celebrations except the celebrants. We are blessed to have two excellent musicians who serve us faithfully each weekend and provide music for all our weddings and funerals.

Bill Harding, although he attends all our biweekly staff meetings, gives all his time in running the chapel as a gift to the parish. Space does not permit me to sing Bill's praises for all he does for our parish even beyond running the chapel, including bringing communion to the sick.

Our latest cemetery director, Carol McDole, has been a godsend. She runs the cemetery with efficiency and deals with people in grief situations with true pastoral consideration. I can't thank her enough for all that she's brought to our team.

Last but certainly not least is Ute Porcelli, the rectory housekeeper. She takes care of all the physical details of the rectory and parish offices, which allows me and the staff to focus on service to the parishioners. Ute was away for the summer and I certainly felt her absence. God bless the work!

Fr. Bodah

BETTER PART PROGRAM

The Perfect Guide: The Holy Spirit's Role in My Life"

You are invited to enjoy the spiritual journey of one of our own

WHO: Seminarian Dan Mahoney

WHEN: Thursday, January 5th at 6:30pm

WHERE: Father Greenan Center

Dan has been a parishioner since 1999, age 12. He has been involved with youth ministry at St. Francis as well as being a catechist for the Confirmation program for many years. Dan served one year on a NET Ministries team (2007/2008) and entered the minor seminary of Our Lady of Providence in 2013.



**RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION CLASSES**

**NO CLASSES TODAY
NO CHILDREN'S LITURGY
TODAY**

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Wednesday, January 4th
4:15-5:15pm Grades 3-6 (FGC)
7-8:15pm Grades 7 & 8 (FGC)

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
REHEARSAL**

Friday, January 6th
from 4-5:30

and

Saturday, January 7th from 10:00-
11:00
in Fr. Greenan Hall



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
Next Sunday, January 8th
Grades 3-6 classes will attend
in FGC at 11:00
All are welcome!!

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

This Week

Monday, January 2

NO ADORATION

PARISH OFFICES CLOSED

Tuesday, January 3

6:00pm Social Outreach Committee (FGC)

7:00pm Bible Study (↓FGC)

Thursday, January 5

6:30pm Better Part Program with Dan Mahoney (↓FGC)

7:00pm Men of St. Joseph (FGC-Foyer)

NO PRAYER SHAWL MEETING THIS MONTH



BABY SHOWER

The Social Outreach Committee is sponsoring the *Baby Shower 2017* for the month of January. Please bring unwrapped items such as diapers, toiletries, sleepers & toddler clothes. Please place donations at the entrance of the church and chapel. The agencies benefitted are: The Gabriel Project, The Pregnancy Center of Westerly, and Right to Life Services, Inc. Any questions, please contact Anne Cooney at 783-7034.

GIVING TREE THANK YOU

Thank you to the parish for your tremendous support of the Giving Tree. Again this year St. Francis of Assisi Church reached out to those families who were helped by the Diocesan Office of Community Services in the past year. Your generosity towards those in our community who are in need helped provide Christmas gifts for more than 70 families and over 200 children! The Social Outreach Committee would also like to thank the parish families with young children who helped us set up. Merry Christmas and God Bless.



PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE...



THE VISITATION PROGRAM

We, Friends of St. Francis, are committed to creating and nurturing strong, stable, safe and reliable relationships with adults and caregivers.

Our home visits are meant to continue the tradition of charitable and compassionate care for the community members of St. Francis of Assisi parish.

Please call the rectory to recommend family, friends, or parishioners who are unable to get out and about. Our companions will reach out, visit, and develop relationships with those in need of comfort and care.

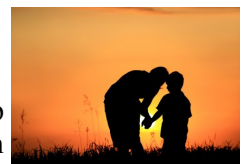
STEUBENVILLE EAST YOUTH CONFERENCE

Registration for the 2017 Steubenville East Youth Conference to be held on July 14-16 at the UMass, Lowell Campus will open up in mid-January. Our teens get a lot out of this weekend. Here are some of their reflections: "It was nothing like I expected. I felt so close and connected to God." "I definitely feel like a stronger Catholic and I think as many people that have the option to come should." Each year we reserve spots for our teenagers who are current 8-12th grade students. We are trying to get a feel for how many spots to reserve so if you are interested in participating, contact the Religious Education Office before January 7th. At this point, you are not under any obligation to attend.

ST. FRANCIS PARENTING GROUP MEETING

The St. Francis Parenting Group will meet on Friday, January 13th at 7:00pm in Fr. Greenan Center.

This month's topic is Catholic Apologetics. All couples are welcome!



"The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger; once they saw, they understood what had been told them concerning this child. All who heard of it were astonished at the report... Mary treasured all these things and reflected on them in her heart."