

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Mass Intentions



Saturday, November 26

4:30pm James DeLuca, Sr.

Requested by family

Sunday, November 27

8:00am Mass for the People

10:00am Palmiotto & Martiniano families

Requested by family

12:00nn

Monday, November 28

7:00am Rev. Michael L. Ryan

7th Pastor—64th Anniversary

Tuesday, November 29

7:00am Anthony Guarriello

Requested by wife

Wednesday, November 30

7:00am Rev. William J. McCombe

1st Pastor—118th Anniversary

Thursday, December 1

7:00am John Capuano

Requested by Roger & Mary Grace Hood

Friday, December 2

7:00am Rev. Robert A. Allaire

13th Pastor—12th Anniversary

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



St. Romuald Chapel Mass Intentions

Sunday, November 27

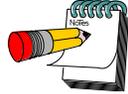
10:00am Robert Alaire

Requested by a friend

Sunday, December 4

10:00am Robert Alarie

Requested by the Hood family



For Your Information

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the proud parents and godparent of Wyatt Frederick Straight who was baptized at St. Francis Church on Sunday, November 13 by Deacon Patrick Moynihan. Your parish family rejoices with you!



*Baptized into
God's Family*



THE 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.**

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.

PARISH SUPPORT

This information was not available due to early transmittal of this bulletin. It will be included in next week's bulletin.

Did you know that our average yearly expense for National Grid Gas is \$8,404.00?

There is no second collection this week. Next week's second collection is the Monthly Collection.

As always, thank you for your continued generosity.

From the Pastor

Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, this issue of the bulletin has to go to the printers on Friday, November 18. So, by the time you read this Thanksgiving will have passed and we'll be starting a new liturgical year with the first Sunday of Advent.

We have much to be thankful for here in St. Francis parish. I am especially grateful to two groups of people: the staff, who work so diligently for not a lot of money, and the volunteers, without whose generous contribution of time we could not continue the services we offer to the parishioners and to the public. God bless them all and give them the reward of their labors!

It's certainly true that generous people make the world a better place. You may have noticed that after last year's increased-giving efforts, the first collection on the weekends rose significantly. Now, as so often happens, it's beginning to decline again. Last year we came in below budget due to two factors: your generosity and our reduction of expenses. If we hope to continue this good outcome, we need everyone *at least to maintain* the level of giving they promised in the fall of 2015. My first desire is not that people give more, but that more people give. Still, it falls to those of us who care, to take up the slack. For example, what we charge parents for religious education covers about 20% of the expenses of that program alone and provides nothing for anything else it takes to run a parish. I have pointed out before that we have 1900 registered households and yet only around 300 household give us anything that we can measure through the use of budget envelopes or online giving. Parishes that wish to survive and thrive must have the support of the people who belong to that community of faith.

The new liturgical year is a good time to renew ourselves as believing and practicing Catholics. As the great Epistle to the Hebrews 10:39 puts it: "We are not among those who draw back and are lost, but among those who keep faith and live!"

A very happy Advent to all!

Fr. Bodah

First Sunday of Advent

"You know the time in which we are living. It is now the hour for you to wake from sleep, for our salvation is closer than when we first accepted the faith... Let us cast off the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the desires of the flesh."

We are encouraged to begin this new period of advent with an eager enthusiasm, seeking ways to discover the presence of the Christ of history, as well as the Christ who is and is coming. Advent summons us to look with a new set of eyes at what the coming of Christ means for us in 2016.

He comes in the gift of friends. He comes in the gift of prayer. He comes from those in need who ask us to be light to overcome their darkness. As daylight grows short, may we be light for others to see that the coming of the Lord is important to us all. We pray the words of Revelation 'Come Lord Jesus.'



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Sunday, November 27th

NO SUNDAY CLASSES
No Children's Liturgy of the Word today.

There will be no St Francis' Little Friends child care during 10am Mass

Wednesday, November 30th

4:15-5:15 Grades 3-6 (FGC)
Catechist Meeting for Advent after class at 5:20 FGC
7-8:15PM Grades 7 & 8 (FGC)

First Reconciliation Retreat is this **Saturday, December 3rd from 9-12 noon.** All students **must** be accompanied by a parent or guardian.. **First Reconciliation** will be on **Monday December 5th at 6pm in the church.**



Calling all High School Teens

We will be preparing Christmas cookies at our next high school youth night on Sunday, December 4th at 7pm in Fr. Greenan Center. The cookies will be distributed to families in our parish and local community.

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, November 27

1-3pm Advent Wreath Workshop (↓FGC)

Monday, November 28

7:30am Adoration (SF)

Tuesday, November 29

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

7pm Choir Rehearsal (loft)

7:00pm Bible Study (↓FGC)

Wednesday, November 30

5:30pm The Troubadours (↑FGC)

Thursday, December 1

6:30pm Prayer Shawl Group (MCCR)

7:00pm Men of St. Joseph (↓FGC)



Join The Troubadours

All 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th Graders are Welcome

Introduction Meeting: Wednesday, November 30th

5:30 to 6:45pm (Father Greenan Center)

Parents and children are welcome to attend and participate in a "preview" session.

Just like our patron saint, Francis of Assisi, we will celebrate God's gifts by: Praising, Singing, Dancing and Dramatizing. All lessons are based on Jesus' Parables.

Our goal is a Parish Performance for all to enjoy!

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.

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.



THE GIVING TREE

This Sunday, November 27th is the first Sunday of Advent and our 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 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.

WARM CENTER

The WARM Center in Westerly, RI, and the Welcome House of South County, in Peace Dale are agencies available that provide a variety of services to men, women, and families in South County, RI, and in Southeastern CT. Some of the services include providing emergency shelter, food, clothing, employment preparation, transitional and supportive housing programs, as well as a number of other services.

They reach out to landlords & property managers in the community who may have affordable housing and work to identify appropriate candidates to refer to them with the goal of supporting successful long-term tenancy. They currently assist several families in the Washington County area in their search for affordable year round housing and have been finding it to be an extremely challenging task.

If you have any questions contact Hattie Fairbanks at 401-596-9276 ext. 109 or by email hfairbanks@warmshelter.org.

