

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 8

5:30pm Joseph "Pippy" Boragine
Requested by family

Sunday, January 9

8:00am Special Intention
*Requested by Sisters Janet,
Martha and Monika*

10:00am David Smith
Requested by family

12:00pm Oscar Newton
Requested by Theresa Newton

Monday, January 10

7:00am Kerri Bessette
Requested by Mom, Dad and Scott

Tuesday, January 11

7:00am Mary and Joseph Costanza
Requested by family

Wednesday, January 12

7:00am Albert Coon
Requested by The Byrne family

Thursday, January 13

7:00am Irene Zarski
Requested by Jim & Susan Meehan

Friday, January 14

7:00am Eleanor Congdon
Requested by The Byrne family

Saturday, January 15

5:30pm Joseph DeLuca
Requested by family

Sunday, January 16

8:00am Tom & Margaret McCormick
Requested by family

10:00am Dorothy Caouett
Requested by Diane Rudegeair

12:00pm Rosemary Warburton
Requested by Ralph Warburton



St. Romuald Chapel Mass Intentions

Sunday, January 9

10:00am David Monaghan and
William and Madeline O'Gara
Requested by David Monaghan, Jr.

Sunday, January 16

10:00am John Carpinelli
Requested by family



For Your Information

PARISH SUPPORT

Parish Support for December 19th was: Budget-\$7,584; Ongoing Maintenance-\$2,961.50; Christmas—\$20,641; December 26th-7,534; January 2nd-\$8,282.50. This weekend's second offering is the Monthly offering. Next weekend's second offering will be the annual Catholic University of America offering. THANK YOU for your continued generosity!

SANCTUARY LAMP

This week's Sanctuary Lamp at St. Francis Church burns in memory of Lucy Mello.

WORTH THINKING ABOUT

Treat people as if they were what they ought to be, and you will help them to become what they are capable of being.

- Author Unknown

RHODE ISLAND STATE RIGHT TO LIFE COMMITTEE

The Rhode Island Right to Life annual Pro-Life Rally will take place at the State House Rotunda on Thursday, January 20th from 2:45 to 3:40 PM.

Informational and inspirational addresses will be given by pro-life leaders from Rhode Island.

Please allow extra time to go through security check. There will be parking at St. Patrick's Church, or at the Providence Place Mall for \$1.00.

TEA BAG WISDOM

A stitch in time saves embarrassment.

Respecting Life

If everyone upon this earth
Could see God's gift within each birth
Then death would not hold hands with law
For we'd see what the shepherds saw.

If all our shadows turned to light
Set free by truth to know what's right
We'd behold within the straw
The baby that the shepherds saw.

If we would let God enter in
To open eyes closed tight by sin
We'd hold His gift of life in awe
For we'd see what the shepherds saw.

If everyone upon this earth
Could see God's gift within each birth
Then love would be our only law
For we'd see what the shepherds saw.

JANUARY 9, 2011

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM; SPONSORSHIP FORMS

On the first Sunday of every month, your priests and deacon take turns at administering the wonderful sacrament of birth, the Sacrament of Baptism. After the necessary preliminaries, ecstatic parents bring their babies to be born into God's Family, the Church. In the words of St. Paul, the baptized "put on Christ", like the white garment they don to symbolize it. It's such a happy day for the child's family, and the Parish Family. As clergy, we feel blessed and honored to be a part of it.

In recent years, however, something of a controversy has arisen regarding sponsorship certificates, one that needs some clarification!

It should make perfect sense to the fair-minded that if a person is going to speak on behalf of another - which is precisely what a godparent does - the sponsor has to belong. He/she has to be alive and active in the faith that he/she is asking for the child. Faith is always found in community. There is no such thing as a me-and-Jesus spirituality. In Catholic Baptism, then, the sponsor is the representative of the Church, speaks in the Church's name, and welcomes the newborn on behalf of us all.

The Church takes this so seriously that when you are asked to be a sponsor, and the Baptism takes place in another parish where you are not known, the priest there will require a sponsorship certificate.

His receiving of that certificate from us assumes several things. Among those assumptions are that the person we sign the certificate for is a Confirmed Catholic, if not single was Married in the Church, is a person who lives out the faith, and is active in parish life and weekly worship. When the Baptism is taking place here and the sponsor is from another parish, we ask for the same courtesy and make the same assumptions.

So parents, we ask you to choose sponsors carefully! You are honoring a person's faith when you invite them to be the spokesperson for your child at Baptism. Your Child's growth-in-Christ is, of course, dependent primarily on you. Their spiritual parents, however, the godfather and godmother, do have a very real place in leading them to God. As clergy, we are delighted to be able to welcome your child into the Church, but the responsibility for a qualified Practicing Catholic as Sponsor is yours.

Please help us to help you make this the wonderful celebrative day that it deserves to be. That way, on Baptism Day, Christ can give new life, not only to the newborn, but to all involved.

Fr. Nick



Religious Education

Grades K-6—Classes will be held at the times given below.

Wednesday Classes—Grades 3-6 meet from 4-5pm in Father Greenan Center.

Grades 7 & 8—Classes meet on Wednesday from 7-8:15pm in Father Greenan Center.

Confirmation I—Classes Monday from 7-8:30pm.

Confirmation II— All students, parents and sponsors are invited to join us for a special presentation by Dr. Sheila Kuzmic on Monday night, January 10th from 7-8:30pm in Fr. Greenan Center.

Children's Liturgy of the Word—during the 10am Mass.



This Week

Sunday, January 9

8:50-9:50am Gr. 1 & 2 (FGC)

9:10am Eucharist Parent Mtg. (HBH)

9:50-10:50am Kdg. (HBH)

10:00am Children's Liturgy of the Word

10:50-11:50 Gr. 3-5 (FGC)

Gr. 6 (HBH)

6-7:30pm Praise Rehearsal (FGC)

7:00pm AA (HBH)

Monday, January 10

7-8:30pm Conf. I

7-8:30pm Conf. -II w/guest speaker

Dr. Sheila Kuzmic (FGC)

7pm Social Outreach Committee (MCCR)

Tuesday, January 11

6:30-7:30pm RCIA (MCCR)

7:00pm Adult Choir Rehearsal (loft)

Wednesday, January 12

4-5:00pm Class Gr. 3-6 (FGC)

7-8:15pm Class—Gr. 7 & 8 (FGC)

Thursday, January 13

10:00am Mass at Brightview Commons

7:00pm Men of St. Joseph Mtg.

Friday, January 14

10:00am Mass at Scallop Shell Nursing & Rehabilitation Center—Fr. Nick

11:00am Mass at South Bay Manor—Fr. Nick

Saturday, January 15

6:30pm Appreciation Night at Father Greenan Parish Center

APPRECIATION NIGHT

A parish of this size (well over 2100 families) could never operate efficiently solely on the efforts of clergy and in-house staff. It needs a colossal participatory effort on the part of literally hundreds of people; people, I might add, who get little credit, but who are always 'there', and who serve with grace and love and commitment.

Once a year we make a concerted effort - however incomplete - to say 'Thank You'.

It's called Appreciation Night; an evening together for all who give of themselves in one or more of the many parish programs or organizations.

Appreciation Night will take place this coming Saturday Night, January 15th, at the grand restored Father Greenan Parish Center.

Invitations have been sent out, and replies received by phone this past week. We think we've covered all bases and contacted all, but still get a bit nervous because we know from past experience that sometimes lists are not exactly up-to-date, and one or two good people have been known to fall through the organizational cracks in years gone by. So if you volunteer in any capacity for your parish and did not receive an invitation to the Appreciation Night, would you please ... yes, please ... call me personally before Wednesday, so that I can rectify the situation and have your name included in the festivities planned.

Fr. Nick

CHRISTMAS CHARITY and THE MARIAN MEDAL

Three of our parishioners, LYNDA CHICHESTER, LEIGH FINAN and ERIN MOSS, who are high-school seniors, have been hard at work earning the *Marian Medal*, a special religious recognition program for youth enrolled in the Girl Scouts. These young women have spent several months studying about and developing a deeper relationship with Mary, the Mother of Jesus. As part of their Christian Witness Project, they crafted beautiful hand-made Christmas cards which they sent to our homebound parishioners. How grateful those parishioners were to receive cards made with such faith and love! Congratulations, ladies, on your witness and thank you (and your mothers!) for your work of love!

ADDING QUALITY YEARS TO YOUR LIFE

Experts on aging have found that how you approach life can play a major role in how long and how well you live. Evidently, genes don't necessarily predetermine everything. In fact, research shows that there are simple steps we can take to live longer and happier lives.

Have a positive outlook. Optimists feel they have some control over their lives and so are less likely to engage in unhealthy behaviors. Optimists are more likely to take care of themselves and try to improve their lives. Conversely, pessimists feel they lack control over their lives and that things happen to them. They are more likely to suffer from anxiety, anger and depression, emotional states that cause the body to release powerful stress hormones that weaken the immune system. Try surrounding yourself with positive people. They can lift up your spirits.

Learn a new skill. It's empowering and will motivate you to set new goals.

Exercise: Physical activity releases feel-good hormones called endorphins.

Challenge your brain. Studies show that people who continue to stimulate themselves intellectually are less likely to develop debilitating diseases such as Alzheimer's. Continually give yourself opportunities to build and maintain your brainpower. For example, work on crossword puzzles, learn a musical instrument or take a foreign language class. Exercising your mind is as important as exercising your body.

Attend to your spiritual life. People with a religious or spiritual support system suffer less anxiety and depression, have lower blood pressure, fewer strokes, and generally live longer. A large study at Duke University Medical Center discovered that people who don't pray are 50% more likely to die earlier than those who do. Religion provides important social connections and support.

Get creative. a 25 year old study in Japan exploring the unusual longevity of people in Okinawa found their creative endeavors played a major role in keeping their minds engaged and their bodies healthy. So find a creative hobby that you can pursue passionately into your old age. It will stimulate your brain and keep you interested in life.

Stay social. People who feel disconnected or lonely are twice as likely to die sooner than those with strong support systems. Isolation can accelerate the pace at which people age. Foster relationships with family, friends and co-workers.

Keep working. Work provides a sense of responsibility, self-worth and keeps the mind active. If your current employment doesn't satisfy your interests, take steps to gradually change to work at something you love.