

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 14

4:30pm Joseph DeLuca

Requested by family

Sunday, January 15

8:00am Thomas & Phoebe McNulty
& Gar Whaley—by family

10:00am Anna Mrosek

Requested by Sister Monika

12:00NN Oscar & Theresa Newton

Requested by family

Monday, January 16

7:00am Celia Pelland

Requested by Jo-Anne Feeney

Tuesday, January 17

7:00am Dr. Michael J. Infantolino

Requested by Michael Mullane

Wednesday, January 18

7:00am John Champion

Requested by Maria Posillo

Thursday, January 19

7:00am Stephanie Parker

Requested by Gretchen Parchesky

Friday, January 20

7:00am Mass for the People

Saturday, January 21

4:30pm Branden DeLuca

Requested by family

Sunday, January 22

8:00am Francis Smith

Requested by James & Linda McNulty

10:00am Frank Signorelli

Requested by wife

12:00NN Mass for the People

Requested by family



St. Romuald Chapel Mass Intentions

Sunday, January 15

10:00am Henry H. Thayer, Jr.

Requested by St. Romuald Choir

Sunday, January 22

10:00am Mary Marchand

Requested by Gerri and Al Marsocci



For Your Information

PARISH SUPPORT for January 8 was Budget-\$7,572.50; Monthly—\$3,453. This weekend's second offering is for the Catholic University of America. Next weekend's second offering—Ongoing Maintenance. Thank you for your continued generosity.

SANCTUARY LAMPS

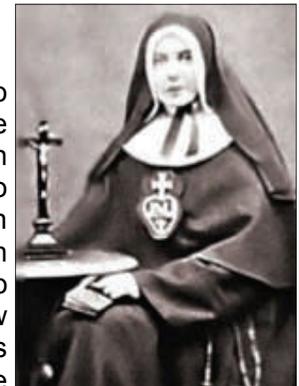
This week's sanctuary lamp at St. Francis Church burns in memory of Dr. Leonard Staudinger. The sanctuary lamp at St. Romuald Chapel burns in memory of George Almeida, Sr.

MANY THANKS!

Last Sunday, Fr. Greenan Hall was the place to be! Our parish children, under the careful direction of Kathleen Puchalla, participated in our annual Christmas Pageant. A full house gathered to hear the Christmas story told again, a story that is ever-new! Many thanks to Barbette Cullen, Martha's Helpers, the young ladies of Immaculate Conception Academy, and parent-bakers and volunteers for making it all happen. If you weren't able to make it, be sure to come next year!

THE SERVANT OF GOD, ELIZABETH PROUT

Most people who drive by the entrance to The Prout School don't know where the school's name comes from. Elizabeth Prout was a nineteenth-century convert to the Catholic faith. Having been raised an Anglican, she was received into the Church by Blessed Dominic Barbieri, who also received John Henry Newman (now Blessed) into the Catholic faith. She was the "Mother Teresa" of her own day. She exemplified a great love for the poor, and strove to provide adequate education for young people. Elizabeth Prout took vows and became Mother Mary Joseph, gathering like-minded women together with a special devotion to the Passion of Jesus. This community would eventually become the Sisters of the Cross and Passion, who ministered in our parish community and founded The Prout School here in Wakefield. The 148th anniversary of the death of Elizabeth Prout was commemorated this past Wednesday, January 11. Her cause for canonization has been opened, permitting use of the title, "Servant of God." Please remember the Sisters of the Cross and Passion—the spiritual daughters of Elizabeth Prout—in your prayers this week.



FOOD OF THE MONTH

January food & commodities needs are the following: juices, cereal, soup, tuna, peanut butter and jelly, tomato sauce and laundry detergent. Always, thank you for your generous contributions.

ST. FRANCIS CEMETERY GATEKEEPERS NEEDED

We are in need of gatekeepers to open and close the cemetery. Gate opens at 8:00am and closes at 4:00pm during the winter and at 7:00pm during the summer months. If you're interested in volunteering, please call Laura Kelly at 782-4938. Thank you!

JANUARY 15, 2012

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening!

Our first reading this weekend recounts the story of the young Samuel, who receives a call from the Lord while ministering at Shiloh. Initially, Samuel thinks the aged priest Eli is the one calling him at night. But he eventually discovers that the voice he hears is the voice of God. Finally, the young Samuel presents himself to the Lord and utters one of the best-known phrases in all of Scripture: "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening" (1 Sam 3:10). Samuel exemplifies for us what authentic prayer is: listening first to God, inviting him to speak. We often conceive of prayer as addressing God, which indeed it is, but prayer that is one-sided will quickly become dry and lifeless. Authentic prayer requires assuming a posture of humble attentiveness, eager to hear what God has to say. Without a doubt, the response is important. But if we cannot hear what God wants to say to us, how can we adequately respond? Perhaps this week, time could be set aside—even a few minutes each day—to be still, quiet and calm, trying to recognize the movements of the Holy Spirit in our hearts and minds. Listening isn't always easy, especially with so much noise in the world. But it is precisely in the quiet that God speaks to us and reveals his plan for us. Take some time this week not to speak to God first, but to respond when you hear him speaking to you.

National Vocations Awareness Week: In Review

This past week, the Church in the United States has been reflecting on the significance of vocations to Holy Orders and the Consecrated Life. When was the last time you prayed for an increase of vocations from our own parish community? At the present time, we have several women-religious either from or connected to our parish (some are Sisters of the Cross and Passion, some are Sisters of Divine Providence, and one is a Capuchin Sister of Nazareth). We have one parishioner—John Dowd—in formation for the permanent diaconate, responding to the same call as our own Deacon Iacono. And out of 150 parishes in the Diocese of Providence, only seventeen are home to a seminarian, a young man preparing for ordination to the priesthood. We are blessed to be one of those parishes, as our own Stephen Battey is currently enrolled in his first year of studies at Our Lady of Providence Seminary. When was the last time you encouraged a young man or woman to consider sacrificing their own plans and ambitions to serve Christ and his Church in a special way? When was the last time you asked God what his plan is for you? Vocations do not happen by accident. They are the result of communities of faith that foster and encourage young people to lay down their lives for Christ. Take a moment to encourage our religious sisters and our candidates for Holy Orders. And challenge someone to hear the call. A vocation is not so much about figuring out some mystery, as it is willingness to accept the challenge of the Lord to follow him! The harvest is great; but the laborers are few!



Religious Ed. Notes

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES Sunday, January 15th

NO CLASSES—Martin Luther King holiday.

Monday, January 16th

NO CLASSES—Martin Luther King holiday.

Wednesday, January 18th

4-5:00pm GRADES 3-6 (FGC)

7-8:15pm GRADES 7 & 8 (FGC)



This Week

Sunday, January 15

Rel. Ed. Classes—see above schedule
7:00pm AA (HBH)

Monday, January 16

ALL PARISH OFFICES CLOSED in
Observance of Martin Luther King holiday
NO Rel. Ed. Classes

Tuesday, January 17

6:30-8:00pm RCIA (HBH)*

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (loft)

Wednesday, January 18

4-5pm GRADES 3-6 (FGC)

CLASSES GRADES 7 & 8

Thursday, January 19

7:00pm Couples in Recovery (HBH)

**RCIA—Please note the RCIA Class is now being held in Helen Bouchard Hall located in the lower church. Thank you.*

Prayer Intentions of Pope Benedict

January 2012

The Vatican has released the prayer intentions of Pope Benedict XVI for January 2012. The Pope's general intention is: *"That the victims of natural disasters may receive the spiritual and material comfort they need to rebuild their lives."*

His missionary intention is: *"That the dedication of Christians to peace may bear witness to the name of Christ before all men and women of good will."*

*"Am I not here?
Am I not your mother?"*

-Our Lady to St. Juan Diego



In 1531, near Mexico City, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to St. Juan Diego, an Aztec peasant and convert to the Catholic faith. She instructed St. Juan Diego to ask the local bishop to erect a shrine in her honor on Tepeyac Hill.

As proof of her appearance, she caused Castilian roses to bloom in winter, which she instructed the saint to gather in his tilma, an apron-like outer garment. When St. Juan Diego unfurled his tilma in the presence of the bishop the roses fell on the floor, revealing a miraculous imprint of her likeness on his cloak.

The Office of Life and Family Ministry of the Diocese of Providence brings a large reproduction of the image to parishes throughout the Diocese for prayer and veneration.

Won't you join us as Our Lady of Guadalupe visits our parish?

MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 2012

Saint Francis of Assisi Church • 114 High Street • Wakefield, Rhode Island

- 12:00NN** Arrival of the Missionary Image of Our Lady
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
(The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed throughout the day.)
Recitation of the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary
- 3:00PM** Recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy
Recitation of the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary
- 5:00PM** Recitation of the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary
- 5:00-6:30PM** The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available
- 6:30PM** Presentation on the Meaning and Significance of the Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe
- 7:00PM** Holy Hour with Recitation of the Glorious Mysteries
Eucharistic Benediction

PLEASE JOIN US FOR ANY PART OF THE DAY!

ALL ARE WELCOME AS WE INVOKE OUR LADY'S INTERCESSION!

ANNUAL APPRECIATION DINNER

The parish office has received several inquiries regarding the annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. In years past, the dinner traditionally took place on the Saturday of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend. This year, the dinner is scheduled to take place on Saturday, February 18th in Fr. Greenan Center. Invitations will be sent out soon, so mark your calendars. The Appreciation Dinner is always an enjoyable evening for our parish family, a moment to thank those who do so much—often unseen and unheard—and to celebrate what makes our parish so vibrant and strong.

If you're a volunteer, we hope to see you there!

Don't forget to check out St. Francis on the Web:

<http://stfranciswakefield.com> or
<http://facebook.com/stfranciswakefield>

OLP PADRES BASKETBALL

The priests and seminarians of the OLP Padres basketball team will take to the court once again in 2012 to play St. Brendan's on Wednesday, February 8 at St. Brendan's in Riverside. Tip off will be at 7:00 PM. Join us for a fun night of basketball and perhaps you will see a priest that you know out on the court.

TIDYING UP THE PEWS

Help us keep our church clean and ready for the next Mass by neatly placing the missalettes and pew cards back in the racks. Extra pew cards may be neatly stacked at the ends of each pew. Your assistance will give us less work to do between Masses and the missalettes and pew cards will certainly last longer. Thank you.

SAINTS OF THE WEEK

This coming week, the Church will celebrate the memorials of several saints. Here's a little bit about each:

- **Saint Anthony of Egypt** (1/17)

At the age of 20, this fourth-century saint was so moved by the gospel that he gave up everything to embrace a life of solitude. Others were attracted to his way of life, and he permitted the building of scattered dwellings around his own for others to come and live in prayerful solitude. His escape to the desert would give rise to a great strain of spiritual wisdom.

- **Saint Fabian** (1/20)

A third-century layman, Fabian was unexpectedly elected pope when a dove flew in and settled on his head. He died a martyr's death under the persecution of Decius.

- **Saint Sebastian** (1/20)

Little is known of this third-century martyr, although tradition tells us he was a Roman soldier. He is well known for his manner of death: he is often depicted as being bound and pierced with arrows.

- **Saint Agnes** (1/21)

Like Sebastian, little historical information exists regarding Agnes. She was martyred in the third century and devotion to her spread rapidly through the early Church.