



Mass Intentions



Saturday, December 19

4:00pm – Jean Oxsuzian – 3rd anniversary

Sunday, December 20

8:00am – For the people of the parish
 10:00am – Jack McCormick – remembrance
 12:00pm - Aucilia Mendes -1st anniversary
 Emilia Gomes – 6th anniversary

Saturday, December 26

4:00pm – Carolyn Moreau – 5th anniversary

Please remember in your prayers

- For:** Brady Poz (Chris Poz's nephew) 12months old with liver cancer & Gerry Coughlin (Sr. Marie's sister).
For: Those who are homebound and ill especially: Charlie Dornan, Helen Bath, Joseph Ameri, Jay Balsavich, Mary Webby Catherine Butler, James Conley, Manuel Jancinto, Francis Gibbs, Marilyn Castillo, Catherine Farmer, John Hardy, Judy Wallen, Rita Ritucci, Lorce Hashem, Harry Owens, Maria R. Eduardo, Steven Hashem, John O'Brien (Jean Rowan's brother who is critically ill), Lottie Doyle, Marge Murray & Edda Tuite
For: the unemployed and those under- employed.
For: All civilians, peace workers, relief workers, & military in areas of conflict and war, especially: Sam Bath, Ryan Moffett, Brian O'Rourke, Peter Farley, Robert Packard, Derek VanDyke, Edson Batista & Kevin Murphy that they be protected from all harm.
That the recent incidents of domestic violence may serve as an alert to family members and helping professions for the need to get people help before people are hurt.
For: All those working for peace and justice in Pakistan, Israel, Burma, Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan, Darfur, and the eastern part of the Congo.
For: The young people and others in our city who have been murdered and for a greater commitment from the community to address the seed beds of this violence

Thoughts from



Our Spiritual Development Committee

Blessed God, we await the coming of your Son our Savior. In this last week of our waiting, bring us to greater love of our family by learning to give to one another greater respect and honor; that our homes may be happy, joyful places into which thy Son, Jesus Christ may come. Amen.

Readings for the Week

Monday –Sg2: 8-14 or Zep 3: 14-18a, Lk 1: 39-45 (197)
Tuesday – 1 Sm 1: 24-28, Lk 1: 46-56 (198)
Wednesday – Mal 3: 1-4, 23-24 Lk 1: 57-66 (199)
Thursday- Is 62:1-5, Acts 13: 16,17, 22-25, Mt 1: 1-25 or 1: 18-25
Friday :- Is 52: 7-10, Heb 1: 1-6, Jn 1:1-18,1:1-5,9-14 (16)
Saturday – Acts 6: 8-10, 7:54-59, Mt 10:17-22 (696)
Sunday - 1 Sm1:20-22, 24-28 Col3: 12-210, 1Jn 3:1-2, Lk 2:41-52

Religious education News: There will be no religious education for **grades 9 and 10** this week. Classes will resume on January 4th at 6 p.m. Please note: Confirmation workshop required of all in Grade 10 will be on Saturday January 9th from 1-5 p.m. at Stonehill. A letter to parents will be forthcoming. **First Communion I & II No class December 27th or January 3rd**
 Regular Class on Jan 10. **Grades 4-8 No class Dec 23 –Jan 5**



Parish Calendar



Saturday/Sunday December 19/20

Fourth Sunday of Advent

2nd collection to pay parish expenses not covered by regular offertory

Sunday, December 20

Girl Scout cookies are being sold after Mass (church doors)
 10:00am – 1st & 2nd grade procession with angels
 4:00pm – Christmas Caroling to homebound parishioners and pot luck supper in the church hall.

Monday, December 21

10:00am – Set up Church hall for Christmas Eve Mass
 4:00pm – RCIA for children (rectory hall)
 6:00pm – Rehearsal for Christmas Tableau for Christmas Eve Mass at 5:45pm

Tuesday, December 22

10:00am – Decorate upstairs church for Christmas

Christmas Mass Schedule

Thursday, Dec 24th

4:00pm - upstairs in church
 4:00pm - downstairs in church
 5:45pm - Family Mass

Friday, December 25 Christmas Day

8:00am & 10:00am only

Dates to Save

World Day of Prayer for Peace; Festival of Mary, Mother of God – Masses: December 31 at 4:00pm & Friday January 1, 2010 at 9:00am

Thursday, January 7

7:00pm – ARISE Committee (rectory upstairs)

Saturday, January 9

1:pm -5:pm – 10th grade Confirmation Retreat at Stonehill College

Offertory

Weekly expenses	\$6300.00
December 5/6 – Offertory	\$5403.00
2 nd Collection (budget)	\$829.00
Budget	- 68.00

Between now and December 31, 2009, you can make the gift of a lifetime to Our Lady of Lourdes Church by giving from your IRA without federal tax penalty. For more information and for sample forms, call Richard Ely at the Catholic Foundation at 617-779-3702 or email Richard_Ely@rcab.org

Presiders

Sat December 26	4:00pm	Fr. Cloherty
Sun December 27	8:00am	Fr. Butler
	10:00am	Fr. Cloherty
	12:00pm	Fr. Visbisky

Christmas Blessings to all of you and your families from all the staff at Our Lady of Lourdes Church

Fr. Cloherty	Rich Cesarini
Karen Danahy	Joe Moore
Jeanne Lafond	Shirley Beaucaire
Janice Loonie	Rosemary Presti
Marcia Walkama	Bill Crowell
Christine Brooks	Carol Kiernan



Christmas Decorating



Volunteers needed to help decorate the church hall on Monday, December 21 at 10:00am for one of the 4:00pm Christmas Eve Masses and on Tuesday, December 22 at 10:00am. If you would like to help, please show up and we will direct you.



Flower Envelopes



There are Flower Envelopes to receive donations for the Christmas Flowers on the windowsills at the side of the church. There is a place on the back side of the envelope to print the names of your deceased relatives and friends. Their names will be placed in our Christmas Book and they will be remembered at the Christmas Masses.

Catholic TV

Christmas Programming

It's that time of year again! **CatholicTV** will intersperse Advent and Christmas programming with their regular schedule throughout December and especially from Monday, Dec 21 until New Year's Eve. Then, all day Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and December 26, CatholicTV will become ChristmasTV for 72 hours of non-stop specials. You can always watch all of the fine Catholic TV programming live and on-demand at our easy to navigate website: www.catholicTV.com Join Fr. Reed, Jay Fadden and the whole CatholicTV staff for the best in Christmas programming. As Christmas draws near, watch CatholicTV. It's all for you!

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you information about the Priest Pension and Healthcare Funds which provide for the current needs of senior and ill priests.

There are 752 priests who rely on the Priest Pension and Healthcare Funds to provide for their healthcare and financial needs. In addition, there are 274 senior priests who also rely on the Priest Pension and Healthcare Funds for their retirement benefits. In recent years, the Priest Pension and Healthcare Funds have been stressed with the increase in medical costs and with continually rising housing and living expenses. The need to stabilize this fund is critical and a top priority of Cardinal Seán and all of the priests.

We prayerfully ask that you choose to give generously to the Christmas Collection in honor of the priests who have devoted their lives to faithfully serve God and our parishes. On behalf of all the priests, thank you in advance for your continued support
May God bless you all.

Fr. Cloherty

From Fr. Cloherty

Father Callahan, Director of Holy Cross Retreat House, North Easton shows up here from time to time. His wisdom and humor are legendary. This week, I share with you an excerpt from his September 2009 newsletter which I thought would be most appropriate for this Advent Christmas Season.

THE MAN UPSTAIRS HAS COME DOWNSTAIRS!!

In Jesus, God has closed the gap between Himself and humanity (us). In Ephesians (2:13) we read: "You who were once far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ...who has made us both one (Jew and Gentiles) and broken down the dividing wall of hostility."

The coming of Jesus is God's greatest vote of confidence in humankind. God chose not to abandon humanity to its own devices but to identify with the joys and sorrows of the human race, and to offer a path of peace.

He is Emmanuel: God-with-us. He is not far, He is not distant. He has drawn near in Christ and He has come to stay, making his dwelling among us.

He is no longer the "Man Upstairs" whose footfall we hear from time to time. He has come down to be with us permanently and to show us his fatherly and brotherly love. He came to serve and to suffer. We not only "Meet our Maker" at life's end but along the way. "All things were made through him", that is through the Word – made flesh in Jesus. He took human flesh-the form of a slave- and he embodied the divine compassion. The word for flesh is "carne" and leads to the word "Incarnation", the mystery of God's enfleshment among us. He is one of us; he has drawn close to us.

The sacraments represent His proximity. Each sacrament, baptism, for example, is reflected in the baptizing community. God's grace is not floating around heaven nor merely in the background, but rising up within the baptized and transforming then. God's grace is not far or distant but as close as the flowing waters of the sacrament.

There are times when we would prefer a more distant God. God-in-Christ can be too close for comfort. The Christ who walks along with us can be rather demanding-summoning us to carry our cross daily and follow him to the mount of Calvary. He invites us to free ourselves from possessions and to feed the hungry and care for the least of the brothers and sisters. He calls us to pray and give our hearts to him. He gets involved in our lives and thoughts. At times we prefer a little more space, a bit more separation. We want to be the star of our own show and to keep Jesus in the background and in a supporting role.

Prayer and service mean keeping Jesus at the center and standing before him utterly vulnerable – as Mary did. Sr Wendy the noted art critic, says; "in prayer we stand before God unprotected." Prayer requires open hearts and open hands so that we can receive what God wants to give us. Prayer means standing at close range before God- vulnerable and unprotected.

Incarnation means God is near and draws us into closer proximity. In prayer and service we thank our God for coming to us and staying with us as the "Man Downstairs" -where we live.

- Father Joe Callahan, CSC

Items:

- If you did not sign up for the Caroling to Homebound Parishioners, please feel free to show up in the hall this Sunday at 4:00pm with a dish to share for the Potluck meal. We have 41 Carolers so far, so we will be able to visit everyone but the more the merrier.
- By this time, if you are on the parish list, you have received a letter from me with an envelope for the Christmas Collection. That collection will support our retired and disabled priests. You may have also received a letter from Cardinal Seán O'Malley with an envelope for the same collection. That was not expected. At this point, I am presuming that you will give to our Christmas Collection using either envelope
- The elevator with stops at the church sanctuary level, ground level and church hall level is open for business. It is a nice quiet ride, try it, you will like it.

A Note from Fr. Goss to You

Wishing you a very blessed and holy Christmas. I have good news to share. Thanks to my doctors and the excellent care I am receiving, I am feeling fine and doing very well. I am trying to enjoy my retirement. My prayers are with you.

Sincerely, Fr. Goss