

Mass IntentionsSaturday, December 27

9:00am – **Margaret Walmer** Funeral
 4:00pm – Jean Oxsuzian – 2nd anniversary
 Paul Oxsuzian – remembrance

Sunday, December 28

8:00am – For all the people of this parish
 12:00pm – Mr. & Mrs Azuka -6th wedding anniversary

Please remember in your prayers

For: Those who are homebound and ill especially: Helen Bath, Joseph Ameri, Jay Balsavich, Catherine Butler, Mary Webby, Patti Lukac, James Conley, Joseph, & Lorice Hashem, Manuel Jancinto, Olive Burns (John Burns' mother), Peggy Ford, Francis Gibbs, MaryKennedy, Marilyn Castillo, Mary Murphy, Raymond Gadaire Catherine Farmer, Rev. Robert Kelleher, Roberta Willard. Rev. Joseph Callahan, Bob Martin, John Murphy, & Mario DiMarzo

For: Trudy Carr, Thecla A Daly and Margaret Walmer whose funerals were celebrated this past week

For: Parishioners who are grieving the death of a loved one for the first time this Christmas.

For: All civilians, peace workers, relief workers, & military in areas of conflict and war, that they be protected from all harm.

For: All those working for peace and justice in Pakistan, Israel, Burma, Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Darfur.

For: The people of Mumbai India, 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

*“Yet, not in ancient symbols
 Is Christmas truly shown,
 But it’s the year – long living
 That Christ is really known
 As we walk in all life’s pathways
 As he, himself, once trod
 To bind in love together
 Each one of us in God!”*

-- William James Clark Sr.

Readings for the Week

Monday –Jn 2: 3-11 Lk2: 22-35
Tuesday, Jn 2: 12-17 Lk 2: 26-40 (203)
Wednesday, 1 Jn 2: 18-21 Jn 1: 1-18 (204)
Thursday, Nm6: 22-27Gal 4: 4-7 Lk 2: 16-21 (18)
Friday, 1 Jn 2: 22-28 Jn 1: 19-28 (205)
Saturday, 1Jn 2: 29-3: 6 Jn 1: 29-34 (206)
Sunday Is 60: 1-6 Eph 3: 2-3a, 5-6 Mt 2: 1-12 (20)

Parish CalendarMonday, December 29

7:00pm- Parish Bereavement Committee (rectory basement)

Wednesday/Thursday, Dec 31/Jan 1

Mary Mother of God
 The Octave of Christmas - **4:00pm Mass**

Thursday, January 1

9:00am – Mass for New Years Day- the Octave of Christmas

Saturday, January 3rd

9:00am – Cooking Meals for the Homeless (church hall) all are welcome to come and help. Desserts are also welcome
 4:00pm – Mass Rite of Acceptance as a Catechumen for June Jurek

Sunday January 4

10:00am – RCIA Children will dramatize the Epiphany
 1:30pm - Class for parents & godparents preparing to baptize an infant.

Monday, January 5

2:30pm – Parish Special Events Committee
 (rectory basement)
 7:00pm – Parish Pastoral Council (rectory basement)

Thursday, January 8

7:00pm – ARISE Leadership (rectory upstairs)

Saturday/ Sunday January 10/11

Tickets for Pasta Dinner at George’s Café on sale
 2nd Collection for Parish Operating Budget

Sunday, January 11

10:00am - Children’s Liturgy of the Word Begins
 Cub Scout Coffee Hour after the 10:00am Mass
 1:30pm – Parish Baptisms

Sunday, Jan 18

1:15pm – Religious Observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s Birthday at Temple Beth Emunah

Thursday, Jan 29

6:00pm – Pasta Dinner at George’s Café to benefit the parish.
 Details to follow

Offertory

Weekly expenses	\$6600
December 20/21 – Offertory	\$4762
Parish Budget	\$1063
Weekly deficit	\$775

If every adult gave \$3.00 more per week, we would not have a deficit.

Average amount given in offertory envelopes = \$18.00

Average amount given by people who do not use envelopes = \$7.00
 \$29,614 Grand Annual

Please remember the parish in your will, a gift for future generations

Religious Education News

CCD Classes will resume January 5th
No CCD Tuesday January 6th due to early release
 FC1 classes will resume on January 11, 2009 with a parent and child session.

We hope that each of you had a wonderful Christmas Day. As a reminder to you all, the Christmas Collection supports the retirement, medical care, and financial needs of the priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. If you have not done so already and you wish to do so, you may include your completed Christmas Collection envelope in today's collection basket. Thank you for your continued generosity to the church,

Presiders for Our Lady of Lourdes:

Saturday, January 3	4:00pm	Fr. Cloherty
Sunday, January 4	8:00am	Fr. Butler
	10:00am	Fr. Cloherty
	12:00pm	Fr. Visbisky

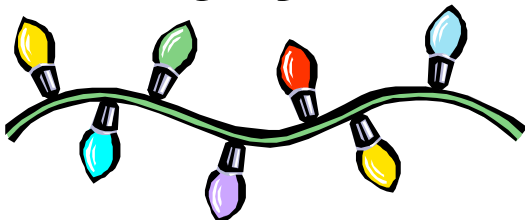
A Mass and Healing Service will be held at the Immaculate Conception Church 122 Canton St. Rte 27 Stoughton, Mass on Sunday, December 28, 2008 @ 2:00pm with Fr. Joseph McDermott. All those who have physical illnesses, as well as those burdened, or suffering emotionally, mentally, spiritually, psychologically, or financially are cordially invited to come and pray with us. You may pray for your own needs or the needs of others.

Our Lady of Lourdes has raised \$32,307 from 180 households for the 2008 Catholic Appeal, reaching 81% of our parish goal of \$39,500. Thank you.

Volunteer Alert

Help needed to bring Communion to homebound parishioners once a month. If you think you are able to help, please call Jeanne Lafond at the rectory

*Happy New Year
 From all of us at
 Our Lady of Lourdes*



From Fr. Cloherty

I deeply regret to inform you that after December 31, 2008, we will no longer have a Pastoral Associate to serve Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. This means that Jeanne Lafond will no longer be on our parish staff after that date. This decision was made after much discussion with the Parish Finance Council and with their agreement.

In late 2005, it became clear that the Archdiocese was not going to assign a 2nd priest to this parish. In fact, we could not afford to support that position anyway. To meet the stipend, insurances, etc., for the last parochial vicar, money had been taken from savings for some time.

After months of discussion, that year, the Parish Finance Council and I agreed to hire a Pastoral Associate for the parish. This would be a half time position and again the money to support it would be taken from savings. The idea would be that we would hire the person for two years, have them work with me on "Parish Development" and perhaps in response, the offertory would increase to the point that it would support that position. We hired Jeanne who came with excellent credentials and broad experience.

The fact is, that when I came here in 2005, the weekly offertory drifted between \$4800 -\$5300 and with some rare exceptions it has not changed in four years. While Jeanne has more than carried her weight here and her presence in her ministry is deeply appreciated, it is not responsible for us to continue to use the savings for operating expenses. Operating income of a parish is like your weekly paycheck. Savings are to be used for unexpected emergencies, e.g. replacing a heating system, not for operating expenses

The current economic situation in our society gives us an additional reason for caution in our financial commitments

As Jeanne leaves us as a staff person, it would be my hope that sometime in the future the position of Pastoral Associate will be restored here in our parish so that adequate pastoral care can be provided for our 1700 families and four Nursing Homes with over 400 residents..