

Mass Intentions

John B. Perillo	Birthday Remembrance	4:00 p.m. Saturday	(1/10)
Thomas Burns	1st Anniversary Mass	5:30 p.m. Saturday	(1/10)
Delina Cotreau	1st Anniversary Mass	8:30 a.m. Sunday	(1/11)
Bernard Murphy & Family	Memorial Mass	10:00 p.m. Sunday	(1/11)
Lawrence Donovan	12th Anniversary Mass	4:00 p.m. Saturday	(1/17)
Janet Gordon	2nd Anniversary Mass	5:30 p.m. Saturday	(1/17)

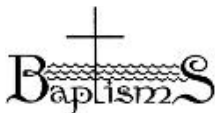


**2004 Calendars:** Our thanks to the Bisbee Porcella Funeral Services for the generosity of providing our Parish with calendars for the New Year. Please take one and take an extra one along for someone who may no longer be able to get out to Mass.

**Monthly Breakfast**—Sunday, January 11 from 8:30 a.m. to 12 Noon. Please join us for a very good breakfast, meet with other members of the Parish, support the efforts of those who are so dedicated in providing us these opportunities to gather together, and support your Parish. A wonderful turnout of 120 people came to the November breakfast! While you're at it you can join the Breakfast Club—pay for five breakfasts and the sixth one is on us!

**The Annual Ecumenical Leadership Dinner** will be here at St. Margaret's on Friday, January 23 at 6:30 p.m. Needed are greeters and kitchen helpers for this dinner as we welcome members of the other Saugus Churches. We also invite people to attend and participate. There is no cost to the people of our Parish. Call to make your reservation. There is a choice of entrees: baked fish or backed chicken. Deadline is Monday, January 19. This gathering is an opportunity to pray for Christian Unity, to share a meal and to listen and learn. Fr. Gerard Dorgan, Pastor of St. Mary's in Danvers, will give a wonderful presentation of the art (he will bring some along) that was influenced by the Reformation. Fr. Dorgan is very informative and a very enjoyable presenter.

**Grand Annual Collection:** Thank you very much for the generous response. 214 families of the parish have donated \$30,640.00! Our thanks to them and our encouragement for all to support our Parish needs.



**The Sacrament of Baptism:** is usually celebrated on the third Sunday of each month at 12 Noon. The next celebration of Baptism is December 21 at 12 Noon. The Preparation Meeting prior to the Baptism of a child is every other month. Future Baptism Preparation meetings for parents & godparents are: February 5, April 1, June 3, and August 5, 2004. These are held in the Parish Hall and begin at 7:00 p.m. Please call the Rectory to register.

**Ministry to the Homebound:** Do you know someone who is not able to come to Mass but would appreciate receiving Holy Communion on a regular basis? If so, would you let us know by calling the Rectory (781-233-1040). One of our Ministers of Holy Communion will be glad to visit them. Thank you.

**United Parish Food Pantry:** Our thanks for your continuous support of the local food pantry. The second weekend each month we invite you to bring non-perishable food to Church. The food is then brought to our local food pantry (located at the Cliftondale Congregational Church) where it is distributed on Friday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon. Please know that your gift of food is always needed and very much appreciated. The next food collection will be the weekend of January 10 & 11. *Thank you.*

**Alaska:** A once in a lifetime kind of trip, a wonderful adventure awaits you as you discover the magnificent beauty of our nation's largest state. From Fairbanks to Anchorage by land and Seward to Vancouver by cruising aboard the beautiful Celebrity Ship Summit, there will be much to see. Brochures for this Parish adventure are available at the Church doors. To find out about this trip come to the **informational meeting on Tuesday, February 3 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.** Please let us know if you plan to come to this meeting by calling the rectory (781-233-1040). Receive \$100 off the cost of this trip by attending this meeting. The trip is planned for June 7 to 19, 2004.

**Father George—on vacation!** From Sunday, January 11 to Wednesday, January 21, I will be away on vacation in a warm place. Vacations are good and I look forward to spending time with my friend, Fr. John Capuci who is the director of a retreat house in New Orleans, Louisiana, The Center of Jesus the Lord. I am able to get away because of the generosity of my brother priests who will serve the Parish in my absence. My thanks to Fr. Don Skerry, Fr. Ken Feehan, Fr. John Parks and Fr. Oscar Pratt.

*God created persons to be loved and things to be used. Whenever this order is reversed . . .  
Tragedy results.*

*Revel Howe*

**Marriage:** To stay on top of the marriage debate in Massachusetts, contact the Mass. Catholic conference, the public policy office of the Catholic Church in Massachusetts. Go online: [www.macathconf.org](http://www.macathconf.org) or call 617-367-6060 for information about MCC-Net, the Catholic Church's legislative action network.

**Snow CAMPS 2004:** With Junior High students in mind, we offer a wonderful weekend retreat experience known as Snow CAMPS. Meet other youths from many other parishes, make new friends, grow in your faith and your relationship with God. It could be the best thing you do for yourself! Held at the Brookwoods/Deer Run Conference Center in Alton, NH, choose from one of two weekends: February 27—29 or March 5—7 2004. Each weekend begins on Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. and end mid afternoon on Sunday. At the next 7th and 8th grade meeting on Friday, January 9, someone will make a presentation on Snow CAMPS. Parents are welcome to hear all about it. Information will be available at that time.



**Annual Gourmet Dinner:** Join us as we celebrate our All American Gourmet Dinner on Saturday, February 21, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Plan ahead, invite friends and reserve a table together. Menu details, donation per person and the program of the evening will follow.

**Kevin Baumann:** We continue to keep the "bucket" with fliers about Kevin in the vestibule of the Church. Whatever you can do is greatly appreciated. You may deposit your offering directly into the Kevin Baumann Medical Fund, account # 25005, tax number 04-692-9285, at the Saugus Federal Credit Union. Please pray for Kevin and his family.

**Offertory Collection:** Last week's collection was \$2,606.00. Thank you for your generosity to the Parish. In the very near future a complete financial report for the year 2003 will be prepared and made available to all parishioners.



**Parish Offertory Envelopes:** We encourage the use of Parish Envelopes for your weekly donation to help support our Parish. If you wish to receive envelopes, please give us the following information:  
**Name:**  
**Address:**

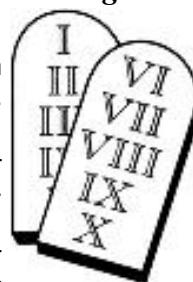
**Religious Education**

**Grades 1 to 6:** Classes are held on Sunday mornings from 8:30 to 9:45 a.m. at the Belmonte Middle School.

**Grades 7 & 8:** The next meeting is Friday, February 6 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

**Grade 9, Year I Confirmation** will resume on Wednesday, January 21, 2004 at 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

**Grade 10, Year II Confirmation** – our meeting for students & sponsors is this Sunday, January 11 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.



**The Sacrament of Confirmation:** On Sunday, February 15 at a 12 Noon Mass, Bishop Francis X. Irwin, our Regional Bishop, will be here at Saint Margaret's to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation. As we prepare for this celebration, kindly keep our young people, their parents and their sponsors in your prayers.

**Homosexuality:** Our consciousness concerning homosexuality has been raised in recent months especially in the light of the Supreme Judicial Court's ruling on same-sex marriage. We have always known among those we love men and women whose primary attraction is to members of the same sex. On Monday, January 12, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Parish Hall, Fr Thomas Nestor, a priest of the Archdiocese and a clinical psychologist will present an overview of the nature of homosexuality and our response to it. All welcome.

**The Spirit Descended**

I know a deacon who liked to conduct the interviews of parents whose children were about to be baptized. During the interviews, he asked the parents to describe what would happen to their child through Baptism. He would receive various answers. Some parents spoke about cleansing from original sin. Others spoke about their child being welcomed into the Church. These were all correct answers, but deacon was really hoping to hear one of the parents say that their child would receive the Holy Spirit. The gospel passage we hear today for the Baptism of the Lord speaks of heaven opening and the Holy Spirit descending upon Jesus like a dove. We often associate the coming of the Holy Spirit with Pentecost and the Sacrament of Confirmation, but the Holy Spirit first descended upon us on the day of our Baptism. The Spirit of God came upon Jesus to empower Him to begin His public ministry. The Holy Spirit was given to us on the day of our Baptism so that we could go forth to be Christian witnesses in the world. It is correct to say that our Baptism cleansed us of original sin and made us members of the Church. But after we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, we are called to go forth from our parishes and bring the Good News of Jesus into the world. The Spirit will empower us because the Spirit has descended upon us.

Fr. Jeffrey Day