

Mass Intentions

Christmas Eve

Frank Trudeau	Memorial Mass	4:00 p.m. (up)
Geraldine Favuzza	Memorial Mass	4:00 p.m. (down)
Brian Crowell	7th Anniversary Mass	5:30 p.m.

Christmas Day

Maryann Frassica	Memorial Mass	8:30 a.m.
Deceased Members McCauley, Castiello, Russo & Frontiera Families 10:00 a.m.		

No afternoon Masses on Christmas Day

Susan LaVacca	1st Anniversary Mass	8:30 a.m. Sunday	(12/26)
Mass of Thanksgiving	Holy Family Sunday	10:00 a.m. Sunday	(12/26)
Charles Hansen	Birthday Remembrance	9:00 a.m. Tuesday	(12/28)
Robert Forbush	3rd Anniversary Mass	9:00 a.m. Wednesday	(12/29)
Elizabeth Woodbury	4th Anniversary Mass	9:00 a.m. Thursday	(12/30)
Richard Reynolds	3rd Anniversary Mass	10:00 a.m. Saturday	(1/1)
Albert DelloRusso	26th Anniversary Mass	4:00 p.m. Saturday	(1/1)
Daniel Tillinghast	Memorial Mass	5:30 p.m. Saturday	(1/1)
Rosalie Klecker	5th Anniversary Mass	10:00 a.m. Sunday	(1/2)



The Parish Mass schedule for December 24, 25 & 26 and for December 31, January 1 & 2 is as follows:

December 24, Christmas Eve:

4:00 p.m. Church & 4:00 p.m. Parish Hall
5:30 p.m. Church

December 25, Christmas Day: 8:30 & 10:00 a.m.

Please note: no afternoon Masses on December 25

December 26, Holy Family Sunday 8:30 & 10:00 a.m.

December 31, New Year's Eve: 4:00 p.m.

January 1, New Year's Day: 10:00 a.m.

January 1, Vigil of the Epiphany: 4:00 & 5:30 p.m.

January 2, Epiphany Sunday: 8:30 & 10:00 a.m.



Epiphany Pageant: Performed by the youth of the Parish, our Pageant retells the story and events that surround the birth of Jesus. The pageant will take place on Epiphany Sunday, January 2, 2005 during the 10:00 a.m. Mass. Sign up to participate in the pageant will be Sunday, December 12 & 19 after the 10:00 a.m. Mass in the Parish Hall. Rehearsals will be Thursday, December 30, 1:00—3:00 p.m. and the dress rehearsal on Friday, December 31, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Rehearsal will be followed by a Cast Pizza Party. For information call Mary Ellen Picardi (781-233-0363). All children & young people welcome to participate in this annual and memorable event.

Light in the Darkness by Fr. Jeffrey Day

For several months, our days have been getting shorter. With the arrival of Christmas, our days will be getting longer and brighter. This is no coincidence. The Church purposely celebrates Jesus' birthday now because He is the light of the world. Even the Gospel passage for Christmas Day refers to Jesus as the light shining in the darkness. This message is so important for us to hear because at times we have dark moments. These dark moments can have many different causes. Sometimes they are caused by our own sinfulness. At other times the darkness comes because of sickness, or suffering, or the death of a loved one. Sometimes the dark moments leave us thinking that life has no meaning. As Christians, we know that we have someone to turn to in moments like these. Jesus decided to be born and take on human flesh because He knows we need hope in the dark moments. Have we ever suffered? Jesus has too. Have we grieved the death of a loved one? So did Jesus. Have we experienced the shame of our sinfulness? Yes, we have. Even though Jesus never sinned, He felt the weight of our own sins on the cross. Jesus experienced human darkness and He conquered it. Today we celebrate much more than the birth of a baby. We celebrate what this birth means. No longer are we alone in our dark moments. Jesus is even there, pointing us to the light.



Stewards of God's Gifts: For unto us is born this day a Savior! In response to so great a love, only the gift of my whole self will do. You have given us Yourself, dear Lord; in love and thanksgiving, I commit myself afresh to you.

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). Prior to Christmas, Fr. George will be visiting home-bound parishioners bringing them Holy Communion. Our Parish also has some wonderful Ministers of Holy Communion who would be glad to visit on a regular basis throughout the year.

Religious Education: Classes will resume after the Christmas vacation on Sunday, January 9, 2005. Classes for Grades 1 through 6 are held from 8:30 to 9:45 a.m. at the Belmonte Middle School.



Grades 7 & 8 - next class is Friday, January 7 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.



Confirmation Year I: Classes will resume after the New Year on Wednesday, January 19. Classes are on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

Confirmation Year II: The next class for students & sponsors will be Sunday, January 9 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. The date for Confirmation has been changed to February 6 at 12 Noon.

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.

Grand Annual Collection: Sincere thanks to those who have given to this year's Grand Annual Collection. To date \$21,000 has been received. It is our hope that a greater number of Parishioners will participate in this Grand Annual Collection. Every dollar raised in the Grand Annual benefits the Parish. As we continue with needed repairs to Parish property, we rely on your generosity. Thank you.



The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick: In the Letter of St. James we find the question, "Is there anyone sick among you?" The response is that the sick are to call the priests of the Church who

are to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. This Sacrament is not to be looked upon as the "Last Rites" but as a powerful instrument of God's healing and strength. Therefore, prior to surgery or when diagnosed with or living with a serious illness avail yourself of this gift. On the First Friday of each month, this Sacrament is offered following the 9:00 a.m. Mass or at any time at your convenience. Please call the Rectory to make arrangements.



Offertory Collection: Last Sunday's collection was \$3,779. Thank you for your generosity to the needs of your Parish.

A report from United parish Food Pantry:

In September, 111 families were assisted with 423 bags of groceries. In October, 129 families with 519 bags and November, 155 families assisted with 812 bags of groceries. At Thanksgiving, 117 turkey dinners were distributed. There is a tremendous need. Our monthly collection of food here at Saint Margaret's is on the second weekend of each month. Thanks to those who are so faithful in bringing a food donation each month. If your are free on Friday mornings, volunteers are needed. Call Carol Cashman at 781-558-1092 to volunteer. The Pantry operates on Fridays from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. from the Cliftondale Congregational Church.



Saint Theresa House Open House: You are invited to an Open House at Saint Theresa's House (adjacent to Saint Mary's Church in Lynn) on Saturday, January 8 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Saint Theresa House is the former St, Mary's Convent , now converted into 32 units of housing for low income elders. It will have a comprehensive service program that is tailored for frail elders in our community. Information and applications will be available on January 8.

The Hammersmith Christmas Stroll: Our thanks to everyone who helped make the Stroll so successful—the beautiful baskets, the baked goods, the cards & wrapping paper, the stuffed animals, the food, etc. Posted in the vestibule is the list of all the raffle winners. In all the Stroll raised \$2,755.00 for the Parish.

The Parish Pastoral Council: In January the members we will meet on Thursday, January 6, and on Saturday, January 8. Bernie Swain will serve as a facilitator for these two meetings. It is important that all be present.

Is God calling you? The Church needs men and women to serve the spiritual needs of God's people. Is God calling you to serve as a priest, deacon, sister or brother? If God is calling you call Father Oscar Pratt at the Vocation Office 617-746-5949.

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: