



December 26 – 27, 2009

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

*Beloved: See what love the Father has bestowed on us
that we may be called the children of God. And so we are.*

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 26th

Vigil: Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

4:00 PM **Mary Spagnolo**
Requested by her friend Rita

Sunday, December 27th

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

8:00 AM **Marion Pacetti (9th Anniversary)**
Requested by her husband Bob &
daughters Christine & Liz

10:30 AM **James G. DiConza**
Requested by his wife Marianne & family

Monday, December 28th

The Holy Innocents, martyrs

7:00 AM **Angela T. (Belli) Bourque**
Requested by her mother & family

Tuesday, December 29th

St. Thomas Becket, bishop & martyr

7:00 AM **NO MASS**

Wednesday, December 30th

5:30 PM **Deceased Members of the
Valeri & Gerante Families**
Requested by their family

Thursday, December 31st

St. Sylvester I, pope

7:00 AM **Ernest Secino**
Requested by St. Anthony Parish

Vigil: Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

5:30 PM **Health and Happiness in 2010**

Friday, January 1st

Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

9:00 AM **Peace**

Saturday, January 2nd

Vigil: The Epiphany of the Lord

4:00 PM **Joseph Capodagli & Kevin McWilliams**
Requested by Joan McWilliams & family

Sunday, January 3rd

The Epiphany of the Lord

8:00 AM **Joseph & Maria Perrone**
Requested by their daughter Gina
and John Fanelli

10:30 AM **Gloria LeClair**
Requested by the LeClair family

READ AND PREPARE

Next week's Scripture readings:

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1 – 6

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2 – 3a, 5 – 6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1 – 12

December 20th Offerings

Needed to Meet Budget	\$4,889.00
Sunday Offerings	\$3,261.00
Children's Collection (\$13.00)	\$13.00
DEFICIT this week	\$1,615.00
TOTAL DEFICIT Year to Date	\$6,750.50

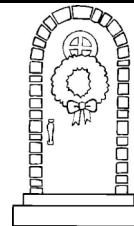
Thank you for your thoughtful contribution to the "Share in the Care" for our aging religious. The Retirement Fund for the Religious collection totaled \$3,711.00!

Attention all parents of children: Boxed children's offertory envelopes are now for you at the entrances of the church. If you think this is a good learning tool for stewardship and sharing for your child or children then please take a box. We currently have about 10 families who use these children's envelopes on a regular basis. Please do not take them if you do not plan to use them. When using them, please be sure to include YOUR current envelope # on their envelope so that we may add to your family contribution totals. If you as an adult do not currently receive weekly envelopes and would like to start please call the office to request they be sent to you.

Church Contribution 2009 Tax Information

Any parishioners wishing to make up missing envelopes or make an additional donation to be included as a deduction for the 2009 tax year must do so no later than January 4th. Thank you.

If you know of any parishioner who is homebound or in a nursing home and would like to receive the Eucharist, please notify Jo Belli at 978-537-4802 or Fr. Bob at the rectory. Also remember to notify us if someone is in the hospital for an extended stay. Without notification from a family member we have no way of knowing this.



Join Fr. Bob on Sunday, December 27th 1-5 PM CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE AT THE RECTORY

Everyone is welcome to stop by at the annual Christmas Open House and share the Christmas spirit with fellow parishioners and friends. We will be having some surprise guests as well. (No, not Santa Claus. He will be resting up at the North Pole!)

This week's St. Anthony Devotional Candle donated:
IMO Giuliano DiVito

Dear Friends,

Jesus didn't have to be born a baby. He didn't have to be born at all. There is no necessity in God's plan. God could have entered into this world any way He chose. Indeed, in two of the four Gospels (Mark and John) there is no reference to Jesus at all before His baptism in the Jordan by John the Baptist.

And yet God did choose to enter into the human race in place and in time as we all are: born the child of a specific woman, born in a particular place. In this He reinforced the idea that our first and primary community is the family of our birth. All of our subsequent interactions are rooted in how we respond to these initial relationships. In the family, we learn about how to trust or how not to trust. We learn how to love and what is the appropriate way to express our emotions, whether positive or negative.

A huge and vastly profitable industry has arisen teaching us, through therapy and self-help books, how to separate us from our families to claim our own identity. Certainly there are cases where the family dynamics were very bad and need to be corrected. But there is a vast difference between a family which is not perfect and a family which is actually damaging to children. None of us come from perfect families, simply because we're a part of the family and we're not perfect! But most of us can honestly say that our parents loved us and did their very best for us.

When we honor the Holy Family of Nazareth we honor our own families and strive to follow a life of holiness and love like Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Pace e Bene,

Retrouvaille – A Lifeline - Rediscover a loving marriage with a Retrouvaille (pronounced re-tro-vy) weekend. If your marriage is tearing the two of you apart, if there is little or no meaningful communication, if you are considering separation or divorce, we believe Retrouvaille can help you. The next New England Retrouvaille marriage renewal weekends will be held **January 15-17, 2010**, and **April 16-18, 2010**. To register for the weekend or for more information, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com or call 800-470-2230.

Please Continue to Help the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry
New items added to the food pantry wish list are: canned meat, canned fruit, baked beans, jam or jelly, Jello or pudding, bathroom tissue, cereal, Rice-a-Roni, juice and coffee. Many people rely on this weekly service that St. Francis provides. **Please try to bring one item a week.** Thank you!

Item of the Month – The Youth Group is accepting donations for Our Father's House and the Veterans' Homestead. **This month's items are shampoo and conditioner.** Items can be placed in the marked boxes at the entrances of the church. Thank you for your support.

The Serra Club invites you to pray for the following priests and deacons during the week of: December 27th through January 2nd: The Seminarians; Deacon Court Shields; Rev. Robert Spellman; Rev. James Steuterman; Msgr. Thomas Sullivan; Deacon Sal; Deacon Richard Tatro.

A Bulletin Notice Reminder: Any item you would like to have considered for printing in our weekly bulletin must be submitted by **MONDAY of the week prior** to the scheduled event. Information received after that day may be too late for publication. We try to print events a minimum one full week before the scheduled date. We will make every effort to include these notices as space permits (St. Anthony parish activities and news always have first preference with diocesan, other parish and community news to follow). Thank you.

Interested in RCIA? Please call Matt Gauvin at 978-343-8552 for questions and general information.

Christmas Card – Lena Rajcula has sent a Christmas card addressed to "All Parishioners of St. Anthony Church". It is posted

on the bulletin board. Her address is The Highlands, #314, 335 Nichols Road, Fitchburg, MA 01420

TV Worth Watching

Christmas Concert Special will air on Fitchburg Access TV 8 on Thursday, December 31st at 9:30 AM & 5:00 PM and Friday, January 1st @ 9:30 AM.

Conversation with Bishop McManus: looking ahead to issues of the Catholic Church in 2010 will air on Fitchburg Access TV 8 on Thursday, January 7th at 9:30 AM & 5:00 PM and on Friday January 8th at 9:30 AM.

March for Life 2010 – Information and registration forms for the diocesan bus trip to the annual March for Life in Washington, DC on January 22, 2010 are now available. Cost is \$70 per seat. Register at www.worcesterdiocese.org/respectlife to ensure your seat!

National Collection for the Catholic University of America in Washington DC will be taken up at all Masses next weekend. The University provides an academically rigorous education guided by Catholic intellectual tradition to 6,000 students every year. The financial sacrifices required of Catholic parents to provide a truly Catholic college education are enormous. Every dollar given directly supports financial aid for students from dioceses across the country, including ours. Please be generous.

