



December 12 – 13, 2009

## Third Sunday of Advent

*"Come see a man who told me everything I have done.  
Could he possibly be the Christ?"*

### READ AND PREPARE

Next week's Scripture readings:

First Reading: Micah 5:1 – 4a

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5 – 10

Gospel: Luke 1:39 – 45

## Mass Intentions

**Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Vigil: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**4:00 PM Deceased Members of the Weldon  
& Chausse Families**  
Requested by Betty & Dennis Anderson

**Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**8:00 AM Maddalena & Donato DiZuzio (Anniversary)**  
Requested by the Pennetti family

**10:30 AM Filippo Salamone**

Requested by his three daughters & family

**Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**

**St. John of the Cross, priest & doctor**

**7:00 AM Deceased Members of the Francesco  
and Anna Celona Family**  
Requested by Grace & Mario Zarrella

**Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**

**7:00 AM NO MASS**

**Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**

**5:30 PM John & Bridget Curran**  
Requested by their family

**Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**

**7:00 AM In Honor of St. Anthony**  
Requested by Ida DeLai

**Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**

**7:00 AM Rev. Philip G. McConville**  
Requested by his niece Ann

**Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**4:00 PM Francis LeClair, Jr.**  
Requested by his family

**Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**8:00 AM Shirley & Joseph Gauvin**  
Requested by their children & grandchildren

**10:30 AM Louis J. Perla (1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary)**

Requested by his wife Domenica & family

Please pray for the repose of the soul of:

*Paul Badagliacca*

who died this past week. May his soul rest in peace.

This week's St. Anthony Devotional Candle donated by:  
Mary Robichaud for Special Intention

<b>December 6<sup>th</sup> Offerings</b>	
<b>Needed to Meet Budget</b>	<b>\$4,889.00</b>
<b>Sunday Offerings</b>	<b>\$4,955.00</b>
<b>Children's Collection (\$7.00)</b>	<b>\$7.00</b>
<b>SURPLUS this week</b>	<b>\$73.50</b>
<b>TOTAL DEFICIT Year to Date</b>	<b>\$5,708.00</b>

### Attention all Ministers to the Homebound:

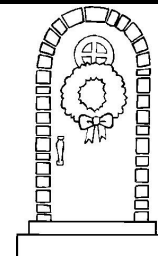
Please pick up the Christmas plants and cards, to be delivered to those homebound parishioners that you service, next weekend **Dec. 19-20<sup>th</sup> downstairs after all Masses.** Thank you for your continued ministry to those parishioners who are no longer able to attend weekly Mass. Please let them know that they are not forgotten and that we will keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

**GIVING TREE GIFTS must be returned wrapped and with the tag attached to the church or office no later than Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.** If you cannot meet this deadline please call the office for directions to drop off your gift at Catholic Charities in Leominster. Thank you.

**THE RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS collection was this weekend. I you forgot your envelope please be sure to bring it with you next weekend.** Remember, tens of thousands of religious are now elderly, frail and in need of assistance. Please help to bridge the gap in the economic shortfall that persists in their health care. Make a difference. "Share in the Care."

### ALTAR SERVERS, LECTORS, EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sign up sheets for ministers at the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses are in the sacristy. Sign up after Mass. Due to suspension of Communion from the Chalice during the flu season; we will need fewer ministers, so sign up now!



**SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup> 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!)

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.

Dear Friends,

"What should we do?" The people, who have been touched by the message of St. John the Baptist, need to know what is the next step in the process of being converting to the Messiah, to make ready His path.

The great Russian writer and philosopher Leo Tolstoy confronted the same question in his book entitled, "What, Then, Should We Do?" Whereas John gives his followers very specific instructions, Tolstoy leaves it up to the individual with this note: "Go out of your front door every morning and begin doing good." A good examination of conscience at the end of the day might be this simple question: "How is the world a better place today because of me?" If your answer is: "It isn't," maybe you're not trying hard enough.

What kindness can I do today? How can I demonstrate my thoughtfulness and caring to another human being? How can I make straight the pathway for the coming of the Lord?

Pace e Bene,

### **MARRIED COUPLES: GIVE YOUR SPOUSE A SPECIAL GIFT**

**THIS CHRISTMAS:** Sign up now for the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend and receive the gift of a great marriage. Making a weekend will help you put a little Christmas in your marriage every day! The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends in New England are January 8-10, January 29-31 and February 12-14. For more information call Ralph & Jane Becker at 1-800-710-WWME or visit our webpage at [www.wwmeMA.org](http://www.wwmeMA.org)

**Fertility Care System** – Discover what every couple needs to know, and what every woman has a right to know. The Creighton Model Fertility Care System helps married couples mutually value, respect and understand their combined fertility by promoting shared responsibility and marital bonding. This natural system for planning and avoiding pregnancy views children as gifts and empowers women to manage PMS, menopause, infertility and other health problems. For more information or to sign up for a free introductory session, call Barbara Meier, RN, FCPI at the Fallon Clinic Fitchburg. 978-343-2775 or 609-457-0108

### **ARE WE FORGETTING 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.

**Johnsonia Cultural Series** – Thursday, Dec., 17<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM - "Celebrate the Seasons," a hooked rug exhibit by artist Beverly Hollows accompanied by harpist Rosemary Reynolds, at the Johnsonia Art Gallery, 516 Main Street, Fitchburg. Free, open to the public, serving wine, cheese, soft drinks, and sweets.

**Spaghetti Supper with Santa Claus** - American Legion Post #429 & it's Ladies Auxiliary, 200 Daniels Street, Fitchburg, will have a spaghetti supper on **Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 7:00 PM.** Tickets are \$6 available at the door and take outs are available. They hold spaghetti suppers every third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Thursday of the month. All are welcome!

**The Serra Club** invites you to pray for the following priests and deacons during the week of: December 13<sup>th</sup> through December 19<sup>th</sup> Rev. James Mazzone; Bishop McManus; Deacon Paul Mello; Rev. Edward Michalski; Rev. Thien Nguyen; Deacon Benjamin Nogueira; Rev. Dennis O'Brien.

### **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 4<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

**Attention all parents of children:** Boxed children's offertory envelopes will be available for you at the entrances of the church next weekend. 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.

**Our Father's House Annual Benefit Concert** tickets are available for Christmas gift giving. All tickets are \$30 with numbered seats. **April 24, 2010 @ 8:00 PM** "Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Show", Dukakis Performing Arts Center, Monty Tech H. S. Call 978-345-2256 X300 for more information.

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

### **November "5-10" Club Winners**

\$500	Florence Volpe
\$100	John Angelopoulos, Kyle Boudreau, Gloria Bacener
\$50	Corey Boudreau, Erin Slattery, Greg Thibeault, Ellie White
\$25	Theresa Belli-Murchie, Helen Wornham

**Catholic Free Press** – Do you know of someone who might like to have the Catholic Free Press delivered weekly to their home? Perhaps you might be interested yourself. At just \$23 for a year subscription this makes a thoughtful Christmas or birthday gift! Fill out the envelope in your offertory packet and return it with any collection. We'll take care of the rest. It's that easy!

### **THANK YOU VERY MUCH**

Thanks to all of those who took an hour or two on Saturday morning to clean the church in preparation for Christmas:

Giulio Balducci, Louis Bellabarba, June, Megan & Emily Celona, Tracey Bouchard-DiNardo, Anthony DiNardo, Theresa DiPasquale, Peter Ingemi, Fran LeClair, Louise Lemmo, Lucille Maynard, Norma Jean McAneaney, Frances Mercadante, Margaret Pancare, Ashley Paradis, Beth Romano, Angela, Joe, Billy, Anne & Stephanie Saball and Amy Walsh.

Did you find your name on the list? **Why not?**