



December 19 – 20, 2009 Fourth Sunday of Advent

"One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see."

READ AND PREPARE

Next week's Scripture readings:

First Reading: 1 Samuel 1:20 – 22, 24 – 28

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1 – 2, 21 – 24

Gospel: Luke 2:41 – 52

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 19th

Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

Sunday, December 20th

Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

10:30 AM Louis J. Perla (15th Anniversary)
Requested by his wife Domenica & family

Monday, December 21st

St. Peter Canisus, priest & doctor

7:00 AM Amy Czernicki
Requested by the O'Leary family

Tuesday, December 22nd

7:00 AM NO MASS

Wednesday, December 23rd

5:30 PM Vincent D. Mercadante
Requested by Nick & Frances Mercadante

Thursday, December 24th

Christmas Eve

4:00 PM All Deceased Parishioners & their families

6:00 PM All Deceased Parishioners & their families

Midnight All Deceased Parishioners & their families

Friday, December 25th

Christmas

10:30 AM All Deceased Parishioners & their families

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

December 13th Offerings

Needed to Meet Budget	\$4,889.00
Sunday Offerings	\$5,456.00
Children's Collection (\$5.50)	\$5.50
SURPLUS this week	\$572.50
TOTAL DEFICIT Year to Date	\$5,135.50

Attention all Ministers to the Homebound:

If you did not pick up the Christmas plants and cards today, to be delivered to those homebound parishioners that you serve please be sure to stop by the church office during the week before the plants wilt and it is too late for delivery. Thank you.

GIVING TREE GIFTS – If you did not return your gift to the church or office last week please take it directly to the Catholic Charities Office located next door to St. Cecilia's Church in Leominster ASAP. If you took a name tag please don't let these people be disappointed! The phone number there is 978-840-0696. Should you need to call please be sure to tell them you are from St. Anthony Parish with a gift to drop off from our giving tree. **For RED tags only, please contact Kathy Cullinan @ 978-342-3363.**

The Christmas Mass Schedule is as follows:

Christmas Eve:

Children's Mass at 4:00 PM

Mass at 6:00 PM

Midnight Mass

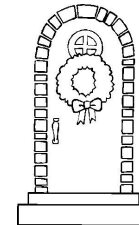
Christmas Day:

Mass at 10:30 AM only

NO 8:00 AM Mass

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.



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 Dorothy Kelleher from her children

Dear Friends,

"Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled!" These beautiful words of St. Elizabeth to Our Blessed Mother remind us of the power of faith in our lives. This Christmas, we are aware of so much sorrow while we try to celebrate the birth of the Savior with joy. War, terrorism, economic difficulties, foreclosures, unemployment: turning on the news or picking up a newspaper can be a pretty depressing business.

It's not a coincidence that we celebrate the birth of Jesus at the darkest time of the year. Through the centuries there have been other Christmases which seemed as bad if not worse. But at Christmas, there is hope. The birth of any baby is a reminder that God has not given up on the human race. Every baby is the embodiment of hope and love and joy. To look into the eyes of a baby is to see the infinite possibilities for good in the human race.

Don't surrender to the voices of despair. Believe in the light which guided the shepherds and the Magi to their destination. Believe in God's light revealed in human form through His Son, Jesus Christ. Believe in the goodness of every infant child that God has given to our care. Believe and do not be afraid.

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

We received a Christmas card from St. Francis Parish:

"Dear Friends,

We want to thank you so very much for your kindness and generosity in giving food for those in need. Our pantry is working so well because of beautiful people like you. We wish you a blessed Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year."

Society of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Francis of Assisi Pantry

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 20th through December 26th Rev. Emerito Ortiz; Rev. Brian O'Toole; Rev. Miguel Pagan; Bishop Reilly; Retired Priests and Religious; Rev. Francis Roberge; Bishop Rueger.

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.

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.

A Christmas Card Received From Fr. Jerry Orsino, P.O. Box 417, White Earth, MN 56591, is posted on the bulletin board and the personal message reads:

"To all our dear families, May Christmas and New Year bring all of you the very best of all God's blessings – especially good health and great happiness. I miss all of you – enjoy the holidays! Buon Natale! Love and Prayers, Fr. Jerry"

Catholic Free Press Subscriptions – 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!

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.

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.

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.