



November 28 – 29, 2009

First Sunday of Advent

Brothers and sisters: May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, November 28th
Vigil: 1st Sunday of Advent

4:00 PM Robert A. Saccone (Anniversary)
Requested by his family

Sunday, November 29th
1st Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM Umberto & Valerie Catalini
Requested by the Catalini family

10:30 AM Peter & Rosanna Levanti
Requested by their daughters & family

Monday, November 30th
St. Andrew, apostle

7:00 AM George & Sally Fava
Requested by their family

Tuesday, December 1st
7:00 AM NO MASS

Wednesday, December 2nd

5:30 PM Sacred Heart of Jesus – Special Favor
Requested by the Rene C. Berube Family

7:00 PM First Reconciliation & Parish Penance Service

Thursday, December 3rd
St. Francis Xavier, priest

7:00 AM John A. Posco (27th Anniversary)
Requested by his daughter Debra

Friday, December 4th
St. John of Damascus, priest & doctor

7:00 AM Ella Carbone (Anniversary)
Requested by her family

Saturday, December 5th
Vigil: Second Sunday of Advent

4:00 PM Ethel Cascio
Requested by her children

Sunday, December 6th
Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM William V. West
Requested by his family

10:30 AM Quintino Rollo, MD (13th Anniversary)
Requested by his wife Claire & family

READ AND PREPARE

Next week's Scripture readings:

First Reading: Baruch 5:1 – 9

Second Reading: Philippians 1:4 – 6, 8 – 11

Gospel: Luke 3:1 – 6

November 22nd Offerings

Needed to Meet Budget	\$4,889.00
Sunday Offerings	\$4,113.00
Children's Collection (\$6.00)	\$6.00
DEFICIT this week	\$780.00
TOTAL DEFICIT Year to Date	\$4,810.50

The Giving Tree has been set up and decorated with the names of children or senior citizens who are in need of services through Catholic Charities and Montachusett Home Health Care. Please consider taking an "ornament" and purchasing something for someone in need. **Be sure to return your wrapped gift with the tag attached to the church or office no later than Monday, December 14th.**

Mass Intention Book

We are scheduling Masses for January 1st through June 30th 2010. In June, we will begin scheduling Masses for the remainder of the year. **All weekend Masses are filled.** There are plenty of 7:00 AM Masses for all months. Keep in mind that during Lent daily Mass is celebrated at both 7:00 AM & 5:30 PM. Lent begins on Wednesday, February 17, 2010.

ALL ADULT PARISHIONERS are invited to the Sparkling Seniors Christmas Party to be held in the church hall on **Wednesday, December 9th at 12:00 Noon.** Price is \$22 per person which includes hors d'oeuvres of cheese, crackers and fruit and a buffet with ziti & sauce; Italian meatballs and sausage; roasted chicken pieces; roasted potatoes; Italian sausage, peppers & onions; garden salad; bread & butter; coffee, tea and wine as well as an assortment of desserts. Event is catered by Liz & Joe's Home Cooking. **Please make check payable to St. Anthony Church and mail to MaryAnn Michaelian (978-342-0791), 6 Boylston Street, Fitchburg or Lucy DiVito (978-348-1202), 126 Goodfellow Drive, Fitchburg. Deadline is Tuesday, December 1st. Reserve your spot today!**

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

Eucharistic Ministers – if you are scheduled to minister the Eucharist, which includes set-up or clean-up, please report to the sacristy to speak to Fr. Bob before each scheduled Mass until further notice. Thank you.

Clean Saturday – Please come to the church on **Saturday morning, December 5th**, anytime from 9:00 AM – Noon to help give the church a good fall cleaning! Bring your own pails, dust cloths etc. Let's get the whole church – top to bottom – clean. Any amount of time will be appreciated. Please sign the sheets at the back of the church to indicate if and at what time you will be here. Thank you to all who respond!

Please pray for the repose of the soul of:
Olimpia Lee Perla
who died this past week. May her soul rest in peace.

This week's St. Anthony Devotional Candle donated by:
Lucille Maynard

Dear Friends,

Advent is a time of new beginnings. It's a time to start afresh as we prepare for the coming of the Lord – both the remembrance of an event in place and time, Bethlehem 2000 years ago, and the ongoing experience of inviting Jesus into our hearts. There is no better way of doing that than participating in our Advent Penance Service and receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation.

It's also a good time to remember an event of just a year ago. Do you remember the ice storm and its terrible aftereffects? Yet in spite of it all, people told me it was one of the best Christmases they could remember. Why? Because they stopped all the shopping and worrying over the unimportant and they did the crucial tasks that needed to be done. Many people said they never appreciated before how wonderful it was to have a warm house and a home cooked meal and all the children sleeping in their own beds.

Do we need another ice storm to remind us of what is really important at Christmas? This year, will we focus on what the season is all about – faith, family and love for all humankind – or will we allow ourselves to be trapped in the endless cycle of meaningless commercialism?

Advent is a time of new beginnings, a time of preparation. For what and for Whom are we preparing?

Pace e Bene,

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.

St. Camillus Youth Group invites you to "illuminate". Mark your calendar for "illuminate" which is coming to St. Camillus Parish on **Sunday, November 29th from 6:00 – 8:00 PM.** They are sponsoring this program to foster a greater awareness of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist and to spread the Hope of Christ. The main speaker will be Jed Heneberry, Youth Minister of a Life Teen parish and now working with the Boston Archdiocese. This program is open to all – young and old and everyone in between. Upbeat modern praise music, inspirational talks, thought provoking videos and of course, Adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Come see what all the fuss is about!

Concert of Advent and Christmas Music to be held at St. Cecilia's Church, featuring some of the area's finest singers and instrumentalists on **Sunday, November 29th** beginning at 3:00 PM. The concert will feature sopranos Claire Garrity and Elizabeth Fiedler, tenor Jonathan Wright, baritone Paul Grautski, The Brass Revelation brass quartet, flutist Nicole O'Toole, St. Cecilia's parish choir and organist David Lasky. Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased in advance at St. Cecilia's rectory Monday thru Friday between 9 and 4 PM, or may be purchased at the door on the day of the concert, doors will open at 2:00 PM. For more information call 978-537-6541.

Jeanne d'Arc Circle #44 Daughters of Isabella will hold their annual Christmas luncheon on **Thursday, December 3rd at The Old Mill Restaurant, at 11:30 AM.** Members are asked to bring an unwrapped gift for a man, woman or child which will be donated to charity. Please call Betty Baldarelli @ 978-514-8882 for reservations. Please note that there will be no meetings in January or February.

Sisters of the Presentation Day of Prayer for Women

Entitled "Advent Hope" at Presentation Convent, Leominster or **Saturday, December 5th from 9:30 – 3:00 PM.** Sr. Katherine McKenna PBVM will be the presenter. Lunch will be included. Free will offerings are accepted. **Registration deadline is Friday, November 27th.** Call 978-537-7108 or 978-790-0056. There will be an opportunity for quiet reflection and sharing.

MARRIED COUPLES: Just as we celebrate Thanksgiving by gathering together with family, why not celebrate your Marriage by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend? It's a positive, simple, common sense, private experience between husband and wife that revitalizes your marriage. Make your reservation now! **The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends in New England are December 4-6 and January 8-10.** For more information call Ralph & Jane Becker at 1-800-710-WWME or visit our webpage at www.wwmeMA.org

Holiday Concert – The Montachusett Chorale will present its Holiday Concert on **Sunday, December 6th at 2:00 PM** in Tata Auditorium, Leominster City Hall. The concert will benefit the Montachusett Interfaith Hospitality Network. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. Under 18 are free. For tickets call Kathy Cullinan at 978-342-3363, Colonial Florists 978-534-9187 or MIHN 978-840-9500.

Festival of Lights at LaSalette Shrine – St. Camillus parish will sponsor a bus trip to the LaSalette Shrine on **Sunday, December 6th** to see the beautiful Christmas lights and displays. Tickets for the bus will be \$10 each. Travel by motor coach, leaving St. Camillus parking lot at 3:30 PM and returning at 9:00 PM. Tickets are on sale each weekend after all Masses at St. Camillus. Only 47 seats in all!

The Serra Club invites you to pray for the following priests and deacons during the week of: November 29th through December 5th Rev. Kevin Hartford; Rev. John Horgan; Rev. John Hughes, MS; Rev. Thomas Hultquist; Rev. Richard Jakubauskas; Rev. John Jurgelonis; Rev. Terence Kilcoyne.

