

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**THIS WEEK**

Saturday 5:00 Csaposs, Riordan & Madden Families  
 Sunday 8:00 Jeanne Leonard, Patricia Fredericksen,  
 George Middlebrook, Dan McEnaney  
 Fr. Bob Kemmery, Parish Family  
 10:00 Charles Kozlowski  
 Monday 8:00 Maureen McEnaney  
 Tuesday 8:00 Gennaro Tursi  
 Wednesday 8:00 Joseph Carty  
 Thursday 8:00 Communion Service  
 Friday 8:00 Joe DiBrigida

**NEXT WEEKEND**

Saturday 5:00 Audrey Moran  
 Sunday 8:00 Mark Dundas, Louis DiGiovanni  
 Ann Zdanis, Tom Cosgrove  
 Fr. Bob Kemmery, Parish Family  
 10:00 Marcel Breton

**PRAY FOR THE ILL OF THE PARISH**

Flora Massa, Martin Coughlin, Loretta Stephens, Regina Zanis, Harry Marcoux, John Keane, Tris Windle, David Cousins, Lynne Scalia, Alex Podeszwa, Bernadette Harrod, Baby Peter O'Connor, Eileen Metterville, Thomas Stone, Nick Bartick, Pam Hedlund, Paul Conte, Len Hedlund, Greg Morongell, Nora Gould, Edan Pearl, Maryanne Leonhardt, Richard Smith, Anne Caruso, Natalie DiPaolo, John M. Pollard, Alexandra Burke, Peter Cruckshank, Bill Hannon, Peter Gill, Ivy Davis, Maddy Hayes, Clare Stevenson, Joseph Nosari, Vincent Lencvewski, Jeffrey Wolfgang, Louise Francke, Joan Ouellette, Bev Sarazin, Helen Stempsey, Regina Collyer, Tyler Bencscoter, Agnes Wolfgang, Fr. Paul Smith, Marilyn Drewes, John L. Sullivan, Kameron Hardaker, Ray Castriotta, Julianne Sullivan, Robert Grudzina, Brenda Kowalski, Marge LaGrassa, Jim Lewis, Joyce Loechner, Frank Salomone, Paul Chamberlain, Pauline Laberge, Edith Vinci, Chad Larivee, Patrick McNulty, Marirose (Mary) Lynch, Dick Wentworth, Nuvia Downs, Karen Mary McNulty, Olivia Hart, Alex Haas, Patrick Devine, Ellen Marie Anderson, Carter Mock, Nancy Hurley, Gerry Csaposs, Peggy Carson, Terry Sullivan, Norie Leonard, Ed Daly, James Roberts, Addie Priess, Pat Hastings, Tim McEnaney, Frank McCarthy, Ruth Kantorski, Andree Yager, Loretta Reiter, Thomas Murphy, Paul Kascsak, Bill Martin, Lolita Previd, Abbott Brayton, Peter Wall

**PRAY FOR LOVED ONES IN THE MID-EAST**

Brandy Nelson, Timothy Horigan, Scott Doucette, Michael Wilson, David Lucas, Sean Lucas, Peter Civita Shayne, Peter Cabral, Gregory DeLuca, Joshua Schmitt, Joseph Long, Brad Howard, Thomas Scudder, Jeffrey Stebbins, Phillip McDonough, David Wilcox, John Amick, David McDonald, Lt. Edward J. Maloney, Andrew Kelley, William James Miller, David Orloski, Stephen Tammaro, Michael L. Hamilton, Thomas Crawford, Aaron Charette, Matthew Blair, Jared Stubbs, Nicholas McGahey

**PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED**

**COLLECTION RESULTS — THANK YOU**

November 27 Regular	\$ 7,219.00
December 4 Regular	\$ 7,342.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 2,828.00
Annual Appeal to Date	\$67,590.00

**2ND COLLECTION FOR RETIRED RELIGIOUS**

Aging religious need your help. Thousands of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests spent years working in Catholic schools, hospitals, and agencies — often for little pay. Their sacrifices leave their religious communities without adequate savings for retirement and eldercare. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious collection this weekend helps provide prescription medications, nursing care, and more. Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

**SVDP GIVING TREE**



**Please return all gifts with stars firmly affixed THIS Sunday, December 11, so our volunteers can deliver all gifts to the agencies for timely distribution so that no child**

will be disappointed this Christmas. Recipients include members of needy families, the NOAH shelters in Hyannis and SKIP in Provincetown, as well as Lower Cape Outreach Council, Cape Cod Children's Place, and A Baby Center in Hyannis. Thanks for giving!

**NEXT WEEKEND IS HARVEST SUNDAY**

The second collection next weekend is the Harvest Sunday Collection, which supports the efforts of the parish St. Vincent de Paul Conference to help those in need with necessities – food, medicine, rent, utilities. Thanks for giving.

**FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS NEXT SUNDAY**

BEEF STEW (24 oz), BAKED BEANS (16 oz) JELLY (8-16 oz) CANNED FRUIT (16 oz), CANNED VEGETABLES (14.5 oz) TUNA FISH (6 oz) , SPAGHETTI (1 lb box) MACARONI & CHEESE (6 oz box), PEANUT BUTTER (18 oz) SPAGHETTI SAUCE (28 oz), JELLO (3 oz) and CANNED SOUP (11 oz), HOT CEREAL (10 env. Pack), COLD CEREAL. Thanks for sharing.

**BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC THIS WEEK**

Our Parish Nurses will be available to check blood pressure this Tuesday from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Center Classroom. Blood Pressure clinics will be discontinued after Tuesday until further notice.

## THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND DWELLS WITH US



Are we willing to be transformed from the inside out so that we might give a human face to Divine Love in our world? Advent is the opportunity to ponder the ways of love. The incarnation is the “enfleshment” of the Christ Love in Jesus — God with us. Join Judy Burt Walker on Wednesday

mornings of Advent to reflect and pray together. We will meet Wednesday, December 14, at 8:45 a.m. in the Parish Center.

### THRIFT SHOP HIATUS

The Thrift Shop is now closed for the holidays and will reopen on Monday, January 9. Donations cannot be accepted until after Friday, January 6.

### GIFT CARD FOR REFUGEES UPDATE

\$2,375 worth of gift cards were donated in response to the Gift Card Drive sponsored by our Social Justice Ministry in November. The cards, which were forwarded to Ascentria Services for New Americans Program, have already been put to good use. Recently a single mom with four children arrived from the Central African Republic and settled into an apartment. Due to a series of snafus, the power to her apartment was cut off over Thanksgiving, requiring the family to shelter elsewhere, and all refrigerated food was ruined. Ascentria has informed us that *“We were able to use some of your donated grocery gift cards, and our local church volunteers took her food shopping to restock her refrigerator. Thanks to your church’s generosity, you saved the day!”*

### ST. JOHN PAUL II FUNDRAISER

The Knights of Columbus would like to thank the parishioners for their generous support of our December 4 Pancake Breakfast designated to raise funds for the St. John Paul II High School choir to perform at the Vatican next year. Several students and parents joined us at Mass and at the breakfast and were extremely grateful for our support and interest.

### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY UPDATE

Thank you to all the SJA volunteers who worked in the cold and wind last Saturday. There are four houses under construction in Chatham, and we worked on the walls of two, nailing on cedar shingles. There is still a lot to do, but we made a very good effort, survived the cold, and left with new friendships. Thank you again to all who helped.

### CHRISTMAS DINNER AT OLC PARISH

Our Lady of the Cape Parish on Stony Brook Road in Brewster invites all who want to join with others for Christmas Dinner. Festivities start at noon, and dinner will be served at 12:30 p.m. on Christmas Day in the Parish Center located behind the church. All are welcome! Meals can also be delivered to the homebound. For info and to make a reservation, please call Kathy DeMeyer at 508-776-6040 by December 18.

### RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

The Respect Life Ministry will sponsor any youth who wishes to attend the March for Life in Washington, D.C. on Thursday, January 26 to Saturday, January 28, 2017. Please contact Ellen at 508-292-4346. For itinerary details, go to [www.fallriverdiocese.org/2017-march-for-life-registration-forms](http://www.fallriverdiocese.org/2017-march-for-life-registration-forms).

### THE ANCHOR

It’s been nearly one year since *The Anchor* no longer receives funding from diocesan parishes. Our thanks go out to all the generous donors and to those who have faithfully renewed their subscriptions. There are, however, thousands of subscribers who still receive *The Anchor* who have not sent in the \$20 yearly subscription fee. This takes a great toll on *The Anchor* account that helps offset printing, postage and other overheads. If you have not sent in the subscription fee and are still receiving *The Anchor* we ask that you please assist us in keeping the diocesan newspaper arriving at nearly 20,000 homes across our diocese. Send your check made payable to *The Anchor*, 887 Highland Avenue, Fall River, Mass. 02720, along with your name and address. We thank you very much and wish everyone a blessed Advent and Christmas season.

Dave Jolivet, Editor.

### SEASONAL REMINDERS

Due to the flu season, the cup will not be offered at Mass until Holy Thursday. The Sign of Peace may be offered with words and a smile rather than a handshake, if you like.

As winter approaches, bringing unpredictable weather and health conditions, keep in mind these guidelines: If you suspect you are ill, or weather conditions are hazardous, you are **not bound to attend Mass. Remain at home**, possibly participating in the Mass on TV, radio or Internet. **If schools are closed or delayed due to snow, THERE IS NO DAILY MASS. Please observe this policy for your safety, as well as to expedite the snow removal in our parking lots.**



### **FAITH FORMATION**

**Grades 1-5**      **Mondays**      **2:20—4:00 p.m.**  
**Grades 6-10**    **Monday**        **6:00---7:30 p.m.**

### **GRADE 9 AND 10 DECEMBER TEEN NITE**

Teen Nite for our Confirmation students is scheduled for this Tuesday, December 13, at 6:00 p.m. until 7:45 p.m. We will work together on a service project, share a meal, and celebrate the season with a Yankee Swap. Please bring a wrapped gift of under \$10 with you.

### **FAITH FORMATION CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

Our *Annual Christmas Pageant* will be Monday, December 19, at 6:30 p.m. Everyone — families, friends, parishioners — absolutely everyone is invited to share the Christmas spirit with our shepherds and sheep, Bethlehem stars, Baby Jesus, angels, and wise men. Come celebrate with us the season of Christ's birth.

All students, Grades K-9, should arrive at the Parish Center by 5:45 p.m. to get costumed and prepare for their parts.

### **CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS**

The 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass on Saturday, December 24, is a Family Mass. Our Faith Formation students will help us celebrate as lectors, altar servers, and offertory collectors. We also welcome all young people in the parish to be bearers of the crèche figures to the manger, and to sign *Silent Night* after Communion. We so appreciate the special presence and spirit they bring as we remember the Birth of Jesus.

### **NEW BEGINNINGS**

Are you interested in deepening your spirituality, learning more about Jesus, and growing in the Community as a member of the church? Then RCIA might be for you! The Parish offers RCIA (The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) as a way of exploring these important life issues and to discern whether initiation into the Catholic Christian Community is for you. Please call Judy Burt Walker at 508-255-1257 for further information, or Father John at the Rectory.

## LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

Kathleen Dixon's book *Hearts 'n Souls* gives witness to the symbolic use of *light*—the heart and soul of the Christmas Season! She writes of a single mom with four young children, working a minimum wage job. Money was tight, but the children didn't realize they were poor—they just thought their mom was cheap.

Christmas brought excitement and much talk about gifts. But, Mom dreaded it—she had managed to save only \$120 for presents for the five of them. So she decided to take them to the mall where she gave each of them \$20.00 with which to buy small, \$4.00 gifts for one another. Everyone was in high Christmas spirits as they went about seeking just the right little gift for each family member.

Back in the car there was much teasing and hinting about the presents they had purchased—all except for 8 year-old Ginger who kept her flat plastic bag on her lap—through which her mother could plainly see five fifty cent candy bars. *"Where had the remainder of the \$20 gone?"* Mom fumed silently all the home until she could get Ginger aside privately.

Ginger explained that she had read the cards on a Salvation Army "Giving Tree". One card had the name of a 4-year-old girl who wanted only a little doll and a hairbrush. Ginger said that she bought the doll and hairbrush and took them to the Salvation Army booth. *"Then all I had left was enough to buy candy bars for us, but we have so much, and she doesn't have anything!"*

Suddenly Mom felt her burdens lift as she hugged her daughter. Never had she felt as rich as she did that Christmas.

John the Baptist was a prophet sent from God—a witness to testify to the Light. From prison he sought clarity: Is Jesus the true Light—the long-awaited One? Report after report joyfully proclaimed that Jesus restored wholeness to those who were broken; new life to the deadened of spirit; forgiveness and grace to the sinners and outcasts; kindness to the suffering and the struggling. In word and in deed, "Light" had come into the darkness of the world.

This was the light that shone in little Ginger's heart as she gave of her 'abundance' to make someone else happy. This was the light that lifted the burden from her mother's shoulders as she hugged her daughter. This is the light that can bridge chasms of hatred, violence, and despair. Let us rejoice in the Light and let our own light shine out in blessing as we share our abundance with a world in need