

MASS INTENTIONS

THIS WEEK

Saturday	4:00	Carole McMahon
	7:00	Eleanor Watt
Sunday	8:00	Caoimhe Freyne, Joseph Van Demark Terezinha Rosa, Fr. Bob Kemmery, Parish Family
	10:00	Mark Dundas
Monday	8:00	Thomas Kelly
Tuesday	8:00	Rolanda Larue
Wed	8:00	David Berkery
Thurs	8:00	Communion Service
Friday	8:00	Mary Cacciola

NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday	5:00	Moreau, Berube, Hendrickson, Kemp Families
Sunday	8:00	Daniel Ferruci, Jacqui Fitzpatrick Fr. Bob Kemmery, Parish Family
	10:00	Peggy Hallisey

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, 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 Lenczewski, Jeffrey Wolfgang, Louise Francke, Joan Ouellette, Bev Sarazin, Helen Stempsey, Regina Collyer, Tyler Bencoter, 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 Leo Miller

IN LOVING MEMORY

The Tabernacle candle has been donated in loving memory of Carole McMahon.

COLLECTION RESULTS — THANK YOU

December 18 Regular	\$ 7,774.00
Harvest Sunday	\$ 5,696.50
Annual Appeal to Date	\$72,940.00

NEEDED: USHER SUBS AT 8 A.M. SUNDAY MASS

We are looking for capable men and women who are available and willing to fill in as substitute ushers at the 8:00 a.m. Sunday and Holy Day Masses, as needed. If you regularly attend 8:00 a.m. Mass and would be willing to fill in for one of our regular ushers from time-to-time, please contact Bud Budnar at 203-241-7187, or Robert\_budnar@hotmail.com.


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.

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**



**Pastor's Corner** The Parish staff and I wish all of you a very happy and holy Celebration of our Lord's Birth. May His peace be yours this Christmas Season and throughout the New Year.

The Women's Guild recently presented me with a very generous donation to the Parish which is the direct result of the time, talent, and hard work of our dedicated Thrift Shop volunteers. I am so deeply grateful to our Guild and Thrift Shop workers for your hard work all year-round and for your ongoing support of the Parish.

Fr. John Kelleher

## ANNUAL APPEAL UPDATE

First of all, thank you so much for your very generous response to our Parish Annual Appeal. So far, with the help of your donations, **we've already completed many of the improvements** which I outlined in the Annual Appeal letter back in September. **These include:** repair of the walkway to the Parish Office, energy efficient lighting improvements in the Parish Thrift Shop, the purchase of a decent used pick-up truck for the parish, repair of the sprinkler system between our Church parking lot and Canal Road, new matting at all the doors of the Church and Parish Center, painting of all the white trim on the exterior of the Church, and replacement of several windows in the Parish Center.

I hope to complete a **few other improvements** by the end of this fiscal year (June 30). We have a contract in place to renovate the exterior of the rectory (like we did the church last year), starting on March 14 (\$35,000). I also hope to purchase technology for the Church which will allow us to make the Mass available on-line, both live, and at a later time.

So, if you've been thinking about donating to the Annual Appeal, and you haven't gotten around to it, **you can still offer a donation** by the end of the year which will be put to good use. Again, thank you so much to all who have donated to our Annual Appeal so far to help us take care of our parish buildings and grounds.

## APPLAUSE FOR THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Our annual presentation of the Christmas Story was held this past Monday to a wonderful audience of families, friends, and members of the St. Joan of Arc community. The evening was very special and heralded the spirit of the season to all who attended. We want to thank all the members of the cast: angels, shepherds, kings, prophets, narrators, heavenly choir, Mary, Joseph, and especially little Andrew, who was a truly wonderful Baby Jesus.

Many thanks to **ALL** the catechists who are, in a very real sense, responsible for ensuring that this annual miraculous event really does come to pass. We are so grateful for all of you.

## WARM CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

All of us at the Faith Formation Ministry wish our students, their families, and all our parish family a warm and blessed Christmas. May the spirit of the baby Jesus bring you peace, joy, laughter and love during this Season of Hope.

## CALENDAR REMINDER

No Faith Formation classes until Monday, January 23, 2017 when we welcome back Kindergarten through grade 10. Look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

## PREPARE HIM ROOM

In his book *“Short Sermons on the Run”* Walter J Burghardt remembers a special Christmas pageant: There was Joseph who had a special role as Mary's husband and his firm commitment to the soon-to-be-born baby.

Then, there was the coveted part of Mary, mother of Jesus—a “model” of a completely different kind than the usual Hollywood variety. And, of course, there were the “others”—angels; shepherds; wise men from distant countries; --each one with a mystique all its own in the story of this holy night. Everyone was excited and eager to play their parts.

The cast was in place as Joseph and Mary arrived at the inn. The Inn-keeper had one line: *“There is no room at the inn!”* The part was to be played by Wally, an earnest and kind “gentle giant” of a young man who, despite his size and awkwardness, was loved by all. Wally had practiced his line over and over with great passion. So there he was—bathrobe over his clothes, with Mary and Joseph making their way down the center aisle. They approached him, said their lines, and waited for his reply.

*“There's no room at the inn,”* Wally boomed out just as rehearsed. But his face and his body language expressed his real emotions. Wally was visibly upset. As Mary and Joseph turned to travel further, Wally yelled, *“Wait!”* Startled at this unexpected outburst, Mary and Joseph turned around. *“Don't go,”* pleaded Wally. *“You can stay at my house!”*

Thinking quickly, the pastor said a resounding *“Amen!”* and the choir broke into *Joy to the World*—thus bringing both pageant and homily to an unexpected but perfect completion. A profoundly holy message had been imparted to the traditional story.

God challenges us *“to prepare him room”*—to make our own hearts places of welcome, inclusion, support, and shelter. When we express the love within ourselves; we find that our families, our churches, our communities also become places of greater warmth and kindness—the light of one candle can make a big difference—especially in the dark hours. Wally voiced the response we would all like to make to a family in exile, to someone in need, to a neighbor we would rather not invite to our table. But we cannot depend on Wally to be the lone voice of open-hearted generosity. It is up to each of us to make room for Love to be born more fully in our hearts and homes! Let us *“prepare Him room...”* and *bring joy to the world*