

**MASS INTENTIONS  
THIS WEEK**

Saturday 5:00 Leo Miller  
 Sunday 8:00 Carol Barker, Michel Irwin,  
 Fr. Bob Kemmery, Parish Family  
 10:00 Mary Cacciola  
 Monday 8:00 Caiome Freyne  
 5:00 Flora Massa  
 Tuesday 10:00 Nancy Hurley  
 Wednesday 8:00 Frank O'Neil  
 Thursday 8:00 Communion Service  
 Friday 8:00 John Cooley

**NEXT WEEKEND**

Saturday 5:00 Josephine Vent  
 Sunday 8:00 Donald Gallucci, Karen Ticknor-Bulwidias  
 Fr. Bob Kemmery, Parish Family  
 10:00 Lewis Carrington

**PRAY FOR THE ILL OF THE PARISH**

Martin Coughlin, Loretta Stephens, Regina Zanis, Harry Marcoux, John Keane, Tris Windle, David Cousins, Lynne Scalia, Alex Podeszwa, Eileen Metterville, Thomas Stone, Nick Bartick, Pam Hedlund, Len Hedlund, Greg Morongell, Nora Gould, Edan Pearl, Anne Caruso, John M. Pollard, Peter Cruickshank, Bill Hannon, Ivy Davis, Maddy Hayes, Clare Stevenson, Joseph Nosari, Vincent Lencvewski, Jeffrey Wolfgang, Louise Francke, Joan Ouellette, Bev Sarazin, Tyler Bencotter, 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, Chad Larivee, Patrick McNulty, Dick Wentworth, Nuvia Downs, Karen Mary McNulty, Olivia Hart, Alex Haas, Patrick Devine, Gerry Csaposs, Peggy Carson, Ed Daly, Addie Priess, Tim McEnaney, Frank McCarthy, Andree Yager, Loretta Reiter, Paul Kasczak, Joe Conlan, Patty Camarra, James Manley, Betty Babcock, Thomas Murphy, Tom & Deb O'Connor, Chris Frazier, Melissa K., Jayne Boyle, Vittoria Hillis, Baby Lillian Thoman, Jessica O., Fran McDonagh, Paul Hendrickson, Donna Hibbert, Margaret Royce, Beth Nixon, Maureen Hall, Anne O'Brien, Ben McMahon, Gerry Moynihan, Martha Moynihan, Richard Paskiewicz, Mary Rodrigues, Emily Sparks, Bob Flaherty, Martha Byron, Stephen Moreau

**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, Nicholas McGahey, Edward Prufer, Christian Goodman, John Reuland

**PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED** Arthur Ferrara, Peg Parker

**NEW YEAR'S MASSES**

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Monday, December 31<sup>st</sup>  
 5:00pm

Tuesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>  
 10:00am

*"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:11)*

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

This being my first Christmas with you, I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm that I consider it a privilege and an honor to serve as your Pastor. Thank you for the very warm welcome that you have shown me as well as your many kindnesses, support, encouragement and prayers.

I am very grateful for your response to this year's Parish Annual Appeal Letter. As people of faith, we know that we are called to share the blessings we have received, serve Christ in one another and worship in memory of Him. Your generosity to St. Joan of Arc Parish throughout the year helps to support our parish ministries, outreach and activities as well as maintain the parish buildings and grounds. The Annual Appeal is an opportunity, for those who can, to make an additional sacrificial offering to our Parish.

Each year, the Advent Season is the time when we prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ, the newborn King. Our Advent observances enable us to more perfectly proclaim that Jesus Christ, the child of Mary and Joseph at Bethlehem, in fact, reigns in our hearts. This Christmas is the time to look back to the day when heaven came down to earth in the person of Jesus Christ. As those sayings remind us, we remember that "*Jesus* is the reason for the season" and we "keep *Christ* in Christmas".

Let us all give thanks to God for the blessings He has bestowed upon us throughout this past year. Let us pray for His continued blessings in the New Year ahead, 2019. May the blessed Seasons of Advent and Christmas fill your hearts with the peace, joy and love that only Christ can give. May the Lord abundantly bless you and the parish we all love. St. Joan or Arc, pray for us.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Father William M. Rodrigues

## LIVING ROSARY



Once again this year, the St. Joan of Arc Guild is sponsoring a Living Rosary in support of the Respect Life March in Washington, D.C. in January. The Living Rosary will be held on Tuesday, January 8, at 7:00 p.m. in the church (followed by refreshments and fellowship in the Parish Center), and all parishioners are invited to attend. If you are 12 years of age or older and would like to be a “bead” in the Rosary (reciting one or two Hail Mary’s aloud), please contact Kathy Culik at SJAGuild@c4.net with your name and email address.

## 2019 WALL CALENDARS

St. Joan of Arc Parish wall calendars for the New Year are available in the foyers for all who want one. We are grateful to Chris Luciano, General Manager of Nickerson Funeral Home, for supplying these to the Parish.

## RCIA

The next RCIA meeting will be Thursday, January 3, at 4:00 p.m. in the Chapel. It is not too late to join us if you are interested in becoming Catholic, or if you are already Catholic and simply want to reconnect with the church. Please contact Judy Burt Walker at 508-255-1257 or Father Bill at 508-255-0170 for more information.

## RETREAT FOR MEN

***Everybody Dies — but Not Everyone Lives!*** The retreat will be led by Mr. Ernie Collamati and Deacon Bruce Bonneau at the Sacred Heart Retreat Center, 226 Great Neck Road, Wareham, MA, February 8—10. Many people as they approach death do not regret what they have done, but what they did not do or tried. This retreat addresses questions such as: *What fears do we have that prevent us from truly living? Can we see regrets not as failures but places for hope? Can we live while we are dying and not die while we are living?* For more information or to register, contact Deacon Bruce Bonneau at 508-678-2828, ext 13, or email [bbonneau@dfrcs.org](mailto:bbonneau@dfrcs.org).



## SEASONAL REMINDERS

Due to the flu season, effective immediately 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.

If you suspect you are ill, or weather conditions are hazardous, you are **not obligated 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.**



## MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKENDS

Consider planning a weekend away for just the two of you to renew your marriage relationship. A Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend is a positive, renewing experience for couples who have a good marriage and want to make it even better! Marriage Encounter is designed to deepen and enrich the joys a couple shares together, whether they have been married a short time or many years. See the poster in the foyers, call 800-710-WWME, or call Carmella and Al Alfano at 508-255-4448. Upcoming weekends are January 18-20 in South Kingston, RI; March 8—10 in Duxbury, MA; April 13—14 in Brewster, MA, June 8—9 in Medway, MA.

## PILGRIMAGE TO POLAND/BUDAPEST

Looking for the PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFT? We invite you to join Fr. Marcel Bouchard and Fr. George Bellenoit in a pilgrimage to Poland and Budapest, July 30-August 10, 2019. Come with them and follow the lives of the great saints John Paul II, Sr. Faustina, and Maximilian Kolbe. This exciting adventure will lift your spirits, and delight your senses! For more information, to request a brochure, please contact Randy Pinto 321-987-8173 or email [randypinto1@gmail.com](mailto:randypinto1@gmail.com).

## VOCATION DISCERNMENT RETREAT

The Diocese of Fall River Vocation Office is hosting a discernment weekend for Men, ages 18-45, at the Betania II Spiritual Life and Marian Center, 154 Summer St., Medway, MA from Friday, February 22 to Sunday February 24. See posted flyers in church foyers for more info. If interested, please contact Fr. Jack Schrader at [frschrader@fallrivervocations.org](mailto:frschrader@fallrivervocations.org) or 508-895-6161.



## **WELCOME 2019**

As the year comes to a close and a new one begins, we wish all those in our Faith Formation Ministry a most joyous and abundant 2019. Happy New Year to one and all.

## **FAITH FORMATION CLASS SCHEDULE**

All Kindergarten through Grade 10 students return to their regularly scheduled time on Monday, January 7. Please remind your afternoon student to ride the SJA Bus to class. We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

### **A Prayer for the Family**

Composed by St. Mother Teresa

*Heavenly Father,  
you have given us the model of life  
in the Holy Family of Nazareth.  
Help us, O Loving Father,  
to make our family another Nazareth  
where love, peace and joy reign.  
May it be deeply contemplative,  
intensely eucharistic,  
revived with joy.*

*Help us to stay together in joy  
and sorrow in family prayer.  
Teach us to see Jesus in the members of our families,  
especially in their distressing disguise.  
May the eucharistic heart of Jesus  
make our hearts humble like his  
and help us to carry out our family duties  
in a holy way.*

*May we love one another  
as God loves each one of us,  
more and more each day,  
and forgive each other's faults  
as you forgive our sins.  
Help us, O Loving Father,  
to take whatever you give  
and give whatever you take with a big smile.*

*Immaculate Heart of Mary,  
cause of our joy, pray for us.*

*St. Joseph, pray for us.*

*Holy Guardian Angels,  
be always with us, guide and protect us. Amen.*

## **HOLY WONDER**

Mark Nepo, author of *The One Life we Live*, reflects on an adult son's remembrance of his last days with his father:

*“When my father was dying, I was alone with him in the hospital and found myself feeding him applesauce. In that moment my whole being, my whole life, was suddenly concentrated on slipping the spoon with the utmost care into his mouth, waiting for him to swallow, and then sliding the spoon slowly from his lips, so as not to disturb his labored breathing. We repeated this ritual tenderly, spoonful after spoonful. And in the rare quiet of a January afternoon, wonder began to fill the room. I became aware that I was crying softly— and of what seemed to be a glow around us. There was no need for words. I didn't want my life to leave this moment of feeding my father. My sadness had given way to care, which had given way to wonder – wonder in the center of all that pain!*

*“As I slipped the spoon from his mouth one last time, I felt that I was in the moment of every child who ever fed a dying parent. I kissed his forehead and held his hand, both of us more alive than we could remember, completely covered in inexplicable wonder... While wonder can surprise us, our daily work is to cultivate wonder in ourselves and in each other. Yet we really have only a few precious seconds to ‘love the wonder out of those before us’; or they, and we, will swallow it without fully savoring its transformative power.*

*“That day with my father, I learned that a presence waits beneath our chatter and our pain that can illuminate the world. When tired, we splash water on our face. Perhaps if we find ourselves half-hearted, we might splash some wonder on our faces!*

In this holy season, we are embraced by such wonder. We behold the Light that illuminates the joys and sorrows of our lives with pure grace. In this wondrous light, the love of God is revealed – we become more present to the wonder of a Love that is never lost, but is always present and waiting to be savored.

In the Christ Child, the sacred is not some abstract concept of theological theory: the love of God takes on a human face in the child, Jesus. The beauty of such love re-awakens our hearts to the challenge of incarnating that same love in our lives and the lives of those we love. As we prepare for the New Year, let's splash some wonder on our faces and wake up to the miracles of love that embrace us every day. May this wonder enliven and transform our hearts – and our world