
St. John is a Stewardship Parish

Dec 11, 2011

Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 10, 2011

4:00 – Suzanne Shepard – 22nd Anniv.

Sunday, December 11, 2011

8:00 – Charles Matthews – 13th Anniv.

10:00 – Mass for the People of St. John’s

6:00 – Shawn Cannizzo – 4th Anniv.

Saturday, December 17, 2011

4:00 – John & Mary Barry – Memorial Mass

Sunday, December 18, 2011

8:00 – Christopher Thompson – Memorial Mass

10:00 – Ewa Morawski – 17th Anniversary

6:00 – Mass for the People of St. John’s

Important Dates

12/14 – Fr. Skerry’s Program – 7 PM - Chapel

12/15 – PPC Meeting – 7 PM in the Chapel

12/17 – CHRISTMAS PAGEANT at Noon followed by Decorating of Rectory Christmas Tree - 1:45-3pm

12/18 – Parish Christmas Breakfast – 11 AM

12/21 – Fr. Skerry’s Program – 7 PM – Chapel followed by Confession

12/22 – Confession (Reconciliation) 7 – 7:30 PM

12/24 – Christmas Eve Masses – check pg 2 for times

12/25 – CHRISTMAS DAY MASS – 10 AM

Be a Bishop! Apply to Archbishop Williams High School TODAY!

Don’t forget that our application deadline is December 15th. For all application information and materials, please visit www.awhs.org/admissions-overview or call 781-535-6051



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Saturday, December 17th the children of our Parish will present The Nativity Story at Noon. Members of Karen Connell and Kevin Smith’s 10th Gr. Confirmation class are directing the children in this wonderful presentation of the Christmas Story. In addition to the wonderful play, you are cordially invited to join Fr Wally in celebrating the Christmas season by joining in the decorating of the rectory Christmas tree following the pageant from 1:45 – 3 pm. Bring an ornament that represents your family’s style or traditions and enjoy some Christmas cheer and goodies.

Our Shared Treasure

December 4, 2011: \$6480

GRAND ANNUAL COLLECTION: \$5980

St. Vincent de Paul Collection: \$2280

Thank you for your continued generosity.



CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS DURING ADVENT

We will take time each Wednesday evening at 7pm during Advent to look at the Scripture account of Jesus’ birth, some light theology, and hopefully some sharing can lead us to a more fruitful celebration of this amazing truth of our faith: “The Word became flesh.”

God Bless, Fr. Skerry

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Rita LoCicero, Fedela Nuovo, Patricia Polcaro, Pam Adornato, T. J. Herlihy, Dorothea Delano, & Holly Benson, Cecilia Chapman.

****Due to the ever growing number of names in our prayer list, we will be removing names after one month’s time to make room for more people in need of our prayers. The complete list of names can be found on our website:***

www.stjohne.org

Grand Annual Collection

We are very grateful for the generosity shown by 105 of our families to our Grand Annual Collection. To date, these families have contributed \$17,537. If you have not yet had an opportunity to return your donation, please do so as soon as possible. The Parish Finance Council has recommended a donation in the amount of \$250. The council realizes that some families may not be able to afford that donation while many others may be able to give more. We count on your generosity to reach our goal of \$46,000

Every gift is welcomed and sincerely appreciated. Donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Let’s all do our part no matter how big or small our donation may be.

IMPORTANT CHRISTMAS INFORMATION

PENANCE SERVICE

Confessions will be heard on Wednesday Dec. 14 & 21st following Fr. Don Skerry's talk. Confessions will also be heard on Thursday evening Dec. 22 from 7:00-7:30. Confessions will not be heard on Saturday Dec. 24.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Saturday, 12/24, the 4:00 Mass in the Church will have our Teen Choir providing the music. The 4:00 Mass in the Parish Hall will have a Cantor with piano music. The 6:00 Mass in the Church will have music provided by our Children and Adult choirs.

Sunday, 12/25, the Mass will be at 10:00am with an organist, violin and cantor.

There will NOT be an 8:00 am or a 6:00 pm Mass on Christmas Day.

We will have our regular Mass schedule for New

years we will have fewer priests than there are parishes. This situation requires immediate planning and action within the next few years so that life in the Archdiocese cannot only continue but thrive. Last Friday over 400 active and retired priest gathered at the Lantana in Randolph to begin the consultation process. The agenda of the meeting centered around a document that was sent to every priest a few days before the meeting. We were given electronic voting devices and were able to actually vote or express our opinion on every aspect of the proposed document which is called "Disciples in Mission"

I will be sharing with you everything that I know about this process. You can visit www.2012Planning.org, which is the website of the (APPC), Archdiocesan Pastoral Planning Commission and see for yourself what is being proposed. This proposal does not include closing any parish. Each parish will continue to be an independent parish. But each parish, all 290, will belong to a Pastoral Collaborative which will consist of 2-4 independent parishes. Each Pastoral Collaborative will be governed by a Pastoral Service Team which will have one pastor for the collaborative. "Ordinarily, the pastor in a Pastoral Service Team will not have been the pastor of a parish served by that Pastoral Service Team."

The next step in the consultation process will begin shortly for deacons, pastoral associates, parish and finance council members and parish staff members. The consultation process will conclude by June 1 and the final documents will be given to the Cardinal for approval. The implementation will begin shortly thereafter and will continue for the next three years or more. There are many, many questions that need to be raised and answered. I will share with you any information that I have regarding the proposal. I think that the best way to do that is to have a conversation, a question and answer session after one of the masses on a Sunday.

I am not sure how all this will work out, but I am convinced that this proposal will enliven the parishes of the Archdiocese. We will go from Survival Mode to Mission Mode. All change is difficult and sometimes it can be painful, particularly change like this. Whatever road we are to walk down, we will walk it together.

God, Bless,
Fr. Wally

The diocese-wide Christmas collection is for our priests. These faith-filled men have dedicated their lives to serving the Catholic faithful here in Boston; now, it is our turn to be present for them. Please give generously to the Christmas collection which will directly benefit the health and retirement needs of our 715 active and senior priests. Thank you in advance for your support of this important effort.



Dear Friends,

I hope that you all read the "Pilot" article last week regarding the increase in vocations to the priesthood. St. John's Seminary in Brighton, has at present 82 seminarians, up from 24 three years ago. These large increases have been seen all around the country as well as in the national seminaries in Rome. The Washington Theological Institute, attached to the Catholic University, has 91 seminarians and had to stop accepting new applicants as the building is full. I truly believe that this is a sign that the Lord is with His church. While this is wonderful news, this increase, and hopefully it is a trend, will take at least 20 years before it will have a real impact on parish life in the Archdiocese. At present, we lose 25 priests each year due to illness, retirement and death. There are 340 active priest serving 290 parishes in the Archdiocese. If we lose 25 priests each year, in two

St. Michael's College in Vermont is offering a \$20,000 scholarship to a deserving high school graduating senior. Among the qualifications is that the candidate must e an active member of his or her parish. Please see Fr. Wally for further details.