
St. John is a Stewardship Parish

Dec 18, 2011

Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

9:00 - Louis Lombardi – Memorial Mass

Important Dates

12/18 – Parish Christmas Breakfast – 11 AM

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

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

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The Sacrament of Reconciliation, or confession as it is more commonly known, will be celebrated this Wednesday, Dec. 21 following Fr. Skerry’s Program in the chapel and on Thursday, Dec. 22 from 7:00 – 7:30 pm in the Chapel. This is a wonderful way to prepare for Christmas.

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 Year’s weekend. Sat. at 4:00 – Sun. at 8, 10 & 6

Our Shared Treasure

December 11, 2011: \$4,918.

GRAND ANNUAL COLLECTION: \$22,112.

Our goal is \$45,000.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Next week’s Christmas collection is for our priests. The 715 active and senior priests in our Archdiocese have served us faithfully and have been a constant source of grace and blessing over the years. They are the reason we are able to celebrate the sacrament of the Eucharist today and every day. Those parishioners who received the Christmas envelope for the Clergy Fund, also received a parish envelope dated Dec. 25th. Please bring that parish envelope the following weekend. The funds rec’vd at Xmas must go to the Clergy Fund.

Please keep the following in your

prayers: Rita LoCicero, Fedela Nuovo, Patricia Polcaro, Pam Adornato, T.J. Herlihy, Dorothea Delano, Holly Benson, Cecilia Chapman, Susan Collins

****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.stjohneb.org



CHRISTMAS FLOWER ENVELOPES MUST BE IN THIS WEEKEND. Any envelopes received after this week, will be included the January 1 bulletin.

The Rectory Office will be closed Dec 24 & 25



We wish you a very Merry Christmas—God Bless

300 Club Winners in November
Dorothy Regis and Jean Paul Boisclair
John Gouthro Pat & Mike Sergio
Mr. & Mrs. Edward L. Rodricks



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

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.



Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that this is the fourth and final Sunday of Advent. It has been a wonderful and different Advent for me and for many others. And as Advent brings us Christmas, this Christmas will be both wonderful and different for me and for many others. We have had 35 funerals in 2011 or about a dozen more than any of the previous 10 years. Many families, including my own, have lost loved ones and will realize that the wood of the manger comes from the wood of the cross. Three families lost a little baby this year and I will baptize the twin brother of one of these "little angels" in January. Two wonderful parents lost their 25 year old daughter and many others lost a spouse of 40 years or more. Lots of people in East Bridgewater will find it difficult to have a "Merry Little Christmas" this year. And they will be sitting in a pew in this church on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day; perhaps they will be sitting next to you. Maybe they will just slip into one of the many festive liturgies in hope of finding a little Christmas Spirit and Christmas Peace. You may not even know who they are but be one with

them - be one with everyone, be one with them and with all who will have the courage to bring their broken hearts to the baby Jesus. Sometimes, with all of the Christmas gifts, decorations, cards, parties, and all of the wonderful happenings that are an important part of the Christmas celebration, we can tend to forget the real reason for Christmas, the reason for the birth of Christ. Jesus became one of us so that we could become like Him. Jesus became one of us so that we might live with Him in Heaven. Advent, Lent, Christmas and Easter are part of the cycle of life and are part of the cycle of "New Life." I would like to end this reflection with something that was written by Lawrence Ferlinghetti. It touched my heart and hopefully it will touch yours.

Christ climbed down from his bare Tree this year and ran away to where there were no rootless Christmas trees hung with candy canes and breakable stars. Christ climbed down from his bare Tree this year and ran away to where there were no gilded Christmas trees and no tinsel Christmas trees and no tinfoil Christmas trees and no pink plastic Christmas trees and no gold Christmas trees and no black Christmas trees and no powder blue Christmas trees hung with electric trains and clever cornball relatives. ...

Christ climbed down from his bare Tree this year and ran away to where no Bing Crosby carolers groaned of a White Christmas and where no Radio City angels ice skated wingless thru a winter wonderland into a Jingle bell heaven daily at 8:30 with Midnight Mass matinees.

Christ climbed down from his bare Tree this year and softly stole away into some anonymous soul. He waits again an unimaginable and impossible immaculate Re-conception –the very craziest of Second Comings.

May each of us make the presence of the Baby Jesus known and felt this Christmas Season.

Then, this will truly be a time of Joy to the World!



God, Bless,
Fr. Wally