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St. John is a Stewardship Parish

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December 21, 2014  
Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 20, 2014

4:00 – Suzanne Shepard – 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Sunday, December 21, 2014

8:00 – Christopher Thompson -- Memorial

10:30 – Ewa Morawski – 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

6:00 – Emily Harrington – Month’s Mind

Monday, December 22, 2014

9:00 – Armand Ortenzi -- Memorial

Saturday, December 27, 2014

4:00 – Parishioners of St. John

Sunday, December 28, 2014

8:00 – Parishioners of St. John

10:30 – Parishioners of St. John

6:00 – Parishioners of St. John

*Important Dates*

Sat. 12/20 – Trip to La Salette – 5 PM

Sun. 12/28 – Skating Fundraiser – 5-7 pm

Thurs. 1/1/15 – Solemnity of Mary – Holy Day of Obligation – Masses at 9:00 am & 7 pm

Sun. 1/11/15 – Prayer Shawl Mtg. – 3 PM

***Please keep the following in your prayers:***

*Pam Adornato, Mei Connelly, Bill Monaghan, Nancy Belisle, Ann Storti, Karen Debenedictis, Henry “Harry” Wedge, Harry Hewins, Floyd Weaver, Barbara O’Hear, Christopher MacDonald, Kim Santagata, Ann Sullivan, Jean Lavin, Jeannette Shalginewicz, Gary Saccocia, Elaine McKeon, Kirra Lee Callahan, Teresa Barris, Joseph Recco, The Shearing Family, Bill Osborne, Alex Hankey, Bob Cass, Edie & Howard Lincoln, Jean Tilden, Dorothy Romano, Chris Golden, Joe Zbinski & The residents of Sachem & Westview.*

*If you know of anyone who should be included or taken off the prayer list, please let the Rectory know.*

**December Events in the Parish**

**Skating Fundraiser – Dec. 28**

**5:00 – 7:00**

**Bridgewater Ice Arena**

**20 Bedford Park, Bridgewater, MA**

**Admission \$5, Skate Rentals \$3**

**Family 5-pack \$30\***

**\*Includes: adults and children from the same family for admission and skate rentals  
Snacks & goodies will be on sale!**

*Our Shared Treasure  
December 14, 2014*

	<i>Last week</i>	<i>Yr-to-date</i>
Collection	\$ 5,431.00	\$126,379.72
Budgeted:	\$ 5,784.31	\$138,823.49
Excess/Short	\$ 353.31	\$ 12,443.76

St Vincent de Paul \$935 +313 = \$1,248

*Thank you for your continued generosity.*



*Christmas Mass Schedule*

*Christmas Eve:*  
4:00 upstairs w/  
Childrens’ Choir

4:00 downstairs w/  
Cantors

6:00 pm w/ Teen Choir  
MidNight w/ Adult Choir

*Christmas Day:*  
10:30 am w/ Cantor



St John’s Parish Presents  
The Nativity Story Christmas Pageant

Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup>  
5:00 – 6:00  
In the Hall

Presented by members of our new Youth Ministry



**DEEP FREEZE at BERA**  
Fri, Feb 27<sup>th</sup> thru Sun, Mar 1  
Cost of weekend = \$160  
Coach bus = \$86

**A great combination of worship and winter activities, relationship building.**

## St. John's Christmas Choir



Christmas Choir rehearsals will begin Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. The children will rehearse at 6 pm and the Adults at 7:15. The Teen Choir will rehearse on Tuesday afternoons at 4:45 beginning Dec 2. The Children will sing at the 4pm Christmas Eve Mass, The Teens at 6 pm and the Adults/Teens at midnight Mass. Please contact Paul Hoffman if you are interested in joining a choir.

The Pro-Life Committee will host the annual parish Baby Shower from Tuesday, December 28th through Sunday, January 25th. All donations will assist mothers in need within the Archdiocese who have chosen life for their babies. Items needed are listed below:

Disposable diapers	Diaper bags
Crib Sheets	Baby towels
Sleep n Play sleepers	Nightgowns
Baby Bottles	Blanket Sleepers
Receiving Blankets	
Rattles, Pacifiers, Teethers	
Toiletries ie...Wipes, rash ointment, <u>baby shampoo</u>	
Baby soap, baby lotion, powder,	
Baby nail clippers,	
Baby thermometers.	



### **STRUGGLING IN YOUR MARRIAGE? YOU ARE NOT ALONE!**

If your marriage is tearing the two of you apart, if there is little or no meaningful communication, if you are considering separation or divorce, we believe Retrouvaille can help. You are NOT alone! Our peer ministry is led by couples who have lived through the honeymoon phase often followed by deep disillusionment before finally finding resurrection in their marriages using the tools taught in this program. Rediscover a loving marriage with Retrouvaille (pronounce re-tro-vy) weekend.

The 2014-15 New England Retrouvaille marriage renewal weekends will be held on:

January 9-11, 2015

April 10-12, 2015

September 11-13, 2015

To register or for more info, call 800-470-2230



My Dear Friend in Christ,

We stand on the threshold of Christmas today as we celebrate the Fourth (and final) Sunday of Advent. In today's gospel we have the Annunciation, the moment in salvation history when the angel Gabriel appears to Mary. The angel, sent by God, gives Mary the news that she is not only with child but one who is to be nothing less than the Savior of the world! To say that this is a shock to Mary would be an understatement of epic proportion! Mary, at this moment, is "betrothed" (that is, engaged) to Joseph; she is not yet married, but is well on the way. The scandal which would ensue is something of which God is well aware, which is why Gabriel attempts to bring a measure of comfort to Mary by letting her know that this is all part of God's plan for her and for the world. In speaking phrases such as "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." (Lk 1:28), Mary is "set apart" for this special mission in God's great plan for humanity.

We have a part to play in this plan of/for salvation, as well. God calls each one of us, in this Advent Season, to prepare to welcome Christ into our homes in a way similar to the welcome that Mary (and Joseph) is to give Jesus. In preparing Mary for motherhood, God is preparing the world to welcome Jesus as Lord of all and Savior of the world. It is no accident that Jesus comes into the world as an infant. In the Nativity narratives which we will hear at Christmas, Jesus is shown in His infancy to remind us that just as an infant needs care, so too do we need to care for those who are vulnerable, wounded or voiceless. We are to see Christ *in* them, and to *be* Christ *for* them. We do this most profoundly when we extend ourselves beyond what is expected, what is comfortable. We do this by not worrying about "what's in it for us".

As we conclude our Advent journey, let us look toward Christmas as an opportunity to welcome Christ into the world, and to ready ourselves for His coming – His coming as the "babe in the manger", His coming to us in our brothers and sisters and His coming to us at the end of time. May we attune ourselves to recognize Jesus so that when He comes, Jesus may find us watching, waiting and wanting to welcome Him. May these final days of Advent not be wasted, but may we use them to prepare a welcome for Jesus in our hearts, our homes and our world.

Blessings for a (continued) Fruitful Advent,

Fr. Paul

*New Year's Day (a Holy Day of Obligation)  
Masses at 9:00 AM & 7 PM*