
St. John is a Stewardship Parish

**December 9, 2012
Second Sunday of Advent**

Saturday, December 8, 2012

4:00 – John & Mary Barry – Memorial

Sunday, December 9, 2012

8:00 – Parishioners of St. John

9:30 – Ida Nisby – Memorial

11:30 - Shawn Cannizzo -5th Anniversary

Saturday, December 15, 2012

4:00 – Suzanne Shepard – 23rd Anniversary

Sunday, December 16, 2012

8:00 – Charles Matthews – 14th Anniversary

9:30 – Parishioners of St. John

11:30 – Louis Lombardi – Birthday Remembrance

6:00 – Rev. Francis A. Reagan – 1st Anniversary

Important Dates

Sat. 12/15 – Christmas Pageant @ 12:00 in Hall

Sun. 12/15 – Family Mass, Coffee n’ Conversation
with SANTA

Sun. 12/16 – Teen Mass @ 6:00pm

Tues. 12/17 – Confessions 7 – 8 PM

Wed. 12/ 18 – Confessions 3 – 4 PM

Christmas & New Year’s Mass Schedule

12/24 - Christmas Eve – 4:00pm & 6:00pm

12/25 - Christmas Day – 10:30am

12/31 – New Year’s Eve - 4:00pm

1/1/13 – New Year’s Day – 9:00am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The Sacrament of Reconciliation or confession as it is more commonly known, will be celebrated on Mon. Dec. 17 from 7-8pm and on Tue., Dec.18 from 3-4pm. This is a wonderful way to prepare for Christmas.

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Stephanie Cuffe, Eva LePine, Pam Adornato, Jenn Keymont, Christine Hichins, Ray Shope, Don Kitchell, Janet Coe, Nira Porciello, Jackie Hunnebury.

CHRISTMAS CHOIRS

Rehearsals for the Christmas Eve Masses are:

Mondays: **Teens@** 5-6 pm; **Children @** 6:00-7:15pm;

Adults@6:45-7:45pm.

Contact Paul Hoffman at 617-610-2255 for more info.

Our Shared Treasure

Sunday, Dec 2, 2012

Weekly Offertory: \$8791

St. Vincent de Paul: \$2158

Grand Annual - \$12,551

Thank you for your continued generosity.

**INCREASED OFFERTORY CAMPAIGN:
SUSTAINING THE PROGRESS**

As the official tracking phase of St. John’s increased offertory program comes to a close, we would like to share some results with you and thank all of those generous parishioners that have participated in the Increased Offertory Campaign.

As a parish family, we have realized an increase in our regular offertory almost of 22% over the same time in 2011. This is indeed a great accomplishment, though it must be sustained in order to truly be called a success. The following chart highlights how the collections have risen since our Commitment Weekend on 10/14/2012:

% Increase over 2011: 22%

Thank you so much for making this possible. Your generous support will enable us to begin cleaning the church, upgrading office equipment and for the first time in several years, operate on a balanced budget.

In the coming weeks and months, you will be confronted with circumstances that will call for you to act as a steward, just as you have during the Increased Offertory Campaign. Accept the challenge to live your entire life as a steward of God, giving back to Him a portion of your blessings.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT & PARISH OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, December 15th the children of our parish will present The Nativity Story. Members of Kevin Smith’s 9th 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 after the play 1:45 – 3 pm.

Bring an ornament that represents your family’s style or traditions and enjoy some Christmas cheer and goodies.



CYO SKI TRIP

The Annual CYO Ski Trip is Jan 18, 19 & 20th in Stowe Vt. The cost is \$285 and includes transportation, lift tickets, lodging, and three meals. For this trip to happen, we need 40 paid students in grades 8-12 by Dec. 1, 2012.

We have a couple more spots available.

Please bring a \$100 deposit to the CCD Office or Rectory to secure your spot.



St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Bridgewater will be having an Advent Penance Service on Friday, December 14 at 7pm. As part of the service, five priests will be hearing confessions.

St Vincent dePaul

We wish to thank everyone for the tremendous financial support of last weekend's second collection. To show you how busy St. Vincent dePaul has become in this economy, it has been calculated in the last year alone there was a total of 2,280 family members supported with food, clothing, and to some degree financial assistance. Therefore, we hope in going forward, you are aware that each time you make a food or financial contribution, you are really helping St. Vincent dePaul provide help to numerous East Bridgewater families.

Catholic Women's Club
Next Meeting – Weds. Dec. 12th
1 PM

Riddell Road
Don't forget your \$10 Yankee Swap Gift!



Dear Friends,

Last Saturday I watched the annual Christmas Parade sponsored by the Kiwanis Club. The atmosphere was perfect with a little snow falling and the temperature truly reflected the Christmas scene that marched before us. While I was standing in the circular driveway in front of the Church, a 10 or 12 year old youngster said to his dad, "What's this Jesus thing?", pointing to the manger. I was a little surprised when I heard the phrase, "Jesus thing" and the question that it implied. Actually, it is a very good question, even if it betrays a total lack of understanding, if not faith, as it very much indicates that this young person is searching, or longing for a better path, a better way. So, "What's this Jesus thing?" Well, I could give you the theological definition, that Jesus is the Son of God, the second Person of the Blessed Trinity, the Messiah and Redeemer. But I am not so sure that this would satisfy this young person's longing. Perhaps I should ask another question: What is he longing for?

I think that he is longing for the same thing in life that we all long for or should long for, namely, meaning. Our faith journey is nothing other than a search for meaning in life and we find that meaning in the "Jesus thing" or in the person of Jesus our friend and brother. The problem, I believe, is that our world would like us not to find Jesus. Our world would like us not to find the one who said, "Turn the other cheek" and "Father, forgive them", and "let the children come to me". Our world would like us not to find the Jesus who said when he calmed the storm, "it is I; be not afraid". Our world would like us not to find the Jesus who said, "come to me, all of you who are heavy burdened and I will give you rest," or the Jesus who said, "There will be more joy in heaven over one repentant sinner than over the ninety-nine that did not stray." Our world would like us not to find the Jesus who said to his listeners who inquired if God really wants to help his people: "ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be open to you". And finally, our world would like us not to find the Jesus who said, "Stop judging, that you may not be judged."

During this Advent time, which means, "Coming" let us welcome this Jesus of love, hope, joy, and second chances to come into our lives. Let us welcome this Jesus who reminds us that He, and not we, is the only one to judge and let us welcome the Jesus who said to us all, "Come to me and you will find rest."

May your Advent be blessed!
Fr. Wally