

\*\*\*\*\*

St. John is a Stewardship Parish

\*\*\*\*\*

November 30, 2014  
First Sunday of Advent

Saturday, November 29, 2014

4:00 – Kathleen Climo -- Memorial

Sunday, November 30, 2014

8:00 – Parishioners of St. John

10:30 – Mary & Elmer Proffitt -- Memorial

6:00 – Parishioners of St. John

Saturday, December 6, 2014

4:00 – Walter Hughes – Month’s Mind

Sunday, December 7, 2014

8:00 – Parishioners of St. John

10:30 – John McKenzie – 13<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

6:00 – Parishioners of St. John

Important Dates

Weds. 12/3 – PPC Mtg. – 7 pm in Chapel

Thurs. 12/4 – Advent Service of Light – 6 PM – followed by lighting of Common.

Fri. 12/6 – Christmas on the Common

Sun. 12/7 – TEEN MASS – 6 PM

Mon 12/8 – Feast of the Immaculate Conception – Holy Day of Obligation.

Sat. 12/0 – Trip to La Salette – 5 PM

Please pray for the repose of the souls of James P. Murtagh and Elaine McKeown whose Funeral Masses were celebrated this past week.

***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, & The residents of Sachem & Westview.*

Pieta, a support group for parents who have suffered the loss of a child of any age, will be holding their 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Lighting Service of Sunday, Nov 30<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. At Blessed Sacrament Church, 10 Diamond St. Walpole, MA Everyone is welcome to come together in prayer, song, and support as we light a candle in memory of each child. A reception will follow the service in the Cafeteria.  
For further information, please call Jo Collari 508-668-3105

*Our Shared Treasure  
November 16, 2014*

	<i>Last week</i>	<i>Yr-to-date</i>
Collection:	\$ 4,639.00	\$103,756.72
Budgeted	<u>\$ 5,784.31</u>	<u>\$115,686.20</u>
Excess/Short	<b>\$ 1,145.31</b>	<b>\$ 11,929.48</b>

Figures for the week of the 23<sup>rd</sup> will be available in next week’s bulletin due to printing deadlines.

*2<sup>nd</sup> Collection - November 30, 2014 - St. Vincent de Paul*

**The Christmas Giving Tree is up!  
Please take a tag or two  
All gift cards should be returned by Dec 13/14 th.  
Please mark the dollar amount on the card.**

*Congratulations to our new Pastoral Parish Council Members.*

*Kerri Fabroski  
Elaine Meuse  
Jim Cullen  
John Tibbetts*

*Thank you to all who offered to serve.*



*Christmas Mass Schedule*

*Christmas Eve:  
4:00 upstairs  
4:00 downstairs  
6:00 pm  
MidNight*

*Christmas Day:  
10:30 am*



## 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.

We wish Dennis Leonard, our Business Manager best wishes. Dennis will be starting a new career adventure as the Business Manager and Facilities Manager for the St. Bridget/ Holy Ghost Collaborative in the beginning of December. We will miss him and wish him the very best.

**Come and find your Christmas Spirit at Cardinal Spellman HS's Christmas Show, "God Bless Us, Every One!"**

**Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm – Sat. Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm – Sun., Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm.**  
**Tickets are \$10 for reserved seating and 7 for unreserved seating.**  
**Please call 508-583-6875 for more info.**



My Dear Friends in Christ,

A story is told of the late Cardinal Cushing when he told one of his staff to hold all appointments and calls. When he was asked what they should do if Jesus were to appear at the door, his response (reportedly) was: "Look busy!" Today the Church begins its Advent journey under the banner of "watchfulness". This is challenging when all around us, people are distracted by the sights and sounds of Christmas. Perhaps you've felt that "pull" yourself and even given into it. If this is the case, no worries! Our Church gives us a four week Season in which to prepare for the coming of the Christ Child in the proper way

As we enter into Advent, we "begin at the end", so to speak. Jesus, in today's gospel, is speaking of the end times, using the image of the master returning home, perhaps at a time that might catch us unaware. This image is appropriate to our Advent journey, for Advent is a time of "two-fold waiting" – waiting for the Christ Child, born from the line of David, and the waiting for Jesus as the King of Glory who calls us home to fullness of life in the Kingdom (of Heaven). This waiting can be, for many, a test of faith (and patience, if you are of a certain youthful age, waiting for Christmas to arrive!). We want to go to heaven, but we also want to live life to the fullest here on earth. The thing to remember about our lives on earth is that they are but a foretaste and promise of what awaits us in the Kingdom. We can wait (as is evidenced in today's gospel), but we should be ready, here and now, for Jesus' call to join Him for all eternity. This is the sum of the "two-fold waiting".

Advent may seem like the "same old, same old". After all, it comes at relatively the same time of year, has many of the same "themes" ("watch", "wait", "be vigilant") and ends up with the same "goal" (namely, to be ready to welcome Jesus as the Christ Child and the King of Glory). We would do well to not fall into the same routines. I would invite us to try something different, to move out of our "comfort zone". If you haven't followed an Advent calendar, try it this year by following the daily readings and prayers. If you haven't made/kept an Advent wreath for your home, now's the time. I would further encourage you to WAIT. It's easy enough to get "caught up" in the hullabaloo of the preparations for Christmas. These are important and need to be tended to, but not at the expense of our peace of mind or our sanity. So many of us "go overboard" with Christmas and its preparations that we fail to see the opportunity that Advent gives us to "pace ourselves" in these four weeks.

May we take this time of the Advent Season to prepare ourselves, spiritually, for the coming of Christ. Whether it is Christ's coming as the Christ Child or as the King of Glory, may Christ find us ready to welcome Him into our hearts, our homes, and our world. May we give Christ His due, giving Jesus the well-deserved welcome that we would a King. Jesus is our King, enrobed not in a royal garment, but in ordinary swaddling clothes. May we go to the manger in a few weeks, having spent this time preparing for that moment in salvation history when "God so loved the world that He gave us His Only Begotten Son" (Jn 3:16).

A Blessed Advent to All,

Fr. Paul

Thank you to all the people who dropped candy off for the troops!!!!