

Please Pray for...

All who have died especially **Eleanor Mazzone** who died this week. We offer our sympathy and our prayers that she will rest in peace.

Those who are sick in the hospital or recovering:

Pauline Casavant, Yvette Bouvier, Cheryl Boucher, Fr. Martin Donahue, John Waage, Theresa Johnson, Gloria Butler, Theresa Cassavant, Paula & Juan Miranda, Raymond Brodeur, Howard Cooper, Bonnie Sheldon, Baby Aiden, Frank Harvey, Diane Gosselin, Fr. William O'Brien, David Auger, Pat Benoit, Lorraine Cote, Louise Guerin, Barbara Gaudette, Tom Pawlowski, Joseph Nisel, David L'Heureux, Dolly Choquette, Rochelle Warren, Baby Ryan, Jean Wheeler, Catherine Baril, Tim Josti Sr., Fr. Chet Devlin, Lea Derosier, Alice Sullivan, Jeanne Provencher, Darlene Kennedy, Ruth Flynn, Erlene Lachapelle, Lillian Remillard, John Ahearn, Noel Donabedian, Laurie Vickers, Ruth Costa, Thomas Lilley, Pamela Collette, Patricia Johnson, Betty Cabana, Laurie Gablaski, Carey Dubois, Diane Cyr, Baby Jana, Theresa Thibault, Ernest Tremblay, Elizabeth Lemerise, Heather Lech, Frances Barrett, Baby Oliver, Theresa Suchocki, Baby Parker, Patricia Burdette, Ann Gablaski, Eddie LaFlamme, Addison Lacaire, Richard Chabior, Pat Benoit, Jeanne Lacroix and Amy Richard

PARISH PRAYER INTENTION FOR THE WEEK

For the return to the Church of non-practicing Catholics during this year of mercy.

OUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS JANUARY 2 & 3

Envelopes	\$7,251.00
Loose	\$ 357.15
Total collection	\$7,598.15
Number of envelopes	248
Attendance	441
Christmas Collection	\$7,598.15

Thank you for your generosity this past weekend and to the Christmas collection. We are truly grateful for your generous and faithful support. May God's blessings be with you as we begin this New Year.

**FOOD PANTRY REQUEST FOR THIS WEEK
Hearty Soups**

MID WINTER PORK DINNERSaturday January 23

The Parish is hosting a mid-winter roast pork dinner on Saturday evening January 23 beginning at 6:00 pm. This event is for people of all ages. The menu will consist of Roast Pork, Red Mashed Potatoes, Veggies, Salad and Dessert. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children. They are on sale at the office beginning on Monday.

HELP NEEDED

Over the past few years, we have been having a Pork Dinner on a Saturday evening during the month of January. The date we have set is January 23. In order to do this, we need a committee. This is too big a task for one person to undertake. Sandy needs 8 to 10 people to help with the various tasks namely, set up, cooking, clean up etc. Call her at 508 -885 - 3111 to offer your help.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

The Faith Formation office will be open this week on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 10:00 - 5:00 pm. If you wish to leave Judi a message, she can be reached at **508-885-3111 Ext. 105**.

Sunday, Jan 10th	9:00 - 10:00	K - 6
Tuesday, Jan 12	4:15 - 5:30	1 - 6
	6:30	Drop In
	7:00 - 8:15	6 - 8

PRAYER PARTNERS FOR FIRST COMMUNION CHILDREN

It has been our tradition to ask members of the parish to volunteer to pray for a member of the First Communion class as they prepare for this special encounter with Jesus. The proximate preparation for First Communion begins in a few short weeks. What happens is when you volunteer; Judi Brennan will give you the name of one of the children in the class. You are asked to pray for them each day from now until their first Communion which will be celebrated on May 1. On May 15 we have a special Mass and celebration where your child gets to meet you and spend some time with you. If you are willing to take part in this very special ministry to our children please call Judi at 508 - 885 - 3111 Ext 105 and she will give you more details.

YOUTH MINISTRY NIGHT, January 17

We will begin the second session of High School Faith Formation with a Youth Ministry Night on next Sunday evening January 17 from 6:00 to 8:30 pm. This is for all those in Grades 9, 10 and 11 and will be an active night of discussion and experience. This is the eve of Martin Luther King Day and so there is no school on Monday. Come and spend some time with your friends, have fun and hopefully learn something as well. We will need some munchies and desserts for a break during this session. All donations welcome.

THE HOLY YEAR OF MERCY.....

We have designated the door on the left side of the vestibule as the Holy Door for the Holy Year of Mercy. Last Sunday the door was formally opened and will remain so until the feast of Christ the King in November. The use of a holy door during the Holy Year dates back to the Book of Leviticus in the Old Testament. It went with the celebration of a Jubilee Year celebrated every 50 years. In between, the door was literally sealed with bricks. Usually the only Holy Door is located in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome and in order to receive the graces offered during the holy year one needed to make a pilgrimage to Rome in order to take part. The idea of pilgrimage, a sacred journey to a sacred place was popular through the centuries. People have done it through the years. Visiting the shrines of Europe like Lourdes or Fatima, or the shrines of Canada, St. Anne du Beaupre or Mexico like Guadalupe or the four major churches of Rome are examples of pilgrimage. Part of pilgrimage include, the reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, (not necessarily in the pilgrimage church) the Eucharist, prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father and the performing of some works of charity. The idea of doing this every fifty years is to call us back to our faith. We get so busy in the secular world that we don't think about sacred things. This year with its open door invites us to come and experience His mercy.



Pastor's Notes:

THE PILGRIMAGE CHURCHES Last Sunday in the homily I mentioned that the Bishop designated eight churches in the diocese to be pilgrimage churches for the Holy Year. Several people asked me what churches they were. Here is the answer

St. Paul's Cathedral	15 Chatham St. in Worcester
St. Luke's Church	70 West Main St. in Westboro
Sacred Heart Church	7 East Main St. in Milford
Notre Dame Church at St. John Paul II Parish	446 Main St. In Southbridge
Our Lady of the Rosary Church at Annunciation Parish	135 Nichols St. In Gardner
St. Joseph's Church	49 Woodland St. in Fitchburg
St. Joseph's Basilica	53 Whitcomb St. In Webster
Mary Queen of the Rosary Church	7 Church St. in Spencer

These are the churches chosen because they are scattered around the various areas of the diocese. Pope Francis has suggested that Bishops designate several churches to make it easier for everyone to be able to part of the special graces that God wants to bestow on us during this year mercy. Sometime in the spring we will organize a pilgrimage to some of these churches. Pilgrims often find strength by traveling together and sharing their experiences.

THE MERCY CROSS

During the year of mercy, which began on December 8, there will be an icon on the door of the confession room of every parish in the diocese. It will be a simple invite for us to open the door of mercy by receiving the sacrament of reconciliation. It is a simple cross. Its symbol shows what is at the heart of this special Holy Year. It is a call to come home, a declaration that all are invited to return to Christ and to His church. Respond to the invite. Confessions Saturday 3:30 to 4:00 or call for an appointment

CHRISTMAS CANTATA entitled "Joy, Joy, Joy" will be presented by the Christian Community choir on the following dates:

Last chance to see.

Sunday, Jan 10 at St. John the Baptist Church at 2:00 pm
This is a free concert open to all.

HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Notre Dame Hospice is looking for kind, compassionate people to volunteer one or two hours a week to spend with a hospice patient. Volunteers can wheel patients around in wheelchairs, sit with them and talk, read the newspaper or books to them, play games or do puzzles, or just sit quietly hold their hand, or pray with them. What a wonderful way to begin the New Year spending time with those at the end of their lives who are often lonely and sometimes frightened. If you think that you would feel comfortable volunteering with patients, please contact Linda Corby

Monthly Meal: this Wednesday, Meatloaf, Red Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable, Beverage & Dessert..
5:30 - 6:30



The Baptism of the Lord

Mass Schedule

Saturday, January 9, 2016 4:30 pm Michelle Casavant (3 rd Anniv) by her Family
Sunday, January 10 8:00 am Marie & Steve Natale & Harvey Bavar by the Family 10:15 am James Noonan by his Family
Monday, January 11 8:00 am Morning Mass
Tuesday, January 12 8:00 am For the Souls in Purgatory
Wednesday, January 13 8:00 am For Parishioners
Thursday, January 14 8:00 am Morning Mass
Friday, January 15 8:00 am No Mass Today
Saturday, January 16 4:30 pm The Cassavant Family by Bernie
Sunday, January 17 8:00 am Nelson (20 th Anniv) & Marion Agnew (15 th Anniv) by their Family 10:15 am Emile Lamoureux by his son Paul

Calendar of Events

Sunday, January 10	Coffee Shop – Open
9:00 am	Faith Formation Classes Grades K –6
10:15 am	Children's Liturgy of the Word
2:00 pm	Christmas Cantata (St. John's)
6:30 pm	NO Faith Formation Grades 9, 10 & 11
Monday, January 11	
10:00 am	Food Pantry - OPEN
7:00 pm	Inquiry / RCIA Class
Tuesday, January 12	
4:15 pm	Faith Formation Class Grades 1 – 6
6:30 pm	Drop In Center Open
7:00 pm	Faith Formation Class Grades 6 – 8
Wednesday, January 13	
8:45 am	Spiritual Life Committee Ministry
5:30 – 6:30 pm	Monthly Meal – Meatloaf
7:00 pm	Youth Ministry Meeting
Thursday, January 14	
10:00 am	Food Pantry –OPEN
Friday, January 15	
Saturday, January 16	
3:30 pm	Confessions
Sunday, January 17	Coffee Shop OPEN
9:00 am	Faith Formation Class Grades K - 6
10:15 am	Children's Liturgy of the Word
6:00 – 8:30 pm	Youth Ministry Night Grs. 9, 10, & 11

THE ANNUAL MARCH FOR LIFE will take place on January 22 in Washington D.C. Again this year the diocese will be sponsoring buses for those who wish to attend this march. The buses leave the Cathedral following the Pro Life Mass on Jan 21 at 7:30 pm and return after the march which is at noon. For more info call the Pro Life office at 508-929-4311. Cost of the bus is \$85.00

January 10, 2016

