

Please Pray for...

All who have died this past week especially Clarence Pepler of our parish. We offer our sympathy and our prayers to his family and pray that he will rest in peace.

Those who are sick in the hospital or recovering:

Fr. Martin Donahue, Dorothy Choquette, Peter Lacroix, Jean Wheeler, Al Shedyak, Bob Peluso, Bill Keyes, Diane Cyr, Theresa Cassavant, Laurie Gablaski, Ann Gablaski, Addison Lacaire, Elizabeth Lemerise, Dawn McDonald, Pat Benoit, Gloria Butler, Joyce Frigon, Laura Wynn, Carey Dubois, Raymond Brodeur, Michael Kady, Bonnie Sheldon, Fr. Chet Devlin, Heather Lech, Joseph Nisel, Joseph Siauris, and Linda Choinard.

OUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS DEC 17 & 18

Envelopes	\$4,601.00
Loose	\$1,780.00
Total collection	\$6,381.00
Number of envelopes	160
Attendance	315

Thank you for your generous gifts this past weekend which enable us to continue to do God's work. May God bless you all. Please consider weekly or monthly online giving. For more info check out our website for the link to online giving.

FOOD PANTRY REQUEST FOR THIS WEEK Corned Beef or Roast Beef Hash

The Food Pantry will be closed until Thursday, January 5th 2017 for a well-deserved rest and prayer time.

FIRST SATURDAY EUCHARISTIC EXPOSITION January 7, 2016 8:30am - 4:00 pm

Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary: 8:00am. Confessions following mass. Exposition will be starting at the end of mass and continuing throughout the day until 4:00 pm. Confessions 3:00 – 3:50 pm. Benediction 4:00 pm. If you wish to participate there is a sign up sheet in the sacristy.

Intensive Training for Catholic Evangelization "Sent to Share God's Mercy & Message" is open to all who are interested.

Develop practical skills for sharing our Catholic faith and the message of Jesus with the power of the Holy Spirit in everyday life, organizations, groups, ministries and our parish

Six Saturday training sessions over five months. Begins January 21, 2017 from 9 – 2 at St. Ann Parish Hall, 130 Boston Turnpike, Shrewsbury, \$60.00 per person. Sessions include: prayer, presentations, readings, small group sharing, skills-training, practice and "people" homework. \$60.00 per person. Visit www.worcesterdiocese.org/intensive-training-for-catholic-evangelization. Registration and payment are due by January 6, 2017.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Office hours: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 10:00-5:00 Contact Judi at 508-885-3111 x 105 or jbrennan@parishmail.com

Schedule this week:

NO FAITH FORMATION CLASSES.
CLASSES RESUME ON JANUARY 15, 2017



Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends will be happening Jan 20 – 22 in Duxbury, MA and March 12 – 19 South Kingston, RI. For more information please call Stephen & Michelle O'Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit www.WVWEMA.org

Volunteer to help those in need. Would you like a rewarding experience assisting families in need? If so Catholic Charities is looking for you...Volunteers are needed to assist with multiple projects throughout the year. Contact Maydee Morales, Emergency Stabilization Services/Homeless Prevention Coordinator at mmorales@ccworc.org or call 508-862-2206

The Christian Community Choir is made up of singers from many area churches, including 5 of our own parishioners. They will be performing the Cantata, "Christmas is Forever":

Sunday, Jan 8th 2:00 pm
St. John the Baptist, E. Brookfield

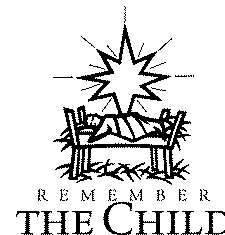
Sunday, Jan 15th 2:00 pm
Overlook Masonic Home, Charlton

The choirs are looking for new members to help proclaim God's word in song....Just show up at mass and introduce yourself to the choir director and have fun....



Prayer Partners: Faith Formation is looking for people to be Prayer Partners with the CONFIRMATION class as they prepare for full initiation into our Church. They are the Church present and future. Anyone wishing to offer up your prayers to support this group of 24 young adults please call, email, or see Judi Brennan.

"And the Word became flesh" John 1:14



A message from Fr. Bill

I have a picture in my family memorabilia of four little boys, ages 5-9 sitting in front of a well decorated Christmas tree. Each boy has a big smile of delight on his face and a shiny copper lantern on his lap. The battery powered lantern was the gift Santa brought that year for my two cousins, brother, and me, the youngest. That lantern was a great gift, I remember it to this day but I have no idea what has happened to it. It brought great joy for a time, but then faded into the recesses of my mind along with so many other memories of my early childhood. No doubt, we had just returned from Christmas Eve mass and were opening our gifts. Many Christmases have come and gone since that picture was taken, and I believe I received gifts each and every year since, but I remember very few with any accuracy. On the other hand, I have little precise memory of the Christmas Mass we attended that day Santa brought the lantern. However, over the years, as the joy of the lantern has diminished, the joy and depth of the meaning of Christmas has increased. I have never heard anyone question why we give material gifts each year at Christmas, but I have heard questioning of why we relive liturgical seasons such as Advent and Christmas, and why do we go to Mass. For me the answer is simple, and it is connected with that lantern I received so many years ago. Each year the Church gives me the opportunity to deepen my faith in God and love of neighbor, and it has grown. By celebrating Christmas each year, my spiritually has grown broader and deeper, some years imperceptibly and other years profoundly. This realization tells me that the materialistic aspect of Christmas, while enjoyable and rewarding, is short lived for me, but the spiritual dimension of Christmas has grown and is enduring. I pray that all of you will receive many good gifts this Christmas, and that each and every gift you receive will bring you and your family great joy. I also pray that the Christ Child will enter all our hearts and expand our love for God and for one another with the love that endures for all time.

May the Christ Child bless you abundantly this Christmas!

Fr. Bill

Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 24 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass 10:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass
Sunday, December 25 8:00 am Christmas Morning Mass 10:15 am Christmas Morning Mass
Monday, December 26 8:00 am Dora & Costello Gobi by the Family
Tuesday, December 27 8:00 am Ken Wheeler by Jean
Wednesday, December 28 8:00 am Francis & Germaine Moreau by their daughter Louise
Thursday, December 29 8:00 am Carmen Lamoureux (16 th Anniv) by Suzanne & Family
Friday, December 30 8:00 am No Mass Today
Saturday, December 31 4:30 pm William F. Duffy (14 th Anniv) by his daughter & Family
Sunday, January 1, 2017 8:00 am Annette Nussey by her Family 10:15 am Mary Shamoian (1 st Anniv) by her husband Steven 7:00 pm Michael Jette – Month's Mind by his Family

Calendar of Events

Sunday, December 25	Coffee Shop OPEN
9:00 am 10:15 am 5:30 – 7:00 pm	NO Faith Formation Grades K – 6 NO Children's Liturgy of the Word NO Faith Formation – High School
Monday, December 26	OFFICE CLOSED
10:00 am	Food Pantry Closed
Tuesday, December 27	
4:15 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	NO Faith Formation Grades 1 – 6 NO Drop In NO Faith Formation Grades 6 – 8
Wednesday, December 28	
Thursday, December 29	
10:00 am	Food Pantry Closed
Friday, December 30	
Saturday, December 31	
3:30 pm	Confessions
Sunday, January 1, 2017	NO Coffee Shop
9:00 am 10:15 am 11:15 am 5:30 – 7:00 pm	NO Faith Formation Grades K – 6 Children's Liturgy of the Word OPEN HOUSE - RECTORY NO Faith Formation – High School

Let us continue our Christmas giving every day of the year – giving generously out of love and gratitude for others.