

Please Pray for...

All who have died these past weeks especially Al Huard. We offer our prayers to his family and pray that he will rest in the Lord's peace.

Those who are sick in the hospital or recovering:

Fr. Martin Donahue, Dorothy Choquette, Sandy Wilson, Noreen Mina, Mary Madden, Robert Geoffrion, Bernadette Pervier, Elaine Lamoureux, Whitney Fritze, Diane Aoun, Peter Lacroix, Heather Josti - Harris, Simon Kibe, Lili MacDonalod, Jean Wheeler, Melanie Paquette, Al Shedyak, Kathleen Bowen, Paul Masiello, Paul Provencher, Lucy Kelly, Bill Keyes, Diane Cyr, Theresa Cassavant, Laurie Gablaski, Ann Gablaski, Addison Lacaire, Pat Benoit, Gloria Butler, Joyce Frigon, Laura Wynn, Carey Dubois, Raymond Brodeur, Michael Kady, Bonnie Sheldon, Heather Lech, Joseph Nisel, Joseph Siauris, Cheryl Branham, Pauline Casavant, Jon Widdison, Lynn Desforges, Trajan Imperator

OUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS December 9 & 10

Envelopes	\$ 3,826.00
Loose	\$ 420.00
Total collection	\$ 4,246.00
Number of envelopes	132
Immaculate Conception	\$490.00
Mass Attendance	281

Thank you for your generous gifts this past weekend which enable us to continue to do God's work. May God bless you. Please consider weekly or monthly online giving.

FOOD PANTRY REQUEST FOR THIS WEEK Toilet Paper

FIRST SATURDAY EUCHARISTIC EXPOSITION JANUARY 6, 2018 8:30AM - 4:00 PM

Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary: 8:00 am. Confessions following Mass. Exposition starting at the end of Mass and continuing throughout the day until 4:00pm. Confessions 3:00 - 3:50 pm. Benediction 4:00 pm.

WE ARE IN NEED OF MORE SERVERS FOR THE CHRISTMAS MASSES

1 SERVER FOR THE 6:00 PM MASS

2 SERVERS FOR THE 10:00 PM MASS

Catholic Schools Night at the Railers:

Join us on Saturday, Feb. 3, 2018 for the Diocese of Worcester Night at the Railers. We will be celebrating Trax's Birthday and our Catholic Schools. Students from Our Lady of the Angels School will sing the National Anthem, students from Our Lady of the Valley School will sing God Bless America and students from St. Anna School sing America the Beautiful. Tickets are \$15.00. Proceeds will go to our participating catholic schools. All seats are in section 106. To purchase tickets visit railers.isportstix.com/order/seats/ and enter group code: Diocese

Lists are in the Sacristy for Servers, Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors who need a specific date off in January. Please sign up...

3rd Sunday of Advent

Faith Formation News

Office hours: 10:00 – 5:00

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

Sunday	9:00 – 10:00 am	Grades K - 5
Sunday	5:30 – 8:30 pm	Grades 9 - 11 *see calendar
Monday	4:45 – 6:00 pm	Grades 2 - 5
Tuesday	7:00 – 8:15 pm	Grades 6 - 8

BIBLE STUDY CLASSES

BEGINNING IN JANUARY 10:30 —11:30 AM

TUESDAY'S JANUARY 16— MARCH 20TH



Outreach Ministry: Carol St. John visits and brings communion to the homebound and those in nursing homes. If you know of someone who needs a visit please call her at 508-885-3017 or 508-864-6323

This weekend at all masses the Diocese of Worcester will be conducting the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection, this will be a second collection in our parish. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides funding for medications, nursing care and more. Please give to those who have

Save the date... to attend a parish meeting in the hall on Wednesday, January 17th 7-8pm. This will be a parish input meeting concerning the Annual International Bazaar held each June.

Men's Group: Next Meeting is Saturday, January 6, 9:30-11:00 am in the Rectory. If you have any questions or would like to join contact Fr Bill at fr.billschipper@gmail.com or call the office and leave a message.

Christmas Food Baskets: Thank you to all who helped in any way with the Christmas Food Baskets; from donated food to all the people who set up, take in the food, distribute it and help clean back up.....it takes a village to take on this monumental task. THANK YOU ALL!

Please join the Diocese of Worcester's bus trip to the 45th annual March for Life in Washington, DC. Buses leave on Thursday, Jan. 18 after the 7:30 pm Mass at St. Paul's Cathedral, travel to Washington for the March for Life on January 19, followed by the return trip to Worcester. Cost is \$75.00 per seat for registrations postmarked by December 31, and \$90.00 thereafter. For more information and to download registration forms visit www.worcesterdiocese.org/respect-life

PRAYER LINE NOTICE: When requesting Prayers on the Prayer Line please refer to the phone numbers on the front of the bulletin. You may also leave a message if there is no answer.....

"Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you".

**1 Thessalonians
December 17, 2017**

A Message from Fr. Bill

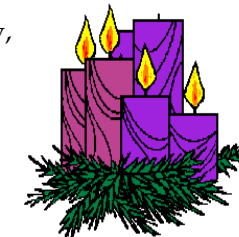
Not simply a figure from bygone history, John the Baptist continues to prepare the Church for the coming (or advent) of the Lord. The opening chapter of the Gospel according to Saint John is the most densely theological chapter of the New Testament and, overall, is known as the Prologue. Yet, amid the mystery of the eternal generation of the Father's eternally-begotten Son, there is this introductory statement concerning John as the Precur-sor, "A man named John was sent from God" which echoes the chapter's opening verse, "In the beginning was the Word." Though not the true Light, the Baptist is destined to "testify to the light" and by means of his testimony, all might come to believe in Christ. In the earthly world, then, no man has ever been greater than the Baptist and his testimony to the coming of the Light is unrivalled. John the Evangelist illustrates the Baptist's mission and the identity of this strangely-attired man. The Baptist quickly proclaims that he was not the Messiah. John could have easily been mistaken for the long-anticipated Messiah; so, it is understandable that he quickly says, "I am not the Christ." Yet, the series of questions that follow in staccato fashion had to be irritating to him and his response was the same — a vigorous NO! Then, John goes on to tell his interrogators that there is "one among [them] whom [they] do not recognize" and not even John knew the identity of this Unknown Someone until the day when the Spirit descended upon Jesus. When the Dove descended upon Jesus, while John was baptizing Him, John pointed out Jesus as "the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." On the following day, John sent two of his own disciples to follow Jesus and, one of them was Andrew. Afterwards, Andrew told Simon his brother that they had found the Messiah. Any doubt surrounding the fact that Jesus was the Messiah was eventually dispelled by John himself. As the ideal Precursor, John not only prepared himself to recognize the Messiah, but, even more properly, the Baptist allowed the Messiah to reveal Himself. May we, too, prepare ourselves during this Advent season so that we will recognize the Messiah when He comes.

All Volunteers.... Your invited to a Appreciation Reception on December 17 in the Rectory from 2-4 pm , TODAY. We want to say thank you for your volunteer work for the parish throughout this past year. Come join other volunteers from the parish as we show our appreciation for your continued help and support of our parish.

Litany of Trust prayer cards. The Litany of Trust can be used as an Advent Prayer: Say each morning or each night. Please

Save the Dates: Winter VBS will be held Tuesday, Feb 20th thru Thursday, Feb 22nd. Half day and full day options will be available again. For more information call Judi at 508-885-3111 ext.105.

3rd Sunday of Advent



Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 16	4:30 pm Vincent Puchalski by his Wife, Children & Grandchildren
Sunday, December 17	8:00 am For the People of the Parish 10:15 am Gertrude Stevens by her Daughter Mimi
Monday, December 18	8:00 am Alpheus A. May by the Family
Tuesday, December 19	8:00 am Richard Lamoureux by Rosalie Mittelstadt
Wednesday, December 20	8:00 am Richard Lamoureux by Suzanne
Thursday, December 21	8:00 am George & Elsie Ethier by Theresa
Friday, December 22	8:00 am No Mass this Morning
Saturday, December 23	4:30 pm Mary Shamoian (2nd Anniv) by her husband Steven
Sunday, December 24	8:00 am For the People of the Parish 10:15 am Joshua Hicks by Ralph & Tina

Calendar of Events

Sunday, December 17	Coffee Shop OPEN
9:00 - 10:00 am 10:15 am 1:00—3:00 pm 1:00—2:30 pm 2:00—4:00 pm 5:30 - 8:30 pm	Faith Formation K – 5 Children's Liturgy of the Word Church Cleaning Youth Ministry Christmas Party Volunteer Appreciation—Rectory F.F. - None at Night
Monday, December 18	
9:30 am 4:45 - 6:00 pm	Food Pantry CLOSED Faith Formation Grades 2 - 5
Tuesday, December 19	
6:30 pm 7:00 - 8:15pm	Drop In Center Open Faith Formation Grades 6 – 8
Wednesday, December 20	
Thursday, December 21	
9:30 am	Food Pantry CLOSED
Friday, December 22	
Saturday, December 23	
3:30pm	Confessions
Sunday, December 24	
9:00 - 10:00 am 10:15 am	NO Faith Formation K – 5 Children's Liturgy of the Word

HELPERS NEEDED TO



**CLEAN THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH BEGINNING**



AT

1 PM Many hands make lite work.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS WILL BE AWARDED
IF NEEDED**

December 17, 2017