



Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 17th

4:00PM

Michael James Dorsey anniversary

Requested by his family

Albert E. Crites *Requested by his family*

Steven & Mary Woidyla

Requested by their children

Sunday, December 18th

8:30AM

Eleanor Hideriotis anniversary

requested by her family

11:30AM

José Hernandez por su eterno descanso

pedido por familia

5:00PM

Marjorie & John Bayek

requested by their family

Monday, December 19th

5:30PM

Kitty Gaff, Joseph Price Sr. & Joseph

Price Jr. *Requested by their family*

Tuesday, December 20th

5:30PM

Intention of the Celebrant

Thursday, December 22nd

5:30PM

Intention of the Celebrant

Friday, December 23rd

5:30PM

Rosena & Dean Bradshaw

Requested by their family

Saturday, December 24th

9:00AM

Intention of the Celebrant

4:00PM

Jeanne Kelly Birthday

John "Jack" Rogers Christmas

James McGonagle Christmas

Richard J. Hosford, Jr. Anniversary

All requested by their families

8:00PM

In honor of the birthday of our Lord to pray special intentions of the Nguyen family

Mass Intentions for next Sunday: 8:30AM Agnes Donahue
11:30 Jose Hernandez 5:00PM NO MASS

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Offertory December 11: \$4,226.50

THANK YOU!

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND: Parish Monthly

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION The one collection, next weekend, on Christmas is a diocese-wide collection for our priests. These faith filled men have dedicated their lives to serving the Catholic faithful here in Boston; now it is our turn to be present for them. Please give generously to the Christmas collection which will directly benefit the health and retirement needs of our 715 active and senior priests in our Archdiocese. Thank you in advance for your generous and prayerful support.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: Please remember your loved ones this Christmas with a donation to our Christmas Flowers. A list of memorials will be included in our Christmas and New Year's Day bulletins. As always,

thank you for your generosity.

PASTOR'S NOTES

The consultation which I reported to you last week has now fully begun. There is a website for it (www.2012Planning.org) and one can view the talk the cardinal gave as well the responses from the priests and specifically, the insights from Father Jack Ahearn, who is the pastor of three parishes with four languages in the city of Dorchester. The model that the archdiocese is proposing is to create three and four parish "clusters" with one pastor and one pastoral team to serve all three or four. This is much like many of the models being used in dioceses and archdioceses around the country. What it means is that we will not be closing parishes, but we will be adapting the schedules of the parishes to accommodate the reality that there will be fewer priests to serve as the years continue to take their toll on the number of ordained versus the number retiring at the age of seventy five. There are lots of details to consider and the committee responsible for this new concept plans to do consultations around the Archdiocese before making any final recommendations. As I said last week, this is a time when the church is going through great change and upheaval. The result of all this is that our experiences of Church are going to change. Some of the changes we hope will strengthen the pastoral service of the parishes. At a time like this, it might be a good exercise to ask what is that we do well, in what areas might we improve and how can we continue to be a parish that proclaims the Gospel, teaches and sanctifies and is a beacon of light and hope to a world that is sometimes dark and cynical. I hope that you will continue to pray for the parishioners of St James and St. Johns as we move forward during this period of consultation and reflection.

At this time of the year I usually take the time to remind all of us that next week we will be seeing many of our absent brothers and sisters. Christmas for us is the time when we recall the great humility of God who came to be with us in human form, to share his love to teach us about himself and his great love for us and to die for us, so that one day we would be welcomed to share with Him his eternal form. With that said, perhaps we could take a lesson from God and choose to graciously share some part of creation with others who appear suddenly in our midst next week, specifically those who are returning to be with families, college students home for Mom's cooking and free laundry and those who hear the call of the Lord because of the season and all that it expresses. One gracious way to look at this is that one day we may well be sharing an eternity with this person who suddenly shows up earlier than we do and claims our bench. Perhaps now is the time to make room and joyfully so, for this may well be our house mate among the many mansions that God has prepared for us. (Jn) Christmas is a time of sharing and gift giving. I can think of no better gift than that which allows a person to feel welcomed in the house of the Lord. In the story of the prodigal son, the father waits at the edge of the property looking to see if his son will return. I again suggest that attitude will do more for us as a parish than any other less loving response. *Peace, Fr. Murray*

I hope you will join us this Sunday evening after the 5:00 PM Mass. We will celebrate evening prayer and then leave time for confessions. This event will be celebrated in the upstairs church. Thank you to the liturgy committee and all those involved in making this year's Advent prayer so special. I am grateful to the young people who came on the third Sunday to pray. Thanks to Gabriella.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father." - Lk 1:30-32

Readings for the Week of December 18, 2011

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Rom 16:25-27
 Monday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25
 Tuesday: Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38
 Wednesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45
 Thursday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56
 Friday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66
 Saturday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE

Dec. 18th Family Mass at 8:30AM – Church
 Followed by Coffee and donuts in the lower church.
Christmas Vacation ~ Classes resume on January 8, 2012

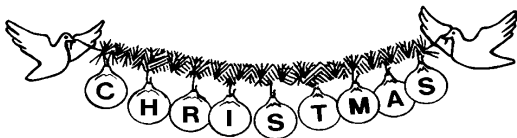


Please join us for our final evening of prayer on this Sunday after the 5:00 Mass. All are invited to participate. Thanks to The Liturgy committee and Cynthia from the Music Department for making

these evenings beautiful. This evening will conclude with confessions. Refreshments will follow.

Mass Schedule December 17-18

4:00 PM St. John's Fr. Felix
 4:00 PM St. James Fr. Murray
 7:00 PM St. James (Vietnamese)
 8:30 AM St. James Fr. Leo
 8:30 AM St. John's Fr. Murray
 10:00 AM St. John's Fr. Murray
 11:30 AM St. James Fr. Walsh/Deacon Nelson
 5:00 PM Mass Fr. Murray



Mass Schedule December 24-25

4:00 PM St. John's Fr. Walsh
 6:00 PM St. John's Fr. Murray (Added Mass)
 4:00 PM St. James Fr. Murray
 8:00 PM St. James (Multilingual)
 Fr. Murray (Added Mass)
 8:30 AM St. John's Fr. Murray
 8:30 AM St. James Fr. Walsh
 10:00 AM St. John the Baptist Fr. Leo
 11:30 AM St. James Fr. Murray/Deacon Nelson
No 5:00 PM Mass

THANK YOU from the St. Vincent DePaul Society and the White Elephant Table of our Christmas Bazaar! Through the generosity of your donations of new and slightly used items, the White Elephant Table at our recent Bazaar raised just under \$700 for our St. Vincent DePaul Society. With this money the SVD will be able to provide Christmas Dinners to those who otherwise would have gone without. Thank you for your *overwhelming* generosity. Remember to set aside your "collectibles" during the year so next year's White Elephant will be bigger and better!

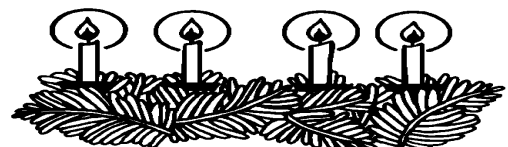
Merry Christmas to All!

FACILITIES USE In recent days, more and more people are coming to ask about the use of the facilities. I ask that you please call the rectory and speak to Susan first about this. She is the person who has the schedules and works in concert with Nancy Galinsky. Between the two of them, there is a good organized system. Please use this method, rather than asking the pastor, who says yes to everybody and then upsets those for whom he has caused a conflict!

SAVE THE DATE.....to celebrate the end of the Christmas Season on the Epiphany of the Lord, Sunday January 8th at 2:30pm in the Upper Church at St James for our **"Carols and Cookies" Christmas Concert**. We are looking for parishioners to *bake one plate of their favorite cookies* to share with us at the reception following the concert. Lots of sing-a-long Carols and special music will be heard! End the season with a song in your heart!

CHRISTMAS CHOIRS-Please plan on joining us at one of our **Christmas Masses** this year. The St James Adult and Youth Choir will sing at the 4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass, with a prelude starting at 3:30pm. Members of our English, Spanish and Vietnamese Choirs will sing at the 8:00pm Christmas Eve Mass (prelude will start at 7:30pm) We welcome anyone to **come join** some of our choir members at the **4:00 Christmas Eve Mass** or **Christmas Day at the 8:30am Mass in the choir loft!** We will be singing favorite Christmas hymns that everyone should know, make your Christmas extra special, come one and all! All we ask is that you come by at least a half hour early so that we can set you up with the music. Come take in the breathtaking view and celebrate Christmas "from on high!"

Greetings from CatholicTV: As always, our crew has put together some wonderful Christmas shows. We have some inspirational talks, moments of prayer and entertainment. From December 19th through the eve of the New Year, there will be a variety of specials for all ages interspersed with our regular programming. Then, from Christmas Eve through the day after the holiday, we will air 72 hours of non-stop Christmas programs!



DECEMBER 18, 2011

**PLEASE REMEMBER THE WORKS OF OUR ST.VINCENT
DePAUL SOCIETY AS YOU LEAVE THE CHURCH TODAY.
DONATION BOXES ARE AT ALL DOORS. THANK YOU!**

Gracias a todos los que participaron en la celebración de la fiesta a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Fue una experiencia maravillosa. Esta noche ha sido una de mis favoritas en todo el año. La cantidad de gente continúa a creciendo. Este día nos ayuda a creer más y más en la humildad de María. Ella es un ejemplo de una persona a quien Dios escogió y hace su voluntad para ayudarnos a alcanzar el cielo. Gracias a Dios ella continúa diciendo sí desde el cielo. Es evidente que nuestros dones pueden ser usados aun en el cielo. Finalmente, parte del mensaje es que en cualquier situación, el Señor esta interesado en comunicarse con nosotros.

Este fin de semana estamos haciendo los preparativos finales por celebrar la Navidad de nuestro Señor. Este domingo después de la Misa de las 5:00 PM, nos vamos a reunir por rezar y después vamos a ofrecer la oportunidad para el sacramento de la confesión. Habrá por lo menos dos sacerdotes que hablan español. Todos están invitados. La paz, P. Roberto

Advent: Why Do We Wait? What is the message of Advent? Why are we waiting? Advent is a season of preparation: we shop for gifts, plan parties, and decorate our homes for the coming of Christmas. Sometimes it is easy to forget the real mission of Advent: preparing our hearts for the coming of Jesus Christ. We are bombarded by commercial messages in which the reason for Christmas—Emmanuel, “God with us”—is absent or overlooked. However, the rituals and practices of our Catholic liturgies during this season can join us together with the People of God. United, we can offer messages of challenge and hope and express our desire for God's presence in our midst. Advent blends penitence, preparedness, and joy. We are called to consider our lives and to repent—or turn around—from those things that keep us from God. In this way, we repent and prepare for the Second Coming of the Lord. This theme of preparedness permeates the liturgies of Advent. Lastly we are called to be joyful as we get ready to celebrate the incarnation of our Savior in Bethlehem. We wait for the coming of Christ in human history at Bethlehem, in our hearts each day, and at the end of time. The readings of Advent direct us to be prepared as we “do not know the hour or the day” of Christ's coming. But it is the present to which we should give our attention. Christ comes to us each day in word and sacrament, in prayer and grace, and through the people in his Church. Can we try to be aware of his presence and power within our lives? Can we be open to his call and let him work through us in the world? What is the message of Advent? For what are we waiting? *Maranatha!* Come, Lord Jesus! Help us to know you, love you, and serve you. Increase our faith. Help us understand. Let us be your eyes, ears, and hands on earth. Let us show your love. Come!



PLEASE JOIN US today following the 8:30AM Mass for coffee, juice and donuts and a visit from Santa!

Father James Battles, a priest at St James from 1961 to 1966, passed away a few months ago. I'm sure many parishioners remember Fr Battles fondly. This is his obituary that was found by one of our parishioners on-line: James J. Battles, 81, a longtime resident of Southborough, died on Sunday, September 18, at Marlborough Hills Health Care after a long illness. He was the husband of Patricia (Lawton) Battles for the past 38 years. Mr. Battles was a graduate of Boston College and St. John Seminary of Brighton. He was a priest for over 14 years, before leaving the priesthood and becoming an administrator for several area nursing homes. Jim later was the owner and administrator of Edgell Rest Home in Framingham, for 25 years, before retiring in 2001. In addition to his wife he is survived by his children, David Allen and his wife Janet of Westfield; Michael Allen and his wife Frances of Plaistow, NH; Mark Allen and his wife Diane of Marlborough; Kathleen Allen of W. Hartford; Deborah Chance and her husband Kenneth of Grafton; Kevin Battles and his wife Kathleen of Southborough; Brian Battles and his wife Sauwai of Andover; 8 grandchildren, David and Kaitlyn Chance; Rachel and Ryan Allen; Taylor and Matthew Allen; Olivia and John Battles. A Mass of resurrection was held on September 22, at St. Anne Church, 20 Boston Rd, Southborough. Burial followed in the Southborough Rural Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be sent in his memory to Alzheimer's Assoc: Run for the Memory Team, 31 Arsenal St., Watertown, MA 02472

CN. IV. MV. Càng gần đến lễ Giáng sinh, lời cầu chúc mà chúng ta vẫn nghe ở đầu Thánh lễ "Chúa ở cùng anh chị em" càng thêm ý nghĩa. Đây chính là lời ngôn sứ Natan nói với vua Đavít trong bài đọc I hôm nay, và cũng là lời thiên sứ Gabriel nói với Đức Mẹ trong bài Tin Mừng. Chúng ta hãy dọn tâm hồn cho xứng đáng đón rước Chúa đến ở cùng chúng ta.

Bài đọc I hôm nay thuật rằng vua Đavít muốn xây cho Chúa một ngôi nhà nhưng Ngài từ chối. Tin Mừng theo Thánh Luca cũng thuật rằng khi tới lúc Đức Giêsu sắp sinh ra, Thánh Giuse và Đức Mẹ không tìm được chỗ trong các quán trọ nên Đức Mẹ phải sinh Đức Giêsu trong hang đá.

Thiên Chúa không cần đến những ngôi nhà của loài người chúng ta!

Ngôi nhà mà Thiên Chúa muốn chính là một triều đại bền vững muôn đời, triều đại bắt đầu với Đavít và tiếp nối bởi những kẻ thực lòng kính mến tôn thờ Ngài. Ngôi nhà mà Thiên Chúa muốn là những tâm hồn như Đức Maria, luôn khiêm tốn vâng theo thánh ý Chúa.

Để chuẩn bị Lễ Giáng sinh, chúng ta cũng "cất nhà" cho Chúa. Đó là những hang đá, máng cỏ theo kiểu truyền thống; những mô hình cách điệu, những bức họa theo kiểu hiện đại; những trang trí lộng lẫy huy hoàng v. v. Nhưng chúng ta phải biết rằng Chúa không thích những ngôi nhà đó cho bằng những đền thờ được xây dựng trong chính tâm hồn chúng ta và tâm hồn những người chung quanh chúng ta.

Lạy Chúa, xin sai Thánh Thần Chúa đến với mỗi người chúng con, giúp chúng con biết đón nhận Đức Giêsu, để đem Đức Giêsu đến cho mọi người chung quanh chúng con.

L. M. Carôlô Hồ Bạc Xái

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Comments:
