Saint Mary Catholic Parish

A Stewardship Faith Community

25 North Road ▪ Chelmsford, MA 01824
Tel: 978-256-2374 ▪ Fax: 978-256-0122 ▪ Religious Education: 978-256-3541 ▪ www.saint-mary.org

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil 4:00pm
Sunday 7:00am, 9:00am, 11:00am, 6:00pm
Holy Days ..... As Announced
Daily ..... Monday thru Friday - 7:00am ▪ Saturday - 9:00am
Reconciliation ..... Saturday, 11:00am to 12:00pm or by appointment
Eucharistic Adoration ..... Saturday following the 9:00am Mass, until 12:00Noon
Rectory Hours ..... Monday thru Friday: 9:00am - 5:00pm
Religious Education and Youth Ministry Office Hours ..... Monday thru Thursday*: 10:00am - 5:00pm (CLOSED Friday)

*Please call for an appointment

Parish Pastoral Staff

Rev. Stephen Donohoe, Pastor
Rev. William S. Dunn, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Ron Lawson, Sr. Priest in Residence
Deacon Jack Bortz

Parish Finance Manager ..... Paul Firicano
Director of Music ..... Cathy Martin
Parish Office Manager/Secretary ..... Mary Steiner
Stewardship Coordinator ..... Tina Sousa
Religious Education Director (Gr. K - 6) ..... Heather Hannaway
Religious Education Office Manager ..... Elaine Kindler
Director of Youth Ministry ..... Matthew Marchand
Spiritual Direction ..... Francine Gagnon

Welcome New Parishioners

We extend to you a warm welcome to our parish community. Please call the Rectory to introduce yourself and register. We wish to know you and serve you.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Directors: Deacon Jack Bortz & Carol Hanley
For adults interested in becoming Catholic and for Catholics who have not been confirmed. Candidates meet weekly on Tuesdays at 7:00pm.

Sacrament of Baptism

Baptism is celebrated on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month at 2:00pm and twice a month at Sunday Mass. Baptism Preparation takes place on the 4th Sunday of the month at 2:00pm in the Parish Hall. Please contact the rectory, 978-256-2374 ext. 16, for arrangements.

Sacrament of Marriage

Please contact a parish priest or deacon at least eight months prior to the wedding date. Marriage Preparation is required.

Anointing of the Sick

Every Saturday following the 4:00pm Mass

God is Just a Prayer Away

If you would like to have prayers said for yourself or a loved one, simply call The Prayer Line at the Rectory, *978-256-2374, ext. 18.*

Bulletin Deadline - Please submit copy to Mary Steiner at the Rectory by 6:00pm on Monday.

For families with small children, the Family Prayer Room is located to the left of the Altar.

The Holy Family

Adolescents are often characterized in American culture as moody, rebellious, unresponsive to adults, secretive, addicted to text messaging, and generally disconnected from their families. The caricature carries over into films, televisions shows, and comic strips like "Zits." Television sitcoms often garner great laughs by pitting younger, wittier children against adolescents to the delight of onlooking parents. Such views only serve to separate the members of a family rather than unite them as one household.

While we may laugh at the humor, letting culture define family life is not the direction offered by Christian experience. For starters, Christians begin with baptism, recognizing that each member of the family shares in the gift of the Holy Spirit that dwells in our hearts. As the writer of the First Letter of John says, "We are God's children now." In the family, each member is a precious gift with talents given by God.

The adolescent Jesus slipped away from Mary and Joseph in Sunday's Gospel. (Has it ever happened to you where one of your older kids slipped away because they wanted to stay out a little longer?) In the end, his actions were seen as part of God's larger plan. It remains a delicate balance in helping children to discern their gifts as they grow older, while at the same time providing the discipline and structure that will protect and guide them. This feast that we celebrate today reminds us that the balance comes from seeing ourselves as a family with God in our midst. With that as the starting point, rather than the culture of the day, we can all learn how to be about our heavenly Father's business.

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STEWARDSHIP

"Beloved, see what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God." 1 John 3:1

During this season of giving, let's also remember the gifts that God has given to us, including the gift of making us His children. Are we as grateful for that wonderful gift as we are for all the material gifts we have received? How do we show our gratitude to God for the gifts He gives to us all year?

The Catholic Book Club's next selection is *The Power and the Glory* by Graham Greene. The next meeting is Sunday, January 31, 2010, after the 6 PM Mass.

The Rectory and Lighthouse will be closed on Friday, January 1 in observance of New Year's Day. A priest will be available for emergencies.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 26
4:00pm Corrina Antonucci, Rita Kretzman ..... Memorial Mass

Sunday, December 27
7:00am ..... *Pro Populo*, For the People of the Parish
9:00am Richard Gallant ..... 9th Anniversary
11:00am Francis Good Sr., Marybeth Lubrano ..... Memorial Mass
6:00pm Anita Angers ..... 20th Anniversary

Monday, December 28
7:00am ..... For Members of the Sanctuary Fund

Tuesday, December 29
7:00am Mathew Nangle ..... Memorial Mass

Wednesday, December 30
7:00am James Thomson ..... Memorial Mass

Thursday, December 31
7:00am Fr. Thomas Buckley ..... Memorial Mass

Saturday, January 2
4:00pm Dorothy Carter ..... 5th Anniversary

Sunday, January 3
7:00am ..... *Pro Populo*, For the People of the Parish
9:00am Irene R. Graff ..... 31st Anniversary
11:00am Richard F. Lawler ..... 1st Anniversary

Funeral Louis Overbeck (12/22/09)

Christmas Collection for the Clergy Benefit Trust

We hope that each of you had a wonderful Christmas Day in celebration of the birth of our savior. As a reminder, the Christmas Collection supports the retirement, healthcare and financial needs of priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. On this day, I prayerfully ask you to remember the meaningful role these priests have had in your spiritual life, as well as the spiritual lives of your loved ones. Please be generous to this important collection in support of our Senior Priests.

Cardinal Sean O'Malley

Due to the Christmas holiday bulletin deadlines, the Offertory for the weekend of December 20 will be reported in next week's bulletin.

Low-Gluten Altar Bread is now available - We are able to consecrate low gluten hosts at Mass for Holy Communion. If you have celiac disease and wish to receive Holy Communion, please contact Fr. Dunn at the rectory, 978-256-2374.

Adult Faith Life Speaker Series - Please join us for the next Collaborative Faith Life Speaker Series engagement to be held at Saint John the Evangelist, 115 Middlesex St., No. Chelmsford on Thursday, January 21st, 2010, 7pm. Our speaker will be the Very Reverend Father Paul Ritt, who will give a presentation on the person and work of Jesus Christ, and the many ways Christ dwells among us: in the Scriptures we read, in the sacraments we celebrate, in our personal prayer and in the events of our lives. All are encouraged to attend and are welcome to bring a friend to this enlightening and informative meeting!

Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry Overnight Ski Trip

This event will be held on Friday, February 5th from 10pm (leaving Saint Mary's) – 7:00am (returning to Saint Mary's Feb. 6th). This event is open to High School, Middle School, Young Adults, and Families. The cost is $65 per person, $10 rentals, $10 Lessons. You may find more information at www.oymboston.org

If you are interested in participating consider these options:

If you would like to go as a family, providing your own transportation, please send me an e-mail notification and then you can either register and make your payment through us (total due to us by Jan. 15) or on your own (deposit due Jan. 22 $40 per person, full payment Feb. 1) at www.oymboston.org.

If you would like to go with St. Mary's Youth Ministry – Grades 6-12 only – Please fill out the Youth Permission form attached above and return it with the full amount by Friday January 15, 2010. The amount should include $65 per person, $10 per rental, $10 per lesson, and $15 per person for transportation. Please send me an e-mail ahead of time with Students Name, Grade, and whether they need rentals or lessons (Beginner/Intermediate).

The Micah Experience Work Camp Project

This event will run from Sunday, July 11, 2010 - Saturday, July 17, 2010 in Winston-Salem North Carolina. We have room for 35 students and 7 Adult Chaperones. We will be chartering a bus for the travel. Saint Mary's Youth Ministry will cover the cost of transportation leaving the cost $432 per student for the week. Students who are interested in going on the trip or learning more should come to an information meeting on Jan. 3rd 2010 after the 6:00 Mass. We will have a video and explanation as well as fundraising plans available.

All students interested in going can lock in their spot with a $50 deposit made out to Saint Mary Parish memo: Youth Ministry (mail attn: Matt). Deposits will be taken first come, first serve.

Students who have gone before will be given first preference until Friday, Jan. 15th then seats will be filled in order that they were received.

Bible Study - We are looking to begin a Teen Bible Study in January, which will include a study of the Gospel of John, it will include pizza and snacks each meeting. Students in grade 7 and up are invited to attend but I need some feedback. There are four options for meeting times: Tuesdays 6:00 - 7:00pm, Tuesdays 7:00 - 8:00pm; Wednesdays 6:00 - 7:00pm, Wednesdays 7:00 - 8:00pm

Protecting God's Children

All volunteers at St. Mary Parish are required to complete Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Training. This is a one-time workshop that will help to recognize child abuse, offer protective practices, and instruct on reporting incidents of abuse. CAP training is available at St. Catherine Parish, 107 No. Main St., Westford, MA on Sunday, January 10, 2010, 12:30-3:30pm in the Parish Center Mezzanine. If you'd like to register, please contact the St. Catherine Parish Office, 978-692-6353.

Special Opportunity for IRA Gifts Available

Between now and December 31, 2009, you could make a gift to St. Mary Parish far bigger than you ever thought possible.

You can make the gift of a lifetime by giving from your IRA to the parish without federal tax penalty. So your retirement funds can go further than ever before.

This is good news for parishioners who want to make a charitable gift during their lifetime from their retirement assets, but have been discouraged from doing so because of the income tax penalty.

Here's what it takes to qualify for this tax advantage:

- Need to be 70 and a half years or older
- Have an IRA – whether traditional or Roth
- Want to make a charitable gift up to $100,000
- Make the gift by December 31, 2009

For more information, contact Paul Firicano at the rectory, or Richard Ely at The Catholic Foundation, 617-779-3702 or email Richard_Ely@rcab.org. Or visit The Catholic Foundation website www.CatholicLegacySociety.org.

Religious Education

Religious Education Inclement Weather Plan

If Chelmsford Public Schools are cancelled for inclement weather Religious Education classes will be cancelled. The announcement will be publicized through The Religious Education Office outgoing phone message, 978-256-3541. It will also be broadcasted on Channel 4/WBZ, Channel 5/WCVB, and Channel 7/WHDH.

Weekday Classes: Decision will be made Mon.-Thurs. by 1:00PM

Sunday Classes: Decision will be made Saturday evening or Sunday by 6:00AM or in case of mid-afternoon storm by 1:00pm.

Should we experience inclement weather, kindly check the Religious Education voice message system, St. Mary's parish website (www.saint-mary.org) and local weather stations for closing information. As the weather in New England can be somewhat unpredictable, please know that we respect and expect parents to use their own prudential judgment in regard to the safety of transporting their family members during periods of inclement weather.

Receive cell phone notification of class cancellations from 7NEWS (WHDH)! Go to www.whdh.com, click on "Snow Day Alert" and provide the information requested. If you have questions contact 7NEWS at webmaster@whdh.com or call the toll-free number, 1-877-316-5990.

Revelation: The Kingdom Yet to Come

A second course in Sacred Scripture will be offered for St. Mary's parishioners. The book to be studied is Revelation which explores how the Kingdom established by Christ in His Church is intimately connected with the Kingdom of Heaven, especially throughout the celebration of the Mass. Jeff Cavins, the popular teacher of A QUICK JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE, will explore what the figures and images of Revelation represent in salvation history. Classes will be offered on Sunday afternoons from 12:30-2:00pm, beginning January 10 or Tuesday evenings from 7:00-8:30pm, beginning January 12 (location TBD). The cost is $25. Please return your registration (located at church entrances or on our website, www.saint-mary.org) to the rectory by January 3. For more information, call Fr. William Dunn at 978-256-2374, or wdunn@saint-mary.org. A minimum of 20 participants is necessary to keep the cost affordable. For information, please contact Father Dunn or the Rectory.

Adult Confirmation

Saint Mary Parish is offering a six week course for adults who have not completed their third sacrament of initiation, CONFIRMATION. The course begins on Monday evening, February 22 at 7pm and last for six weeks. The Confirmation Mass will be on Easter Wednesday, April 7 at St. Monica's Parish in Methuen at 7:30pm. Questions and additional information: Fr Dunn at 978-256-2374 or wdunn@saint-mary.org.

Thank You Troop 77!!!

Thanks to the following Troop 77 Boy Scouts and mentors from St. Mary Church who restored the St. Mary Christmas Crèche figures. Scouts: Jimmy Latina, Nick Imperillo, Domenic Russo, Tyler Carmolli, Zack Shephard, Robbie Massey, Tony Bernazani, Tim and Will Cassels. Mentors: Cathy Latina and Darlene Carmoli.

The restoration of the figures was done as a service project for their BSA Ad Altare Dei Catholic Religious Medal. All the boys have earned and were presented with their Ad Altare Dei Catholic Religious Medal earlier this year at a ceremony at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston. Thanks to all for giving back to St. Mary Church.

Thank You for sharing The Spirit of Christmas!

St. Mary Parishioners have again shared the Spirit of Christmas with young mothers and their children, grandparents stepping in as parents, those seeking shelter from harm, those who are gravely ill, adults with special needs, and our neighbors who need a little extra help this Christmas. We are all blessed in this giving and receiving. Thank you to all for your generosity and to the many volunteers who make this program possible year after year! Through your generosity, nearly 1,200 gifts were distributed by the following agencies:

Catholic Charities Lowell ▪ Catholic Charities Lawrence
Alternative House ▪ St. Patrick School Secret Santa
My Father's House ▪ St. Vincent de Paul ▪ Wilder St. Residence
Lowell Community Health Center ▪ House of Hope

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 27
Feast of the Holy Family

- Family Mass - 9:00am - Church
- Youth Mass - 6:00pm - Church

Monday, December 28

- Boy Scouts Troop 77 Meeting - 5:30pm - Hall

Tuesday, December 29

- RCIA - 7:00pm - Conf. Rm. B

Thursday, December 31

- Rosary - 12:00Noon - Church
- Mary Mother of God Holy Day Vigil Mass - 7:00pm - Church

Friday, January 1 - Mary Mother of God

- Mary Mother of God Holy Day Mass - 11:00am - Church (there will be NO 7:00am Mass)

Saturday, January 2

- Reconciliation & Eucharistic Adoration 11:00am - Church
- Anointing of the Sick - Following 4:00pm Mass - Church

Sunday, January 3 - Epiphany of the Lord

- Family Mass - 9:00am - Church
- Grade 1 Religious Education - 10:00 - Hall
- Baptism - 2:00pm - Church
- Grade 9 Confirmation I - 4:30pm - Hall
- Youth Mass - 6:00pm - Church
- The Truth/SNAC - 7:00pm - Hall

Mass Schedule for weekend of January 3

4pm
Altar Servers: F. Busser, O. Busser, S. Abate
EMHCs: MJ Metro, A. Beauregard, P. Cella
Lectors: D. Delikat, C. Desfosse
Mass Coordinator: G. Beauregard

7am
Altar Servers: C. Markey, J. Markey, M. Sousa
EMHCs: M. McCusker, M. Sousa, Sr.
Lectors: J. Sousa, D. Clinton
Mass Coordinator: M. Sousa, Jr.

9am
Altar Servers: K. Sousa, M. Plunkett, R. Farrell
EMHCs: M. Clayton, M. Kijanka, M. Kijanka
Lectors: F. Gagnon, M. McKeown
Mass Coordinator: J. Connolly

11am
Altar Servers: Mo. Andrews, C. Conte, B. Conte
EMHCs: J. Baummer, P. Boyd, D. Camacho
Lectors: G. Noonan, S. Soracco
Mass Coordinator: L. Conte

6pm
Altar Servers: C. Krauch, Em. Krauch, El. Krauch
EMHCs: G. Kalpas, C. Hirt
Lectors: H. Dolan, G. Krauch
Mass Coordinator: B. Donahue