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.

Epiphany of the Lord

Stars are amazing-not the people who claim star-status because of their work in sports or entertainment-but the stars that populate the universe. Most are between one and ten billion years old, a time span impossible to comprehend. Other than the sun, the closest star to Earth is Proxima Centauri, about twenty-five trillion miles away, another calculation that is impossible to comprehend. The exponential numbers scientists use when working with stars, whether it is age, distance, weight, composition, luminosity, or any other characteristic, race beyond our everyday calculations of hundreds and thousands. Stars are just too big for us humans.

No wonder Matthew's infancy narrative included a star as the sign for the newborn king. Everything about this child's birth seemed unimportant: born in Bethlehem instead of the big city, Jerusalem; unknown to the important people of the day; the pregnant woman taken into Joseph's home quietly so as not to cause scandal; a quiet, unremarkable birth in an unimportant country in the empire.

But then there's that star! Big, shining, revealing that there is more to this event than meets the eye. Visitors come from afar, and upset the balance of power as they seek the child who would be king. Epiphany is the manifestation of Christ to the world. And the star shows him to be who he really is-king of the universe and Lord of all. So it shouldn't seem so strange to us that Matthew would point out one of those incomprehensible entities in the night sky as the signifier of the One who is beyond all human understanding. What is remarkable is that that One came to be one of us so that we could understand him. ©2009 Liturgical Publications Inc

Mass Schedule for weekend of January 10

4pm
Altar Servers: R. Boshar
EMHCs: G. Daly, M. Branco, J. DiCamillo
Lectors: H. Dolan, R. Rock
Mass Coordinator: P. Cella

7am
Altar Servers: C. McCarthy, M. McCarhty
EMHCs: K. Cusick, D. Robillard
Lectors: C. Frassica, A. Gagnon
Mass Coordinator: M. Sousa, Jr.

9am
Altar Servers: N. DeSilvio, K. DeSilvio, D. DeSilvio
EMHCs: C. Rigazio, S. Brodie, K. Brodie
Lectors: J. Morency, J. Connolly
Mass Coordinator: D. Clinton

11am
Altar Servers: A. Vercelli, E. Lovas, Ma. Andrews
EMHCs: S. Lovas, B. Bovill, S. Conte
Lectors: L. McDonald, T. Desfosse
Mass Coordinator: S. Soracco

6pm
Altar Servers: S. Anderson, J. Anderson
EMHCs: C. Cahill Anderson, J. Fulton
Lectors: M. Foley, C. Anderson
Mass Coordinator: B. Donahue

Mass Intentions

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

Friday, January 8
7:00am Newton R. Akashian..... 11th Anniversary

Saturday, January 9
4:00pm Jose Janeiro..... 5th Anniversary

Sunday, January 10
7:00am .....*Pro Populo*, For the People of the Parish
9:00am Kathie Nisco..... 31st Anniversary
11:00am Lillian Stott..... 9th Anniversary

Funerals Jacqueline E. Soucy (12/31/09)
Charles Ferreira (12/31/09)

OFFERTORY COLLECTION FY2010

	Amount Collected	Amount Budgeted	Variance
Envelopes (rec'd 244)	$8,912		
Loose Cash	$2,390		
Total – week of Dec. 20	$11,302	$15,300	($3,998)
(thru 25 of 51 weeks)			
Envelopes (rec'd 432)	$11,374		
Loose Cash	$3,331		
Electronic Giving	$3,700		
Total – week of Dec. 27	$18,405	$15,300	$3,105
Fiscal YTD Offertory	$395,720	$397,800	($2,080)
(thru 26 of 51 weeks)			

The Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Offertory, $26,409, will be donated to the Clergy Benefit Trust. Thank you for your support.

$1,378 was contributed for Christmas Flowers.

As we take a moment to reflect on the year past and pray for a hopeful future, we would like to remind you that the yearly Christmas Collection supports the retirement, medical care and financial needs of the priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. If you have not already done so, and you wish to, you may include your completed Christmas Collection envelope in today's offertory. Thank you for your continued generosity to the church.

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. To register, please contact the St. Catherine Parish Office, 978-692-6353.

Attention All Sunday EMHCs, Lectors, Mc's, & Altar Servers – The Sunday Minister Schedule for January/February is complete and has been emailed to Sunday ministers. Hard copies are also available on the bulletin board outside the sacristy. Please note the number of EMHC has been reduced because of the absence of the ministry of the cups. Thank you for your commitment to your ministry. Please contact Tina Sousa at the rectory 978-256-2374 or tsousa@saint-mary.org, if you have any questions.

Religious Education

First Reconciliation for Grade 2 Students

Grade 2 students, who are preparing to receive their First Communion, will be making their First Reconciliation during the regular hours for Reconciliation on Saturdays between 11:00 am and 12:00 Noon in January and February. On January 23rd, January 30th, February 6th and February 13th, pews will be reserved for the students on either side of the church. Please pray for our children as they grow more fully into their Catholic faith.

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.

Arts & Environment Committee Needs Help - The Arts & Environment Committee is seeking volunteers to assist with removal of Christmas decorations from the Church on Tuesday, January 12 at 3:00pm. Give a little or a lot of your time! If you are able to help and/or would like more information, please contact Brenda Lovering, 978-256-0705.

Sextons Needed - We are currently in need of sextons for the 11:00am and 6:00pm Masses. This is a great opportunity for men and women to take part in the parish's stewardship program. This ministry will only take a few minutes of your time before and after Mass. If interested, please contact Tina Sousa at the rectory, 978-256-2374 or Al Beauregard at 978-25606672 or algael@comcast.net. Training will be provided. Please prayerfully consider giving the gift of your time.

Praying for those who protect us...

Let us offer our prayers for the following service members who are currently serving: Sgt. Edward Simonds, Afghanistan; Captain Jeffrey Clark, Ft. Hood, TX; Nick Ziminsky, US Coast Guard; USMC PFC Bernard Belauger, Norfolk, VA; Lt. Tif Cline, USN Medical Corps; SSG Rick Bell, 1st Cavalry, Baghdad; Lt. Andrew Cline, USN ACB-1; Stephen J. Coraccio, Kuwait; Andrew Batson, USMC, Iraq; USMC; Captain Brian Gatti; Captain Kristin Gatti; Lt. Brent Holloway, US Navy/VA; Ensign Molly O'Keefe, US Navy Pensacola FL; Sgt. Stephen Comeau, Afganistan; PFC Alex J. Caron, Palms, CA; Lt. William Sheridan, US Navy - Italy; Lt. Michael Robey, Germany; Lt. Eric Bernazani, US Army, Iraq; Brian Ash, US Marines; PFC Gerald Martin, US Army; David S. Maher, AIC, US Air Force, So. Korea; Capt. Greg Connor, USAF, Afghanistan; Jonathan Leslie, US Army, Afghanistan; Pvt. Stephen McDonald, US Army.

To all in our Parish Community who have daughters, sons, family members or friends currently serving in the armed forces - overseas and here in the United States: If you wish for members of this Parish to say prayers for their safe return, Contact the rectory, 978-256-2374 or email msteiner@saint-mary.org. The names of our service men and women will be published once each month, although they are in our prayers each day. Yellow ribbons in their honor will be placed in the vestibule.

CALENDAR

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 4

- Gr. 7 Pre-Confirmation I- 5:00pm - Hall
- Gr. 8 Pre-Confirmation II– 6:00pm - Hall
- Gr. 9 Accelerated Confirmation - 7:00pm - Hall

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6

- Teen Choir Instrumental Rehearsal - 5:30pm - Church
- Youth Mass Music Group - 6:00pm - Church
- Boy Scouts Troop 77 Meeting - 7:00pm - Hall
- Savio Goretti Society - 7:00pm - RE Rm. 7
- Choral Singers - 7:15pm - Church
- Adult Contemporary Music Group Rehearsal - 8:15pm - Church

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7

- Gr. 2 First Eucharist/Reconciliation Parent Meeting - 10:00am - Hall
- Rosary - 12:00Noon - Church
- Gr. 2 First Eucharist/Reconciliation Parent Meeting - 7:00pm - Hall
- Family Life Council Meeting - 7:00pm - Conf. Rm. B

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8

- Youth Choir I Rehearsal - 4:00pm - Church

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9

- Lector Preparation Workshop - 8:00am - Church
- Gr. 10 Confirmation Retreat - 9:30am - Hall
- Table Ministry - 10:00am - Kitchen
- Reconciliation & Eucharistic Adoration 11:00am - Church
- Anointing of the Sick - Following 4:00pm Mass - Church

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10 - BAPTISM OF THE LORD

- Table Ministry - 9:00am - Kitchen
- Family Mass followed by hospitality in the Hall - 9:00am - Church
- Bible Study - 12:30pm - Hall
- Table Ministry - 3:15pm - Kitchen
- Gr. 10 Confirmation II - 4:30pm - Hall
- Youth Mass - 6:00pm - Church
- The Truth/S.N.A.C. - 7:00pm - Hall

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.