

Please Pray for...

All who have died especially **Fr. Joseph Szwach** who died this week. We offer our sympathy and our prayers that he will rest in peace.

Those who are sick in the hospital or recovering:

Pauline Casavant, Yvette Bouvier, Cheryl Boucher, Fr. Martin Donahue, John Waage, Theresa Johnson, Gloria Butler, Theresa Cassavant, Paula & Juan Miranda, Raymond Brodeur, Howard Cooper, Bonnie Sheldon, Baby Aiden, Frank Harvey, Diane Gosselin, David Auger, Pat Benoit, Lorraine Cote, Louise Guerin, Barbara Gaudette, Tom Pawlowski, Joseph Nisel, David L'Heureux, Dolly Choquette, Rochelle Warren, Baby Ryan, Jean Wheeler, Catherine Baril, Tim Josti Sr., Fr. Chet Devlin, Lea Derosier, Alice Sullivan, Jeanne Provencher, Darlene Kennedy, Ruth Flynn, Erlene Lachapelle, Lillian Remillard, John Ahearn, Noel Donabedian, Laurie Vickers, Ruth Costa, Thomas Lilley, Pamela Collette, Patricia Johnson, Betty Cabana, Laurie Gablaski, Carey Dubois, Diane Cyr, Baby Jana, Theresa Thibault, Ernest Tremblay, Elizabeth Lemerise, Heather Lech, Frances Barrett, Baby Oliver, Theresa Suchocki, Baby Parker, Patricia Burdette, Ann Gablaski, Eddie LaFlamme, Addison Lacaire, Richard Chabior, Pat Benoit, Jeanne Lacroix and Amy Richard

PARISH PRAYER INTENTION FOR THE WEEK

For all who are homeless, lonely, depressed or unemployed at this time of year

OUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS DECEMBER 5 & 6

Envelopes	\$7,565.25
Loose	\$ 282.00
Total collection	\$7,722.25
Number of envelopes	273
Attendance	490



FOOD PANTRY REQUEST FOR THIS WEEK

Hot Cocoa

NEEDS FOR CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS

We will be distributing food baskets for Christmas to those in need on Saturday December 19 which is this coming Saturday.. We have need for the following foods:

Turkeys and Hams Gravy and stuffing mix, fresh vegetables; i/e potatoes, squash, carrots, etc. and we could use donations of desserts.

We expect to feed 250 or more families. All donations are welcome.

If you are donating turkeys or hams please call the office and let us know what you are bringing. This is important because it determines what we have to buy to make up the difference.

Food is dropped off between 8:00 and 9:00 am on Saturday December 19

THE GIVING TREE Please remember to return the gifts you have purchased to the tree by **noon today**, Sunday December 13. Make sure that the tag is securely attached to the gift. It is essential that we get these gifts on time. All gifts should be new.



GIFTS NEED TO BE PICKED UP IN THE CHURCH BETWEEN 3:00 AND 5:00 PM ON SUNDAY

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

The Faith Formation office will be open this week on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 10:00 – 5:00 pm. If you wish to leave Judi a message, she can be reached at **508-885-3111 Ext. 105**.

Faith Formation classes this week:

Sunday	9:00 to 10:00 am	Grades K thru 6
	6:30 to 8:00 pm	Grades 9, 10 & 11
Tuesday	4:15 to 5:30 pm	Grades 2 thru 5
	7:00 to 8:15 pm	Grades 6 thru 8

Socks for veterans:

This is the final week for the Junior High Faith Formation class collection of new winter socks for the veterans' shelter in Worcester. If anyone would like to donate socks for this project, there will be a box in the hall near the Faith Formation Office to collect them.

ADVENT NEWS

SPIRITUAL SECRET SANTA

Remember to pray for your family during Advent. The prayer can take whatever form you choose. During the fourth week of Advent we suggest that you send that family a card revealing that you are the one who has been praying for them. This is a small but simple way to keep the true spirit of the season as we prepare for God's greatest gift, His Son Jesus Christ.

AN ADVENT GIFT

There are still some copies of the CD by Matthew Kelley entitled "Becoming the Best Version of Yourself" at the doors of the church. It has some challenging thoughts based on the themes of the Advent season. They are a gift to you from the parish. Feel free to take one and to listen to it during this holy season.

OPERATION UNDERCOVER For several years the McPherson family have been collecting men's and women's underwear to be distributed to the homeless shelters in Worcester namely Abby's House and the Veteran's Shelter. If some of you didn't get tags off the tree last week this might be a good alternative. The underwear does not need to be gift wrapped but if it is, please mark male or female and the size. We will put a large gift wrapped box under the tree to accept these gifts. If you do not drop them off today they may be dropped at the side door of the McPherson's home at 12 Pleasant St.

PLANNING AHEAD.....CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS AT 4:00, 6:00 and 11:00 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS AT 10:00 AM

CONFESSION - WED DEC 23 FROM 7:00 TO 8:00 PM

THURSDAY Dec 24 FROM 11:00 AM TO NOON



Pastor's Notes:

The Lord is Near.

The Third Sunday of Advent is the Sunday of Joy, called in Latin, Gaudete Sunday. It is the midpoint of the Advent season and the Word of God resounds over and over with the theme of rejoicing in the Lord. We are having two special celebrations this Sunday. The first is the Rite of Acceptance for those involved in RCIA this year. Both of the participants are so called candidates. They are already baptized and are completing their initiation into full membership in the church. This will take place at 10:15 Mass.

The second ritual will be at a 6:30 pm Mass this evening and will be the Rite of Enrollment for the members of the confirmation class. They have completed the first leg of their confirmation journey and tonight, with their sponsors at their side, they will declare their desire to continue the journey towards the sacrament of Confirmation which will be celebrated in April.

Another cause for joy today is the official opening of the Holy Door at the Cathedral this afternoon by Bishop McManus. This opens the door for all people to come to Christ and to the church and to be forgiven, welcomed, and to grow closer to the Lord. The final cause for joy is the gifts piled around the tree which will be distributed this afternoon which will hopefully bring the joy of Christmas to the children who will receive them. Since it is more blessed to give than to receive", our joy should be even greater for having made someone happy. All of these give just a little deeper meaning to today's celebration. So accept the invitation of today's second reading. Rejoice in the Lord ...always. The Lord is near.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA entitled "Joy, Joy, Joy" will be presented by the Christian Community choir on the following dates:

Sunday Dec 13 at East Brookfield Baptist Church at 5:00 pm
Sunday Dec 27 at Overlook Masonic Home at 2:00 pm.
Sunday Jan 10 at St. John the Baptist Church at 2:00 pm
This is a free concert open to all.

WE STILL NEED MUSICIANS FOR CHRISTMAS:

REHEARSAL for the choir that will sing at Midnight Mass (which is actually at 11:00 pm) is on Sunday mornings following the 10:15 Mass. The first rehearsal for the choir that will sing at 4:00 pm vigil Mass on Christmas Eve will be on Saturday, December 19 at 9:00 am in church. People of all ages are welcome.

CHURCH CLEANING

Thank you to all who helped with the cleaning of the church on Thursday evening. This very important ministry assures that the Lord's house is in good shape for celebrating His rebirth among us.

THE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR was a great success. Everyone seemed to be having a good time. We want to thank all those who worked so hard last weekend. We thank the set up and clean-up crew, the Spiritual Renewal Committee, those who made crafts,

Saturday, December 12 4:30 pm Mary Smith (11 th Anniv) by the Family
Sunday, December 13 8:00 am Richard Berthiaume (16 th Anniv) by the Family 10:15 am Barbara Chicky by the Family 6:30 pm Rite of Enrollment Mass – Confirmation Class
Monday, December 14 8:00 am For the Holy Souls
Tuesday, December 15 8:00 am In Thanksgiving for all who prayed for Pauline Casavant given by Pauline Casavant
Wednesday, December 16 8:00 am For parishioners
Thursday, December 17 8:00 am Thomas O'Brien by friends (3 rd Ann)
Friday, December 18 8:00 am No Mass today
Saturday, December 19 4:30 pm Barbara McKeon by the Family
Sunday, December 20 8:00 am Moise & Simonne Girouard by Ray & Celine Lafaille 10:15 am Joshua Hicks by Ralph & Tina

baked cookies, and sold poinsettias the faithful kitchen crew for the meatballs and hot dogs and all who worked on the day of the Bazaar . Another fine example of the many gifts we have in our parish family. As far as I can figure, the profit was \$2,104.00. We are sorry for the mix up that happened in regards to the raffle winners. The wrong list was given to the phone caller. Forgive us. It had been a long day

Mass Schedule

Calendar of Events



Sunday , December 13	Coffee Shop – Open
9:00 am	Faith Formation Classes Grades K –6
10:15 am	RCIA Rite of Acceptance
10:15 am	Children’s Liturgy of the Word
11:30 am	11:00 pm Christmas Mass Choir Rehearsal
3:00 to 5:00 pm	Giving Tree gifts pick Up
6:30 pm	Faith Formation Classes Grades 9,& 10
6:30 pm	Enrollment Mass (Confirmation Class)
Monday, December 14	
10:00 am	Food Pantry - OPEN
7:00 pm	Inquiry / RCIA Class
Tuesday, December 15	
2:00 pm	Lincoln Hill Mass
4:15 pm	Faith Formation Class Grades 1 – 6
6:30 pm	Drop In Center Open
7:00 pm	Faith Formation Class Grades 6 – 8
Wednesday, December 16	
Thursday, December 17	
10:00 am	Food Pantry – CLOSED
Friday, December 18	
Saturday, December 19	
8:00 – 9:00 am	Christmas Basket Food Drop Off
9:00 am	4:00 pm Christmas Mass Choir rehearsal
10:00 am	Food Basket Pick Up – Elderly
10:30 am	Food Basket Pick Up – All Others
3:30 pm	Confessions
Sunday, December 20	Coffee Shop OPEN
9:00 am	NO Faith Formation Class
10:15 am	Children’s Liturgy of the Word
6:30 pm	No Faith Formation Grades