



Mass Intentions

Sunday, December 26th

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:00 AM Marion Pacetti (10th Anniversary)
Requested by her husband Bob & daughters Christine & Liz

10:30 AM Filippo Salamone
Requested by his three daughters & family

Monday, December 27th

Saint John, apostle & evangelist

7:00 AM Catherine Ruberti (1st Anniversary)
Requested by Alexander & Elizabeth Ruberti

Tuesday, December 28th

The Holy Innocents, martyrs

7:00 AM NO MASS

Wednesday, December 29th

St. Thomas Becket, bishop & martyr

5:30 PM James G. DiConza
Requested by his wife Marianne

Thursday, December 30th

7:00 AM Health

Friday, December 31st

St. Sylvester I, pope

7:00 AM Parishioners

Vigil: New Year's – Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

5:30 PM Quintino Rollo, M.D.
Requested by his wife Claire Rollo

Saturday, January 1st

New Year's

9:00 AM Peace

Vigil: The Epiphany of the Lord

4:00 PM Michael A. DiBenedetto (Anniversary)
Requested by his family

6:00 PM Joseph Capodagli & Kevin McWilliams
Requested by Joan McWilliams & family

Sunday, January 2nd

The Epiphany of the Lord

8:00 AM Sarah Ann Lewis
Requested by M/M Frank Celona & family

10:30 AM M/M Rosaire Tremblay
Requested by Mark & Sue Rivard



The Hospitality Committee begins the 2011 year with a **Pot Luck Supper on January 29th**. More information will follow. We look forward to seeing you.

December 26, 2010 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

He rose, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel... and dwelt in a town called Nazareth.

READ AND PREPARE

Next week's Scripture readings:

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1 – 9

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2 – 3a, 5 – 6

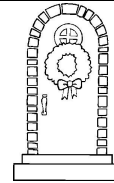
Gospel: Matthew 2:1 – 12

December 19th Offerings

Needed to Meet Budget	\$5,068.00
Sunday Offerings	\$6,260.00
Children's Collection (\$14.50)	\$14.50
SURPLUS this week	\$1,192.00
Online Giving for November	\$1,723.00
TOTAL SURPLUS	\$11,093.50

Retirement Fund for the Religious collected \$3,474 + \$330 in online donations for a total of \$3,804.

IMPORTANT MASS TIME INFORMATION! - Please look closely at the Mass schedule for December 24th – December 25th. **Note that there are NO Vigil Masses on Saturday, December 25th. The only weekend Masses that will be celebrated are the 8:00 & 10:30 AM on Sunday.** You must attend a Sunday Mass to fulfill your weekend Lord's Day obligation.



CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE AT THE RECTORY

Everyone is welcome to stop by the annual Christmas Open House at the Rectory next **Sunday, January 2nd from 1 'til 5.** Come and share the Christmas spirit with fellow parishioners and friends.

St. Anthony's Variety Show! Rehearsals will begin on **Wednesday, January 5, 2011 at 7:00 pm in the church hall** and continue every Wednesday until the show in April. There is no special talent involved, just a willingness to meet weekly with others who want to have fun and ultimately be part of a show that will entertain the community and hopefully raise money for various organizations. Adults with all levels of talent and ability are welcome. We are looking for cast members and stage crew assistants. If you would like to have fun during the long winter season ~ join us! For more information please call Joanne Pagnotta at 978-502-6993 or 978-345-7853. Hope to see you there!

Attention All Parents of Children: Boxed children's offertory envelopes are now available for the 2011 year at the entrances of the church. If you think this is a good learning tool to demonstrate sharing for your child or children then please take a box. Please do not take them if you do not plan to use them. Please include YOUR current envelope # on their envelope so that we may add to your family contribution totals. **If you, as an adult, do not currently receive weekly envelopes and would like to start, please call the office to request they be sent to you**

This week's St. Anthony Devotional Candle by:
Marianne DiConza IMO of James G. DiConza

Dear Friends,

Time to take a deep breath and relax. Whatever decorations are up, that's it. Whatever meals have been prepared, they have been eaten. Whatever gifts that have been purchased have already been wrapped. It's too late to send Christmas cards. All the extras are over. Now is the time to be the Christmas we celebrate.

This week between Christmas and New Year's is almost a mini-vacation. Not too much work is being done. There may be some gifts to return, but they can wait. There may be a New Year's Eve party to go to, but that's a few days away.

In today's Gospel we read of the traumatic dislocation which the Holy Family endured as they fled to Egypt to protect the newborn Savior. The all powerful, fully divine Son of God placed Himself and His life in the hands of a small town carpenter and his teenaged bride, and they came through. It wasn't easy; it might not even had been the way they had planned on beginning their married life, but they did it. How often, when we look back over on own family histories, have we seen the extraordinary performed by the ordinary? And isn't it love of family which motivates them to make these sacrifices?

Let's take this week to focus on the people and not the things in our lives. Let's show our loved ones, in word and action, how grateful we are that their support has been our strength in the journey of life.

Peace and Good Will,



Do You Currently Pay Your Bills Online? If so you can add St. Anthony Parish as a monthly "bill" and have your weekly donations automatically deducted and sent directly to us monthly. This is another option, in addition to signing up for electronic giving through our website www.stanthonyfitchburg.net and NetCharge, that allows a convenient and easy way of contributing to our parish. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact the office during regular work hours. Thank you.

St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry new items added to the food pantry are: canned fruits; vegetables; meat; tuna; broth; stuffing, cranberry sauce, yams, spaghetti sauce, hot chocolate, bathroom tissue. **Please try to bring one item a week.** Remember, only canned items – nothing fresh as it may spoil. Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners are over now but the winter cold brings additional need so please continue to do what you can.

"The Last Mass: Memories of Madonna of the Holy Rosary Parish" is an hour-long documentary on DVD containing interviews with parishioners prior to the last Mass on June 26th. This DVD is available at The Rabbit Hole bookstore on Main St. in Fitchburg.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter MARRIED COUPLES - IT'S NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION TIME. Resolve to start a new love affair with your spouse that's beyond your wildest dreams. It can happen on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. Sign up soon so you can renew your love for one another. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends in New England are January 14 -16, February 11-13, and March 18-20. For more information call Ralph & Jane Becker at 1-800-710-WWME or visit our webpage at www.wwmeMARI.org

If you know of any parishioner who is homebound or in a nursing home and would like to receive the Eucharist, please notify Jo Belli at 978-537-4802 or Fr. Bob at the rectory. Also remember to notify us if someone is in the hospital for an extended stay. Without notification from a family member we have no way of knowing this.

Church Contribution 2010 Tax Information

Any parishioners wishing to make up missing envelopes or make an additional donation to be included as a deduction for the 2010 tax year must do so no later than January 3rd. Thank you.

3rd Annual St. Anthony's Golf Outing - Please save the date of **June 24th, 2011** for a 9:00 am shot gun start at Townsend Ridge Country Club. More information will be in the bulletin in the early spring! We hope to see many alumni of St. Anthony School there!

An Excerpt from Bishop McManus letter:

God's love is revealed in the love of a divine child, his blessed mother and his faithful foster father. In love and fidelity Mary and Joseph come to this small and fabled town. In their love for one another, now extended beyond each other and fixed on their son, they enter our hearts forever. The love of this holy family – of Jesus, Mary and Joseph – brings the miracle of Bethlehem to us with tenderness and yearning.

Jesus Christ is God's greatest gift to us, the gift of the Father's love. Yet the God who cares for the birds of the air and lilies of the fields loves this child far more, with a love that knows no bounds! And His absolute love extends to our children and all children.

On Christmas, heaven shines its spotlight on a mother too. Mary's whole being led her to this moment. Her role in her son's life is consecrated now, in this place where there is no room for her at its inn. Foregoing all the distractions of the world she committed herself to worship God in two places: the Temple in Jerusalem and the *Temple* that was her family. Her entire life will be marked by these twin devotions. "*Full of grace*," she is the mother to whom all mothers turn.

And Joseph – quiet, faithful, heroic companion – he is here too. Not prophet, priest, apostle or teacher he is a simple carpenter, but foremost the family's head. To safety he courageously leads his family across the sands of a desert and back, to a home. By the labor of his hands, he cares for this wife and child. A small family and a humble home are his universe. He is the very meaning of father.

The world's material progress, rich in power and promise just a few years ago, declines now. Confidence in human institutions fades. Domestic violence and terror in the world grow as peace continues to elude us. But it is the love within the Holy Family, indeed the love within each family that tries to be holy, that confirms our belief that the birth of "*Emmanuel, the Lord of Lords, the Prince of Peace, the Savior of the world*" is what truly matters.

May the gift of Jesus, born into the world for our salvation, fill your hearts and your homes with abundant blessings! May His peace and joy be with you and your family throughout the New Year!

