

Holy Family Parish

PO Box 405 - 5 Main Street
Russell, Massachusetts 01071
413-862-4418

December 2, 2012 – First Sunday of Advent

Growing Our Parish

Advent Gospels

By Paul Turner

On the four Sundays of Advent, the Catholic lectionary presents a series of Gospel readings that prepare for the celebration of the birth of Christ. The Sunday Advent readings all rotate on a three-year cycle, but they always follow the same pattern.

The Gospel for the First Sunday of Advent always tells of the reign of Christ at the end of time. It echoes the theme of the previous Sunday, the solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King. Advent starts with the message that we await the second coming of Christ. This entire season is not just a reminder of a past birth but an anticipation of future glory.

The Second and Third Sundays of Advent always have Gospel readings about John the Baptist. John is an adult in these passages, proclaiming the nearness of the kingdom of God and serving as the prophet who bridges the Old and New Testaments. John foreshadows Jesus in his birth, his preaching, and his death. John's message on these two middle Sundays of this season inspires us to follow Christ. The Fourth Sunday of Advent always tells part of the story that just precedes the birth of Christ. These familiar episodes set the stage for one of the Bible's best-known passages, the story of Christmas.

The Gospel readings of the four Sundays of Advent come to us in reverse chronology. We start with the end of time. We continue to the period when Jesus was an adult. We end in the days before his birth. Like a funnel, Advent opens with a giant theme, the grandness of Christ the King, and it ends with a specific one, the child lying in a Bethlehem manger.

Copyright © 2012 Resource Publications, Inc. 160 E. Virginia St. #170, San Jose, CA 95112, (408) 286-8505.

20/20 Update – Last year we started the 20/20 Club to build community and raise revenue for the Parish. We experienced an extremely successful first year and are currently awarding prizes for the Fall session. Many people have asked about joining the club but are not sure how it works. As we still have 5 available spots on one of the teams, I would like to share the details again.

The Club consists of two 20-week sessions. Tickets are purchased from a captain for \$20 each session. Every member is assigned a number. Each week a number is drawn and a \$20 prize is awarded. The first session runs from Sept. to Dec. and the second session runs from Jan. to May. At the end of the two sessions, we hold a June Dinner Dance where three Grand Prizes of \$500, \$250, and \$100 are awarded. Your participation in the Club entitles you to 40 weekly drawings as well as admission to the Dinner Dance and eligibility to win one of the three Grand Prizes. You do not have to be a parishioner to participate.

Winning numbers are published in the weekly bulletin. Since our target number is 200 members, your chance of winning is much better than winning the Lottery, and you will be helping the Parish.

If you are not on a team and would like to join, contact Sandie Mann at 862-3327 or email me at kitmann103@hotmail.com

**Mass Schedule
December 1 - 9, 2012**

Saturday, December 1 Vigil

5:00 p.m. Louise Fuller † requested by Diana and Craig Frink

Sunday, December 2 First Sunday of Advent

8:15 a.m. Needs of Parishioners and Friends

9:15 a.m. Religious Education at Littleville

11:15 a.m. Gordon and Tony Young † requested by Elaine Young

Monday, December 3 St Francis Xavier

8:00 a.m. Parishioners born in December

Tuesday, December 4 St John Damascene

8:00 a.m. Parishioners baptized in December

Wednesday December 5

8:00 a.m. Parishioners married in December

Thursday, December 6 St Nicholas

8:00 a.m. Communion Prayer Service

Friday, December 7 St Ambrose

8:00 a.m. Parishioners who died in December

7:00 p.m. Vigil - Feast of the Immaculate Conception – Holy Day of Obligation
Parishioners and Friends

Saturday, December 8 The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 a.m. Feast of the Immaculate Conception- Parishioners and Friends

9:00 a.m. Christmas Bazaar – Russell VFW, Route 20

5:00 p.m. Holy Family Parish's Religious Education Teachers, Aides and Students

Sunday, December 9 Second Sunday of Advent

8:15 a.m. Ralph and Jane Lucardi † requested by the Lucardi Family

9:30 a.m. Religious Education at Littleville

11:15 a.m. The Doyle Family † by Elaine Young

Second Collections: December 1 and 2: Fuel
December 8/9: Share in the Care Retirement Fund
for Religious

Pastor: Fr. Ron F. Sadlowski
(413-862-4418)

Deacon David Baillargeon
(413-667-3147 or cell phone: 413-207-1301)

Religious Education:
Jo-Anne Auclair, Director ~ 413-848-2029
Kellye Dowd, Assistant ~ 413 485-8889

Cemetery Superintendent:
Phil Gusek ~ 413-862-3350

Administrative Assistant: Susan Morawski

Office Hours:
Monday-Wednesday 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Email: holyfamily.parish@aol.com
Phone/FAX: 413-862-4418

Baptisms & Marriages:
Please call the office at 862-4418 to schedule.

To request a Mass Intention,
call the office at 862-4418

NEW PARISHIONERS—Welcome!
**PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE
TO REGISTER**

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 5 p.m.

Sunday Masses:
8:15 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.

Daily Mass (Mon, Tues, Wed): 8 a.m.

Communion Prayer Service
(Thurs): 8 a.m.

Confessions (In Children's Room):
Saturday 4:15 to 4:45 p.m.
Sunday 7:30-8:00am

Religious Education:
Sunday, 9:30 to 10:45 a.m.

December 1 to 9, 2012

Littleville School, Huntington

2013 Catholic Calendars are available at the entrance of the church as a gift from your Parish. One per family please!

Also available for parishioners are the **Christmas wafers (Oplatki)** to be shared with your family and friends during the Christmas meal. A suggested donation of \$1 may be dropped in the basket next to the wafers.

The Pastoral Council is spearheading a gift drive this Christmas season to benefit the residents of Mount Marie Care Center in Holyoke. Mount Marie is a facility that provides care to elder religious and others in the community. The staff at the center has suggested the following items: Shawls, Lap Blankets, Leg Warmers, Neck Pillows, One Day Calendars, Playing cards, Word Search Puzzles with Highlighters, Hand Lotions.

Please NO CANDY as many of the residents have choking issues.

Unwrapped donations will be accepted through December 9th and may be left in the box located in the rear of the church. A group of parishioners is being organized to travel to Mount Marie and distribute gifts to the residents. Anyone interested in joining may contact Sue Donnelly at 413 623-5433 for more information.

The Pastoral Council wishes to thank you in advance for your help and generosity in making this Christmas brighter for those in need.

WINTER STORM POLICY

When Gateway Regional School System has a 2-hour delay or cancels classes, there will be NO 8 a.m. daily Mass or Communion Prayer Service.

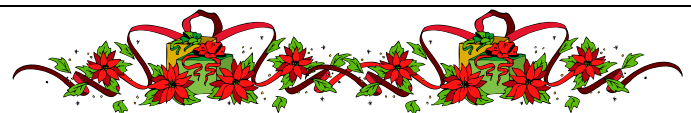
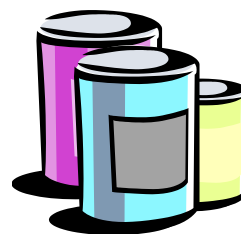
Date	Mass	Lectors	Ushers
Dec 1	5:00 p.m.	Ginny Hardie	Bill Hardie
Dec 2	8:15 a.m.	Lori Baillargeon	Dick Allard Steve Morawski
	11:15 a.m.	Jo-Anne Auclair	Dave Norton
Dec 8	5:00 p.m.	Diane DeMoss	Gil Gagnon
Dec 9	8:15 a.m.	Barbara Leja	Del Lavature Mel Scuderi
	11:15 a.m.	Mike Crochiere	

Soup Kitchen Volunteers - December 2, Religious Education Program.

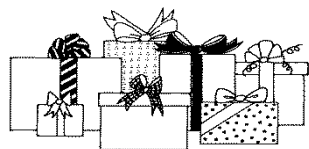
Feast of the Immaculate Conception – The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception falls on Saturday, December 8. Because it is the patronal feast of the United States, even though it falls on a Saturday, it remains a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses for this holy day will be celebrated at 7 p.m. on Friday, December 7 and 8 a.m. on Saturday, December 8. The Evening Mass on Saturday, December 8th is the Vigil of the Second Sunday of Advent.

20/20 Club Winners: Week 11 - #3, Diane Berthume; Week 12 - #192, Pamela Daglio

Huntington Food Pantry ~ Monetary donations may be mailed directly to Huntington Food Pantry, PO Box 477, Huntington, MA 01050-0477. Donations of breakfast cereal, canned meats, box meals (hamburger helper, mac and cheese, etc), and spaghetti sauce may be placed in the blue bin at the entrance of Church.



Offerings for Christmas Flowers may be dropped into the collection basket any time in December.



The Finance Council is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, December 11 at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall. All members are encouraged to attend.



Parish Prayer Line – Please call Fr Ron at 862-4418 with your request. If you or a family member will be hospitalized, admitted to a nursing home or rehabilitation facility and would like a Pastoral Visit, please call Fr Ron.

Prayer for the week

December 1 to 9, 2012

*Heavenly Father, when the darkness comes over us
and storms beat around us, shelter us under your
wing.*

*"Yes, though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art
with me." –John 15:9*

**Effective December 1, St Thomas Cemetery
is closed for burials. The gate is closed to
vehicular traffic; foot traffic is allowed.**