

## Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 21, 2013

4:00 PM Bernadette Lucy Forti Memorial

Sunday, December 22, 2013

7:30 AM Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

9:00 AM John Curran, Sr. and John Curran, Jr. Memorial

10:30 AM Philip Fasano, Sr. Anniversary

12:00 NN Daniel Wilson, Sr. Anniversary

Monday, December 23, 2013

7:00 AM Mary & Andrew Keegan

Tuesday, December 24, 2013

7:00 AM

Wednesday, December 25, 2013

### A Joyous Christmas to All!

Thursday, December 26, 2013

7:00 AM Philip Morris Special Intention

Friday, December 27, 2013

7:00 AM Stephen Pollock Memorial

Saturday, December 28, 2013

7:00AM Jamie Lynne O'Hare Memorial

4:00 PM Franklin Cropley & Steven Lemieux Anniversary

Sunday, December 29, 2013

7:30 AM Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

9:00 AM Marion & Arthur Dalton Memorial

10:30 AM Vincent Todd Anniversary

12:00 NN Claire & William McCarthy Anniversary

## Our Tithes & Offerings

Thank you for your offerings last weekend:

Offertory/Envelopes (146) \$4,460.00

Offertory/Loose \$2,045.00

EFT Weekly Average \$ 988.20

**Total Offertory \$7,493.20**

**Percentage of Offertory Received by Envelope/EFT—68%**

Tithe information will be available in a future communication.

If you are interested in the EFT option to simplify your weekly contributions please contact the parish office.

**PLEASE REMEMBER ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH  
WHEN PLANNING YOUR ESTATE. Thank you!**



**Behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has**

**been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." - Mt 1:20-21**

## Christmas Blessings

My brothers and sisters,

I know it's the Fourth Sunday of Advent, but I'm going to say it anyway:

### Merry Christmas!

On Christmas it's God's turn to call out: "Ready or not, here I come!" Christ leaps out of the safe and glorious halls of Heaven to the rude accommodation among the stalls of Bethlehem. The motive for this taking-on-of-flesh is pure and strong: the salvation of souls by divine Love.

Maybe we're ready, waiting, open, and at peace. Maybe we've headed to the Mall this weekend to finish (or begin!) our shopping. Maybe we've done all the prep work and now we just have to set the table and serve the meal. Maybe we're still trying to figure out how many will be around for dinner, and what on earth to feed them.

In the midst of all of it – good or bad, stressful or not – may we remember that to God none of that matters. He'll make do with a stable, a cave, a manger. He deals with welcoming the unruly shepherds FIRST and helps them unpack their burdens, long before the kings come with their more impressive? gifts to unpack.

Alone or with a crowd, are you ready for Christmas this year? My suspicion, my prayer, and my hope is "YES." If it's "NOT QUITE" or even "NO" and we can help, please don't hesitate to call.

May Christmas love touch your heart and fill you with Peace, ready or not.

In His service and yours,

*Fr. Paul Clifford*

## Grand Annual Update

❖ As of Monday the Grand Annual Collection was at \$50,400 from 255 contributors (12% of Appeals sent). Thank you to all who have contributed.

If you did not receive an Appeal letter or have misplaced your copy, please call the parish office at 781-843-1332 and we'll be happy to send one to you.

### Readings for the Week of December 22, 2013

Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

Monday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66

Tuesday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/  
Lk 1:67-79

Wednesday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/  
Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Midnight: Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Thursday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22

Friday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a and 2-8

Saturday: 1 Jn 1:5--2:2/Mt 2:13-18

Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/  
Mt 2:13-15, 19-23



From the desk of the  
Pastoral Associate  
Mrs. Linda Muldoon



On this 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, what about Joseph? The angel of Lord shows up again, this time to tell him, "Do not be afraid," and to present him with an incredulous scenario—in a dream! Joseph had probably fallen asleep that night with a carefully, prayerfully formulated plan in mind to quietly divorce Mary and do his best to spare her any "shame." Most of us have had our share of crazy dreams—one can only imagine what must have gone through his head! Maybe with his knowledge of the psalms, Joseph chose not only with his mind but with his heart and soul to "let the Lord enter; he is king of glory."

Merry Christmas

Christmas Blessings to you and yours! If you are worshiping with us as a regular, a 1<sup>st</sup> timer, or a returnee—welcome! We are so very glad that you are here! If you wish to learn more about our parish family, contact information is on the front page of this bulletin. We thank our many volunteers whose behind-the-scenes efforts donated, organized and distributed food and gifts to our pantry clients, cleaned and decorated the church, and make beautiful our liturgies. We truly appreciate your generosity of time, talent and treasure at Christmas and always.



**Masses**

Christmas Eve: 4:00PM – Upper and Lower Church  
6:00PM  
11:00PM  
Christmas Day 7:30AM  
9:00AM  
10:30AM  
12:00 Noon

Keep in mind that the 4:00PM Mass on Christmas Eve is typically a "sell out". Please plan to arrive early if you want to be guaranteed a seat.

**Confessions**

Saturday, December 21	7:30-8AM	Fr. Clifford
	2 - 3PM	Frs. Clifford & Carey
	3 – 4PM	Frs. Milling & Carey
Sunday, December 22	1 - 2PM	Frs. Clifford & O'Connell
	2 – 3PM	Frs. Clifford & Milling
Monday, December 23	6 – 7PM	Frs. Milling & Carey
	6 – 7:30PM	Fr. O'Connell
	7 – 10PM	Frs. Clifford & Carey
Tuesday, December 24	7:30– 8:30AM	Fr. Milling
	8:30 – 9AM	Fr. Clifford

**Parish Info and Events of Note**

- **SFA BEREAVEMENT GROUP** - The next bereavement meeting will be January 7 at 1PM in the church hall.
- **PRAYER SHAWLS...** The next gathering will be Tuesday, January 14 at 7PM in the church hall. Thank you to everyone who participates in this ministry.
- **SFA ST. VINCENT DEPAUL FOOD PANTRY...** We are open Thursdays from 10AM-12NN and 2-4PM. If you need groceries, please call on Wednesday so that we can be prepared for your visit. Referral and limited financial assistance is available for parishioners in need. Please call the parish office for more information.
- **PARISH PRAYER LINE...** To be placed on (or to participate in) the parish prayer line, please call 781.843.1332 and speak with Linda or Patty.
- **PRAYERS FOR OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN...** Names and photos of those on active duty from/connected to SFA are displayed in church to remind us of prayers needed and prayers offered. If you wish to add or remove someone, please call the parish office.
- **THE DOOR IS ALWAYS OPEN** for your inquiries about our faith, sacraments for yourself or a loved one, and/or becoming a Catholic. It's never too late to begin the conversation by speaking with one of the priests or the pastoral associate or with a phone call to the parish office.
- **VISITS TO THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND...** If you or someone you know cannot attend Mass due to surgery, illness or infirmity, you can request a Communion visit. Our pastoral staff and trained home visitors are available and willing to come to you. Please call the parish office for more information.

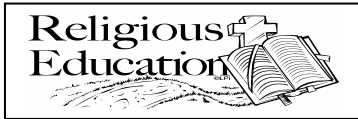
 **Your Christmas Offering**

Every Christmas, Catholics across the Archdiocese of Boston join together to honor and thank our priests. Your gift to the Clergy Funds helps to ensure the highest quality of care and quality of life programs that provide for the health and well-being of our 638 active and senior priests. Remember priests who have made a meaningful difference in your life, and consider honoring them with a generous gift to the Christmas collection. Our priests have been there for us in our time of need. Now, it's our turn to care for them when they need us. Thank you in advance for your generous and prayerful support of our priests.

**The Annual March for Life in Washington D.C.** will be held on January 22, 2014. A bus will be leaving from Immaculate Conception in East Weymouth on January 21 at 9:00PM, and will return on January 22. The cost is \$50 for adults and \$10 for students. For reservation and information please call Sally Healy at 781-848-3763



from  
the clergy and staff of  
St. Francis of Assisi



Mrs. Lynne Jensen  
Phone 781.848.3238  
Email [ljensen@sfab.org](mailto:ljensen@sfab.org)



from  
Mr. Brian Cote



On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, Advent Peace to All as we await the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

O King of all nations and keystone of the Church: come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

O King of all nations and keystone of the Church: come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

The O Antiphons are recited the last seven days of Advent. This one is for December 22<sup>nd</sup>. "The Roman Church has been singing the "O" Antiphons since at least the eighth century. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah." See: <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers/the-o-antiphons-of-advent.cfm>

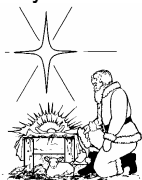
There are no Religious Education classes scheduled on the weekends of Sunday, December 22- Tuesday, December 24 and Sunday, December 29-Tuesday, December 31. Classes will resume on Sunday, January 5. Office hours will not be held during Christmas week.

**Parents of First Communion boys and girls who have yet to pick up their First Penance Books and information are asked to do so as soon as possible.** First Penance Services are scheduled by classes on March 7 (6:30PM) and March 8 (11:00AM & 1:00PM). You will also have the opportunity to pick your First Communion date. Please call the Religious Education office to schedule a time to come in. Thank you!

#### Confirmation Retreat News:

The Grade 10 Confirmation Retreat will take place on Saturday, January 11 at Saint Francis of Assisi from 9:15AM to 5:00PM. Parents are invited to join in a light breakfast with the candidates and other parents. Jim Flanagan, Youth Minister, will be the Retreat Leader. If Confirmation candidates are unable to attend this Retreat, they must make arrangements to attend a Confirmation Retreat in another parish. Students are asked to return completed permission slips as soon as possible to facilitate planning. Parents are asked to please help expedite the completion of paperwork!

You're invited! Former students who made their Confirmation at Saint Francis of Assisi parish and are interested in serving on this year's Confirmation Retreat Team as table leaders are invited and encouraged to do so! We are very interested in welcoming back those who have previously served as well! Please contact Diane Hopkins in the Religious Education Office as soon as possible. It will be a fun and rewarding day for all!



#### The Meaning of Christmas

**"For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace"**

Isaiah 9:6

On behalf of the administration, faculty and staff at Saint Francis of Assisi School, we would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a Blessed and Holy Christmas. Let us keep our hearts and minds on the Birth of Jesus, the Greatest Gift of all. May each day of your Christmas be filled with peace and may God's love continue to light your way through the New Year. Let this Christmas be a time filled with family, enthusiastically enjoying activities and traditions that will be a part of your memory forever.

We wish all of our school families, a Joyful, Safe and Healthy Christmas break and look forward to their return to school on Monday, January 6, 2014.



**We welcome with joy into the family of the Church the following children who were baptized during the month of October, November and December, 2013:**

*Olivia Leigh Aiken, Reagan Victoria Moran,  
Theresa Patricia Connors, Ashleigh Marie Dooley,  
Olivia Mary Curran, Madalyn Jean Whalen,  
Caleigh Marie Shields, Ava Lee Finnerty,  
Jackson Quinn MacRitchie, Wyatt Oliver Ostman,  
James Thomas Novaco, Kaiden Christopher Zawadzki,  
Casey Clayton Hart, William Kevin Fichtner, III,  
John Clancy Cusack, Conor Fitzgerald Brasil,  
Celia Mullane Ranieri, Kylie Patrick Bryan,  
Cole Emerson Morris, Cameron Michael King, Vera Pearl Paris,  
Audrey Rose Connolly, Emma Rose Crowley, and  
Jacob Peter Wuestefeld*

**END OF BULLETIN  
ANY TEXT OR GRAPHICS ENTERED ON THIS PAGE  
WILL NOT APPEAR IN THE PRINTED BULLETIN**

CHURCH NAME: **St. Francis of Assisi**

CHURCH CITY: **Braintree**

ROUTING CODE: **Y**

RUN NUMBER: **99**

FILENAME: **03-0540.04b**

PHONE NUMBER: **781-843-1332**

FAX NUMBER: **781-848-0976**

EDITOR/ CONTACT: **Patty Kinnally**

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**Comments:**

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