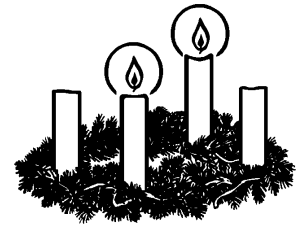


THE PASTOR'S MUSINGS

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I admit to you that as I am writing my letter, Advent and Christmas music is playing in my office. The music of this season is probably my favorite of any “time” of the year—to the point where I have about 72 hours of Christmas music loaded on my iPod. That’s not too excessive, is it? But, it’s lifting my spirits and putting my mind where it should be—on the preparations for the Christmas season.



Did you notice that I purposely said “Advent and Christmas music”? I’m not the “holiday” music kind of guy and think that when we, as Christians celebrate Christmas, we should acknowledge it as Christmas. While I know it’s politically correct to say, “Happy Holidays,” I don’t mind letting people know that I celebrate Christmas. When talking with my Jewish friends, I happily wish them a Happy or Blessed Chanukah, and they in turn wish me a Merry Christmas. As a matter of fact, my earliest recollection of non-Christians during this time of year is one that still causes me to stand in awe of their kindness and sensitivity to us as Christians.

One of my aunts was a nursing supervisor in a large Catholic hospital on Long Island. I remember that she was on duty on Christmas, so my cousin celebrated Christmas with us. After her shift, she came to our home amid the chaos that is part and parcel of the day in a large household. With tears in her eyes, she told us that members of the local synagogue volunteered at the hospital to allow as many of the Christian staff members to spend the day with their families. They helped the housekeeping staff, laundry, dietary, security and even pastoral care in whatever capacity they could. There were even nurses who helped with patient care on that day. Many years later, I was assigned to a cancer hospital in lower Manhattan on Christmas Day, only to discover that members of the local synagogues did precisely the same thing. To this day, I am mindful that such expressions of kindness and consideration extend beyond religious denominations and are signs of the generosity of our sisters and brothers of good will.

For us as Christians, do we not owe it to one another to be sensitive to the religious affiliations of others while at the same time preserving our own? So why not wish our Jewish sisters and brothers a blessed Chanukah while at the same time wish those who are followers of Jesus—as Catholics, Methodists, Lutherans—Christians all—a Blessed Christmas? The truth that God took on human flesh (the Incarnation) is not something for us to hide, but rather to celebrate. We need not hide behind the rhetoric of political correctness, but rather acknowledge our Christian faith while being sensitive to our friends in the Jewish and Islamic communities.

Not too long ago, someone sent me a wonderful link to something called the Advent Conspiracy (www.adventconspiracy.com). The presentation put so much into perspective for me, perhaps it will do the same for you.

In the meantime, I wish you the continued blessings of Advent.

Until next week...God bless!

Father Joe

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 5 (Advent Weekday)

9:00AM - Rev. Robert Sevigny, by Family

Tuesday, December 6 (St. Nicholas)

7:00PM - Joseph Potzner (1st Anniversary), by his Wife & Daughter

Wednesday, December 7 (St. Ambrose)

9:00AM - Souls in Purgatory, by a Parishioner

Vigil: Immaculate Conception

7:00PM - For Our Parishioners

Thursday, December 8 (Immaculate Conception)

9:00AM - Rose Marie Roussel, by her daughter Seana Newcomb & Family

7:00PM - Rev. Arthur Houde, by Coleman & Jane Kelly

Friday, December 9 (Advent Weekday)

9:00AM - Margaret Burns, by Mike & Carol Langlois

Saturday, December 10 (Advent Weekday)

9:00AM - Paul Byrnes

Vigil: Third Sunday of Advent

4:00PM - For Our Parishioners

Sunday, December 11 (19th Sun in Ordinary Time)

8:30AM - Elizabeth Cronin, by her husband, Tom & Family

10:30AM - Al Quadros, by the Sobocinski Family

6:30PM - Joseph Frawley, by his wife, Sophia Frawley

OUR REFLECTION OF GOD'S GENEROSITY

Offertory for Nov. 20th: \$14,478.33

Camp for Human Dev: \$ 1,432.00

Last Weekend Offertory: \$13,079.59

Thank You

Black Madonna Shrine (December)

In Memory of Thomas Bellefeuille
by his Mom, Dad & Family

Divine Mercy Shrine (December)

In Memory of Jr Gendron, by his wife Ellie & Family

St. John Vianney Shrine (December)

Intentions of Priscilla and Richard Watson
by Seth and Nathalie

Blessed Virgin Mary Shrine (December)

In Memory of Normand Sigman
by his wife, Dolly & Family

Vocation Birth Stone Rosary

This week *Mark & Jennifer Manning* will be praying with the traveling rosary for our five parish seminarians. Next week *Eileen Gagnon* will receive it. Thank you to all who are part of this ongoing spiritual support for our men in formation for the priesthood.



Retreat for 2nd Graders!

Reminder that the retreat for 2nd graders preparing for 1st Penance is **today, Dec 4th** from 1:30 - 4:30 PM in the hall. Pictures for First Communion will be taken.

The Week At A Glance ...

Sunday - December 4th

C&D Host: Salem, Skaluba & Marceau Families
Rel Ed, Grp 1/RMs 1-6 (10AM - 12N)
Baptismal Catechesis/RM 1 (12:15 PM)
1st Penance Retreat/Hall & RMs (1:30 - 4:30PM)
Confirmation-Reception/Church, Hall (6:30 PM)

Monday - December 5th

Rel Ed/RMs 2-5 (5 - 6:15 PM)
JH Rel Ed/RM 1 (5 - 6:15 PM)
RCIA/RM 1 (7 PM)

Tuesday - December 6th

RCIC/RM 3 (5:45 - 6:45 PM)
Cub Scouts/RMs 4, 5, 6, Hall A (6 - 8PM)
Boy Scouts/Hall B (7 PM)
TOB Teacher Mtg/RM 1 (7:30 PM)

Wednesday - December 7th

Adoration/Chapel (5:30-8:45 AM, 1-7 PM)
K of C Bus Mtg/Hall B (7 PM)
Choir Rehearsal/RM 1 (8 PM)

Friday - December 9th

Mom's Group/RM 1 (9:30 - 11AM)
PMA Dance/Hall (7 - 9:30PM)
Holy Hour-Young Adults/Chapel (7 - 8PM)
Holy Hour - Men of St Joseph/Chapel (9 - 10PM)

Saturday - December 10th

Men of St. Joseph/Hall A (7 - 9AM)
Rel Ed, Gr 7,8/RMs 2,3,4, Hall (9AM - 12N)
Lay Carmelites/RM 1 (9:30 AM - 12N)
NFP/RM 1 (7 - 9PM)

Sunday - December 11th

Childrens Choir Rehearsal/RM 2 (9:15 - 10AM)
Rel Ed, Grp 2/RMs 1-6 (10AM - 12N)

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Advent Vespers

Each Sunday of Advent, we will gather at 4:00 p.m. for quiet prayer and songs of the Advent season in the presence of *Emmanuel*—God-with-us in the Blessed Sacrament. The half hour ends with Benediction. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed at 3:00 p.m. each Sunday for those who may wish to come early for some personal quiet prayer as well. Father Joe will hear confessions from 3:15 until 3:45 p.m. (Please note the change in the time of confession.)

Reflections on the Prayers of the Mass in Advent

Join us in the transept Chapel this Wednesday, December 7th, following the 7:00 p.m. Vigil Mass, for a brief reflection on the prayers of the Mass for the Third Sunday of Advent. As you've heard, the prayers of the revised translation are much "meatier" and lead us to new reflections on the images they contain. Father Joe will also offer the reflection on December 14 and Deacon Michael will make the presentation on December 21 following Advent Vespers. This is not a "progressive" program, so each week can stand on its own merit.

Christmas Wafers

We are happy to make packages of *Oplatki*—the Christmas wafer of reconciliation—available for your use at your Christmas dinner table. Over the years, many have included this beautiful custom as part of their family Christmas customs. Green sheets are available next to the packets on the corner narthex table. These contain the explanation of this custom and the prayers to be used. Feel free to take one, read about it, and, then come back for a packet of wafers if you decide to use this prayer in your home. *Requested donation is \$3.00 per package.* Each packet has wafers that, when broken, can be shared among 10 people.



Confessions Before Christmas

Confessions are regularly scheduled on Saturdays from 9:30-10:00 a.m. and from 2:45-3:30 p.m.; Sundays, from 3:15-3:45 p.m.; Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, from 6:00-6:45 p.m. Don't put it off and possibly miss the opportunity to prepare your heart for the coming of the Lord at Christmas. To paraphrase another kind of quote—"Stop early and avoid the rush!"

Christmas Cards for Our Sisters and Seminarians

If you would like to drop a note or Christmas card to our Sisters in formation or to our seminarians, you may send them to:

Sister Miriam MacLean, RSM

6100 Wolverton Lane, Clinton, MD 20735;

Sister Janet Eppolito, pm

Our Lady of Hope House of Prayer, 400 Temple Road, New Ipswich, NH 03071

Sister Sarah Munroe

Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, 4597 Warren Road

Ann Arbor, MI 48105.

Mr. Michael Zgonc and Mr. Michael Sartori

Saint Mary Seminary, 5400 Roland Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21210

Rev. Mr. Peter Naranjo

Blessed John XXIII Seminary, 558 South Avenue, Weston, MA 02493

Mr. Brian Shook, Mr. Ryan Brady and Rev. Mr. Michael Clements

Saint John's Seminary, 127 Lake Street, Brighton, MA 02135.

Deacon Michael's birthday is also coming up on December 18th, so if you would like to send him your birthday greetings, you may do so at Saint John's Seminary or here at the parish.

Christmas Flower Fund

As in past years, envelopes are available at the doors beginning this weekend for any offering you may wish to make toward our Christmas flowers. We are grateful for whatever you can share to help us adorn our church as we've done so beautifully in past years for the Christmas season. You may list the names of deceased loved ones on the envelope whom you would like remembered during the Christmas Masses and the Christmas Octave. All names will be published in the bulletin for prayerful remembrance. To be included in the bulletin, all envelopes must be in by Sunday, December 11th at the latest. Simply drop the envelope in the collection. Please be sure to print clearly so we can read the names. Thank you for whatever you may be able to do.



Be A Star Program

Last Advent, many families received gifts and food for Christmas because of your generous sharing through our *Be A Star* effort, in collaboration with our local Saint Vincent de Paul Society. The “stars” will be available this weekend, listing needed gifts for children and adults, as well as food items. We invite you to browse through them in the baskets at the Divine Mercy shrine in the narthex. *Please be sure to read what you or your children take and only take it if you are able to purchase the items.*



We are relying on you! There are differently priced items to fit your budget. You will be asked to return the items unwrapped and placed near the sanctuary trees **by the deadline of December 11th**. We can use some helpers to sort and arrange the items as they come in, especially in the final week before the distribution (December 12-19). *As the star led seekers to find Christ in their midst, so we pray that our charity will help those we share with to find Christ's care and presence in our outreach and caring.—Be a Star!*

Installation of Bishop Peter Anthony Libasci, D.D.

On December 8th, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the Most Reverend Peter Anthony Libasci will be installed as the tenth bishop of Manchester at Saint Joseph Cathedral in Manchester at 2:00 p.m. The installation ceremony will be televised on EWTN. Unfortunately, seating at the Cathedral for the installation Mass is by ticket only, however, all are invited to attend a Vespers ceremony at the Cathedral at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 7th. Please join us in praying for Bishop Libasci as he begins his ministry among us.

Spiritual Bouquet for Bishop Libasci

Many of our parishioners have already forwarded their prayers and good works to be included in a spiritual bouquet for Bishop Libasci. If you would like to participate in this spiritual bouquet, please send Father Joe an email (frjoe@stkathryns.org) to let him know what spiritual gift you would like to offer our new bishop. For ideas or to ensure that your particular prayers have been noted, there is a draft copy of the spiritual bouquet in the narthex of the church. These must be received by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 6th.

Bazaar a Great Success!!

It is with great pride and gratitude that I say thank you to all the volunteers who gave of their time and energy to make the 18th annual Holiday Bazaar and Penny Sale the tremendous success that it was. A profit of **\$38,233.21** was achieved! In welcoming our new pastor, Fr Joseph Cooper, each parish family exceeded our request for penny sale items, theme baskets, baked goods, volunteer hours, set-up and clean –up help. The entire weekend showed support, welcome and gratitude toward Fr Joe and made the event our most profitable ever. We continue our thanks to the “candy family” and will always remember the years past when all family members were present to help. Your generosity in this, your time of mourning, will never be forgotten. The beautiful afghan crocheted by a parishioner, the mini electric kid’s car, and the outstanding hand made Swarovski crystal rosary beads are only a couple of the outstanding items that were donated by parishioners. Our newest table “Keep Christ in Christmas” was so well received that it will be back, bigger and better next year. The craft group works all year long to produce the finest crafts around and their hard work and final product is so very much appreciated. One can not forget the kitchen crew who work to prepare the best breakfast, lunch and supper served in Hudson on Bazaar week end, thank you. Finally, the “voice of St. Kathryn’s” keeps the event flowing with humor and contagious energy. The 50/50 raffle has become one of the most profitable, fun and exciting raffles we offer and she makes it happen, thank you. To the members of the FUNdraising and Development Committee who coordinate and facilitate all that happens during this weekend and throughout the year, thank you. Your hard work, dedication, humor and unique talents are appreciated more than words can say. As we ponder the year ahead and look back on the year past, we remember all who helped, all who attended and all who supported us in any way. May you each be blessed abundantly and we hope you will mark your calendars for the 19th annual Bazaar and Penny Sale scheduled for the third weekend of November 2012.

Most sincerely,
Chris Haigis
Chairman, FUNdraising and Development
Committee

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Dear St. Kathryn Parishioners,

I am excited to share with you that I have been discerning a religious vocation for the past few years and I am ready to take the next step in the discernment process. I am so grateful for the prayerful support from the St. Kathryn community, although you may not have known that your prayers were in fact helping me come to understand God's will for my life. Our parish's sincere support of vocations has helped me to respond to God's call.

The particular order I feel called to join is the Daughters of Mary of Nazareth community. It is a new order that Sr. Olga Yaquob was asked to form by Cardinal Sean O'Malley for the Archdiocese of Boston. The order's mission is to bring the spirit of the Gospel and the roots of our Catholic faith to all of God's children in today's world. The order's spirituality is based upon the spirituality of Nazareth as lived by Blessed Charles de Foucauld. As he spent his life imitating the example of Mary and Joseph in Nazareth, so are we called to live in a daily intimacy with Jesus. The order's charism is to be Ambassadors of Christ through word and deed. The order's call is a response to Blessed John Paul II's call for a new evangelization; "to incarnate Christian values and open the Gospel message to human cultures." In particular, the order will focus on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. If you would like to learn more, the following articles gives additional details about the community: www.ncregister.com/daily-news/new-religious-order-will-come-to-boston

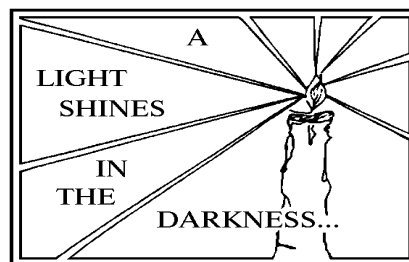
Sr. Olga is professing her vows as Mother Servant for the order on December 9th at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross. The Cardinal is also giving a special blessing to the first group of women, myself included, who are more actively starting the discernment process as associates/postulants. The details of the ceremony are still being confirmed, but you are all invited - I have included my email so you can contact me and I will send you the information.

I will be spending the weekends with the community at the convent in Chestnut Hill beginning in January while continuing to live at home and hold my current job. If God wills it, I will discern more closely with the community following a minimum of six months of spending weekends at the convent.

It is so exciting to be a part of this new order and I wanted to share the news with you, my Church family. God is indeed planting seeds and it is so invigorating to be part of the new evangelization. Your prayerful support and presence has likewise invigorated me and urged me on to follow this call. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Peace and blessings,

Jennifer Burda
Jennifer.Burda@gmail.com



Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

This Thursday, **December 8th**, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is a holy day of obligation when we celebrate the privilege offered to Our Lady as preserved from the stain of original sin. Masses will be celebrated on Wednesday, December 7th at 7:00 p.m. and on December 8th at 9:00 a.m. and at 7:00 p.m. All Masses will be celebrated in the main church.

**Blessing of Expectant Couples
and for All Hoping to Conceive**

We invite couples to plan to come forward on Sunday, **December 18th** to gather around the statues of Joseph, and Mary, the Expectant Mother, during the 10:30 a.m. Mass to receive this special blessing. Feel free to invite those you know who might appreciate this blessing.

Organ Recital

Father Joe will present an organ recital of Advent and Christmas music on Thursday, December 29th,



following the 7:00 p.m. Mass in the church. After the hustle and bustle of Christmas, enjoy the opportunity to simply relax in the beauty of our church, to hear some lovely organ music of the Advent and Christmas seasons, and sing some of our beloved Christmas carols.

PMA Open House

Presentation of Mary Academy is a private Catholic school, owned and operated by the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary since 1926. The Academy, known for its challenging academic environment, rooted in the tradition of the Catholic faith, provides a nurturing, co-educational environment for students in grades Pre-K through Junior High School. The next Open House will take place on Tuesday, **December 6th**, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the school located at 182 Lowell Road here in Hudson.

For more information, please contact June Nolet in the admissions office at 603.889.6054 x203 or visit the school website at www.pmaschool.org.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

TITHING UPDATE

During the month of November we shared our parish tithe, 10 percent of what is offered in the offertory collection, with the following charitable needs:



- Anne Marie House
- St. Vincent dePaul
- Rent Assistance for needy family
- School Subsidies
- Catholic Church Extension (Calendars)
- Family Housing Emergency

TOTAL SHARED: \$6,315.00

Confirmation

Congratulations to the young men and women of our parish who will be confirmed tonight, (Sunday) at the 6:30 p.m. Mass. We welcome Bishop Francis Christian as he confers the sacrament on them. We join our prayers with those of Bishop Christian as we pray:



All-powerful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
by water and the Holy Spirit
you freed your sons and daughters from sin and
gave them new life.
Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their help
and Guide.
Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit
of knowledge and reverence.
Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your
presence.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

ST. KATHRYN PARISH
HUDSON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

03-0779

DECEMBER 4 , 2011 – Week 2