

Greetings!

“Make straight his paths!”

Just when you thought it was safe! I’m sure it was the same for many of you as it was when I was just learning how to drive. A parent usually took you out to practice in a large shopping mall parking lot on a Sunday afternoon (*of course that’s when the Blue Laws were in effect and there was no shopping on Sundays*) and you practiced turns, parallel parking, and staying in your lane. And of course, you heard about the rules of the road over and over again: *stop for three seconds at stop signs, drive in the right lane except to pass, and stop when a pedestrian steps into the walkway (which I find rarely happening in front of our Church).*

And, often you learned some lessons in driving etiquette along the way: *allow side-street traffic to enter, flash your lights to let semi-tractor trailers pull into your lane, and use your blinkers often.* But I’m afraid for some people these rules seem optional and is probably why now we even have a law that states *distractive driving is illegal: go figure!* But, I’m finding that to be the least of a parent’s concern for their teenager learning to drive today. What do I mean?

Just in the last week I have witnessed three different times when cars drove right through a red light: not speeding through a yellow light, not hitting the brakes too late or a distractive texter (*if there is such a word*). They each just drove straight through the red light and kept on going! (*And, one was right here in town.*) Now, we have to instruct our teens to *‘look both ways’* even though they have the right of way.

I’m sure all of us (*who drive*) have fallen prey to some fracture of the laws of the road because we were in a hurry, trying to do too many things behind the wheel or were just dazed for a moment and we certainly regretted it. Likewise, I think we can all fall prey to seeing the Advent Season in the same way. We’ll all *‘get’* to Christmas on December 25th (*and at the same time*), but I wonder how many of us will have actually stopped to reflect on what Advent and Christmas are all about? Will we have prepared for *Christ’s-Mass (his coming once again)* or will we have rather sped through Advent thinking we’d get there quicker?

As you know, Advent is really a great time not so much to prepare for December 25th but the Second Coming of Christ either when the world ends or we die and stand before the Lord (*whichever comes first for each of us*). And one of the best ways is to stop and reflect each day (*and I hope you have taken one of our Little Blue Daily Reflection booklets from the church*). Second, is to ask whether my soul is pure and undefiled (*for which we have increased the hours of Confession during Advent*). Third, can I say to Christ *“I love you” (maybe coming to Mass during the week or certainly on the Holy Day of Obligation this week).*

Chances are those drivers weren’t paying attention but fortunately no one got hurt. But, I can assure you that

won’t last for long. Likewise, we can *‘get along’* for a while in life without intentionally drawing closer to Christ, but it won’t last for long. Please take the time this Advent to daily fall in love with Jesus and remember His reward for us is *‘out of this world’!* God bless!

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, December 5th

4:00PM Hugh Smith 8th Anniversary

Sunday, December 6th

7:30AM Jeffrey Currie Birthday Memorial
9:30AM Dorothy Bryan 9th Anniversary
11:30AM Kenneth Milbery 3rd Anniversary

Monday, December 7th

9:00AM Bertony Ritchie, Elcia Louis, Maurice Bordes, Marie Rose Joseph Memorial Mass
7:00PM Holyday Mass

Tuesday, December 8th

9:00AM Parishioners of St. Joseph Parish
4:00PM Holyday Mass

Wednesday, December 9th

9:00AM Rose Aimee Beaubin 1st Anniversary

Friday, December 11th

9:00AM Monthly Parish Eucharistic Society

Saturday, December 12th

4:00PM Nancy Hurley Memorial Mass

Sunday, December 13th

7:30AM Donald Swanton 1st Anniversary
9:30AM John Flaherty 6th Anniversary
11:30AM Richard Tobin 9th Anniversary

Year of the Priest

Several parishioners have mentioned how much they are praying for us priests (*and all priests*) during the *Year of the Priest* as designated by Pope Benedict XVI beginning last June. A new website has been set up for the Archdiocese to inform us all more about the particular needs of our senior and retired priests, many who have given 40, 50 or more years to the service of others. Please feel free to check it out: www.careforseniorpriests.org/ourpriests.

Giving Tree

Our annual Giving Tree is available in the rear of the church. Please take an ornament, buy its description, wrap it and return it with the original ornament attached to the outside of the gift. The gifts are due the weekend of December 19/20.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

COMPREHENSIVE YOUTH MINISTRY PROGRAM

There is a ski trip being planned for Monday, December 28th to Gunstock Mountain in NH for students in grades 7 and up. Please contact Sue Crowley at 781 767 1572 or Maura Burke at 781 767 0563.

Parish Grand Annual Collection

Thank you! We look to complete this collection, and if you can help us reach our goal of \$38,000, I would be very grateful. Certainly, your pledge may be paid over any period of time you wish. Whatever offering each individual or family might make will be used to renovate the lower and upper Church this year to provide more space for our adult and youth activities..

In Memoriam

For the Month of December

The Hosts and Wine have been donated
in memory of
Hugh Smith
by Polly Smith
and
the Missalettes have been donated
in memory of
John J. Flaherty
by Theresa McCarthy

Memorial Offerings in memory of a deceased relative or friend are available monthly for the Hosts, Wine, Sanctuary Lamp and Missalettes. Please call the Parish Office for further information.

Advent

This Sunday is the *Second Sunday of Advent!* You may wish to put out some of your manger scene in anticipation of Christmas in less than three weeks! For more great ideas on how to celebrate Advent with your families and children, check out the Bishops new website www.usccb.org/advent/

Advent Confessions

There will be additional times for the Sacrament of confessions during Advent for your convenience and I hope you can experience the Lord's healing gift: *Saturday morning, 9:30am-10:15am in the Convent Chapel; Saturday afternoon, 3:00-4:00pm and 5:00pm-6:00pm in the Church; and Sunday morning, 10:30am-11:30am.*

Missionary Priest

This weekend we have a guest priest, Fr. Ruel Arcega from the Society of St. James. Each year we are asked to have a missionary priest with us. The Society was founded here in Boston in 1958 by Cardinal Cushing to send diocesan priests to Ecuador, Peru & Bolivia. Thank you for welcoming him.

♪♪ Sing to the Lord for Christmas! ♪♪

Please join the Adult Choir this year for Christmas! This involves only 4 rehearsals:

7pm Thursday December 3 and 10;
7pm Friday December 18 and 7pm Wednesday December 23
All in preparation for the Christmas Eve 6pm Mass,
Thursday December 24!

Contact Choir Director Steve Williams with questions.
and

We are looking for some musical teens interested in enhancing the Midnight Liturgy on Christmas Eve.

We need singers and instrumentalists to participate before Mass at 11:30pm and also for singing during Mass.

Rehearsals will be held in December.

Please contact Mrs. Laura Grant 781-767-1469 or Stephen Williams 781-767-2763 or talk to us at church if interested.

Preparing for New Life

Certainly, the Advent Season leads us to the Birth of the Christ Child. To let you know how much our parish is changing and growing, our recent annual count of the number of parishioners attending weekly Mass brought us to 828, up from 741 in 2008. Likewise, our sacramental life and funerals for 2009 convey some sense of these changes as well: 43 Baptisms, 72 First Communions & First Confessions, 60 Confirmations, 12 Marriages and 45 Funerals.

Men's Clothing Drive

There will be a Men's Clothing Drive for St. Francis House on the weekend of December 12/13. Donations may be left downstairs in St. Charles Hall. Clothing that is needed:

Gently used pants, jeans & sweatshirts
Winter jackets, hats and gloves
Sneakers, shoes & boots

NEW T-shirts, crew socks and thermal underwear

Calling all women....

Get in the Spirit of Christmas and find....

“HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS”

Join us for a gathering of women on
Sunday, December 6th, 7:15 - 8:30 pm

St. Charles Hall, St. Joseph Church, Holbrook

We'll have some holiday cheer, cider, eggnog, and desserts
and hear from Linda Reith about her faith journey as a
cancer survivor and amputee.

Live Christmas music will be featured.

Please join us. You'll be glad you made the time.

Advertiser of the Week

Thank you for patronizing the services of our bulletin advertisers! This week we *thank Owens Corning Residential Products* for advertising with us!

DECEMBER 6, 2009

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

Did you know that St. Joseph School promotes its strong anti-bullying policy with daily recitation of its anti-bullying pledge, enrichment programs, posters & instructional lessons?

Christmas Pageant & Christmas Concert

Mark your calendar! The students in Mrs. Rose and Mrs. Ciardi's kindergarten classes will hold their Christmas Pageant Friday, December 11th in St. Charles Hall at 10 AM. Also, the students in kindergarten through grade eight will participate in the annual Christmas Concert on Wednesday, December 16th in the church. Students in Mrs. McCarthy's piano class will perform at the concert. Traditional as well as contemporary Christmas Carols will be sung setting the mood of the season. Please join us for the festivities!

Holiday Lottery Sale

Holiday Lottery Calendars can be purchased at the school office for \$10.00 each. Perfect as a stocking stuffer!

Timber Lanes Abington

The St. Joseph School Parent Organization invites you to join them at Timber Lanes in Abington on Friday, December 11th from 4-6 pm. Tickets can be purchased at the school office and cost \$10.00. We hope to see you there!

MSPCA – Angell

St. Joseph School, spear headed by seventh grade students Lucas Mancuso and George Kelley, is holding a blanket drive to keep animals warm this winter. New and used blankets (no larger than 6x8 ft, clean, no holes) are being collected in the school lobby until December 18th.

Team III under the direction of Tracy Callahan will volunteer at Bingo on Friday, December 11th.

Census Takers

The United States Census Bureau is hiring Census Takers in your local community. These part-time, temporary jobs offer good pay, flexible work hours and the chance to work close to home. For more information call 1-866-861-2010 or go to www.2010censusjobs.gov.

Support our Troops!

Join with the Girl Scouts who are collecting items for the "Pease Greeters," an organization that meets and greets all outgoing and incoming planes of soldiers at Pease Air Terminal in NH. They also provide them with care packages while overseas. The box is located in the rear of the church with a list of items that are needed.

DECEMBER 6, 2009

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Grade 7 and 8 students and their parents will be joining 10 other parishes at BC High Sunday morning from 9-noon for Mass and to hear a presentation on chastity by international speaker Jason Everett. There will be no class in the evening.

There will be **no class on Monday December 7th for grades one and two due** to the scheduled half day for Holbrook Public Schools. On **Tuesday, December 8th grades 3-6 will attend 4pm Mass** for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Please have your child in church by 3:55. Students will be dismissed from the church. We encourage all families to join us at this liturgy.

We have extended the deadline for students to bring in their donations for My Brother's Keeper until the week of December 13th. We are asking the students in grades 7-9 to donate a few dollars of their own money so that we can include that with our donations.

Beyond the Manger of Bethlehem

Discovering the True Meaning of Advent & Christmas

A workshop for Advent/Christmas is being held at St. Albert Parish, Weymouth Thursday, December 10 from 7 - 9PM. Give yourself the true gift of Christmas and encounter Christ by uncovering what has been lost in our commercializing of this beautiful gift that we celebrate each year. To register or for questions call 617-746-5880. Cost is \$25 per person.

Pauline Books & Media

Pauline Books, 885 Providence Hwy., Dedham wants to give you a gift this Christmas Season by offering a discount of 15% on a purchase of \$40 or more through December 31. Discount applies only to regularly-priced material. A copy of this bulletin must be presented to receive the discount.

Christmas Trees

Boy Scout Troop 153-Holbrook is selling Christmas Trees starting December 4th next to the former Good Brothers Ford on S. Main St. (Rte. 28) in Randolph. The Scouts will be selling the trees on Fridays from 4 – 9pm., Saturdays from 8am to 9pm and Sundays from 8am – 6pm.

Mini Open House

Cardinal Spellman High School, Brockton is holding a Mini Open House on December 6 from 1 -3PM. There will be presentations, tours and information sessions with students, faculty and parents.