

- Saturday, December 16**    **4:00pm William Marcelonis** 13th Ann.  
requested by the Thomas Family
- Sunday, December 17**    **9:00am Ann Eckl**  
requested by Fr. Michael
- 11:00am Michael & Eric Murray**  
requested by the Lavallee Family
- Monday, December 18**    **8:30am Mr & Mrs Almanzar Martel**  
requested by Fr. Michael
- Tuesday, December 19**    **8:30am For the continued health & wellbeing of Sr. Jeanne Rouillard**  
requested by St. Ann's Parish Family
- Wednesday, December 20** **8:30am Bob Moran**  
requested by SVDP
- Thursday, December 21**    **8:30am Veronica Borezo**  
requested by Fr. Michael
- Saturday, December 23**    **4:00pm Theresa Modzelewski**  
Birthday remembrance req. by the family
- Sunday, December 24**    **9:00am For the health & wellbeing of Louis & Lorraine Renaud,** requested by Dee Archambault & Ricky Renaud
- 4:00pm Normand Lavallee**  
requested by the Lavallee Family
- 10:00pm Theresa Casey**  
requested by the Coonan Family
- Christmas Day**            **10:00am Martin Fernandes**  
requested by Germaine Fernandes

Dear Friends in Christ,

Gaudete Sunday is the Third Sunday of Advent. "Gaudete" comes from the Latin word meaning "rejoice". We rejoice because of the nearness of the birth of Christ and because of all Jesus is for us: Savior, Lord, Messiah, Christ, Emmanuel. The festive and joyful mood of Gaudete Sunday is symbolized by the color rose that is worn at Mass in the liturgical vestments.

Gaudete Sunday invites us to consider Christ as the joy of our lives.

What about our faith gives us joy?

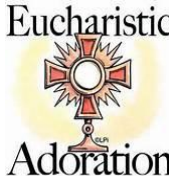
How is Jesus a gift to us?

How can we reflect our appreciation for Christ through joyful faith?

What would our lives be like without Jesus?

As Advent draws ever closer to fulfillment let us take an opportunity to reflect on these all important questions. May Christ, our Emmanuel, guide and inspire us.

In Christ,  
Fr. Michael



*Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
First Tuesday of the month  
at 6:00pm  
in the Church*



<b>Weekly Collection December 9 &amp; 10</b>	
Adults	\$ 2,218.00
Children 2	\$ 4.00
Maintenance	\$ 350.00
Other sources of Income	\$ 114.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 80.00
Bottles & Cans	\$ 34.95
<b>Total of parish support</b>	<b>\$2,800.95</b>
<b>Weekly support needed to meet budget expenses</b>	<b>\$ 4,348.00</b>
Retirement for Religious Collection	\$ 508.00
Poor Box	\$ 19.00
SVDP	\$ 107.00



**St. Ann & St. Roch's  
Advent Reconciliation  
Service**  
Tuesday, 12/19 6:30pm  
at St. Roch's

### Meetings

**NA** Sundays 7:30 pm in the hall  
**K of C** 1st Tuesday of the month 6:45pm in the hall  
**SVDP** 3rd Sunday of the Month  
**Cursillo 4th Day** Tuesday, Dec. 12 after the rosary  
**Rosary Group** Tuesday at 6:00pm in the church  
**Bible Study**  
7:00pm in the Church Hall  
**Please have read Luke 2:22-40**



The Masses for the Fourth Sunday of Advent are Saturday Dec. 23 at 4:00PM and Sunday, Dec. 24 at 9:00AM. **There will not be an 11:00am Mass on Sunday, December 24th.**

### **Christmas Eve Mass**

4:00pm & 10:00pm

Sing Christmas Carols with the Choir at 3:30pm

### **Christmas Mass**

10:00am

### **Compassion Demands Solidarity**

If you would ask the Desert Fathers why solitude gives birth to compassion, they would say, "Because it makes us die to our neighbor." At first this answer seems quite disturbing to a modern mind. But when we give it a closer look we can see that in order to be of service to others we have to die to them; that is, we have to give up measuring our meaning and value with the yardstick of others. To die to our neighbors means to stop judging them, to stop evaluating them, and thus to become free to be compassionate. Compassion can never coexist with judgment because judgment creates the distance, the distinction, which prevents us from really being with the other.

**Henri J. M. Nouwen The Way of the Heart**

### **Prayer**

Lord, endow us with discernment so that we might recognize the seeds of harshness in our lives. Help us to overcome this harshness with the heart of compassion, seeing then your presence in all human beings. Amen



Please donate your bottles & cans after your holiday parties to St. Ann's Parish. We are also looking for volunteers to bring the bottles and cans for redemption. A signup sheet is on the bulletin board.



**Give Santa a safe roof to land on!  
Only \$3,291 left to reach our goal to  
replace our church roof.**

Please use the Special Roof Collection envelopes in your offertory packets or on the bulletin tables. Thank you!

### **Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf**

January is St. Ann's month to staff the Oxford Food Shelf. We are looking for approx. 15 volunteers to help out on the four Thursday evenings in January from 5:00pm to 8:00pm. Volunteers will help register families, help families pick up their groceries and carry groceries out to cars. Please use the signup sheets on the bulletin board. Don't worry if you can't come every Thursday, just sign up for any Thursday you can help. Please call John Kneeland at #508-987-5046 if you have any questions.



186 Gifts were donated through the Giving Tree to benefit families in our community. Thank you for your generous response to this program. May God bless you and your families abundantly this Christmas and may you have a Blessed New Year!

**St. Ann's SVDP Society**



**Christmas Open House  
at the rectory**

Sunday, January 7th after the  
9 & 11 Masses.