

Please Pray for...

All who have died especially Mary Shamoian, Mary Baker and Mary Lou Delisle who died this week. We offer our sympathy and our prayers that they will rest in peace.

Those who are sick in the hospital or recovering:

Pauline Casavant, Yvette Bouvier, Cheryl Boucher, Fr. Martin Donahue, John Waage, Theresa Johnson, Gloria Butler, Theresa Cassavant, Paula & Juan Miranda, Raymond Brodeur, Howard Cooper, Bonnie Sheldon, Baby Aiden, Frank Harvey, Diane Gosselin, David Auger, Pat Benoit, Lorraine Cote, Louise Guerin, Barbara Gaudette, Tom Pawlowski, Joseph Nisel, David L'Heureux, Dolly Choquette, Rochelle Warren, Baby Ryan, Jean Wheeler, Catherine Baril, Tim Josti Sr., Fr. Chet Devlin, Lea Derosier, Alice Sullivan, Jeanne Provencher, Darlene Kennedy, Ruth Flynn, Erlene Lachapelle, Lillian Remillard, John Ahearn, Noel Donabedian, Laurie Vickers, Ruth Costa, Thomas Lilley, Pamela Collette, Patricia Johnson, Betty Cabana, Laurie Gablaski, Carey Dubois, Diane Cyr, Baby Jana, Theresa Thibault, Ernest Tremblay, Elizabeth Lemerise, Heather Lech, Frances Barrett, Baby Oliver, Theresa Suchocki, Baby Parker, Patricia Burdette, Ann Gablaski, Eddie LaFlamme, Addison Lacaire, Richard Chabior, Pat Benoit, Jeanne Lacroix and Amy Richard

PARISH PRAYER INTENTION FOR THE WEEK
For Merciful Hearts during the New Year.

OUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS DECEMBER 26 & 27

Envelopes	\$5,410.00
Loose	\$ 301.00
Total collection	\$5,711.00
Number of envelopes	203
Attendance	408
Christmas Collection	\$7,368.50

Thank you for your generosity this past weekend and to the Christmas collection. We are truly grateful for your generous and faithful support. May God's blessings be with you as we begin this New Year.

Congratulations to Michael Fazio and Hillary Chesson who were married here on Thursday, December 31. We wish them every happiness and God's blessing as they begin this new part of their lives together.

FOOD PANTRY REQUEST FOR THIS WEEK HOT COCOA

MID WINTER PORK DINNER

Over the past few years, we have been having a Pork Dinner on a Saturday evening during the month of January. The date we have set is January 23. In order to do this, we need a committee. This is too big a task for one person to undertake. Sandy needs 8 to 10 people to help with the various tasks namely, set up, cooking, clean up etc. Call her at 508 -885 - 3111 to offer your help

**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL
MAY 2016 BRING MANY BLESSINGS**

The Epiphany of the Lord



FAITH FORMATION NEWS

The Faith Formation office will be open this week on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 10:00 – 5:00 pm. If you wish to leave Judi a message, she can be reached at **508-885-3111 Ext. 105**.

There are NO Faith Formation classes this week. Classes for grades K to 6 will resume next Sunday January 10. Grades 9, 10 and 11 will not meet until January 17 which will be a Youth Ministry night. More info on this next week.

THE HOLY YEAR OF MERCY.....OPEN WIDE THE DOOR

We have designated the door on the left side of the vestibule as the Holy Door for the Holy Year of Mercy. Today at the 10:15 Mass we will solemnly open this door with a blessing. A sign will be placed over the door announcing that this is the Holy Door and directly inside it you will find the framed decree designating our parish church as a pilgrimage church for the Holy Year. It is the feast of the Epiphany, the day on which the three kings came to Jesus as representatives of the whole world. It is also the first Sunday of the New Year. Hopefully all who come through our Holy Door will find Jesus in our church and in us as well.

MORE ABOUT THE HOLY YEAR

The Holy Year is traditionally observed every fifty years. It is a tradition that goes back to the Book of Leviticus in the Old Testament. In this tradition every 50 years people were invited to stop and celebrate a jubilee year. The year was meant to be a time to seek the forgiveness of sins, prisoners were released, debts were forgiven and the mercy of God was to be particularly manifested. When the jubilee custom was restored in the church, it took on a more spiritual nature. Theology had developed a somewhat legalistic idea of God as judge and sin and punishment. The jubilee became a time when you could be released from the bonds of sin and be set free from your time in purgatory (temporal punishment due to us for sins already forgiven) by performing certain spiritual acts which included the reception of the sacrament of confession, making a pilgrimage and praying for the intentions of the Holy Father. In short it was a time to make a new beginning. Pope Francis, when looking at the world and the church today realized that this was a need for us now. So he has proclaimed this to be a special year of mercy where will be given opportunities to both be touched by and make present to others the mercy of God. This jubilee year offers us the chance to come and have all of our sins forgiven and our slates wiped clean so to speak by coming to the merciful father and seeking His loving forgiveness. But, also included is the need to be merciful to others by practicing the works of mercy towards those around us which include charity and forgiveness of each other. Our church has been designated as one of the places where people can come and receive these graces. Our Holy Door which we open today extends a welcome to all to come and receive God's mercy but it also places on us an opportunity and an obligation to give these gifts to others. This is a blessed time for us. Let us use it well.



January 3, 2016

Pastor's Notes:

Christmas Thank You

I want to thank all of you for your kindness to me at Christmas. The many cards that you sent and the good wishes which they brought were a great source of joy to me at this season and the many gifts I received fill me with a spirit of both gratitude and humility. You are all so very good to me. Thank you.

I also want to thank everyone who helped to make the Christmas liturgies so very meaningful. The choirs were excellent and the music uplifting. The church looked beautiful thanks to the decorating crew. I am also proud to thank my altar servers, readers and ministers of the Eucharist for their reverent service at Mass and for all to were part of the events leading up to Christmas; the Giving Tree, the Food Baskets, the Cleaning Crew and those who prayed for one another, my deepest gratitude.

THE MERCY CROSS

During the year of mercy, which began on December 8, there will be an icon on the door of the confession room of every parish in the diocese. It will be a simple invite for us to open the door of mercy by receiving the sacrament of reconciliation. It is a simple cross. Its symbol shows what is at the heart of this special Holy Year. It is a call to come home, a declaration that all are invited to return to Christ and to his church. Respond to the invite.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA entitled "Joy, Joy, Joy" will be presented by the Christian Community choir on the following dates:

Last chance to see.

Sunday, Jan 10 at St. John the Baptist Church at 2:00 pm
This is a free concert open to all.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A DEACON ?

Find out everything you wanted to know about the Diaconate program of the diocese of Worcester. If you are male college graduate (or have an equivalent to a degree) and are between the ages of 31 and 60 and have an interest, now is your opportunity to get some answers. An information session will be held on Saturday January 9 at 9:00 am at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel / St. Ann Center at 24 Mulberry St in Worcester. Spouses are welcome and urged to attend with you. For more info call 508-929-4335 or go the web site Worcesterdiocese.org

HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Notre Dame Hospice is looking for kind, compassionate people to volunteer one or two hours a week to spend with a hospice patient. Volunteers can wheel patients around in wheelchairs, sit with them and talk, read the newspaper or books to them, play games or do puzzles, or just sit quietly hold their hand, or pray with them. What a wonderful way to begin the New Year spending time with those at the end of their lives who are often lonely and sometimes frightened. If you think that you would feel comfortable volunteering with patients, please contact Linda Corby volunteer coordinator at Notre Dame Hospice at 508-852-5505.

SPEAKING OF VOLUNTEERS.....

The adult choir is in need of sopranos to be able to do the four part music that you have become accustomed to. Anyone interested in helping speak to Joe Konkol, our choir director.

Mass Schedule

Saturday, January 2, 2016 4:30 pm For the Intentions of a Benefactor
Sunday, January 3 8:00 am Thomas Moore by his Family 10:15 am Lucille Gillman (2 nd Anniv) by her daughter Michelle & Family
Monday, January 4 8:00 am For Holy Souls in Purgatory
Tuesday, January 5 8:00 am Leon & Loretta Goodreau by their Family
Wednesday, January 6 8:00 am Carmen Lamoureux (15 th Anniv) by her Family
Thursday, January 7 8:00 am For the People of the Parish
Friday, January 8 8:00 am No Mass Today
Saturday, January 9 4:30 pm Michelle Casavant (3 rd Anniv) by her Family
Sunday, January 10 8:00 am For all Parishioners 10:15 am James Noonan by his Family

Calendar of Events

Sunday, January 3	Coffee Shop – Open
9:00 am	NO Faith Formation Classes Grades K –6
10:15 am	Children's Liturgy of the Word
10:15 am	Opening of the Holy Door
1:00 pm	Baptism Instruction
6:30 pm	NO Faith Formation Grades 9, 10 & 11
Monday, January 4	
10:00 am	Food Pantry - CLOSED
7:00 pm	NO Inquiry / RCIA Class
Tuesday, January 5	
2:00 pm	Howe Village Mass
4:15 pm	NO Faith Formation Class Grades 1 – 6
6:30 pm	NO Drop In Center Open
7:00 pm	NO Faith Formation Class Grades 6 – 8
Wednesday, January 6	
7:00 pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry
Thursday, January 7	
10:00 am	Food Pantry – OPEN
Friday, January 8	
Saturday, January 9	
3:30 pm	Confessions
Sunday, January 10	Coffee Shop OPEN
9:00 am	Faith Formation Class Grades K - 6
10:15 am	Children's Liturgy of the Word
2:00 pm	Christmas Cantata (St. John's)
6:30 pm	NO Faith Formation for Grs. 9 , 10, & 11

