

**FOR THIS WEEKEND'S LITURGIES**

- Processional Hymn (4,8,10:30): #392 in *Worship*
- Order of the Mass: Front Page or #202 in *Worship*
- Liturgy of the Word: #1004 in *Worship*
- Gospel Acclamation (4,8,10:30): #328 in *Worship*
- Preparation Hymn (4,8,10:30): #387 in *Worship*
- Acclamations (4,8,10:30): #353, 356, 357, 384 in *Worship*
- Communion Litany (4,8,10:30): #600 in *Gather*



*John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. - Mt 3:4-6*

**MASS INTENTIONS & REMEMBRANCES**

- Sat., 12/7 4:00 pm **Nellie (9<sup>th</sup> Anniv.) & Albert (35<sup>th</sup> Anniv.) Rabidou**, by family  
*(Remembrance)* **Donna Murphy**, 15<sup>th</sup> Anniv., by Joe Chakuas  
*(Remembrance)* **Tommy Desautels**, by his mother  
*(Remembrance)* **Roger King**, 10<sup>th</sup> Anniv., by family  
*(Remembrance)* **Theodore George, Sr.**, by family  
*(Remembrance)* **Michael Chalifoux**, by family
- Sun., 12/8 8:00 am **Irene O'Keefe**, by family
- 10:30 am **David Shea**, 13<sup>th</sup> Anniv. by his mother, Mary
- 6:00 pm **Parishioners' Intentions**
- Mon., 12/9 9:00 am **Daniel Field**, by the Verderese family
- Tue., 12/10 9:00 am **Francis Lacombe**, by the Verderese family  
*(Remembrance)* **Jack McShera**, by Barbara Burdzel
- Wed., 12/11 9:00 am **Martin Kelley**, 12<sup>th</sup> Anniv., by Sara & Fay  
*(Remembrance)* **Joseph Ritchey**, 77<sup>th</sup> Anniv., by his daughter
- Thu., 12/12 9:00 am **Cheryl Ferrell**, 1<sup>st</sup> Anniv., by the Butcher's
- Fri., 12/13 9:00 am **Lillian Mae Ballotte**, by her daughter, Peggy O'Malley
- Sat., 12/14 4:00 pm **Maryellen Barry**, 31<sup>st</sup> Anniv., by family  
*(Remembrance)* **Ed Rafferty, Lois Rafferty, James Cove & Ann Gay**  
*(Remembrance)* **Elise Gagne**, by Josephine Rafferty & family  
*(Remembrance)* **Ryan Finnegan**, Month's Mind, by Mom, Dad & Patricia
- Sun., 12/15 8:00 am **Parishioners' Intentions**
- 10:30 am **Parishioners' Intentions**
- 6:00 pm **Clement & Judith Anish and Paul & Alice Chase**, by family

**REST IN PEACE**

Pray for the repose of the souls of **Rev. Michael Bafaro, John Mistretta, Claudyne Pearson, George Degalis, Jr.** and all our deceased relatives, friends and benefactors.

**LITURGICAL MEMORIALS**

The bread and wine being used at all Masses this week has been donated in memory of **Cheryl Ferrell** by the Butcher family. The candles being used at the altar and pulpit have been donated in memory of **Cheryl Ferrell** by the Butcher family.

**RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION**

The second collection at all Masses this weekend will be for your annual offerings to the national fund that helps Congregations of Women and Men in vowed religious life care for their elderly members. Here in our parish, we are being served by Fr. Terrence Dougherty of the Discalced Carmelite Order and Sr. Marie Therese Martin of the Congregation of St. Joseph. In the past Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur taught in our school and Sr. Barbara Collins of that Order served as Religious Education Coordinator for many years.

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

The feast is usually celebrated on December 8<sup>th</sup> but this year it is moved to Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> because the Sundays of Advent take precedence over feast days. The feast is transferred but the obligation to go to Mass is not transferred. We will have just the usual daily Mass at 9:00 am that day. For those looking for a later Mass, there will be a 5:30 pm at Christ the King Church, 1052 Pleasant Street in Worcester. Please note that a 5:30 pm Mass will also be offered each weekday during Advent beginning December 2<sup>nd</sup> through December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**CONTRIBUTION REPORT**

- Last weekend, we deposited the following donations:
- **Weekly Adult Offerings:** **\$6,426.00**  
(\$638.00 in loose offerings and \$5,788.00 in 178 envelopes)
  - **Coffee Hour Donations:** **\$ 8.00**
  - **Charitable Ministries Reimbursement:** **\$ 800.00**
  - **Christmas Flower Gifts:** **\$ 600.00**
  - **Wedding Offering:** **\$ 250.00**
  - **Baptism Donation:** **\$ 50.00**
  - **Maintenance Fund:** **\$1,504.00**
  - **Debt Reduction Donations:** **\$ 426.00**
  - **Campaign for Human Development:** **\$1,299.00**
- We also received the following online donations:
- **Weekly Adult Offerings:** **\$ 606.65**
  - **Charitable Ministries:** **\$ 30.00**
  - **Maintenance Fund:** **\$ 55.00**
  - **Campaign for Human Development:** **\$ 50.00**

**READINGS FOIR THE WEEK**

- Sunday: Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 19/Rom 15:4-9  
Mt 3:1-12
- Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1,2-3,4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
- Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3, 10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt 18:12-14
- Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10/Mt 11:28-30
- Thursday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25
- Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6/Mt 11:16-19
- Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2,3, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
- Next Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/ Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10/Jas 5:7-10  
Mt 11:2-11

**CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS**

Envelopes are available in racks at the church doors for those who would like to make donations to help defray the cost of decorating the church for the Christmas feast days. The envelopes will be placed at the creche, inviting people to pray for the intentions of the donors and in memory of deceased loved ones listed. Those who receive contribution packets in the mail have an envelope for this purpose in their current packet.

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BASKET RAFFLE**

The OLA Charitable Ministries Group will draw the winners in the Rieger Hall after the 10:30 am Mass on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Chances will be on sale before and after the 4:00 pm Mass, December 7<sup>th</sup> and 8:00 am and 10:30 am Masses December 8<sup>th</sup>. Chances will be offered at the following rates: \$1 each or 6 chances for \$5. The money raised is used by our Charitable Ministries Group to fund their Thanksgiving and Christmas outreach and other assistance needed during the year.

**MONTHLY DISMAS HOUSE MEAL**

On the second Monday of each month – December 9<sup>th</sup> this month – a group of parishioners prepares, serves and shares the meal with men living at the local facility that houses and assists people reintegrating in society after serving jail sentences. If you would like to discuss either this ministry or volunteer to help, contact the rectory and we will put you in contact with the ministry coordinators.



We have now exceeded 93% of our parish target with pledges and onetime gifts from Fr. Monroe and 173 other households that total \$389,739.94 -- just \$28,247 worth of gifts and pledges are needed to reach our goal. As of today, \$155,896 will be coming back to OLA as pledges are paid over the next 4 years.

*We urge those who have not yet responded to prayerfully consider what they might be able to offer. **No gift is too small.***

Envelopes remain available in the pews of the church in addition to forms everyone should have received in the mail.

**THE GIVING TREE PROJECT**

We remind those who took gift requests from the tree that the ones **for Urban Ministry (typed, specific gift request) need to be brought to the tree by 6:00 pm next Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Please be sure to tape the paper ornament to the unwrapped gift.** They will be picked up on Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup> to prepare for distribution.

The gift card requests need to be placed in the collection basket next weekend or brought to the rectory by Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. Our Charitable Ministries Group will be meeting on Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup> to prepare food baskets and distribute gift cards for families to purchase gifts for their children. The diapers can be brought to the tree anytime up to Christmas.

**HOLY HOUR TO PRAY FOR PRIESTS**

On **Friday, Dec. 13 from 7- 8 pm**, a holy hour for lay people to pray for priests will take place at Immaculate Conception Church on 353 Grove St., Worcester. This holy hour will consist of time for silent adoration, as well as a short reflection, the rosary, and benediction. Please join us for this important act of service and prayer for our priests. Repeats every second Friday of the month.

**HOME VISITATION**

Fr. Monroe, Sr. Marie and several of our Communion Ministers make monthly visits to homebound parishioners and those in area nursing homes. If someone you know should be on our lists, please call the rectory to give us the names and addresses.

**HALO SUPPORT GROUP**

HALO 18 stands for **Healing After Loss (from) Overdose**. The group usually gathers on the first Monday of each month to support family members coping with the loss of a loved one from drugs or alcohol.

**Due to last Monday's storm, they will meet in the Rieger Hall of our church this Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.** For more information or to ask questions, contact Aileen Lovejoy at 508-755-5041 or Deb Dowd-Foley at 508-248-5622.

**THE WEEK AT A GLANCE**

Sun., December 8 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

**8:00 am Lord's Day Mass**  
**9:00 am Religious Education Classes**  
**10:00 am Christmas Pageant Rehearsal**  
**10:30 am Lord's Day Mass**  
**3:00 pm WSU Winter Concert**  
**6:00 pm Lord's Day Mass**

Mon., December 9 – Immaculate Conception of Mary

**9:00 am Daily Mass**

Tue., December 10 – Tuesday of 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent Week

**9:00 am Daily Mass**

Wed., December 11 – St. Damasus I

**9:00 am Daily Mass**

Thu., December 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe

**9:00 am Daily Mass**

Fri., December 13 – Friday of 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent Week

**9:00 am Daily Mass**

Sat., December 14 – Saturday of 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent Week

**3:00 pm Confessions**

**4:00 pm Vigil Mass**

**120 CLUB**

The winner of last week's drawing is *Janet Chalifoux - #52*.

**PRESIDERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND**

Saturday, December 14	4:00 pm	Fr. Dougherty
Sunday, December 15	8:00 am	Fr. Monroe
	10:30 am	Fr. Monroe
	6:00 pm	Fr. Monroe

**STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

*"Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." (Matthew 3:10)* Do you bear good fruit for Christ? Or, do you spend your time, talent, and treasure constantly acquiring more toys, clutter, and junk. Our time, our talent, and our treasure are gifts that God has given us. What we do with them is our gift back to God. What gifts are you planning to give to the Lord during this upcoming Christmas season?

**TAIZE WORCESTER**

**SACRED MUSIC FOR VESPERS**

This **Sunday, Dec. 8 from 7-7:45 pm** the monthly Taize service will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 73 Lancaster St., Worcester as Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox musicians come together in sacred choir to sing simple, pure music to support peace and respect among all Christians and non-Christians. Mulled Cider and cookies will follow in the church hall. This is open to people of all faiths and walks of life. Free will offering gratefully received.