

From Your Pastor

Prayerful Best Wishes for a Very Happy and Holy Christmas from the Priests and the Parish Staff

The coming of God to Bethlehem took place in silence. Only the shepherds keeping watch were, for a moment, surrounded by the light-filled radiance of his presence and could listen to something of that new song, born of the wonder and joy of the angels at God's coming. This silent coming of God's glory continues throughout the centuries. Wherever there is faith, wherever his word is proclaimed and heard, there God gathers people together and gives himself to them in his Body;



he makes them his Body. God "comes." And in this way our hearts are awakened. The new song of the angels becomes the song of all those who, throughout the centuries, sing ever anew of God's coming as a child – and rejoice deep in their hearts...Yes, Lord, help us to see something of the splendor of your glory. And grant peace on earth. Make us men and women of your peace. Amen.

(Pope Benedict XVI – From the Homily at Midnight Mass Christmas 2008)

O Come Let Us Adore Him



God bless each of you.

Mrs. Fay

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve (Thursday)

4:00 pm, 9:00 pm (Spanish) and
Midnight at 12:00 am
(The Christmas Concert is at 11:30 pm
before the Midnight Mass)

Christmas Day (Friday)

7:30 am, 9:30 am, 11:15 am and
12:45 pm (Spanish)
(There is no 5:00 pm Mass on Christmas
Day)

New Year's Day Mass Schedule Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

New Year's Eve (Thursday)

7:00 pm

New Year's Day (Friday)

7:00 am, 9:00 am, 12:30 pm and
7:00 pm (Spanish)

(Please Note: The First Friday Latin Mass
will not be celebrated in January)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Prayers Are Requested for those who are ill, for vocations to the Priesthood and to the Consecrated Life; for married couples and for families; for the safe return home of the men and women in our military services; and for the repose of the souls of Barney McDaid, Agnes Rock and the deceased members of our parish, our families and our benefactors.

Christmas Collection for Priests – Our only collection at all of our Christmas Masses this week will be dedicated to providing for the retirement, healthcare, and financial needs of priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. We can all remember fondly the priests who baptized our child or children, witnessed our marriage, or brought the anointing of the sick to a loved one that was dying. We encourage you to give generously on behalf of the priests that have devoted their lives to God and His Church in the Archdiocese of Boston. On behalf of all of our priests, thank you in advance for your generosity.

Congratulations to Our New Pastoral Council Members – Yariela Brandao, Dick Marques, Alexandra Montes McNeil, Kathy Moore, Ramón Palacio and Maureen Reen, who were confirmed at the Masses last weekend for a three-year term. 274 parishioners cast ballots. 274 confirmed the slate of new members; 0 opposed the slate. 272 approved the process used to add new members to the Council; 2 did not approve of the process.

Our Thanks to Fred and Rosa Salvucci and Their Family for the beautiful gift of the half moon granite bench that has been placed on the front lawn before the statue of the Crucifixion from St. Gabriel Church. Fred installed it personally. We hope that you have been enjoying the new spot to rest awhile and to pray in the presence of Our Lord, his Blessed Mother, St. John and St. Mary Magdalene.

Envelopes For Christmas Flowers are available at the doors of the church. The flowers and wreaths used to decorate the church for Christmas are a big expense so anything you could give will be appreciated. Please print the names of those to be remembered on the envelopes

St. Columbkille School Cantata will be held on Tuesday, December 22 at 7:00 pm in the upper church. All are welcome. The children have been working very hard to present this wonderful Christmas program. Please come and show your support for them.

First Fruits of the 2009 Grand Annual Collection – I express my gratitude again for your generous response to this year's Grand Annual Collection. We are more than two-thirds to our goal. We have used some of the early proceeds of this year's collection to replace the parking lot fence along Market Street, which was in very poor repair. We ordered the new fence a little bit shorter to lessen the institutional look, and we installed it in black to match the wrought iron fencing around the church.

Please Remember The St. Vincent de Paul Boxes as you leave Mass today. The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 22 at 7:00 pm in the rectory.

The Giving Tree Gifts are due this Sunday by the 5:00 Mass. They will be organized after the 5:00 Mass in the lower church. Thank you for your generosity in this most important endeavor. You have shown your love of God and your neighbor through your giving. Any one who would like to assist in the organization of the gifts is most welcome to join us.

BRIGHTON-ALLSTON 2010 CALENDARS are on sale at the rectory for \$10.00 during regular office hours.

PARISH GIVING

Parish Offertory (Dec. 12 – Dec. 13): \$5,288

Grand Annual (to date): \$46,443
From 237 donors

Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8): \$1,155

Christmas Flowers (to date): \$1,923

St. Vincent de Paul (Dec. 12 – Dec. 13): \$390.00

Thank You for Your Generosity

From a Letter to Diognetus (c. 150-250 AD)

Author Unknown

God Showed His Love through His Son

No one has ever seen God or known him, but God has revealed himself to us through faith, by which alone it is possible to see him. God, the Lord and maker of all things, who created the world and set it in order, not only loved us but was also patient with us. So he has always been, and is, and will be: kind, good, free from anger, truthful; indeed, he and he alone is good.

He devised a plan, a great and wonderful plan, and shared it only with his Son...When God had made all his plans in consultation with his Son, he waited until a later time, allowing us to follow our own whim, to be swept along by unruly passions, to be led astray by pleasure and desire. Not that he was pleased by our sins: he only tolerated them. Not that he approved of that time of sin: he was planning this era of holiness. When we had been shown to be undeserving of life, his goodness was to make us worthy of it. When we had made it clear that we could not enter God's kingdom by our own power, we were to be enabled to do so by the power of God.

When our wickedness had reached its culmination, it became clear that retribution was at hand in the shape of suffering and death. The time came then for God to make known his kindness and power (how immeasurable is God's generosity and love!). He did not show hatred for us or reject us or take vengeance; instead, he was patient with us, bore with us, and in compassion took our sins upon himself; he gave his own Son as the price of our redemption, the holy one to redeem the wicked, the sinless one to redeem sinners, the just one to redeem the unjust, the incorruptible one to redeem the corruptible, the immortal one to redeem mortals. For what else could have covered our sins but his sinlessness? Where else could we, wicked and sinful as we were, have found the means of holiness except in the Son of God alone?

How wonderful a transformation, how mysterious a design, how inconceivable a blessing! The wickedness of the many is covered up in the holy One, and the holiness of One sanctifies many sinners.

DECEMBER 20, 2009

A PRAYER FOR OUR PRIESTS

We thank you, God our Father,
for those who have responded
to your call to priestly ministry.
Accept this prayer we offer on their behalf:

Fill your priests
with the sure knowledge of your love.
Open their hearts to the power
and consolation of the Holy Spirit.
Lead them to new depths of union with your Son.
Increase in them profound faith
in the Sacraments they celebrate
as they nourish, strengthen and heal us.

Lord Jesus Christ, grant that these, your priests,
may inspire us to strive for holiness
by the power of their example,
as men of prayer who ponder your word
and follow your will.

O Mary, Mother of Christ and our mother,
guard with your maternal care these chosen ones,
so dear to the Heart of your Son.
Intercede for our priests that,
offering the Sacrifice of your Son,
they may be conformed more each day
to the image of your Son,
our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Celebrant: *St. John Vianney, universal patron of priests.*

R.: *Pray for us and our priests.*

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ORACIÓN POR NUESTROS SACERDOTES

Te damos gracias, Dios nuestro Padre,
por aquellos que han respondido
a tu llamado para el ministerio sacerdotal.
Acepta esta oración que ofrecemos en su nombre.

Llena a tus sacerdotes
con la seguridad de conocer tu amor.
Abre sus corazones al poder
y consuelo del Espíritu Santo,
condúcelos a nuevas profundidades
de unión con tu Hijo.

Llénalos de profunda fe
en los sacramentos que ellos celebran,
que nos alientan, nos fortalecen y nos sanan.

Señor Jesucristo, haz que estos tus sacerdotes,
puedan inspirarnos a luchar por la santidad
con el poder de su ejemplo,
como hombres de oración que escuchan tu palabra
y siguen tu voluntad.

O María, Madre de Cristo y madre nuestra,
protege con tu cuidado maternal a estos llamados
tan queridos al Corazón de tu Hijo.

Intercede para que nuestros sacerdotes,
que al ofrecer el sacrificio de tu Hijo,
puedan parecerse cada día más a tu Hijo,
nuestro Señor y Salvador Jesucristo. Amén

Celebr.: *San Juan Vianney, patrón universal de los sacerdotes.*

R.: *Ora por nosotros y por nuestros sacerdotes*

Masses for the Week

Sunday, Dec. 20 – 4th Sunday of Advent

- (Sat.) 4:00 pm Helen & Arthur Lang, Mem.
7:30 am *Missa pro Populo*.
9:30 am Julia & Timothy O’Leary &
Thomas Moynihan, Mem.
11:15 am Ruth Dineen, 14th Ann.
12:45 pm Agustin Buñuel & Canovas Family, Mem
5:00 pm Joseph Mullen, 4th Ann.

Mon. 7:00 am Johanna Cecilia Murphy, Mem.

Tue. 7:00 am Robert Egan, Mem.

Wed. 7:00 am Antonio Antonellis & Donata Visco, Me

Thu. 7:00 am Edward Nally. Mem.

Fri. Christmas Day – The Birth of Our Lord

Sat. 7:00 am Rose D’Abenigno, Mem.

Sunday, Dec. 27 – Holy Family

- (Sat.) 4:00 pm John & Sarah Fanning, Mem.
7:30 am Joaquin Gutierrez, Mem.
9:30 am Patrick J. & Joan K. Freeley, Mem.
11:15 am Julia & James Hyland, Mem.
12:45 pm The Montes & Homar Families, Mem
5:00 pm *Missa pro Populo*

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Comments:
