

Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2016

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the souls in this week's Mass intention; for Carl Motta whose funeral mass was celebrated here; for the souls in Purgatory; and for the deceased of our parish.

Sat., Dec 10,	4:00 P.M.	William Arruda by wife, Gloria
Sun., Dec 11,	8:30 A.M.	Simone & Randall Villeneuve by family
	10:30 A.M.	Community Mass: Walter Jaworski, Jr., Walter Gonet, Joseph & Helen Gonet, Walter & Stella Jaworski, Filippo Tanzi, Marcel Lareau, Francisco Bizarro, Fr. Stan Kolasa, ss.cc., Rev. James W. Fahey
	7:00 P.M.	Celina C. Oliveira by Roberge family
Mon., Dec 12,	8:00 A.M.	For parishioners of St. Mary
Tues., Dec 13,	8:00 A.M.	Linda Oliveira by family
Thurs., Dec 15,	8:00 A.M.	Arnold R. Brown by daughter, Deborah & Richard Brennan (39 th anniversary)
Fri., Dec 16,	8:00 A.M.	Carol Simas by Cathy, Jim & Heather
Sat., Dec 17,	4:00 P.M.	Hilaria & Manuel Lima by family
Sun., Dec 18,	8:30 A.M.	Shirley Smith by family
	10:30 A.M.	Community Mass: Grace, Tony & Peter Colangelo, Manuel L. Medeiros, Joao Gaspar, Edward Soares, Frank & Lois Giambo, Maria Wilkinson, Maria Teresa Viveiros, Maureen Hughes-Ganninger, Kathleen Hughes, Gerald Hughes, Francisco Bizarro, Fernando Goncalves, Carl Motta
	7:00 P.M.	Frank & Lois Giambo by family



14-day Memorial Candles: In Memory of Blanche Smith by Louis & Louise Trial
In Memory of Lazaro S. Rosa by wife, Maria, children & grandchildren

Icon Candle: In Memory of Joao Ferreira by family

Hosts for December: In Memory of Roger Grenon by Jeannette & family

On the bulletin board at the main entrance of the church there is a priest prayer request calendar for December. Please take one and say a prayer for the priest on that day. Thank you.

Budget: \$5859. **Expenses:** **Christmas mailing:** \$102.

Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors schedules for Christmas, New Year, January & February are available in the sacristy and on-line on our parish website.

The Giving Tree: If you have taken a tag from the Giving Tree, please return wrapped gifts by Dec. 18th. Gifts will be distributed on December 19th. Thank you!

Once again we will be decorating our altar for Christmas with two beautiful poinsettia trees. These trees are made up of individual plants. A plant may be purchased in memory of or in honor of someone for \$10.00/plant. The names of those remembered will be displayed on the bulletin board at the entrance of the church during the Christmas Season. Please fill out the form and return with your payment in an envelope marked "poinsettia plant".



St. Vincent de Paul Society SVDP is requesting non-perishable, unexpired food items for the holiday season to restock the parish food pantry. These items will be used help families in our area. Thank you and God bless you this holiday season.

Calendars - Once again we are grateful to Rock Funeral Home and Partners Insurance for providing Christian calendars for our use. We express our gratitude for their generosity to our parish.



Advent Penance Evening I encourage you all to make a good confession in preparation for Christmas. In addition to the regular confession hours here at St. Mary's, I am, as customary, providing an evening dedicated for this purpose. I will offer confessions from **7:00 pm until 8:00 pm on Monday, December 19**. All are welcome but in a particular manner I encourage our parents to bring our religious education students. This is a wonderful opportunity for them to make their yearly confession. Perhaps some of them have not come to confession since first Penance. Only the main door will be open and there is no ceremony, just come at your convenience. This year there will be three priests hearing confessions. Fr. Brian Harrington and Fr. Thomas Washburn, OFM will be joining me.

Christmas Decorating We will be decorating our church for Christmas on December 21, 2016 at 6:00PM and your assistance is sincerely appreciated. Flower arrangement will take place on December 22, 2016. If you can assist, please call the office.

Retirement Fund for Religious Aging religious need your help. Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others – educating the young, comforting the sick, seeking justice for the oppressed. Today, many are frail, elderly, and in need of assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for the Religious helps to furnish medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please give generously to today's second collection.

Christmas Mass Schedule:

Dec. 24th – Christmas Eve 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM Dec. 25th – Christmas Day 8:30 and 10:30 AM

We have prepared our two "**Parish**" **Christmas trees** at the main entrance of the church. The ornaments on these trees represent the many parishioners who have placed an ornament on the tree. Feel free to bring a family ornament to place on the tree. It will be displayed annually.

New Year's Day Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God – A Holy Day of Obligation – We will have our usual Sunday mass schedule: vigil mass at 4:00PM on December 31st and 8:30AM, 10:30AM and 7:00PM mass on the Holy Day, January 1st.

Parish Offices will close at 12 Noon on Friday, December 23, and close Monday, December, 26 and Monday, January 2 to allow our staff time to enjoy the holidays.

A word of gratitude to the New Bedford Fire Department for their kindness in fixing the flagpole at our Pastoral Center Campus.

Our **Prayer Shawl Ministry** has given out more than 200 shawls since its inception in 2009. The prayers and thoughts of those making the shawls are incorporated into the shawls. Each shawl is blessed before it is delivered. These shawls have helped people in times of need due to either illness, surgery, the loss of a loved one, the illness of a child, and many more issues. Please consider joining this group on Mondays at 1PM on our Parish Center. For further information about this caring ministry, contact Mary Ellen at 508-998-2087.

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is a day of prayer for migrants & refugees. You may wish to use this prayer: *Merciful and loving Father, We beseech you, open our hearts so that we may provide hospitality and refuge to migrants who are lonely, afraid, and far from their homes. Give us the courage to welcome every stranger as Christ in our midst, to invite them into our communities as a demonstration of Christ's love for us. We pray that when we encounter the other, we see in her the face of your Son, when we meet a stranger, that we take his hand in welcome. Help us to live in solidarity with one another, to seek justice for those who are persecuted and comfort for those who are suffering. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.*

