

# Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2016

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

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.	<b>Community Mass:</b> 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, Christopher & Helen Corrigan, Lawrence Gajewski, Jr., Debra Costa, Fernando Goncalves, Francisco Bizarro, Carl Motta, Alice Mercier
	7:00 P.M.	Frank & Lois Giambo by family
Mon., Dec 19,	8:00 A.M.	Grace Colangelo by husband, Angelo (4 <sup>th</sup> anniversary)
Tues., Dec 20,	8:00 A.M.	For parishioners of St. Mary
Thurs., Dec 22,	8:00 A.M.	Celina Oliveira by Marilyn Collins
Fri., Dec 23,	8:00 A.M.	Joao Ferreira by family
Sat., Dec 24,	4:00 P.M.	<b>Christmas Eve</b> – Community Mass for those recommended to our prayers
The Nativity of the Lord	6:00 P.M.	<b>Christmas Eve</b> – Community Mass for those recommended to our prayers
Sun., Dec 25,	8:30 A.M.	<b>Christmas</b> – Community Mass for those recommended to our prayers
	10:30 A.M.	<b>Christmas</b> – Community Mass for those recommended to our prayers



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 James R. Collins by mother & sisters

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:** \$5608.     **Expenses:** Insurance (church & pastoral center): \$4000.     **Assessment:** \$7000.

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

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 to help families in our area. Thank you to all and may 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.

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.



## **Christmas Mass Schedule:**

**Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM    Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Day 8:30 and 10:30 AM**

**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.

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.



*A word of gratitude to Eden's (see ad in our bulletin) for once again donating the two beautiful wreaths that grace the front of our church. Please be assured of my gratitude.*

**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 4:00 PM on December 31<sup>st</sup> and 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM and 7:00P M mass on the Holy Day, January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**The Anchor** Thanks goes out to all the generous donors and to those who have faithfully renewed their subscriptions. There are, however, thousands of subscribers who still receive *The Anchor* who have not sent in the \$20 yearly subscription fee. If you have not sent in the subscription fee and are still receiving *The Anchor* they ask that you please assist them in keeping the diocesan newspaper arriving at nearly 20,000 homes across our diocese. **Send your check made payable to The Anchor, 887 Highland Avenue, Fall River, MA 02720**, along with your name and address. Subscription payments are no longer processed at the parish office, so please send them directly to The Anchor office. *The Anchor* staff thanks you very much and wishes everyone a blessed Advent and Christmas season.

**St. Mary's Parish Scholarship Fund** for many families it is a financial sacrifice to send their children to a parochial school. To assist in this matter, St. Mary's Parish has formed a Scholarship Fund to assist needy students who attend Catholic School. Perhaps you find yourself in circumstances that will allow you to contribute to that fund. Any and all donations will be gratefully received at any time and are tax deductible. Please help us to help others. Your contribution can be sent to St. Mary's Parish, 106 Illinois St., New Bedford, MA 02745, and designated for the Scholarship Fund. Help us to build the future.

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