

# The Nativity of the Lord

December 25, 2016

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

Sat., Dec 24,	4:00 P.M.	<b>Christmas Eve</b> – Community Mass for those recommended to our prayers
	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
Mon., Dec 26,	8:00 A.M.	For parishioners of St. Mary
Tues., Dec 27,	8:00 A.M.	Ernest Gautreau by John & Sue DeTerra
Thurs., Dec 29,	8:00 A.M.	Celina C. Oliveira by John & Sue DeTerra
Fri., Dec 30,	8:00 A.M.	William Butler, Sr. by daughter, Peggy
Sat., Dec 31,	4:00 P.M.	James R. Collins by mother & sisters
Sun., Jan 1,	8:30 A.M.	Celina C. Oliveira by John & Celeste LeBoeuf
	10:30 A.M.	<b>Community Mass:</b> Ann Margaret Ranieri, Evangeline Costa, Leonard Oliveira, Jeanne Chausse, William Furtado, Sr.
	7:00 P.M.	For parishioners of St. Mary



14-day Memorial Candles: In Memory of Leonard Oliveira by family  
In Memory of Laurent & Evelyn Robert by Jeannette & family

Icon Candle: In Memory of David Maguire by parents

Dedication Candles: In Memory of Hilda Figueira by Edward & family (2)  
In Memory of Normand Bergeron by Shirley & son (2)

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



**No CCD class December 25 and January 1 for Christmas break.  
Mass attendance is still required.**

Budget: \$5488.

Expenses: Water: \$160.

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 be closed Monday, December, 26 and Monday, January 2 to allow our staff time to enjoy the holidays.

St. Vincent de Paul Meeting will be Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, at 6:45 PM. SVdP would like to thank everyone for their generosity this holiday season. They were able to help many families have a happier Christmas. Please don't forget that even though the holidays are over, the need for food has not diminished. Please remember St. Vincent's Food Pantry. Thank You!

An Anchor envelope is enclosed with the February envelopes should you chose to subscribe to *The Anchor*. The cost for the year is \$20. for Diocesan and Catholic news. If you chose not to subscribe, just discard the envelope. Should you have any questions just call the office.





*Praying that this holy season will bring you the gifts of  
grace and joy found in Christ.*



*In celebration of Christ's birth, the holy sacrifice of the Mass will be offered  
for you and your intentions.*

**A word of gratitude is expressed to all who worked so hard and gave their time, talent and treasure to prepare our church for Christmas. Likewise, I am personally grateful to all those who sent greetings, delicacies, or gifts for Christmas. Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated.**

**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 budget envelopes beginning January 2017 will include a special monthly envelope for the **Diocesan Assessment**. You will recall that we have asked an extra \$5.00 per week to assist with this bill. That envelope as well as the Education and Building maintenance envelopes are not subject to the Diocesan Tax.

Bishop da Cunha's 2016 Christmas Message

Dear Friends in Christ,

When God the Father sent Jesus to save the world, the first thing he did was choose a family for his Son. He prepared Joseph and Mary to be His parents so that Jesus could have a family. Both Mary and Joseph accepted God's plan for them to be Jesus' mother and foster father. Thus, the Holy Family of Nazareth was established.

In many ways, Christmas is the feast of the family. Joseph, Mary and Jesus teach us what a family should look like. This Christmas, many families will gather at the table to share a meal, remember their stories, celebrate the gift of each other, support one another, and show love for family members. As we gather with our families this Christmas, let us also remember those who have no family, those who are away from their families; broken families, the divided families, the wounded families, the migrant families, the refugee families, and children waiting for a family.

Christmas is a wonderful occasion for us to take time to recognize and appreciate the gift of family, not only what they mean to us individually, but also the importance of family for the Church and for the world. Family is where we learn that loving and being loved is the essence of human existence. It is in the family that we learn how to love and, consequently, how to live. It is in the family that we learn how to share and to give. It is in the family that we learn how to forgive and to ask forgiveness. It is in the family that we learn the fundamental principles of our faith. It is the family that we learn the meaning of life itself. ***"It is in the warmth of the home that faith fills every corner, lights up every space, builds community. At those moments, people learn to discover God's love present and at work."* (Pope Francis)**

Each of us was born into a family. We did not choose our family, God chose for us. He gave us this gift. Who would we be without our family? Sometimes we take our family for granted because we assume they will always be here. But after God, family is the most precious gift we have in this world.

Families are facing many challenges in our modern society. The values of the traditional family are eroding. Personal encounter, time together, and personal communication are all being challenged by modern means of communication, social media and electronic devices; many are left in isolation. Children will suffer if the family is not the center of their lives and the foundation of their formation as they grow. As a consequence, society will also suffer.

We all remember Father Peyton's motto: *"The family that prays together stays together"*. How many families today spend time praying together? Perhaps they are too busy to dedicate time for prayer as a family. If they only realized the benefit that prayer brings to their family, more people would take the time to do it. ***"Moments of family prayer and acts of devotion can be more powerful for evangelization than any catechism class or sermon."* (Amoris Laetitia #288).**

This Christmas, I would like to invite all families in our Diocese to spend time in prayer together as a family. May the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph intercede for all our families and help us to become like the Holy Family of Nazareth.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,  
Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V.  
Bishop of Fall River