

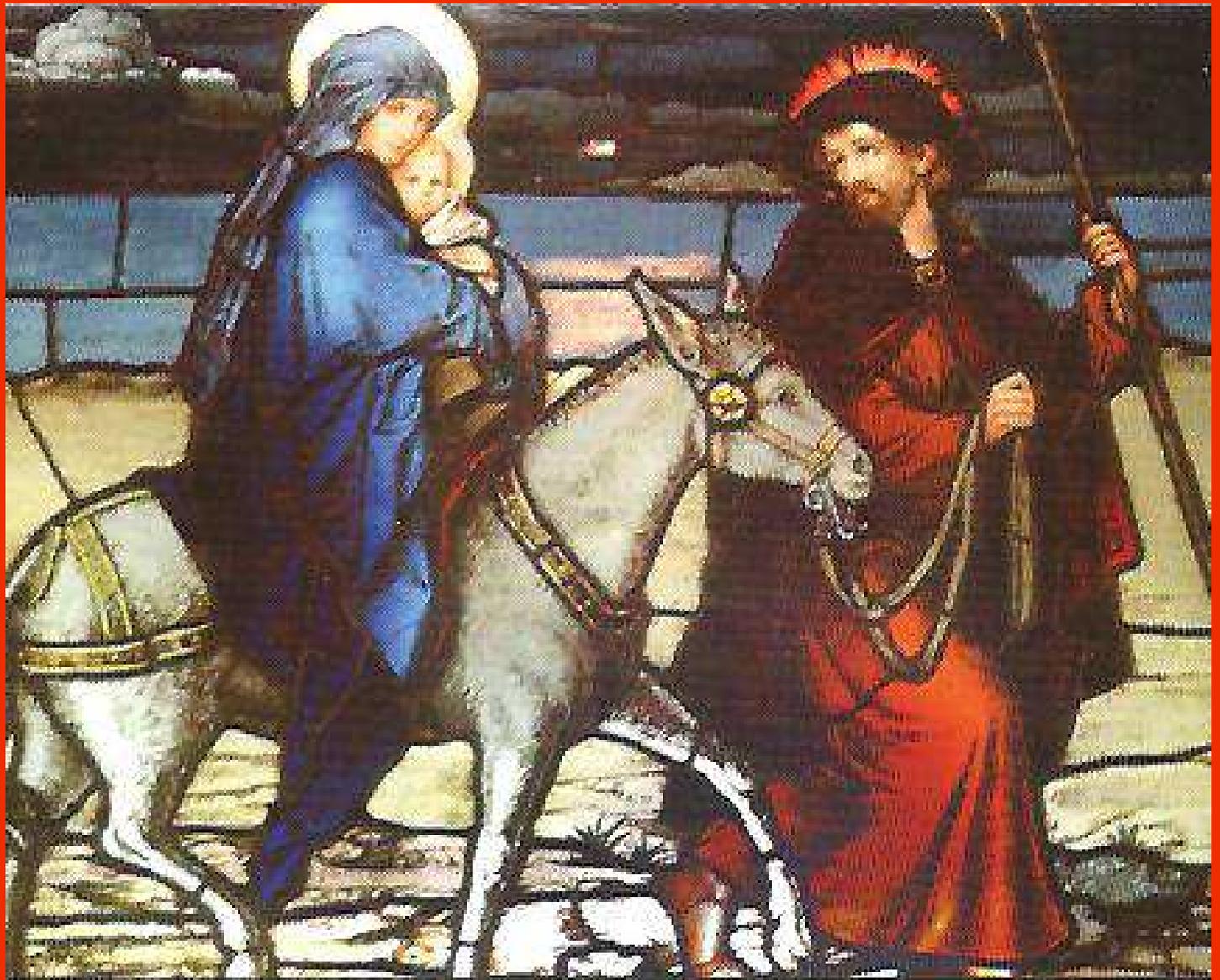
Mary Immaculate of Lourdes

(Formerly St. Mary's Parish, 1870-1910)

Newton/Needham, Massachusetts

Newton & Needham's Oldest Roman Catholic Parish

Syriac-Rite Catholic Community: Our Lady of Mesopotamia



December 29th, 2013 in the Year of Grace
Sunday within the Octave of Christmas
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

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Mary Immaculate of Lourdes Parish

270 Elliot Street Newton, MA 02464

Parish Staff

PASTOR: FATHER CHARLES JEREMIAH HIGGINS

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE: MR. DAVID ALLEN

VISITING ASSISTANT PRIEST: FATHER ALVARO SILVA

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: JEAN JOHNSON (DIRECTOR)
PATTI STROM (LATIN MASS CHILDREN'S CATECHISM)

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: MRS. BOBBIE HOFFMANN

PARISH & CEMETERY SECRETARY: MARGIE BIBBO

FIRST SACRISTAN: MANNY GOGUEN

SECOND SACRISTAN: ANGELUS DAVULIS

SACRISTANS: FRANCIS GALLAGHER, TOM GOGUEN,
PETER GOGUEN, JONATHAN PHILLIPS, EARL SMITH

SEXTON: SEAN WARD (RETIRED CEMEMTERY

SUPERINTENDENT)

PARISH/CEMETERY BUSINESS OFFICE: SHARON HOGAN

Telephones

Parish Office: 617-244-0558 / FAX 617-965-4815

Email: miol@parishmail.com

Website: www.maryimmaculatenewton.org



Parish Cemetery of Saint Mary's, Needham GUARDIAN ESTATE MANAGEMENT INC.

Mr. Ron Goguen, Superintendent .

Guardian Staff on-site for service hours Mon.-Fri.,
9 AM—3 PM, April through November.

The Cemetery Office is located at the parish
rectory on 270 Elliot St, Newton Upper Falls and is
open Monday-Friday, 8 AM—5 PM.

Telephone: 781-235-1841

Mass Schedule

Sunday: 4:00 PM (Saturday Vigil), 7:30 AM
9:00 AM, 10:30 AM (Traditional Latin), 5:30 PM

Weekdays: Monday—Friday 7:30 AM

Traditional Latin Low Mass:

Mon., Wed. & Fri., 12:30 PM; Tues. & Thurs.,
5:30 PM, Sat. 9:00 AM.

Holy Days: if Mon-Fri., 7:30 AM., 12:30, 5:30 &
7:30 PM.; if on Saturday, 7:30, 9:00 & 10:30 AM

Christmas Eve: 4:00 PM & 12 Midnight

Christmas Day: 7:30, 9:00 & 10:30 AM

January 1st: 7:30, 9:00 & 10:30 AM

SACRAMENTS

Baptism: Upon request. Please contact Father Higgins.

Penance (Confession):

Saturday 8:30-9:00 A.M. and 3:30-4:00 PM
Sunday, before and after the 10:30 a.m. AM Mass,
Weekdays, before and after the Latin daily Masses

Matrimony:

Engaged couples should make arrangements with the
parish church so as to allow for adequate sacramental
preparation (six months), including a Pre-Cana program.

Pastoral Care of the Sick

Anointing of the Sick (for those who are gravely ill or
facing serious surgery); **Communion of the Sick for
the Homebound:** Please contact Father Higgins.

DECEMBER IS THE MONTH OF THE DIVINE INFANCY



FRONT COVER: Stained glass window of the Flight into Egypt from the interior of our parish church. This is the center of the long window which stretches across the vestibule of the main church. St. Matthew's Gospel tells us that St. Joseph was warned in a dream to flee at once because King Herod's soldiers were seeking to kill Jesus. The Holy Family escaped into Egypt, but inside the territories controlled by the usurper Herod all infant boys from the age of two and under were slaughtered. These are the "Holy Innocents" who died in the place of Christ and so have their own special reward in Heaven. Their feast is celebrated each year within the Octave of Christmas on December 28th. (Photo by Paul Eldridge.)

Pastor's Note

ST. THOMAS BECKET

Before Christmas this year the Irish actor Peter O'Toole died at the age of 80 after a distinguished stage and movie actor. One of the rôles which launched his career was his portrayal of King Henry II in the story of the murder of St. Thomas Becket. (Richard Burton played the title rôle of Becket).



Thomas Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury, England, was murdered in his cathedral church on December 29th, A.D. 1170. He was murdered by a band of

knights from King Henry's court who thought they were carrying out the King's will. Once Thomas Becket had been King Henry's favorite, both his chancellor and boon companion. When Thomas was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury, however, he took very seriously the duty of his office to resist the encroachments of royal power on the liberty of the Church, which at that time in history involved disputes over revenues and the independence of ecclesiastical courts.

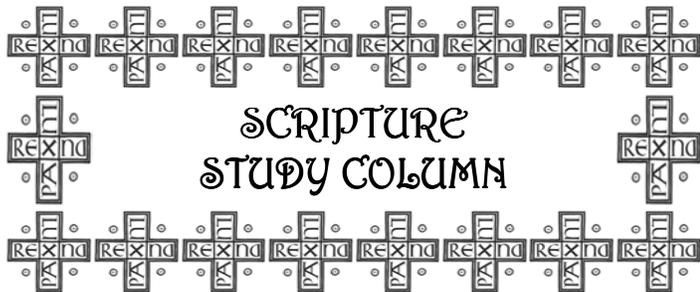
Both the crime of murder and the added act of sacrilege horrified all of Europe at that time and popular opinion made of him a saint and martyr. King Henry of England, for his part, had to abase himself in public penance.

As historians have pointed out, Thomas Becket had real personal flaws and was in many respects an unsympathetic character. In the words of the British Jesuit Fr. Herbert Thurston: "he was proud, irascible, violent, and remained so all his life." (*Butler's Lives of the Saints*, Thurston & Attwater edition.) But in his resistance to the despotic power-grabs of King Henry he was in the right.

In much of the world today and in our own country the royal power of old has evolved into the secular state-power. The aura of royal prestige has been replaced by the aura of a state power which claims the prerogative to re-shape the whole of society. Rights of conscientious objection and the liberty of the Church are endangered as a consequence. Now, as in 12th century England, the Catholic Church as an institution is not without flaws and individual bishops may even be unsympathetic characters. Nonetheless the Catholic Church has a duty to defend itself through the authoritative voice of its bishops against the aggression of the secular state. It is not "divisive" and "partisan" to insist that there are limits to what any state authority can justly impose.

(Fr. Higgins)

KNOW YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH



SCRIPTURE STUDY COLUMN



GOSPEL OF SAINT LUKE BIBLE STUDY

Luke 5:17-26

Immediately after the healing of the leper, Jesus' fame increases exponentially. St. Luke tells us that "great crowds assembled to listen to Him and to be cured of their ailments" (v. 16). The sentiment amongst the members of the crowd might have been

something like this: "If He healed even *this* man (i.e., the leper), perhaps He can heal me, too." In fact, Jesus does far more amazing things than healing the leper, as the Gospel progresses (raising the dead, for instance). St. Luke also mentions that even religious leaders from Jerusalem are present (v. 17). We should remember that Jesus commanded the healed leper to make the trek to Jerusalem, show himself to the priest, and offer sacrifice to certify his cleansing (v. 14). The sight of a healed leper obviously stirred enough interest in Jerusalem for many Pharisees to come all that way.

St. Luke prefaces his account of the healing of the paralytic with these words: "and the power of the Lord was with him for healing" (v. 17). This hearkens back to the words of the people in the synagogue of Capernaum after the exorcism (cf. 4:36). By using this phrase, St. Luke reaffirms that

Jesus is the Son of God and Messiah, who accomplishes the will of the Father (cf. Jn. 5:36). His words and works flow from His identity and mission (cf. Lk. 4:18-19).

Most of us cannot stand crowds.

Nevertheless, if any of us had the chance to see our favorite actor or athlete come to town, we would probably do whatever we could to see him or her, and just put up with the crowd. Indeed, the men who carry their paralyzed friend to Jesus exemplify the height of such determination. It is hard enough to move through a crowd without luggage- imagine the struggle of carrying a paralyzed man. Their determination is so strong, though, that they hoist him up onto the roof (possibly St. Peter's roof), have the gall to remove the tiles, and lower him down (vv. 18-19). St. Luke interprets this action not in terms of vandalism, but faith. He tells us that Jesus "saw their faith" (v. 20). The friends of the paralyzed man are so set on bringing him to Jesus, that no obstacle is too big to prevent it from happening. Is any obstacle too big to prevent us from coming to Mass (besides the exceptions of health or extraordinary circumstance)? Should anything be so important as to prevent us from praying for our own or others' needs, and placing them in the presence of the Lord?

As a consequence of the faith of the paralytic's friends, Jesus says to him, "Your sins are forgiven" (v. 20). As He often does, Jesus gets to the heart of the matter. As Scott Hahn once noted in a talk on the Sacrament of Confession, Jesus identifies a problem deeper than the man's paralysis- his sin. In view of eternity, being forgiven of sin, both Original and actual, is far more important than physical healing (as important as that is). The Pharisees are right to object to Jesus' declaration, in the sense that it belongs to God alone to forgive sin. What they fail to realize, however, is that Jesus *does* have such authority, because He is God. Herein lies the magnitude of Jesus' claim, which He backs up indisputably by making the paralyzed man walk. Jesus Christ is, in fact, the divine Son of God, who has the authority to forgive sins, and whose healing presence is greater than any sin we could ever commit (cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church* no. 982). Indeed, the Lord wants us to be free of sin. When we hear Him say to the paralytic, "rise, pick up your stretcher, and go home," we should hear

Jesus addressing us individually, and be heartened. After coming to Him with the guilt of our sins and burdens, we need not carry them anymore, but rather, focus our attention on walking in the freedom of His love.

(David Allen)



WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY: "THE GOSPEL OF LUKE"



David Allen, our Pastoral Associate, hosts a weekly Bible Study on the Gospel of Luke every Friday morning at 8:20 AM (after the 7:30 Parish Mass). The Bible Study meets in the Lower Rectory Conference Room (in rectory basement). It is an open group and all are welcome to attend.

Refreshments provided. Please bring your Bible.

FAITH FORMATION

A survey course on the Catholic Faith led by David Allen on **Sundays from mid-September through mid-May**, from 12:15-1:15 PM. This class is particularly appropriate for any inquirers who might be seeking to learn more about the Faith, or might desire to be baptized and/or confirmed, as well as for those who are already Catholic, and who wish to have a deeper knowledge of their Faith.

The two texts for the class are the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, as well as Peter Kreeft's excellent book *Catholic Christianity*, both of which will be provided at the class for a suggested donation to the parish of \$25.00.

Where? Rectory sun porch (on first floor; please enter rectory at front door)

When? Sundays, 12:15-1:15 PM

This is an open class and new participants are invited to join at any time during the course-year.



NO CLASSES DURING CHRISTMAS VACATION, DECEMBER 29th & JANUARY 5th.



Many thanks to all of the parish children who participated in our Christmas Eve pageant this year.



Mr. David Allen is the lay Pastoral Associate for our parish of Mary Immaculate of Lourdes. He is currently working towards a Master's Degree in Theological Studies (MTS) at St. John's Seminary.

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ADULT FAITH FORMATION WILL NOT MEET THIS WEEK ON THE SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS, DECEMBER 29th

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS



CHRISTMAS CAROLING VISIT TO THE STONE INSTITUTE. SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29th

TO ONE & ALL: Please join the Ladies' Sodality on a visit to the Stone Institute (right across Elliot Street) to sing Christmas Carols to the residents on the Sunday after Christmas, DECEMBER 29th, 2013.

We will gather on the front steps of the church after the 10:30 Mass.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 5th, 2014:
RECTORY OPEN HOUSE from 8:30 AM
until 2:30 PM.**

Please come to enjoy Christmas hospitality after Mass on Sunday, January 5th, the Twelfth Day of Christmas.



**"It would be easier for the earth
to carry on without the sun
than without the Holy Mass."
—Padre Pio**

TRADITIONAL CATHOLIC CALENDAR FOR A.D. 2014 ON SALE:



As in years past, we are offering the Traditional Liturgical Calendar put out by the Seraphim Company for sale. The Calendar follows the old Roman Liturgical Calendar which can be used with the 1962 Missal. The price is **\$10** and goes to the support of the parish.

Calendars may be purchased downstairs after the 10:30 Mass or at the rectory office.

Nursing Home Masses in the Parish for the Month of January:

**Thursday, January 2nd:
STONE INSTITUTE**

**Thursday, January 9th:
WINGATE MANOR**

(Masses are at 2:00 PM)



***SPECIAL INTENTION: For all the
expectant mothers of our parish
family.***

"St. Gerard Majella, pray for us"

Prayer for Motherhood:

***O good St. Gerard, powerful intercessor before
God and Wonderworker of our day, I call upon thee and seek
thy aid. Thou who on this earth didst always fulfil God's
designs, help me to do the Holy Will of God. Beseech the
Master of Life, from Whom all paternity proceedeth, to render
me fruitful in offspring, that I may raise up children to God in
this life and heirs to the Kingdom of His Glory in the world to
come. Amen.***

PARISH FELLOWSHIP



**WE INVITE EVERYONE TO
JOIN US FOR COFFEE HOUR
DOWNSTAIRS EACH
SUNDAY AFTER THE 10:30
LATIN MASS.**

LATIN MASS TEXTS: SUNDAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

INTROIT: *Wisdom 18: 14-15* While all things were in quiet silence, and the night was in the midst of her course, Thy almighty Word, O Lord, came down from heaven from Thy royal throne. *Psalm 92: 1* The Lord hath reigned, He is clothed with beauty: the Lord is clothed with strength, and hath girded Himself. *V.* Glory be to the Father.

COLLECT Almighty and everlasting God, direct our actions according to Thy good pleasure: that we may deserve to abound in good works in the name of Thy beloved Son: Who with Thee liveth.

EPISTLE: *Galatians 4: 1-7* Brethren, as long as the heir is a child, he differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all: but is under tutors and governors until the time appointed by the father: so we also, when we were children, were serving under the elements of the world. But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, that He might redeem them who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because you are sons, God hath sent the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying: Abba, Father. Therefore now he is not a servant, but a son: and if a son, an heir also through God.

GRADUAL: *Psalm 44: 3, 2* Thou art beautiful above the sons of men: grace is poured abroad in Thy lips. *V.* My heart hath uttered a good word, I speak my words to the king: my tongue is the pen of a scrivener, that writeth swiftly. **ALLELUIA:** *Psalm 92: 1* Alleluia, alleluia. *V.* the Lord hath reigned, He is clothed with beauty: the Lord is clothed with strength, and hat girded Himself with might. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: *Luke 2: 33-40* **A**t that time Joseph and Mary the Mother of Jesus were wondering at those things which were spoken concerning Him. And Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother: Behold, this child is set for the fall, and for the resurrection of many in Israel: and for a sign which shall be contradicted: and thy own soul a sword shall pierce, that out of many hearts thoughts may be revealed. And there was one Anna a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was far advanced in years, and had lived with her husband seven years from her virginity. And she was a widow until fourscore and four years: who departed not from the temple, by fastings and prayers serving night and day. Now she, at the same hour, coming in, confessed to the Lord: and spoke of Him to all that looked for the redemption of Israel. And after they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee to their city Nazareth. And the Child grew and waxed strong, full of wisdom: and the grace of God was in Him.



OFFERTORY: *Psalm 92: 1-2* God hath established the world, which shall not be moved: Thy throne, O God, is prepared from of old, Thou art from everlasting.

SECRET Grant, we beseech Thee, almighty God, that the gifts now offered in the sight of Thy Majesty may obtain for us both the grace of tender devotion, and the reward of a blessed eternity. Through our Lord.

COMMUNION: *Matthew 2: 20* Take the Child and His mother and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead who sought the life of the Child.

POSTCOMMUNION By the virtue of this mystery, O Lord, may our vices be purged away and our just desires fulfilled. Through our Lord.

PARISH CHRISTMAS & EPIPHANY
SCHEDULE 2013-2014



Octave Day of Christmas,
Wednesday, January 1st, Mary
the Mother of God:

Masses at 7:30, 9:00 & 10:30
AM

(The 10:30 Mass will be a Traditional
Latin Mass. January 1st is a Holy Day
of Obligation.)

Sunday, January 5th:
(The Twelfth Day of
Christmas)

Mass of the Epiphany, 4:00 PM (Sat), 7:30 & 9 AM, 5:30 PM
Mass of the Most Holy Name of Jesus, 10:30 AM
Open House at the Rectory from 8:30 AM-2:30 PM

The Epiphany of the Lord, Monday, January 6th: (traditional) Masses at 12:30
PM and Sung Mass at 7:30 PM
("Three Kings" Reception at the rectory after the 7:30 PM Mass)

Candlemas Day, Sunday, February 2nd: Blessing of Candles and
Procession at the 10:30 AM Mass

Candlemas is the last Feast of the Christmas Cycle



Calendar of Masses

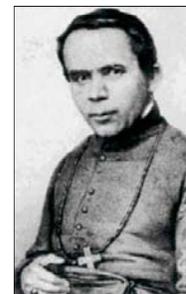
(Intention of the Mass—Special Remarks—Requested by)

SATURDAY December 28th	4:00 PM	Adams Infants		Shawn Adams
SUNDAY December 29th <i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph/Sunday after Christmas</i>	7:30 AM 9:00 AM 10:30 AM 5:30 PM	Pro Populo Joyce Higgins Leo Peter Spinelli Christine Kwash Kenneth Knoller Elaine Priest	Memorial Memorial Birthday Intention Memorial Memorial	Slifka Family Laurie Spinelli Dan Kwash Stephen LeBlanc Pat Lynch
MONDAY December 30th <i>6th Day of Christmas</i>	7:30 AM 12:30 PM 5:30 PM	Purgatorial Society of Mary Immaculate of Lourdes Parish Commemoration of the Faithful Departed Pro Populo	Memorial Memorial	
TUESDAY December 31st <i>St. Sylvester</i>	7:30 AM 5:30 PM	Patricia Quinan Michael Arno	Memorial Memorial	Quinan Family Mary Bennett
WEDNESDAY January 1st OCTAVE DAY OF CHRISTMAS	7:30 AM 9:00 AM 10:30 PM	Pro Populo CM Basketball Team Arline Covalli	Memorial Special Intention	Kay Mullen Kim Smith Susan Goeller
THURSDAY January 2nd <i>Ss. Basil & Gregory</i>	7:30 AM 5:30 PM	<i>Intention of the Celebrant</i> Thomas & Eleanor Pollard	Memorial	Stephen Pollard
FRIDAY January 3rd First Friday	7:30 AM 12:30 PM	<i>Intention of the Celebrant Health of the Sick</i> <i>Intention of the Celebrant</i>		
SATURDAY January 4th <i>St. Elizabeth Anne Seton</i> First Saturday	9:00 AM 4:00 PM	Jerome Blomquist Mark O'Sullivan	Memorial Memorial	John & Mary Bennett Family



Saint Elizabeth Anne Seton

St. John Neumann

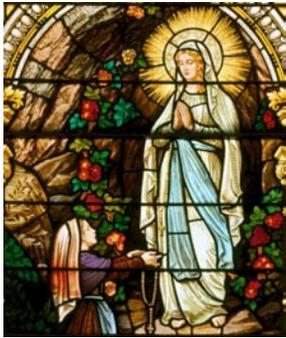


**“Each Mass has an infinite, immense value
that we can never fully understand.”**
—St. John Marie Baptiste Vianney,
Curé d’Ars

HEALTH OF THE SICK

“In every man there is Jesus, but in the sick we see Jesus twice.”—Padre Pio

For all those on our parish prayer list, especially for... Dave Welch, Xavier Beligné, Catherine Morceau, Peter Simak, Anna Maria Simakova, Emka Simakova, Jacob Simak, Margaret Cutler, Andrew Mahowald, Emily Kwash, John DiMartinis, Lily Langway, Linden Yee, Gerry Mazzarella, Rocco Sozio, Sr. Giuseppina Cecilia Sozio, Iolanda Imperiale, Pat Madden, Evelyn Rice, Jane Dippo, Tom Fell, Cynthia Adkins, Norman Sabbey, James McCloskey, Dotty Hayes, Wendy Watts, Joseph F. Fresolo Sr., George Jay, Barbara Nyhen, Rev. Walter Cuenin, Ronald Orlando, Dominic Gundrum, Louis Komuves, Sr. Catherine Granfield, Mary Adams, Hugh Doyle, Lorraine Orlando, Rob Quagan, Paul Wenger, Nathan Johnston, Janet Pino, Fr. Carney Gavin, Irene Campana, Maureen Nyhen, Francis McNary, Warren Yee, Betty Chrichi, Marie Rappazzini, Mary Trombetta, Helen Reid, Lois Ludwig, Paula Apothacary, Sam Adams III, Altair da Silva, Christina Kwash, Kitty Ward, Spagnuolo Family, Katie O’Connell, Janet Bourgeois, Judy Sartell, Lana Tomchik, Matthew Banks, Patrick Rainey, Judy Pederson, Ed Donovan, Danny O’Brien, Helen Donnelly, Priscilla Brossard, Mary Sims, Billy Hickey, Lee-Anne Ketchum, Arthur Nauss, Rod MacLeod, Monica Wellenstein, Teresa Tambunan, Mary Platt, Sean Monaghan, Sheila Whittle, Michelle Fay, Bobbie Hoffmann, Beverly Balconi, Martial Rainey, Dennis McCarthy, Edward Crestitelli, Erin Marie Fell, Dominic Cantillo, Theresa Higgins, Lita Uilaoghaire, Norman Alibrandi, Karen Starbird, Jack Buckley, Edward Fahey, Nancy Daly, Marie Schroter, Dorothy Alibrandi, Annie Procopio, Marie Danca, David Kase, Thaddeus Davulis, Andrew McCloskey, Barbara Sullivan, Lucia LoPresti, Polly Sullivan.



“I do not promise to make you happy in this life, but in the next”—Our Lady of Lourdes to St. Bernadette, February 18th, 1858

MILITARY SERVICE PRAYER LIST:

We remember all of our military servicemen and women, especially ... Sgt. Troy Stemen, U.S. Army (Afghanistan), Mark Gaudet, Army Special Forces, Pierre K. Ripert, USN, Matthew Simard, 1st Lt., USMC (Afghanistan), Michael Simard, PFC, USMC, Lance Cpl. Alex Tomchik, USMC, Brian Rainey, US Army (Afghanistan), Joseph Rainey, US Army, Sgt. Kevin James Howard, USMC (Afghanistan), Sgt. Brian Joseph Howard, USMC Afghanistan), Sgt. William J. Duggan, U.S. Army, 342nd Military Police Detachment, deployed to Afghanistan March, 2010; ; Sgt. 1st Class David Garduque; ; Sgt. Jeffrey R. Quinn, USMC; (Please let us know if you would like someone on active duty prayed for by name.)

Pray for Tommy Holcum, severely wounded in a Taliban ambush in Afghanistan.

Pray for Pfc Bowe Bergdahl, captured by the Taliban in Afghanistan.

IN THANKSGIVING: Christopher Raymond, 82nd Airborne has safely returned from Afghanistan



Requiescant in Pace

Pray for the resurrection of:

**Robert F. Robillard Jr.,
aged 61**



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 1 John 4:8

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