

Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 19:

4:30 pm Marie Comeau & Anita Jeffrey

Sunday, February 20:

7:00 am For the Intentions of the People of the Parish

9:00 am Meloni Family

11:00 am Frances LaRosa

Monday, February 21:

9:00 am Danielle Struzziery

Thursday, February 24:

9:00 am Marylyn Murray

Saturday, January 26:

4:30 pm Margaret Herlihy

Sunday, January 27:

7:00 am For the Intentions of the People of the Parish

9:00 am Regina Capellupo

11:00 am Heather Mazzeo

The Spirituality of Stewardship – Report on Offertory Contribution

As Christian stewards, we receive God's gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them with others and return them with increase to the Lord.

	Last Week	Year to Date
Envelopes	\$3,694	
Loose Cash	\$1,863	
Parish Pay	\$ 906	
Total	\$6,463	\$190,146
Budgeted Offertory Expected to be collected	\$5,278	\$194,769
Excess (Shortfall)	\$ 1,185	(\$4,623)

Many of our parishioners contribute electronically through Parish Pay. You may sign up at www.paritypay.com or by calling the Parish Office at 925-0680.

Readings for the Week of February 20, 2011

Sunday: Lv 19:1-2, 17-18/1 Cor 3:16-23/Mt 5:38-48

Monday: Sir 1:1-10/Mk 9:14-29

Tuesday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Mt 16:13-19

Wednesday: Sir 4:11-19/Mk 9:38-40

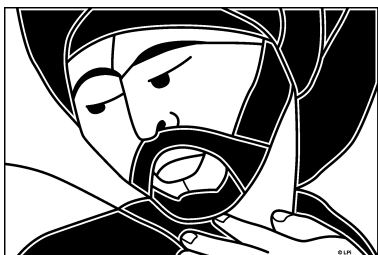
Thursday: Sir 5:1-8/Mk 9:41-50

Friday: Sir 6:5-17/Mk 10:1-12

Saturday: Sir 17:1-15/Mk 10:13-16

Next Sunday: Is 49:14-15/1 Cor 4:1-5/Mt 6:24-34

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Parish Activities

Sunday, February 20:

NO Grade 10 Confirmation Class

Monday, February 21:

NO Grade 6, 7 & 11 Faith Formation Classes

Tuesday, February 22:

NO Grade 3 & 4 Faith Formation Classes

NO Rosary – vacation week

Wednesday, February 23:

NO Grade 1 Faith Formation Class

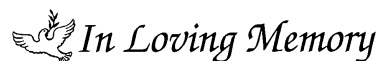
Thursday, February 24:

NO Grade 2 & 5 Faith Formation Classes

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, February 27:

6:30 pm Grade 10 Confirmation Class

*In Loving Memory*

Please remember in your prayers, Jean Newcomb & David Doyle, who passed away recently. May their souls and the Souls of All the Faithful Departed Rest In Peace. AMEN!

“All we have and all we are is a gift from God . . .”

The weekend of March 5-6 will be **Catholic Appeal Weekend** here at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish. Cardinal Seán is asking every Catholic Household to participate in the **2011 Catholic Appeal**, which funds many of the central ministries and services of the Archdiocese of Boston.

The Catholic Appeal is to our diocese what the weekly offering is to our parish, so your participation and support are critical. Because of the current economic climate, the need for the ministries supported by the Catholic Appeal has increased, making support for the Appeal more urgent than ever.

Please begin to consider prayerfully how you will participate. With your gift, we will be able to fulfill this year's theme of **“Offering Hope by Sharing God's Gifts.”** Every gift matters. For more information, please visit www.BostonCatholicAppeal.org. Thank you! And may God bless you for your generosity.

“You have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil. When someone strikes you on your right cheek, turn the other one as well.” - Mt 5:38-39

From the Pastor...

Last week I was returning to Hull from a commitment I had in Framingham. I am friendly with a wonderful community of nuns, the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm, who run a nursing home/assisted living community called St. Patrick's Manor. Every year, on the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes, they have (appropriately enough) a healing Mass, which I assist at. They have a chapel there, which is usually quite full, and during the service we offer the Anointing of the Sick to the residents who were able to make it out of their rooms. Directly after Mass, my priests and I fan out all over the building to offer the sacrament to those folks who were too ill to attend the Mass. My good friend, Sr. Mary Brigid Riley, runs the show and does a marvelous job. She just celebrated her Golden Jubilee, which is hard to believe considering she has the energy of a sixteen-year-old. (If you think I have a lot of energy, you haven't seen anything until you've met her!) I was bragging to Sr. Brigid about my new assignment. "I got a great one!" I told her. "The people are wonderful. They've been so welcoming and kind and polite." On my way home, as I entered Hull, I came upon a gaggle of geese on the side of the road. They looked like they wanted to cross. (This sounds like the beginning of a joke; "Why did the geese cross the road?") Each and every one of them used the crosswalk and I *swear* the last one looked at me and nodded its head, as if to say, "Thank you, sir." "Wow," I thought, "even the geese are polite!"

My friends, it's been a long winter, hasn't it? And to think we still have a good chunk of it left to go! You know, as tough as these winters can be, they offer us an opportunity. Our lives are so busy, aren't they? We seemed to be whisked from one place to another and barely have time to catch our breath. No one seems to be immune from this, even children. It seems like sports schedules are much more demanding than they ever were. (Sadly, these obligations now spill over into Sunday, a regrettable shift in priorities in our culture.) Priests are not immune from this "over-scheduling," either, believe me. My friends, sometimes, the snowy days can offer us an opportunity. They can *force* us to just slow down, to stay indoors, to just spend time with each other. They can also offer us an opportunity to spend time with God, to just "be" with Him. Many people come to me and tell me, "Father, I feel terrible. I am so busy, I feel like I don't even have time to pray. I feel like I've forgotten *how* to pray." Sometimes, just spending a few moments – eyes closed, maybe, or looking out the window – where we just empty ourselves and let God fill us, that right there can be a prayer. There is a great tradition in the Church of "silence as prayer." Maybe in these cold, snowy days, we can all seize the opportunity turn off the noise and spend time with God in silence. We all might be pleasantly surprised at how spiritually fulfilled we feel afterwards!

As I've said on more than one occasion, I love the saints, and would love to close my reflections with a little quote from them. Today's is from that great saint of the early Church, St. Gregory Nazianzen.

*"Give something, however small, to the one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could."
-St. Gregory Nazianzen*

Faith Formation News...Babysitting Success!

Many thanks to the parents who supported our Valentine's Babysitting evening. We had 42 energetic children spend last Saturday evening with us as we kicked off our fundraising efforts for our summer service projects. It was a whirlwind of activity with the children (ages 2-11) spread out in the gathering area as well as in the hall playing games, reading books, coloring, watching Toy Story 3, building things, and eating pizza and snacks (in the hall only!). Thank you to the high school service students as well as some future service students who enthusiastically took part in the activities with the children. A special thank you to Cindy Whelan, Joanne Pearson and Ann Marie Lyons who gave their time to oversee the evening. This summer, over 30 high school students will spend a week in either Newark, NJ or Worcester, MA living their baptismal call to care for one another.

Deacon Ted Doyle Memorial Blanket Drive

For many years, you, the members of the parish, have shown great generosity in helping to purchase blankets for the homeless, for people in shelters, for refugees forced to live in cold apartments, and for local families experiencing hard times. In honor of our beloved Deacon Ted Doyle, who worked so hard for this cause, we the parishioners of St. Mary's are carrying on this tradition of sharing. At a price of \$8.00 each, these warm blankets can make a major difference to a family that is cold. Check should be made out to **St. Francis Christian Service**. Cash is also acceptable. Your donations may be left at the parish office or in the Donation Box in the Gathering Space. As Deacon Doyle always said, ***"Your donation is tax deductible and divinely accountable."***

Please do not bring actual blankets, as we have no facility to store them.



The Boston Council Society of St Vincent de Paul has informed us that it is once again time to tell our parishioners who have children attending parochial school that applications are now being accepted for the 2011-2012 school year for tuition assistance grants. These are awarded to students in grades 1-8 to assist them in receiving a parochial school education.

Each grant is for \$1000.00 per school year, which will be divided into two payments of \$500 each, paid directly to the schools. The first payment is in Sept. 2011 and the second in January 2012.

These grants are based on financial need, although there are no income limits involved. Your child's academic record is also taken into consideration. If you are interested in getting more information on this program or want to schedule an appointment to complete the application, please contact the Parish Office at 781-925-0680.

Applications and our recommendations must be received at the Boston Council by April 1, 2011 (no exceptions), so we are asking that all interested parties contact us as soon as possible to complete the application by March 19, 2011. If your child is awarded a grant, you will be notified by mail, as will the school they attend.