

## ST. JOSEPH PARISH

Rev. Daniel C. O'Connell, Pastor

Organist-Music Director: Joseph Cipoletta

Parish Secretary: Fran Ryan

Parish Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9:am-3:00pm

Sacrament of Penance: Sat 3:30pm-4pm

Tel: 617-523-4342

FAX: 617-523-8459

## Mass Intentions

## Saturday, January 9

4:00 PM St. Anthony and St. Jude

## Sunday, January 10

9:00 AM Gust Gallucci

11:30 AM Mary Colleen Nelson, Month's Mind

5:00 PM For the Parishioners

## Monday, January 11

12:10 PM Ann &amp; Harold Ryder

## Tuesday, January 12

12:10 PM Thanksgiving for Alfred Abou-Hamad  
and Family

## Wednesday, January 13

12:10 PM Audrey Kroner

## Thursday, January 14

12:10 PM Thanksgiving for Giselle Damiani  
and Family

## Friday, January 15

12:10 PM Rita Flannagan

## Saturday, January 16

4:00 PM Special Intention

## Sunday, January 17

9:00 AM Thanksgiving for Mary Saadeh  
and Family

11:30 AM St. Joseph, Thanksgiving

5:00 PM Pam Simms

## Parish Support

January 2-3 Offertory

\$3,061



After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. - Lk 3:21-22a

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

## PARISH MEMBERSHIP

As we start the New Year we invite any of our parishioners who have not registered for our parish to sign up by filling out a registration form that can be found at the back of the Church or simply call the parish office during the week at 617-523-4342. We will add you to our list and welcome you with a smile!



Martin Luther King

## MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

We will celebrate Martin Luther King Day with a Mass on Monday, January 18th at 10:00am! Please join us!

## BAPTISM OF THE LORD

The old African-American spiritual "Michael Row the Boat Ashore" has one verse that goes, "Jordan's river is chilly and cold / hallelujah / chills the body but not the soul / hallelujah." We don't know what the temperature of the Jordan River was when Jesus stepped into it in front of John the Baptist. But Luke's Gospel relates that, after he had been baptized and while he was praying, the heavens opened up and the Holy Spirit descended upon him. A voice from heaven was heard, saying, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

It is unlikely that any such explicitly miraculous events occurred at our own baptism, or any that we may have attended. But something just as momentous did take place when we were baptized. In our baptism we became intimately connected to God; we became God's own children, just as Jesus is the Father's beloved Son. And when we were baptized, the Holy Spirit descended upon us, not as a dove, but as the Spirit of God that always dwells in our hearts. That connectedness to God never disappears. Even when we are guilty of the worst sins, God is with us. We believe that the Holy Spirit dwells in us, helping us to act more and more like Christ as we reaffirm our baptismal commitment.

While we celebrate the signs and wonders at the Jordan that herald Jesus' baptism and the beginning of his public ministry, we also recall that our own baptism begins the call to minister in this world. Our baptismal call is to act like Christ, to be his hands, and voice, and heart in this world. When we act like him, we can be assured we too will hear the Father's voice, "with you I am well pleased."

**REFLECTIONS FROM  
FATHER CHARLES SHEEHY**

A beautiful ending, the feast called Epiphany. The name enjoys many meanings. We can find manifestation, the images of sun, star and light, and its Christian usage, the first and final coming of Christ.

The close association of "Magi," wise men from the East, relates the coming of scholars from Persia. They had been interested in studying the influence of heavenly bodies on human affairs. They would indeed have been pagans seeking truth.

These pagans seek truth; Herod, ruler of Galilee, sought to kill the infant Jesus, whom Herod considered a threat.

The Magi, following the star, find Jesus with Mary, His mother. Surely Joseph, foster father of Jesus, is also present. The Magi, warned by an angel, return to their country by another way.

The Christmas season ends with the baptism of Jesus by St. John the Baptist. John refuses at first, knowing that it is he, not Jesus, who needs baptism. When he finally consents, he sees Jesus coming out of the water.

The heavens open, the Spirit of God descends on Jesus, and a voice from heaven says, "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased."

**CHRISTIAN VOCATION**

On the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, January 10, the Church invites us to consider our own vocation. How can I discern God's call? How can I listen to God's invitation? We have all been chosen by God through our Baptism. Take time with God and others to explore your vocational call. The time is right; God is waiting for you.

A panel of men and women will speak about their vocations at St. Michael's Parish Hall, North Andover, on Sunday, January 10, 2:00 to 5:00 PM, including Vespers and Benediction. Please respond to Sister Marian Batho, CSJ, at 617-746-5637 or Sr\_Marian\_Batho@rcab.org

**OUR GRAND ANNUAL APPEAL**

We are pleased to report a total of \$54,152 in pledges and donations, to our Grand Annual Appeal to date, 77% of our goal of \$70,000. Pledge cards and envelopes are available in the back of the church. Thank you for your faith, love and generous support! Through your kindness Jesus' work continues.

**FEEDING THE HOMELESS**

On Monday, December 28, a group of parishioners hosted a dinner of lasagna, meatballs, Italian string beans, rolls, butter, and ice cream sandwiches to approximately 150 homeless and hungry people. Thank you for your continuing support of this needy project as part of Neighborhood Action outreach.

**PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL**

REMINDER: Next meeting will be Tuesday, January 12, at 7:00pm, in the Parish Hall.

**HELP! HELP! HELP! CHRISTMAS HELP!**

This Sunday after the 5:00pm Mass help is needed to take down our Christmas Decorations. Many hands make light work. It will take but a moment. Thanks!

**BLOOD DRIVE — M. L. King Day**

Giving blood is always a fine gesture. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Blood Drive will be held on Monday, January 18, 12:00 to 5:00pm, at St. Katharine Drexel Parish, 517 Blue Hill Avenue, Dorchester. Host is the Archdiocese of Boston Office of Outreach & Cultural Diversity.

**LIFT — Catholic Worship for a NEW Generation**

LIFT is a monthly worship event for all ages from teens to adults, featuring vibrant praise and worship music, dynamic speakers, and Eucharistic Adoration. Next session is Tues., Jan. 19, 7:00 to 9:00pm, with Fr. John Gerth as guest speaker. Location is Fontbonne Academy, 930 Brook Rd., Milton.

**2009 CATHOLIC APPEAL**

**Responding to God's Grace, Renewing our Church**

Thank you to all supporters of the 2009 Catholic Appeal. Our parish has raised \$30,238 from 57 households, reaching 99.1% percent of our parish goal of \$30,500. If you have not yet pledged, please consider a gift today and help us meet our goal. Remember, our parish will receive 25% of all funds we raise above our goal. You can pick up information packets with pledge forms in the back of the Church.

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION**

Our Marriage Prep Team have been putting together our workshops for this year. The next workshops will be held here at St. Joseph's in the parish hall.

Friday, March 12, 2010, 6:00pm – 7:30pm  
Saturday, March 13, 2010, 9:30am – 3:30pm

Please call the Rectory (617-523-4342) Monday – Friday 9:00am – 3:00pm to register.

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