

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 11, 2016



MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 10 - 4:30 pm, Holy Cross

Sunday, December 11 - 7:45 am, Holy Cross

**Sunday, December 11 - 9:15 am, St. Martin's
Roger Belliveau by the Provonsil family**

Sunday, December 11 - 10:45 am, Holy Cross

Monday - 8 am at Holy Cross, 9 am at St. Vincent

Tuesday - 8 am at Holy Cross, 9 am at St. Vincent de Paul

Wednesday - 8 am at Holy Cross, 9 am at St. Vincent de Paul

Thursday - 8 am at Holy Cross, 9 am at St. Vincent de Paul

Saturday, December 17 - 4:30 pm, Holy Cross

Sunday, December 18 - 7:45 am, Holy Cross

**Sunday, December 18 - 9:15 am, St. Martin's
Anna Henrie by Leander and Anna Cormier**

Sunday, December 18 - 10:45 am, Holy Cross

Weekly Offering: \$458 Fuel: \$161

Second Collection This Week: Retirement Fund for Religious

Thank you to all who make up their envelopes for weekends missed due to vacation, illness or inclement weather.

PRAY FOR THE SICK AND SHUT INS

Please pray for Zachary Fleming, Ruth Alie, Bob Young, Janet Clark, Marie Quader, Marie Jacques, Trey Niles, Margaret Murdock, Connie Hamel, Sandy Kulvete, Alice Ostrowski, Deb Nichols, Mary Amistadi, Dylan Murray, Anne Marie Beliveau, Rachel Catlow, Alicia Wieszorek, Bob Brown, Claudette Yackowski, Emma Blais, Angela Martin, George Yackowski, Donald Leblanc.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Next week, the CCD students in Grades 6-11 will go Christmas Caroling at the homes of some of our shut-in parishioners. The bus leaves at 5:00 pm from the church parking lot.

RESPECT LIFE

"A Child is loved because he is one's child; not because he is beautiful, or because he is like this or like that... Not because he thinks as I do, or embodies my dreams. A child is a child: a life generated by us but intended for him, for his good, for the good of the family, of society, of mankind as a whole."

-Pope Francis, 2/11/15, © 2015 Libreria Editrice Vaticana

POSADA - DECEMBER 17

"POSADA" is a tradition observed by many in the Hispanic culture. Within this celebration, Mary & Joseph seek shelter for the Christ-Child to be born. A format for celebration POSADA has been suggested by the National Knights of Columbus. We shall observe the POSADA ceremony at the 4:30 pm Mass on December 17. Confirmation students will portray the main characters in this re-enactment and all are invited to attend. This is a real opportunity to celebrate Christ in Christmas.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Those of you who desire to do so, may make an offering for our Christmas Altar Flowers and decorations. Envelopes for this purpose is available in the vestibule and are included in your weekly envelope packet. They may be given in memory of loved ones, whose names will appear in our bulletin and who will have a special remembrance at Masses here during the Christmas Season. We ask this be done by Dec. 11, to allow print time for the Dec. 25 bulletin. Thank you!

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS THIS WEEKEND

Please give to those who have given a lifetime. Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests worked for many years for little, if any pay. Please be generous. Thanks!

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE AT TEMPLETON CHURCHES

December 24: 4 pm at Holy Cross, 6:30 pm at St. Vincent de Paul

December 24: Midnight @ St. Martin's

December 25: 10 am at Holy Cross, 8 & 11 am at St. Vincent de Paul

(Please note there will not be a 6 pm Mass at Holy Cross on Christmas Eve. The New Year's Day schedule will be the usual weekend Mass schedule.)

Confession will be held on the First Friday, Dec. 2; on Saturdays at 3:45 pm; and by appointment.

ADVENT CONCERT

The Music Ministry of St. Edward's invites you to an Advent/ Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 11, at 4 PM. Come relax and enjoy the sounds of Advent and Christmas presented by St. Edward's Adult Choir. We hope you can join us!

OPLATEK

Oplatek will be available in the vestibule and at the Holy Cross Rectory for a free will donation for those who would like to keep this tradition.

ST. MARTIN'S HOLIDAY FAIR - THANK YOU

Great weather, great setting, great attendance, great workers — our Holiday Fair last weekend was a great success, netting over \$7,200 for our parish Improvement Fund. “Thank you!!” to all who donated gifts; helped with the set-up, staffing and clean-up; made baked goods and candies; and attended the fair. Special thanks to American Legion Post 373 for allowing us to use their beautiful hall. We heard many positive comments about the event, and met many visitors whose families have been connected with St. Martin's over the years. If you won a prize and have not yet picked it up, please stop by the rectory after Mass today.

120 CLUB

Last week's winner was #59, Claude LaBatt. The final drawing will be held in December... if your ticket is not yet paid up, please see Linda Columbus. Tickets must be paid up in order to be included in the big drawing.

BABY FOOD & CLOTHING DRIVE

During the month of December, our young parishioners sponsor a Baby Food and Clothing collection. Remembering that Jesus came to the world as a baby, we offer gifts of food, clothing, blankets and other baby items for local infants and toddlers. Donations may be left in the bassinet in the vestibule of the church; they will be delivered to the Healthy Families Program of the Gardner Visiting Nurses Association. Two cartons of clothing, food, blankets & accessories, and two bags of disposable diapers & wipes were delivered this week; the drive will continue until Sunday, December 18.

BOOK EXTRAVAGANZA

The Religious Education Board & Rosary Sodality will be hosting their Second “Book Extravaganza” January 29, 2017 at Holy Cross Church. We are in need of gently used books for ages: Preschool - Gr.11. We will also have an Adult section for our Adult parishioners. Please mark donations for which age group, to help with sorting and leave the books on the stage in the church hall. We will be collecting books from now until Jan. 27, 2017.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

“The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom.” As we await the coming of the Lord, let us rejoice and encourage our marriages to bloom by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next WWME Weekends are Jan 20-22, 2017 in Duxbury, MA and Mar 17-19, 2017 in South Kingstown, RI. For more information, call Stephen & Michelle O'Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit us at www.WWMEMA.org.

TEMPLETON FOOD PANTRY

The Templeton Food Pantry is always in need of donations. Non-perishable food may be brought to Mass any Sunday and volunteers will deliver your donations to the Pantry. Please help our neighbors in need.



St. Martin's Catholic Church

248 State Road, Otter River, MA 01436

Rev. Marcin W. Nowicki, Pastor

Richard J. Tatro, Deacon

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Rosary

20 minutes before weekend Masses

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Confessions are heard at 3:45 pm on Saturdays at Holy Cross Church during the fall/winter season, or by appt.

Sacrament of Christian Marriage

Plans may be made by contacting the Pastor at least one year prior to the intended wedding date.

Ministry to the Sick and Elderly

Please notify us when a parishioner is homebound or hospitalized so that we may visit the confined person and offer the sacraments of the Church.

Parish Registration

If you are new to the area, we welcome you to join our parish family. Please introduce yourself after Mass and register in the parish. We want to know and serve you.