

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 24, 2017

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 23 - 4:30 pm, Holy Cross

Sunday, December 24 - 7:45 am, Holy Cross

**Sunday, December 24 - 9:15 am, St. Martin's
Desire Poirier by our parish family**

Sunday, December 24 - 10:45 am, Holy Cross

Sunday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Masses

4:00 pm - Holy Cross

Midnight - St. Martin's

Elsie Smith by Linda & Bob Columbus

Monday, December 25 - Christmas Day - 10 am, Holy Cross

Tuesday - No Mass at Holy Cross, 9 am at St. Vincent de Paul

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

Thursday - 9 am at St. Vincent de Paul

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

Sunday, December 31 - 7:45 am, Holy Cross

**Sunday, December 31 - 9:15 am, St. Martin's
Mary White by Steve & Barbara White**

Sunday, December 31 - 10:45 am, Holy Cross

Monday, January 1 - Solemnity of Mary

8 am - Holy Cross

10 am - St. Martin's

Weekly, Dec 17: \$1,000 Fuel: \$260 Immaculate Conception: \$25

Christmas Flowers: \$5 Retirement Fund for Religious: \$50

PRAY FOR THE SICK AND SHUT INS

Please pray for Raymond Emond, Jennie House, Dianne Murray, Gianna Howlett, 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, Alicia Wieszorek, Claudette Yackowski, Emma Blais, Angela Martin, George Yackowski, Donald Leblanc.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Get more out of Sunday Mass, by reading ahead...

December 31, 2017 — The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

GENESIS 15:1-6, 21:1-3 • HEBREWS 8:11, 11-12, 17-19 • LUKE 2:22-40

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Christmas

December 24: 4 pm at Holy Cross

December 24: Midnight at St. Martin's

December 25: 10:00 am at Holy Cross

New Year's Day

January 1: 8:00 am at Holy Cross

January 1: 10:00 am at St. Martin's



(This year Christmas Eve is on a Sunday. There will be the usual Sunday Morning Masses and the Christmas Eve ones listed above. New Year's Eve also falls on a Sunday, however, there will be NO New Year's Vigil Masses that day. Instead we will have two Masses on New Year's day.)

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

"And the Word became flesh" John 1:14

Jesus is God's ultimate gift of love to us. The countless other blessings that God showers upon us are nothing compared to the gift of His only Son. The only appropriate way for us to respond to such generous love is with our own generous love. When we dedicate our lives to sharing all the gifts God has placed in our hands, the peace of Christ truly will control our hearts and we will know the joy of Christmas every day.

2018 ENVELOPES

Boxed sets of collection envelopes for 2018 are available in the vestibule. If you have used envelopes in the past two years, a set with your name has been prepared. If you would like to begin using envelopes, blank sets are available.

TEMPLETON FOOD PANTRY

Non-perishable food items can be brought to the church any weekend. The food will be picked up and delivered to the food pantry at 16 Senior Drive in Baldwinville. The pantry is open from 9 am - 1 pm on Tuesdays.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK

Please call the rectory when someone is moving to a nursing home, confined to home or in need of prayers. Arrangements can be made to visit or take communion to the homebound. Please pray for all who are sick.

THE NOTICE ZONE"

**A quick reference to "Need to Know" and upcoming Holy Cross
& St. Martin Parish Events**

* Christmas Lights - LaSalette Shrine - Has been rescheduled to Dec. 30, 3-9 pm, Rosary Sodality invites parishioners. Call Joy Taintor 978-632-1104.

* Holy Cross Book Extravaganza, Feb. 4, 2018 see future bulletin for details!

DEAR PARISH FAMILY, MERRY CHRISTMAS!

I am very happy to have my first Christmas among you and with you as your pastor. As we celebrate this year's Christmas, there are many things each one of us is joyful about and thankful for. And that is great, indeed.

However, above all, let each one of us be joyful about and thankful for the fact that, during this year's Advent season, God has given us yet another opportunity to reflect upon our lives and to truly prepare the way in our hearts and lives for Him to come in without obstacles.

Let us all rejoice because the Only Begotten Son of God, our Lord, through whom every created order came to be, has been born in the world to save us. Let us always live out, among our fellow human beings, the love that God showed us by letting his beloved Son, Jesus Christ, be born on earth to bring us peace and fullness of life. Let us be a light to the world because we are Christians and because the Lord truly lives in our hearts.

Again, Merry Christmas to you all!

- Fr. Patrick Ssekyole

WINTER FEST DINNER

A Winter Fest Dinner will be held on Sat. Jan. 6, 2018 at St. Edward the Confessor Church, 10 Church St., Westminster from 5 - 7 pm. Menu will be Pork Loin, applesauce, meatloaf, gravy, mashed potatoes, buttered corn, tangy 4 bean salad, rolls, tapioca pudding and cookies. Cost of dinner is \$10 per adult, \$5 per child under 12 and children under 6 eat free. Tickets are available at the door. For more info, call 978-874-2362.



Diary of a Little Soul

WEEK 13: December 25

I've had a real growth spurt! I'm about the size of a large orange. My thumb finds its way to my mouth more and more now. Perhaps I may continue with this habit after I'm born, depending on my unique personality. Another one of God's amazing secrets is that already some of my movements, as well as my temperament, are similar to Mom's and Dad's even though I won't see them for another five months! So, Merry Christmas family!

*For 'In him we live and move and have our being,'
as even some of your poets have said,
'For we too are his offspring.'*

Acts 17:28



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