

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY
5:00 PM Henry Shaw (20th Anniversary)
 Dean Pickett (65th Birthday Remembrance)

SUNDAY
8:00 AM Lawrence Whelan (1st Anniversary)
 Rhea McGuirk

9:45 AM Sr. Claire Pelletier, DHS
 Joseph & Nancy Hickey

11:30 AM James Bocian
 Louise Dion (7th Anniversary)
Baptism: Dominic James Ciccone

MON. 8:00 AM Louise McAllister and Ann Margaret Carey

TUES. 8:00 AM Ron Fagnant and Helen Grillo

WED. 8:00 AM Eleanor Giamarino (14th Anniversary)

THURSDAY **Christmas Eve Liturgies: 4, 6 & Midnight**

FRIDAY **10 AM Christmas Mass**

SATURDAY
5:00 PM Maurice Thibeau

SUNDAY
8:00 AM Catherine Soucy (24th Anniversary)
 John Shaver (3rd Anniversary)

9:45 AM Theresa Beauchene
 Nancy & Joseph Hickey
Baptism: Joshua Connor Walls

11:30 AM Sister Claire Francis Pelletier
 Jenna Normandin (10th Anniversary)

COFFEE SHOP will be open after the 8 AM and 9:45 AM Masses. Join us for coffee, donuts and friendship.

LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN will be celebrated during the 9:45 AM Mass this Sunday.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS for the week will be Monday through Wednesday from 9 AM to 3 PM. Our office will be closed on Thursday and Friday for the Christmas holiday.

BABYSITTING DURING THE 9:45 AM MASS is provided in the Church Hall for infant or pre-school children. We have both teenage and adult helpers to supervise. No registration necessary.

THE ROSARY is prayed each morning at 7:30 AM before Mass.

PARISH SUPPORT

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|---|--------------------|
| 262 Sunday Envelopes @ | \$5,277.00 |
| 12 Paid Ahead Envelopes @ | 64.00 |
| 99 Make Up Envelopes @ | 1,591.00 |
| Loose Cash@ | 1,387.00 |
| SUNDAY COLLECTION | \$8,319.00 |
| WEEKLY PARISH OVERHEAD (9673.00) | |
| DEFICIT | (1,354.00) |
| DEFICIT YEAR-TO-DATE | (16,511.50) |
| | |
| Monthly Maintenance | \$59.00 |
| Fuel | \$472.00 |
| Holy Day | \$998.00 |
| Religious Retirement | \$3,582.00 |

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



The Gospel today tells of the Virgin Mary, pregnant herself, hurrying off to help her cousin Elizabeth. The model of good stewardship, she who had given herself to bear the Savior gave her time and love to others as well.

PARISH TITHE: Thanks to your generosity \$831.00 will be given to the Our Lady of the Lake Human Services Fund.



CHRISTMAS EVE: Thursday, December 24th
Masses at 4 PM, 6 PM, and 12 AM (Midnight)
Preceded by Choir Music at 11:30 PM

(Please note that the 4 PM Mass is always extremely crowded. You may wish to come early or consider attending another Mass.)

CHRISTMAS DAY: Friday, December 25th
Mass at 10 AM



Cookies for College: A special thanks to all those who donated goodies and helped fill packages with love and care for our college students. Boxes were shipped to 30 of our students who are away at school. We ask for your prayers as they continue to prepare for exams. If you are interested in having your student stay connected with our parish family, please e-mail your child's name, e-mail address and college address to kogradyl@msn.com.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR THE RELIGIOUS

RELIGIOUS GIVE THANKS: To date, our parish contributions for the Retirement Fund for the Religious are \$3,582.00. Of the support offered by this appeal, one religious writes, "We deeply appreciate this assistance. God's loving care touches us through the hearts of thousands of Catholics who give so generously to this collection year after year." Women and men religious throughout the country send their abundant thanks for your donation. We will continue to accept donations for the retired religious at the parish office or in the collection basket. Thank you.

Sound System Update: As mentioned a few weeks ago, we have launched a drive to purchase a new sound system to replace our current system, which is on "borrowed time" and is not able to support our current sound needs. To date, we have raised \$11,500 toward our goal of \$15,000. Having surpassed the 40% needed for a down payment, we hope to have the system installed before Christmas. Donations may be mailed to the parish office or placed in the collection basket. Checks can be made to Our Lady of the Lake with the notation "sound system". Donations made in memory of a loved one, will be remembered on our Memorial Board in the gathering area of the Parish Family Center.

Religious Education

Staff Members: Lisa Sciacca *Director of Religious Ed. High School & Youth Ministry*
 Debbie Wood *Grade Level Coordinator Grades 1-5 and Special Needs*
 Michelle Lutter *Grade Level Coordinator Grades 6-8, Beginnings, CLW Kindergarten*

THERE ARE NO SCHEDULED RELIGIOUS ED. CLASSES ON SUNDAY – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20-22nd. PEER RETREAT TEAM, KINDERGARTEN, BEGINNINGS AND HIGH SCHOOL 1 WILL MEET ON JANUARY 3RD. ALL CLASSES RESUME ON JANUARY 4th and 5th.

CONFIRMATION PICTURES are ready to be picked up in the Family Center outside the Religious Ed. Office.

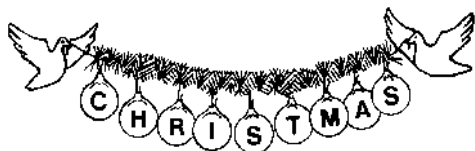
Special Thanks to all those who baked, donated supplies, helped with dressing and prompting and served refreshments for our Christmas pageant! Once again, our children remind us that Jesus is the reason for the Season!

WE ARE STILL IN NEED of Substitute Teachers for Grades 1-5 on Mondays and Tuesdays from 4:15 – 5:15 PM and **especially for** 6-8th grades on Monday nights from 6:45 – 8 PM. Substitutes do not have to be available every week. You are free to say yes or no as your schedule permits, and we will train and support you in every way possible. If you will consider saying yes to this flexible commitment, please call the Religious Ed. Office.

YOUTH MINISTRY is looking for adults who have a love of teens and who would like to be a part of a youth ministry adult planning team. Please call the Religious Ed. Office if you are interested.

RELIGIOUS ED. COMMISSION would like to welcome a few new members. The Commission members serve as a support for the Religious Ed. Program, offering feedback and ideas, and helping with events. If you would like more information, please call the Religious Ed. office.

ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We are still in need of a few adults to help with Child Care from November to May during the 9:45 AM Mass each Sunday. Volunteers typically serve once a month. Please call Lisa at (978) 345-7469 if you are interested.



Ministry at Keystone Nursing Home: During the winter months, 3 of our parishioners who minister at Keystone Nursing Home on Fridays will be in Florida. If you could help us with this ministry, please contact Joan Burns at (978) 342-2978.

EVENTS OF THE WEEK

SUNDAY: No Religious Education
9:45 AM Youth Folk Group Mass

MONDAY: No Religious Education

TUESDAY: No Religious Education
7 PM Folk Group

WEDNESDAY: 9:30 AM La Leche
6:30 PM Leominster Cub Scouts
7 PM 12 Steps

THURSDAY: Parish Office is Closed
CHRISTMAS EVE LITURGIES:
4 PM, 6 PM & Midnight

FRIDAY: Parish Office is Closed
10 AM CHRISTMAS LITURGY

SATURDAY: 7:30 PM AA



Mark Your Calendars! Christmas Concert–

January 3rd: On Sunday afternoon, January 3rd, the Feast of the Epiphany, at 2 PM, we

will have a Christmas Concert with music provided by our five music groups. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to gather

together as a Parish Family to celebrate the Christmas Season. A free will offering will be taken with proceeds to benefit a fund for a new sound system. Please join us!

Montachusett Interfaith Hospitality Network: The week of December 27th will be Our Lady of the Lake's turn to once again minister at the MIHN shelter. This local homeless shelter allows families to remain united while they endeavor to get back on track. We provide meals and staffing every eleventh week in cooperation with several other area churches. If you are currently a volunteer, please respond to the information you will be receiving from Heidi Champagne and Joyce Leger. If you would like to volunteer or would like more information on this ministry, please contact Heidi at 978-582-9910. If you would like to provide a dinner, please contact Joyce at 978-342-2905.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION: With the end of the year comes the holiday season – a time to express appreciation and love for family and friends. It is also a time to evaluate your tax situation and plan accordingly. As you examine your own situation, you may find that you will benefit by making charitable gifts before 2009 comes to a close. If you are in that situation, please consider Our Lady of the Lake in those plans. Thank you.



FEBRUARY CALENDAR RAFFLE

Once again, a raffle has been organized for the month of February. A cash prize will be drawn each day of the month. Calendars are \$10 each with a total of \$3,000 given away. Detailed information, along with chances, will be mailed to all parishioners in early January. Raffle chances will be available before Christmas to purchase as gifts. These early entry forms will be available at the entrances of the Church this weekend.