



“And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” ~Lk 23:41-42

Readings for **NEXT** Sunday, December 2, 2007
 Is 2:1-5/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44

Mass  for the
 Intentions  Week

- SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24**
 5:00 PM Francis Girardi
- THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29**
 9:00 AM Ann Carol Murphy
- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1**
 5:00 PM Raymond & Rose Leveille

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated by Fr. Paul Clifford from 7:30-8AM & 8:30-9:15AM NEXT Saturday, December 1.



- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25 – NO CLASSES**
- MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26**
 9:30 AM Kindergarten
 4:10 PM Grades 4 & 5
 7:15 PM Grade 9 (Group 2)
- TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27**
 4:10 PM Grades 3 & 5
 6:30 PM Grades 7 & 8
- WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28**
 4:10 PM Grade 1
 5:30-9 PM Advent Evening Prayer
 6:15 PM Grade 6
- THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29**
 4:10 PM Grades 3 & 4
 7:30 PM Denver Scripture Studies Program – IV
 Unit 1-10 due: Unit Review & Exam
 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2**
 9:00 AM Grade 2 – Parents & Students followed by attendance at 10AM Mass
 5:30 PM Grade 10 Confirmation

MONTH OF REMEMBRANCE

During the month of November, all parishioners are asked to pray for our beloved dead whose names you are invited to write in the Book of Remembrance located near the altar.

 *In Loving Memory*
 Chester J. Pepka

Parish Support

OFFERTORY 11/18/2007\$10,580
 Campaign for Human Development.....\$2,526
 Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Saturday, December 8 is a Holy Day of Obligation. Due to the fact that it falls on a Saturday in the midst of a busy part of the year, we will be altering our Holy Day Mass schedule for that day. Masses will be:

- Friday, December 7 at 4PM & 7PM**
- Saturday, December 8 at 6:30AM & 8AM**

ADVENT EVENINGS OF PRAYER

WEDNESDAYS FROM 5:30-9PM
NOVEMBER 28 – DECEMBER 19

What a beautiful time to connect with Christ in a personal way or as a family!
 Some people come early and stay right through. Others come for Benediction at 8:45. Still others come for a time in between when they are able.
 The point is to target some “quality time” with Jesus in preparation for His birth.



ST. VINCENT de PAUL

Thank you so much for the generous Thanksgiving donations!!
 St Vincent de Paul brought over 40 frozen turkeys to St Joan of Arc parish in Worcester and made a generous cash donation to another Worcester parish.

Anyone interested in adopting a local family for Christmas, meaning you will buy and wrap gifts for them, please call Colleen (508-497-9144) **by Tuesday, November 27**. If you know of anyone who may need help please call the parish secretary (435-3313 x203) and leave a message for St. Vincent de Paul. Deliveries will be made the weekend of December 15th.



HOLIDAY CONCERT

Come to St. John’s and enjoy a beautiful Christmas Concert given by the Southeastern Massachusetts Community Concert Band on **Sunday, December 16 at 3PM** in the upper church. **Admission is free!!** However, a donation of laundry detergent, school snacks, or breakfast foods is requested for the Hopkinton Food Pantry. Everyone is welcome, especially families and “little ones”.



Bake Sale

St. John’s Confirmation Program Thanks You!

Thank you to all who helped make the Bake Sale a huge success. We were able to make enough money to purchase fabric to make fleece blankets. The students will make the blankets and they will be delivered to the Pediatrics wards at Milford Regional Hospital & UMass Medical-Worcester.

From the
Pastor's Desk



My brothers and sisters,

In this month of the Faithful Departed I've written mostly about grieving well. As we bring November to a close I would point to the funeral rites of the Church as they have traditionally developed as the best way to meet the reality of death as a people of hope (who also need to grieve).

THE WAKE: Most of all this is a time for the survivors and those who wish to visit them. I'm always mystified by people who say they don't want a wake. With all due respect, it's not about you. You're gone at this point. We who are left need to deal with that, and the wake is the principal place Christians have done that for hundreds of years. In our day we have shortened this time from several days to one day. This makes sense, given our greater ease in communication and travel. In most situations, however, the wake serves a vital purpose in honoring a life.

THE FUNERAL MASS: The Mass is the greatest prayer the Church has to offer. Its graces are beyond measure. There can be no better way to honor the departed than to gather and celebrate our most sacred and treasured ritual on their behalf. At the Funeral Mass the Church remembers the baptism of the departed and begs God for the fulfillment of the promises made in Baptism for this Christian.

THE BURIAL: The simple prayers we offer at the grave are meant to bring our formal and public grieving to a respectful conclusion. We return the body of a Christian to the earth from which it was made.

Can these rituals be uncomfortable at times? Of course. Is it easy to face what death means for the human person? No, for when we encounter death in another it necessarily reminds us of our own mortality.

For Catholics, however, it is always a time also to reaffirm our faith in Jesus, the Risen One who promises eternal life to those who believe in Him. We do not grieve like those who have no hope. We grieve as people beloved of and redeemed by God. Expressing that faith along with our love for the departed one is good grief indeed.

In His service and yours,
Fr. Paul Clifford