




Weekly Notes

Parish of the INCARNATION of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

PASTOR'S LETTER	STEWARDSHIP	CALENDAR	LEARNING	EVENTS
 <p>Page 1</p>	<p><i>Stewardship here engages not only how we financially sustain the mission of the parish, but also how we respond to the needs of the wider Church and of the poor.</i></p> <p>Page 3</p>		<p><i>Treasures: Our pastor writes this weekly column for about 3,000 parish bulletins in the USA and Canada.</i></p> <p>Page 5</p> <p><i>Scripture: Some notes to help sustain your reflection on God's Word this week.</i></p> <p>Page 6 and 7</p>	<p>The Children's Choir for Advent and Christmas is forming.</p>  <p>Sign up today with Holly!</p>

Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

Believe me, it's not a good plan to be in Chicago when the RED Sox are in the series. Alas, here I am though, at the Board of Directors meeting for the North American Forum on the Catechumenate. I am languishing away in the Cenacle Convent near Lincoln Park (they have a silent zone and a no television rule). I escaped successfully for the first game - providentially, the neighborhood sports center is named "The Field." It's an exciting time for every citizen of Red Sox Nation. What a great first game!

Stewardship Thanks

Here's Stewardship Council member Rich Downey (middle) with some of the volunteers from the food pantry in Saugus we restocked with our quarterly food drive. The supplies were running very low, and the avalanche of

food was a tremendous boost to their good work. Thanks to all!



New Look

The City of Melrose has used a portion of our parking lot as a staging area for road work. Recently, Linda pointed out to the powers-that-be that this usage has placed a strain on our neighbors and our own serenity. Steve had recently received a bid of \$6,000 for the repair of our driveway. Mayor Dolan, with the encouragement of Alderman Peter Mortimer, arranged for the repairs to be done by the city. **The right-of-way between the rectory and Happy Hours is**

repaved and looks great. I am grateful to the City Engineer and construction team, and especially to Linda who recognized the need.

Welcome Father Vincent!

I am very pleased that Father Vincent Makozi from the Democratic Republic of the Congo will be presiding at the 10:30.

Father Vincent was here on a Saturday evening in the summer and fell in love with the parish -- he has been really eager to meet the 10:30 Assembly. As you may know, the Congo is now one of the most violence-torn places on earth, and Father's home district is being torn by war and terror. His mother is in constant danger, as is his sister, who is a nun in a diocesan community. He is in Boston working on a doctorate in social ethics at Boston University and I know you will enjoy meeting him. Please keep his homeland and his family in prayer. It must be very difficult to be far from home in a time of crisis.



Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur

www.sndden.org

Dominican Republic Mission

We had a wonderfully informative meeting on Tuesday with Deacon Bill Kane, and more than a few parishioners, some in health care professions, willing to go on mission. A team is forming to go to the DR on January 12 for one week to evaluate and investigate the possibilities. Deacon Kane eloquently lifted up the gospel challenge to not merely serve the poor, but love the poor. The team will assess the need for an additional medical clinic at a small campo (village). Deacon Kane described the prayerfulness of the people there, and challenged us to be

the answer to their prayers. What could be a better way to mark our fiftieth year than working to make a substantive difference in the lives of the poor?

Next week: Renewal of Vows and Jubilee for Sister Mary Murphy, S.N.D.

I'm so pleased that Sister Mary Murphy has chosen our 10:30 liturgy next Sunday to be the setting for her renewal of profession in gratitude for fifty years as a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur. We will welcome some of her sisters, her family, and friends. **The whole congregation will sing our renewal of baptism, and in the light of that baptismal commitment, the sisters will express their commitment to the consecrated life, living the gospel counsels of poverty, consecrated celibacy, and obedience.**

The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur are dedicated to

making known God's goodness... educating for life. Here's what their website has to say: **"We are women with hearts as wide as the world, making known God's goodness and love of the poor through a Gospel way of life, community and prayer.** Continuing a strong educational tradition, we take our stand with poor people, especially women and children, in the most abandoned places. Each of us commits her one and only life to work with others to create justice and peace for all."

Many of our parishioners know the Sisters well. Lots (me included) were educated by them, and newcomers to their mission are volunteering for Notre Dame High School in Lawrence and the

Notre Dame Educational Center in Lawrence. Founded by Saint Julie Billiart in 1803 in Amiens, France, and later transferred to Namur in Belgium, the sisters have been in Massachusetts since the 1840's. They have been making God's goodness known ever since, and in recent decades have renewed their historic service to the most vulnerable members of our society. Saint Julie's trademark expression "*Ah, qu'il est bon le bon Dieu!*" (How good is the good God!) is treasured by everyone who meets Julie's daughters. It is a wonderful opportunity for a parish to celebrate the consecrated life as a gift of God to the Church, and I am grateful to Sister Mary for choosing us for the celebration! We'll have coffee and refreshments after Mass for everyone who would like to greet Sister Mary and her guests, and then those who have travelled a distance to be with us will be served a simple brunch at noon.

Love,

Jim

Prayers and Milestones

We're happy to report that Midge Curran, our parish secretary, came back to work this week for a few part-days. We've missed her so much, and are grateful to her daughters and doctors who have taken such good care of her these last few weeks, and to God who has been good indeed.

Please pray for all our sick, especially **Rita Lee, Tom Lawless, Valerie Shea, George Maguire, Bob O'Brien, Bernie McGee, Margaret Blais, Mary Dorn, Michael Flynn, and Emily Bourque.**

Our **Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist** had a day of renewal last Saturday, with a panel of presenters: Linda, Father Field, and Mary Ryan, coordinator of Eucharistic Ministers at St. Elizabeth of Hungary in Acton. Those who did not attend must contact Linda since we are con-

tinuing to implement the Revised General Instruction on the Roman Missal and some policies have changed.

November is a month of remembrance for our dead, and you are welcome to inscribe the names of those who have died this year in our "Book of Remembrance."

Suzanne Fisher and Brian Thelen will be married this weekend and ask your prayers.

The Golden Jubilee of Sister Mary Murphy, S.N.D. as a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur will be celebrated with a renewal of baptismal and religious vows at the **10:30 on November 4.** There will be a coffee hour reception for Sister Mary from 11:30 to noon, and then a brunch will be served at noon to her invited guests.

Confirmation will be celebrated at the 4:30 liturgy on Saturday, November 10 with Bishop Francis Irwin, Auxiliary Bishop of Boston, presiding. Our young people will be present at the 4:30 Mass on November 3. We are so blessed to have our teens actively engaged in the Sunday Assembly, in volunteer efforts and on parish commissions, and to have some in training as liturgical ministers.

Stewardship Notes


Offertory Report

Offertory October 21, 2007 \$6,207.00

Offertory October 20, 2006 \$5,022.00

GRAND ANNUAL LAUNCH EVENT

The parish community is invited to a reception on Wednesday, November 14 from 7:30 to 9:00 pm to launch our Grand Annual campaign. We'll keep speeches to the bare minimum, and focus on a pleasant night with good conversation, nice wine and other refreshments, and delicious hors d'oeuvres. **An invitation is being mailed to previous donors, but as the song says, "All are welcome in this place!"**

Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time	Thirty-first Week in Ordinary Time
Sunday, October 28 The Thirtieth Sunday of the Year 4:30: Elizabeth Bowe 8:00: Alice Fucci, Adeline and Adolfo Cillo 10:30 Ted Berkland	Sunday, November 4 The Thirty-first Sunday of the Year 4:30: Peter, Nicholina and Anthony Previte 8:00: Albert Michigan 10:30 Catherine Spencer
Monday, October 29 weekday	
Tuesday, October 30 weekday	
Wednesday, October 31 weekday 9:00: no intention	
Thursday, Nov. 1 Solemnity of All Saints: Holy Day of Obligation 9:00: no intention 7:00 pm: no intention	
Friday, November 2 Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed 9:00: no intention	When a parish has a cemetery, the liturgy may end with a procession there. This is the day for visiting the cemetery, and some prayers from our Book of Blessing will be found elsewhere in the bulletin.

Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time	Thirty-first Week in Ordinary Time
Saturday, November 3 weekday Anticipated Mass for Sunday 4:30: Elizabeth Bowe	

Calendar Notes

Trick or treat .

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Don't forget that Hallow'een has roots in our tradition. First, "All Hallows" is

an old English expression meaning "All Holy Ones," and was the English title for "All Saints." "e'en" stands for "even" or "evening" and means the night before. So, October 31 is the night before All Hallows, or Hallowe'en. Before Christianity arrived, it was the turning of the year, and a night when those in the grip of death could shake free and haunt the earth and bring fear and dread on all. When Christianity came, with hope in eternal life in glory, the spooks lost their power to terrorize, and people were free to poke fun at the things that used to scare them. Now that we have come to love the saints, and to remember our dead with affection, the terror has lifted. Don't forget that all the fun of the night before was from earliest times a preparation for the feast that follows. Unless you come to the table of the Lord on the Holy Day, November 1, you're stuck on the wrong side of the mystery with your candy bars!

Treasures from the Tradition

Imagine the frustration of bishops who work tirelessly over their *ad limina* reports, directing study committees, assembling data, honing the texts, traveling to Rome “to the threshold” only to have it all telescoped to a fifteen minute meeting with the pope. More than a few have grumbled at the sheer weight of this “treasure” from our tradition, yet from the pope’s position, it is an essential part of his ministry.

Pope John Paul II recalled his own experience as the Bishop of Krakow, visiting with Pope Paul VI in the late 60’s and early 70’s. The memory of those individual, rushed visits, caused him to strengthen the format, assuring each of the world’s 2,744 bishops a privileged 15 minutes with the pope every 5 years. If you wonder what the pope does all day, the thought of dealing with five hundred bishops a year and reading their detailed reports on diocesan life should help fill in the blanks! Pope John Paul II used to say that he approached each individual meeting with the personal goal of learning something new about the Church,* and his lively interest made the visits immensely worthwhile. The content of the private meetings remains under the privilege of secrecy, or as Cardinal Theodore McCarrick of Washington once said, “you’re only supposed to quote the pope if he tells a joke.”

James A. Field, c. 2006 J.S.Paluch Company

**footnote: for those who wonder about Generations of Faith and the goal of lifelong learning: here’s a pope saying he wants to learn something new about the Church every day!*

Scripture Study

The Cry of the Poor

A most humble Jesuit brother died two nights ago. His name was Julius Petrik, always known to us as just Brother Petrik. I write these reflections just after attending his funeral Mass. He was 94 years old.

I miss him. He had been a quiet presence ever since I was a very young man in the Jesuits. He did not attract attention. He took pains to avoid it.

In one sense I never knew him, such was his silence. His gentle eyes pointed down, he carried out his tasks without fuss, and—for a long time, maybe always—he ate his meals by himself. I suppose some would just call him a “character,” or brand him as pathologically shy.

My intuition said otherwise. I sensed something very holy about Brother Petrik. As the years went by I would take care to greet him when I saw him and he would smile with a wide grin and greet me back. We would exchange some small talk and then each go back to our tasks. Introversion took second place to the palpable spirit of love that dwelt within him.

I speak of this good man not to publicize him, something he would have regretted, but because in another sense I knew him well. Because my heart is more at ease for my encounters with him.

In a word, Julius was a humble man. His prayer reached God. He served gladly.

I think such meekness is the key to this Sunday’s scripture. Listen to what the First Reading says:

The one who serves God willingly is heard;
his petition reaches the heavens.

The prayer of the lowly pierces the clouds;
it does not rest till it reaches its goal,

nor will it withdraw till the Most High responds,

judges justly and affirms the right,
and the Lord will not delay.

Prayer that pierces the clouds and does not rest till it finds its goal! Our minds race to the notion of power: anyone who can force their prayers through to heaven must get everything they want. No worries about being weak or unworthy: they have command over the Most High God!

At least it is tempting to think that way. But look closely. The prayer that finds heaven is that of the lowly. It stays before God's throne not because it is menacing and intimidating but because it embodies the hushed spirit of truth. It whispers its humble needs to the very one who can answer them. It has no hidden purpose.

Which of the following two people do you think embodies such lowliness? The Pharisee?

O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity—
greedy, dishonest, adulterous—or even like this tax collector;

or the Publican?

O God, be merciful to me a sinner.

We know what Jesus thinks. In the Gospel he says, "I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former; for whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

Whatever internal battles Brother Petrik may have faced, I thank God that I was blessed to brush against his gracious, shy, unassuming love. I want to be like him.

Fr. John Foley, S. J. of the Center for Liturgy

Incarnation Ireland Trip: Deposit Required Now

We are leaving on April 21, Patriot's Day, for ten days on the Emerald Isle. We have a hold on 40

seats on Aer Lingus at a great price. You need to register now for a guaranteed fare. Alternatively, Beth Kershner will help you fly in from any USA gateway. Information is at the doors of the church. The total cost, including airfare, is \$2,995.

Today is the deadline for the first deposit guaranteeing the rate. The trip is still open. Register by a \$600 deposit to Italian Horizons, 112 Maple Street, Bellaire, MI 49615. You can send e-mail at www.italianhorizons.com, or call 231-533-5033. Father Field has information on the program itself, Beth can best handle inquiries on registration and special arrangements for travel and personal needs.



MUSIC MINISTRY at Incarnation

We have good support with piano and organ, thanks to Holly and David Richardson, but now we have opportunities for string and wind instruments, brass, percussionists and guitarists. Please see Holly if you have these skills. **Attention musicians from Melrose and Saugus Public Schools!**

We are forming an **Advent/Christmas Choir** for children. Third graders and up are welcome. Rehearsals will be one hour long on Thursday afternoons. **Contact Holly to register.** She will have registration forms and information available after Mass. Don't bother her before Mass: it's rehearsal time! It will be great fun for all, and an important way for children to minister to the worshipping assembly.

New Venture: Fall Bereavement Program Collaborative with St. Mary's



When you lose someone who has been a part of your life, your heart breaks and you wonder how to go on living. Are you looking for comfort, understanding and some coping skills to help you after the recent death of a loved one?

This fall a six-session program centered on pastoral care and different topics of grief will be presented, cosponsored by St. Mary's and Incarnation Parish. After each evening's presentation there will be time to share, if you so desire. Among the topics to be discussed are: symptoms of grief, different ways people grieve, dealing with feelings of anger and guilt, and how to get through holidays and special occasions. Meetings will be held at St. Mary's Parish Center, Melrose, on the following Monday evenings Nov. 5, 12, 19 and Dec. 3, 10, 17 from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. Moving forward, we may be able to host some of the sessions here. The facilitator of the group, Pat McConville, who has training in bereavement and pastoral issues, will be happy to speak with you. Please call her at 781 665 8217, to find out more about the program or to register. This is an opportunity to come together with others who are grieving, to better understand what you are experiencing, and to find hope and support in a church community.

Semi-Centennial Committee Report

The Semi-centennial committee continues to make plans for an event-filled year starting in

late 2008 and ending with the fiftieth anniversary of our church's dedication in December, 2009. Our parish was founded by Richard Cardinal Cushing in his decree of December 10, 1958.

On the drawing table now is the formal gala, the official start of our year of celebration, in early November 2008. The Gala Sub-committee has already identified many elegant venues for this special event, and a decision will be made next Sunday. There will be plenty of information shared over the next few weeks, and many opportunities to join the various sub-committees of this large and energetic group.

All Souls Day Visit to the Cemetery

The Commemoration of All Souls on November 2 is our tradition's day for visiting the cemetery, cleaning and decorating the family grave, and for prayer for our loved ones who await the resurrection.

There's a guide to prayer available today, but if you forget that, here's a simple plan for prayer. Begin with the sign of the cross. Sing a favorite Alleluia, and a verse of a favorite hymn like Amazing Grace. You can get lyrics on line: just google "Come Ye Thankful People Come" for example. Someone reads a favorite scripture about death and the hope that lives within us by faith. Especially if there are children with you, people should share memories of those who are buried there. Pray the Lord's Prayer. Finish with: "Lord Jesus Christ, by your own three days in the tomb, you hallowed the graves of all believers, and so you made the grave a sign of hope even as it claims our mortal bodies. Grant that our brothers and sisters may sleep here in peace until you awaken them to glory, for you are the resurrection and the life. Then they will see you face to face, and in your light will see light, and know the splendor of God, for you live and reign forever and ever. AMEN.

More Calendar Notes on November

The sight of a singing, swinging skeleton is a familiar decorative figure during *Dias de los Muertos*, the Mexican Day of the Dead on November 2. In fact, skeletons engaged in all sorts of daily activity, like riding a bicycle or driving a bus are common. Though each skeleton has his or her own personality, there is one thing recognizable in all of them - a distinct grin. These "grins" show the human, ironic side of the skeleton. Perhaps the skeletons are amused that it is the living who really suffer, struggling to stay alive. *Dias de los Muertos* reminds the living the death is a prelude to resurrection. In this way death, portrayed by the skeleton, is seen as the beginning of life.

When the Spanish laid claim to Mexico's soil, the lives of the Mexican Indians was completely disrupted. Those Indians engaged in mask-making to transport themselves beyond the hardships of the conquest. In a sense, by wearing the masks they could cover their souls and be transformed into a new creation. The skull-mask stood for the native belief that death was just part of the cycle of life. After Catholicism took root, the skull took on the added meaning of the faith and the commemorations of All Souls Day. The skull-mask, sometimes worn with a full suit of skeleton clothes, is always worn in the spirit of possibilities and the unknown.

From New England Graveyards:

Here lie I, Martin Elginbroode:
Have mercy on my soul, Lord God,
As I would do, were I Lord God
and you were Martin Elginbroode

from Winslow, Maine:

In Memory of Beza Wood
Departed this life
Nov. 2, 1837
Aged 45 yrs.
Here lies one Wood
Enclosed in wood
One Wood
Within another.
The outer wood
Is very good:
We cannot praise
The other.

from Nantucket:

Under the sod and under the trees
Lies the body of Jonathan Pease.
He is not here, there's only the pod:
Pease shelled out and went to God.

In a Ribbesford, England, cemetery:

The children of Israel wanted bread
And the Lord sent them manna,
Old clerk Wallace wanted a wife,
And the Devil sent him Anna.

A Tired Woman's Epitaph

Here lies a poor woman who was always tired;
She lived in a house where help was not hired.
Her last words on earth were: "Dear friends, I
am going Where washing ain't done, nor
sweeping, no sewing; But everything there is
exact to my wishes; For where they don't eat
there's no washing of dishes...Don't mourn for
me now; don't mourn for me never -I'm going
to do nothing for evere and ever.

HOW TO FIND US

As a Catholic parish in the Archdiocese of Boston, we are committed to excellence in liturgy, service, hospitality, and life-long learning.

429 Upham Street, Melrose, MA 02176

Office: Tuesday through Friday, 9:30 am to 4:30 pm

1-781-662-8844 Main Office
1-781-662-6653 FAX
1-781-662-7050 Faith Formation

e-mail: i.rectory@comcast.net website: under development, bulletin is archived on the web, go to www.parishesonline.org, type in our zipcode or parish name, and recent bulletins are available.

Parish Staff

Rev. James A. Field, Pastor jamesfield@aol.com
Linda Swett, Pastoral Associate
linswett@aol.com Holly Zagaria, Director of Music Ministries
hollyincarnation@hotmail.com

Ann Lahiff, Assistant for Faith Formation
AnnLahiff7@aol.com

Midge Curran, Secretary

Sue Caffey, Administrative Assistant
Stephen DeSousa, Director of Maintenance

David Richardson, Adjunct Organist

REGULAR SCHEDULE for LITURGY

Lord's Day: Saturday 4:30; Sunday 8:00 and 10:30
Daily Mass: W, Th, Fri. at 9:00 am; Rosary at 8:45 am Wednesday through Friday

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Friday morning after Mass, we share coffee and conversation about God's Word for the week.

RECONCILIATION

Saturday, 3:30 - 4:15 pm, or by appointment at any time.

JOINING OUR COMMUNITY

We're happy you're here! New beginnings are not always comfortable, but we're easy to get to

know. No matter what your journey has been, we want to be your companions for the next steps, to share the Gospel together and to help each other along the way. Most of us are from within parish boundaries in Melrose and Saugus, but we have parishioners from as far afield as Georgetown and Framingham! Our official territory extends from just east of Lebanon Street in Melrose, to just west of the Fellsway. We trace a boundary line along Route One in Saugus, and Main Street in Saugus. We include Sheffield Heights and Avalon Bay in Saugus. Please introduce yourself to a staff member, drop in for coffee on Sunday, or stop by the rectory.

ADULT INITIATION, RCIA

We are always ready to begin the process by which an adult or older child becomes a Catholic, either by full initiation in baptism, or by reception into full communion. We are also happy to prepare you for adult confirmation.

BAPTISM FOR INFANTS

Normally, the baptism of infants is celebrated within the Sunday assembly at a time convenient to the parents. Parents must be parishioners here or have a letter of permission from their pastor. Linda Swett is the staff contact person for preparation.

GENERATIONS OF FAITH

Registration is under way now for all age levels, families and singles, children and adults, in our parish program of life-long learning and celebration of faith: Generations of Faith. Materials are in the Church or available at our Faith-Formation Office through Ann Lahiff.

MARRIAGE

Please contact Father Field at least six months in advance.

CARE OF THE SICK

To arrange for the Sacrament of the Sick, for Holy Communion for the home-bound, or Viaticum for the Dying, please contact the parish office. It is always possible to anoint the sick during regularly scheduled liturgies.

CHRISTIAN FUNERALS

The parish is prepared to celebrate the Vigil (wake) in the Church.