




# 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><i>The Children's Choir for Advent and Christmas is forming.</i></p>  <p><i>Sign up today with Holly!</i></p>

## Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

What a great week in Boston! Since we are ecumenically minded around here, we do have a few Yankee fans on the parish roster, and a scattering of Colorado transplants as well. I'm sure they will patiently hang on until the hub-bub retreats until next season. Now we can start to rebuild our inner resources trashed by nights of sleep-deprivation, and the unsalutary effects of doritos and the like, and unhealthy libations to boot. It's all been great fun, but I'm still surprised that at no time was the assembly bedecked in red.



### Welcome Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur

I know that the whole parish community, and particularly the 10:30 assembly, is pleased that Sister Mary Murphy has chosen her parish as the

place for her renewal of religious profession after fifty years as a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur. Sister Mary came to Boston some years ago from her native Philadelphia to earn her doctorate at Boston College. She stayed on, and is the founding President of Notre Dame High School in Lawrence. Several men from Incarnation have served in volunteer positions at NDHS, including service on the Board of Trustees. Other parishioners have volunteered there and have participated in fund-raising efforts. The school is classic Notre Dame ministry - serving the needs of children from poor families, preparing and guiding them through an introduction to corporate business culture, and for college. This year NDHS will graduate the first senior class.

Today the whole assembly will sing a renewal of baptismal vows, and Sister Mary and the other SNDs will renew their commitment to the conse-

crated life. The Sisters do us a great honor today, and help us to see one way in which the promises of baptism can be lived out for the good of the whole Church. Thank you, Sisters. The red carpet (actually it's blue) is always rolled out for you at Incarnation Parish.

### The Blahs

I am writing these notes today on Wednesday, the first day my doctor has allowed me to crawl out into semi-public climes. I've been hit by a nasty infection that makes my medicine chest look like my grandma's. All those orange bottles! Anyway, it's a nasty thing that has attacked the whole left side of my face from my ear, my sinuses, jaw. My presence at a few public events constitutes a pharmaceutical miracle. I've been ordered to lay low and not do much at all. It's time for some light reading I've piled up on the bedside table.



### Renewal of Giving

**The Grand Annual Appeal** is about ready to launch, but first we want to acknowledge that there has been a clear upsurge in offertory and charitable giving here. We have sent invitations to a reception to the donors in last year's Grand Annual, and I want you to know that every household is invited. We have many new parishioners, and this will be a great time to mix and mingle. The event is on Wednesday, November 14 from 7:30 to 9:00. We'll have wine and other libations on hand, and very nice hors d'oeuvres. We will keep speeches to a bare minimum, I promise. We need to celebrate our successes, and collaborate on drawing more parishioners into their share in this renewal of giving.

### Dominican Republic Mission

Over the next few weeks, as soon as I'm back in the saddle, we'll be signing up our team for the first exploratory mission to the Dominican Re-

public. Five of us from here will be leaving on January 12 for one week to evaluate and investigate the possibilities. The team will assess the need for an additional medical clinic at a small campo (village). We have enough candidates for this mission and the next, and I'm especially pleased at the response of parishioners in the healing professions. What better way to mark our fiftieth year than working to make a substantive difference in the lives of the poor? As our colleagues at Holy Family in Gloucester have assured us, the issue is not so much what we bring to them, but what they will give to us.

There is a difference between helping the poor and loving the poor.

### GOF Begins

**We are beginning the design and production team meetings for the December GOF Learning Festivals.** We continue the theme of "Creed" through the whole year, and since this next session is during Advent you can expect a strong emphasis on the meaning of the Incarnation.

The first design team meeting is Wednesday evening from 7 to 8:30 in Father Field's study in the rectory. New participants are welcome!

### Confirmation Next Weekend

Today at the 4:30 we acknowledge our candidates for the sacrament of Confirmation. The celebration will be next weekend at the 4:30 with Bishop Francis X. Irwin presiding.

Love,

*Jim*

## Prayers and Milestones

Rita Overlan, Kerry's mother, died last week.

Please pray for all our sick, especially infant **Christina Elizabeth Rainone, Rita Lee, Midge Curran, Tom Lawless, Valerie Shea, George**

Maguire, Bob O'Brien, Bernie McGee, Margaret Blais, Mary Dorn, Michael Flynn, and Emily Bourque.

Remember in prayer Sister Mary Murphy and other Jubilarians who renew their commitment to chastity, poverty, and obedience as Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur at the heart of our assembly this weekend.

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." You are also welcome to bring photos of your loved ones for our "November shrine."

Peg Madden, longtime parishioner and coordinator of the 4:30 liturgy has moved to Avon, Connecticut. We thank her for faithful service, and look forward to welcoming her home to Melrose from time to time.

Pray for the people of the Dominican Republic suffering from the effects of Hurricane Noel, and for the safe return of the Holy Family mission team.

## Stewardship Notes

Offertory October 28, 2007 \$5,995.00

Offertory October 29, 2006 \$6,172.00

### 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!"

### VETERANS DAY PRAYERS

Please fill out the cards in the pew pockets and let us know who we should be praying for this Veterans Day.

Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time	Thirty-first Week in Ordinary Time
Sunday, November 4 <b>The Thirty-first Sunday of the Year</b> 4:30: Peter, Nicholina and Anthony Previte 8:00: Albert Michigan 10:30 Catherine Spencer	Sunday, November 11 <b>The Thirty-second Sunday of the Year</b> 4:30: Confirmation 8:00: Dave and Mary Boland 10:30 Kirby Lozynial Alexander
Monday, November 5 weekday	
Tuesday, November 6 weekday	
Wednesday, Nov. 7 weekday 9:00: no intention	
Thursday, Nov. 8 weekday 9:00: Anthony Capaldo	
Friday, November 9 Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome Feast 9:00: no intention	The Lateran Basilica was the first major church built after the Edict of Constantine in 313 legalized Christianity. By extension, it celebrates all church buildings.
Saturday, November 10 weekday Anticipated Mass for Sunday 4:30: Lucille Aborn	

## Treasures from the Tradition

The recent "October count" tracking the statistics of participation at Sunday Mass calls to mind the situations of churches where it is difficult or impossible for Catholics to worship freely. This is especially striking in English Catholic history, as freedom of worship was systematically dismantled at the time of the Reformation. It seems that most English people retained deeply Catholic sympathies throughout the period of religious upheaval. Catholics who refused to participate in the public worship of the Church of England were called "recusants," and beginning with the reign of Elizabeth I, they were subject to strict penalties. Recusant literally means "a person refusing to obey a command." Most of these laws remained in force until the early 1800s, and Catholics weren't completely emancipated from the duty of Anglican worship until 1829, with other freedoms waiting until 1854.

Recusants paid heavy fines for not attending the state church. Holding on to Catholic faith was therefore a luxury of the very rich, who maintained private chapels in their estates, and sent their children to English convents and monasteries on the continent. (To this day, the Loretto Sisters in Austria are known as the "English Ladies") Remarkably, the first among all British Peers, the Duke of Norfolk, the hereditary Earl Marshall of England, has held on to the Catholic faith with a few intermissions. Other wealthy Catholic families founded the colony of Maryland, and later members of the old Catholic families continued on to the Kentucky frontier in search of even greater religious freedom.

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



## Scripture Study

### Up a Tree

A lot of us harbor a false belief. We think that we must live right and do the right things or else God will not love us.

How wrong that idea is.

Start with the First Reading for Sunday, one of my very favorites. It says two things: 1) how very small the universe is, and 2) how God loves absolutely everything within it, including each of us.

We might be inclined to disagree with the first point. The universe is not small. Ever since photographs have come down from the Hubble telescope, we see how terribly vast the universe is. There could be billions of galaxies like our Milky Way in the universe. And get this: each galaxy contains literally millions or even trillions of stars.

A billion billions of stars! Who dares say the universe is small?

But compare that colossal magnitude to the size of God. "Before the Lord the whole universe is as a grain from a balance\* or a drop of morning dew come down upon the earth" (First Reading).

Picture an old fashioned balance with its pans on either side. Now add just a single grain of sand to one of the pans. It does not affect the balance, does it. Alright, add the vast totality of all that exists (in other words, the universe), but place God on the other side. Now you understand. The universe doesn't affect the balance compared to God. It makes very little difference.

Inside that universe you and I are the size of microbes. Impossible that so huge a God could or would love microorganisms like us.

The prayer from the first reading says that he does. God, it begins,

you love all things that are and loathe nothing that you have made; for what you hated, you would not have fashioned. And how could a thing remain, unless you willed it; or be preserved, had it not been called forth by you?

But you spare all things, because they are yours, O Lord and lover of souls, for your imperishable spirit is in all things!

God's imperishable spirit is in each grain of dust and each is beloved to God.

You and I are beloved to God.

We are cherished by the "Lord and lover of souls." We don't have to be perfect in order to be loved.

Zacchaeus in the Gospel is a prime example. The reading says he was small of stature (symbolizing all of us?), and in fact he climbed a tree to see over the crowd to Jesus. Seeing this, Jesus laughed. He said, "Zacchaeus, you are up a tree! Come down quick. I want to have dinner in your house tonight. You cannot reach the food from where you are!"

Zacchaeus is a tax-collector, and so he does not "live right and do right." At least, popular opinion might say that. Does God therefore withhold love and grace from him?

No. The Christ of God comes in person to his door and waits patiently for him to clamor down from the tree. He will love the man's goodness into existence. Are you and I ready to have the master of the universe to dinner? Even though our clothes are torn and dirty? Even small and unworthy as we are?

The Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost.

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\*What is a grain from a balance? A "balance" is a beam balanced on a central fulcrum. It has a pan hanging from each end. In the ancient world you

placed something to be weighed in one pan and then added standard weights to the other. When the two pans came to an even balance you could count the number of weights and see how heavy the item was.

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

## Incarnation Ireland Trip: Hotels Confirmed

We are leaving on April 21, Patriot's Day, for ten days on the Emerald Isle. There are only about six places remaining on the trip as of this writing. Beth is in Ireland making final arrangements for us and has confirmed wonderful hotel accommodations. She returns to her office on November 7.

**Register by a \$600 deposit to Italian Horizons, 112 Maple Street, Bellaire, MI 49615.** You can send e-mail now to [www.italianhorizons.com](http://www.italianhorizons.com), or after November 7 call 231-533-5033. We are staying at:

The Hilton Limerick Hotel  
Ennis Road, Limerick

Randles Court Clarion House  
Muckcross Road  
Killarney  
[www.randlescourt.com](http://www.randlescourt.com)

Kinsley Hotel  
Victoria Cross  
Cork City  
[www.kingsleyhotel.com](http://www.kingsleyhotel.com)

B&Bs in Cashel: group divided in half

Tir Na Nog  
Dualla Road  
[www.tirmanogbandb.com](http://www.tirmanogbandb.com)

Ard Ri House  
Duala Road  
[www.ardrihouse.com](http://www.ardrihouse.com)

Raddison SAS Royal Hotel  
Golden Lane  
Dublin 8  
[www.royal.dublin.radissonsas.com](http://www.royal.dublin.radissonsas.com)

## CONFIRMATION

### In their own words . . .

We find that our young people are frequent confused because the catechesis they receive on the sacrament is opposed because someone in the family or circle of friends “knows better.” Lots of our young people were told that we were flat out wrong to say that there is no requirement for confirmation in order to be married in the Catholic Church. There isn’t. Others are told that it is completion of religious education, a kind of graduation, or a full membership when the obligations of childhood (like Sunday Mass) are set aside. Not true. For the most part, our young people “get it,” they love their parish, they cherish their faith, and they see this as an opportunity to move deeper. Here are some snippets from their letters to Father Field:

*“This is a new beginning for me. I will still have to go to church, to Generations of Faith, and to be part of God forever. This is really good because I feel that I have another family, and another place where people will always love me and welcome me . . . Confirmation is putting myself in God’s hands.”*

*“I am glad I am being confirmed. There are so many teenagers who are close to God. Some of my friends go to church every Sunday with their families, just as I do. This is a very good thing.”*

*“I want to be confirmed to help me live a life of service. God has given us all the gift of life . . . I think God has put us all here for a reason, and me helping the less fortunate is only one way I can keep my relationship with God strong.”*

*“your faith is who you are. I am realizing each day that what matters most is trying to live as Christ did while on earth, doing God’s will, and following his example.”*

*“I have made a choice to commit myself to the Catholic way of life. I believe that it is important to become an active member of the parish, to attend Mass, and to demonstrate good qualities and morals. This is my chance to become even closer to God.”*

*“The people I have met in Incarnation Parish are some of the nicest people I’ve ever met. I want to be a member alongside these people in the church to which I have given so much of my time.”*



*“I feel blessed to be part of a great community. I am able to see how my parish has changed and evolved. A lot of people think they are the ones growing and changing, and church is always the same. From my experience, the parish has grown just as much as I have. Growing up with CCD, and now with Generations of Faith -- that makes me know the parish has been able to change and evolve. That has*

*given me the strength to continue to grow and change. The journey through life is a great one, and the Catholic Church is my road.”*

### Fall Bereavement Program Collaborative with St. Mary’s

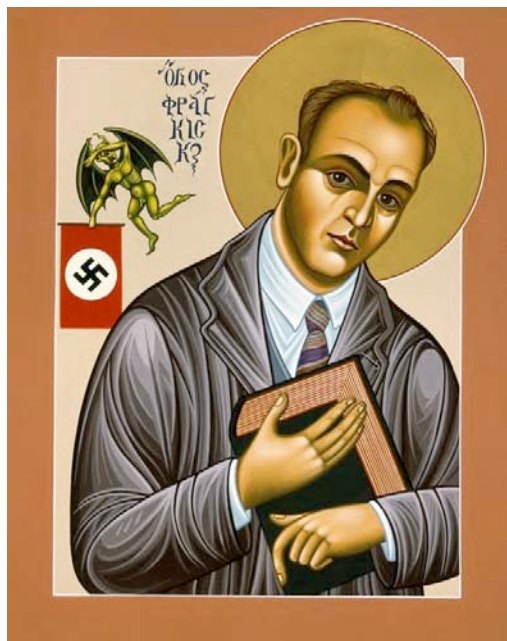
When you lose someone who has been a part of your life, your heart breaks and you wonder how to go on living. Are you looking for comfort, understanding and some coping skills to help you after the recent death of a loved one?

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.

## CALENDAR NOTE

### Beatification: Looking for Heroes



There seems to be a shortage of heroes these days, but in a remarkable beatification last week in Linz, Austria, we have found a great hero of conscience. Franz Jaggerstatter's widow and 5,000 faithful participated in a liturgy declaring a church sacristan "Blessed." Three times the husband and father of four resisted mandatory conscription in to the army of the Third Reich.

Declaring himself a conscientious objector for religious reasons, he was opposed by everyone but his wife, even his bishop and parish priest. He was imprisoned in Berlin and beheaded at age 37 in 1943.

He wrote many letters explaining the reasons for his actions. He opposed the Nazis from the beginning. He said he would not serve so that a godless regime could conquer and enslave even more of the world. He felt this collaboration would mean his becoming personally guilty of the evil. He prayed, fasted, and sought advice. His bishop told him that it was not his business to decide whether a war was righteous or not. Franziska remembers the moment he emerged from the bishop's office. "He was very sad, and he said to me, 'They don't dare themselves to speak out, or it will be their turn next.'" His wife hoped he would find a way out of the situation, but she stood by him. "If I hadn't stood by him, he wouldn't have had anybody."



The father of four was only exonerated by a Berlin court in 1997.

I always prayed to the Lord God that he would let me live to experience this day," said Franziska Jaggerstatter, surrounded by several dozen family members in a cathedral where a giant black and white portrait of Jaegerstaetter hung over the altar.

The beatification gave Austrians a new opportunity to examine "our own wartime past: the war generation, inhumanity, and the terror of the Nazis," Austrian bishops Ludwig Schwarz and Manfred Scheuer said in a statement.

"He is a shining example in his fidelity to the claims of his conscience — an advocate of non-violence and peace," they said, praising Jaegerstaetter for standing up to "the inhuman and godless system of Nazism."

"He gave up his life in magnanimous self-denial," the pope wrote in a letter read to the assembly.

In its official biography of Jaegerstaetter, the Diocese of Linz says he had a dream in 1938 warning of the horrors of Hitler's regime to come. "In it, he saw a train carrying innumerable people to perdition, and its meaning was unveiled to him as representing the Nazis," it says.

After World War II, two Franciscan nuns brought an urn containing Jaegerstaetter's ashes back to the province of Upper Austria, where he had long been celebrated as a martyr — meaning he died for the church.

There is a good short biography posted on [www.dioezese-linz.at](http://www.dioezese-linz.at) in English.

## Discussing the Gospel at Home with Children . . .



*The incident in today's gospel may well be a God's eye view of each one of us! We are all "little," like Zaccheus, trying to see Jesus from a distance, and often getting ourselves up*

*into trees or into other difficult situations and needing Jesus to come by and call us back down to earth, back down to an honest relationship with him. "When you come down from there, and admit your need," says Jesus, "we'll talk, heart to heart."*

Try to see this story from the point of view of Zaccheus. What kind of person was he? What kind of job did he have? Was he respected by others? Feared? Well-liked? Trusted? Why would Jesus want to be his friend? At what exact point,

do you think, did Zaccheus change? What brought him joy? What did he do to show that he had changed?

How are you like the "old Zaccheus," before he met Jesus? How are you like the "new Zaccheus," after he was found and saved by Jesus?

After you have read this story, what do you think about Jesus? Would you like Jesus to "come to your house?" (Hint: If you ask him to, he will!)



*"Look to God as a sunflower looks to the sun for life."*

*"We must have courage for the century we live in. Great souls are needed, souls that have the interests of God at heart."*

*Saint Julie Billiart*

## 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](mailto:i.rectory@comcast.net) website: under development, bulletin is archived on the web, go to [www.parishesonline.org](http://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](mailto:jamesfield@aol.com)  
Linda Swett, Pastoral Associate  
[linswett@aol.com](mailto:linswett@aol.com) Holly Zagaria, Director of Music Ministries  
[hollyincarnation@hotmail.com](mailto:hollyincarnation@hotmail.com)

Ann Lahiff, Assistant for Faith Formation  
[AnnLahiff7@aol.com](mailto: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.