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Church: St Ann
243 Neponset Ave.
Dorchester, MA 02122

Bulletin No.: 500010

Date of Publication: Jan 4, 2009

No. of Pages: 5

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SAINT ANN PARISH

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CONVENT -MERCY HOUSE
Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy
241 Neponset Avenue
Phone: 617-288-1202
www.sisterfaustina.org

SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Sunday: Vigil (Saturday Evening) 4:00 p.m.
8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., (Folk Group)
11:30 a.m. (Choir) 5:30 p.m. (Teen
Choir)
Daily: 9:00 a.m. Monday - Saturday
7:00 a.m. in convent Monday
Saturday
Holy Day: Vigil 5:30 p.m., Day 9:00 a.m. &
7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Sean M Connor, Pastor
Rev. Michael C. Harrington, In Residence
Rev. Hung Pham. In Residence

Mrs. Jean F. Hayward, Business Manager
Mr. Jack O'Connor, Parish Pastoral Council Vice
President

Mr. Bob Collins, Rel Ed Director/Youth Minister
Mrs. Carol Abel, Director of Music
Mrs. Terry Owens, Folk Group Director

SACRAMENTS

Confessions: Saturday 9:30 - 10:00 a.m.
(lower church) & 3:00 - 3:45 p.m.
(upper church)
Baptism: Third Sunday of the month at 2:00
p.m. Instructions on preceding
Sunday at 12:30 p.m.
Call the rectory to register.
Marriages: Arrange with one of the priests at
least six months in advance
**Anointing
of the Sick:** Call the rectory for Sacraments
and visits to the sick and
homebound

DEVOTIONS

Eucharistic Adoration: Saturdays 9:30am-3:30pm
Rosary: 8:30am Monday-Saturday lower church
Our Lady of Fatima: First Saturdays 8:00am
lower church
Divine Mercy Chaplet: M-F 2:30-3:30pm convent chapel
Sat. - 2:30-3:30pm lower church
Mass 3rd Friday at 6:00PM

PROGRAMS

Religious Education Classes: Sunday 10:30 am
Grades 1-6 and 6:30pm Grades 7- Confirmation
CYO Basketball, Mr. Michael Doyle
Color Guard, Ms. Eileen Cunningham 617-775-6644
St. Vincent DePaul Main Office 781-344-3100
St. Vincent DePaul Local Parish 617-825-6180

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

The Parish Community of Saint Ann's in Neponset is in the tradition of the Roman Catholic Church. We believe that this tradition is a sacred gift given to us in Baptism and the inheritance bequeathed to us by those who have gone before us through the ages. With our Archbishop and Pastor we are united with our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, in our commitment to- and we are indeed shaped as a people by- the Eucharistic Assembly especially on the Lord's Day. We are strongly committed to maintaining our parish school and religious education programs. We are equally committed to the spiritual needs of those who are grieving or who are ill or because of advanced age are unable to celebrate the Sunday Eucharist. Through the Liturgy we hope to inspire and motivate our parish family to respond to the physical needs of the less fortunate of Christ's brothers and sisters. We are a parish that is deeply committed to the family.

We are a parish with a long and rich history and take great pride in celebrating our Catholic traditions.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

SAT	1/3	4:00	Stephen R. George, Mem
SUN	1/4	8:00	Joseph Holloran, Mem
		9:30	Ann (Nan) B. Casey, Mem
		11:30	Patrick McPartlin, 20th Anniv
		5:30	Catherine MacDonald, Mem
MON	1/5	9:00	Fr. Simeun Saulenaus, Mem
TUES	1/6	9:00	Mary Fitzgerald, Mem
WED	1/7	9:00	Theresa Connolly, Mem
THUR	1/8	9:00	Loretta Horgan, 49th Anniv
			William Horgan, 10th Anniv
FRI	1/9	9:00	Special Intention
SAT	1/10	9:00	Gennaro Catinella, 21st Anniv
		4:00	Miriam R. Livingston 2nd Anniv
			Lawrence Livingston, 20th Anniv
SUN	1/11	8:00	Sullivan and Tumilty Families Mem
		9:30	Flanigan Family, Mem
		11:30	Special Intention
		5:30	Eileen Shaughnessy, Mem

STEWARDSHIP REPORT**OFFERTORY**

Collected, Dec 28th\$3,491.00

FUEL OFFERING

Collected, Dec 28th\$2,539.00

CHRISTMAS/CLERGY BENEFIT TRUST

Collected, Dec 24th & 25th.....\$7,123.00

LECTORS/EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

1/3	4:00	Anne Juliano	John Downey Gerry Cardinal
1/4	8:00	J. Breen	M. Fitzpatrick
	9:30	Jim English	E. Dunne M. Reilly
	11:30	Tim Lewis	Leigh Moreno J. Burke

ALTAR SERVERS

12/27	4:00	E. Guerard	T. Guerard
		C. Garvey	M. Garvey
12/28	8:00	J. Connolly	
	9:30	R. Kulesza	T. Fonrose
		K. Cotter	
	11:30	A. Pate	M. Neff
	5:30	J. Murphy	S. Murphy

*The Manifestation of Christ in Ourselves***Matthew 2:1-12** *Excerpt taken from the Writings of Fr. Peter Cameron, OP – Dominican Teacher and Editor of Magnificat©*

The mystery of the Epiphany—which mean “manifestation”- begins by manifesting something about ourselves. Like the “astrologers” in today’s Gospel, it is not enough for us merely to know that Jesus is alive and living in the world as a human being. This information alone does not satisfy us. The Epiphany manifests our deepest, God-given desire to enter into the presence of Jesus and to be in his midst. Our passive knowledge of the Incarnation comes to perfection in our active, personal experience of that miracle.

The astrologers manifest the sanctified way to respond to the gift of Christmas. It begins by putting Jesus first and making union with him their chief priority. If the astrologers has been totally self-absorbed, and preoccupied with their own affairs and ambitions, they never would have observed “his star at its rising.” Instead, their alertness and sensitivity moves them to leave behind their lived for a while, and follow the star. It is as if the astrologers already realize how empty of meaning their old life becomes until they personally embrace the Incarnate Christ who reveals the very meaning of human existence to men and women.

This experience cannot happen simply in our thoughts, desires, and imaginings. Rather, like the Magi, we must actually see Jesus. What the Lord manifests to us on the Epiphany must become the new focus of our life. And the star provides the light to gain that sight.

However, being in the presence of Jesus elicits something from us. As the infant Jesus is presented to the astrologers by Mary his Mother, they are moved to worship. As they report to King Herod and all Jerusalem, this is their main motivation, purpose, and goal: they “have come to do Him homage.” Matthew informs us that, at this news, they all “became greatly disturbed” because the homage of the astrologers threatened their own security, authority, and sense of self-importance. Sometimes our own reluctance to pray and to stand humbly before God is tainted with these same fears.

The magi manifest to us the true glory and joy of humbly adoring God. As so many great sacred artists have depicted, the act of physical prostration puts the magi on the same level of Jesus in the arms of Mary. Ironically, our own humble worship spiritually puts us there as well. It disposes us to receive the justifying graces and the

Love of friendship that come to us from Jesus through Mary. As we spiritually offer our own gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, we in turn receive the benefits of Christ's divinity, his priesthood, and his self-sacrifice symbolized by the gifts.

Finally, the sacred encounter with the Holy Family changes the astrologers. They leave the house transformed. Mystically enlightened by God, the wise men go home by another route. That new direction, meaning, and value. The Epiphany enables us to see in ourselves the beauty and the goodness of God, which we are called to respond to in the fervent love that characterizes the new way of our life.

In His Love Fr. Sean

PRAYER FOR FAMILIES



God, Our Father, loving and merciful, bring together and keep all families in perfect unity of love and mutual support. Instill in each member the Spirit of understanding and affection for each other. Keep quarrels and bitterness far from them, And for their occasional failures instill forgiveness and peace. May the mutual love and affection of Parents set a good example. Instill in children self-respect that they may respect others and grow in mature independence. Make the mutual affection and respect of families a sign of Christian life here. And hereafter, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, Amen.

READINGS TO REFLECT UPON

Below please find the readings for next Sunday

Reading I Is 55:1-11

Responsorial Is 12: 2-3 4bcd, 5-6

Reading II 1 Jn 5: 1-9

Gospel Mk 1: 7-11

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

You're all familiar with the Christmas song, but it is a good deal more than just a repetitious melody with pretty phrases and a list of strange gifts. Catholics in England during the period o 1558 to 1829, when Parliament finally emancipated Catholics in England, were prohibited from ANY practice of their faith by law-private OR public. It was a crime to be a Catholic. The songs gifts are hidden meanings to the teaching of the faith. The "true love" mentioned in the song doesn't refer to an earthly suitor, it refers to God Himself. The "me" who receives the presents refers to every baptized person. The partridge is a pear tree is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In the song, Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge which feigns injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings, much in memory of the expression of Christ's sadness over the fate of Jerusalem: "Jerusalem! Jerusalem! How often would I have sheltered thee under my wings, as a hen does her chicks, but thou wouldn't not have it so..."

The other symbols mean the following:

2 Turtle Doves = The Old and New Testaments

3 French Hen = Faith, Hope and Charity

4 Calling Birds = The Four Gospels

5 Golden Rings = The first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "*Pentateuch*"

6 Geese A-laying = the Six Days of Creation

7 Swans S-swimming = the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit, the Seven Sacrament.

8 Maids A-milking = the Eight Beatitudes

9 Ladies Dancing = the Nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit

10 Lords A-Leaping = the Ten Commandments

11 Pipers Piping—the Eleven Faithful Apostles

12 Drummers Drumming—the Twelve Points of Doctrine in the Apostle's Creed

Youth Ministry Christmas Quiz

Here are five fun questions to answer before Christmas

(Answers will be in next week's bulletin)

- 1. Over how many days do we celebrate Christmas?**

A: 1
B: 12
C: 8
D: 30
- 2. Poinsettias are part of our Christmas tradition in New England, but it started in what country?**

A: England
B: Poinsettiana
C: Mexico
D: California
E: None of the above
- 3. There was snow that first Christmas:**

A: Only in Bethlehem
B: All over Israel
C: Nowhere in Israel
D: Somewhere in Israel
E: Mary and Joseph did not even dream of a white Christmas
- 4. What is "frankincense"?**

A: A precious metal
B: A precious fabric
C: A precious perfume
D: An Eastern Monster story
E: None of the above
- 5. The wise men brought three gifts for Jesus they were:**

A: Platinum, Silver and Gold
B: Reindeer, Elves and Bells
C: Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh
D: Webkins, Xbox and a Basketball.

Father Sean will be away from the parish from Friday January 2nd through the morning of Saturday January 10th. We are very grateful that Fr. Connolly, Harrington and Pham are generous in covering our parish sacramental needs. If you have any questions or need assistance kindly call the rectory and ask for Jean Hayward or Bob Collins.

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

In SPAIN on January 6, the three wise men come to visit and also leave gifts for the children.

Feliz Navidad!

In GERMANY there is a flower called the Christmas Rose which blooms even in the snow and ice. *Frohes Weihnachtsfest*

Food for thought!

In IRELAND, children often put out Christmas sacks instead of stockings.

Nollaig Shona Dhuit

In NORWAY, on Christmas Eve, a bowl of porridge, "nisse" is left in the barn for the gnome who protects the farm.

In KENYA Christmas dinner is often a barbecue with family members traveling from far away to be together again.

LUCKY THOUSAND CLUB

***Birthday Gift Certificates
are available at the Rectory***

THE NEW YEAR IS HERE!!!!!!!!!!,

what fun it would be to start the year out a Lucky Thousand Club Winner. The next drawing will be January 12, 2009.

Community News:

MURPHY COMMUNITY CENTER

WINTER PROGRAM

REGISTRATION

The Murphy Center's winter program registration will be held on Wednesday January 7, 2009 at 7:00PM. Classes will include self-defense for children, beginner and intermediate computers, yoga for girls and adults, *Zumba*, knitting and sewing. We will be taking names for our pool programs including water aerobics, swim lessons and swim team.

When the pool reopens we will notify the classes. New membership cards will be available that night. Call the Murphy for more information 617-635-5150.