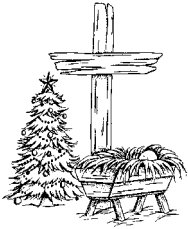




Love in action

"Christmas is love in action. When you love someone you give to them as God gives to us. The greatest gift He ever gave was the Person of His Son, sent to us in human form so that we might know what the Father is really like! Every time we love, every time we give, it's Christmas."
D Evans



The love in His eyes

*There is a darkness across the world tonight
But oh the still glory of one star's light
Dear star of Christmas, shine softly when
In the blessed manger He is born again!
So may the holy angel-voices sing!
So may the star shine for the little King!
So may we, as pilgrims seek where He lies
All the love of Christmas is in His eyes!*
C. Parmenter

Prayer to the Holy Family

Jesus, our brother, son of God and son of Mary, I thank you for the gift of life you have entrusted to my care. Help me be a parent both tender and wise, both loving and forgiving, able both to discipline and to give freedom.

Mary, Mother of Jesus and our Mother, nourish our family with your faith and

your love. Keep us close to your Son, Jesus, in all our sorrows and joys.

Joseph, Foster-Father to Jesus, guardian and spouse of Mary, keep this family safe from harm. Help us in all times of discouragement or anxiety.

Holy Family of Nazareth, make our family one with you. May we be peace-loving and peace-giving. And may we always have God as the center of our hearts and our home. Amen



ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Adoration will take place on Friday, January 2, 2009 and every First Friday from 8:00am to 5:00 pm We hope that you will sign up for a specific time as we must have someone present at all times and we also hope that many people will drop by for a visit and a moment of prayer before the Lord. We are asking that this Adoration

moment center on both a prayer for vocations and also your own personal needs. Let us pray for one another.



A Message From Our Pastor

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS to you and your family. As we gather for this feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on behalf of the entire Staff, I want to extend to all of our members the blessings and best wishes for a wonderful holy day season. I know that many of you have been going through very difficult times over the last few months - both personally and as a family (including the recent ice storm)- and my Christmas Prayer is that some of those problems will work out better for you in the coming year.

In the midst of the chaos around us, the wars that continue, the violence and suffering of so many people, around the world and in our own neighborhoods, there is a "light that shines in the darkness." **It is Christ the Lord,** who willingly entered into our world and our humanity to provide us with a **HOPE** that is inexpressible. Think of it - God the Father, who loved us enough to create us - sent His Son into the world to redeem us and to show us the extent of His unconditional **LOVE**. Since that moment, for over two thousand years, the Roman Catholic Church has evolved, expanded and tried as best it could to be a witness to His love and hope. You and I are heirs to that legacy. You and I can take advantage of that hope because we have been blessed with the gift of **FAITH** - a faith that sustains us in the good times and in the bad times. That is the gift of Christmas.

Christmas time reminds us of family - not only the Holy Family - with all the unique challenges they had at the time of Christ's birth - but your family and our parish family. We are here for -- and with one another. I pray that during the coming year - 2009 - God will bless you, your family and our parish family in ways that we cannot even imagine right now. We need one another to succeed and we are so pleased that you share your prayer with us on this Feast Day.

Please pray for the Staff. The parish grows through its broad leadership of priests, religious and laity in cooperation with the extensive participation of so many people. We need your support and involvement. If you have been involved in a variety of ways, I want to thank you for your stewardship. It is essential. On the other hand, if you have been disconnected from Church for any reason, I invite you to return - not just today - and come home to your Parish Family. We welcome you. We will be so much better with your prayer, presence and participation. Together the journey is easier. Your good times make us feel good for you. Your difficult times make us want to reach out and help you. Please call the parish if we can be of help in any way. We are here for you. You are not alone.

So **thank you** for being with us. May the blessings of the Child Jesus be yours abundantly today, tomorrow and in the coming year. God bless and **PEACE** -

Fr. Bob Connors



Christmas Prayer

Eternal God, this holy night is radiant with the brilliance of Your one true light. May that light illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds.

May the hope, the peace, the joy and the love represented by the birth in Bethlehem this night fill our lives and become part of all that we say and do. May we share the divine life of Your Son Jesus Christ, even as He humbled Himself to share our humanity. Amen.



Each year at Christmas and Easter, parishioners across the Archdiocese are asked to look deep within their hearts in support of our priests' retirement, medical and financial needs. Therefore, this Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, the

collection requested throughout the Archdiocese will be for just this need.

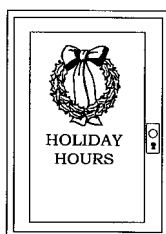
This year with Christmas being on a Thursday, your support for the parish should be made at the usual parish offertory collection taken up at the regularly scheduled weekend Masses.



ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD.

At last, I am pleased to announce that we have completed the sale of St. Mary's Property. It was purchased by the Church of Pentecost Greater Boston Assembly, with roots in Ghana. We know this is a sad moment for parishioners of St. Mary of the

Assumption. We hope all realize the necessity of this endeavor. After four and half years on the market, peppered with at least two major disappointing rejections-after-offers, it is good to have ended this process. The selling price was \$325K and the parish will reap about \$300K after all various expenses. I want to acknowledge in a special way all those who have been involved in this tedious process, especially Fr. Paul Clifford, our former pastor, who began the process and the Finance Committee and Parish Council who offered excellent advice along the way. We are disappointed in the amount we received but I can assure you that every effort was made – in a disintegrating economy over the past two years – to get as much as possible. Being the victim of an expanded wetlands non-building rule after the floods didn't help because it decreased the buildable area, plus the property was quickly deteriorating. The funds will be set aside for emergency capital improvements (like the roof of the parish center) and other worthwhile projects approved by the Parish Leadership.



Regular office hours:

Monday through Friday 9am to 3pm.

The office will be closed on the following dates:

Thursday, December 25th

Friday, December 26th

Thursday, January 1st and

Friday, January 2nd

Mass Intentions

Friday, December 26th

7:30 a.m. Norman Ruest

Saturday, December 27th

4:00 p.m. Victor & Daisy Tremblay

Sunday, December 28th

7:30 a.m. Albina Belanger

9:00 a.m. The Abel Family

11:00 a.m. Albert St. Onge

Weekday Masses, December 29th through January 2nd

Monday 7:30 a.m. Parish Intention

Tuesday 7:30 a.m. Lucille Laurent-Dion

Wednesday 7:30 a.m. Parish Intention

5:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Liturgy

9:00 a.m. New Year's Day Liturgy

Friday 7:30 a.m. Marjorie Pelletier (2nd Ann.)

Saturday, January 3rd

7:30 a.m. Blessed Mother for favor obtained

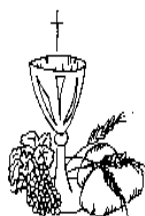
4:00 p.m. Tricia Fortin (10th Ann.)

Sunday, January 4th

7:30 a.m. Therese Rondeau (50th Ann.)

9:00 a.m. Gertrude T. Belanger

11:00 a.m. Yvonne Beland



GIFT OF BREAD AND WINE

The week of **Dec 21st**, at all Masses, the gift of Bread and Wine is given in memory of **Alice O'Neill**.

The week of **Dec. 28th** at all Masses, the gift of Bread and Wine is given in memory of **Lucille Laurent-Dion**.

Please remember them in your prayers.

"FREE" GIFTS

Still searching for the perfect gift for a loved one? Try one of the amazing free gifts below. Satisfaction guaranteed, or your money back!

1. The Gift Of Listening... But you must REALLY listen. No interrupting, no daydreaming, no planning your response. Just listening.

2. The Gift Of Affection... Be generous with appropriate hugs, kisses, pats on the back and handholds. Let these small actions demonstrate the love you have for family and friends.

3. The Gift Of Laughter... Clip cartoons. Share articles and funny stories. Your gift will say, "I love to laugh with you."

4. The Gift Of A Written Note... It can be a simple "Thanks for the help" note or a full sonnet. A brief, hand-written note may be remembered for a lifetime, and may even change a life.

5. The Gift Of A Compliment... A simple and sincere, "You look great in red," "You did a super job" or "That was a wonderful meal" can make someone's day.

6. The Gift Of A Favor... Every day, go out of your way to do something kind.

7. The Gift Of Solitude... There are times when we want nothing better than to be left alone. Be sensitive to those times and give the gift of solitude to others.

8. The Gift Of A Cheerful Disposition... The easiest way to feel good is to extend a kind word to someone. Really, it's not that hard to say, Hello or Thank You.

DECEMBER 21, 2008



Ste. Marguerite d'Youville Parish
1340 Lakeview Avenue
Dracut, MA 01826
(978)957-0322
Rev. Robert L. Connors, Pastor

PAROCHIAL VICAR

Rev. Christopher J. Casey

SENIOR PRIEST IN RESIDENCE

Rev. James D. Lyons

ASSISTING CLERGY

Rev. Leo Cormier

Rev. Normand Fillion, O.M.I.

PERMANENT DEACONS

Deacon Everett J. Penney, Jr.

PASTORAL ASSOCIATES

Mrs. Joan Donnelly

Mr. Paul Duquette

Office Hours: Mon. to Fri. – 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ----- 978-957-3113

Secretary – Pauline Montmarquet

Office Hours: Mon to Fri – 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

YOUTH MINISTRY

Roma Fauvel

BUSINESS MANAGER

Mrs. Joanne Laurent

Office Hours: Mon. to Fri. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

ST. LOUIS SCHOOL ----- 978-458-7594

Ms. Kristyna Dumais, Principal

CONTACT US:

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1340 Lakeview Avenue, Dracut, MA 01826

Parish Hall: 978-957-9861

Email: stmar@comcast.net

Web Page: www.stmar.org

MASS SCHEDULE

Daily Mass - Mon. to Sat. - 7:30 am

Saturday: 4:00 pm

Sunday: 7:30 am, 9:00 am and 11:00 am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday – 3:10 to 3:40 pm or by appointment.

BAPTISM

Please call the Parish Office to register for Baptism.

Baptism instruction is the first Wednesday of the month.

Baptisms are scheduled at 12:30 p.m. on the second

Sunday of the month.

MARRIAGE

Arrangements must be made at least six months in advance. Please contact the Parish Office.

R.C.I.A.

This program is for those wishing to join the Church. If you are interested in becoming a Catholic, please call the Parish Office for information on our Initiation Program.

PRAYER LINE

If you would like to place someone on our Prayer Line please call the Parish Office. All calls are confidential.