



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

NEW YEAR'S MASSES SOLEMNITY OF MARY

Saturday, December 31, 2016 New Year's Eve
4:00 PM Albert Capeto

Sunday, January 1, 2017 New Years' Day
8:30 AM Gary Graziano
 People of the Parish

11:00 AM Joan Benevides

Daily Mass this week will be held on
Tuesday and Thursday at 8:00 AM

Monday, January 2, 2017
NO MASS

Tuesday, January 3, 2017
8:00 AM

Wednesday, January 4, 2017
NO MASS

Thursday, January 5, 2017
8:00 AM

Friday, January 6, 2017
NO MASS

The Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday, January 7, 2017
4:00 PM People of the Parish

Sunday, January 8, 2017
8:30 AM James & Gertrude Butler

11:00 AM

MARIAN CANDLE

The Marian Candle burns this week
for *Kyle Thomas Andre*

If you would like to reserve the **Sanctuary Candle** or **Marian Candle** in memory of a loved one or for a special intention, please call the Rectory.

NOTICE:

The Rectory Office will be closed on Monday, January 2, 2017 due to the observance of the New Year's Holiday. If you need to contact the office for an emergency the Telephone Answering Service will be in contact with Msgr. Fitzgerald.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Thank you everyone for all the cards and gifts that I received at Christmas time. Your remembrances mean a great deal. I wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year! Msgr. Fitzgerald

Today's Hymns



Entrance: #61 Joy To the World
Preparation: #692 Song of Mary
Communion #816 My Soul Rejoices
Meditation: #702 Hail Mary: Gentle Woman
Recessional: #72 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

As we begin a new year, let us take time to plan and make stewardship of time and talent a part of our lifestyle and stewardship of treasure a part of our budget.

Christmas Budget Collection	\$3,839.00
Christmas Collection	\$3,239.00
Renovation Fund	\$ 913.00

The second collection this weekend will be for the Renovation Fund.



In Loving Memory

We extend our prayers and sympathy to the family and friends of *Barbara J. Olivier* who died last week.

THANK YOU!

My special thanks to the Decorating Committee; the church looked beautiful for the Christmas Masses; and to our Music Director, Kyle Medeiros, the Choir and our guest musicians; the music was exceptional! Thank you also to the Altar Servers, Collectors, Ushers, Eucharistic Ministers, and the Lectors, all of you made Christmas very special. Many thanks!

FAITH FORMATION Religious Education

There WILL NOT BE ANY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES for this SUNDAY, due to the New Year's Holiday. Classes resume on SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2017. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

All children who will be entering First Grade in September **must register for Religious Education Classes.** This is a two-year program that begins with First Grade and ends with the reception of the Sacrament of First Holy Communion in Second

FIRST COMMUNION PROGRAM

First Communion Rehearsal Dates – Saturday, April 29, 2017 and Saturday, May 6, 2017 from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM in the Church.

Sacrament of First Communion – Sunday, May 7, 2017 during the 11:00 AM Mass.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

This is a two year program for *both Catholic and Public School* parishioners. **Students need to register in Grade 9 to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in Grade 10.**

CANCELLATION OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

Please tune to WSAR Channel 6 or Rhode Island Broadcasters on Channels 10 or 12 for cancellation announcements. If you have any questions, you may contact Michael Fitzpatrick, Director of Religious Education, at the Religious Education Office #508-679-1236 or at the Rectory Office #508-673-7831.

Inclement Weather – Daily Mass

For safety reasons, **when the Town of Somerset cancels school because of inclement weather, daily Mass will also be cancelled.** If you had a scheduled announced Mass for that day, please call the Rectory at 508-673-7831 and the Mass will be rescheduled as soon as possible. Thank you.

ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH 20/20 RAFFLE

Tickets are on sale before and after the masses. Extra tickets are available to sell to friends and family. This raffle is a fund-raiser for our church renovation fund. Tickets are \$20 each. **There will be one lucky winner! The winning ticket will be drawn on February 26, 2017 after the 11 o'clock mass.** The winner is guaranteed \$1,000 or 20% of what is totally collected, whichever is larger. **Anyone willing to volunteer to sell the raffle tickets before and after the masses to please speak with Msgr. Fitzgerald or call the rectory at 508-673-7831. Your help makes this fundraiser successful. Thank you.**

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

There will be a meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry on *Tuesday, January 3, 2017, from 9:30 – 11:00 in the rectory meeting room.* All knitters and crocheters are welcome to join us.

A Reminder...

Saturday, January 21st at 11:00AM, the First Communion Class will be celebrating the Sacrament of First Penance. **The Sacrament of Penance Students and their parents should be at the Church by 10:45AM.** There will be a luncheon served following the First Penance Service for students and their families in the Parish Center. *Please be reminded that all luncheon request forms must be returned to Mrs. Crook or Mr. Fitzpatrick no later than January 8th.*

SAVE THE DATE!

Volunteers needed to Un-decorate the Church

Volunteers will be needed on **Tuesday, January 10th at 6:30 PM** in the Church to remove the Christmas decorations. *Please volunteer, many hands are needed. Thank you.*



SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

First Reading: Numbers 6:22-27

The Lord told Aaron to bestow his blessings on the Israelites. God wanted them to know that by invoking his name they would be blessed by him.

Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

Paul describes how through Jesus' birth, we have been delivered from the laws that exiled Gentiles from God's community. Through Jesus, the Gentiles became God's adopted sons and would receive the same blessings that the Jewish converts had been promised.

Gospel: Luke 2:16-21

The shepherds went to Bethlehem to see Jesus and immediately understood all that they had been told about him. They praised God for what they had seen, and Jesus was given the name that the angel had chosen for him.

A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS

HIS WORD TODAY *by Rev. William J. Reilly*

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God January 1, 2017

"The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger; once they saw, they understood what had been told them concerning this child. All who heard of it were astonished at the report... Mary treasured all these things and reflected on them in her heart."

Does it surprise me that the first to come and encounter Christ were lowly shepherds. They were certainly not the persons I would expect to greet a new born baby. Obviously, they accepted the good news and then reported it to others. We who know the Bethlehem story so well, might not have even bothered to go to the cave where Christ was born. We might like the shepherds, have just returned to the night watch guarding themselves and their flocks. Obviously their story moved others as well.

At the same time Mary both treasured and reflected, sometimes the scriptures say 'pondered' or weighed what she knew, saw and heard. How she felt may best be known by the mother of a newborn. It might be fitting to sit quietly like Mary and reflect upon the events. Christmas comes and goes so fast that we might overlook the great outpouring of the Father in giving us a needed Savior, and the role model of Mary treasuring and reflecting. May we treasure the coming of the Lord.