

Prayers are requested for the Parishioners of St. Clare Parish, for those who are hospitalized, for our deceased relatives and friends, and for the following intentions:

SATURDAY, February 7

4:00 PM: William E. Dean, Jr.....7th Anniv

SUNDAY, February 8

8:30 AM: Carmella Marino.....Memorial

10:00 AM: Nellie & Michael Naughton.....Memorial

11:30 AM: Vincent & Ronald Saccone.....Anniv

SATURDAY, February 14

4:00 PM: William Duggan.....1st Anniv

SUNDAY, February 15

10:00 AM: Ruth A. Ogle.....1st Anniv

11:30 AM: Jane Donovan.....Birthday Memorial

Like St. Paul in the second reading, the good steward can say, "I do all that I do for the sake of the Gospel in the hope of sharing in its blessings." See 1 Corinthians 9:23

Altar Servers: Those interested in becoming an altar server are asked to please leave your name at the Parish House to the attention of Fr. Paul. We could very much appreciate new servers who are eager to serve the Lord in this special role and meaningful way.

Twin Bed Sheets & Pillow Cases Needed at My Brothers

Keeper: new or used (in good condition) for mattresses delivered to those in need. Please contact Mary Belanger at 781-848-3533.

St. Clare Coffee House will take place next Sunday, **February 15**, from 5:30-7:30 PM in the Church Hall. Come listen to contemporary Christian music, enjoy refreshments and good company. Free. Call Brian with any questions at 380-8709.

It's Your Faith Discussion Group: Friday, **February 27**, at Estella's house in Braintree. Just in time for the Lenten season, we will be discussing the PBS Frontline video series, "**From Jesus to Christ: The First Christians**" which tells the epic story of the rise of Christianity. It explores the life and death of Jesus, and the men and women whose belief, conviction, and martyrdom created the religion we now know as Christianity. Come and be engaged through on-camera interviews with 12 scholars – New Testament theologians, archeologists, and historians. Call or email for directions 781-801-3028 or este2004@comcast.net.

Pine Street Inn: Thursday, **February 12**, is the date of our monthly visit to serve our friends a hot meal. **Desserts are always needed and appreciated**, which you may leave in the kitchen area before noon that day.

Please Remember the Needy: Please be generous in donating to our Poor Boxes, which provides monthly meals for those at Pine Street Inn, Boston, and Fr. Bill's Place, Quincy. Your pennies are donated to the Catholic Daughters to purchase cribs for the unborn.

Please remember St. Clare Parish when planning your estate.

WE ARE THE STEWARDS ...

and this is how we live our stewardship

Offertory (January 31 & February 1) \$6,642

Thank you for your ongoing generosity

The Second Collection taken this weekend of **February 7 & 8** is **Peter's Pence**, which enables the Holy Father to respond with emergency financial assistance to requests for aid to needy throughout the world – those who suffer as a result of war, oppression, and natural disasters. For more information, please visit www.usccb.org/ppc.

The Pilot: This week, we are holding a subscription drive for new subscriptions to The Pilot. Please be sure to take one of the subscription cards with you as you leave Church. The Pilot has been sending free papers to our Parish each week for your enjoyment. Unfortunately, the delivery of these free papers will be coming to an end in the next few weeks.

Catholic Social Workers Give Advice: At a recent conference in Georgetown University, participants declared that the financial crisis dictates that the work of the Church on behalf of the needs of the poor and unemployed will necessarily need to be doubled and intensified in the days ahead. Simply preserving the institutional structure of the financial community is not enough. Hence, in these difficult economic times for our world, country, and families, we are grateful to all of you for your financial sacrifices to help benefit the work of the Church, and St. Clare Parish in particular. We, for our part, will do all that we can to ensure that we help the poor and the needy.

The Children's Liturgy is a great success!! Don't let your children miss out on this wonderful opportunity to be inspired to understand and practice their faith. Children in grades K-5 are invited to join us at the 10:00 AM Mass for the upcoming children's liturgies next month on **March 1, 15, and 29**.

The Parish Web site, StClareBraintree.org, is worth a visit. From this website one can review recent bulletins, register in the Parish, and take a daily retreat. Please utilize the new technology in helping to bring your Parish into the home.

Liturgical Roles

February 7 & 8:

Lectors:

4:00 PM: C. Cavanaugh

8:30 AM: B. McGrath

10:00 AM: E. O'Donnell

11:30 AM: J. McCarthy

Eucharistic Ministers:

4:00 PM: D. Hoffman, M. Ryan, Deacon Mike, M. Cahill

8:30 AM: R. Hyland, M. Henderson, C. Vitagliano, D. Picewick

10:00 AM: B. & L. Carr, M. Smith, E. Ramirez

11:30 AM: I. Barone, P. Manter, B. & M. Bohannon

Priest Presiders – February 14 & 15

4:00 PM: Fr. Tom Foley

8:30 AM: Fr. Tom Foley

10:00 AM: Fr. Paul Sughrue

11:30 AM: Fr. Paul Sughrue

Liturgy & Life

Recently, the ivory gull has been viewed in Plymouth, MA outside of its natural habitat, Newfoundland, Greenland, attracting othinologists from far and wide. They gather overlooking Plymouth Harbor hoping to fixate their attention on the rarely viewed ivory gull. This caused me to ruminate on how attentive we are to the common citing of the Lord, in Word, Sacrament and one another. Certainly much more invaluable than even the viewing of a rare and to be sure exotic gull.

Prayerfully, Fr. Paul

Internet sites of value include the following: The Vatican's YouTube video news channel features news clips of Pope Benedict and major Vatican events. On January 23rd, the channel www.youtube.com/vatican was unveiled. The internet is a wealth of information and resources, which can be very enriching.

Wednesday, February 11 - Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes: On December 8, 1854, Pope Pius IX declared the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. On March 25, 1958, Mary appeared to Bernadette Soubirous identifying herself as "I am the Immaculate Conception". That spot, Lourdes, France, has become a place of miraculous cures and healings ever since. No wonder we do well to make an extra effort to worship the Lord on this important Marian feast.

Lenten Spiritual Exercises at St. Francis Chapel in the Prudential Center: Beginning with an introductory meeting on **February 23**, the Monday before Ash Wednesday, at 7:00 PM, Father Dennis Brown, OMV will guide interested persons through a 40-day "spiritual retreat" using Fr. Timothy Gallagher's 40 Meditations from his recent book [An Ignatian Introduction to Prayer](#). Each participant will do a daily meditation beginning February 24 and finishing on the Saturday before Palm Sunday. There will be weekly group meetings each Monday of Lent at 7:00 PM and also the availability of personal spiritual assistance by several Oblate priests and brothers. Please contact Fr. Dennis at evangelization@aol.com or call the St. Francis Chapel at 617-437-7117.

Caritas Good Samaritan Hospice, a Catholic healthcare provider, serves the members of this parish and sixty-four communities in the greater Boston area. Hospice care is not just for the last days of life. It can enhance the quality of life for many months for patient, caregivers and family. For information, or to make a referral, call 781-769-8282.

Sabbath Reflections on the Internet: Father Lou Papes, who preached a parish mission here at St. Clare in March of 2007, has begun posting his weekly homilies on the internet. Simply go to the website www.sabbathretreats.org and click the link to "Reflections".

Wedding Music Presentation: Sunday, **February 15**, at 3:30 PM (snow date is February 22) at St. Francis of Assisi Church. Come and hear singers and a variety of musicians (instruments) present options for your special day. Free event, but please RSVP to Judy Roberts at 617-291-0074 or email: musicjr@comcast.net.

Faith Formation

The winners of the January Riddle Contest are the following students: Kindergarten – Shannon Stanton; Grade 1 - Nathan Eskander; Grade 2 – Aoife Dunphy; Grade 3 – Niamh Dunphy; Grade 4 – Leah Marum; and Grade 5 – Kevin Lawton. Congratulations to all! Next contest.....in March.

Attention Grade 2 Parents: Before you start your First Communion dress or suit search - we have a few dresses, suits, shoes, (in various sizes) and accessories which have been donated to the Faith Formation Program. If you would like to see any of these, they will be on display in the Church Hall on Mondays during the children's class time. Please feel free to take something home to try on for size. If anyone has any outfits hanging in a closet that will not be used again by a family member, please consider donating them. They surely will be appreciated by someone.

The students in Cheryl Hawe's 8th grade class went to My Brother's Keeper in Easton on December 22. They selected and wrapped gifts for 4 needy families. The students enjoyed contributing to the true "Spirit of Christmas".

Snow Cancellation Policy: If school has been cancelled or dismissed early due to snow - there will be no Faith Formation classes that afternoon or evening. Also, please use your own discretion regarding safe travelling conditions.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call the Faith Formation Office at 781-848-7481.

Individual Email Boxes for each Director for your convenience:

Debbie Clancy (**Gr K - 5**): Faithformation4K25@Verizon.net

Ann Marie Tranfaglia (**Gr 6-8**): Faithformation4628@Verizon.net

Mike Panciotti (**Gr 9 & 10**): Faithformation4910@Verizon.net

Our Annual Snowball Dance will be held on Friday, **February 20**, at the DAV Hall from 6:15-9:15 PM for children in Grades 1 through 4. The cost is \$5.00 a child / \$20.00 maximum per family (adults are free). Tickets will be on sale in the Faith Formation Office during class times, or may be purchased at the door. We are asking the children to also bring a can a soup with them for the Braintree Food Pantry to help the needy during the cold winter months. Come and enjoy a fun night of dancing, games & raffles!

"Women Helping Women \$1,000 Scholarship": sponsored by the Braintree Women's Club for a woman who has delayed entering college for a specific reason and would like to become part of an academic program in order to enter the work force. All Braintree women are encouraged to apply for this award by contacting the scholarship chairperson, Anne Flaherty, at 781-843-0539. Applications must be submitted by **April 10**.

Dear St. Clare Parishioners,

On behalf of Boston's Homeless Services we extend a very special thanks to all of you. The caring that you have shown to all our guests at Long Island Shelter through your generous support of Holiday gifts will be carried in their hearts for some time. The warmth of the clothes will save these men and women from the elements through this winter season. You have once again come through with the true essence of the Christmas season with your unconditional love of thy neighbor. It is wonderful to know that you are here for our guests when they need you the most.

With much gratitude, John Comaschi