

The Weave

November 2014

Volume 19 Issue 1

A Quarterly Newsletter of St. Mary Parish Family, Franklin MA

Disciples in Mission

by Fr. Brian Manning

All of us are aware from church bulletins, newsletters, the Pilot, the Archdiocesan news in the various forms of the media, the Archdiocesan website and all sorts of blogs, that under the leadership of Cardinal Sean, our Archdiocese has embarked on a multi-year Pastoral Plan for our mission as a Church. It is entitled "Disciples in Mission". Our task is "to bring the Gospel of Christ to all the peoples." Cardinal Sean began developing this plan in January 2011 with a large and very representative and inclusive Planning Commission. With many changes and refinements as dialogue and growth occurred in the very deep consultative process, the final plan was completed by August, 2012 and formally launched Phase One. To read the entire document or be easily informed of developments, go to the website "disciplesinmission.com."

Approximately two years ago, the Office of Planning of the Archdiocese consulted our Parish Pastoral Council and me: "In year Two or Three of the new plan: in which year will Saint

Mary's Parish best be able to participate in the formation process of being a collaborative parish?" although St. Mary's will not be joined with any other parish: it will be a ("stand alone Collaborative"). Our Parish Pastoral Council and I answered: "Year Three". In the last days of



Archdiocese of Boston

August, I was officially informed that the Cardinal has decided that our Parish will be involved in "Phase (Year) Three" of the Pastoral Plan, which begins next June, 2015. Although we will not be in partnership with any other parish, there will be significant work starting now

and continuing over the next many months and years for our Parish, especially for the clergy, the pastoral and professional staff and also the lay leadership groups. They will be involved in prayerful reflection, learning, communication and also re-structuring and development. I highly recommend that you read "Frequently Asked Questions – August 2014" on the website (disciplesinmission.com) to assist you in understanding how this all

(Continued on page 3)

O Come Emmanuel

by Joan McGuire

Matthew is not my favorite nativity gospel, but it is the first of only two gospels that narrate the Nativity. Since it was a rainy Sunday afternoon and I had nothing pressing to do, I read the entire gospel at one sitting. I was struck as never before by the beginning and ending passages. They focused me into the spirit of Advent as I never expected.

Matthew 1:2-3 - The Virgin shall conceive and bear a Son and they shall name Him **Emmanuel** which means "**God is with us.**"

Matthew 28:20 - And remember **I am with you always** to the end of the age.

As we begin the Advent season 2014, it seems the world is in chaos. Social, economic and political problems are rampant and seem to be getting worse. Cries of discouragement are heard "Has God forgotten us?" Check the Scriptures!

When Jesus was born - the Israelites were being oppressed by the Roman Empire. Herod the Great, their leader and supposed protector not only took orders from Rome but was a paranoid murderer who killed his wife and children on a whim, murdered anyone who disagreed with him and is said to have massacred all the boys under two in fear

(Continued on page 7)

inside...

Time for Faith-filled New Year's Resolutions
A Christmas Blessing for the Home
We Would Like to See Jesus
Religious Education News

page 2
page 3
page 6
page 7

Time for Faith-filled New Year's Resolutions

by John M. Ristaino

It's that time of the year again. The holiday season is upon us. As Christian Catholics we celebrate many new beginnings during this period of time. The new Liturgical year starts with the season of Advent. Advent marks a new year for us. Christmas is a new beginning of being saved. The birth of Jesus in the stable in Bethlehem on Christmas morning dawns a new day for Christians; a day of hope, a day of peace, a day of joy and a day of love. One week after Christmas we celebrate the arrival of the new calendar year; Happy 2015! The holiday season brings many gifts to our lives. One of the greatest gifts we receive is the gift to start anew.

Perhaps starting anew might inspire you to consider to grow stronger in your Catholic faith and to take advantage of some new opportunities offered by St. Mary Parish to assist you towards this goal. First, weekly Sunday Mass and daily Mass are offered here each week. Each Mass has a unique characteristic. There is a Mass for everyone. In this season of gifts; your presence at Mass is a present you give yourself and to members of our parish. A faith community is a community because of its people. So, perhaps attending Mass regularly is what you will choose for your resolution.

Earlier this fall, St. Mary Parish began offering an adult educational presentation once a month following the 10:30 Mass in the hall in the downstairs church. This new initiative is a great way to learn more about our Faith while getting to know other members of our par-

ish community. These sessions will occur once a month and will feature a different topic each time. There are so many aspects to our Catholic faith; taking them one at a time gives us all the chance to take it one step at a time. Now, a once-a-month commitment to learn something new and meet members of the parish seems like a pretty manageable new year's resolution; doesn't it?

Winter brings true joy to skiers and winter sports enthusiasts. For many of us, it brings many months of waiting for warmer weather, Opening Day, the arrival of the first spring birds and flowers. Some of us can become like bears as we hibernate until the joys of warmer days arrive. It takes a special event to get us out of the house. Setting a resolution to deepen your faith just might lead you out of the house on a cold winter's night to come to a special speaker series. Winter is coming and so too is the first of St. Mary Parish's speaker series. Stay tuned to the parish website and the parish bulletin for details. It will warm up your faith and get you out of the house!

Faith grows when we learn. Is there a better way to learn than reading? I can remember the Sisters of St. Joseph, who taught at St. Mary School, admonishing me and the other students back in the day to read, read, read. They claimed and celebrated that "readers are leaders." I am not sure I appreciated the value and truth in their advice until I was much, much older. However, now I do appreciate their advice and know it is factual. As a result, I love reading. I am the old fashioned kind of reader; I read books made of paper. I am not an online reader. Give me a good book so I can turn the pages, dog ear the pages I question, want to remember or need to re-read. I also enjoy a physical book because I can pass it along to others.

Get ready for another special Christmas present from Fathers Brian, Jack and Anthony. I can't tell you exactly what this year's gift will be but I can tell you it's a book! It's a book that will deepen

(Continued on page 6)



Families' Corner

by Katherine Ginnetty

During Advent parents may have to think about how to focus their children on the birth of Our Lord rather than on secular commercialism, while at the same time encourage their children to enjoy the festivities of the season. There are some very good resources that exist for the Christian message, especially through shared family reading with younger children. *Catholicmom.com* reviews and offers selections of books and crafts available for the holy season, this year highlighting a series of Advent-themed books in a trilogy by film director Arnold Ytreeide.

Evoking the image of Santa Claus kneeling at the Christ Child's crib, Catholic parents hope to merge secularism and the sacred and walk that Christian line of being in the world, but not of it. While parents are acutely aware of the tension during Advent, they also need to be attentive to opportunities that present themselves throughout the year. Some years ago a friend in another state shared that she was troubled by her little girl's aversion to going to Mass on Holy Days of Obligation and taking time on Saturdays in the summer to go to Reconciliation. Knowing that there was a park in the town next to hers, the mother called a church conveniently near to the park to find times that would allow for both events. They also made a shared Saturday afternoon of Confession, battling cages and go-karts insuring that her family could be involved in a variety of good things!

Passing on the Faith to our children requires more than simple exposure to the liturgy on Sundays. Recently, in an October press conference, representatives from the third Extraordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops talked about challenges to family life and responsibilities of parents, saying among other things that "generativity" includes "not only the procreation of children but also the gift of divine life in baptism, their catechesis, and their education. It includes the capacity to offer life, affec-

(Continued on page 4)



The Weave

Published three times a year
(February, July
and November)

by Saint Mary Parish, Franklin MA

Parish Publishing

Publisher Father Brian Manning
Editor Joan McGuire
Layout Editor Paula Coughlin
Contributing Editors:

Katherine Ginnetty
Terry Kerr
Jayne Malonson
Nan Rafter
John Ristaino
Father Jack Sullivan



...Disciples in Mission

(Continued from page 1)
goes forward in our parish.

This almost 2 year process and the long-term changes involve a great deal of time, prayer, commitment, thought and reflection by the priests, the pastoral and professional staffs, the lay leadership Councils and all of us. All the clergy of the parish are faced with the possibility of transfer next June for the good of the Archdiocese or the Parish. I was required to resign as Pastor of the Parish by a formal letter to the Cardinal with an effective date of when the Plan is implemented in this Parish in June 2015. The parochial vicars in our Parish, Fr. Jack and Fr. Anthony, may request a transfer or be transferred for the good of the Archdiocese or the Parish. Part of the Plan is for the pastor who resigns to prayerfully and thoughtfully consider if he should apply to be the pastor in this "new collaborative parish". In light of consultation with my spiritual and pastoral advisors, in discussion with members of the lay leadership and also pastoral and professional staff members, I have applied to be pastor of Saint Mary's under the Disciples in Mission Plan Phase 3 of June 2015. The Cardinal, with his advisors, will make a decision about this appointment by this mid-December 2014. Other priests of the Archdiocese may also apply for this position, or the Cardinal may appoint a candidate that he believes is the priest to lead our Parish in this next phase of its life. In early October, the Cardinal's advisors (Rev. Paul Soper – Director of the Office of Planning, Mr. Sean Hickey – Assistant Director of Clergy personnel and Fr. Brian Kiley – Regional Episcopal Vicar) met with the Parish Pastoral Council, the Parish Finance Council and the Pastoral and Professional Staff to listen to their understanding of what qualities were needed for the Pastor of Saint Mary's in its next phase of life as a collaborative parish.

This next phase of the daily and practical life at Saint Mary's as we work in Phase 3 is a great and graced oppor-

tunity for us to learn who we are at the moment, what we really want the Parish to be and who are the people among us who are committed in service and support to helping us. We know that we seek to offer praise and worship to our God as our primary task; we also know that there are many other services that we must provide. The questions are many, varied and often times complex. I think the large question is: "how do we as followers of Jesus Christ live out in many ways at Saint Mary's his life and love?" The other questions and answers will come along in God's good and gracious time. Knowing some of the questions is good, answering some of them is better and best of all clearly is to journey along as Disciples of Jesus with the Mission with faith, hope and charity.



A Christmas Blessing for the Home

Loving God, as we gather at Christmas around the manger, which reminds us of the birth of your Son, we ask you to dwell in our hearts and our home.

Bless every member of our family, and strengthen the bond of love among us.

May we joyfully praise you like the angel choir that announced the birth of your Son to the shepherds watching over their flocks.

May we show your love to others with the same brightness of the star that guided the Wise Men to offer gifts to the newborn King.

Make our family holy, just like Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, so that we may always live in peace and love. Amen.

View From the Pew

by Joan McGuire

Don't Open Until Christmas

When are we going to see Santa? How many more days until Christmas? These and many other questions filled the air in my house as soon as Thanksgiving Day had passed. To my two pre-school brothers only four years apart, the days were endless. The big day for us was the December 8th. Since it was a holyday my cousins and I didn't have school and traditionally we went with our mothers and my brothers to the city to the big stores - Macy's, Gimbels and Wanamaker's (the Neiman Marcus of our day). My brothers stood on line at each store and it was great fun to hear the children checking that Santa knew their address and would definitely get there for Christmas. There were always the problems to be anxiously checked out – a house with no fireplace, an apartment house with no elevator and a house with a peaked roof with no landing site for the sleigh and reindeer. The children left smiling, these were no problems for Santa. As Christmas came closer, gifts started to arrive from relatives we would not see during the holidays. They were always marked "Don't open till Christmas." The level of excitement grew.

As I look back on my childhood, I realize how well we were living the season of Advent. Advent is truly a time of waiting for Christ to come to us anew. If only as adults we could develop the same enthusiasm we had as children waiting for Santa. After all, each encounter with Christ brings us gifts beyond price. Advent reminds us that as a people of faith we are an awaiting people. Like the Anawim of ancient times who were waiting for the Messiah and wondering what he would be like. So we also ask: "Who is God for me? How will inviting Jesus into my soul change things?" Take a little time each day to prepare for the coming of the God who is eagerly waiting to be welcomed.





Mark Your Parish Calendar

- Nov. 22 Add to the Bounty Food Drive
- Nov. 23 Add to the Bounty Food Drive
- Nov. 23 CWC Ornament Sale
- Nov. 23 Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
- Nov. 27 **Thanksgiving Day**
Mass at 8am
- Nov. 29 Pageant rehearsal, 9am
- Nov. 30 Baptisms
- Nov. 30 Rock Night
- Dec. 4 Mass at The Estates
- Dec. 4 CWC Meeting
- Dec. 6 Pageant rehearsal
- Dec. 6/7 Grand Annual #3
- Dec. 7 **Caring Tree Gifts due**
- Dec. 7 CWC Ornament Sale
- Dec. 7 Baptismal Catechesis
- Dec. 10 Mass at Forge Hill
- Dec. 13 Pageant rehearsal
- Dec. 14 Rock Night
- Dec. 14 Prolatio Singers Concert
- Dec. 16 Prayer Shawl meeting
- Dec. 21 Baptisms
- Dec. 21 Decorating the church
- Dec. 23 Mass at nursing home
- Dec. 24 **Christmas Eve Masses**
4pm: church & chapel
4pm: Mass with Christmas Pageant at Horace Mann Auditorium
6pm: church
7:30: church
Midnight: church
- Dec. 25 **Christmas Day**
Masses: 9am, 10:30am
- Dec. 28 Baptisms
- Dec. 31 **New Year's Eve**
Mass: 4pm
- Jan. 1 **New Year's Day**
Masses: 9am, 10:30am
- Jan. 3 Sunday Spirituality, 11:30am
- Jan. 4 Baptisms
- Jan. 8 Mass at The Estates
- Jan. 11 Grand Annual #4
- Jan. 11 Baptisms
- Jan. 14 Mass at Forge Hill
- Jan. 15 CWC meeting
- Jan. 18 Baptisms
- Jan. 20 Prayer Shawl meeting
- Jan. 20 Speaker Series, 7pm
- Jan. 24 Morning With Jesus
- Jan. 25 Baptisms
- Jan. 27 Mass at nursing home
- Jan. 27 Speaker Series, 7pm
- Feb. 1 Sunday Spirituality, 11:30am
- Feb. 1 Baptisms
- Feb. 3 Speaker Series, 7pm
- Feb. 5 Mass at The Estates
- Feb. 7/8 Grand Annual #5
- Feb. 8 Baptisms



1. Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer	Name That Christmas Song answers
2. Silent Night	
3. O Little Town of Bethlehem	
4. Good King Wenceslas	
5. Joy to the World	
6. Hark, The Herald Angels Sing	
7. We Three Kings	
8. Away in the Manger	
9. Angels We Have Heard on High	
10. O Come, All Ye Faithful	
11. O Holy Night	
12. I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas	
13. The Twelve Days of Christmas	
14. It Came Upon a Midnight Clear	
15. Frosty the Snow Man	
16. All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth	
17. I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus	
18. Walking Through a Winter Wonderland	
19. Deck The Halls	
20. Silver Bells	



- Feb. 10 Speaker Series, 7pm
- Feb. 11 Mass at Forge Hill
- Feb. 17 Prayer Shawl Meeting
- Feb. 18 **Ash Wednesday**
- Feb. 19 CWC meeting
- Feb. 22 Baptisms
- Feb. 24 Mass at nursing home
- Feb. 24 Speaker Series, 7pm
- March 1 Sunday Spirituality, 11:30am
- March 1 Baptisms
- March 2 Speaker Series, 7:30pm

...Families Corner

(Continued from page 2)

tion, and values - Families who live this light-filled adventure become a sign for all..."

We are fortunate at St. Mary's to see in our parish parents who are signs for all the rest of us. Over the years some have shared their own ways of including faith in the education of their children: One parent rewards her children for various accomplishments with a shopping trip - to the Daughters of St. Paul store where they can buy a book, video or small statue. Another goes for a walk with her children along the Rosary Way at the Fatima Shrine, and usually stays for daily Mass there. Parents might combine a trip to the Trappist monastery in Spencer for prayer service with a field trip to Sturbridge Village. Sometimes just changing the venue for Mass helps children understand its universal aspects while the novelty of worshipping in a new sacred space keeps things interesting. Instead of fuming at the commercialization of Christmas, parents might consider taking their children to a living Manger scene (put on by several churches in this area.) As in all things, parents teach best by example. Before enjoying a run down the ski slope this winter, take a moment to pray, thanking God for His scenery, the fresh air, good health, and His love. Teaching piety is parents' responsibility, not only at Christmas, but throughout the year.





by Nan Rafter, Parish Nurse

When I was a child, I loved Christmas and being an only child, you can imagine how my parents went out of their way to make it special. Christmas for me was a magical time, from my father going to Sullivan's farm to cut our tree, to putting up the artificial fireplace to assure Santa had a way into our home. I would always help my mother put out our little crèche which my Dad bought at Newbury's. It wasn't until I was older that the real, true meaning of the crèche was truly understood.

Advent is now very special for me because it gives me a chance to pause and look at the things in my life that I need to change so that I can grow closer to Jesus and be at peace. One of those areas is forgiveness.

There are many times when we are presented with situations that hurt or anger us, those emotional clashes between our wishes and the wishes of the people around us. Many times, depending on the event or extent of injury and the help we receive, we are able to move beyond the hurt and pain. But sometimes it is hard to

The Gift of Forgiveness

let go of a grudge or feeling of injustice. We mentally replay situations in which we were wronged or misunderstood and may feel angry all over again, perhaps silently, rehearsing our side of the story or even thinking about ways to get even.

Researchers at Hope College in Michigan have found that when we mentally replay a hurtful memory the body reacts with a stress response, releasing higher levels of the stress hormone, cortisol which can increase our blood pressure and heart rate. The good news is that centuries of religious teachings extol forgiveness as a virtue and there is increasing evidence that when we forgive, we help ourselves to greater health and happiness.

Forgiveness requires a change on many levels. It means letting go of anger or resentment, which is many times easier said than done. Forgiveness does not mean denying the hurt, but instead naming that hurt so you can be well. The question remains are you willing to forgive? If you pray for forgiveness or develop the courage to forgive some-

one, your tense muscles and blood pressure decreases lowering the workload on your heart. You cannot change the past, but you can change how your body is affected by it.

You may find that it is difficult to forgive and need to seek out help from a priest, spiritual director or professional health counselor to work through your feelings. The sacrament of reconciliation is another way God helps us to be at peace and is a reminder of His unconditional love and asks that we do the same for each other.

Practicing forgiveness can help when painful memories resurface. It doesn't mean you are still holding a grudge, so remind yourself that you have forgiven them. By developing a capacity for forgiveness you may be able to keep small disappointments from developing into big ones. The regular practice of forgiveness helps your heart from hardening into lingering resentments and hopefully brings you peace and wellness.

In Scripture we read: *Love does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes in all things, hopes in all things, and endures all things. (1 Corinthians 13:3-8)*

May you have a blessed and peaceful Advent and Christmas.

PARISH COMMUNICATION

This parish is very large and active. It is important for us to be able to give you accurate information and for you to be able to contact us as needed. If you wish to contact anyone at the rectory we can be reached by phone, 508-528-0020; Fax, 508-528-1641; or email. Here are email addresses for the clergy, Religious Education and rectory staff:

Father Brian Manning: bmannings@stmarysfranklin.org

Father Jack Sullivan: jsullivan@stmarysfranklin.org

Father Anthony Le: ale@stmarysfranklin.org

Karen Ackles: reled.grades1-6@stmarysfranklin.org

Jayne Malonson: reled.grades7-10@stmarysfranklin.org

Liz Bertoni: reled.secretary@stmarysfranklin.org

Patricia Murphy: reled.registration@stmarysfranklin.org

Paula Coughlin: parishpublishing@stmarysfranklin.org

Claire Perry: cperry@stmarysfranklin.org

Paulette Thomas: pthomas@stmarysfranklin.org

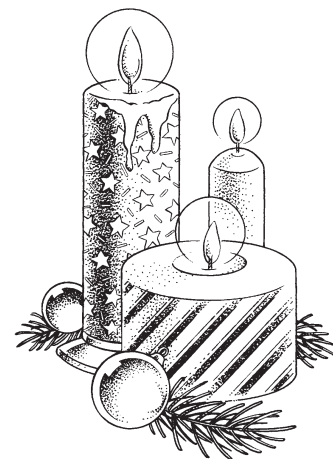
Nan Rafter: nrafter@stmarysfranklin.org

Terry Kerr, Music Director: terry.kerr@att.net 508-541-3286

If your parish group or organization would like to place a notice in the bulletin, we must receive it **in writing (email is preferred)** by 5pm Sunday afternoon for the following weekend. Information can also be submitted for inclusion on the parish website at any time. Bulletin or website information can be emailed to parishpublishing@stmarysfranklin.org

If your organization is planning to use any parish facilities, such as the church, church hall, lower church meeting rooms or the school, for your meetings, events, etc. it is **necessary** that you call and reserve the time and place that you want. This is the **only** way that you can be assured of having your activity at the desired location.

CHECK OUT OUR PARISH WEBSITE: www.stmarysfranklin.org. There is a wealth of information available there.



St. Mary's Music Notes!!

by Terry Kerr

Adult Choir: The St. Mary Adult Choir has begun their 2014 – 2015 Choral Season and rehearsals in preparation of the Advent and Christmas seasons! The Adult Choir is always looking for new members. The Adult Choir rehearses on Thursday Evenings in the Upper Church Choir Loft from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Children's Choir: The St. Mary Children's Choir has begun the 2014 – 2015 Choral Season, too! We are very excited in preparing for singing at our Christmas Eve



Liturgy at St. Mary's!

If you are interested in having your child participate in the St. Mary Children's Choir Program, please come to rehearsals at St. Mary Church on Thursday afternoons in the Upper Church from 5:15 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. The St. Mary Children's Choir sings on the first Sunday of each month at the 9:00 a.m. Mass and various other parish liturgical celebrations throughout the year!

CHRISTMAS



We Would Like to See Jesus (John 12:21)

by Father Jack Sullivan

Artists help us to see and find Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary. At Saint Alban's Episcopal Church in Davidson, North Carolina, there is a new outdoor statue of Jesus. The response to this new sculpture has been not entirely enthusiastic. Someone drove by St. Alban's, looked at the new statue, and promptly called the police. The police heard this report: there's a homeless man wrapped in a blanket and asleep on the bench outside St. Alban's. Seeing and finding the Risen Jesus requires wisdom and devoted love.

Inside the church building, we find the Lord Jesus surrounded by beauty and enthroned on the praises and songs of

the sisters and brothers of Jesus. The Risen Jesus remains with us, under the sacramental signs of bread and wine, in the Eucharist, the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ.

Outside the church building, Jesus appears in disguise – so to speak. The Risen Jesus is still wrapped up in the skin of his sisters and brothers, our neighbors-in-need. Among these neighbors and all frail and bruised persons, the Risen Jesus awaits our attentive care and love.

In their outreach to our neighbors-in-need, our Saint Vincent de Paul Society members make our devoted love real and visible among our neighbors. Your continued generosity to the St. Vincent de Paul Society puts this love on display, month after month.



...Faith-filled New Year's Resolutions

(Continued from page 2)

your faith. It's a book worth reading and worth sharing. But, shhhh, it's a secret. Please don't tell the Fathers I told you. Reading and sharing this book is another great way to realize your new year's resolution to grow stronger in your Faith.

As the holidays start to swirl and you feel yourself feeling like Charlie Brown and you want to cry out "good grief," remember it is important to remember that love endures. Charles Schulz teaches us that every time we watch Charlie Brown's Christmas tree transform with just "a little bit of love." Love can transform us. Make that new year's resolution to deepen your Faith and the love which is Christ will transform you just like love transforms Charlie Brown's tree.

Advent arrives, Jesus is born and 2015 starts; they are beginnings. Plan to make the most of them!



Christmas
on the Common
Sunday, November 30
4pm

Tree Lighting and
Visit with Santa

Music
Free Refreshments

Children will have
the opportunity to visit with
Santa and receive a present.

Thanks to the
Franklin High Hockey Team
who has decorated the Common
for this event since 1992

Religious Education News

By Jayne Malonson

On the weekend of September 13, 2014, the Very Reverent Brian P. Kiley presided over our Confirmation Masses. The weather was perfect for such an important occasion.

The sea of red robes flowed into church at the beginning of each Mass and all the families were waiting in the pews! Father Kiley spoke to the Confirmandi about becoming adults in the church and keeping God in their busy lives. The humorous stories that he told, helped relate his message to the real world. As each student and sponsor approached Father Kiley, they were greeted with a warm smile and a handshake.

The Confirmation students had to complete a two-year program that consists of classroom work and 20 hours of community service. During the classroom sessions we discussed the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit, the Catholic Mass and making good choices to live a good Catholic life. We have guest speakers join us to discuss these topics

and add their personal experiences which help them remain faithful to God. We welcomed Deacon Tom Breen as a guest speaker this year for Catholic Relief Services and he assisted at his nephew's Confirmation Mass as well! All students in the final year of Confirmation must attend our retreat which we have each year. It was held at the Franklin High School, with Sean Forrest. He is a tremendous speaker, who really connected with the students through music, stories and some improv situations.

Two service projects we did for our Parish involved the Saint Vincent de Paul Society. The first was in the beginning of the school year. We had students prepare and donate book bags for needy families in our area. The second service project was for each student to donate a bag of food to help stock their food pantry. Throughout the year, we send out numerous emails which offer service opportunities to our students both in our Parish and in the community. The objective of having the students do service hours is to teach

them how to help others in the community like the disciples. We hope that this will become a part of their adult Catholic practices of helping those in need. The Religious Education Office will continue to send out emails with numerous community service opportunities from within our Parish and requests from the community as well. Comments and questions are always welcome. Please feel free to call us at 528-1450 or email us.

Thanks to Father Brian Manning for his help with our Confirmation practices (very entertaining!) and continuous support of our program. Thanks to Father Jack Sullivan for his visits to our classes, and to Father Anthony Le for his support and help with all the Masses.

**This year our Confirmation 1 & 2 classes will have a special guest speaker, Matt Fradd. He will speak to BOTH sessions on Sunday, December 7, 2014, at 6:30 pm in the upper church. This presentation is for both students and parents.

...O Come, Emmanuel

(Continued from page 1)

that a new king had been born. The religious leaders were no better. Fearful of the power of Rome and deviousness of their local leaders, many of them acted like corrupt politicians protecting their power base at all cost. Obviously Christ did not wait for a period of sweetness and light to be born; he came at a time of darkness to bring a great light. He is here now. It is up to us to manifest the light. How can we do this?

Apart from St Paul who spiritually speaking was a particularly "hard nut to crack" and needed special coaxing, all we have to do is ask. Bartimaeus, a blind man in a crowd in Jericho called out "Master I want to see" and he immediately received his sight (Mark 10:46-52). A woman who was an outcast (unclean because of her hemorrhage) touched His garment and was

cured (Matthew 9:20-22) and the woman at the well with seven husbands and strong Samaritan religious beliefs, who after much debating with Jesus finally asked that she might understand his message, not only received the light but became a messenger, spreading the Good News to her entire village. (John 4:39)

If during this season, between the frantic activity of the day and the "all is well" message of the Hallmark evening TV specials, you feel something is lacking in your life or in the life of someone you know, take some time to be with Jesus and ask him to give everyone the gift of believing that he is the

Emmanuel, God with us.



Advent and Christmas Liturgical Celebrations

Prolatio Concert
December 14
7:30pm

Christmas Eve
Masses:

4pm (3 Masses); upper church, lower church, Horace Mann Auditorium with the Children's Pageant

6pm, 7:30pm

****Midnight Mass****

Christmas Day
Masses: 9am and 10:30am

New Year's Eve
4:00pm

New Year's Day
Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God
9:00am, 10:30am

Name That Christmas Carol

1. Quadruped with Crimson Proboscis
2. Eight P.M. to Six A.M. without Noise
3. Minuscule Hamlet in the Near East
4. Ancient Benevolent Despot
5. Exuberance Directed to the Planet
6. Listen, Aerial Spirits Announcing
7. Trio of Monarchs
8. Yonder in the Hay Rack
9. Cherubim Audited from Aloft
10. Assemble, Everyone who Believes
11. Hollowed Post Meridian
12. Fantasia of a Colorless December 25
13. A Dozen Twenty-four Hour Yule Periods
14. Befell During the Transparent Witching Hour
15. Homo Sapien of Crystallized Vapor
16. Desire a Pair of Incisors on December 25
17. I Spied My Maternal Parent Osculating
18. Perambulating Through a December Solstice Fantasy
19. Adorn the Vestibule
20. Tin Tintinnabulums

Answers found on page 4



The Weave

St. Mary Parish Family
One Church Square
Franklin MA 02038

inside...

- page 1 Disciples in Mission
- page 2 Families' Corner
- page 3 View from the Pew
- page 5 Gift of Forgiveness
- page 6 St. Mary's Music Notes

Non-Profit
Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Franklin MA
Permit No. 1
