



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, 4:30 p.m.	December 12, 2015 Bill McAuliffe by his friends & family
Sunday, 7:30 a.m.	December 13, 2015 Sebastian "Mike" Motta by Barbara Wolf
9:30 a.m.	Joseph Lombardi by Christine Stenzel
11:00 a.m.	Michael Zweigle (5th anniversary) by his family
Monday, 7:45 a.m.	December 14, 2015 Florence Larkin by her friend
Tuesday, 7:45 a.m.	December 15, 2015 Josephine Pahl by Richard & Nancy Newton
Wednesday, 7:45 a.m.	December 16, 2015 Eleanor Guzzi by the Messina family
Thursday, 7:45 a.m..	December 17, 2015 Ed Welcome by his wife Judy
Friday, 7:45 a.m.	December 18, 2015 Mike Griswold by his family
Saturday, 4:30 p.m.	December 19, 2015 In memory of Regina Sigda by her family
Sunday, 7:30 a.m.	December 20, 2015 Eugene Kupchik by his wife
9:30 a.m.	Louise DiRenzo by CADTC partners
11:00 a.m.	Sebastian "Mike" Motta by Lynda & Bob Bonato

Calendar

12/14	7:00 p.m.	Legion of Mary— Gathering Space
12/15	9:00 a.m..	Foodshare Truck—St. Mary parking lot
12/19	4:30 p.m. Mass	Choir

The sanctuary candle will burn this week in memory of:

Michael Zweigle

This is a venerable tradition and we ask you to keep him in your prayers.



Christmas Eve—Thursday, December 24

4:00, 10:00 p.m.

Christmas Day—Friday, December 25

8:00, 10:00 am.

New Year's Eve, Thursday December 31

4:00 p.m.

New Year's Day—Friday, January 1

8:00, 10:00 a.m.

Readings for the Week of December 13, 2015

Sunday:	Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-6/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18
Monday:	Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-9/Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday:	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23/Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday:	Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25/Ps 85:9-14/Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday:	Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-4, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17
Friday:	Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25
Saturday:	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-6, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25
Next Sunday:	Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

December 5— Parish Support

Weekly	\$8,655.00
On-line giving	<u>\$ 1,128.00</u>
Total	\$9,783.00
Monthly	\$4,877.00
On-line giving	<u>\$ 610.00</u>
Total	\$5,487.00



On the first Sunday of Advent, three gentlemen and their sponsors celebrated the Rite of Acceptance at the 11:00 a.m. Mass. They have been participating in the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) studying the Catholic faith for the last few months. They are now committed to deepen their knowledge and faith toward full membership in the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. As a parish we support them and pray that they will continue to be moved by the spirit and follow the call of Christ.

The second collection this weekend supports the Retired Fund for Religious. Christmas flower envelopes may be returned at any Mass. Thank you.

Human Needs Committee:

Please remember that this weekend, December 12 and 13 was the deadline for the gifts for the Giving Tree. If you have not brought your gifts back, please call Alice Crozier or alcroz@att.net to arrange drop off. 860 673-4282. Thank you.



Third Sunday of Advent

Gaudete Sunday derives its name from the opening prayer of the Mass for this day, where we pray, "Gaudete in Domino semper" (Rejoice in the Lord always). So in the midst of Advent fasting and devotions, we rejoice because the time we have been preparing for is almost at hand. You may see rose-colored vestments and additions to the church environment due to this special Sunday. A day like this is always good to remind us not to take ourselves too seriously. The life of a Christian is not always easy, but it is one of joy. If we keep our heads bowed too long, no one will be able to see the smiles on our faces. The New Evangelization calls us to spread the good news with a joy that can be infectious. I remember being at a Eucharistic Congress one time where there was a booth set up by an order of sisters promoting vocations. I couldn't help but to take notice of how much they laughed and how they smiled. I thought, "Who wouldn't want to see what they are about?" Does our joy in the Lord serve as an invitation for others to seek out Christ? May the joy of the Lord be yours on this Gaudete Sunday! The Lord is coming, soon and very soon!

Defending Our Religious Liberty

Religious freedom is a cornerstone of our democracy. The federal health care mandate fundamentally alters the fragile balance between government and religious groups created by the framers of our Constitution. The same First Amendment that protects religious freedom protects freedom of the press. We wouldn't stand for the government telling news programs whom to interview or what articles to write. If you haven't done so already, please voice your opposition to the federal health care mandate by calling U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Sylvia Mathews Burwell at 202-205-5445, and your elected representatives. Let them know that the mandate is in violation of our First Amendment right to religious freedom.

Large Print Missalettes

are available for your use at the center aisles of the worship space. Please return them to the podium after Mass so others may use them. Thank you.

Social Justice

Foodshare Truck will be available in the Church parking lot from 9—9:30 a.m. **December 15– 29**
Call Pat Robotham 860 673-3435 if you have questions.

ADVENT DISCERNMENT NIGHT FOR YOUNG MEN AGES 16-35

THURSDAY, DEC. 17
ST. THOMAS SEMINARY
467 BLOOMFIELD AVE.
BLOOMFIELD, CT 06010

RSVP: 860-761-7457 OR VOICATIONS@AOHCT.ORG

Have you figured out yet what you want to be when you "grow up?" More importantly, have you figured out why? We invite you to join us for an information gathering where there will be a short talk with practical suggestions for "discerning" the call that God has in store for you, some time for prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, a chance to hear the story of the vocation journey from a few of our seminarians, and we will play a round of "Stump the Seminarian" giving you the chance to bring your questions to them. There's even free pizza, so why not swing by?



Nathaniel Joseph Dean
Delillah Jane Forster

