

St. Leo's Church

128 MAIN STREET
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01453
Incorporated 1872



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Favazza



SATURDAY,	DECEMBER 24
4:00 PM	Pierre J. Aubuchon, Sr. by Bridget
6:00 PM	Connie Buckley
12:00 AM	Abilio Caetano by family
SUNDAY,	DECEMBER 25
7:30 AM	Dennis England Family Deceased
8:30 AM	David Arsenault & Family Deceased by family
9:00 AM	Bernard Lamkin by wife & sons
10:30 AM	Raher & Shea Family Deceased
12:00 NN	Paul Bennett by family
MONDAY,	DECEMBER 26
7:00 AM	Rose Goyette
8:30 AM	Eugene LaCoss by family
TUESDAY,	DECEMBER 27
7:00 AM	
8:30 AM	Guennette Family Deceased
WEDNESDAY,	DECEMBER 28
7:00 AM	Elizabeth O'Connor by family
8:30 AM	Mass of Thanksgiving
THURSDAY,	DECEMBER 29
7:00 AM	Special Intention
8:30 AM	Sherri Risale by family
FRIDAY,	DECEMBER 30
7:00 AM	Special Intention
8:30 AM	Claire Janda by husband
SATURDAY,	DECEMBER 31
7:00 AM	Eunice Roberts by family
8:30 AM	Margaret Raher 8 th Anniv. by family
4:00 PM	Guiseppe Firmani Family Deceased
6:00 PM	Arthur A. Fournier Sr. 30 th Anniv. by family
SUNDAY,	JANUARY 1
7:30 AM	M. Frank Haley Family
8:30 AM	Mary Trudel by family
9:00 AM	Arlene Galvin by family
10:30 AM	Louis Rocca by wife
12:00 NN	John Yovino by SVDP Members

CHURCH SUPPORT

Over the weekend of the Fourth Sunday of Advent, parishioners contributed \$8,443 in ordinary support, \$622 for Capital Improvement Fund and \$1,370 for retired religious. In December we have received \$3,120 for the Capital Improvement Fund and \$3,550 for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Thanks for your continued support!

BUILDING FUND

St. Leo's Building Fund, which has made possible our new parish center, has now reached the total of \$1,708,000. This remarkable achievement is a credit to the loyal and generous parishioners and friends of St. Leo's. The debt on the \$4.5million project is \$411,394. Thanks for your continued support.



From the Pastor Letter from the Bishop

My dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,
"I bring you good news of great joy to be shared by the whole people." (Luke 2:10)

The coming of Christ at Christmas brings joy to our world and peace to our hearts. Born of a woman, Jesus Christ is God's promise that united in His divine love, we can live in peace. From a manger in Bethlehem, God's love reaches out to embrace us. For His birth tells us that in each moment of time God breaks into our lives. In the birth of Christ we experience the birth of divine life in our own life.

Christmas is that new beginning for which we long. The Son of God comes not as a prince to dominate us but as a child to love us. He comes not to condemn us but to forgive us. He comes not to burden us but to teach us the joy that unselfish love offers us

Bethlehem speaks to us of poverty. Poverty can be an opening to God and a means to deepen our trust in Him who saves us. Jesus' own poverty makes us attentive to the cry of the poor and aware that by serving our needy brothers and sisters, we serve the Lord Himself. His poverty compels us to speak for the oppressed, to comfort the despairing and to strengthen the weak.

There is no burden Christ cannot lift, no worry He cannot console, no sin he cannot forgive. From the manger, He calls us to leave behind the addiction that grips us, the hatred that imprisons us, the worry that cripples us, the loneliness that gnaws at us, and to welcome into our hearts the abundance of God's love and saving power.

Come to the manger this Christmas and with God's grace, make the decision to let go of the sins that have a hold on you, of the burdens that weigh you down and the despair that seeks to overpower you. Leave your prayers at the manger and come away refreshed and renewed, accepting God's love for you as if for the first time.

May the gift of the Christ Child, born into the world for our salvation, fill your hearts and your homes with abundant blessings! May His peace and joy be with you and your family throughout The New Year!

With every prayerful best wish, I remain

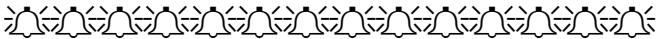
Sincerely yours in Christ

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
 Bishop of Worcester

LITURGICAL ROLES

WEEK OF DECEMBER 31 & JANUARY 1

	CELEBRANTS	LECTORS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	ALTAR SERVERS
4:00 PM	Fr. Nguyen	P.Lozeau	J.Shannon P.Lozeau D.Lanciani	B.Peterson E.Adams M.Norton
6:00 PM	Msgr. Doran	R.White	A.Bissonnette K.Lambert M.White	Z.Belanger D.Barrette S.Koehler
7:30 AM	Msgr. Doran	M.Fratanonio	P.Morin D.McCaffrey D.Barbaro	R.Frantantonio A.Morin T.Gendron K.Lyons
9:00 AM	Fr.Nguyen	L.Gaston	B.Maki M.Ledoux M.Olivier	C&B.Hanlon M.O'Malley K&R.Domenichella
10:30 AM	Fr. Nguyen	R.Keating	D.Slarskey P.Proiette R.Rogers J.O'Neill	E.Cucchiara J&J.Slarskey E&L.Jenny J.Mercer
12:00 NN	Msgr. Doran	P.Lambert	D.Bean L.Gaston J.Shannon	E.Provencher K&B.White E.Baron



CHRISTMAS AND YEAR-END GIVING

On the feast of Christmas, we celebrate God's ultimate gift to us, His creatures, by the sending of His Son for our salvation. It is the season of gift-giving and receiving and we reflect on the gifts that God has blessed us with during this special time. We are only stewards of these gifts and year's end is a spiritual opportunity to make a return to God for the many gifts that are ours. Please consider an extra gift at this season of cash, property, stocks, bonds or other valuables. Remember that all gifts made on or before December 31st are deductible for this tax year. Know that the parish is grateful for all gifts large or small.

Thank You!

Our St. Vincent de Paul Society thanks everyone who contributed wonderful gifts for children and elders through our Secret Santa program this year. The number and quality of gifts were outstanding. Thanks too for the gifts of food and canned goods for needy families and individuals. We were able to serve 75 families, including 143 children

PRO-LIFE

The faith of the Church teaches us that the human person is the only creature that God has created so as to spend an eternity with him. At the moment of conception, God infuses into every human being the gift of an immortal soul within which resides the image of the Triune God who creates, redeems and sanctifies us. Is it any wonder that from her earliest days, the Church has been the champion of the gift of human life? From the time of the Roman Empire in which abortion and infanticide were common practices until this very day when unjust laws and morally flawed judicial decisions have robbed millions of unborn babies of the right to life, is it any wonder that the Church who is our Mother and teacher raises her voice, and with clarity and insistence calls for a revolution of conscience that would make an end to abortion and to all those technological interventions that usurp the God-given right of a child to be born from the intimate and loving embrace of a husband and wife?

Most Rev. Robert McManus, Bishop of Worcester

CONSIDER A BEQUEST

The good work that continues in supporting St. Leo's parish will continue well into the future as parishioners remember the parish in bequests. Over the years we have received a number of gifts and this has helped with programs and property upkeep and maintenance. Remember all that St. Leo's has meant to you and your family in bequest that will help future generations.

PASTORAL VISITS

If there are parishioners who are homebound or in a nursing facility and who wish pastoral visits and Holy Communion, please contact the rectory (978-537-7257). Parish priests routinely visit Leominster Hospital, but rely on parishioners to notify us if there are patients to be visited in other locations. Please keep the rectory informed.



SOLEMNITY OF MARY

Next weekend the feast of the Solemnity of Mary falls on Sunday (January 1st) and thus we will have our usual schedule of Masses: 4 and 6PM on Saturday (December 31st) and 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 and 12 Noon on Sunday.

PARISH REGISTRATION ARE YOU REALLY A MEMBER OF SAINT LEO'S PARISH?

If you come for a sponsorship certificate for Baptism or Confirmation or for a pastor's recommendation for another sacrament, does the pastor know you? If your answer is "no" to the above, please register in the parish and become an active participant with your presence and support of time, talent and treasure.

DECEMBER 25, 2011

Weekly Schedule

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25
MERRY CHRISTMAS!

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26
7:30PM MEN'S AA

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27
7:30PM WOMEN'S AA

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28

THURSDAY DECEMBER 29
7:00PM BIBLE STUDY
7:00PM CHOIR REHERSAL

FRIDAY DECEMBER 30
7:30 -4:00PM ADORATION AND BENEDICTION

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31
11:00AM IRISH STEP DANCERS
11:00AM TOPS

St. Anthony's 3rd Annual Variety Show
Is scheduled for April 14th & 15th 2012
Fitchburg High School Auditorium

We are looking for adults to be members of our show as well as those of you who would rather lend your talents to helping out in other ways. The show is open to all adults in the area who like to sing, dance and perform comedy skits. We start rehearsals on Wednesday January 4th, 2012 and continue each Wednesday until the weekend of performances. Our goal is to promote community participation while having fun raising money for several causes. Our previous shows have provided funding for senior dances, heating bills, and the MIHN, to name a few. If your are interested in being a part of the show please contact Valerie or Robert Gale at 978-502-7546 or just stop by the St. Anthony Church Hall, 84 Salem St. Fitchburg on **Wednesday, January 4th** for an informal, no obligation meeting.

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**Beginning on Monday, January 2, 2012, our 7AM daily Mass will move** from the church to the convent 99 Church St. for the months of January, February and March. We are grateful for the Sisters' invitation because it will allow us to save on heating costs for the church. Thanks for your cooperation.  
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CELEBRATE EPIPHANY,
Sunday, January 8, 2012
Join us in the Parish Center
after the 9AM and 10:30AM
Masses for King Cake, Donuts,
Coffee (&Tea!) and Juice!



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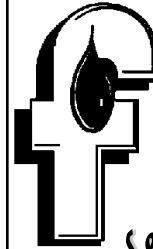


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