



From the Pastor's Desk

Over the past several weeks we have received a variety of letters, cards, and notes at the parish office. The warm and thoughtful Christmas greetings have been much appreciated, as well as the wishes for peace in the New Year. In the midst of the correspondence that I've received, there have been three letters I wish to share with you.

One letter came from **Rabbi Eric Gurvis**, our good friend at **Temple Shalom of Newton**. Last month, as many recall, vandalism marked the signage at Temple Shalom with a hateful symbol that saddened the good people of Newton who take pride in their community. Rabbi Gurvis was expressing thanks for the letter I had sent him upon hearing about the vandalism. In part, the Rabbi wrote, "the support of our friends and neighbors has been crucial in helping our community through this shocking event. Even more importantly, it has brought warmth to our hearts, uplift to our spirits and a very tangible sense of the power of community that exists in our broader community."

I am grateful that Rabbi Gurvis and his congregation know that they are friends of the CCSB Parish community. It was a special joy earlier this month to welcome a group of Temple Shalom's young members to CCSB Parish for a little tour and discussion on Catholic and Jewish customs that concretely expressed our respect for each other's faith traditions.

A second letter I received was from the principal of **Arlington Catholic High School**. He wished to inform me that one of our young parishioners, **Gina Whitten**, had earned First Honors at the high school. Some parishioners may recognize Gina as one of our faithful altar servers—and soon to be lector. Gina represents so many of the fine young men and women of our parish to whom we should be grateful for the efforts they make in bringing honor to their families, parish, and community. By the way, great work, Gina! Keep it up!!

The third letter I wish to share with you came from **Father Gerry Barry**. In his letter, Father Barry referred to himself (tongue-in-cheek!) as "a distinguished retired Boston Pastor." I certainly believe he deserves to be called "distinguished" given the many fine years of priestly service he has rendered to the Church. Father Barry is among the 264 retired priests of the Boston Archdiocese. Please pray for them — and remember them this Christmas when the special appeal is made to assist them in their retirement needs. God knows, they deserve all we can do for them!

By the way, Father Barry also noted in his letter that he "will not be sending cards this year — too 'lazy,' but an offering in your behalf has been sent with love to the parish by this retired Pastor." He's one-of-a-kind! I have thanked him in your name for his generosity to the parish and wished him God's blessings of good health and peace this Christmas and in the New Year.

Father Frank J. Silva



Merry
Christmas

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE



Wednesday, December 24
Christmas Eve

4:00 pm – St. Bernard Church
7:00 pm – Corpus Christi Church
10:00 pm – St. Bernard Church

Thursday, December 25
Christmas Day

8:00 am – Corpus Christi Church
10:00 am – St. Bernard Church

CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCE

Parishioners are invited to remember their loved ones by making a donation to the **Parish Sanctuary Fund** this Christmas Season. Donations will help with the expenses involved in decorating our parish churches and provide resources for other needs at the altar. Envelopes for your donations will be found at the entrances to our parish churches. Please type or print clearly the names of loved ones to be remembered—a listing of those for whom donations are received will appear in a future edition of the parish bulletin

Reconciliation

©2003 LP

With the celebration of Christmas just a few days away, special hours for the celebration of the **Sacrament of Penance** have been scheduled. Please note the

dates, times and places at which confessions will be heard...

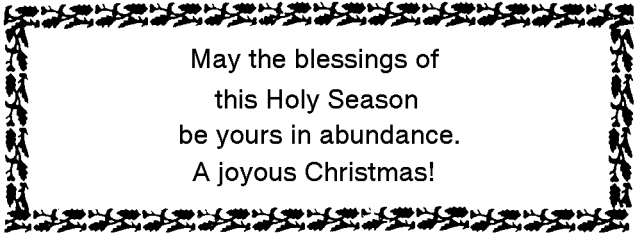
Sunday, December 21 – 6:00-7:00 pm – St. Bernard's Chapel
Monday, December 22 – 6:30-7:30 pm – Corpus Christi Church
Tuesday, December 23 – 6:30-7:30 pm – St. Bernard's Chapel

ADVENT GIVING TREE – A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS!

The recipients of our **Advent Giving Tree** donations are very grateful for the charitable efforts of CCSB parishioners. We surpassed our goal! **Julie's Family Learning Program** received over 400 gifts for 31 families; there were 48 gift cards (Dunkin Donuts, TJMaxx and CVS) donated to **Bristol Lodge**; and, over 400 hats, mittens, scarves & socks were collected for **Project Care and Concern**. Thank you for your generous spirit during this Christmas season.

TV MASS – ALL WELCOME!

If you're looking to do something special the day after Christmas, consider joining us at the studios of **Boston Catholic TV** for the daily **Mass on Friday, December 26 at 9:30 am**. Our pastor, Father Frank Silva, will be celebrating the TV Mass that day, and would welcome having members of the CCSB community in the congregation. **The Catholic TV studios are located at 34 Chestnut Street in Watertown (next door to St. Patrick's Church in Watertown Square).**



May the blessings of
this Holy Season
be yours in abundance.
A joyous Christmas!

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

UP & COMING EVENTS						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14

Sunday, December 21

2:00 pm (SB) Christmas Pageant

6:00 pm (SB) Sacrament of Penance (Confessions)

Monday, December 22

6:00 pm (CC) Sacrament of Penance (Confessions)

Tuesday, December 23

6:00 pm (SB) Sacrament of Penance (Confessions)

Friday, December 26

9:30 am TV Mass — Boston Catholic TV, Watertown

BRISTOL LODGE



Soup Kitchen

very grateful for your

CCSB parishioners will be serving dinner at the **Bristol Lodge Soup Kitchen on New Year's Day (Thursday, January 1) from 4:00-6:00 pm**. If you can help by providing food or serving that day, please contact Lucille (617-244-9386) or Ann (617-964-1906). We are in need of salad, juice, casseroles, and green beans. We are very grateful for your continued support for this outreach ministry.

CCSB SCRIPTURE STUDY GROUP

The **CCSB Scripture Study Group** is continuing its study of the Book of Genesis. The next meeting will be on **Sunday, January 4, at 5:00 pm at the Parish Center**. The group will discuss Lesson 5, Chapters 21:1-25:18. New members are always welcomed! If you are interested or just curious, contact **Bob Larner (617-965-4746 / rlarner@crai.com)**.

SEASON TWO PLANS UNDERWAY!



At a recent Prayer Service that allowed for some very significant reflections and hopes to be expressed, Season One of **ARISE** was brought to a close by the 62 parishioners who took part. Nearly every participant was filled with great hope for the continued growth of the CCSB faith community. **ARISE**

is enabling parishioners to come together in faith and to grow closer to one another and to Christ. The calendar may say December but preparations are in the works for Season Two of **ARISE** to be conducted during **Lent 2009**. Season One was such a huge success for our faith community. By all accounts parishioners want more! In Season Two we look to have groups that will meet each day of the week—already there is a **Young Adult Group** that is planning to gather. In this Advent Season of Hope we pray that the hopes and dreams of those who participated in Season One may spread throughout the parish.

CatholicTV CHRISTMAS PROGRAMMING

It's that time of year again! **CatholicTV** will intersperse Advent and Christmas programming with their regular schedule throughout December and especially from Monday, December 22 until New Year's Eve. Then, all day Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and December 26, Boston CatholicTV will become **ChristmasTV** for 72 hours of non-stop specials. You can always watch all of the fine CatholicTV programming live and on-demand at their easy to navigate website: www.CatholicTV.com. Join Father Reed, Jay Fadden and the whole CatholicTV staff for the best in Christmas programming. As Christmas draws near, WATCH CatholicTV. It's all for YOU!

CCSB Religious Education Program 2008 –2009



We invite one and all to join us for some good old fashioned "fun and frivolity" at our Christmas spectacular this **Sunday, December 21 at 2:00 pm in St. Bernard's**

Church. Enjoy the story of the first Christmas as told by some of our youngest parishioners. There will also be a sing-a-long — so be sure to bring along your holiday voices!

PLEASE NOTE: In light of the Christmas and Holiday Season, there will be no Religious Ed classes on Sundays, December 28 or January 4, or on Mondays, December 29 or January 5.

TWO MONTH DEVELOPING BABY



Your spiritually adopted babies are making progress in developing all of their external features and internal organs. By 40 days, their brain is functioning. Their parents can hear their heartbeat now on an ultrasonic stethoscope. Their milk-teeth buds are present at 6 ½ weeks, and it

has been reported that by two months, they can suck their thumb. From this moment onward, everything your spiritually adopted baby needs to survive after birth is already present.

SUPPORT CCSB PARISH – USE E.F.T.

Forgot your weekly contribution envelope this weekend? Tired of writing checks for your parish donations? As many parishes locally and throughout the country have found, there's now an easy solution to these situations. It's called **EFT – Electronic Fund Transfer**. Many people use EFT to make regular bill payments and by January 1st the process will be available for CCSB parishioners to make their offertory and other parish donations as well. The EFT process allows for easy, consistent and safe transfer of funds from a bank account or through credit card payment. Information about EFT is available from our parish Business Manager, Bob Percheski. Contact Bob for details at 617-244-0608.

GRAND ANNUAL UPDATE

A word of thanks to all who have responded to our parish's 2008 Grand Annual Collection! To date, \$46,311. have been pledged by 205 parish families. This brings us to 57.9% of our goal of \$80,000. If you have yet to make your pledge to the Grand Annual, please fill out your gift card and return it in the offertory collection basket or to the parish office.

Thank you for your generosity!

BLESSING A CHRISTMAS CRECHE / MANGER SCENE

As you bring the family together this Christmas, here's a special prayer you can use to bless anew the Christmas Crèche or Manger Scene in your home. The prayer helps all to remember the true "Reason for the Season!"

God of Mary and Joseph, of shepherds and animals, bless us whenever we gaze on this manger scene.

Through all the days of Christmas may these figures tell the story of how humans, angels, and animals found Christ in this poor place.

Fill our house with hospitality, joy, gentleness, and thanksgiving and guide our steps in the way of peace. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



DECEMBER 21, 2008



Saturday, December 20

4:00 pm Lionel, Bridget & James Sadler Memorial

Sunday, December 21

7:30 am Mass for the People

9:00 am William, Alice J. & Martha M. McMullen Memorial

11:15 am Herbert Alfredson Memorial

Monday, December 22

9:00 am Herman Brennan Memorial

Friday, December 26

7:00 am Mardy McGreggs & the Barry Family Memorial

Saturday, December 27

4:00 pm Richard R. Malone Memorial

Sunday, December 28

7:30 am Constance & Anthony Vena Memorial

9:00 am Frank & Josephine Gorgone and the Deceased Members
of their Families Memorial

11:15 am Mass for the People

Arrangements for Anniversary or Memorial Masses
can be made by calling 617-244-0608.

Office hours are 10:00 am-3:30 pm, Monday–Friday.

.....IN MEMORIAM.....

In your prayers, please remember the soul of

James A. Ryan

for whom a Funeral Mass was recently offered in our parish.

Parish Support

Last Weekend's Offertory Collection: \$5,051.

Collection for Retired religious: \$1,564.

*We thank you for your support and financial assistance
in helping to further the mission of Christ in our parish.
God bless you for your generosity!*

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

At all of our Christmas Masses, the only collection to be taken up will be to support the retirement, medical care, and financial needs of the priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. Each one of us can remember fondly those priests who have baptized their child, witnessed their marriage, or brought the anointing of the sick to a loved one. We ask that you give as your means will allow on behalf of the priests that have devoted their lives to God and the good work of the Church. On behalf of all of our priests, thank you in advance for your generosity.

† **Next Weekend's Celebrants** †

Saturday, December 27

4:00 pm Fr. Francis Conroy

Sunday, December 28

7:30 am Fr. Francis Conroy

9:00 am Fr. Frank Silva *

11:15 am Fr. Frank Silva *

* - Deacon Dan Nelson preaching

**END OF BULLETIN
ANY TEXT OR GRAPHICS ENTERED ON THIS PAGE
WILL NOT APPEAR IN THE PRINTED BULLETIN**

CHURCH NAME: **Corpus Christi - St. Bernard Parish**

CHURCH CITY: **Newton, MA**

ROUTING CODE: **Y**

RUN NUMBER: **21**

FILENAME: **04-0422.04b**

PHONE NUMBER: **1-617-244-0608**

FAX NUMBER:

EDITOR/ CONTACT: **Ann Medeiros**

CURRENT FORMAT: WPN Format -- 6th Column Part of Ad Grid

Comments:
