St. Robert Bellarmine Church

“Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus”
ST ROBERT BELLARMINE CHURCH
JOHNSTON, RI

M A S S  I N T E N T I O N S

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24 - Christmas Eve
4:30 PM   Richard DelPonte and Mickey & Mary Russo (Rem.),
           By Gerry and family
10:30 PM   Corine Holtmann (Rem.),
           By family
           Deceased Members of the Pflug and Souza Families (Rem.),
           By Charon and Al

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 - Christmas Day
9:00 AM    Christopher & James Shepard
           (Christmas Rem.),
           By family
           Deceased Members of the Nero & Campbell Families (Rem.),
           By Bill and family
11:00 AM   Bobby ‘Bo’ Desmet (Rem.)
           By mom, Terri, Tiffani & Aunt Judy
           Lorraine LaFlamme (Rem.),
           By the Prayer Line Members

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26
9:00 AM   Carol Piccoli (17th Ann.),
           By a friend
           Angelo Ruscetta (Ann.),
           By family

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27
9:00 AM    Paul & Anna Kelley (Rem.),
           By family
           Albert Cournoyer (23rd Ann.),
           By Claire and Lillian

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28
NO SCHEDULED MASS TODAY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29
9:00 AM    Nicolena Spooner (5th Ann.),
           By family

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30
NO SCHEDULED MASS TODAY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31 – New Years Eve
5:15 PM    Herman Autotte (Rem.),
           By Janet and Joe Zeman
           Pauline Laliberte (2nd Ann.),
           By family

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1 – New Years Day
8:00 AM    OPEN INTENTION
10:00 AM   Anthony J. Cacicia (7th Ann.),
           By wife Joyce
11:30 AM   OPEN INTENTION

The Nativity of the Lord
Christmas
December 25, 2016

Today is born our Savior
Christ the Lord!

PASTOR’S COMMENTS
Borrowed from Paul Turner

Veiled Messages

On the surface, many Christmas customs have little to do with Christ. We spend more money on one another than we do on charities and the poor. We decorate our homes with artificial evergreen, rather than the natural symbols of eternal life. We sing songs about Santa Claus, rather than the birth of Jesus. Even our postage stamps make us choose between sacred and secular. Some of our Christmas customs seem to turn away from Christ.

Or do they? The giving of gifts expresses love of neighbor. Festive decorations set this season apart from all others. Santa Claus is St. Nicholas, a bishop remembered for his generosity. Every letter sent and received bears the stamp of a special season, tidings of good will, and a reminder that those who are far away are close to us in mind and heart.

The customs of this season are veiled announcements of one message: Christ is born for us. To remove the veil, to hear the good news, we gather at church. There the message of Christmas speaks loud and clear.

The Letter to the Hebrews says, “In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he has spoken to us through the Son.” The customs of Christmas speak the message in partial ways, but God speaks the message clearly through the Son, who is born in our midst this day.

Before I go on vacation: I would like to thank all those who gave so willingly and generously to help those in need, or trouble, or pain at this time. Also, I want to express sincere thanks for the many cards, greetings and gifts shared with Diane, our Parish Secretary, Robert Manzo, our CCD Director, Pat Mendes, our CCD Secretary and myself at this special time of year.

Fr. John

Sanctuary Lamp
Week of December 25 – December 31
“In Memory of”
Armando, Filomena and Tina Testa (Rem.)
By Sophia and Anthony
**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**
Office Hours: 9am to 4pm.
Monday – Thursday
Phone: 232-9321
E-mail – srbccd@aol.com

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**Religious Education Classes**

**CHRISTMAS BREAK**

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<th>Day</th>
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<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>Jan-1</td>
<td>1 thru 4</td>
<td>No Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun.</td>
<td>Jan-1</td>
<td>7 thru 10</td>
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<td>Tue</td>
<td>Jan-3</td>
<td>5 &amp; 6</td>
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**My Prayer For You This Christmas**

May there always be room in Your Heart for divinity to find a birthing place. May you be holy as the angels were, Faithful as the shepherds were, humble as the cattle were, Wise as the Wise Men were. May you have the compassion Mary had, And the understanding Joseph had, And may the blessing of the Christ Child be yours, Not because of His birth night long ago, But because His love is born in you today!

God Bless the St Robert’s Community

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**SUNDAY, ROSARY** FOLLOWING 8:00 AM MASS IN THE UPPER CHURCH

**SUNDAY, AA GROUP MEETING** AT 5:00 PM IN THE CHURCH HALL (EVERY SUNDAY) (*Note the time change*)

**WEDNESDAY, AAGROUP MEETING** AT 7:00 AM IN THE CHURCH HALL (EVERY WEDNESDAY)

**THURSDAY, NA GROUP MEETING** AT 7:00 PM IN THE SACRISTY

**FRIDAY, AA** AT 8:00 PM IN THE CHURCH HALL (EVERY FRIDAY)

**FRIDAY, NA GROUP MEETING** AT 10:00 PM IN THE CHURCH HALL

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**DAILY READINGS**

**Sunday** Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Night: Is 9:1-6; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

**Monday** Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22

**Tuesday** 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

**Wednesday** 1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Mt 2:13-18

**Thursday** 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35

**Friday** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17;
Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

**Saturday** 1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18

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Call: Jan Zarrella (274-6576) or Charon Souza (231-3962) or Eileen Morrison (349-3601)

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**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR FOOD SHELF!**

The Food Shelf is in need of these items:
- PEANUT BUTTER/JELLY
- MIXED VEGETABLES
- JARRED PASTA SAUCE
- LAUNDRY DETERGENT
- $15.00 STOP & SHOP OR PRICE RITE GIFT CARDS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

Thank you for your generosity!
Volunteer Opportunities at St. Patrick's Meal Kitchen
You can help our struggling brothers and sisters by volunteering at St. Patrick's Meal Kitchen at 244 Smith St. in Providence. We are seeking participation from St. Robert Bellarmine Confirmation students and other parishioners from 3:30-6:00 on the following Mondays:
- January 26 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)
- February 20 (President's Day)
Please contact Terry Novak at terrynovak57@msn.com if you are interested in volunteering. Thank you!

BEACON HOSPICE
Beacon Hospice provides quality end-of-life care to local terminally-ill patients. We are looking for caring and compassionate individuals in this area to spend time with our patients from a volunteer. Volunteers can provide much needed support to patients and their families in a number of ways. There is a free training course that is required on what hospice is and how to interact with hospice patients. The trainings are held locally. For more information, interested volunteers should contact Ashley Toste, Volunteer Coordinator at 401-438-0008 or Ashley.Toste@amedisys.com

THANK YOU!
Special thanks to the family of the late Rose Spencer, Rose Loffredo, Alfred Petrucelli, and Raymond Johnson, Jr. for their thoughtful donation given in their memory for our Food Shelf Ministry.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION
LOCAL WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE
- St. Rocco’s Church, Johnston – 7:00 AM
- Our Lady of Grace Church, Johnston – 8:00 AM
- Holy Cross Church, Providence – 9:00 AM
- St. Thomas Church, Providence – 7:30 AM
- St. Philip Church, Greenville – 8:00 AM

The Rectory and CCD Offices will be closed on Monday, January 2nd in observance of New Year’s Day

Storm Days!
During the winter months whenever JOHNSTON PUBLIC SCHOOL CLASSES are cancelled our weekday Mass will also be cancelled. If there is an intention for that Mass it will be honored by the priest celebrating a private Mass rather than trying to reschedule another date.

Special Thanks to all of our Food Shelf Volunteers who donated their time and to our Parishioners who continually support this worthwhile program. Through this combined effort, we were able to feed over 160 families and make Christmas a little brighter for many Adopted Families this year!!

Meditation for Every Day
Shed peace, not discord, wherever you go. Try to be part of the cure of every situation, not part of the problem. Try to ignore evil, rather than to actively combat it. Always try to build up, never to tear down. Show others by your example that happiness comes from living the right way. The power of your example is greater than the power of what you say. Pray that you may try to bring something good into every situation today. Pray that you may be constructive in the way you think and speak and act today.

Jesus is born
**WILL YOU TAKE CHRIST HOME WITH YOU THIS CHRISTMAS?**

When a little boy named Davis came to Christmas morning Mass with his parents, he was surprised to find that baby Jesus was not in the Nativity Set. His parents immediately went into the sacristy and asked the pastor who had removed the Baby Jesus. The pastor rushed to the crib only to realize that some miscreants had stolen the Baby from the manger after the Midnight Mass. Later, during the morning Mass, the pastor informed the congregation of the theft and told them that he couldn't understand the motive behind such a callous act. Then, he asked them to see that the Baby Jesus was returned. The manger, however, remained empty.

Later that afternoon, depressed and sad, the pastor was walking through the wintry streets when he saw his neighbor, little Tommy. Shabbily dressed against the cold, Tommy was proudly walking with a new, bright red wagon. The pastor knew how much his parents must have scrimped and saved to buy him the wagon. With a surge of Christmas spirit, the pastor wished Tommy a Merry Christmas and congratulated him on his beautiful Christmas gift. It was then that he noticed that Tommy’s new red wagon wasn’t empty. The Baby Jesus stolen from the church lay on a pillow in the wagon. The pastor was disappointed. He told Tommy that stealing was wrong and that the entire parish had been hurt by his action. Wiping from his cheeks the flowing penitential tears, Tommy said, "But, Father, I didn't steal Jesus! It wasn't like that at all. I've been asking Jesus for a red wagon for Christmas for a long time, and, you see, I promised Him when I got it, He'd be the first one I took out for a ride. I kept my promise and now I am on my way to the church to bring Baby Jesus home!"

Each Christmas invites us to take Jesus to our home, because the only inn where He cares to find shelter is the inn of our hearts. If, like the pastor in our story, we have misjudged others, we can take Jesus home with us by asking their forgiveness. If someone has hurt us, we can forgive him or her. Let’s make this a Christmas of reconciliation, love, peace and joy.