



Annunciation Parish

DECEMBER 17, 2017

At Our Lady of the
Holy Rosary

135 Nichols Street
Gardner, MA 01440

At Holy Spirit Chapel

50 Lovewell Street
Gardner, MA 01440

Telephone: 978-632-0253

Email: shoffice2011@gmail.com or
hrrectory@parishmail.com

Website: www.AnnunciationGardner.org

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 8:30am—2:30pm

Mass & Times

Holy Rosary Church

Saturday - 4:45pm

Sunday - 7:30am
10:30am

Monday, Wednesday
and Friday - 9:00am

Holy Spirit Church

Saturday - 4:00pm

Sunday - 8:30am
Hispanic Mass-12:00noon

Tuesday & Thursday -
7:30am

Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation
Saturday

3:15 - 4:00 PM

3:15 - 3:45 PM

(or by appointment)



You can scan this QR
code to read the website
on your smartphone or
tablet.

Rev. Stephen E. Lundrigan
Pastor

Ext. 116

Rev. Wilmar Ramos
Parochial Vicar

Ext. 130

Rev. Mr. Paul Carrier
Deacon

978-297-1062

Rev. Mr. Stanley Baczewski
Deacon

978-855-9805

Rev. Mr. Arthur Giard
Deacon Retired

Parish Staff

Parish Office 978-632-0253

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Celeste C. LaPrise	Ext 110
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<i>Music Ministry</i>	
Sharon Sawtell	978-632-7216
<i>Music Ministry</i>	

Holy Family Academy 978-632-8656

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<i>Principal</i>	
Mrs. Jennifer Lucas	Ext. 213
<i>Administrative Assistant</i>	
Mrs. Nancy Tyros	Ext. 250
<i>Director of Enrollment</i>	

The Caring Place 978-632-5745

Mrs. Jane Pineo
Director The Caring Place
jane@tcpgardner.com
www.tcpgardner.com

Daily Readings For The Week of December 17th

Monday -

Jeremiah 23: 5-8
 Matthew 1: 18-25

Tuesday -

Judges 13: 2-7, 24-25a
 Luke 1: 5-25

Wednesday -

Isaiah 7: 10-14
 Luke 1: 26-38

Thursday— Saint Peter Canisius

Song of Songs 2: 8-14 or Zephaniah 3: 14-18a
 Luke 1: 39-45

Friday—

1 Samuel 1: 24-28
 Luke 1: 46-56

Saturday - Saint John of Kanty

Malachi 3: 1-4
 Luke 1: 57-66

Sunday - Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
 Romans 16: 25-27
 Luke 1: 26-38

Question of the Week:

Adult: What work of justice could you do this week to bring someone joy?

Youth: What could you do for someone this week to make them happy?

IN YOUR CHARITY please pray for:

Dorothy Lorenz, Rose Dupuis, Nora Coxall, Diane Higgins, Diane Brideau, Marie L. Chartrand, Jeaninne Cormier, Diane Gardner, Miles Gardner, Patrick Harkins, Karen Ferrill, Carol Smith, Joseph Laramee, Marie Goguen, Brian Como, Alice Fortin, Donnalee Reynolds, Randall Bouchard, Claire Bourque, Rita Friske, Tracy Gilman, Janice Hadmack, June Hebert, Marie Jacques, John Kane, Edmond Landry, Tricia McKinley, Marilyn Porter, Ashley Rollins, Leonne Tegen, Kathleen Williams, Sarah Williams

If you would like a person's name to be added to the prayer list, please contact Celeste C. LaPrise at Annunciation Parish,

Annunciation Parish follows the guidelines of the National Charter for the protection of children and young people approved by the US bishops and Diocese of Worcester policies. Contact Judith Audette, Victim Services Coordinator, at the hotline 508-726-2880 (direct and confidential). You can also contact the parish Safe Environment Coordinator: Celeste C. LaPrise at 978-632-0253 ext. 110.

We Remember Those Who Have Died

Annunciation Parish

At Our Lady of the Holy Rosary

Saturday, December 16, 2017 In Remembrance

4:45 pm - **Alex and Leona Babineau**

By their daughter Jean

Leo LaChance

By Diane Ballweg

Dorilla Brodeur

By Daughter Janice & niece Janet Yardow

Sunday, December 17, 2017 In Remembrance

7:30 am - **Kathleen & Sarah Williams for healing and strength**

Irma Cormier

By Clara Cormier

10:30 am - **Aldora Melanson**

By Stephen Gormely

Al Bibeau 9th Anniversary

By wife and family

Zephryn, Delphine, Timmy & Dean Henri

By family

Monday, December 18, 2017 In Remembrance

9:00 am - **Alida Babineau**

By her daughter

William Meehan

By his wife and family

Wednesday, December 20, 2017 In Remembrance

9:00 am - **Loretta Lorion**

By Gloria Bourgeois

Friday, December 22, 2017 In Remembrance

9:00 am - **Barbara Richard**

By Charles & Dorothy Sylvestre

Noe & Bernadette Meunier

By their daughter Claire

Saturday, December 23, 2017 In Remembrance

4:45 pm - **Mr. & Mrs. August Richard**

By their family

Leo Cormier

By his wife and family

Mr. & Mrs. Albert Bouthot

By Mr. & Mrs. Jim Covington

Theresa Jean 3 month Anniversary

By her family

Arthur Obregon

By family

Kathleen & Sarah Williams for healing and strength

At Holy Spirit Chapel

Saturday, December 16, 2017 In Remembrance

4:00 pm - **Shari Whipple**

By family

Dennis Delay 2nd Anniversary

By Mom

Mary Anne Sioui

By husband and family

Leo Letellier

By a friend

Sunday, December 17, 2017 In Remembrance

8:30 am - **Patricia Commodore**

By the family

Leo Letellier

By family

12 noon - **Hispanic Mass**

Lilly Kisloski

By Michelle Cormier and Donald Cormier

Tuesday, December 19, 2017 In Remembrance

7:30 am - **All Parishioners of Annunciation Parish**

Thursday, December 21, 2017 In Remembrance

7:30 am - **Ernest Cormier**

By Donald Cormier & Michelle Cormier

Saturday, December 23, 2017 In Remembrance

4:00 pm - **Irma Cormier**

By Joe and Marie Sylvester

Loretta Lorion

By Joanne Morrissey

Sunday, December 24, 2017

8:30 am - **Patricia Commodore**

By the family

12 noon - **Hispanic Mass**

Keith Burdette

By Michelle Cormier and Donald Cormier

4:00PM - **Laurie Hachey**

By Jeannine Largent

**RECENT FUNERALS
IN MEMORIAL**

DORIS ROBICHAUD

Upcoming Events and News

Upcoming Events

Every Thursday evening—Bingo 6:30pm
 Every Tuesday evening—Bible Study 6:30pm
 Dec. 17 - 9AM Gr. 1-8 Religious Ed.
 Dec. 30 - 1PM Family Game Day @ Holy Rosary
 Dec. 30 - Saturday—Hospitality Dinner 1pm-3pm
 Jan. 6 - Reconciliation Retreat @ Holy Spirit
 Jan. 6 - Confirmation Session 1 @ Holy Spirit
 Jan. 7 - Religious Ed for Grades 1 & 3-8

Sunday, December 24, 2017 *In Remembrance*

10:30 am - **Raymond Jaillet**
 By Peter & Margaret Jaillet
Laurie Hachey
 By Jean Blacquiére
 4:00 PM **Vincent & Barbara Surette**
 By their family
Mr. & Mrs. August Richard
 By their family
 12:00AM **MIDNIGHT**
Edmond Richard
 By his daughter and family
Robert Perreault
 By his family
Emilien Richard
 By his family
Mr. & Mrs. Simon Poirier & deceased family members
 By their family
Arthur Henry
 By his sister Tina
Gregoire Croteau
 By his family
Dean Bastarache
 By his mom

Offering of Treasure for Annunciation Parish December 4, 2017

Total Regular Envelopes Used	706
Weekly Offering	\$ 11,201.01
Fuel & Energy	\$ 1,338.00
Maintenance	\$ 652.00
Gente Unida	\$ 766.00
Restoration	\$ 39.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 25.00
Needy Child	\$ 15.00
All Saints Day	\$ 10.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 927.00
Religious Ed.	\$ 158.00
Campaign for Human Dev.	\$ 10.00
World Mission	\$ 10.00
Religious Retirement Fund	\$ 11.00
Christmas Offering	\$ 15.00
All Souls	\$ 15.00
Total	\$ 15,192.01

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:

This week we have a little joy as we look ahead a little bit more to the coming Christmas celebration. Let's remember to keep focused on celebrating the birth of Jesus, and also spending this remaining time preparing and opening ourselves to receive Jesus in some new way this year. As a parish we are also preparing for a depth of union as a community that is possible only by the power of Jesus Christ.

The school board met this week. We explored our financial aid structure and looked at ways that this can be made more equitable and address families needs in the most fair and just ways. We also discussed reviewing the Strategic Plan to put it in place, and ways to market the school to engage new families and invite them into our school and parish community.

Pastoral council met and considered the ongoing development of the parish Mission Statement. We also Began to explore how we may refurbish our two current worship sites with elements from the sites that are no longer open. This was felt to be a way to move forward as a combined community and represent the reality of Annunciation Parish as a parish which has personal connection to the four historical parishes from which it was formed. We also discussed the development of consistent "Annunciation Parish" signs that can be set up at our campuses to reflect our unity as a single Catholic Parish in Gardner. Members of the Pastoral council are available for your feedback into this process. The contact information of the members of parish council can be found on the website (just look under "Contact us" under the "About" tab), you may also call the office to get this information. As always you may contact me and I would be glad to sit with you to discuss your ideas and/or concerns.

We will soon be adding special pages on the website under "Ministries" for each parish ministry with information, summaries of the activities of this ministry, and contact information for the coordinators of these ministries. This will also be made available to all in print form for your convenience. Once our new Business Manager has gotten established, I will be working with him, and the Finance and Pastoral councils on office restructuring that will allow for better coordination between parishioners, departments, and the various ministries. Several have contacted me regarding participating in the ministries we are building and others in enhancing the social and prayer life of the parish. All of this is a sign of the action of the Holy Spirit. The more we walk with the Lord in prayer, fellowship, study, and generosity with our resources, the more our lives are enhanced, and the more we bring God's kingdom of peace on earth.

Peace and Blessings,

Fr. Steve

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

"The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me." Let your spirits be augmented by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next WWME Weekends are Jan. 19-21, 2018 in South Kingstown, RI and March 9-11, 2018 in Duxbury, MA. For more information, call Stephen & Michelle O'Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit us at <https://www.mema.org/>

ADVENT EVENING PRAYER

All are welcome to join Fr. Ramos for evening prayer at 6:30pm on the Wednesdays in Advent (12/20) in Holy Rosary Church.

DONATION TO ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

In memory of
Florence Duteau
By
Donald Cormier & Michelle Cormier

In memory of
Michael Hazel
By
Mr. & Mrs. John Hazel

CHRISTMAS EVE AT HOLY SPIRIT CHAPEL

We will have our traditional musical prelude preceding our 4:00PM Christmas Eve Mass at Holy Spirit Chapel.

It will begin promptly at 3:30PM and will consist of various vocal and instrumental solos and duets.

This is a wonderful way to prepare our hearts for the birth of Baby Jesus.

Do come early to listen and appreciate the talents of our parish family.

WINTER WEATHER POLICY

Masses will be offered each day, as scheduled, regardless of weather. If school is cancelled Mass will still be offered - ALTHOUGH - on these days the Tuesday or Thursday morning Mass will still be at 7:30 but it will be at HOLY ROSARY instead of HOLY SPIRIT. The priests agreed that we should be offering the Mass for the good of the intention of that Mass, and also for any who may feel they could attend. It is up to the individual parishioner to determine if it is safe for them to come to Mass given their age, type of transportation, and condition of the roads in their area. Our Lord is pleased for you to attend Mass, but does not want you to be in a car accident in the process.

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

"Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18) This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. "Rejoice always" means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. "Pray constantly" means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. "Give thanks in all circumstances" means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations.

DONATION TO HOLY FAMILY ACADEMY

In memory of
Yvette Arsenault
By
Theresa E. McKean
Anonymous

DONATION TO ANNUNCIATION PARISH

In memory of
Yvette Arsenault
By
Anonymous

NO RELIGIOUS ED CLASSES

There will be **NO** religious ed classes on December 24th and 31st so families can enjoy the holidays together.

RELIGIOUS GIVE THANKS

A religious sister writes, "When we see the generous response of so many thousands of persons in order to help us, religious men and women, we are left speechless." Senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests across the country send heartfelt thanks and prayers for your donation to last week's Retirement Fund

A GIFT TO YOU

Our Adult Faith Formation Committee has made O'Antiphon Christmas ornaments for you to take home this weekend from Mass. They will be available in baskets at the doors of both churches. Please take one to reflect on the coming of the Lord. If you would like to receive a *brief* daily reflection on the O'Antiphons during this last week of Advent you can join our Flocknote messaging system through our parish website. Just click on the little white lamb in the blue box on the upper right hand corner of our parish's home page at AnnunciationGardner.org. When asked to choose a group choose "seasonal reflections" to begin receiving these updates automatically. Don't worry you can stop receiving messages whenever you wish.

WORD OF LIFE

"He is *always* with us. Jesus promised this when he gave the disciples the same mission he gives to each of us: Go... Walk with each other. Do not be afraid to embrace God's gift of life. Whatever storms or trials we face, we are not alone. He is with us."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities 2017-2018
Respect Life Reflection, www.bit.ly/2x3leIX

THE GIVING TREE

Thank you for your support for the Parish Christmas Basket! We are so grateful for your generous support. The baskets will be delivered on December 16, 2017.

The Giving Tree will be available thru Advent, as we continue our campaign to collect money to support our year long commitment to serve the poor. We will also continue to collect food to restock our shelves. Thank you

Your representatives in the Saint Vincent de Paul Society.

Thank you to those who have donated egg cartons. We do not need any more at this time.

YES WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

St. Vincent de Paul here at Annunciation Parish is in need of our help! **Please save and bring in your MA 5 cent returnable bottles and cans during the months of December and January. A special box will be set up in the vestibule at Holy Spirit.** The Troop 4 Boy Scouts at Holy Spirit have agreed to assist with this project. If pick up is needed please call Scott Rosengren, the Scoutmaster of Holy Spirit Troop 4 at 978-632-8531 and leave your name, phone number. All proceeds from this drive will go to St. Vincent de Paul here at Annunciation Parish! By working together yes we **can** make a difference.

ADVENT EVENING PRAYER

All are welcome to join Fr. Ramos for evening prayer at 6:30pm on Wednesday in Holy Rosary Church.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

How often have you sung O Come, O Come, Emmanuel during Advent? Have you ever wondered about the names of Jesus used in the song? They come from the *O Antiphones*, ancient one line prayers traditionally said during the week before Christmas. Each prayer invites Christ's transformative presence into our world. This week we will reflect on what it means when we call Jesus, "Emmanuel" and "The King of Nations" downstairs in the church hall immediately following evening prayer.

FAMILY GAME DAY!

Help us celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family on Saturday, December 30th in the church hall at Holy Rosary, for a Family Game Day. Feel free to drop in between 1 and 4:45 and bring your favorite board games and left over Christmas cookies to share. This will be a relaxed get together for all ages.

Sacrament of Baptism – celebrated on the Third Sunday of the month at 2:00 pm. Baptisms can also be celebrated at any Sunday liturgy outside the Lenten Season. **Baptismal Instruction** - held on the Third Monday of every month at Annunciation Parish on Nichols St. in the meeting room at 7:00 pm. Call Deacon Paul and his wife Lorraine at 978-297-1062.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) – for those who are non-baptized above the age of 7 and those baptized in another Christian community beside Roman Catholic seeking a relationship with Christ Jesus and membership in the Roman Catholic faith. Please contact Mrs. Maura Sweeney for more information at 978-632-0237 ext. 117 or via e-mail: religious4annunciation@gmail.com

First Penance/Reconciliation & First Communion – adults and children over the age of 7. Call Mrs. Maura Sweeney, Ext. 117.

Sacrament of Confirmation – call Mrs. Maura Sweeney, Ext. 117.

Sacrament of Marriage – please contact the Church a year in advance. Contact Deacon Paul and his wife Lorraine at 978-297-1062.

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick – call Fr. Lundrigan at ext. 116 or Fr. Ramos at ext. 130.

Bereavement – please contact your parish office.

St. Vincent de Paul – a ministry of care providing assistance within the community. Call Holy Rosary (978) 632-0253, ext. 143.

Prayer Line – For prayers for your special intention call 978-632-2618.

QUENCH

Every other week we have been featuring an article written by a fellow parishioner sharing some of the ways that they are **quenching** their thirst for God through various devotions, books and other media. This week's article comes from Phyllis Riley.

I have been asked why, at this time in my life I decided to become a catholic. The truth is that I had been on a pathway which was surely heading in this direction for over 30 years. When the statement, "the fullness of the faith is in the Catholic Church" became truth to me, I believed that this was the path to the streams of water and perhaps in this place my thirst would be quenched. I have not been disappointed. A door has opened to what seems like a vast new universe of knowledge and possibility; it is as though God has said, come on in and don't be afraid, there is no place you can go where I won't be. In the church I have discovered that when we partake of the Eucharist we may even catch a glimpse of heaven.

I am fortunate to have had catholic family, friends and work related associates who have been instrumental in planting seeds of change. My former church friends are dear, and dedicated, and caring, and I wish I could bring them along with me, but those aren't my decisions to make. I only know I need to keep moving.

There have been a few programs on EWTN Channel 56, which have really supported my ongoing quest for direction. For example I was elated to find **The Journey Home** with Marcus Grodi. I'll bet I've watched this program faithfully once a week for about 8 years. I still love watching it even after joining the church. This program offers the stories of converts to the Catholic faith. It is fascinating to see how the Holy Spirit works so personally in each guest's life to bring about the changes of heart and mind that lead them into the church. Their stories lead me to reflect on similar experiences in my own life.

This and other programs continue to inform and remind me of the richness of the faith. There is so much to learn and these programs truly help to quench my desire for closeness to God; though truly, I think nothing ever does completely and that's a very good thing.

ADULT CONFIRMATION

There can be many reasons why someone isn't confirmed at a younger age, but no reason why we can't receive as adults when we feel called by the Holy Spirit to receive the sacrament. Each year our diocese holds a confirmation celebration specifically for adults (18+) in February for those who have come to a point in their lives where they wish to complete their initiation into the church through this sacrament. For most who went through faith formation (CCD or Catholic School) when they were younger the preparation process is fairly simple. If you would like to know more about how you can prepare for confirmation please contact Mrs. Sweeney in the Religious Ed. Office at 978-632-0253 ext. 117



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