

SAINT ANNA PARISH

December 24, 2023

Fr. Carlos Ruiz, Pastor (978) 537-5293

fathercarlosruiz@gmail.com

Deacon James Graves, Deacon Paul Carrier, Deacon Salvatore Tantillo

Brazilian Community, Fr. Dario Acevedo, (978) 206-1474



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

"For today in the city
of David a savior has been
born for you who is
Christ and Lord."
- Lk 2:11

Parish Office Hours 8am-3pm, Monday through Friday. Please contact us by calling or emailing Beth Castriotta,
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St. Anna Catholic School

Tricia Brzenk, Principal
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213 Lancaster Street
978-534-4770
www.stannaschool.org



Safety Environment Notice

Our parish follows the guidelines of the national charter for the protection of children & young people approved by the US Bishops & Diocese of Worcester policies. Contact Judith Audette, Victim Services Coordinator, at 508-929-4363 (direct & confidential). Claire Freda is the St. Anna Parish Safe Environment Coordinator.

From the Pastor's Desk



My brothers and sisters, Christmas is about a baby, a simple and humble baby who comes to us as a gift from God. It is in simplicity where God shows his saving and glorious power. It is in the humility of our hearts, our homes, our lives where God comes to perform marvelous works and answers our prayers. It is to the humble of heart that God says,

“Behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. A savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord.” (Lk 2: 10- 11)

Jesus does not come in grandeur or majesty to intimidate us. He comes as the most helpless and dependent creature of all: a baby, in a manger, in Bethlehem. Thus, like the shepherds we come to the stable and contemplate Jesus and recognize that he is the light of the world, our peace, and our hope. In prayer we kneel before the humble and tender presence of the baby who takes away our weakness and fears. We do not have anything to offer but our own lives, our families, all those we love. We can offer him the work of our hands, our dreams, our future projects, and the coming year. With deep faith, let us place before Jesus who we are and who we want to be.

**On behalf of our parish ministries and staff,
I wish all of you and your loved ones a
Merry Christmas, Buon Natale and Feliz Navidad!
May your hearts and homes be filled with all
God's blessings and peace throughout these Holy Days.**

“Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

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I will be away visiting my family in Colombia from **December 26th to January 12th. Fr. Jim Steuterman** a retired priest, and **Fr. Thiago Ibiapina** from Gardner, will be helping with all the masses. Please pray for me as I go home to rest and celebrate New Years with my mother and grandmother. Together we will offer a special prayer for all of you and your families as we begin 2024. Thank you so much for your support and love. I will miss you!

Fr. Carlos

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY DECEMBER 23, 2023

4:00PM

Lena Friedman (8th anniversary) by her children
Giovanni DiRusso by his niece
Elizabeth DePasquale (5th anniversary) by family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023

8:00AM

Patricia Penniman (month's mind) by St. Anna Parish

CHRISTMAS EVE, SUNDAY DECEMBER 24, 2023

4:00PM

Carrescia, Hill and Piemontese Families by Rita Hill and family

Genaro and Thelma Cristoforo by family

6:00PM

Anthony VivoAmore Sr., by family

Mery, John and Patrick Burke by Joe and Fran Bassett

Elizabeth and William Bassett and deceased sons by
Joe and Fran Bassett

12:00AM (Midnight)

Duane Michaud by his wife

Anthony and Viola Sisoian by family

CHRISTMAS DAY, MONDAY DECEMBER 25, 2023

8:00AM

Mario and Laura Cancellieri by Dan and Donna Benoit

Joseph and Viola Arminio by family

5:00PM Brazilian Mass

DAILY MASS, DECEMBER 26-28, 2023

7:30AM

TUESDAY: Robin and Jeffrey Filteau by Dan and Donna Benoit

WEDNESDAY: Mike and Lucy Scaramuzzi by children

THURSDAY: Charlie Dale by his family

Bob Cashman by Susan Cashman

SATURDAY DECEMBER 30, 2023

4:00PM

Barbara Deschler by Donna Fiore

Alice Minchello by Minchello family

Jeanne Jekanowski (1st anniversary) by St. Anna Parish

In memory of a friend by Donna Fiore

Luigi and Teresina Pulsinelli by Grote Family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023

8:00AM

Michael Sweeney by Dan and Donna Benoit

Geraldine (Carbone) DiRusso by niece

Patricia Penniman by Marian and Skip Priddy

10:00AM

Frank Bianco by daughter Adelina Bianco and

granddaughters Sarah and Shanna Infantino

12:00PM

Genaro and Thelma Cristoforo by family

Lawrence and Estelle Seymour by Amelia Piermarini

Parish News

The Parish Office and Food Pantry will be closed on December 25 and December 26, 2023. The Parish Office will reopen on Wednesday, December 27, 2023. The Food Pantry will open on Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

Parish Office hours for the months of December-January: Monday-Thursday 8:00AM-1:00PM and closed on Fridays.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY -

If Leominster Public Schools are cancelled or delayed, the morning mass, the school mass, adoration and confessions will not be held. This will give us time to clear out the walkways, stairs etc.

ADORATION - Everyone is welcome to join us every Tuesday following the 7:30 am Mass from 8:00 am to 10:00 am. Divine Mercy Chaplet 9:30 am.

CONFESSIONS - There will be no Confessions on Tuesday mornings while Fr. Carlos is away. Tuesday morning confessions will begin again on January 16, 2024.

There will be confessions Saturday afternoons from 2:45 pm to 3:45 pm.

PARISH COLLECTION REPORT -

The Collection Report was not available at the time the bulletin was submitted. Reports will be in next week's bulletin.

St. Matthew 25 Society News

THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Our Parish Gift Card Giving Tree collection was a tremendous success! We collected and were able to distribute over \$7500.00 worth of Gift Cards for children in need to five local area agencies. Thank you to all parishioners and friends for your overwhelming kindness, support and above all generosity! God bless all of you and your loved ones this Christmas Season!

Thank you to the 9th and 10th grade Religious Education Classes and their teachers for hosting the food drive for the St. Matthew 25 Food Pantry. Also, thank you to all the parishioners for supporting this great project. It was a tremendous success.

To Everyone—Mille Grazie & Buon Natale!!

St. Anna School News

The students of St. Anna School have been joyfully preparing this Christmas season and learning how to be generous of their time and talents. They have been collecting "Socks for Santa", making gifts for their Mass buddies, creating decorations for the homebound of the Parish, and filling the Christmas tree in the school lobby with homemade decorations detailing their kind deeds for others. The students in Grades PreK-1 and 2-5 performed beautifully at their Christmas concerts under the direction of Mrs. Sarao. Our 6th grade band also showed off their great music skills during a presentation of Christmas songs along with their band director, Mr. Szebeda.

The St. Anna School community extends their gratitude to the parishioners of St. Anna Church for contributing to our many fundraisers this school year including the BBQ, Butter Braids, and Socks for Santa. Your continued support to the students and families of the school has been incredible to witness. I am so grateful to have become a part of this warm and supportive community and cannot wait to see what 2024 brings. I sincerely thank you all for your warm wishes and kind greetings as I have been welcomed into this school and church family.

You are all in my prayers and I hope that this season brings you peace, goodwill, and happiness at Christmas and always. With gratitude, Tricia Brzenk

Our Lady, Health Of The Sick, *Pray for Us*

Sue Morizzo, Brendan O'Connor, Pauline Ghildari, Mimi Egidio, Jen Branch, Toby Anderson, Sonia Proietti, Melissa Michaud, Deacon Jim, Angela Gura, Amelia Lavenski, Cindy Delaney, Mary Ann DeAmicis, Wayne Comeau, Jimmy M., Rickie Gorski Jr., Harry, Cindy and Harrison, Catherine Matthews, Frank Cipriani, Sloan Blake, M. Goguen, Jason Fennelly, W. Fletcher, John Ricci, Jacob Rivera, Joe P., Olive Thompson, Lianne Heath, Brent Heath, Michael LeBlanc, Richard Tienhaara, Rose T., Beth Callahan, Lisa McNally, Lala Grace, Theresa, Joslin Ahola, Kitty Cormier, Nikki Lasalandra, Bobby Hachey, Dave, Joanne and Nic Madigan, Jay C., Patrick McGranaghan, Harley Gallant, Baby Emmett, Steve D., Arthur Fournier, Donna Smith, Tina, Steve and Quincie Ball.

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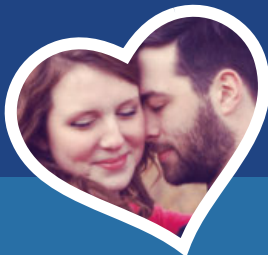
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