The Reading Catholic Community

Saint Agnes Church
186 Woburn St, Reading MA

Saint Athanasius Church
300 Haverhill St, Reading MA

November 29, 2020
1st Sunday of Advent

Be watchful! Be alert!

You do not know when the time will come. Mark 13:33

Please Pray for the Men and Women in Military Service

God of compassion, we pray for our loved ones in the military, who offer themselves for the sake of others and who are separated from family and loved ones. Grant them courage, compassion, strength, and all they need for the living of these days. Sustain them through their every trial. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

Please pray for all service members, especially for:

Capt. Jared Peledge (US Army),
2LT Jeff Peledge (US Army Rangers),
Spc. William T. Fisher (US Army),
LCPL Peter O'Connor (USMC), LCPL Dean Lepore
Cpl. Daniel Gonzales (US Marine Corps),
Capt. Nicholas Staffier (US Army),
Cpl. Robert Ciaccio (USMC)
1LT Luke Beaulieu (US Army), 26th "Yankee" Brigade
Cpl. Brenden Amico, Justin Whitmarsh,
PFC Michael Goddard, Chaplain Tom Whiteman,
USMC Major Zachary Johnson,
1st Lts. Ryan & Nolan Johnson, (US Army)
PFC Christopher Lewis,
USMC Capt. Katie Sliwoski,
1LT Gregory Connery, 3rd Infantry Div (US Army),
2nd Lieutenant Luke Sullivan (USMC),
Frank J. Pendergast (USMC)
Major Stephen Tyminski (US Army Rangers),
Patrick Cavanaugh, Cpl. David Goss (USMC),
Sgt. Brian A. Hartman, USMC
LT Kevin Plumer, Navy

Let us pray for the success of the St. Agnes and St. Athanasius Collaborative. May we open our hearts to allow the Holy Spirit to work within and among us. May we intentionally seek to lead others to Jesus through our actions and build His Church in our community.

Mass Intentions

Sunday Masses
St. Athanasius - 4PM Vigil (Saturday) and 10AM
St. Agnes - 9AM and 11AM

Daily Masses at 9AM
St. Agnes - Monday, Wednesday, Friday
St. Athanasius - Tuesday, Thursday

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28
4:00 pm - Ann Bennett - Memorial

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29 - 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
9:00 am - Anthony & Connie Pustorino - 5th Anniversary
10:00 am - Sean Tierney- Memorial
- Anna Follo - Memorial
11:00 am - Simone & Bridget Lauria - Memorial

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30
9:00 am No Mass Intention Request

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1
9:00 am No Mass Intention Request

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2
9:00 am No Mass Intention Request

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3
9:00 am - Alice Zamagni - 3rd Anniversary

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4
9:00 am No Mass Intention Request

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5
4:00 pm - Frank DelGreco -- 3rd Anniversary

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6 - 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
9:00 am - Maria & Onofrio Salerno and Salvatore Magro
10:00 am - Follo and Rubbico Families
11:00 am - Mary Regina & Ligory Francis; Franca Beranger; and Innocenta Thomas - Memorial
- Donna Silva - Birthday Memorial

9AM Daily Mass on Monday, November 30 Wednesday, December 2 Friday, December 4

Will be celebrated at St. Athanasius.

This is for this week only

Holy Day of Obligation - Tuesday, December 8, 2020

9AM Mass at St. Athanasius and 7PM Mass at St. Agnes

A persistent confusion seems to exist over the "Immaculate Conception." Some people mistakenly think the term is related to Mary's conception of Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. However, the Immaculate Conception is the belief that "the most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and in view of the merits of Christ Jesus the Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin…" (*Ineffabilis Deus).*

When one considers the role Mary was to play in the life of our Lord– whether His incarnation, His childhood, or His crucifixion– she must have been outstanding in holiness, truly "full of grace" in accepting and in fulfilling her role as the Mother of the Savior, in the fullest sense of *Mother*. We believe, therefore, this exceptional, grace-filled holiness extended to the very beginning of her life, her conception.

https://catholicstraightanswers.com/

By his Real Presence in the Eucharist Christ fulfils his promise to be with us "always, until the end of the age" (Mt 28:20). As St. Thomas Aquinas wrote, "It is the law of friendship that friends should live together. . . . Christ has not left us without his bodily presence in this our pilgrimage, but he joins us to himself in this sacrament in the reality of his body and blood" (Summa Theologiae, III q. 75, a. 1). With this gift of Christ's presence in our midst, the Church is truly blessed. As Jesus told his disciples, referring to his presence among them, "Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it" (Mt 13:17). In the Eucharist the Church both receives the gift of Jesus Christ and gives grateful thanks to God for such a blessing. This thanksgiving is the only proper response, for through this gift of himself in the celebration of the Eucharist under the appearances of bread and wine Christ gives us the gift of eternal life.

READING CATHOLIC COMMUNITY'S ADVENT OPPORTUNITIES

PRAYER

ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL DEVOTIONS OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH: ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

On Thursdays during Advent, beginning this week from 7:15-8:30 PM, Adoration will take place at St. Athanasius church beginning with recitation of the Most Holy Rosary and concluding with a seasonal prayer. Adoration is also held on Friday mornings at St. Agnes Church following the 9AM Daily Mass until Noon. In the *Year of the Eucharist* and during this busy Advent season, we invite you to spend some quiet time with our Lord.

" The Eucharist is a priceless treasure: by not only celebrating it but also by praying before it outside of Mass, we are enabled to make contact with the very wellspring of grace….It is pleasant to spend time with Jesus, to lie close to his breast like the Beloved Disciple (cf Jn 13:25) and to feel the infinite love present in his heart. "

Saint John Paul II (Ecclesia de Euchristica, 25)

RECITATION OF THE ROSARY

In addition to the recitation of the Rosary at St. Athanasius on Thursdays during Eucharistic Adoration, our community also holds Tuesday evening Rosary at 7:00PM at St. Agnes Church, led by a dedicated group of members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

First Tuesday of the Month Rosary - In unison with the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Knights of Columbus as part of our ***Faith in Action*** Rosary service program invite you to join the Reading Catholic Community in weekly prayer. We participate in reciting the Rosary on the first Tuesday of each month in an effort to, "Build faithful families and communities through rosary prayer." Join us Tuesday, December 1st, 7:00 PM at Saint Agnes.

THE LITTLE BLUE BOOK FOR ADVENT

Six minutes a day. That's what you are asked to give during these next 43 days: the 26 days of the Advent season, and the 17 days of the Christmas season. The Little Blue Book uses one of the oldest traditions of prayer called *lectio divina,* using a short Scripture passage and letting God speak to us through these words. You may find it surprising as to how easy it is to pray this way, and how deep such prayer can be. It can change your day...change your life. Pick up a Little Blue Book for yourself or to share with another. Available at the churches' entrances.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: A GIFT FROM GOD

We do many things to get ourselves ready for the coming of the Lord and our celebration of Christmas: purchase gifts, prepare Christmas cards, decorate our homes. We might have the tendency to prematurely jump ahead to the celebration of Christmas. But, when we do this, we miss the important steps of preparation for the Lord's coming. Let us remember that one way in which we prepare for Jesus' coming is through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Confessions heard on Saturdays, 2:45pm-3:45pm at St. Athanasius, can also be made by appointment with priest.

Study/Evangelization

Keeping Advent Bright: A community-wide virtual celebration

Watch for your daily Advent email from the Reading Catholic Community, as we join together in Keeping Advent Bright for parishioners of all ages. Each day enjoy a video reflection from Dynamic Catholic's Matthew Kelly, and a special gift when you open the door to our virtual Advent Calendar.

The Community's Advent Calendar will shine some light on our Advent traditions, music, and prayers. Set aside some time to reflect on what matters most this holiday season: preparing for the coming of Jesus!

Faith & Fellowship Small Groups

Small groups of over 160 parishioners provide a setting for sharing, deepening bonds, and serving and supporting each other. Christian Service is a key component of the Small Group Ministry. One Small Group has traditionally provided Thanksgiving dinner, however with this not a possibility under the current pandemic, this group has decided to support our Reading Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society as its Advent Service Project! If you would like to join in on a small group or get more information contact: Marie Lucey at *malucey@commhospital.com* or Kevin McKenna at *kevin_mckenna@hotmail.com*

Generosity

Catholic Charities Christmas Gift Giving Program

This Advent, as in past years, our Reading Catholic Community will be supporting Catholic Charities gift giving. Like so much else this year, there are changes to the program due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In lieu of actual gifts, Catholic Charities has requested store gift cards. Cards returned to the secure collection box near the restroom at St. Athanasius Church will benefit the Catholic Charities division traditionally supported by St. Athanasius, and cards returned to the St. Agnes offertory basket will benefit the Catholic Charities division traditionally supported by St. Agnes.

The Names of Jesus

The prophets foretold Him… The angels announced Him… The shepherds sought Him… The wise men worshipped Him… We celebrate Him!

Born humbly in a manger, he came as a servant. God clothed as a carpenter. He taught us how to love… to give of ourselves freely… to follow the Father no matter what the cost. Many came to Him, repentant and broken, ready to be filled with His love and believing that He was the Messiah.

"You will conceive and give birth to a Son, and you will name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David." *(Luke 1:31-32)*

"He was named Jesus - the name given by the angel before He was conceived." *(Luke 2:21)*

Image and text from ***Names of Jesus Advent - Ornament Book***
https://www.dayspring.com

FAITH FORMATION NEWS, GRADES 1-10

DEFERRED FAITH FORMATION FAMILY FEE ($250 per family) - if you enrolled your child/ren and deferred payment, the family fee can now be paid online at: ***https://stagnesreading.churchgiving.com***
Please call the office if you have questions.

GRADES 1 AND 3 THROUGH 8 - SEMESTER #2 ON-SITE CLASSES

Classes begin the week of December 6th - No on-site classes the week of November 29th

Parent Zoom Meeting - Thursday, December 3, 7PM

- visit *https://readingcatholic.org/1-3-8* to login for Zoom meeting

SEMESTER #2

Semester begins 12/6/2020

If you would like to have your child come on-site for Semester #2 classes, we do have available slots. **NOTE: there is a maximum class size for on-site classes, strictly enforced and in compliance with COVID guidelines. Your child must have pre-approval to attend on site. Sign up on the website for Semester #2 classes: *https://readingcatholic.org/1-3-8* or call the Collaborative Office.**

GRADES 2 - SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION: RECONCILIATION & FIRST EUCHARIST

No classes on November 29th. On-site classes will next meet on December 6.

PARENTS TEACHING CHILDREN AT HOME: If you have not yet picked up your child's tote bag (preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation), please stop by the Collaborative Office, St. Agnes Parish Center, Monday thru Friday, 10AM until 3:30PM.

PARENT MEETINGS: all parents are expected to attend this year's 5 parent meetings.
The next parent meeting is Monday, January 4, 7PM (zoom)

Refer to the Grade 2 Sacramental Preparation page on our website for program updates and ongoing information:

https://readingcatholic.org/fhc

CONFIRMATION I & II PREPARATION

The next small group zoom meeting is Sunday, December 6th. Candidates who were late enrolled will receive their small group assignment and zoom link via email before the December meeting.

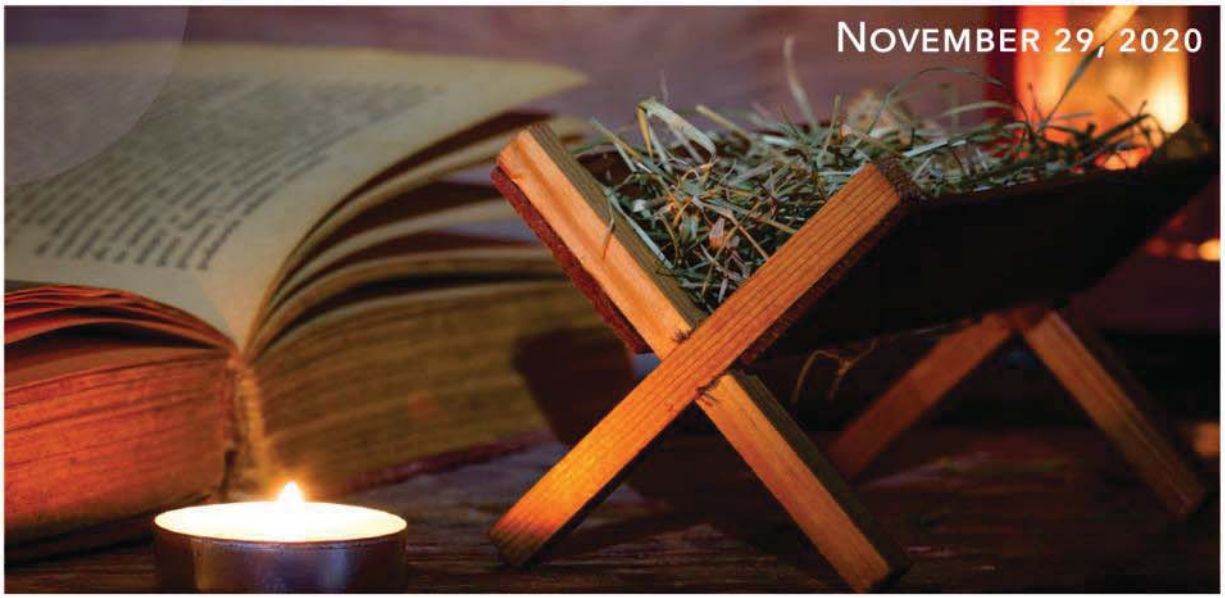
Refer to the Confirmation page on our website for program updates and ongoing information:

https://readingcatholic.org/confirmation-preparation

Let Us Be Light

Jesus,
Let Advent begin;
help us to be beacons of hope, patience,
good deeds, love, peace and justice… Be our guide in this project.
Grant us what we need to keep our lights shining,
To shed light on the road that leads others to you.
Amen.

The First Sunday of Advent



The Advent season begins today!

The Advent season begins today! Take time to reflect on how you will use the next four weeks to prepare your heart for Christmas.

Blessing of the Advent Wreath

It's time to bring out and bless the Advent wreath! The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead.

Use this prayer to bless your family wreath:

When the blessing of the Advent Wreath is celebrated in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another member of the family.

All make the sign of the cross as the leader says:

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Response (R/.) Who made heaven and earth.

Then the Scripture, *Isaiah 9*: (lines 1-2 and 5-6) or *Isaiah 63* (lines 16-17 & 19) or *Isaiah 64* (lines 2-7) is read:

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.

With hands joined, the leader says:

Lord our God,

we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:

he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,

he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,

he is the Savior of every nation.

Lord God,

let your blessing come upon us

as we light the candles of this wreath.

May the wreath and its light

be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation.

May he come quickly and not delay.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R/. **Amen.**

Mass Schedule

Saint Agnes Church

Sunday: 9:00AM
Sunday: 11:00AM (also live-streamed)
Daily Mass: 9:00AM on Monday, Wednesday, Friday (also live-streamed)

Saint Athanasius Church

Saturday: 4:00PM
Sunday: 10:00AM
Daily Mass: Tuesday 9:00AM
Thursday 9:00AM

Contact us

Collaborative Office Location: 184 Woburn Street, Reading, MA | Hours: Monday thru Friday, 10AM-3:30PM
ReadingCatholic.org | email: Contact@ReadingCatholic.org | 781.944.0490 Fax 781.944.4403

Clergy and Lay Staff

Pastor:
Very Rev. Stephen B. Rock, x220
email: FrSteve@ReadingCatholic.org

Parochial Vicar:
Rev. Victor Vitug, x224
email: FrVictor@ReadingCatholic.org

Senior Priest:
Rev. Edward T. Malone, x211
email: Fred@ReadingCatholic.org

Priest In Residence:
Rev. Richard M. Erikson

Deacons:
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email: DeaconBill@ReadingCatholic.org

Rev. Mr. Neil Sumner
email: DeaconNeil@ReadingCatholic.org

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Director, Finance & Operations: Gerry Sullivan x210
email: GSullivan@ReadingCatholic.org

Director of Music: Chrissy Cerretani
email: CCerretani@ReadingCatholic.org

Admin Assistant: Luann Barretto, x216
email: LBarretto@ReadingCatholic.org

Dynamic Parish Initiative: Janet Davidson-Dee
email: JDavidson-Dee@ReadingCatholic.org

Property Managers:
Steve Flannery, St. Athanasius
email: SFlannery@ReadingCatholic.org
Thomas Jones, St. Agnes
email: TJones@ReadingCatholic.org

Communications: Jacqueline Steele, x217
email: JSteele@ReadingCatholic.org

Sacraments

✝ **Baptism:** Maximum of 4 babies at each service

✝ **Baptism Parent Meeting:** ***Parents must attend a baptism meeting prior to the baptism. Meetings are held on the 1st Friday of every month at 7:00PM, currently by ZOOM meeting.***

St. Agnes Baptisms:
1PM Service - 1st Sunday of the month

St. Athanasius Baptisms:
1PM Service - 3rd Sunday of the month

Call the Parish Office to schedule baptism or for further information

✝ **Marriage:**
Arrangements are made with a priest at least six months in advance.

✝ **Reconciliation:**
Saturdays, 2:45PM - 3:45PM at St. Athanasius, crying room at back of church, in person

✝ **Anointing of the Sick:** Call the Parish Office to request. Extraordinary Ministers are also available to bring the Eucharist to the homebound.

✝ **Funerals**: Are held in the church subject to physical distancing and mask wearing

READING CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

READING CATHOLIC PARISH COUNCIL

Fr. Steve Rock, Christine Ambrose, Chrissy Cerretani, Janet Davidson-Dee, Rosemarie DeLacy, James Dudley, Bob Finigan, Jane Fiore, Ed Fitzpatrick, Steve Goldner, Paul Lannon, Joanne Metzger, Jody Roffi, Fred Santosuosso, Chris Scozzari, Lisa Tavoletti, James Taylor

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL 781-258-8767

St. Vincent de Paul is known as the "Apostle of Charity" dedicating his life to the service of the poor. Today, the Reading Catholic Community carries on his work: some of us contribute time, some talent and others treasure in the confidential support of our Reading neighbors. Please call us if we can help you.

HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN

Winchester Hospital Chaplain: Mary Beth Moran, 781.756.2295

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

Due by Monday 12Noon for print in the upcoming weekend's bulletin. Email submissions to: ***bulletin@ReadingCatholic.org***

PARISH REGISTRATION

Welcome to our Parish. Please call the Parish Office or register on our site at: https://readingcatholic.org/register-with-parish

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

For anyone interested in becoming Catholic and for Catholics who have not been confirmed, please call either St. Agnes or St. Athanasius Parish Office.

ALTAR SERVERS (For Youth in Grades 3 and up)

Currently suspended due to COVID-19
St. Agnes Contact: Michelle Goldner, 508-942-9788
email: chelle1127@msn.com
St. Athanasius Contact: Call the Office 781-944-0330

GLUTEN ISSUES

Please see a Priest or Deacon before Mass.

MASS AND SANCTUARY LIGHT INTENTIONS, MASS CARDS

Call the Parish Office to schedule

PRAYER CORNER (ST. ATHANASIUS)

Call the Parish Office to add or renew a name of your loved ones or submit online at: https://readingcatholic.org/prayer-request

PRAYER TREE REQUESTS (ST. AGNES)

Contact the office, place note in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel Prayer basket or submit online at: https://readingcatholic.org/prayer-request
Copies of the Prayer Tree are at the church exits.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION - IN PERSON AFTER THE DAILY MASS: Friday 9:30am-12Noon at St. Agnes Church

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28

7:00 AM	- Men's Group - Zoom Meeting
2:45-3:45 AM	- Reconciliation at St. Athanasius crying room (in the back right of the church), in person
4:00 PM	- Mass at St Athanasius, in person

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29 - 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:00 AM	- Mass at St Agnes, in person
10:00 AM	- Mass at St Athanasius, in person
11:00 AM	- Mass at St Agnes, in person and live-streamed

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30

10AM-3:30PM	- Collaborative Office Hours

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1

10AM-3:30PM	- Collaborative Office Hours
7:00 PM	- Tuesday Evening Rosary - St. Agnes Church

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2

10AM-3:30PM	- Collaborative Office Hours

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3

10AM-3:30PM	- Collaborative Office Hours
7:00 PM	- Grades 1 and 3-8 Parent ZOOM Meeting
7:15 PM	- Eucharistic Adoration at St. Athanasius Church

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

10AM-3:30PM	Collaborative Office Hours
9:30AM-Noon	- Eucharistic Adoration at St Agnes Upper Church following Mass, in person
7:00 PM	- Parent Baptism Meeting via Zoom

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

7:00 AM	- Men's Group Zoom meeting
9:30 AM	- St. Vincent de Paul - Agnes Parish Center 2nd Fl
2:45-3:45 AM	- Reconciliation at St. Athanasius crying room (in the back right of the church), in person
4:00 PM	- Mass at St Athanasius, in person

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6 - 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:00 AM	- Mass at St Agnes, in person
10:00 AM	- Mass at St Athanasius, in person - Grade 1 and 2 - St. Agnes Parish Center
11:00 AM	- Mass at St Agnes, in person and live-streamed
12Noon	- Grade 1 and 2 - St. Agnes Parish Center
4:00 PM	- Confirmation I Small Group ZOOM Meetings
7:00 PM	- Confirmation II Small Group ZOOM Meetings

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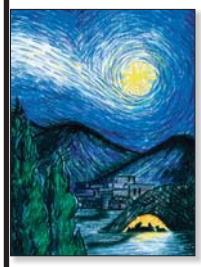

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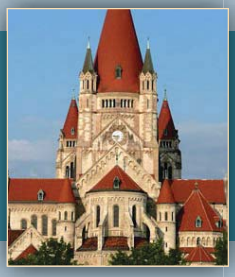

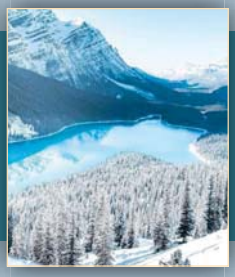
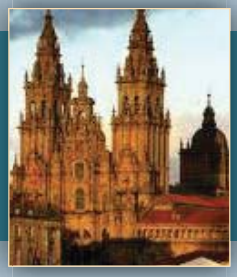
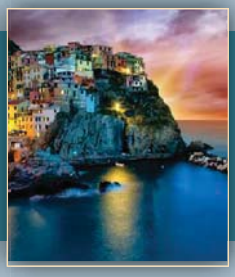

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November is the month of ALL SOULS

During November, it is **CatholicTV's** privilege to pray for the souls of your **departed loved ones** at each **daily Mass**. If you would like us to pray for them by name, please send us an email at **AllSoulsRemembrance@CatholicTV.org.**

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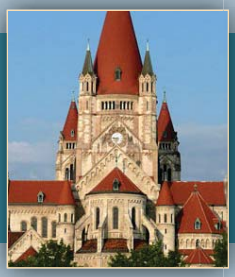

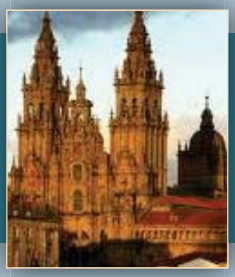

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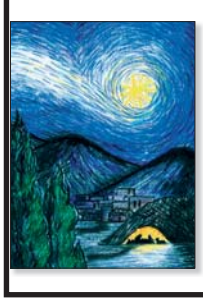

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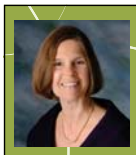

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