



Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be

Christmas Surprises  
By Deacon Dan Dunn

Christmas morning has always been a time for surprises, some from under the tree, others not. As far back as that carpenter by trade, was surprised that he could find no room in an inn for Mary to have her baby. Twelve days later, when the Magi arrived to pay homage to their king, they must have laughed in surprise to be



standing there with adult gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh for a two-week old baby. Imagine the surprise of his apostles and disciples when Jesus invited sinners and other undesirables to celebrate his birthday with him each year, that he loathed hypocrisy and would hold each person accountable for how they treated others.

One surprise this year is that we made it though last year with the economy failing, major corporations going bankrupt, foreclosures up, employment down. In spite of that, it is a well-received surprise that peace on earth, good will toward men is still possible even in the present chaotic state of the world, when the peace of Christ resides in the hearts of each individual believer. May the wonder and awe of a peace-filled heart be your personal surprise this Christmas morning. And let our prayer of the former Secretary General



Christmas!

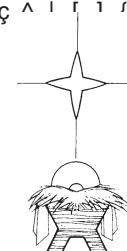
Sharing The Gospel  
For Children

the hills of Judea. Both of them were expecting babies. Each of them knew that the birth of her child was a special event that could only happen because they trusted God. Your own mother trusted that God would give you life in this world. Both Mary and Elizabeth watched their children grow up to do good things. You can grow up to do good things too, if you trust in God.

Prayer:  
Dear Jesus, help me to trust you and to remember that you are the reason we celebrate Christmas. Amen.

Save The Date

Mass on Saturday, January 9th. All are invited to celebrate Mass then join us in the Parish Hall for a spaghetti dinner.



Readings for the Week of December 13, 2009

- Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18
  - Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Mt 21:23-27
  - Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Mt 21:28-32
  - Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25/Lk 7:18b-23
  - Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17
  - Friday: Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25
  - Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25
  - Next Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45
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**Stewardship:** The Gospel today tells of the Virgin Mary, pregnant herself, hurrying off to help her cousin Elizabeth. The model of good stewardship, she who had given herself to bear the Savior gave her time and love to others as well.

Religious Education Calendar

Looking Ahead

- Jan. 2nd, Kindergarten gathering, 9am · St. Ann Church
- Jan. 10th, grade level Mass, grade 3, 11am · St. Joachim
- Jan. 24th, WPFH hosted by grades 4 & 8, beginning with 10am Mass at St. Ann

Feast of the Epiphany

We are seeking students for our Epiphany Procession for the upcoming feast day, which will begin our 4PM Mass on Saturday, January 2, 2010.

Roles needed to be filled: 1 shepherd, 1 servant boy, 3 wise men, Mary & Joseph, 7 angels for the North Star, 2 littlest angels (Pre-K through Gr.2). Students from Grades 3 and up are invited to participate in this procession. If you are interested, please call Susanne Demetri at 978-283-5096 for rehearsal dates and permission slips.



St. Ann School Polar Plunge

On New Years Day at noon volunteers will bravely wade into the Atlantic Ocean at Niles Beach. Please come cheer them on! The Polar Plunge is a Parent · Teacher Organization fundraiser supplies, teacher professional development, and educational field trips. If you would like to sponsor someone or join in on the fun, please call Sharon Els at 617-413-7797 or e-mail sharonels@alum.mit.edu.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



December 19th  
December 27th, 2009

Saturday, December 19, 2009

I ] { Á Ç Û c È Á Æ } } D ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö **Jennie Martin** È È  
From Family

Sunday, December 20, 2009

I æ { Á Ç Û c È Á Æ } } D ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö **Sis Rose** ö È È  
From Children

J æ { Á Ç Û c È Á R [ æ & @ ã { D ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö } **Pro Populo** ö ö È È

F € æ { Á Ç Û c È Á Æ } } D ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö **The Smith Family**  
From Family

F F æ { Á Ç Û c È Á R [ æ & @ ã **Mario & Maria Beatrice and Orsola Ferrante**  
From Family

Monday, December 21, 2009

J æ { Á Ç Û c È Á R [ æ & @ ã { D ö **Joseph R. Brancialeone**  
From Wife & Children

7:30pm (St. Ann) (Mass in Portuguese)

Tuesday, December 22, 2009

J æ { Á Ç Û c È Á R [ æ & @ ã **Giuliana & Romeo Families**  
From Children & Grandchildren

Wednesday, December 23, 2009

J æ { Á Ç Û c È Á R [ æ & @ ã { D ö ö ö **Joseph Barbagallo**  
From Wife & Family

Thursday, December 24, 2009

9am (St. Joachim)  
4pm (St. Ann)  
5pm (St. Joachim)  
6pm (St. Ann)  
8pm (St. Ann) (Mass in Portuguese)  
Midnight Mass (St. Joachim)



Friday, December 25, 2009

10am (St. Joachim)  
10am (St. Ann)

Saturday, December 26, 2009

I ] { Á Ç Û c È Á Æ } } D ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö **Rose Testaverde** È È  
From Family

Sunday, December 27, 2009

I æ { Á Ç Û c È Á Æ } } D È ö ö **Andrew & Margaret Orlando**  
From Family

J æ { Á Ç Û c È Á R [ æ & @ ã { D ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö } **Nancy Brown** ö È È

F € æ { Á Ç Û c È Á Æ } } D ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö **Joseph Nicastro** È È

F F æ { Á Ç Û c È Á R [ æ & @ ã { D ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö ö } **Pro Populo** ö ö È È

Nursing Home Schedule

Den Mar · Monday, December 21st at 3:30  
Golden Living Center · Monday, December 28th at 3pm

Catholic Charities Needs Your Help

Help your Cape Ann neighbors by providing a donation to the local Catholic Charities Gloucester Office for basic needs · food, utility and rental assistance during these difficult economic times. Please send donations to Catholic Charities North, attn: Sarah O'Neil at 978-283-3055. Thank you. For more info. call 978-283-3055.



Host & Wine

The Host & Wine for December were donated in loving memory of:

~Edward R. Ghidella and  
The Bendik Family ~  
From Wife and Sons



Memorials & Donations

Holy Family Parish gratefully acknowledges donations received in memory of:

Virginia Flannagan

Carol Whynott

; Y f U ` X ` C Ñ 7 c b b c **Salvatore Verga**

Mary Ann Johnson

Phil & Christine Loiacano

Charles Parisi

Joseph Brancialeone

Joe & Bonnie Mitchell

Phil & Jane Demetri

Jennie & George

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas

Mackinnon

Linquata

Vincie Scola

Mary Mahoney Howard

Catherine Randazza

Maria & Dick Theriault

Mr. & Mrs. Onofrio Russo



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**Charles Parisi** who were buried from our parish recently. May they rest in peace.



Christmas

Mass Schedule

Thursday, December 24th

4pm & 6pm · St. Ann  
8pm · St. Ann (Brazilian Mass in Portuguese)  
5pm and Midnight · St. Joachim

Friday, December 25th

10am · St. Ann  
10am · St. Joachim



A Special presentation of the Nativity will be reenacted at 11:30pm on Christmas Eve. If you plan to attend midnight Mass please come early for this wonderful presentation.

Thursday, December 31<sup>st</sup> B Y k ` M Y U f ð g ` 9 j Y

4pm · St. Ann Church

Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup> New Years Day

10am · St. Joachim Church



### Altar Flower Donations

Donations are being accepted for Altar flowers. Remember your loved ones with the purchase of flowers to be displayed on the altar of St. Ann or St. Joachim.

### Cevicos Mission Trip

Missionaries from Holy Family will be traveling to Cevicos in the Dominican Republic January 16th-23rd. They will need your prayers and donations for our medical clinics. **Please donate items on this list only.**

Liquid and chewable acetaminophen for children, Monistat and other items that can be used in hygiene packs for women, anti-fungal cream, acetaminophen 325mg, 500mg, and 650mg for arthritis, ibuprofen 200mg, aspirin (81mg for heart), Selsun Blue shampoo, adult & senior multivitamins, Prilosec, Tums, cough syrup for adults, cold and allergy meds (day & night), Ziploc Bags (quart, sandwich, & snack sizes), bars of soap.

### CatholicTV

CatholicTV will intersperse Advent and Christmas programming with their regular schedule throughout December and especially from Monday, December 21st through December 26th, CatholicTV will become ChristmasTV for 72 hours of non-stop specials.

You can always watch all of the fine Catholic TV programming live and on-demand at our easy to navigate website: [www.CatholicTV.com](http://www.CatholicTV.com).

### St. Vincent de Paul Needs

**The following items are needed for our food pantry:** Jelly, Peanut Butter, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Canned Vegetables, Canned Soups, Baked Beans, Juice, Crackers, and Cereal. Donations may be placed in the receptacle in the church foyer. Thank you!  
**The following items are also needed:** Coffee tables, end table, small kitchen table and kitchen chairs. Please call Harry Miller if you can help at 978.281.2701.

### CHRISTMAS FLOWER ENVELOPES



Flower envelopes are in the back of the church for those of you who wish to make a Christmas Flower donation in memory of your deceased loved ones.

### PASTORAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

January 10<sup>th</sup>, the Pastoral Parish Council meets at 1pm in the Parish Hall. Finances of the Parish will be the principal topic for discussion. PLEASE MARK YOU CALENDAR AND JOIN US. All are welcome.



Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> | 10am to 1pm  
 Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup> | Closed  
 Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup> | Closed

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Mass	Attendance	Collection
4pm	310	\$2,192.45
8am	161	1,736.00
9am	161	1,595.75
10am	280	1,542.77
11am	168	1,372.00
	<b>1,069</b>	

Weekly Offertory:	\$8,438.97
December EFT Contributions (4 Weeks):	\$1,211.25
Office Offertory:	165.00
<b>Total Offertory:</b>	<b>\$9,815.22</b>
December 2008 average collection:	\$7,787.55
Catholic Appeal:	\$29,458.00
(83% of our \$35,500 goal)	
Immaculate Conception:	\$935.51

We appreciate your support!!

### Grand Annual Almost There!

**Total contributions as of Dec. 15th have reached \$72,524.87**  
 With an additional 7 responses coming in this week **we have achieved 96.70% of our \$75,000 goal!** We are most grateful to you have yet to participate, we hope you consider a contribution and give what you can. Remember, all Grand Annual contributions are tax-deductible, stay within Holy Family Parish, and will be used to meet local needs. **We appreciate your donation!**



### Your Christmas Offering

Our only collection at all of our Christmas Masses next week will be dedicated to providing for the retirement, healthcare, and financial needs of priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. We can all remember fondly the priests who baptized our child or children, witnessed our marriage, or brought the anointing of the sick to a loved one that was dying. We encourage you give generously on behalf of the priests that have devoted their lives to God and his Church in the Archdiocese of Boston. On behalf of all of our priests, thank you in advance for your generosity.

### € € Bulletin Deadline € €

Please have all items for submission to the Jan. 3rd bulletin in our office by noon on MONDAY. Items submitted after that time will be considered for the following week.



### Holy Family Parish Registration

If you wish to register as a member of Holy Family Parish, please print the following information and deposit in the offertory.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

We look forward to hearing from you!!