

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 31st—Vigil: Solemnity of Mary

4:00 PM Saint Stephen Parish Family

Sunday, January 1st—Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

8:30 AM Saint Stephen Parish Family

11:00 AM Rose Morgillo, requested by Family

Monday, January 2nd—Saint Basil the Great and Gregory

Nazianzen—Basil, † January 1, 379; hermit who became bishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia; noted for his learning; foe of Arianism; wrote a rule on monasticism; source of Eucharistic Prayer IV; along with Gregory Nazianzen, Athanasius, and John Chrysostom, considered one of the four great doctors of the Eastern Church.

Gregory Nazianzen, † January 25, 389 or 390; Patriarch of Constantinople; noted for his knowledge of sacred Scripture; called *theologus* for his outstanding teaching abilities and eloquence.

9:00 AM Saint Stephen Parish Family

Tuesday, January 3rd—The Most Holy Name of Jesus

9:00 AM Cara, requested by Eileen DeVries

Wednesday, January 4th—Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton, † 1821; raised Episcopalian; wife and mother of five children; foundress of the first congregation for women religious in the USA, the Sisters of Charity, devoted primarily to the education of the poor and to teaching in parochial schools; first native born citizen canonized.

9:00 AM Donald McDermott

Friday, January 6th—Weekday

9:00 AM Daniel Cotter, requested by Pat and Bridie McManus

Saturday, January 7th—Weekday

8:00 AM Julia Mangino, requested by Family

Saturday, January 7th—Vigil: The Epiphany of the Lord

4:00 PM Saint Stephen Parish Family

Sunday, January 8th—The Epiphany of the Lord

8:30 AM Saint Stephen Parish Family

11:00 AM Saint Stephen Parish Family



Welcome to all who are celebrating the Eucharist with us today. We hope you are inspired to join us in worshipping the Lord every week. If you have any observations or suggestions in regard to the parish, please use the Suggestion Box in the vestibule. Please contact us here at the rectory if we may be of any service to you. God bless!

COLLECTION

Information is not available at this time.

VOCATIONS

Mary, Mother of Vocations, grant us an increase in laborers to spend themselves for souls. If Mary is telling you to discern a vocation to priesthood or religious life, please call Father Michael Dolan, Director of Vocations, Archdiocesan Center, St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield, at 860/761-7456, email him at vocations@stseminary.org, or visit the web at www.vocationshartford.org.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 1st

Sunday: Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21
 Monday: 1 John 2:22-28; John 1:19-28
 Tuesday: 1 John 2:29—3:6; John 1:29-34
 Wednesday: 1 John 3:7-10; John 1:35-42
 Thursday: 1 John 3:11-21; John 1:43-51
 Friday: 1 John 5:5-13; Mark 1:7-11 *or* Luke 3:23-38 *or* 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38
 Saturday: 1 John 5:14-21; John 2:1-11
 Next Sunday: Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon and 1:00-4:00 p.m.
 We are closed from 12:00 noon-1:00 p.m. for lunch.



The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. —Luke 2:16-17

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

The gospel today shows Mary and Joseph weren't "perfect" parents. If you have ever been "amazed" and "astonished" at what came out of your child's mouth, then you are in good company. If there were times you "didn't understand" your children or felt "anxious" about their behavior, so did Mary and Joseph. Parenting is tough but it is also the stuff of holiness.



The Courage to Hope, a women’s retreat, will be held the weekend of January 27th-29th at Holy Family Retreat Center, located at 303 Tunxis Road in West Hartford. This retreat is a great opportunity to be with other women and rediscover the presence of God in your life. Retreat begins on Friday with a buffet dinner from 6-8:00 p.m. and ends Sunday around noon. Retreat offering is \$250. For more information, call 860/521-0440.

Evening Spiritual Book Club: *The Return of the Prodigal Son*, by Henri Nouwen, will be discussed beginning Thursday, January 12th, 7-9:00 p.m. at the Caritas Christi Center. Inspired by Rembrandt’s painting entitled “Prodigal Son”, Nouwen gives us the fruit of his meditation on each of the key figures in the parable. He challenges us to look at them with new eyes and identify with them. It is a fresh and inspiring approach to this well-loved parable. The group will meet for six weeks, January 12th-February 16th. The donation for this program is \$35 and includes the cost of the book. To register, please call 203/281-2569. The center is located at 295 Benham Street here in Hamden. *This program is also offered during the day on Wednesday, January 25th from 10 a.m.-12:00 noon. Contact information is the same as above.*

The ABC’s of Annulment, an informational program designed to answer questions about the process of Annulment, will be held Friday, January 13th, 7-9:00 p.m. at St. Agnes Parish, 400 Merwin Avenue in Milford. The program will be held in the church hall. Pre-registration is not required. Brother Larry Lussier, CSC will be the presenter—he is a Pastoral Associate at St. Gabriel Church in Milford. Questions will be accepted following the presentation. This presentation is open to all seeking an annulment in the Catholic Church. Attending this session is required to attend the follow-up annulment writing sessions. For further information, please call 203/937-7040 or 203/467-3538. This program is sponsored by the Family Life Office of the Archdiocese of Hartford.

NEW PARISHIONERS: Please register with the parish by calling the rectory or completing this form and returning it in the offertory basket:

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ # of Family Members: _____

SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Saint Stephen School, located at 418 Ridge Road in Hamden, will be hosting an *Open House*, on Thursday, January 12th, 9-11:00 a.m. and 3-5:00 p.m.

The Open House is for prospective students for Pre-Kindergarten (4-year-olds) through Grade 7 for the 2012-2013 academic year. Saint Stephen School currently offers a full-day Pre-Kindergarten program for 4-year-olds, a full-day Kindergarten, and an After School program.

For more information, please call the school at 203/288-6439 or visit www.saintstephnschool.net.



Monday, January 2nd

- CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
- NO SCHOOL

Tuesday, January 3rd

- School Resumes
- First Eucharist Parent Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 4th

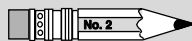
- School Mass, 9:00 a.m.
- Adult Choir, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 7th

- Called To Be Church Leadership Meeting, 9-11:00 a.m. @ Corcoran Center (library)

Sunday, January 8th

- Social after both Masses
- Religious Ed, All Grades, 9:30 a.m.
- Family Mass, 11:00 a.m.



From The Editor

The deadline for the next bulletin is Tuesday, January 3rd at 10:00 a.m. You may send articles to Marcia at rectory@ststephenparishhamden.com, or drop them through the rectory mail slot.

LITTLE FRANCIS LOVE NOTES

Note: Even if I had everything in the world that I wanted, where in the world would I put it?

Lead me not into temptation, I can get there by myself.

Little Francis Love Notes, by Julie Hanna. Illustrations and Text: Copyright © 1997 Franciscan Missions, Waterford, WI