



## ASSUMPTION CENTER NEWSLETTER

Assumption Center 16 Vineyard St. Worcester, MA 01603

Volume 3, Issue 3

December 2011

### Programs End for Christmas

Bit by bit the Assumption Center has been winding down its programs for the end of this calendar year and Christmas break.

Mentoring ended on December 1st. We celebrated with thank you bags of goodies for the mentors, pizza for the students, and a few rounds of holiday bingo for everyone. Many of the students were sad that this was the last mentoring session until January. But we reassured them that mentoring will begin again on January 25th. The AMAs can hardly wait!

English as a Second Language has also concluded for the semester. We had a graduation ceremony on December 8th. Many of our students very graciously brought food to share with the group, and we had a veritable feast. We are very proud of all of our students for their hard work this semester, and

very grateful to all of the teachers who donated their time and talent which are so crucial to the success of our ESL program. We will resume classes on January 24th. We look forward to the return of our students.



A mentor and student color a holiday picture on their last session together before

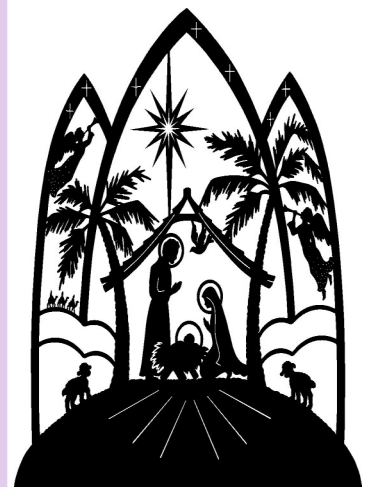
The Assumption Center Garden has also officially been put to sleep for the winter. On December 10th the gardeners gathered for lunch and a

small prayer service to thank the garden for all she has given us this past season. We have been truly blessed with abundance of both produce from the garden as well as fellowship with the gardeners. We extend our thanks to Fr Aidan for giving us spiritual and gardening guidance, to Steve Kaune for cutting down the tree that had fallen in our yard, and to all who help make the garden the success that it is.

Knitting Circle will have it's last meeting this Friday, December 16th. There will be a Christmas celebration after our last knitting session before we disband. We will pick up our knitting needles and crochet hooks together again on January 13th. As always, the Assumption Center is thankful for all that the knitters contribute to our community.

#### Program Beginning Dates for January 2012

- *January 13, Knitting resumes*
- *January 17, Spiritual Library reopens*
- *January 24, ESL resumes*
- *January 25, Mentoring resumes*



**Christmas gift suggestions:**  
**To your enemy, forgiveness.**  
**To an opponent, tolerance.**  
**To a friend, your heart.**  
**To a customer, service.**  
**To all, charity.**  
**To every child, a good example.**  
**To yourself, respect.**  
 ~Oren Arnold

### Saturday Spiritual Snacks

The Assumption Center Kate O'Neill Spiritual Library will have it's last Saturday Spiritual Snack of 2011 on December 17th. Please stop by any time between 1 and 4 pm. We have a display of Advent books and will be sharing Christmas cookies and discussing our favorite Advent practices. We would love to see you there!



Homemade Assumption Center Cookies!

Saturday Spiritual Snacks will also mark the library's last open day before the Christmas holiday. The library shall reopen on Tuesday January 17. We encourage you all to come and take out some books out to read while you relax over the holidays.

For more information, or to be added to our email list, please send a message to [Center@AssumptionCenter.org](mailto:Center@AssumptionCenter.org)

# Assumption Center Delivers Christmas Presents

December 13th was an exciting day at the Assumption Center as we set out to deliver Christmas presents to some of the children we work with in Worcester's Main South neighborhood. The children were overjoyed! The Assumption Center would like to extend both our and the children's thanks to the incredible generosity of all those who donated! Thank you from the bottom of our stockings and our hearts!



Some of the many smiling faces from gift distribution!



## Parting is Such Sweet Sorrow



Kristen reading to the son of one of our ESL students on graduation day

The mood at Assumption Center is bittersweet as the new year draws close and we prepare to say goodbye to AMA co-director Beth Fleming and Assumption Center Program Director Kristen Penkala. Beth has been an important part of the AMA program for ten years, and Kristen has been working with Assumption Center for three and a half years. They have both been instrumental in the Assumption Center's vibrant role in the Worcester community. Thank you both for all of your hard work and faithful service. Know that our prayers and best wishes go with you as you move on. In the words of the Irish Blessing, "May the road rise up to meet you, may the wind be always at your back, and may the Lord hold you in the palm of His hand."

## Merry Christmas from the Assumption Center!



Best of all, Christmas means a spirit of love, a time when the love of God and the love of our fellow men should prevail over all hatred and bitterness, a time when our thoughts and deeds and the spirit of our lives manifest the presence of God.

~Anonymous



This years AMAs and the AMA co-directors at the end of orientation. From left to right they are: Kate Stone, Kathleen Gardner, Liz Supple, Sr Mary Ann, Megan Hannon, and Beth Fleming.