

## Parishioners press legal case over church closing

By D. Craig MacCormack / Daily News Staff

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**F**RAMINGHAM -- As the around-the-clock vigil continued yesterday at St. Jeremiah parish, the co-chairwoman of the Appeals Committee joined a Council of Parishes press briefing about the lawsuit the group filed last week.

Jackie Lemmerhirt told media members gathered at Infant Jesus/St. Lawrence parish in Brookline about the lawsuit, which seeks to make the parishioners the owners of the church's belongings.

Similar lawsuits were filed by churchgoers at St. Albert the Great in Weymouth and St. Frances in Scituate.

Lemmerhirt remains convinced the Communion services at the closed parish are within canon law and meet the weekly requirement for Catholics who don't want to go to Mass elsewhere. Archdiocese officials have said that's not true.

"We are very confident what we are doing is what we should be doing," said Lemmerhirt.

Communion services are slated for Saturday at 4:30 p.m. and Sunday at 10:15 a.m.

On the 18th day of the vigil, which started May 6, visitors were scarce. The church remained manned by a team of volunteers, with Jody Mahan and Gwen Knapp playing "senior rummy" to pass the time on their afternoon shift.

Only one woman came in during a one-hour midafternoon stretch. She said a prayer and quickly left the church.

Knapp turned on a CD player featuring several spiritual selections.

A prayer list featuring the names of sick and deceased parishioners now is featured on the dry-erase board in the main gathering room at the back of the church.

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