



CONTACT US

Rectory and Parish Office

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Regular Office Hours

Monday -Thursday 9:00 a.m.– 3:00 p.m.

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Pastor

Secretary

Director of Music

Rev. Paul M. Bomba

Ms. Jean Ashton

Ms. Judy Freeland

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Director of Religious Education

Maintenance

Ms. Lisa Wass

Mr. Errol Hall

Outreach Ministry

Mr. Donald Lagacy 508-287-7489

Outreach to hospitals, nursing homes, and homebound

Visits gladly made upon request

SAINT JOSEPH PARISH

December 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent

I am the voice
of one crying in
the desert,
make straight
the way of the
Lord.

MASSES

Lord's Day Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil 4:00 p.m. in the church

Sunday 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. in the church

Weekday Masses

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 8:00 a.m.

Thursday 5:00 p.m.

Friday 8:00 a.m.

Sacrament of Penance

Saturday 3:00-3:30 p.m.

or by appointment



PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

As individuals and families, our mission as the Parish Community of Saint Joseph is to live fully the call of Jesus Christ, to be the People of God by giving witness to the Gospel, passing on our Catholic tradition, strengthening the spiritual life of parishioners and serving those in need. We are committed to being an active, welcoming, and supportive community, proclaiming Christ's teaching through word and deed.

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH



Saturday, December 16, 2023

4:00PM **Cindy Jette and
Mary "Pat" Spaulding**
by Mary Hirbour

Sunday, December 17, 2023

8:30AM **Michelle Marrier**
14th Anniversary Remembrance
by family

10:30AM **Nikolaos Glykis**
2nd Anniversary Remembrance
by family

Monday, December 18, 2023

8:00AM **People of St. Joseph Parish**

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

8:00AM **Stan and Mary**

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

8:00AM **Bobby Cicio**
Anniversary Remembrance
by family

Thursday, December 21, 2023

5:00PM **All Souls Day Remembrances**

Friday, December 22, 2023

8:00AM **Billy Burke**
Anniversary Remembrance

Saturday, December 23, 2023

4:00PM **James Higgins**
1st Anniversary Remembrance
by Betty Peckham

Sunday, December 24, 2023

8:30AM **Earl Belles**
by family

10:30AM **Paul Maillet**
Birthday Remembrance
by family

4:00PM **People of St. Joseph Parish**

10:00PM **Ann Degon**
by Religious Ed
teachers and students

Saturday, December 23, 2023

Holy Communion Fred and Carol Fraini

Lector Doreen Goodrich

Altar Server Jean Ashton

Sunday, December 24, 2023

8:30am

Holy Communion Len Angers/Jean Ashton

Marek Sitkowski

Lector Anna Fleming

Altar Server Patty Bickford

10:30am

Holy Communion Phil Benvenuti +2

Lector Don Lagacy

Altar Server Paul Molis



Deborah Halley - Carlo Whaley

John (Woody) Wood - Lois Maniero

Susan Schmidt - Judy Maillet - Elaine Lamb

Thomas McMahon - Elsie Faneuil - Julia

William Daniels - Anne Berberian

Jack Holmberg - Marianne and Robert Haroian

Cindy Fitzgerald - Joseph Cloutier, Jr.

Joyce and Bruce Seaman - Judith Daniels

Patrick and Kate Dee - Francis Kavanagh

Patty Snow - Pauline Mercier - Arthur Cote

Steven Dufault - Richard Chiras - Michelle Kist

Deborah and Victoria Mink - Francis Khoury

Sharon Grybowski - Raymond Curren

Peggy Markvenas - Timmy Canty - Iris Wood

Bryce Linton and Family - Christopher Chiras

Linda J. Harris - Giuseppe Struppa

Auburn, Massachusetts

Dear People of Saint Joseph Parish,



Advent is very short this year. Next weekend we will celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent on Christmas Eve. I will celebrate masses in the morning and evening on that Sunday. Monday will be Christmas Day.

The calendar will not allow me to decorate the church on Christmas Eve. Decoration day will have to be pushed back to Saturday, December 23. Parishioners who wish to be part of the decoration party should come to the church on Saturday at about 9:00 a.m. to begin to set up the manger scene, take down the purple and put up the red, erect the

Christmas tree and decorate it, place the poinsettias, and change the bows on the wreaths from purple to red. We will retain the purple banners near the altar and the candle banners on the choir loft until we finish mass on Sunday.



One celebration of Advent that is still available for Christians is the forgiveness of sin. I heard the first confessions of the Holy Communion class on Saturday. I will be available for confession on Saturday, December 23 at the usual time. People who wish to go to confession to another priest should find out when they are available for confession. Some parishes will have a Penance Service during this week. You may make an appointment with me to hear your confession at another time.

Catholic Art Calendars for 2024 are in the back of the church. Britton Funeral Home makes them available to our parish. They have nice large squares around each date to pencil in appointments. If you cannot find one in back of the church today, please ask me to get one out of the storeroom for you so you can begin planning for 2024.

The calendars deliver the dates for Church celebrations throughout the year. They remind you of Holydays of Obligation. They mark the liturgical seasons. They display some very beautiful Christian art that reminds us of the mysteries of our faith.

I will put up the Christmas trees in the rectory this week. I hope all the lights work! It provides a meditation that during the darkest time of the year in the northern hemisphere, the lights of Christmas shine brightly. We take much of it for granted. We plug our tree lights into an electric outlet and the brilliance of many tiny bulbs instantly illuminates with a steady light. I remember my grandmother talk about Christmas trees when she was young. They put slight tapered candles on the tree. Everyone had to be still while the tree was lit. It took more than a few matches to illuminate all the candles. Then everyone was vigilant so no fire would burn the tree. They could only light up the tree on Christmas Day and only for a few hours. How times have changed!

Sincerely, Fr. Paul Bomba

Stewardship!!!

Third Sunday of Advent

"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:16 - 18)

This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. "Rejoice always" means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. "Pray constantly" means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. "Give thanks in all circumstances" means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations and shows our dependence on God.

REMINDER ...

**The Msgr. Thomas F. Neary Council
#13637 Knights of
Columbus of St. Joseph
Parish will hold its
monthly meeting on
Tues., December 19 at
7:00PM in the
lower church hall.**



Sunday, December 17, 2023



Sunday, December 17, 2023

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Plumbing School | 8:00AM-5:00PM | Parish Center |
| AA Meeting | 7:00PM-9:00PM | Lower Church Hall |

Monday, December 18, 2023

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Religious Education Classes 3, 4 & 5 | 4:00PM-5:15PM | Parish Center |
| Religious Education Classes 6, 7 & 8 | 6:45PM-8:00PM | Parish Center |

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|-------------------|
| No Bible Group | | |
| Knights of Columbus Meeting | 7:00PM | Lower Church Hall |

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

| | | |
|------------|---------------|-------------------|
| AA Meeting | 7:00PM-9:00PM | Lower Church Hall |
|------------|---------------|-------------------|

Thursday, December 21, 2023

| | | |
|-----------------|--------|--------|
| Choir Rehearsal | 6:30PM | Church |
|-----------------|--------|--------|

Saturday, December 23, 2023

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| CMSC Driver Education | 8:30AM-3:00PM | Parish Center |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|

Sunday, December 24, 2023

| | | |
|------------|---------------|-------------------|
| AA Meeting | 7:00PM-9:00PM | Lower Church hall |
|------------|---------------|-------------------|

HELP WANTED

St. Joseph Parish is seeking a part-time custodian for the church and the rectory. It will include snow removal, lawn care, cleaning and maintenance of the buildings. **Interested persons should compile a one-page resume of their skills and submit it to the pastor as soon as possible.** A complete job description can be available to anyone interested in the work.



Parish Support



| | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Weekly Goal | \$7,500 |
| Last Weekend | \$5,190 |
| Shortfall | (\$2,310) |
| Ret. Religious | \$1,647 |
| Debt Redux | \$30 |
| Year to Date | |
| Budget | \$375,000 |
| Collections | \$190,238 |
| Electronic Payment | \$10,970 |
| Shortfall | (\$173,792) |

The second collection this weekend is for
Christmas Flowers and Fuel.

There will not be a second collection next weekend.
Thank you for your continued support of our parish.

PROMISE to Protect **Pledge to HEAL**

Did You Know?

Internet Safety for Kids

The Internet has become the new schoolyard for child molesters seeking girls or boys to victimize. Internet "chat rooms" provide a teenager with an opportunity to engage in a "live" conversation with friends from school or church, or with other teenagers from around the world. A chat room is similar to an old-style telephone party line, except that the teens are typing. Law enforcement has found that child molesters use chat rooms to gain easy and safe access to teens. Because of the seemingly caring and seductive talent of child molesters, teenagers should be warned that when they are in a chat room, they should never provide anyone with private information, personal information, and especially their specific physical location.

For particular help you may call: Judith Audette, Director of Office for Healing and Prevention at (508) 929-4363.

Source: Bob Farley, "Exposing the Dangers of Chat Rooms," featured March 14, 2005, at www.virtusonline.org/virtus.

Third Sunday of Advent



All gifts must be returned to the church no later than Sunday, December 17, by 10:30am, for delivery to Urban Missionaries.

If you would like to help pack the gifts for delivery, call Brad Wass, 508-868-1421. If you would like to volunteer at Urban Missionaries, call 508-831-7455 or email:

mailbox@urbanmissionaries.com.

They will let you know what their needs are. Thank you for your continued support and generosity to this important cause.

SAINT JOSEPH PARISH CHOIR **CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

The St. Joseph Parish Choir will hold two Christmas concerts on Sunday, December 24: the first at 3:30 pm (before the 4:00pm mass) and the second at



9:30pm (prior to the 10:00pm mass.)

Come and enjoy the joyful sounds of the season as presented by our wonderful parish choir.

Invite someone to Mass this Christmas Season!

So many messages during the Christmas Season are about coming home, being with family and friends. Consider inviting someone with you and your family to Mass this Christmas and experience the joys of the Christmas Season. It could be the greatest gift you give.



CHRISTMAS EVE
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24
Mass will be celebrated
at 4:00 PM and
10:00PM

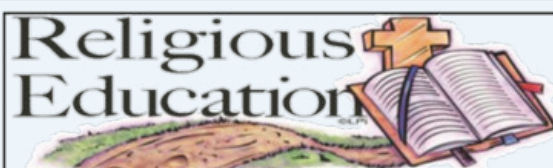
CHRISTMAS DAY,
MONDAY, DECEMBER 25
Mass at 9:00 AM

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD
MONDAY, JANUARY 1
Mass at 9:00 AM

The Solemnity of Mary is not a holyday of obligation this year.

There will not be an 8:00 AM Mass on Dec. 25 or Jan. 1.

**NEWS
FROM**



Children's Prayer for the Third Week of Advent



Jesus, you are the light of the world. May your light shine brightly so we can see you everywhere. Help us to spread your light and joy by giving freely and happily to all we meet.

Please sign up to serve at the Christmas Mass that you plan to attend. Sign up sheets are available in the back of the church. *Thank you!*



It is that time once again!



Our annual calendar raffle tickets have been mailed out. The raffle will begin on January 1.

We will award a \$25 cash prize on each day of January, with special bonus winning days occurring on Sunday, January 7, 14, 21 & 28, when you can win a prize in the amount of \$100 to \$500!

As an additional bonus, all winners will also receive a \$5 MA State Lottery scratch ticket!

Each calendar ticket is \$10 for entry into all drawings, so you can win more than once! Also, when you purchase or sell 5 tickets, you receive an additional 2 tickets free! So, the cost of 7 tickets is only \$50!

A limited number of tickets are available in the front of the church, at the parish center or at the rectory. Ticket returns may be placed in the collection basket at Mass or returned to the rectory in person or by mail.

*They make great stocking stuffer gifts for Christmas!!
Good luck to one and all!!*

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