



## CONTACT US

### Rectory and Parish Office

194 Oxford Street North, Auburn, MA 01501-1529

Phone 508-832-2074

Fax 508-832-8894

Regular Office Hours

Monday -Thursday 9:00 a.m.– 3:00 p.m.

Email [stjoes01501@gmail.com](mailto:stjoes01501@gmail.com)

Pastor

Secretary

Director of Music

Rev. Paul M. Bomba

Ms. Jean Ashton

Ms. Judy Freeland

### Religious Education and Parish Center

68 Central Street, Auburn, MA 01501-2310

Phone 508-832-6683

Fax 508-407-8952

Email [stjoesreledaub@gmail.com](mailto:stjoesreledaub@gmail.com)

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 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.

## 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 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 Degan**  
by Religious Ed  
teachers and students

### Monday, December 25, 2023

9:00AM **People of St. Joseph Parish**

### Tuesday, December 26, 2023

8:00AM **Clarence and Rose**

### Wednesday, December 27, 2023

8:00AM **John and Stasia**

### Thursday, December 28, 2023

5:00PM **Walter and Joyce**

### Friday, December 29, 2023

8:00AM **Ed Falvey**  
Anniversary Remembrance

### Saturday, December 30, 2023

4:00PM **Judy Colaianni**  
Anniversary Remembrance  
by family

### Sunday, December 31, 2023

8:30AM **William and Dora Lavin and  
John and Caroline Messina**  
by Patricia

10:30AM **Gerry Pierce**  
Remembrance  
by his wife

Saturday, December 30, 2023

Holy Communion Fred and Carol Fraini  
Lector Lucie LaJeunesse  
Altar Server Jean Ashton

Sunday, December 31, 2023

8:30am  
Holy Communion Len Angers/Jean Ashton  
Marek Sitkowski  
Lector Patty Bickford  
Altar Server Patty Bickford

10:30am  
Holy Communion Dianne Trumbour +2  
Lector Mary Skorvanek  
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,**

I share Pope Francis' Christmas message with you:

What does this night still have to say to our lives? Two thousand years after the birth of Jesus, after so many Christmases spent amid decorations and gifts, after so much consumerism that has packaged the mystery we celebrate, there is a danger. We know many things about Christmas, but we forget its real meaning. So how do we rediscover the meaning of Christmas? First of all, where do we go to find it? The Gospel of Jesus' birth appears to have been written precisely for this purpose: to take us by the hand and lead us where God would have us go.

In order to rediscover the meaning of Christmas, we need to look to the manger. Yet why is the manger so important? Because it is the sign, and not by chance, of Christ's coming into this world. It is how he announces his coming. It is the way God is born in history, so that history itself can be reborn. What then does the Lord tell us? Through the manger, three things, at least: closeness, poverty and concreteness.

Closeness. The manger serves as a feeding trough, to enable food to be consumed more quickly. In this way, it can symbolize one aspect of our humanity: our greed for consumption. While animals feed in their stalls, men and women in our world, in their hunger for wealth and power, consume even their neighbors, their brothers and sisters. How many wars have we seen! And in how many places, even today, are human dignity and freedom treated with contempt! As always, the principal victims of this human greed are the weak and the vulnerable. This Christmas too, as in the case of Jesus, a world ravenous for money, ravenous for power and ravenous for pleasure does not make room for the little ones, for so many unborn, poor and forgotten children. I think above all of the children devoured by war, poverty and injustice. Yet those are the very places to which Jesus comes, a child in the manger of rejection and refusal. In him, the Child of Bethlehem, every child is present. And we ourselves are invited to view life, politics and history through the eyes of children.

Poverty. The manger is a place of poverty. Here we see the poverty of God, who becomes man; the poverty of Mary, who says nothing, who holds in her arms the Son of God, yet remains silent, offering no explanation; the poverty of Joseph, who looks after them, yet cannot understand. All of them are poor, in different ways, yet they accept this poverty. They do not try to escape from it, but instead live it fully, with the help of God. From the manger, Jesus proclaims the beatitude of poverty, and calls us to follow him along this path: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Mt 5:3). This is the path that leads to heaven, not the path of those who, like Herod, believe that happiness can be bought with wealth, power and success.

Concreteness. Finally, the manger is a place of concreteness. It is not a generic or abstract place, but a real place, with real people and real things. Here we see the reality of God, who becomes flesh; the reality of Mary, who is truly a mother; the reality of Joseph, who is truly a father. Here we see the reality of the shepherds, who come to worship the Child; the reality of the angels, who sing and proclaim the good news. In Jesus, God has shown himself to be concrete, tangible, visible. He is not a God who is far off, up in heaven, but a God who is close, who is near, who is here. He is Emmanuel, God-with-us. He is born a child, so that we might love him, so that we might touch him, so that we might embrace him. Yet he is also God, and therefore he is the light that shines in the darkness, the truth that sets us free, the love that transforms our lives.

**Sincerely, Fr. Paul Bomba**



### ***Stewardship!!!***

#### ***Fourth Sunday of Advent***

***"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" – Luke 1:28***

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God's call. Mary teaches us to live with joy for all we have been given. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ's light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.

The sympathies of our  
parish are extended  
to the family of  
**Lawrence C. Murphy, Sr.**  
who recently passed away.



# Sunday, December 24, 2023



## Sunday, December 24, 2023

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

## Tuesday, December 26, 2023

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

## Wednesday, December 27, 2023

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

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

## Thursday, December 28, 2023

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

Choir Rehearsal 6:30PM Church

## Friday, December 29, 2023

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

## Saturday, December 30, 2023

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

## Sunday, December 31, 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.



## *A Christmas Message from Bishop McManus ...*

**“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.” (Romans 15:13)**

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Gospel accounts of Jesus' birth involve a disparate group of people---the sinless virgin, the upright Joseph, an indifferent innkeeper, Jewish shepherds, pagan magi, the ruthless Herod, incurious scribes, and murderous soldiers. Among this radically varied group, there was one thing in common. They were all---each one of them---loved by God. They were each the reason Christ was born. To each He would call. For each He died.

What was true that long ago night in Bethlehem remains true this day in our world. God loves each one of us. He loves those in the pews each week, twice a year or not at all. He loves those who have just come from the confessional and those who have not yet made it there. He loves those who acknowledge and worship Him and those who do not recognize Him and are far off.

Jesus Christ is the one savior of the world. He loves us all and He calls us all. As people whose freedom God respects, our response is critical. It determines if we find peace in this life and in the next. His peace is a gift. We do not earn it. We can only accept it. We accept it by believing in Him and what He has revealed, by striving to follow Him with our lives, and, by our repentance, accepting His freely offered, limitless mercy for our failures.

I pray that, whatever our situation and circumstance this Christmas, we may all be deeply moved by the wondrous love of God who so loved the world that He sent His Son as our Savior. May we turn anew to Jesus Christ, find a welcome place in His Church, and with it the joy, peace and hope God intends for us all.



With every prayerful best wish for a Merry Christmas, I remain, sincerely yours in Christ,  
Most Reverend Robert J. McManus, Bishop of Worcester

## Fourth Sunday of Advent



### Parish Support



**DUE TO THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY AND EARLY BULLETIN SUBMISSION DEADLINES, TOTALS FOR LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION WILL BE REPORTED IN NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN.**

There will not be a second collection this weekend.  
There will not be a second collection next weekend.

*Thank you for your continued support of our parish.*

### 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.



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

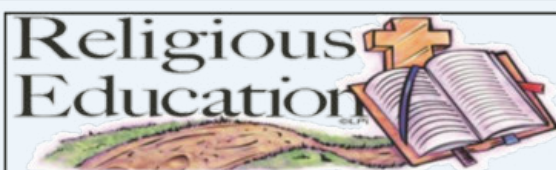


**CHRISTMAS DAY,**  
**MONDAY, DECEMBER 25**  
Mass at 9:00 AM  
**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD**  
**MONDAY, JANUARY 1**  
Mass at 9:00 AM

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



*All of us from Religious Education wish our families a most Holy Christmas and a Blessed New Year!!!*

Classes have ended in celebration of the Christmas Holidays. We will resume on Saturday, January 6, 2024, for grades 1 & 2 and Monday, January 8, 2024 for grades 3-8.

### GRADES 9 & 10

Our first class is Sunday, January 7, 2024, beginning with 10:30AM mass and ending at 2:00PM, at church. If you have chosen your sponsor, bring that information with you. Please bring a brown bag lunch.



### *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.

***Good luck to one and all!!***

**IF YOU LIVE ALONE You Need**

**MDMedAlert!™**  
At HOME and AWAY!

As Low As  
**\$19<sup>95</sup>** /mo.

- ✓ Ambulance ✓ Police
- ✓ Family ✓ GPS & Fall Alert



**CALL NOW!**  
**800.808.9294**

md-medalert.com



*St. Mary's* Health Care Center  
A Member of Covenant Health

**Age Well. Live Well.**

- Innovative Health Care Center
- Restoring Individual Independence
- Rehabilitative Therapies & More!

508.753.4791 | 39 Queen St., Worcester

*Philip P. Massad*  
**Movers and Storage**  
*Massadmovers.com*  
**752-0100**



**A Step Ahead**

Christine M. Ganong  
Owner/Child Care Provider

A Step Ahead  
Family Child Care Center  
102 Pakachoag Street  
Auburn, MA 01501  
508-767-1214  
astepaheadauburn@hotmail.com



**NORTHEAST INSURANCE AGENCY**

Home • Auto • Business • Life

567 Southbridge Street, Auburn, Ma

508-832-0404

800-443-7007

www.neinsure.com



**K.R. OUELLETTE**  
**Plumbing & Heating**  
**754-7291**  
64 So. Ludlow Street  
Worcester, MA  
Kevin R. Ouellette - Owner  
M.P.L. 11193

**Britton**  
*Funeral Homes, Inc.*

Britton-Wallace Funeral Home  
91 Central Street  
Auburn, Massachusetts 01501

Shannon M. Henry  
(508)832-4420

www.brittonfuneralhomes.com



*P*ersonalized burial and cremation services with care and compassion.

**ACE TEMPERATURE CONTROL, INC.**  
*Since 1963*

**HVAC-R CONTRACTORS**  
**DUCTLESS MINI SPLIT INSTALLATIONS**  
office@acetemp.com  
Licensed Commercially for MA and RI  
Serving Central Massachusetts  
**508-754-9130**  
**1-877-223-8367**  
**www.acetemp.com**

**LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS**  
Place Your Ad Here and Support Our Parish!

**CONTACT ME Victoria Cudlin**

vcudlin@4LPi.com  
(800) 477-4574 x6603

**CENTRAL MASS SAFETY COUNCIL AUTO SCHOOL**



We offer school vacation and summer classes at St. Joseph's Parish Center  
**Driver Education plus 4 ½ Crash Avoidance Class at NO additional cost.**  
ONLY AVAILABLE AT CMSC AUTO SCHOOL  
**(508) 835-2333 • www.centralmassafety.org**  
WEST BOYLSTON / AUBURN / NORTHBORO MILFORD  
SHREWSBURY / WESTBOROUGH



RS # 5325

**508-846-4946**  
bakerautolc@gmail.com

www.bakerautomotiveworcester.com

**FREE OIL CHANGE**  
*with any auto body service*

383 SOUTHBRIDGE ST.  
WORCESTER, MA

**KEI Keating Enterprises**

Landscape Design,  
Construction,  
Maintenance and  
Snow Removal

50 years of serving the area

**508-753-6415**

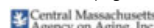
**A Project of RSVP Volunteers of Central MA**

**Senior Fraud Helpline | 1-800-297-9760**

Sponsored By



RSVP Volunteers of Central MA is a program of



Central Massachusetts Agency on Aging, Inc.



**Recognize • Resist • Report**



Become a **SENIOR VOLUNTEER** (55+)  
Make Giving Back Your Second Act

**508-796-1807**

