



## 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 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent

**Be watchful!  
Be alert!  
You do not  
know when  
the time will  
come.**

## 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.

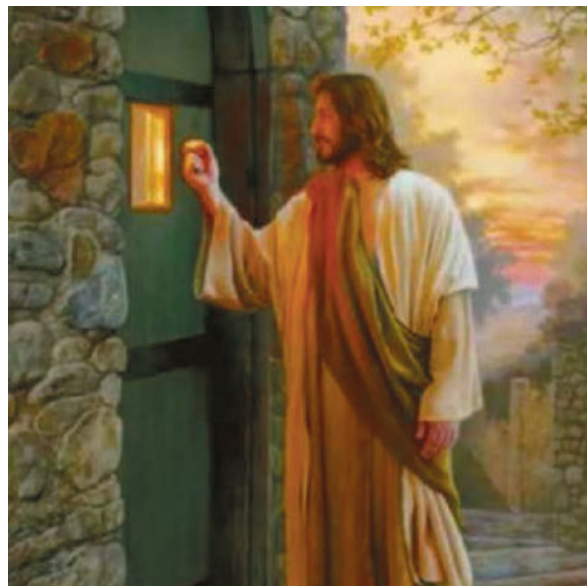
Thursday 5:00 p.m.

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 2, 2023

4:00PM *Mitchell and Harriet*

## Sunday, December 3, 2023

8:30AM *Maryann Shea*

29th Anniversary Remembrance  
by sister Anna

10:30AM *Roland and Josephine Brigham*

by family

## Monday, December 4, 2023

8:00AM *Bob and Claire Shaw*

by Judy

## Tuesday, December 5, 2023

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

## Wednesday, December 6, 2023

8:00AM *Rita*

## Thursday, December 7, 2023

6:30PM *For successful surgery and  
rapid, pain-free healing for Jim*

## Friday, December 8, 2023

8:00AM *John F. Cunningham*

by his son

Noon *People of St. Joseph Parish*

## Saturday, December 9, 2023

4:00PM *Ann R. Cote*

16th Anniversary Remembrance  
by daughter Judith

## Sunday, December 10, 2023

8:30AM *Vincent Denaris*

33rd Anniversary Remembrance  
by sister Anna

10:30AM *People of St. Joseph Parish*

Saturday, December 9, 2023

Holy Communion Fred and Carol Fraini

Lector Doreen Goodrich

Altar Server Jean Ashton

Sunday, December 10, 2023

8:30am

Holy Communion Len Angers/Jean Ashton

Marek Sitkowski

Lector Anna Fleming

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

HOLY DAY  
OF  
OBLIGATION



Immaculate  
Conception

Masses for the Holy Day  
will be celebrated on  
Thurs., December 7 at  
6:30pm and Fri.,  
December 8 at 8:00am  
and Noon.

There will not be a 5:00pm  
mass on Thurs., December 7.

# Auburn, Massachusetts

**Dear People of Saint Joseph Parish,**

Winter weather returned this week. People asked me if I planned to cancel mass this winter if we have a snowstorm. How many inches will snow accumulate before I cancel mass? My policy does not change this year from last. It has worked well and even in the deepest snow people have come to celebrate mass on weekends and during the week. Special thanks to the people who have come with snow shovels and helped clear walkways and stairs.

I usually do not cancel mass because of bad weather. I make it to the church with my boots on and a shovel in the deepest snow. I will only cancel mass if no one comes and I am scheduled to celebrate mass again later in the day.

The only other time that I will cancel mass is if the bishop directs all pastors to cancel mass throughout the diocese. I can put on my gloves, jacket, boots and hat and make it across Oxford Street North to the church. I have and will start the snow blower to clear a path for me and any people who wish to join me.



The Church advises people to avoid serious hazards when coming to mass on the weekend. Wisdom dictates that when we receive a weather forecast that it will snow on Sunday morning that people would fill the church on Saturday evening when the roads are clear and dry. The converse is also true, when it snows on Saturday evening wise people will postpone their Eucharistic custom and come on Sunday after the streets are cleared.

The company that operates snowplows for the parish is usually prompt with snow removal at the church and rectory lots.

Do not risk your life coming to mass. Be safe and avoid serious hazards when coming to mass. Use intelligent discernment when faced with a weather hazard and when wisdom dictates that you should remain home, stay there and join the Church in prayer while there.



Thank you to all the people who staged and operated the Christmas Bazaar. People bought many tickets for the Pastor's Prize.

**Sincerely, Fr. Paul Bomba**

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

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

On the weekend of December 10 our parishes will be conducting the appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

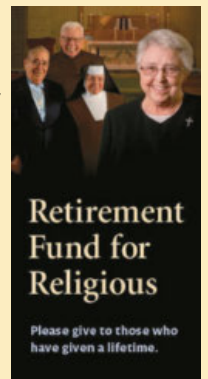
Religious communities of women and men were devoted to establishing Catholic schools, hospitals, and charitable agencies. Often this progress came at great sacrifice, and many older sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little to no pay.

While this annual collection assists those who have retired from their careers, they never retire from their vows and keep the needs of the people they served for a lifetime in their daily prayers. Currently, 71% of the religious communities have a median age of 70 or older, the highest it has been since this national collection began.

Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides vital funding for medications, nursing care, and more.

I recognize this is but one of numerous worthy causes in need of assistance; I ask simply that you consider giving to those who have given a lifetime.

Sincerely yours in Christ, Most Reverend Robert J. McManus, Bishop of Worcester



# Sunday, December 3, 2023



## Sunday, December 3, 2023

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

## Monday, December 4, 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
Plumbing School	5:30PM-10:00PM	Parish Center

## Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Bible Group	10:00AM-Noon	Parish Center
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## Wednesday, December 6, 2023

AA Meeting	7:00PM-9:00PM	Lower Church Hall
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## Friday, December 8, 2023

Coin Club	5:30PM-9:30PM	Parish Center
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## Saturday, December 9, 2023

Religious Education Grade 1	10:00AM-11:15AM	Parish Center
Grade 2 First Penance Preparation	10:00AM	Church
Gr. 2 First Penance Retreat	11:15AM-1:00PM	Lower Church Hall
CMSC Driver Education	8:30AM-3:00PM	Parish Center

## Sunday, December 10, 2023

Confirmation 2024 Rite of Commitment Mass	10:30AM	Church
AA Meeting	7:00PM-9:00PM	Lower Church Hall

### Is this a real request for help?

If you receive an email or text message from the pastor, bishop or other church official asking for donations, gift cards or other forms of financial assistance, check with the parish to determine if it is legitimate. Some of the latest email and text scams trying to collect your personal data can look too real! It's always worth a second look.

The sympathies of our parish  
are extended to the family of  
**Ann M. Degon**  
who recently passed away.



### Parish Support



	Nov. 19	Nov. 26
Weekly Goal	\$7,500	\$7,500
Last Weekend	\$4,522	\$3,823
Shortfall	(\$2,978)	(\$3,677)
CCHD	\$731	
Debt Redux	\$30	\$60
Year to Date		
Budget	\$352,500	\$360,000
Collections	\$176,445	\$180,268
Electronic Payment	\$10,430	\$10,530
Shortfall	(\$165,625)	(\$169,202)

The second collection this weekend is for Maintenance.

The second collection next weekend will be for the Retirement Fund for Religious

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

### 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.



### Food Pantry Reminder

Next weekend is our monthly food collection. Items most needed are macaroni & cheese, canned soups, tuna, cereal, peanut butter, jelly and pasta.

Food collections will be donated to St. Joan of Arc Food Pantry.



## First Sunday of Advent



St. Joseph Parish will be participating in the Giving Tree sponsored by Urban Missionaries of Worcester, which provides over 3,000 Christmas gifts to those children in need. This year there are two options available for you and your family to participate in the program.

1. Gift tags will be available in the church and parish center from November 26-December 17.
2. You may also make a donation through their "Go Fund Me" page. Find the tab on their website, [www.urbanmissionaries.com](http://www.urbanmissionaries.com) for cash donations and they will purchase the gifts.

**Please do not wrap gifts or place gifts in a decorated gift bag. Also, do not enclose any ribbons, bows or external decorations.**

**Simply attach your chosen tag on the gift.**

If a tag requests multiple gifts, select only one gift. If a tag is taken, please return a gift. Also, do not include anything edible and do not include batteries, even if required for the gift.

**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](mailto:mailbox@urbanmissionaries.com). They will let you know what their needs are. Thank you for your continued support and generosity to this important cause.



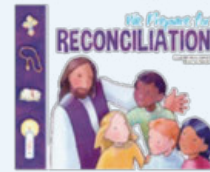
**CHRISTMAS EVE  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24**  
Mass will be celebrated  
at 4:00 PM and  
10:00PM

**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



### **First Penance Preparation**

**December 9** – First Penance prep at the church,  
**10:00am** with Fr. Bomba  
Retreat ~ 11:15am-1:00pm ~ Lower Church Hall  
**December 16** – First Confession, 10:00am  
at the church

### **Confirmation 2024 – Rite of Commitment Mass**

Rite of Commitment Mass for confirmation candidates 2024 is Sunday, December 10, 10:30am, at the Church.  
Remember to bring your pledge.

### **Children's Prayer for First Week of Advent**



*Jesus, you are the light of the world. Help us not to hurt each other by our words and actions. Make us thoughtful and generous so we can be ready to greet you when you come.*



### ***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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