



## CONTACT US

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Regular Office Hours

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

Pastor

Secretary

Director of Music

Maintenance

Rev. Paul M. Bomba

Ms. Jean Ashton

Ms. Judy Frelander

Mr. Paul Zeveska

### Religious Education and Parish Center

68 Central Street, Auburn, MA 01501-2310

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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 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

## 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.

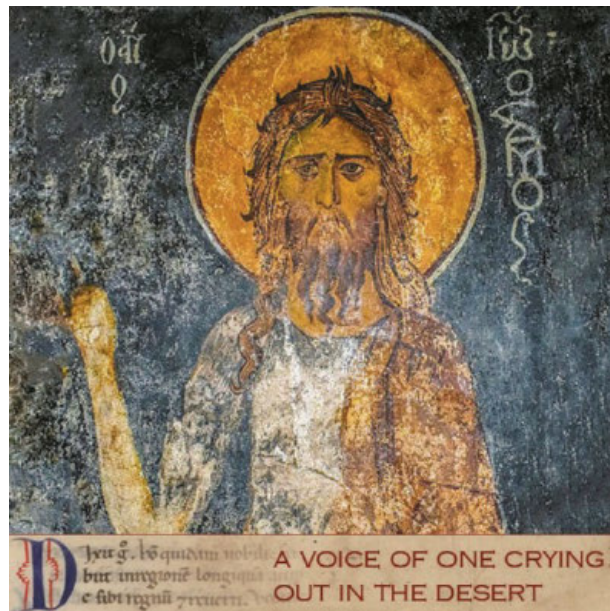
Thursday 5:00 p.m.

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 7, 2024

4:00PM **Ann R. Cote**  
17th Anniversary Remembrance  
by daughter Judith

## Sunday, December 8, 2024

8:30AM **Mary Ann Shea**  
19th Anniversary Remembrance  
by sister Anna

10:30AM **John F. Cunningham**  
Anniversary Remembrance  
by his son

## Monday, December 9, 2024

8:00AM **John Messina**  
Anniversary Remembrance  
by his daughter-in-law

Noon **Msgr. Edmund Haddad**

6:30PM **Claire**

## Tuesday, December 10, 2024

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

## Wednesday, December 11, 2024

8:00AM **George and Aldea Roberts**  
Anniversary Remembrance  
by their daughter

## Thursday, December 12, 2024

5:00PM **William Lavin**  
Anniversary Remembrance  
by his daughter

## Friday, December 13, 2024

8:00AM **All Souls Day Remembrances**

## Saturday, December 14, 2024

4:00PM **Donald W. and Frances  
Hutchinson**  
by family

## Sunday, December 15, 2024

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

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

Saturday, December 14, 2024

Holy Communion Fred and Carol Fraini

Lector Lucie LaJeunesse

Altar Server Jean Ashton

Sunday, December 15, 2024

8:30am

Holy Communion Len Angers/Jean Ashton

Marek Sitkowski

Lector Patty Bickford

Altar Server Mary Skorvanek

10:30am

Holy Communion Scott Maselek +2

Lector Don Lagacy

Altar Server Paul Molis



Deborah Halley - Carlo Whaley- Donna Perron  
John (Woody) Wood - Lois Maniero  
Susan Schmidt - Judy Maillet - Elaine Lamb  
Thomas McMahon - Elsie Faneuil - Julia  
William Daniels - Anne Berberian  
Marianne and Robert Haroian - Lana Khoury  
Joseph Cloutier, Jr. - Joseph Cloutier, Sr.  
Joyce and Bruce Seaman - Judith Daniels  
Patrick and Kate Dee - Francis Kavanagh  
Patty Snow - Arthur Cote - Victoria Crowe  
Steven Dufault - Richard Chiras - Michelle Kist  
Deborah and Victoria Mink - Francis Khoury  
Iris Wood - Derek Degon  
Kayla, Patrick and Olive O'Donnell  
Linda J. Harris  
Lynne Gobbi - John Cunningham  
Derek Lapointe - Christopher Chiras

## Auburn, Massachusetts

**Dear People of Saint Joseph Parish,**

Thank you to all the people who contributed to making the Christmas Bazaar a wonderful event. Thank you to the people who did the preparation work with making, collecting, sorting, pricing, and staging all the items for sale and raffle. Thank you to all the people who donated items to the Bazaar for sale. Thank you to all the sales people who met the customers with smiles, showed them what we had to sell, and did them the honor of taking their money. Thank you to all the customers who purchased items and raffle tickets. The bazaar contributes to the financial health of the parish and the proceeds keeps oil in the furnace, parking lots cleared, the lights lit. Thank you very much.



The Bazaar moves us toward Christmas, but the Church's liturgy speaks of Advent. The Advent season recalls the waiting that people endured before the Messiah arrived. It prepares us for the celebration of Christmas. Our culture ignores Advent. Christmas decorations and gifts go on sale before Halloween. Radio stations and other media begin to play Christmas music about the same time. Much of it is directed toward the purchase of gifts for Christmas. Once Christmas Day passes, the Christmas music vanishes, except in the Church, during the celebration of mass.

I read an article treating this phenomenon written by a priest. He noted that it would be impossible to change the culture. There is no financial advantage to celebrating Advent. The only benefit would be to sell Advent calendars. He was writing from a liturgical perspective that reminded his fellow priests that we have an investment in Advent. Advent is a time of preparation, a time to get ready to celebrate the Birth of the Lord.

He spent some ink writing about the similarities and differences between Advent and Lent. Advent remembers John the Baptist's preparation for the coming of Jesus. He spoke of repentance and making straight the way of the Lord. He suggested that it is a wonderful opportunity for the Sacrament of Penance. Lent is a time of penance and repentance in preparation for the celebration of the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Advent is more joyous. Lent is more solemn.

The writer remembers to do a Lenten resolution. He suggested that we might do well to do the same at Advent. We do make New Year resolutions. We make the resolution and they are usually broken and discarded by Ground Hog Day. He suggested that we could "try on" a few New Year resolutions during Advent and bring one or two that we could stick with into the New Year and even into Lent.

Celebrate Advent. Be filled with anticipation as Mary was when she expected her Child. Take a quiet moment of prayer filled with thanksgiving to God for his gift of grace.

**Sincerely, Fr. Paul Bomba**

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

#### ***Second Sunday of Advent***

***"And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value..." (PHILIPPIANS 1:9-10)***

During the Christmas shopping season it is easy to get caught up in the frenzy of buying gifts. But, is that "gift" truly an expression of your love for the other person. Or, are you just fulfilling your "obligation" to give them something? To grow in friendship with someone, you need to spend time with them and learn what is of value to them. Maybe this year, buy less "stuff" and spend more time with those you love.



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

**Thank you!**

# Sunday, December 8, 2024



## Sunday, December 8, 2024

AA Meeting 7:00PM Lower Church Hall

## Monday, December 9, 2024

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 10, 2024

Bible Group 10:00AM-Noon Parish Center

## Wednesday, December 11, 2024

AA Meeting 7:00PM Lower Church Hall

## Thursday, December 12, 2024

Choir Rehearsal 6:30PM Church

## Saturday, December 14, 2024

Religious Education Class Grade 1 10:00AM-11:15AM Parish Center

Grade 2 First Penance Prep 10:00AM Church

Grade 2 Retreat 10:45AM-Noon Lower Church Hall

## Sunday, December 15, 2024

AA Meeting 7:00PM Lower Church Hall



## CHRISTMAS EVE TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

Mass will be celebrated  
at 4:00 PM and  
10:00PM

## CHRISTMAS DAY, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

Mass at 9:00 AM

## SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31

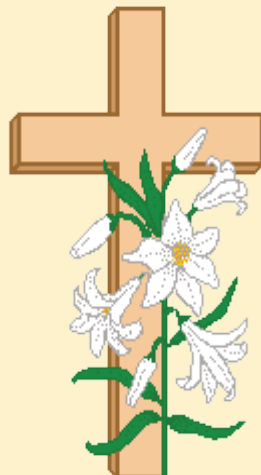
Mass at 4:00 PM

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1

Mass at 9:00 AM

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

The sympathies of our parish are extended to the families of  
William Burke  
Elizabeth Kelley  
Frank Dziemian  
and Elizabeth Butkus  
who recently passed away.



HOLY DAY  
OF  
OBLIGATION

**Masses for the Holy Day  
will be celebrated on  
Mon., December 9  
at 8:00 AM,  
Noon and 6:30 PM**



***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 5, 12, 19 & 26, 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!!***

## Second Sunday of Advent



### Parish Support



	Nov. 24	Dec. 1
Weekly Goal	\$7,500	\$7,500
Last Weekend	\$3,237	\$3,622
Shortfall	(\$4,263)	(\$3,878)
CCHD/Maintenance	\$732	\$1640
Debt Redux	\$55	
Year to Date		
Budget	\$352,500	\$360,000
Collections	\$171,415	\$175,037
Electronic Payment	\$14,485	\$14,855
Shortfall	(\$166,600)	(\$170,108)

The second collection this weekend is for  
**The Retirement Fund for Religious.**

The second collection next weekend will be for  
**Fuel and Christmas Flowers.**



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 are available in the church and parish center from November 23-December 11.

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.

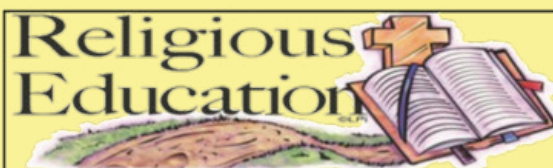
**Please do not wrap gifts or place gifts in a decorated gift bag. Also, do not enclose any ribbons, bows or external decorations. Simply attach your chosen tag on the gift.**

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 15, 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.

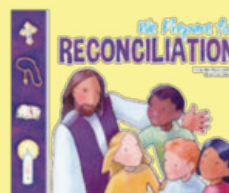
### **NEWS FROM**



### Children's Prayer for Second Week of Advent



Jesus, You are the light of the world.  
 May your love take away our sins.  
 May it help us to prepare the way for you  
 by being kind, forgiving and fair. Amen



### **Grade 2 - First Penance Preparation Schedule**

**December 14 – 10am, at the church**

**December 14 - Penance Retreat**

10:45am - noon in the lower church hall

Please bring a lunch

**December 21 – 10am First Confession  
 at the church**

### *Visitation House Update*



After all the masses a few weeks ago, confirmation candidates held a collection for Visitation House for their service project. Thanks to the kindness and generosity of our parishioners, they collected **\$799.00**. An amazing success!!

At the request from Visitation House, students purchased kitchen items, pots & pans and bedding, as well as 7, \$50 gift certificates from Walmart.

Many thanks to those who donated for this most worthy cause. Not only did these new mothers benefit from their efforts, it was also an eye opening and humbling experience for our students.

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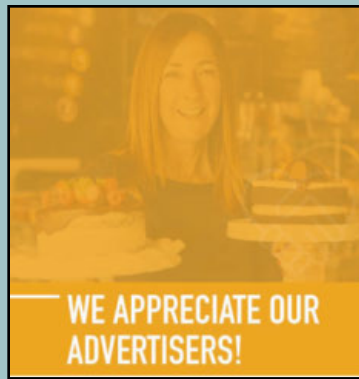
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