



CONTACT US

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Regular Office Hours

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Email 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

Phone 508-832-6683

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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

“I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

December 15, 2024

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



Third Sunday of Advent

SAINT JOSEPH PARISH

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 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**

Monday, December 16, 2024

8:00AM **Jane Reynolds**
Birthday Remembrance
by Judy

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

8:00AM **Mr. & Mrs. Robert O. Leonard**
In Remembrance

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

8:00AM **Dick**

Thursday, December 19, 2024

5:00PM **Mr. Larry Leonard**
In Remembrance

Friday, December 20, 2024

8:00AM **Robert Cicio, Jr.**
Anniversary Remembrance
by family

Saturday, December 21, 2024

4:00PM **James Palmer**
39th Anniversary Remembrance
and Melena Palmer
17th Anniversary Remembrance
by family

Sunday, December 22, 2024

8:30AM **Vincent Denaris**
34th Anniversary Remembrance
by sister Anna

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

Saturday, December 21, 2024

Holy Communion Fred and Carol Fraini
Lector Doreen Goodrich
Altar Server Jean Ashton

Sunday, December 22, 2024

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 Scott Maselek
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,

We see the Advent wreath in the church. It reminds us of the coming of Christmas. The flame illuminates with brightness. Each successive candle that we light, brings us closer to the light of Christ.

The lighting of the Advent wreath is a home devotion. I think that it came to the church only to be a model for people to bring the devotion to their homes. I wonder if people who saw it in the church felt that since the church had the wreath, there was no reason for them to have the wreath at home.

There are some challenges. Some people tell me that they cannot find the appropriate candles for an Advent wreath. When people made their own candles, they could color them as they wished. No one makes their own candle anymore. It seems that Walmart and Target do not have purple or pink candles for sale.

One solution is to use white candles and dress them with purple decoration, like ribbons or construction paper. The better solution is to go to a store called Country Candle in Millbury that is just behind St. Brigid Church on West Street. They have a wide variety of candles for Advent wreaths that you could purchase. I purchase the candles for the Advent wreath there. I see that there is a place in the store that would allow you to craft your own candles. If you need a custom style or size because your wreath is special, you could color your own.

The wreaths that are on the church doors, the rectory door, and the Parish Center came from Luk's Tree Farm. If you needed a wreath, I am sure that you could find one there. It does not have to be large for your dining table.

While the material items for an Advent wreath are necessary, creative people have been known to improvise. Some homes cannot have an open flame because of young children. In those cases you might use an empty beverage can that is shrouded in purple construction paper for candles and a bright construction paper flame when you light each candle. No flame, no mess, lots of grace.

Speaking of grace, that is the most important part of an Advent wreath. As each candle is lit, the essential part of an Advent wreath is the prayer and meditation that accompanies the lighting of the wreath. Many people count the days left till Christmas each time they light the candles. It is a spiritual exercise to raise anticipation for the coming of Christ at Christmas. Some people are challenged by knowing which prayer to say as they light the candles on the wreath. I suggest that the readings for mass on each day could supply the prayer and meditation to accompany the lighting of the candles.

The Advent wreath devotion inspires hope. Hope is an essential element in the celebration of this holy season. Even if you don't have a wreath, hope, grace, and prayer can be the light of your Advent.



Sincerely, Fr. Paul Bomba

Stewardship!!!

Third Sunday of Advent

“Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.” (PHILIPPIANS 4:6) St. Paul reminds us that God is an abundant God – He is the ultimate giver of gifts. He promises to give us all that we need. Remember, that we are created in God's image and likeness. We, too, are made to be generous with all of our gifts as well. Placing our trust in God frees us from being a slave to possessions. It allows us to gratefully and generously share ourselves and our goods with others.

Christmas Concert in Boylston

Saint Mary of the Hills will be hosting a Christmas Concert featuring Dan Gabel and the Abletones on **Sunday, Dec. 22 at 3 pm**. This event is open to everyone and is free of charge. Located at 630 Cross Street, Boylston.



Sunday, December 15, 2024



Sunday, December 15, 2024

AA Meeting 7:00PM Lower Church Hall

Monday, December 16, 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

CPR Class 9:00AM-2:00PM Parish Center

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

Bible Group 10:00AM-Noon Parish Center

Knights of Columbus Meeting 7:00PM Lower Church Hall

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

AA Meeting 7:00PM Lower Church Hall

Thursday, December 19, 2024

Choir Rehearsal 6:30PM Church

Saturday, December 21, 2024

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

Grade 2 First Penance 10:00AM Church

Plumbing School 8:00-5:00PM Parish Center

Sunday, December 22, 2024

Plumbing School 8:00AM-5:00PM Parish Center

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.



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!



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!!*

Volunteers needed for the Urban Missionaries of Our Lady of Hope

Since 1979 Urban Missionaries,
located at 242 Canterbury Street
Worcester, has been helping "the
Least, the Last and the Left
Out." We are seeking volunteers
to help us meet the growing needs
of our community. Help us with our multiple ongoing
programs, including a thrift store, food pantries and special
events. We welcome volunteers of all ages, individuals or
groups, you set the schedule!



**If interested or if you just have questions, contact us at
508-831-7455 or email
at mailbox@urbanmissionaries.com.**

Third Sunday of Advent



Parish Support



Weekly Goal	\$7,500
Last Weekend	\$3,522
Shortfall	(\$3,978)
Retired Religious	\$1325
Debt Redux	
Year to Date	
Budget	\$367,500
Collections	\$178,559
Electronic Payment	\$14,975
Shortfall	(\$173,966)

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

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

REMINDER ...

The Msgr. Thomas F. Neary Council #13637 Knights of Columbus of St. Joseph Parish will hold its monthly meeting on Tues., December 17 at 7:00PM in the lower church hall.



Congratulations to the winners

of the Pastor's Prize Raffle:

Monica Hamilton was the winner of the Lottery Tickets: Purchase Price \$100.

JoAnne Donahue won the Lottery Tickets:

Purchase Price \$50.

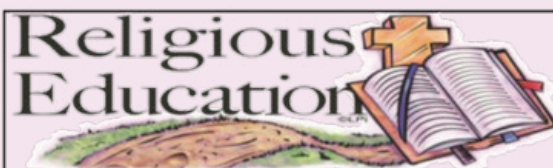
Thank you to everyone who bought tickets.



The sympathies of our parish are extended to the family of
Ann Marie LaBrie
who recently passed away.



NEWS FROM



Children's Prayer for 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.



Saturday, December 21, our First Communion students will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue preparation for their First Holy Communion.
*Cameron Dalrymple * Lily Lassey*
*Molly McGrail * James Soto*

SAINT JOSEPH PARISH CHOIR **CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

The St. Joseph Parish Choir will hold two Christmas concerts on Tuesday, 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.



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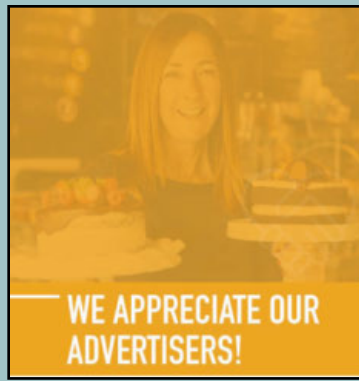
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St. Joseph, Auburn, MA

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