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Secretary

Director of Music

Maintenance

Rev. Paul M. Bomba

Ms. Jean Ashton

Ms. Judy Freelander

Mr. Paul Zeveska

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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

Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb."

December 22, 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



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.

SAINT JOSEPH PARISH

Fourth Sunday of Advent

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH



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

Monday, December 23, 2024

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

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

8:00AM **Bea Bukoski**
by a friend

4:00PM **Albert (Red) Bissonnette**
Birthday Remembrance
by family

10:00PM **Mitchell and Harriet**

Wednesday, December 25, 2024

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

Thursday, December 26, 2024

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

Friday, December 27, 2024

8:00AM **Fr. Chet Snyder**

Saturday, December 28, 2024

4:00PM **Gerry Pierce**
by his wife

Sunday, December 29, 2024

8:30AM **People of St. Joseph Parish**

10:30AM **William and Dora Lavin**
& John and Caroline Messina
by Pat

Saturday, December 28, 2024

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

Sunday, December 29, 2024

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

10:30am
Holy Communion Chris Benvenuti +2
Lector Sandy Pierce
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,



The Fourth Sunday of Advent lights the last Advent candle on the wreath. When all the candles are lit, we know that the time is near for Christmas. The candles glow brightly, each at a different height. The first has burned the longest and is now the shortest. The last candle to light is still the tallest of the four.

The Advent wreath is displayed on a horizontal plane. It is arranged as such to support the candles placed upon it. In some large churches, the wreath is suspended from the ceiling. The faithful gather beneath it and look up to see the candles burning. Baroque churches usually have a heavenly vision painted on the ceiling. When people

look through the wreath and see the heavenly vision painted on the ceiling, the wreath becomes a place of focus. It is through the mystery of the coming of Christ that opens the way to salvation and eternal life.

The Advent wreath becomes the Christmas wreath. Candles are removed and the Christmas wreath is placed on the wall vertically. The evergreen boughs remind us of everlasting life. Green is the liturgical color that reminds us of the virtue of hope. The red ribbon reminds us of the blood of Christ that was shed upon the cross.

Holly may be on the Christmas wreath. The evergreen leaves and red berries blend in well. Holly is a thorny bush. It reminds us of the crown of thorns. Nuts and berries may be on the wreath. They were the last crop to be harvested and placing them on the wreath reminds us of the goodness of God. Pine cones that carry seeds remind us of rebirth and new life.



Christmas comes to us this week. We sing of a “Silent night, holy night” when Jesus was born. Joseph and Mary received him. Wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in the manger. The angels sang, “Glory to God in the highest.” Shepherds were the first to visit and carry the news of the child to Bethlehem and the region.

Let us receive the same Christ when we celebrate Christmas. Jesus, the Son of God, comes to us. May we welcome him with great joy. May his grace shine in us. May his goodness guide our actions. May we share his love with friends and family. May our parish shine with God’s glory.

Merry Christmas! Christ is born in us.



Sincerely, Fr. Paul Bomba

Lessons & Carols in Clinton

St. John, Guardian of Our Lady Parish, 80 Union St., invites you to Lessons & Carols **7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 11, 2025**, with Scripture readings, carols and sacred choral music for Christmas and Epiphany, featuring the upper school chorus of Immaculate Heart of Mary School, Still River. Donations accepted to benefit First Concern Pregnancy Resource Center.



Stewardship!!!

Fourth Sunday of Advent

“For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy.” (LUKE 1:44)

When you hear the scripture readings and Gospel reading at Mass, do you “leap for joy?” If not, don’t blame the lecturer or priest, rather look inside yourself. What are you doing to grow in friendship with Jesus? How do you prepare for Mass each week? Do you just show up and expect to be entertained? As the Body of Christ, we are called to be active participants, not just passive observers.

Sunday, December 22, 2024



Sunday, December 22, 2024

AA Meeting 7:00PM Lower Church Hall

Monday, December 23, 2024

No Religious Education Classes Grades 3 - 8

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

No Bible Group

Private Event

1:00PM-9:00PM Parish Center

Wednesday, December 25, 2024

Private Event

11:00AM-2:PM Parish Center

AA Meeting

7:00PM Lower Church Hall

Thursday, December 26, 2024

Choir Rehearsal

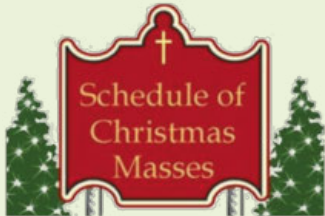
6:30PM Church

Saturday, December 28, 2024

No Religious Education Classes Grades 1 & 2

Sunday, December 29, 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.



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!!*

**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.



Fourth Sunday of Advent

A Christmas Message from Bishop McManus ...

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

On Christmas Eve, Pope Francis will open and enter the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica to celebrate Christmas Mass and begin a Jubilee Year.

A Jubilee Year is a special time of remission of sin and punishment due to sin. It involves pilgrimages, prayer, and works of mercy and penance. Jubilee Years awaken in us a profound awareness of the depth of God's love, mercy and solicitude for each one of us. That deepened awareness leads to a greater hope of sharing in the glory of God (Romans 5:2).

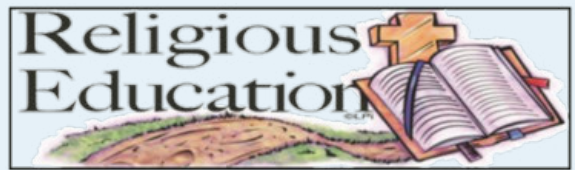
At Christmas, the glory of God briefly shone down on quaking shepherds tending their flocks as angels announced good news of great joy: God's Eternal Son was born of the Virgin Mary. Through the Holy Spirit, He took on our lowly humanity that we might forever share in the glory of His divinity. As Jesus was fully God and fully man, no one can claim that God is distant from us, or unaware of our trials. He walked among us and died for us. He is that close. He cares that much. This gives us hope throughout life and in every circumstance of life. Pope Francis has called us "Pilgrims of Hope" as the theme for this year's Jubilee. It is a hope that will not disappoint because it is based in Jesus Christ who is the Eternal Word of God made flesh.



The New Year 2025 is not only a Jubilee Year, but an anniversary year. It is the 1900th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, which defined the dogma of the divinity of Jesus Christ as true God and true man. It is also the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the Diocese of Worcester, for which we give thanks. 2025 will be a year full of opportunities for grace, hope and joy. They all stem from the Son of God and Son of Mary who was born in Bethlehem. I pray that you and your loved ones will have a blessed Christmas and that the observances and celebrations of 2025 will prolong those joys, deepen your faith and strengthen your hope.

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

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 Monday, January 6, 2025 for grades 3 – 8 and Saturday, January 11, 2025, for grades 1 & 2.

GRADE 9

Our first class is Sunday, January 5, 2025, beginning with 10:30AM mass and ending at 2:00PM, at church. Please bring a brown bag lunch.



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.

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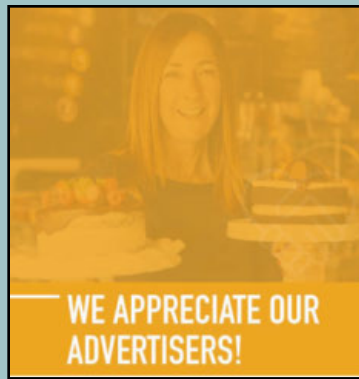
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