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Secretary

Director of Music

Maintenance

Rev. Paul M. Bomba

Ms. Jean Ashton

Ms. Judy Frelander

Mr. Todd Darling

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Director of Religious Education

Maintenance

Ms. Lisa Wass

Mr. Errol Hall

Outreach Ministry

Mrs. Dianne Trumbour 508 832-6755

Outreach to hospitals, nursing homes, and homebound

Visits gladly made upon request

SAINT JOSEPH PARISH

December 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus."

MASSES

Lord's Day Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil 4:00 p.m. in the church

Sunday 7:00 and 9:00 a.m. in the church
10:30 a.m. at the parish center

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 19, 2020

4:00PM **Jeannette Hall**

Sunday, December 20, 2020

7:00AM **Lynne Lassey**
Month's Mind Mass
by Lana and Francis Khoury

9:00AM **Bobby Cicio**
Anniversary Remembrance
by family

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

Monday, December 21, 2020

8:00AM **Theresa Modzelewski**
Birthday Remembrance
by daughter Helen Wojnarowicz

Tuesday, December 22, 2020

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

Wednesday, December 23, 2020

8:00AM **Lau Van Phan**

Thursday, December 24, 2020

4:00PM **Mitchell**

Friday, December 25, 2020

9:00AM **Fr. Casey Kurzawski**

10:30AM **Rita**

Saturday, December 26, 2020

4:00PM **Rosecarol Brunette**
by Ed and Pat Walsh

Sunday, December 27, 2020

7:00AM **Louis and Stefania**

9:00AM **Earl Belles**
Anniversary Remembrance
by family

10:30AM **Jerry Pierce**
Birthday Remembrance
By his wife

Saturday, December 26, 2020

Holy Communion Carol Fraini

Lector Ed Walsh

Altar Servers Roger Bishop, Lorelei Bishop

Sunday, December 27, 2020

7:00 AM

Holy Communion Jean Ashton

Lector Dorothy Jacques

Altar Server Al Pastick

9:00 AM

Holy Communion Steve Sinclair

Lector Francis Charpentier

Altar Server Anthony Lloyd

10:30 AM

Holy Communion Dianne Trumbour

Lector Mary Skorvanek

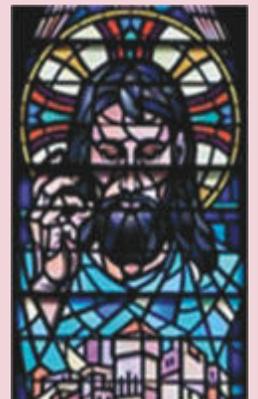
Altar Server Paul Molis

A Prayer in Time of Pandemic

O God, whose Only Begotten Son bore the weight of human suffering for our salvation, hear the prayers of your Church for our sick brothers and sisters and deliver us from this time of trial.

Open our ears and our hearts to the voice of your Son: Be not afraid, for I am with you always.

Bless all doctors and nurses, researchers and public servants; give us the wisdom to do what is right and the faith to endure this hour, that we might gather once again to praise your name in the heart of your Church, delivered from all distress and confident in your mercy.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



AUBURN, MASSACHUSETTS

Dear People of Saint Joseph Parish,

We reached the Fourth Sunday of Advent. We will celebrate Christmas on Friday. Like everything else in 2020, Christmas is looking a little different from Christmas past.

Like everything else in the annual cycle, people tend to assemble a paradigm of how it was, and how it should be. For example, people in Massachusetts tend to favor a white Christmas. It is so pretty when there is fresh snow on the ground to blanket everything in white.

Childhood memories assist in the construction of the paradigm. What paradigm will you construct during a COVID 19 pandemic?

One trend that our local community practices is to strip away the fluff and strike for the essentials. The essential celebration of Christmas involves the prayerful reflection that God sent his Son, in human form, to bring redemption and salvation to people. It is the ultimate Christmas gift.

Our toned-down celebrations can capture this essence. Bishop McManus recommends that when we hear our loved carols at mass that we do not sing along. There will be fewer voices raised in song, but many hearts involved in the song.

Walk with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem during these last few days of Advent. Engage in the anticipation and joy that the Son of God dwells among us.

See the darkness that covers us during the shortest days of winter. Then rejoice that the light of Christ illuminates the spirit to bring warmth and grace.

Even a mask cannot hide the hope and joy that Christmas brings. Christmas themed masks are part of the new paradigm that spreads the Christmas spirit.

The Advent and Christmas paradigm has shifted. The essence remains the same. Welcome the infant Jesus in your heart and home.

Congratulations to the winners of the Pastor's Prize. Thank you to all the people who supported the raffle. I sighed with relief that we did not stage the bazaar during the winter storm on December 5. Snow started falling at 9:30 a.m. It would have had a detrimental effect on bazaar business. If ever we had to plan to cancel the bazaar, this was the year! Let's start planning for Bazaar 2021!

I will lock the doors at the church when we reach capacity on Christmas. I hope that we will not come close to capacity on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. It would be a great tragedy if the virus spread through the parish on Christmas. If you feel ill, please remain at home. If you are part of the at-risk population, pray with the parish while you are in your living room. If you come to mass, be sure to wear your mask.

May we truly rejoice when we are all vaccinated and can sing to the glory of God together in full volume.

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.

Sunday, December 20, 2020



Monday, December 21, 2020

No Religious Education Classes Grades 3-8

Plumbing School

5:30PM-9:30PM

Parish Center

Wednesday, December 23, 2020

Plumbing School

5:30PM-9:30PM

Parish Center

Saturday, December 26, 2020

No Religious Education Classes Grade 1 & 2



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

PARISH PLEASANTRIES

for the month of **January 2021** may be left in the box located in the main entrance of the church near the side ramp entryway **on or before Sunday, December 27th**. We are always happy to acknowledge Anniversaries, Birthdays & Special Achievements of our parishioners.



Thankfully, we are able to resume our regular mass schedule with safety precautions in place.

If you are feeling sick, are exhibiting any of the following symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat or new loss of taste or smell), or have potentially been exposed to someone with confirmed or suspected COVID-19, then you should not attend services in-person.

A potential exposure means having household contact or having close contact (within 6 feet) with an individual with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 for a prolonged period of time (over 10 minutes) while the person is symptomatic or 48 hours before symptoms develop. Persons who are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 according to the Centers for Disease Control (e.g., due to age or underlying conditions) are encouraged to stay home.

Parish Support

Weekly Goal	\$	7,500
Last Weekend	\$	3,698
Shortfall	\$	(3,802)
Retired Religious	\$	1,321
Debt Redux	\$	95
Year to Date		
Budget	\$	375,000
Collections	\$	210,613
Electronic Payment	\$	8,880
Shortfall	\$	(155,508)

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.*

Remember in your Prayers

Shirley Connor - Michael Prew
 Judith Daniels - Bill Dee - Graceann Dee
 Patrick Dee - Elsie Faneuil - Bonnie Lemoine
 Cindy Fitzgerald - Sharon Grybowski
 Phyllis Hammond - Deborah Johnston
 Anne Kirby - Helen M. Leketa - Cynthia Young
 Pauline Mercier - Deborah Mink - Victoria Mink
 Rob Cooney - Jim Tobin - Peter Vandale
 Erin O'Toole - John Rocheford - Daniel Roy
 Jillian Roy - Carlene Sherbourne - Susan Miale
 Richard Laprade - Raymond Looney - Lil Kurtz
 Theresa Wright - Alex Orloff - Kevin Dobson
 Peggy Markvenas - Kathy Stasaitis



Fourth Sunday of Advent

A Christmas Message from Bishop McManus...

Christmas 2020

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As Advent gives way to Christmas, we find ourselves in a continued state of waiting, longing and expectation for a promised vaccine. How our world has changed in a year!

Last Christmas, none of us had heard of COVID-19. Since then our lives, jobs, recreation and worship have been shaped by it. COVID precautions have led to COVID-fatigue as we long for a return to normal life.

Anxious waiting and expectation for the vaccine marks and impacts our celebrations. Gatherings in church and at home will be smaller, travel truncated, carols fewer, precautions increased and parties cancelled.



But Christmas is not cancelled. Our way of celebrating has changed, but our reason for celebrating remains the same. While the world awaits the arrival of a vaccine, we celebrate the arrival of the world's Savior.

We hope for a vaccine that for a time will ward off illness and death. The Divine Savior whose birth we celebrate gives us resurrection and reunion. We pray the vaccine will restore normal life on earth. The grace Christ offers promises eternal life in Heaven.

For two millennia Christians throughout the world have celebrated Christ's birth. Many of these Christmases have been marked by famine, plagues and wars. Through those hardships and others, Christians have found in Christ the strength, hope and joy to persevere, endure and triumph over all of life's uncertainties.

As we wait for the vaccine to come, let us rejoice, give thanks and find peace in the Savior who has already come, defeated sin and death and will come again to share His definitive triumph of eternal life.

With every prayerful best wish for a Blessed and Merry Christmas, I remain

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

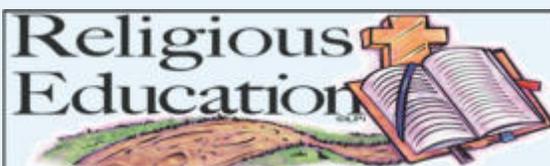


Join the Parish

Become a member of Saint Joseph Parish. Fill out one of the Parish Enrollment Forms found in the vestibule of the church or on the back table of the parish center. Place it in the mail, deliver it personally, or drop it in the collection basket.



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
and will resume Monday, January 4, 2021,
for grades 3-8 and
Saturday, January 9, 2021, for grades 1 & 2.

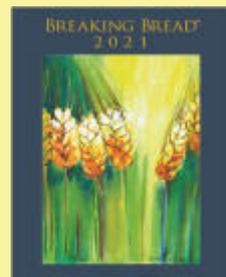


Children's Prayer for the Fourth Week of Advent

Jesus, You are the light of the world.
You were born in darkness in a cold stable
with only the animals to warm you.
Let the light of your love shine on us,
so we can see you in everyone we meet.
Teach us to love and help all those
who are hungry,
lonely and in need. Amen.

2021 BREAKING BREAD BOOKS AVAILABLE

If you would like to be able to follow along with the Order of Mass and the Scripture Readings each week, copies of the Breaking Bread book are available for \$7.00. They can be purchased at any weekend Mass in the church and at the parish center. Please take them with you when you leave and bring them back with you each week as you attend Mass.



Fourth Sunday of Advent



CHRISTMAS EVE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:00 PM - Mass in the church

CHRISTMAS DAY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25

9:00 AM - Mass in the church

10:30 AM - Mass in the church

NEW YEAR'S EVE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31

4:00 PM - Mass in the church

SOLEMNITY OF MARY

THE MOTHER OF GOD

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1

9:00 AM - Mass in the church

There will not be a 5:00 PM mass
on December 24 and December 31.

or an 8:00 AM mass on December 25 and January 1.

Seating will be on a first-come, first-seated basis for these masses. Once the church reaches capacity as regulated by the coronavirus restrictions, the doors will be locked.

Daily Mass, Sunday Mass, Family Rosary

all continue to stream on worcesterdiocese.org, and can be uploaded for automatic updating on eCatholic websites.

Public Access Stations now carrying Masses:

Daily Mass

Worcester Ch 194 "the people's channel"
at 9 am

Auburn Ch 191 at 9 pm

Sunday Mass

Worcester Ch 194 "the people's channel"

Spanish Sunday Mass at 8 am and

English Sunday Mass at 10 am (English Sunday Mass
replays on Monday at 6 pm)

Auburn Ch 191 Sunday at 10 am



PLEASE TAKE YOUR BULLETIN HOME WITH YOU

To help keep us all safe during the pandemic,
if you handle a copy of the bulletin
take it with you when you leave.
Please do not put it back on the pile after Mass.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent



Advent is the season in which believers eagerly anticipate the celebration of Christ's birth. Reading, prayer, and reflection are ways we can cultivate a sense of holy anticipation this Advent. The fourth Sunday of Advent we meditate on the **peace** that Jesus brings our hearts and our world. Scripture is the place we can find the promises of God. Let us meditate on these truths and allow them to comfort our hearts this Advent season!

[2 Thessalonians 3:16](#) says, "Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you."

This week we focus our hearts on the "Lord of peace" who came down from heaven in the form of a baby. God knows that we are in a constant battle against fear! Fear wants to cripple us, to push us to react rather than carefully respond, and fear steals our joy. God has given us the gift of peace so we can live joy-filled lives!

Over this Advent, pray that *God's unexplainable peace* would be evident in your heart and home. This year we all have faced so much chaos and uncertainty. God's peace is something we need to grab tightly onto *more than ever*. May God's spirit transform the days leading up to Christmas into a time to joyfully await our King!

Source: Amanda Idleman, Crosswalk.com

Congratulations to the winners of the Pastor's Price Raffle:

**Patty Domenick was the
winner of the Lottery tickets.**

**Sadie Bickford won
the afghan.**

**Thank you to everyone who
bought tickets.**



VIRTUAL THEOLOGY ON TAP ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SERIES

All young adults (ages 18-39) are invited to join a special virtual Theology on Tap series on the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary via Zoom at **8 p.m. Tuesdays** of the Advent/Christmas seasons.

Session dates are as follows:

December 22 – The Nativity;

December 29 – The Presentation;

January 5 – The Finding in the Temple.

Go to neworchester.org/virtual-theology-on-tap to sign up for the Zoom link.





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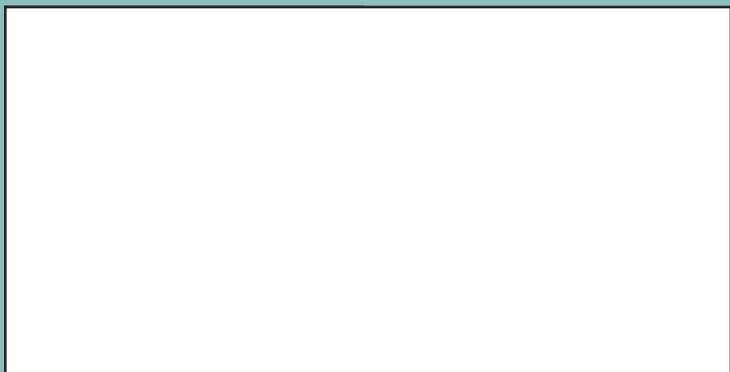
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