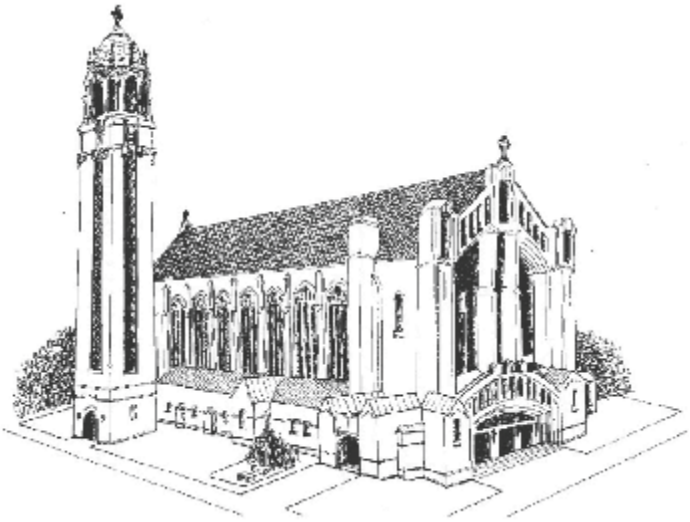
OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS PARISH

1222 MAIN STREET • WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01603

We, the parish community of Our Lady of the Angels, as part of the universal Catholic Church, are answering the call to love and serve one another in this ever-changing world. Part of our call is to be a welcoming community of faith that is nourished and sustained through the mystery of the Holy Eucharist and guided by the Holy Spirit. Together, we are called and committed to be active witnesses of God's presence among us by serving others in our parish as well as in the community at large, especially the poor. By continual proclamation of the Gospel and celebration of the Sacraments, we are dedicated to growth in knowledge and faith which will enable us to build a strong foundation for all peoples to experience life to the fullest as Jesus intends.



Pastor
Rev. Charles F. Monroe.....(ext. 10)

Priest in Residence
Rev. Terrence Dougherty, O.C.D.

Pastoral Assistant for Education
(Contact Fr. Monroe)

Pastoral Assistant for the Elderly
Sr. Marie Therese Martin, C.S.J.(ext. 19)

Organist
Mr. Kurt Blomstrom

Office Director
Ms. Susan Allard .....(ext. 12)

School Principal
Mrs. Doreen Albert
doreen.albert@worcesterdiocesek12.org

School Secretary
Ms. Susan Montiverdi

Rectory:.....508-791-0951
Rectory Fax:.....508-753-9531
School Office: 508-752-5609
After School Program:.....508-831-9574
School Fax: 508-798-9634

Parish Website:..... www.ourladyofangels.org
School Website:.....www.ourladyoftheangels.us
Pastor: ..... cmonroe@ourladyofangels.org
Office Director:.....sallard@ourladyofangels.org
Organist:..... kablomstrom@gmail.com

Weekly Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil:	4:00 pm
Sunday:	8:00 am, 10:30 am, 6:00 pm
Monday – Friday:	9:00 am
Holy Days:	4:00 pm Vigil, 9:00 am, 6:00 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation:
Saturdays at 3:00 pm or by appointment.

Sacrament of Baptism
Contact the rectory to arrange for Baptism Preparation and schedule the Baptism. We also have a process for adults. Contact the rectory.

Sacrament of Matrimony
Contact the rectory as soon as you decide on a date to begin the preparation process.

Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick
The pastor should be called whenever someone can benefit for the Sacrament of Healing.

Office for Healing and Prevention of Abuse
Judith Audette, 508-929-4364 or Confidential Line: 508-726-2880 – jaudette@worcsterdiocese.org

All are welcome to join the parish community.
Please call or come to the rectory to register.

St. Ambrose shares some wisdom on our need to prepare the way and open the door for Christ. "You see that when the Word of God knocks hardest on your door, it is when his hair is wet with the dew of the night. In fact, he chooses to visit those who are in tribulation and trial, lest one of them be overwhelmed by distress. So, his head is covered with dew, with drops, when his body is laboring hard. It is important to keep watch so that when the Bridegroom comes, he is not shut out. If you are asleep and your heart is not keeping watch, he will go away without knocking; but if your heart is alert for his coming, he knocks and asks for the door to be opened to him." When life gets overwhelming and difficult and we find ourselves feeling a bit downhearted and miserable, these words can bring great comfort.

We sometimes choose to remain stuck in our uncomfortable darkness and being stuck becomes our norm. In this time of self-focus our hearts are closed to the graces and life God desires to give us. Wrapped in the robe of mourning and misery, we fail to see the mercy, justice, and love the Bridegroom wants to bring. If we take seriously the need to prepare the way for Christ and open our hearts in preparation for his visit, we can hear God's gentle voice calling us deep within. It beckons us to seek out its source and discover the inner calm and peace that can prevail over the darkness of despair. Sometimes our darkness is so dark that it may seem unsurmountable. Trusting in the spiritual friends who journey with us, and God's promise may bring a glimmer of light even when it is most difficult to keep our hearts' doors open. Sometimes, the only light in the darkness is found in trusting the faith of others both past and present.

We have to trust that God has already begun the accomplishment of good work in us and that humanity is on an incredible journey to something wonderful and awesome. God is not done. When we open the doors of our hearts, straighten the paths of our lives, and prepare the way, Jesus can come with God's simple gifts of peace, grace, and joy. Life throws a great deal at us. It is easy to get tired and confused. We have to train our hearts to keep watch, discern what is of value, and forge ahead. Not allowing ourselves to become so weighed down by things and brought out of focus is a tremendous goal to achieve this Advent season. God is knocking. Answer the door. You will see and understand life in ways you never thought possible before. ©LPi

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION – HOLY DAY

We will have three Masses to observe the holy day: **4:00 pm Vigil Mass on Tuesday, 9:00 am Mass on Wednesday** and **6:00 pm Mass on Wednesday.**

FOR THIS WEEKEND'S MASSES

Processional Hymn (4,8,10:30): #386 in ***Worship***
Order of Mass: Front Page or #202 in ***Worship***
Liturgy of the Word: #1006 in ***Worship***
Preparation Hymn (4,8,10:30): #388 in ***Worship***
Acclamations (4,8,10:30) #365, 366, 367, 382 in ***Worship***
Communion Litany (4,8,10:30) #596 in ***Worship***

MASS INTENTIONS & REMEMBRANCES

Sat., 12/4	4:00 pm	**Albert** (37th Anniv.) **& Nellie** (11th Anniv.) **Rabidou,** by family
Sun., 12/5	8:00 am	**Parishioners' Intentions**
	10:30 am	**Fr. Dennis O'Brien,** by the Painchaud's
(Remembrance)		**Steven Boudreau,** 1st Anniv., by family
(Remembrance)		**William Hoey,** 9th Anniv., by family
	6:00 pm	**Parishioners' Intentions**
Mon., 12/6	9:00 am	**Tom Cotter,** by Dennis & Carol Gonsalves
Tue., 12/7	9:00 am	**Parishioners' Intentions**
	4:00 pm	**Parishioners' Intentions**
Wed., 12/8	9:00 am	**Thomas Cotter,** Birthday, by family
	6:00 pm	**Parishioners' Intentions**
Thu., 12/9	9:00 am	**Daniel Field,** 2nd Anniv., by Paul & Patti Verderese
Fri., 12/10	9:00 am	**Proffitt & Dillon Families,** by Ken
(Remembrance)		**Deacon Al Desautels,** by Mary Desautels
Sat., 12/11	4:00 pm	**James Grady,** by Sheila Reilly & family
Sun., 12/12	8:00 am	**Irene O'Keefe,** by family
	10:30 am	**Parishioners' Intentions**
	6:00 pm	**Clement & Judith Anish and Paul & Alice Chase,** by family
(Remembrance)		**Elise Gagne,** 9th Anniv., by family

CONTRIBUTION REPORT

Last weekend, we deposited the following donations:

-- Weekly Adult Offerings:	$4,112.00
($484.00 in loose offerings and $3,628.00 in 112 envelopes)	
-- Charitable Ministries:	$ 100.00
-- Maintenance Fund:	$ 90.00
-- Christmas Flowers:	$ 335.00
-- Campaign for Human Development:	$ 90.00

We also received the following online donations:

-- Weekly Adult Offerings:	$1,324.58
-- Maintenance Fund:	$ 106.20
-- Charitable Ministries:	$ 10.00
-- Campaign for Human Development:	$ 84.07

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6
Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3, 10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/Mt 11:11-15
Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19
Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is12:2-3, 4, 5-6/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

STAR OF BETHLEHEM SALE

We welcome Maysoon Khair who represents Christian families who make their livelihood through the selling of their hand carved olive wood religious articles. Please stop by and look over the carvings that are available and help support this self-help project to keep the Children and the Christians living in the Holy Land. You may also simply make a donation.

CHRISTMAS BASKET RAFFLE

Items to be raffled are listed on fliers in trays at the church doors. Tickets are $1 each or 6 for $5. Drop your completed form and money in the collection or at the rectory. The drawing will be held Sunday, December 12th after the 10:30 am Mass.

RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

On the weekend of December 12th our parishes will be conducting the appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Over the past year, 321 religious communities received funding from this national collection assisting nearly 26,000 elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.

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 or no pay.

Earlier this year, Pope Francis wrote, "there is no retirement age from the work of proclaiming the Gospel." 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.

Today, hundreds of religious communities do not have enough retirement savings and they struggle to provide for a growing number of elderly members. Covid-19 has only increased the challenge to provide adequate care.

Just as our annual Celebrate Priesthood event helps our diocese to care for its retired diocesan priests, this national collection assists many religious communities to provide for aging members. Rising health-care costs and decreased income compound the struggle to provide adequate care.
Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides vital funding for medications, nursing care, and more. It also helps religious congregations implement long-range retirement strategies, even as they continue to serve the People of God.
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 of service to the Church. If you are unable to donate at Mass, please mail your gift to your parish, donate on your parish's online giving platform, or donate at the diocesan website, worcesterdiocese.org. In thanksgiving for their faithful service, please join me in supporting the Retirement Fund for Religious and in praying for God's blessing on our nation's elderly and infirm religious women and men.

With prayerful best wishes, I remain
Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS NEEDED

OLA School is in need of occasional substitute teachers (not long term). With the current COVID protocols, any time one of our teachers or their children have any kind of ailment, they need to stay home for a day to evaluate their situation and sometimes get tested for COVID. This necessitates a scramble to cover classes and Doreen Albert, our principal, has a difficult time accomplishing her responsibilities as principal because she has to cover for absent teachers and other teachers have to cover class periods for absent teachers depriving them of free periods that they deserve. If anyone would be willing to offer his/her services when needed, please contact Doreen at 508-752-5609 or email her at doreen.albert@ourladyoftheangels.,us.

SNOW SHOVELERS NEEDED

With the onset of winter, we are looking for people to help the custodian with snow shoveling when there are storms. We pay a decent wage. If you or someone you know would be available, contact Fr. Monroe at the rectory or email him at cmonroe@ourladyofangels.org.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Masses to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord will be as follows:
4:00 pm Vigil Mass, Friday, December 24
10:00 pm Mass in the Night on Friday, December 24
(preludes will begin at 9:40 pm)
8:00 am Mass for Dawn, Saturday, December 25
10:30 am Mass During the Day on Saturday, December 25

THE WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun., December 5 – 2nd Sunday of Advent
8:00 am **Lord's Day Mass**
9:00 am **Grades 1-8, 10 & 11 Religious Education**
10:30 am **Lord's Day Mass**
2-4 pm **Throne of God Worship Service**
6:00 pm **Lord's Day Mass**
Mon., December 6 – St. Nicholas
9:00 am **Daily Mass**
Tue., December 7 – St. Ambrose
9:00 am **Daily Mass**
4:00 pm **Holy Day Vigil Mass**
Wed., December 8 – Immaculate Conception of Mary
9:00 am **Holy Day Mass**
6:00 pm **Holy Day Mass**
Thu., December 9 – St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin
9:00 am **Daily Mass**
Fri., December 10 – Our Lady of Loreto
9:00 am **Daily Mass**
Sat., December 12 – St. Damasus I
4:00 pm **Vigil Mass**

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Envelopes are available at the church doors for those who would like to make a donation to defray the cost of decorating the church for the Christmas holy days.

LITURGICAL MEMORIALS

The bread and wine for all Masses this week have been donated in memory of ***Deceased of the Bujnowski & Lambert Families.*** The candles being used at all Masses this week have been donated in memory of ***Michael Chalifoux*** by his family

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