

Our Lady of the Lake

224 Sheep Pasture Road: P.O. Box 1150
Southwick, MA 01077-1150

Pastor: Rev. Matthew S. P. Guidi

Deacon David Przybylowski

Parish Administrative Assistant: Kimberly A. Rood

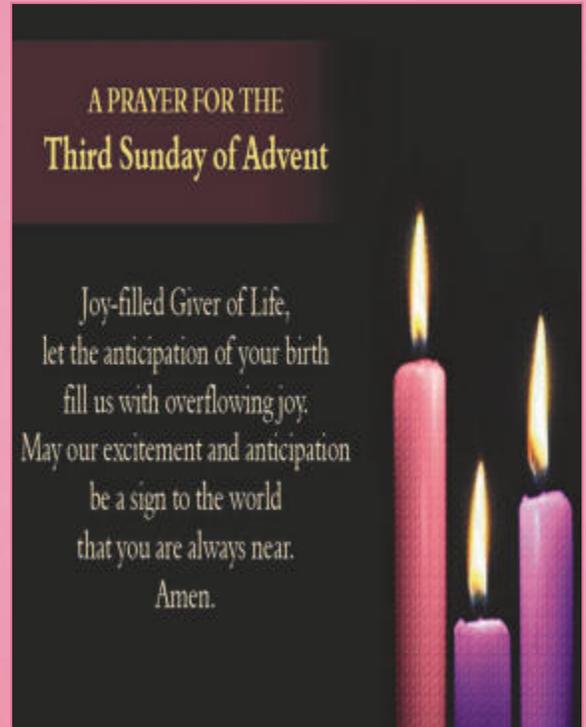
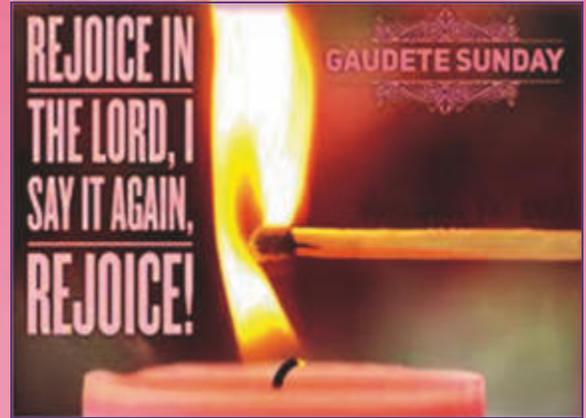
Business Manager: Rosemarie Ricco

Director of Faith Formation: Lynda Daniele 413-569-0162

Tel: 413-569-0161 Email: OLLake7@aol.com

Current Parish office hours: Monday—Wednesday 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Thursday 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. (Hours are subject to change with New directives.)



A PRAYER FOR THE Third Sunday of Advent

Joy-filled Giver of Life,
let the anticipation of your birth
fill us with overflowing joy.
May our excitement and anticipation
be a sign to the world
that you are always near.
Amen.

Sunday, December 13th

MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday Vigil 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday after morning Mass Miraculous Medal Novena

Wednesday after morning Mass St. Joseph Novena

Thursday after morning Mass St. Jude Novena

Reconciliation Saturday 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. (or by appointment)

OUR MISSION

We, Our Lady of the Lake Roman Catholic Church, seek to have a living faith in Jesus Christ. Nourished by the Eucharist and guided by the Holy Spirit, we share the gospel, encourage our youth and embrace and welcome everyone in need.

Home and Hospital Visits: Deacon David oversees this ministry. Call 539-0486

Bible Study— Deacon David Tuesday's after morning Mass in Marian Hall

Faith Formation— See inside bulletin for more

OTHER MINISTRIES:

Soup Kitchen Outreach: 2nd Tuesday of the Month, currently in Fr. Shea Hall, meeting at 3:00 p.m.

AA Meeting: TBD

Knights of Columbus #11178: 1st and 3rd Thursday each month in the St. Matthew room at 7:15 p.m.

Praise & Worship: 1st Tuesday of the month 7:00 p.m. in the main church and on Facebook Live

Prayer Line: Diana at (413) 569-3718 or email intentions to: myprayerrequest555@gmail.com.

DEVOTIONS:

Miraculous Medal Novena: After Tuesday 8:30 a.m. Mass

St. Joseph Novena: After Wednesday 8:30 a.m. Mass

St. Jude Novena: After Thursday 8:30 a.m. Mass

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturdays 2:30 p.m - 3:30 p.m.; and by appointment.

Sacrament of Baptism: Sundays at 11:15 a.m. Contact the pastor, Father Matthew.

Sacrament of First Holy Communion: Celebrated with Grade 2 in May. Candidates are expected to be first enrolled in grade one.

Sacrament of Confirmation: Preparation begins during high school years and is celebrated in the spring of grade 11. Adult requests, contact the pastor.

Sacrament of Matrimony: There are preparatory stages leading up to the wedding date. Arrangements should be made up to a year in advance. Contact pastor for an appointment.

Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick: Anyone with a potentially life-threatening serious condition or serious surgery can be a recipient. Please do not hesitate to call the pastor.

Today's Scripture Readings

First Reading: *Isaiah 61:1-2a,10-11*

The wounded healer best proclaims the freedom and favor of the good news.

Responsorial Psalm: *Luke 1:46-50,53-54*

My soul rejoices in my God.

Second Reading: *1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

“Rejoice always” does not mean continual laughter or a perpetual smile but looking ahead with hope to the future.

Gospel Reading: *John 1:6-8,19-28*

Bearing witness to the light may mean resisting the temptation to shine.

Summary of Scripture passages from “The Ordo”:

John witnesses to the one who is to come, one far mightier than he (3), one who will proclaim freedom and deliverance (1) from sin and death. As we await his coming again in glory (2), let us join with Mary in singing the praises of God (Ps).

Reflections on the Scriptures by Deacon Dave:

John the Baptist is a model evangelizer. He knows he is but a finger pointing at the Son. He himself is not the Son, although whatever light is in him comes from the Son. So it is with us. We are filled with light— our church, our community and ourselves. God wants us to let that light be seen by others so that they too might come to live in the light. We are but witnesses to the light who is Christ ever coming. Everywhere and in everyone to whom we should point. And all our lives and ministry, like John’s, are a preparation for the shining of that ever more fully.

The second reading tells us how we are to witness: through our rejoicing. Rejoice always! The word resound through the first two readings as well as the psalm. Catholics used to call this “Gaudete” or “Rejoice!” Sunday. We are not to be heralds of gloom and doom. We rejoice because we await God’s coming in glory. Our message as well as our lives should be one of rejoicing. After all, it is good news we are called to share.

During this upcoming week think about:

- ♥ Who are the people most in need of compassion to whom you are called to bring God’s love?
- ♥ How do you see yourself as a herald of Good News? Do you see this as a privilege or a burden?
- ♥ Reflect on some of the great things that God has done for you. Rejoice in how you have been blessed.

Dearly beloved, we are a people of hope. Hope is a voice crying out, “The Lord is coming.” As Christians, we are called to rejoice in that event and to celebrate a long list of glad tidings: liberty, healing, release, justice and vindication. Hope is not, however, unbridled optimism but rather the virtue of securing one’s happiness in the goodness of God despite affliction. Recall that hope and suffering are intertwined. Look for examples around you of those whose lives are not easy yet who maintain hopeful spirit and try to find a reason to hope in a circumstance that has caused you pain. Practice hope by submitting a challenge or trouble in your life to God. As you do, strengthen your hope by meditating on those things God has already done in your life. May God’s love and grace be with you this week and always.

Respectfully your brother in Christ,
Deacon Dave



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 12

4:00 p.m. Diane Doiron, req. by Jean & Mike Doiron

5:30 p.m. Wally & Barbara Daigneau, 50th Anniversary
req. by Wally, for his beloved wife
AND Barbara, for her devoted husband.

Sunday, December 13

8:00 a.m. Helen Willis, req. by her son, Richard & family

10:00 a.m. Ben Nascimbeni, 25th Anniversary, req. by his daughters and their families

Monday, December 14

8:30 a.m. Special Intentions, req. by Linda Smigielski

Tuesday, December 15

8:30 a.m. Parishioners & Visitors

Wednesday, December 16

8:30 a.m. Carol Weibel, req. by her husband, Joe

Thursday, December 17

8:30 a.m. Victor J. Shibley, 10th Anniversary, req. by his grand-nephew, Joseph Mendes

Saturday, December 19

4:00 p.m. Edward & Margaret Dolan, req. by Tom & Diane Bazyk

Sunday, December 20

8:00 a.m. Parishioners & Visitors

10:00 a.m. Shirley Nascimbeni, 35th Anniversary, req. by her daughters and their families



The Sanctuary candle will burn this week in remembrance of
Stella Laptek
req. by Laptek Family

Offeratory Envelopes

Each week there will only be ONE collection, however some weeks there are multiple envelopes. Please drop all envelopes into the one collection. The list below are all the upcoming offerings for those that may not receive envelopes.

Each month there is always an envelope for the Improvement Fund and Utilities & Energy Expense Fund.

December 13th– Regular & Religious Retirement

December 20th– Regular & “My Christmas Offering”

December 27th– Regular

January 1st– Solemnity of Mary

As always, THANK YOU for all you do!!!

The Light of the World

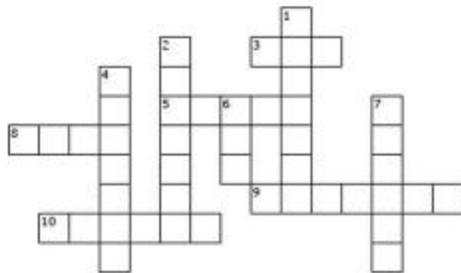
There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. John 1:6, 8 (NIV)

Based on John 1:6-8, 19-28 (NIV)



R L P R O P H E T E M E S V X
 F N W E G I W Y N Y Z A U N K
 R K A L E C Y H N I Y C N T P
 U L T I O G O A T N S H S C R
 J T E J X J D P A K Y R N O I
 E L R A H R A H Z J L I E N E
 R W Z H O B T U Z J B S Q F S
 U I I J T E B N A M E T L E T
 S T X M B S L E V I T E S S S
 A N U T R E H K F O W A L S O
 L E I R Q N V K T E S T I F Y
 E S V F E T I H D N F K G W P
 M S M L S L V R D Y R R H Y L
 L M D E G O D P O S G I T R S
 M C B T D B E L I E V E B W Q

BETHANY	JOHN	BELIEVE	SENT	LEVITES
CHRIST	TESTIFY	NAME	GOD	WATER
JORDAN	BAPTIZE	JERUSALEM	CONFESS	PRIESTS
LIGHT	PROPHET	ELIJAH	MAN	WITNESS



ACROSS

- 3. An adult male human
- 5. A source of illumination, such as a lamp, or a lantern
- 8. The man sent from God to prepare the way for Jesus
- 9. To give evidence based on personal knowledge
- 10. To reply to a question

DOWN

- 1. To immerse in water
- 2. To be convinced that something is true
- 4. To admit that something is true
- 6. The creator of the heavens, earth and its people
- 7. The Messiah, as foretold by the prophets

CHRIST	ANSWER	MAN	JOHN	BAPTIZE
TESTIFY	LIGHT	BELIEVE	CONFESS	GOD

Nativity Word Scramble

- 1. STRA -----
- 2. MAGREN -----
- 3. MYAR -----
- 4. SEPHE -----
- 5. DOEYKN -----
- 6. AEGLN -----
- 7. JPHOES -----
- 8. JSSEU -----
- 9. KIGSN -----
- 10. STBALE -----

All these words come from the Christmas story. Can you unscramble them?



FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Our last class before Christmas break is Sunday, December 20th. We begin again with classes on Sunday, January 3rd, 2021 still all virtual.

Faith Formation is going very well and our students are learning a lot about our Lord. Giving our "learning curve" this year, everything is going very well. Father Matthew will be teaching a **General Assembly** once a month which will be posted on our website. This past assembly topic was "The Immaculate Conception" and we all learned many new things about our Blessed Mother.

Topics will be about a variety of subjects on our Catholic faith. If you have a topic for Father to talk about, please let us know. We will keep you all informed as they come up. So stay tuned for future assemblies! If you would like to join our assemblies live, please e-mail your name and e-mail address to us at <http://www.ollsouthwick.org> and we will be happy to add you to our zoom link e-mail blast.

PRAYER TO ST. NICHOLAS



(PRAYER FOR CHILDREN)
*O good Saint Nicholas,
 who brings joy to children,
 put in my heart the spirit of
 childhood, of which the Gospel
 speaks and teach me to sow
 happiness around me.
 O good Saint Nicholas,
 patron of children, sailors and
 the helpless, watch over those
 who pray to Jesus, your Lord
 and theirs, as well as
 over those who humble
 themselves before you.
 Bring us all in reverence to the
 Holy Child of Bethlehem,
 where true joy and peace are
 found. Amen.*



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS



We will have flowers on the altar this year, however on a much smaller scale. We will not be asking for specific dedications like we did last year. This year we are asking for general donations for flowers and a note from you with any memorials you would like to have honored. Kim will produce a list of memorials and it will be in the Christmas weekend bulletin. If you have any questions, you can call or email Kim at the office. Thank you.

KEEPING YOU SAFER

Protect yourself and others by wearing a face covering correctly.



Due to the recent upturn in Covid cases here in Southwick, it is necessary to remind all who attend Mass that protocols must be adhered to completely. This especially means wearing masks properly; meaning, they **MUST** cover your nose, mouth and chin and fit securely. Your mask must stay on the entire time you are in the church and/or Marian Hall. This is to protect yourself and your neighbor. We thank you for your understanding during these challenging times we are living in.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Thursday, December 24– 4:00 p.m. Christmas Vigil
12:00 a.m. Midnight Mass

Friday, December 25– 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day

Thursday, December 31– 4:00 p.m. (Vigil)
The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Friday, January 1– 10:00 a.m. (Holy Day of Obligation)
The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God



Please join us every week for our Rosary conference calls on Sunday, Wednesday and Friday at 6:50 p.m.

**Conference Phone to Call:
712-432-3900
Conference ID: 226058**

- ♥ 6:50PM the Conference Bridge will open for "Social Time."
- ♥ 7:00PM Most callers will be muted for preparation.
- ♥ 7:05PM the Rosary will begin lead by Fr. Matthew or someone chosen in his absence.
- ♥ At the end of the Rosary, callers will be unmuted for several moments until the Conference Bridge is closed.

Hand outs are available in the Marian Hall. Please take one on your way out!



When Is Gaudete Sunday?

Gaudete Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent. The date usually falls between December 11 to 17 each year.

Where Does the Name Come From?

The Introit for Gaudete Sunday, is taken from Philippians 4:4,5: *Gaudete in Domino semper*, or "Rejoice in the Lord always."

Priest Clothing

Like Lent, Advent is a penitential season, so the priest normally wears purple vestments. But on Gaudete Sunday, having passed the midpoint of Advent, the Church lightens the mood a little, and the priest may wear rose vestments.

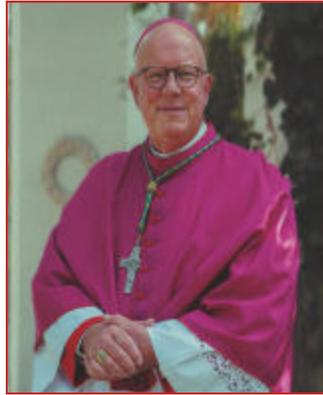
Decor

For the same reason of lightening the mood, the third candle of the Advent wreath, which is first lit on Gaudete Sunday, is traditionally rose-colored.



Special Christmas Morning edition of the Chalice of Salvation

Tune into WWLP 22News Christmas morning at the special time of **11:00 am** for a broadcast of Christmas Eve Mass from St. Michael's Cathedral. Bishop William Byrne will be the main celebrant for this festive liturgy.



CHRISTMAS IS A TIME OF GIVING

We have a few giving events happening this year.

BAG OF JOY

Pack a bag of joy for a needy child!! Benefits children within our community in need: local soup kitchen, parish families, area families and the Shriner's Hospital.

Please pick up a pamphlet in the Marian Hall for more details!

CHRISTMAS BOOK COLLECTION

Collecting NEW children's Christmas story books to give to our area children in need to enhance their love of reading...especially about Christ our Savior and the meaning of Christmas.

Please pick up a brochure in the Marian Hall for more details!

GIVING TREE

We will have the giving tree up once again in the Marian Hall with name tags for families in need and our homebound. We are asking for gift cards only this year, please. (Social Distancing a MUST!)

CARE PACKAGE PROGRAM

Once again in collaboration with the Red Riding Hood's Basket Café, collections are underway. Please take a pamphlet in the Marian Hall for more information.

If you need further information on any, please call Diana David at 569-3718 or email Kim at ollake7@aol.com. Thank you!



I receive MY GOD in Communion, do you?? He is the bread of Life!!

Please read this message from Father Matthew:

Twice now there have been consecrated hosts in the food pantry box located in Marian Hall. This is a sacrilege and a moral sin and needs to end *immediately*. If this continues to happen, Holy Communion will be distributed on the tongue ONLY or not distributed at all. If you're afraid to consume Holy Communion because you're afraid to contract disease, simply refrain from receiving and do not take the host and commit a sacrilege. Many thanks for your attention to this matter. We need to maintain the integrity of Holy Communion which is **the Body of Christ!!!**

Reservations will be needed for ALL Christmas Masses.

Please contact Kim to reserve a seat at any of the three Masses.

***Phone- 413.569.0161**

***Email- ollake7@aol.com**

Information needed: First & last name, number of guests, phone number & email (if available) and where you intend to sit in the church.

Capacity is limited (max. 50-75 depending on family size), please contact us as soon as possible.

Please be advised that the 4pm Vigil Mass will likely fill the quickest and you may be asked to attend another Mass.

The Midnight Mass will be live-streamed on our Facebook page.

Thursday, December 24- 4:00 p.m. Christmas Vigil
12:00 a.m. Midnight Mass

Friday, December 25- 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day

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