

# ST. MARY'S PARISH



## PARISH STAFF

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## CONTACT US

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**508-845-6341**  
**[www.stmarysparish.org](http://www.stmarysparish.org)**

## LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

### Mass

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 pm.  
Sunday: 7:30 a.m., 9:00 am, 11:00 am & 5:30 pm.  
Weekdays & Saturday: 8:30 am.  
Holy Days: 8:30 am., 12:00 pm. & 7:00 pm

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 3:30-4:00 pm.; anytime by appointment

### Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesday: 6:30-8:00 pm, Church

## ***Our Parish Mission***

*We, the people of St. Mary's, strive to be a community united with God, dedicated to continuing growth in knowledge and faith, giving witness to Christ through love, worship, education, and service. So that we may fulfill this mission and integrate spirituality with life, we shall reach out to all peoples within and beyond our faith community.*

# MASST INTENTIONS



DATE	TIME	INTENTION
Saturday, Dec. 18	8:30 am	†Francis Venuto, Sr. By the Lemire family
	4:30 pm	†Mary Forde-Mathieu †Vincent Forde By the family
Sunday, Dec. 19	7:30 am	†Paul O'Dell, Jr. 21 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary by Mom and Dad
	9:00 am	†Sousa and Fernandes Friends and Family By Joe and Elisa Sousa
	11:00 am	†AnnMarie Wirtenson By the family
	5:30 pm	†Cliff Jefferson 6 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary by the family
Monday, Dec. 20	8:30 am	†Sophie Graves By Martha
Tuesday, Dec. 21	8:30 am	†Adelaide Gallo By the Lemire family
Wed., Dec. 22	8:30 am	†Robert Labonte 7 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary by the family
Thursday, Dec. 23	8:30 am	†Patricia Utzschneider 1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary by the family
Friday, Dec. 24		
Saturday, Dec. 25	9:00 am	
	11:00 am	
Sunday, Dec. 26	7:30 am	
	9:00 am	†Tom Granahan By Evelyn Baroni
	11:00 am	†Leona M. Rose 7 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary by the family
	5:30	†Mary Kelley By the family

## THE WEEK AHEAD

**Sunday, December 19**  
 9:00 Children's Choir-Church  
 10:00 St. Mary's Adult Choir-Choir Loft  
 10:00 Catechesis of the Good Shepherd-Chapel  
 12:30 Baptisms-Church  
 4:00 Grade 9 CCD-Hall, LMR, GS, School, PC

**Monday, December 20**  
 9:00 Ladies Exercise-Large Meeting Room  
 6:00 Cub Scout Pack Meeting-Hall  
 6:15 Christmas Choir Rehearsal-Church


**Tuesday, December 21**  
 10:00 Book Club-Large Meeting Room  
 6:30 Eucharistic Adoration-Church

**Wednesday, December 22**  
 4:15 Children's Choir-Church

**Thursday, December 23**  
 9:00 Ladies Exercise-Large Meeting Room  
 7:00 Boy Scouts-Gathering Space  
 7:00 Catholic Men's Group-Large Meeting Room

**Friday, December 24**  
 3:00 Christmas Eve Mass  
 5:00 Christmas Eve Mass  
 7:00 Christmas Eve Mass  
 10:00 Christmas Eve Mass

**Saturday, December 25**  
 9:00 Christmas Mass  
 11:00 Christmas Mass  
**No 4:30 pm Mass**

 Repose of the soul of Fr. John F. Gee and James Ward and peace for their families; Nick to receive an accurate diagnosis and treatment; Doug to heal fully from a heart operation; the Podmores; Guy; John; Laurie; Raymond; John H.; Lola; Janice; Patrick and Liz to find optimal employment; baby Marcellus to fully heal; full recovery for Deacon Martin Finnegan after cataract surgery; special intention for a man under severe stress; baby Cora and her foster family; Beth-Ann; Tracy M.; a special intention; all immigrants to know compassion and help as they work to adapt to new living situations; and generosity toward others.

**Continued prayers for:** the Keith family; Kim; Earle; Cathy Cullen; Nick and family; two newborns with Covid; GA; Joyce B. preemie Jack; Sheron; CCK; David and D.; Evan, siblings and parents; Charlie; Ann B.; Mike's full recovery from liver and kidney surgery; Michael; preemie Eva; Ben; Georgia; Eleanor; Lynn; Lauren; Chris; two receiving cancer care; Tim C; Louise; Michael; Charlie; Gary; Irene; LP; Ed; B; Colette; MJM; Sarah; Connor; Zack; Brian; Wesley; Elizabeth; Riley; Jacob; Pat Murray; and those with no one to pray for them.

**Thanksgiving for:** Evan going home from hospital; Clare's finding an apartment; for a safe Thanksgiving holiday; safe travel for many; Joan's improved health; ARPA funds that will be directed to increase programming and staffing at Shrewsbury Youth and Family Services; health care; a generous gesture; SF's improvement following an injury; a future opportunity; all acts of kindness and prayers both answered and unanswered.

**Prayer Line:** Call or text Tracy at 508-450-0137



### Rest in Peace

Fr. John Gee, Maureen Dryden, Dr. Stanley Kocot, Victoria Manzi, Madeline Pollastro, Lionel Racicot and Eneas Couture

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



*O God of hosts, Shepherd of your people,  
you chose Mary, the humble daughter of Israel,  
to become the earthly dwelling place of your incar-  
nate Word.  
Stir up within your Church devotion to your saving  
purpose  
that with Christ we may come into the world to do your  
will  
and with Mary offer ourselves to you as an unceasing  
canticle of praise.*

**LIGHTING AND BLESSING  
OF OUTDOOR NATIVITY**



The lighting of the outdoor manger will take place following the 4:30pm Mass on Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. The blessing of the parish outdoor nativity scene and manger will take place on Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup> immediately following the 9:00 am Mass.



**EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Join us for Eucharistic Adoration during the Season of Advent on Tuesday, December 21 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm.

**SACRAMENT OF PENANCE**

Prepare yourself for Christmas with the Sacrament of Penance

Saturday, December 18 from 3:30 - 4:15 pm  
Tuesday, December 21 from 7:00 – 8:00 pm



**ST. MARY'S CHRISTMAS  
CHOIR INVITATION  
10:00 pm MASS ON  
CHRISTMAS EVE**

St. Mary's Christmas Choir, which includes the St. Mary's Adult Choir, will be providing music for the 10:00pm Christmas Eve liturgy this year. Any high school student or adult who would like to be part of the Christmas Choir is welcome to join us. There will be only ONE Rehearsal on MONDAY, DECEMBER 20 at 7:00 pm in the Church Choir Loft. Join Us



**MAKE PLANS TO JOIN US  
FOR CHRISTMAS AT  
ST. MARY'S.**



**Friday, December 24  
Christmas Eve**

3:00 pm Vigil Mass in Church  
5:00 pm Vigil Mass in Church  
7:00 pm Vigil Mass in Church  
10:00 pm Solemn Christmas Eve Mass with Adult Christmas Choir

**Saturday, December 25  
Christmas Day**

9:00 am Christmas Mass  
11:00 am Christmas Mass

**Mask Requirement for  
St. Mary's Church**



The Shrewsbury Board of Health is requiring the use of face coverings/masks in all indoor spaces including churches for all people age 5 and above except for individuals for whom it creates a health risk.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26  
FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY**



No 4:30 pm Mass on December 25 (Christmas)  
Masses on Sunday at 7:30, 9:00 & 11:00 am and 5:30 pm

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 1  
FEAST OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**



The Feast of Mary, Mother of God on January 1 is NOT a Holy Day of Obligation this year since it falls on a Saturday.  
Mass for the Feast day will be celebrated at 8:30 am on January 1

**Epiphany**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 2  
FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY**

Mass on Saturday, January 1 at 4:30 pm  
Masses on Sunday at 7:30, 9:00, 11:00 and 5:30 pm

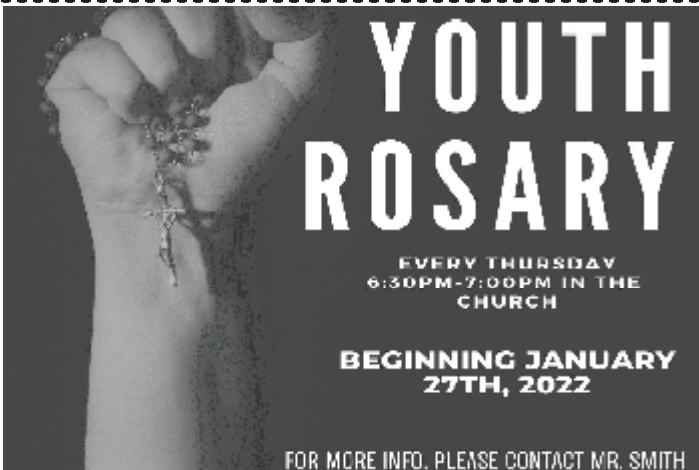




**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO MARK & JESSICA SMITH**

St. Mary's Parish extends our Congratulations and Prayers to our High School Religious Education Coordinator, MARK SMITH and his wife, JESSICA on the birth of their first born son, JOSEPH EMMAUEL SMITH who was born on December 8, 2021.

At the end of January, we'll be starting a weekly Rosary for the youth of our Parish to come to gather and pray. Beginning January 27th, every Thursday from 6:30pm-7:00pm, in the Church Nave in front of the Mary Statue. Contact Mark Smith for more information: [Mark.smith@stmarysparish.org](mailto:Mark.smith@stmarysparish.org)



**Star of Bethlehem**

Maysoon khair will be at our church in December 18&19, 2021 representing over a hundred Christian families who make their livelihood through the selling of their hand carved olive wood religious articles.



Due to the bad situation in the Holy Land and the interruption of the tourist trade that is happening with our Christian families in Bethlehem, they must seek alternative ways to earn a living.

After all masses there will be a display of these beautiful hand carved items; such as nativity scenes, crucifix, rosaries, last supper and many other beautiful religious statues.

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.

Thanks you and God Bless you

**Schedule a Tour or Shadow Day!**



As you look for options for the 2022 – 2023 school year, please consider scheduling a personal tour or shadow day while classes are in session.

Contact our Admissions Director, Cheryl Dolan at [Cheryl.Dolan@stmarysparish.org](mailto:Cheryl.Dolan@stmarysparish.org) or 508 842-1601 to schedule a tour or shadow day.

Our After-School Program is available for Kindergarten through Grade 8 students from 2:30 pm – 5:30 pm.

Saint Mary School welcomes students and families from all faiths and ethnic backgrounds.

Visit our website to learn more about Saint Mary School: <https://school.stmarysparish.org/>

**2022 CALENDARS**



New calendars for 2022 are available this weekend in the front and side vestibules of the church. We are grateful to Shannon Henry and Britton Funeral Home for making these calendars available to our parish each year.

*Parish Support*

Thank-you for your ongoing support of St. Mary's Parish

Month of November (weekly average)      \$15,497

Thank you for your on going support of St. Mary's



Greeters are needed for the 4:30 P. M and 9 A. M. Sunday Masses. If you are able to give 20 minutes a month, please consider this very important ministry .

Please contact [evelynbaroni@aol.com](mailto:evelynbaroni@aol.com)

# The Lord Has Done Great Things For Us

(Psalm 126: 1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6)

(Psalm 126)

Francesca LaRosa

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

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The English translation of the Psalm Response from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

When the LORD brought back the captives of Zion,  
we were like men dreaming.  
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with rejoicing.

Then they said among the nations,  
“The LORD has done great things for them.”  
The LORD has done great things for us;  
we are glad indeed.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD,  
like the torrents in the southern desert.  
Those who sow in tears  
shall reap rejoicing.

Although they go forth weeping,  
carrying the seed to be sown,  
They shall come back rejoicing,  
carrying their sheaves.

**Daily Advent Reflections**  
with Dr. Tim Gray

Grow closer to our Lord in the manger this Advent season with Dr. Gray as he leads you through the Mass readings every day during Advent and Christmas.

Sign up for free at [DAILY.FORMED.ORG](http://DAILY.FORMED.ORG)

## What Is the True Meaning of Christmas? with Dr. Michael Patrick Barber



Do you love Christmas traditions but don't know where they come from? Tune in for Dr. Michael Patrick Barber's Advent reflections called "The True Meaning of Christmas" and learn the meaning behind your favorite Christmas pastimes. To go deeper, be sure to get his accompanying book, *The True Meaning of Christmas*, available on CatholicMarket.

Featured on FORMED every day of Advent



An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and SYRACUSE PATRISTIC

## YEAR END GIVING

Many people enjoy using Christmas and year's end as a special time to give to their favorite Catholic institutions and also positively impact their federal and state income taxes. Christmas and year end giving provides many advantages to you

- All gifts made on or before December 31 are tax deductible for the tax year in which your gift is made.
- The knowledge that your gift is assisting a favorite Catholic institution and advancing the mission of the Catholic Church.
- A last reminder to make that special gift or increased gift that you've wanted to

**THANK-YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF  
ST. MARY'S THROUGHOUT THE YEAR**



## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

The December packet of Offertory envelopes contains one marked "Christmas Flowers". Your offerings will assist us in decorating the church for the Christmas season. Please write the names of family members on the envelope so that we may remember them at Mass.



Diocese of Worcester  
Office of the Bishop  
49 Elm Street  
Worcester, Massachusetts 01609

Christmas 2021

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Each year the celebration of Christmas resounds with the glad tidings of great joy that brought awe, wonder and peace to the shepherds at Bethlehem. Each of us has treasured family traditions that surround and support our celebration of Christ's birth - a family gathering after Mass, delivering dinners, trimming trees, displaying crèches, exchanging gifts or visiting friends.

For many months, COVID precautions have disrupted, curtailed or postponed the traditions and practices of everyday life. We long for a return to normalcy. As we edge closer to normalcy, reports of COVID variants, breakthrough infections and rising hospitalizations can give us the jitters and make us skittish.

But even as we heed prudent precautions, that skittishness and those jitters should not shake us. We should not be shaken because the essence of Christmas, the source of our joy and the cause of our awe, wonder and peace remain the same - God so loved the world that He sent His Son to take on human flesh, to become one of us so that we might become children of God and share forever in His love. Because of that, no virus, no variant, not even death itself will keep the faithful from sharing the joy of God's love both here amidst earth's uncertainties or forever in Heaven where no threat, shadow or separation will vex us.

While the essence of Christmas remains the same, its message never becomes static or grows stale. When our prayer life deepens, our sacramental life is sustained, our holiness grows and we gain an ever more profound awareness of God's closeness to us and His love for us. That realization is grace, God Himself with us, Emmanuel dwelling in our souls. That grace frees us from fear, allows us to persevere with prudence and fills us with confidence and peace to face and overcome every challenge.

In the new year may our weekly communal worship at Mass continue to inspire us with the Word of God and nourish us in the Eucharist that we may grow ever more confident in our conviction and joy that the Savior born to us at Bethlehem remains with us now and forever.

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





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