

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God." - Lk 1:35



PARISH OFFICE AND RECTORY

121 BLAINE AVE., EAST BROOKFIELD, MA 01515
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EMAIL: STJOHNSEB01515@VERIZON.NET
WEBSITE: STJOHNSEBMA.ORG
CHURCH: 131 BLAINE AVE.
E. BROOKFIELD, MA 01515

MASSSES

WEEKENDS:

SATURDAYS: 4:00 PM SUNDAYS: 10:00 AM
DAILY: MONDAYS AND TUESDAYS AT 8:30AM
AT ST. JOSEPH'S, NORTH BROOKFIELD
DAILY: THURSDAYS AND FRIDAYS AT 8:30AM
AT ST. JOHN'S, EAST BROOKFIELD
HOLY DAY MASSES: 8:30AM ST. JOSEPH'S
7:00PM ST. JOHN'S

Saint John the Baptist Parish

Church: 131 Blaine Avenue
Rectory: 121 Blaine Ave.
East Brookfield, MA 01535
Phone: 508.867.3738
Email: stjohnsebo1515@verizon.net

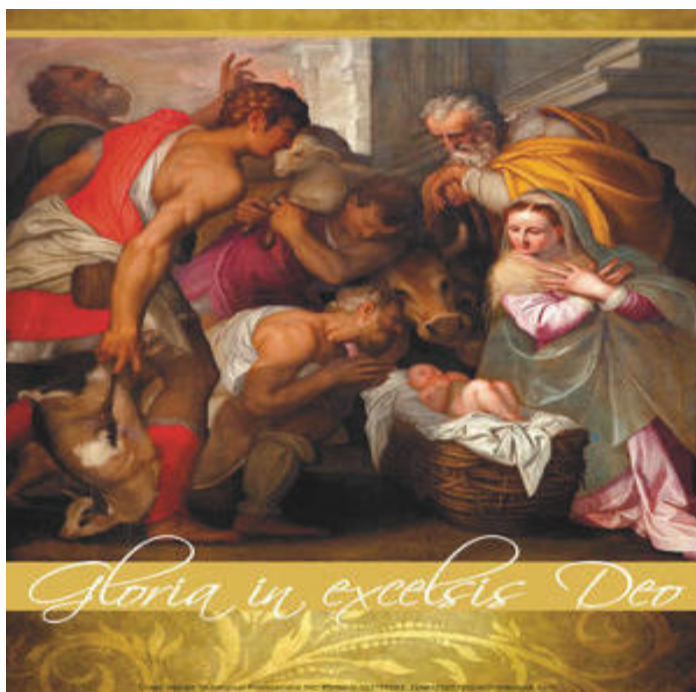
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REV. DONALD C. OUELLETTE
ASSOCIATE PASTOR

DONNA STOCKMAN,
SECRETARY

MARY GERSHMAN,
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FACILITATOR



*Christmas 2020
O come let us adore Him!
Merry Christmas !*

**Sacraments and other events****Sat., Dec. 19, 2020**4:00 pm For those who are handicapped,,
req. by the parish**Sun., Dec. 20, 2020**10:00am For Bob Dutkiewicz (21st anniv.)
req. by the parish**Mon. Dec. 21, 2020**

8:30 am Mass at St. Joseph's, N. Brookfield

Tues. Dec. 22 2020

8:30 am Mass at St. Joseph's, N. Brookfield

Wed. Dec. 23, 2020*No Wed. Masses at either St. John's or St. Joseph's.**Masses in the nearby parishes:*8:00 am Mass, *Mary, Queen of the Rosary in Spencer*8:00 am Mass, *Our Lady of the Sacred Heart,*
*W. Brookfield***Thurs., Dec. 24, 2020 Christmas Eve**8:30 am For the deceased members
of the Charland family**Fri., Dec. 25, 2020 Christmas Day**8:30 am For the deceased members
of the Ouellette family**Sat., Dec. 26, 2020**4:00 pm Robert (Bob) Heim, (month mind)
req. by the parish**Sun., Dec. 27, 2020**10:00am For Francis Carter (2nd anniv.)
by his wife Louise and family**The Journey**

Advent comes along every year and will continue to do so until Jesus returns. As this season draws to a close, we can each ask ourselves, "Am I now any better a disciple of Jesus Christ and more of a steward of all my gifts than before the Advent season started?" I have been on this earth for 40+ years. I have had 40+ Advents to draw closer to God and to work on taking more seriously my baptismal call. Some have gone better than others, but I would like to think my spiritual life progressed at least a small amount during each of them.

Conversion is a process. Stewardship is about a way of living and it is about more than simply being generous when a situation calls for it. Stewardship and conversion go hand-in-hand and we are always moving closer to holiness in Jesus Christ. Living in this way takes practice and commitment. If this Advent didn't go as you had hoped, remember is not really an end. It is just another step along your journey.

This Christmas, while you are giving and receiving gifts and hopefully spending time with those you love, may you take the time to cherish the true gift that came to us over 2000 years ago and continues to call us to this day: Jesus. Let us be grateful beyond measure for this gift above all gifts, let us continue on our journey, and let our lives give testimony to the one who leads us. — Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
©LPi

Readings for the week of December 20, 2020

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38
Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd]/Lk 1:46-56
Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66
Thursday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79
Friday: Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1- 18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14
Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22
Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3 Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1] or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [7a, 8a]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

**Christmas and New Year's
Mass Schedule 2020-2021**

Thurs. Dec. 24th	4:00 PM	Christmas Eve Mass	St. Joseph's Church
Thurs. Dec. 24th	4:00 PM	Christmas Eve Mass	St. John's Church
Fri. Dec. 25th	8:30 AM	Christmas Mass	St. Joseph's Church
Fri. Dec. 25th	10:00 AM	Christmas Mass	St. John's Church
Thurs. Dec. 31st	4:00 PM	New Year's Eve Mass	St. Joseph's Church
Thurs. Dec. 31st	4:00 PM	New Year's Eve Mass	St. John's Church
Fri. Jan 1st	8:30 AM	New Year's Mass	St. Joseph's Church
Fri. Jan 1st	10:00 AM	New Year's Mass	St. John's Church

Please remember to contact the parish rectory to reserve a seat for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. The cover of this bulletin has the contact information needed to reserve a seat.



Religious Education Upcoming Classes	
Dec 20th	Grades 9/10 @ 9am and grade 2 @ 11am
Dec. 27th	no classes- Christmas vacation
January 3rd	no classes- Christmas vacation
Jan 10th	Grades 9/10 @ 9am and grade 2 @ 11am
Jan 17th	Grade 7 @ 9am
Jan 24th	Grades 9/10 @ 9am and grade 2 @ 11am

*Christmas Flower Envelopes
as of 12.6.20*

Nancy Flory



William Letendre Sr.

Miriam DiMarzio

Deceased Family Members

Dupuis family members

St Cyr family & friends

Christmas Giving Tree 2020



We would like to modify this year's Giving Tree appeal. The recipients would be our Food Pantry and the Toys for Joy project organized by the East Brookfield Fire Dept. We would simply ask for donations to these causes. If you would like to donate, please do so by putting your donation envelope in the weekend collection or mailing it to the parish office. Thank you again for your continued generosity.



Scratch Ticket Raffle

We are having a new fundraiser for January, a Scratch Ticket Raffle. The Grand Prize will be a book of 50 \$30.00 scratch tickets. The 2nd prize is \$200, and the 3rd prize is \$100. You should have received a mailing from us already. If you would like more tickets, please call the parish office. Given the current season, remember that this would make a great Christmas present.

The deadline for the ticket returns is Friday, Jan. 29th. The drawing will take place on Sunday, January 31st.

Gov. Baker's Directives Regarding Churches

The rates of COVID-19 infections have increased since Thanksgiving. On Dec. 8th, Governor Baker announced a statewide rollback to Phase Three, Step One [effective Dec. 13th] and has reduced the indoor gathering limit from 50% to 40% of building capacity. This reduction will, however, have little practical impact on our churches, [including our parishes of St. John's and St. Joseph's]. Few, if any parishes in our Diocese, have been able to reach 40% capacity when observing the requisite social distancing.

We will maintain our limits of parishioners who can attend each Christmas and New Year's Masses to 66 people at St. John's and 80 at St. Joseph's.



Gift Card Scam Alert Please Be Aware

Don't fall for the gift card scam! Sadly, the holidays are an opportunity for scams. At least two parishes in our Diocese have experienced a scam email claiming that they needed gift cards.

This is a reminder to parishioners to disregard these emails. The parish would only use normal and ordinary means to communicate any requests, particularly those involving donations. If an email request looks odd, hit DELETE!

Parish Support

The report for the weekend of Dec. 12-13 will be in the next bulletin.





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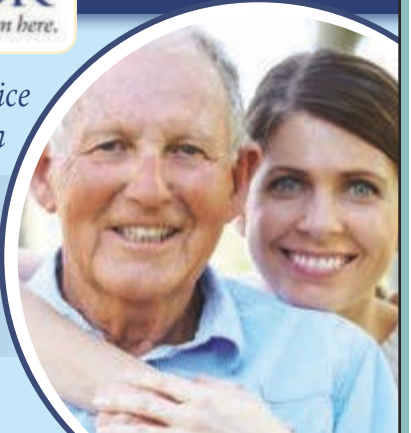


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