



St. Denis

157 Washington Street • Westwood, MA
781-326-5858 • www.stdeniswestwood.com



St. Margaret Mary

845 High Street • Westwood, MA
781-326-1071 • www.saintmmparish.org

December 5, 2021



2nd SUNDAY of Advent

A voice of one crying out in the desert:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths." - Lk 3:4

Weekend Mass Schedule

St. Denis: Saturday, 4:30 PM • Sunday, 8 AM and 10:30 AM

St. Margaret Mary: Saturday, 4:30 PM • Sunday, 10 AM and 5 PM (outside, weather permitting)

Daily Mass Schedule

St. Denis: Monday – Wednesday at 9 AM

St. Margaret Mary: Monday – Friday at 7:30 AM

Confessions

St. Denis: Saturdays at 3:45–4:15 PM

St. Margaret Mary: Wednesdays at 7–8 PM



From the Desk of Father Bob

In last week's bulletin I made mention of the cycle of readings the Church uses in the Lectionary. The cycle changes each Advent. Last Sunday we began year "C" of the cycle which focuses on the **Gospel of St. Luke**. I thought it would be helpful to give a bit of background about this Gospel which will be used at the Sunday Masses this new Church year, with exceptions during Lent and Easter seasons.

Saint Luke is mentioned a few times in the Acts of the Apostles. He hails from the ancient Greek city of Antioch and is believed to have been a physician. His connection to the Lord Jesus would have been St. Paul. Luke was a disciple of Paul and so what he writes about Jesus is what he would have learned from Paul and the other Apostles. Given that Luke was not a witness of Christ's life, death or Resurrection underscores the necessity of Sacred Tradition in the life of the Church. **Sacred Tradition** is the handing-on of Divine Revelation from one generation to the next guided by the Holy Spirit. Just as we hold that the Holy Spirit inspired the authors of each of the books of the Bible to write, so we believe that the same Spirit guides the transmission of truth through oral means. Think about it for a moment: what you first learned about God, Jesus, prayer, sacraments, etc. was not through reading Sacred Scripture. You likely learned of these things through your parents or other family members who began teaching you before you could read. What you received you then handed on, all under the prompting of the Holy Spirit. This is not to say you got all the details correct, but when you consider the universality of the process, what we received is "of God". The same would have been true for St. Luke, except that he would have learned of such things as an adult. He was inspired by the Holy Spirit to put into writing what he had learned.

Luke wrote both the Gospel which bears his name as well as the Acts of the Apostles. Together these two books account for more than 25% of the New Testament. His writings give an account of not only Jesus, but also of the early Christians following the Resurrection. He is thought to have written the Gospel sometime around the year 80, though there is evidence that early Christians added to it up until the second century. Given the style of writing, scholars believe that Luke was writing for an audience made up of mostly gentiles, that is non-Jews. You will notice that Luke gives much attention to women and their role in the life of Jesus and the early Church. Also, Luke emphasizes Jesus' outreach to the poor and marginalized.

In Church art, Luke is often depicted as an ox. Aside from its strength and thus usefulness in an agricultural society, the ox is also an animal acceptable for sacrifice. Because Luke emphasizes that Jesus is God's perfect sacrifice, he is often shown as an ox.

This past week I buried a dear friend and very special priest, **Msgr. John McDonough**. Fr. John was my pastor when I was a newly ordained priest and assigned to St. John the Baptist Parish in Peabody. We were together there for five years and have been close friends ever since. He spent 29 years of his priesthood as a chaplain in the Air Force and finished his military career as Chief of Chaplains at the Pentagon, holding the rank of Brigadier General. He would often say that I "broke him in" to parish life when he returned from the military. He was the best of teachers and gently, but firmly, guided me in the initial years of priesthood. I feel profoundly blessed for having been assigned with him. Though I felt a calling to the priesthood from my teenage years, Fr. John made me passionate about being a priest. He was 93 at the time of his death and up until the end of this summer was in excellent health and sharp as ever. We spent so much time together over the years, having long discourses about theology, pastoral issues in the Church and world politics. I would have loved for all you, my parish family, to have had the chance to meet him. I will miss him greatly but am so thankful to Almighty God for knowing him and having shared priesthood with him.



St. Denis Christmas Pageant

St. Denis' annual Christmas Pageant is back this year! Join us on December 19th at the 10:30 AM Mass as our children present the story of the birth of Jesus. There will be a celebration afterwards with coffee and snacks as we get ready for Christmas.

November 28 ~ First Sunday of Advent

“Prepare the way of the Lord.” This is what the Church calls us to focus on in these opening weeks of Advent. How might we prepare for the coming of Christ now and at the hour of our death? St. Paul offers some ideas for what we need to do. He prays that our love will increase in knowledge and perception, that we will discern what is of value, and that we will live pure and blameless lives. St. Paul encourages us with the reminder that God has already begun this good work in us and will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus. In this coming week, ask for the grace to keep the focus on Christ. Remember, that even in the midst of all that seeks to distract, God is with you.



Upcoming Dates for the Christmas Season

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Friday, December 24

2 PM, St. Margaret Mary (This Mass will be outside)
3 PM, St. Denis
4:30 PM, St. Margaret Mary
5 PM, St. Denis

Saturday, December 25

8 AM, St. Denis
10 AM, St. Margaret Mary
10:30 AM, St. Denis

Solemnity of Mary (New Year's)

Friday, December 31

4:30 PM, St. Margaret Mary

Saturday, January 1

9 AM, St. Denis

** Please note there will be no 4:30 PM Vigil Masses on December 25th. Masses for December 26th will follow the normal Sunday schedule.*



St. Margaret Mary Giving Tree for the Mission Grammar School

It is time to think about the Giving Tree. Please pick an ornament or two. Gifts can be placed back under the tree, wrapped and with the tag, by Sunday, December 12th. Thank you for your generosity, as always! - *The Social Justice Committee*

St. Denis Giving Tree for Haitian Families

This year's Giving Tree will benefit the Haitian families who are currently arriving in Massachusetts. We are collecting NEW winter jackets, hats & gloves and gift cards to Target, CVS and Stop & Shop. Please take a tag from the tree at the front of the church and return your items, unwrapped to the boxes by the tree. All items are needed by December 19th. If you have any questions, please contact the parish office. Thank you for your support!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mass Links

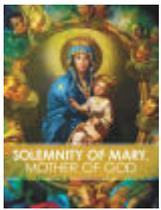
St. Margaret Mary's Saturday 4:30 PM and Sunday 10 AM, as well as the daily Masses are livestreamed on the website at www.saintmmparish.org/livestreaming. The 5 PM outdoor Mass on Sundays is livestreamed on www.facebook.com/saintmmparish.org.

To watch the Sunday, 10:30 AM Mass at St. Denis please use this link:

<https://vimeo.com/event/693318/5fd168d1dc>

Adoration and Reconciliation December 16 at St. Denis

There will be adoration & reconciliation from 7-8 PM at St. Denis. The Blessed Sacrament will be solemnly exposed on our altar. There will also be the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Wednesday, December 8

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception references Mary's conception in her mother's womb without the stain of Original Sin. Masses will be on Wednesday December 8th at:

7:30 AM, St. Margaret Mary

9 AM, St. Denis

7 PM, St. Margaret Mary

Christmas Flowers and Lights

As we prepare for Christmas, we will be accepting donations to make the Christmas season even more special with flowers and lights. You can mail a check in with the names of those you wish to remember or honor. You can also donate directly through Weshare (see the parish websites to do so). If you donate online please send your intentions to Cindy at c.carlo@saintmmparish.org. All memorial names will be included in a special handout at the Christmas Masses at both St. Denis and St. Margaret Mary.

In Loving Memory

Please pray for all the deceased of our parishes, including Peter Cavanaugh, John Mazarella, Delta Francioso, Lauren Hurley and Bertha Keating who were recently born into eternal life, as well as all of our sick and those who have asked for our prayers.



St. Denis

Sat, Dec. 4	4:30 PM	Teresa Feeley
Sun, Dec. 5	8 AM	Pro Populo
Sun, Dec. 5	10:30 AM	Domenic & Marion Sesito
Mon, Dec. 6	9 AM	
Tue, Dec. 7	9 AM	Irene Martin (1st Ann)
Wed, Dec. 8	9 AM	Immaculate Conception

St. Margaret Mary

Sat, Dec. 4	4:30 PM	Charles Aries
Sun, Dec. 5	10 AM	Pro Populo
Sun, Dec. 5	5 PM	
Mon, Dec. 6	7:30 AM	Mary Burgess
Tue, Dec. 7	7:30 AM	Brenda Smith
Wed, Dec. 8	7:30 AM & 7 PM	Immaculate Conception
Thu, Dec. 9	7:30 AM	Peter Carlin
Fri, Dec. 10	7:30 AM	

St. Denis Lector Schedule

Next Weekend's Schedule

Sat, Dec. 11	4:30 PM	Matt Abraham
Sun, Dec. 12	8 AM	Pat Gover
Sun, Dec. 12	10:30 AM	John Loughnane

Sacramental Giving

Collections: November 21 and 28, 2021

SAINT DENIS	
Weekly Collection.....	\$4,717
SAINT MARGARET MARY	
Weekly Collection.....	\$10,324

Events

Tuesday — Rosary at 8:10 PM at St. Margaret Mary after religious education classes.

Wednesday — Adoration & Reconciliation from 3-8 PM at St. Margaret Mary. The Blessed Sacrament will be solemnly exposed on our altar. There will also be the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation from 7-8 PM.

Friday — Adoration from Noon-3:00 PM. Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3 PM at St. Margaret Mary.

Saturday — There will be no Rosary on Saturday, December 4th.



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