



First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2020



Parish Staff

Father Joseph Upton, *Pastor*
Deacon John Pryor, *Deacon Assistant*
Christine Daneault, *Bookkeeper*
Philip Beaulieu, *Cemeteries Manager*
Carolyn Mello Pryor, *Faith Formation*
Victoria Costa, *Music Minister*
Rob Whitaker, *Facilities & Grounds*

Contact

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Parish Office

645 Main Street
Warren, RI 02885
Mondays-Thursdays 9am-12nn

New Members

If you are new to our parish, please take a moment to register through our parish website or by phone. Welcome!

Mass Schedule

Monday through Friday at 8am
Saturday at 4pm
Sunday at 8am & 10:30am
Sabbath@SunDown Sunday evening
Mass at 6pm

Confessions

Confessions are heard in the Reconciliation Chapel at the rear of the church on Saturdays at 3pm or anytime by appointment. Please note that masks are required, and surfaces are sanitized after each use.

Baptisms

Baptisms are typically celebrated at one Sunday Mass per month. Please contact Deacon John Pryor at 401.245.7000, extension 14, for more information.

Weddings

Please call the parish office to discuss wedding preparations at least one year in advance of the intended date.

SMB Mountain Movers

Milly Grieve, *Coordinator of Children's Ministries*
Email: millygrieve@yahoo.com

SMB Food Pantry

The Food Pantry operates out of the lower church hall and is open on Tuesdays from 3pm to 5pm and on Wednesdays from 9am to 11am.
Wendy Baker, *Director*
Phone: 401.245.7000, ext. 19
Email: smbfoodpantry@gmail.com

Parish Outreach

Parishioners and members of the local community in need should contact the rectory for assistance.
Phone: 401.245.7000, ext. 13

St. Gabriel's Call

St. Gabriel's Call provides emotional and practical support to families in need, including diapers, baby clothing and much more.
Barbara Fisher, *Coordinator*
Phone: 401.245.7000, ext. 20

Welcome to Saint Mary of the Bay

No matter what your present status is in the Catholic Church, no matter your current family or marital status, no matter your personal history, age, income, background, gender, race, ethnicity or spirituality, no matter your own self-image of holiness or virtue, you are welcome here! You are invited, accepted and respected at Saint Mary of the Bay. We hope to share our Roman Catholic way of faith and life in Christ with you!

Mass Intentions

First Sunday of Advent

Saturday, November 28

4pm: Richard Francis

Requested by Barbara & Hugh Perron

Sunday, November 29

8am: For all parishioners

10:30am: Kathryn Laforge

Requested by her family

6pm: Wayne Johnson, 1st anniversary

Requested by Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Fortin & Family

Wednesday, December 2

8am: John Lavey, anniversary remembrance

Requested by his family

Thursday, December 3

8am: Joseph Souza

Requested by his family

Second Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 5

4pm: The deceased members of the Massed Family

Requested by the family

Sunday, December 6

8am: Adrian Machado

Requested by his family

10:30am: Daniel and Marie Rogers & Alfred and Margaret Delfino

Requested by the family

6pm: Leonel Ferreira

Requested by his wife, Laura

Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary Lamp burned the week of November 22 for the intentions of **Rosanne**, at the request of her parents, **Bob & Lucille Stringer**.

The Sanctuary Lamp this coming week burns in memory of **Robert Proulx** as a 90th birthday remembrance, at the request of his family.

If you would like to request that the sanctuary lamp burn in honor of a deceased loved one or for a special intention, please call the parish office.

Padre's Ponderings

Dear Parishioners,

In light of the ongoing rise in COVID-19 cases in Rhode Island, a situation which we are all monitoring very closely, I'd like to point out that St. Mary of the Bay has every intention of remaining in business. **The new restrictions do not impact our parish, as we can still safely welcome up to 125 people to each service.** While we are in the midst of a necessary statewide "pause" to help curb the spread of the virus, the worship of God cannot be paused! It is an essential activity! While some *cannot* be with us in person and *should not* be, our church remains a safe place for those in good health. One cannot eat a virtual meal or take a virtual bath, and similarly, one cannot celebrate a virtual sacrament. The Celebration of the Eucharist is an embodied, living event; it cannot be reproduced virtually. Hopefully watching online Masses will help those who cannot be with us in person to pray or to feel more connected with God or with the universal Church, but the truth is that there is no substitute for being present together each week. **So I encourage you to keep coming to church. We have been averaging around 75 or 80 people per Mass, so there is room to join us!**

I am very pleased to share that an anonymous donor has agreed to fund **the installation of a permanently-mounted projector and a brand new screen** for our worship space. As we will not have hymnbooks for the foreseeable future (and as the ones we had been using are expired as of this weekend), we hope that in the very near future, we will be able to use the screen to project hymn texts, prayers and other information throughout the liturgy. Please be patient with the process, though, as this will be a new experience for all of us. **And please offer a prayer of gratitude for the generosity of the parishioner who has made this possible.**

You will notice a few different things about our worship space this week, as we've entered the season of Advent. To begin with, the Advent wreath will encircle an icon of **"Our Lady of the Sign,"** an image of the pregnant Virgin Mary with Jesus in her womb. This image likely originated in Russia during the 11th or 12th century. The pregnant Virgin is a perfect image to focus our praying and reflecting during this holy season. Mary is the one who teaches us how best to wait for the coming of Christ. If we enter into solidarity with her this season, we will surely experience much grace from the coming of Christ this Christmas. You will also notice the **violet altar cloth**, which was recently purchased along with some other badly needed linens. **If you are interested in memorializing any of these items in memory of a deceased loved one, please call the parish office this week.**



Lastly, keep the following dates in mind. Tuesday, December 8 is traditionally a Holy Day of Obligation, although no obligation obtains this year due to COVID-19. **Masses will still be celebrated at 8am, 12:05pm and 7pm.** On Tuesday, December 15, we will host an **Advent Praise and Worship Night**, with Eucharistic Adoration and the opportunity for individual confession with me or a visiting priest. Mark your calendars now for what I'm sure will be a peaceful and uplifting night of prayer and reflection.

Until next week,

Fr. Joe



Congratulations!



Congratulations to **Gabrielle**, daughter of Robert and Gina (pictured first), and **Ryann**, daughter of Joseph and Jennifer (pictured second), who were baptized in separate ceremonies at Saint Mary of the Bay a few weeks ago. Please keep them and their families in your prayers. May they walk always as children of the light!



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2020
Masses will be celebrated in St. Mary of the Bay
at 8am, 12:05pm and 7pm



SMB Food Pantry

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

SMB Food Pantry Proudly Presents:

JEANNE LEFFERS

WHAT'S YOUR ROLE AT THE PANTRY?

Jeanne is one of our All Stars! She is here every week unloading our delivery truck, with a happy-to-help attitude! She has served the pantry in many ways over the years, setting up, working the counter, storing boxes, and always with a smile on her face! When the pandemic hit, she not only helped pre-pack the bags of groceries which could be safely given to our pantry guests, but also distributed them during our open hours.



HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WITH THE PANTRY?

Jeanne has been with the pantry for about 4 1/2 years. She and her husband, Jim started by helping to unload the RI Community Food Bank truck.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PART OF BEING ON THIS TEAM?

"I enjoy the people who staff the pantry and the clients we are able to serve. One thing that attracted Jim and me to St. Mary of the Bay was the options of various social ministries."

Our grateful thanks to the parishioners of St. Mary of the Bay for their generous support in helping us fill our Thanksgiving bags. We had 260 bags ready to hand out last Saturday, with more in reserve as needed. Due to COVID restrictions, we were not able to hold our usual extravaganza in the parish hall, but had to create a safer (but less festive) scenario. More on this next week.

We have started collecting for our Christmas bags, and could use side dishes (such as pasta and sauce, or rice sides) and dessert mixes. Christmas bags will be given out on Saturday, December 19th.

-Wendy Baker



Parish Offertory

Weekend of November 14 & 15, 2020

Budget Envelopes: **\$2,854.00** Loose: **\$728.00**
Online: **\$1,647.00**
(Average Online Gift: \$43.34 Number of Users: 38)
Total: \$5,229.00

Weekend of November 21 & 22, 2020

Budget Envelopes: **\$4,575.00** Loose: **\$870.00**
Online: **\$2,282.00**
(Average Online Gift: \$57.05 Number of Users: 40)
Total: \$6,832.00

Campaign for Human Development: \$497.00

Thank you for your generosity!



SMB VIRTUAL GIVING TREE

The **SMB Giving Tree** this year is going virtual! Just visit the link below to participate. Please help us make Christmas extra special this year for families in our local community who are struggling. Visit this link to sign up for any (and as many as you choose) of the needed items!

All gifts should be brought unwrapped to the SMB church vestibule by Sunday, December 13. And thank you in advance for your generosity!

<https://signup.com/go/SErbDjp>

Advent Praise & Worship

Mark your calendars now! On Tuesday, December 15, at 7pm, Saint Mary of the Bay will host a special Advent Praise and Worship Night. There will be Eucharistic Adoration; Victoria will lead us in contemporary praise and worship music; both Fr. Joe and a visiting priest will be available for the Sacrament of Confession; and Deacon John will conclude the evening with Benediction. Please take some time to prepare your hearts and minds for the coming of Christ at Christmas! And help us spread the word! All are welcome!



Ask the Deacon

Deacon John, what resources do you recommend to understand the Bible better?

Reading and praying the Bible can seemingly raise more questions than answers. The nature of the language, the different genres, the historical context, the deep theological meanings, and a variety of other issues can lead a person to question what it all means to them today. There are a multitude of reliable resources to guide us and help us in our understanding mentally and spiritually.

So, what resources should one use? I humbly share with you a few of the resources that I have used in my biblical study and prayer. I pray that the resources offered here will be helpful to you.

Study Bibles: A great place to start is with the Bible itself, particularly what are known as study bibles. Here are a few to consider:

- The Catholic Study Bible (NAB), published by Oxford University Press
- The Jewish Study Bible (TANACK Translation), published by Oxford University Press
- The Ignatius Catholic Study Bible New Testament, published by Ignatius Press
- The Great Adventure Holy Bible (RSV), published by Ascension Press, which contains a bible timeline dividing salvation history into twelve time periods, which has been helpful to me in my study and prayer. Just recently, I received an email to sign up for "The Bible in a Year," which is a podcast by Fr. Michael Schmitz that will begin January 1, 2021, that will use The Great Adventure Holy Bible timeline so that the entire Bible is covered in one year. Check it out on Ascensionpress.com.

Faith Charts: Our Sunday Visitor has published a glossy tri-fold entitled "The Bible At a Glance," by Dr. Scott Hahn. This is an excellent tool that provides a high level view of the Bible in an easy to read and understand document.

Website: The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website has a section devoted to the Bible at <https://www.usccb.org>. The site has resources on understanding the Bible, the books of the Bible, the Bible in Liturgy, and study materials.

Books/Commentaries: Some other resources that I have used include the following:

- *Understanding the Bible*, by George T. Montague, S.M.
- *Interpreting the New Testament*, by Daniel J. Harrington, S.J.
- *An Introduction To The Gospels*, by Mitchell G. Reddish
- New Collegeville Bible Commentaries, which contain separate commentaries on individual books in the Bible.
- *The Navarre Bible*, with its extensive commentary.
- Also, look for commentaries by Raymond E. Brown, S.S. and/or Joseph A. Fitzmeyer, S.J. They are two of the authors of The New Jerome Biblical Commentary, for those of you who are looking for a comprehensive resource.

So, no excuses! Pick a resource and go for it. Remember, God made you to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him forever in heaven.

Send your questions to Deacon John by email at deaconjohnpryor@gmail.com!

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