

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GRAFTON HILL PARISHES

DECEMBER 16, 2018

ALL ARE WELCOME IN THE NAME OF CHRIST



HOLY FAMILY PARISH AT SAINT JOSEPH CHURCH

20 Hamilton St Worcester, MA
508.754.6722

ndsj@holyfamilyparishworchester.org
www.holyfamilyparishworchester.org

SUNDAY MASSES

9:30 am (English)
11:00 am (Brazilian Portuguese)
1:00pm (French)
7:00 pm (Brazilian Portuguese)



SAINT STEPHEN PARISH

20 Hamilton St Worcester, MA
508.755.3165

ststephenchurch2@verizon.net
www.ststephenworchester.org

SUNDAY MASSES

7:30 & 11:00 am (English)
6:00 PM (Spanish)
Saturday Vigil Mass:
4:00 PM (English)



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MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY

December 15

8:30 am (St. Stephen) + Shirley O'Brien, Months Mind Mass, Req by Jim & Theresa O'Brien

Vigil of The Third Sunday of Advent

4:00 pm (St. Stephen) + Dorius Brodeur & Lorraine Kosiba Family, Req by Rita

SUNDAY

December 16 - Third Sunday of Advent

7:30 am (St. Stephen) + Jane Gouin & Agnes Lizotte, Req by Karen & David Gouin

9:30 am (St. Joseph) + Armand Bouley, Req by the Family

11:00 am (St. Joseph)

11:00 am (St. Stephen) + Christina Mann, Req by Linda Jackson

1:00 pm (St. Joseph) + Pamela & Jacques Daniel, Req by Margarett

6:00 pm (St. Stephen) Spanish

7:00 pm (St. Joseph) Brazilian

MONDAY – December 17

8:30 am (St. Stephen) + All Souls in purgatory, Req by Margarett

TUESDAY – December 18

8:30 am (St. Joseph) + Ray Vezina Req by Deb Peris

WEDNESDAY – December 19

8:30 am (St. Stephen) + For the People of St. Stephen Parish

THURSDAY – December 20

8:30 am (St. Joseph) + Shirley O'Brien Req by the Parish

7:00 pm (St. Stephen) Spanish

FRIDAY – December 21

8:30 am (St. Stephen) +

SATURDAY

December 22

8:30 am (St. Stephen) +

Vigil of The Fourth Sunday of Advent

4:00 pm (St. Stephen) + Judith & Raymond Mattress Jr, Req by the Family + John Lewandowski, Req by the Family

SUNDAY

December 23 - The Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:30 am (St. Stephen) + Theresa Roy, Req by the Family

9:30 am (St. Joseph) + For the People of Holy Family Parish

11:00 am (St. Joseph) Brazilian

11:00 am (St. Stephen) + Don Sr., Don Jr., Michael & Tommy Vigliatura, Req by the Family

1:00 pm (St. Joseph) +

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4:00 PM & 11:00 AM

Entrance Hymn:

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” #50

Readings & Psalms
page 25

Hymn at the Preparation of the Gifts:

“Christ, Circle Round Us” #37

Communion Hymn:

“My Soul Rejoices” #819

Recessional Hymn

“The Advent of Our King” #39

9:30 AM MASS

Entrance Hymn:

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” #274

Readings & Psalm #866

Hymn at the Preparation of the Gifts:

“When the King Shall Come Again” #281

Communion Hymn:

“My Soul Rejoices” #120

Recessional Hymn

“O Come, Divine Messiah” #279

TODAY IS GAUDETE SUNDAY

The **Third Sunday of Advent** is called “**Gaudete Sunday**.” The word *Gaudete* is a Latin word meaning “to rejoice.”

During Advent, we not only prepare to celebrate the first coming of Christ through his humble birth in Bethlehem, we reflect upon his Second Coming as well. Often, Christ’s Second Coming, at the end of time, is described in frightening terms, as if it were to be dreaded. But for Christians who persevere in faith and love, there is nothing to fear or dread. Christ’s Second coming at the will be the final victory of good over evil.

The earliest Christians would often say, *Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!* The phrase expressed their hope-filled faith that Christ would meet them at the end of time but that he was already meeting them in the Eucharist and in the people they encountered in their daily lives. Advent is an opportunity to pray and reflect upon *all the ways* that Christ comes to us: As the long awaited Savior, born in Bethlehem; as Judge and King at the end of the ages; as the Shepherd of Souls, through the Sacraments, here and now.

On this Sunday, the rose colored candle is lit on the Advent Wreath. The Mass vestments are either rose or violet. While violet is the color of the Advent Season, rose is a softening of violet. On the color spectrum, rose is violet *approaching* white. Hence the color rose anticipates the white color of the Christmas liturgy. Thus, even while we wait, we are given a foretaste of the joy to come. We wait in joy to celebrate Christ’s birth. We wait in joy for his Second Coming, at the end of time.

The colors of the Advent liturgy remind us that the spiritual life of a Christian is one of joyful anticipation. To be Christian is to allow oneself to be “colored” by hope. How are you “coloring” the events of your life with hope?

OUR LITURGICAL SCHEDULE FOR THE CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS 2018

United with Christians throughout the world, we will gather to celebrate the Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ on December 24th and 25th. Our schedule of English-language Christmas Masses as follows:

Monday, December 24, Christmas Eve:**4:00 pm at Saint Stephen’s Church****6:00 pm at Saint Joseph’s Church****10:30 pm Choral Prelude at Saint Joseph Church****11:00 pm at Saint Joseph Church****Tuesday, December 25, Christmas Day: 9:30 am at Saint Stephen’s Church****PARISH OFFICES FOR SAINT STEPHEN & HOLY FAMILY PARISHES**

The parish offices for both Saint Stephen and Holy Family Parishes are located at 20 Hamilton Street in the building that formerly housed the Thrift Store. Theresa O’Brien is the office administrator for both St. Stephen’s and Holy Family Parishes. She may be reached using the parish phone numbers: **508.755.3165 for Saint Stephen’s and 508.754.6722 for Holy Family Parish.** Parish emails and websites all remain the same. **The office hours are generally 10:00 am- 4:00 pm, Monday-Thursday.** The offices are closed on civic holidays.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS FOR OUR CHURCH

Every year we strive to beautifully decorate our church for the Christmas Season. The flowers donated adorn the sanctuary throughout the Christmas Season which begins December 24 and continues through New Year’s, the Solemnity of the Epiphany and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on Jan 13. Donating Christmas flowers to adorn the altar area in honor of a loved one is a wonderful way of honoring the memory of those who have been part of the fabric of our lives through the years as well as enhancing the worship of our parishes.

If you would still like to make a donation toward Christmas flowers in memory of a loved one, simply mark an envelope : **CHRISTMAS FLOWERS. IN MEMORY OF (name)...DONATED BY...(name).** The envelope may be dropped in the collection basket or mailed to the rectory office: 20 Hamilton Street, Worcester, MA 01609

2019 PARISH CALENDARS NOW AVAILABLE

The 2019 Parish Calendars for both St. Stephen’s and Holy Family Parishes are now available at **the entrances to both churches.** The calendars note both holydays and saint’s days in our liturgical calendar. The 2019 calendars are free. Please take what you need.

Spiritual Wisdom for the Week:

“The joy we feel has little to do with the circumstances of our lives and everything to do with the focus of our lives”
R. Nelson

PARISH CONTACTS

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PRAYER INTENTIONS

In the charity of your prayers, please join in praying for Pope's Francis' special intention for the month of December 2018: That those entrusted with passing on the faith as teachers and catechists may do so in a way that speaks to our time and to contemporary cultures.

In the charity of your prayers, you are kindly asked to remember the sick, especially: **Annette Chauvin, Christine Caron, Lisa Vancelette, Jules Andre Alcide, Cyrus Hiatt, Doris Kennedy, Denise Thibeault, Rev. George J Ridick, Rev. Robert Brusio, Carey Santiago, David Peloquin, Bruce Vidito, Tom Marshall, Roger Fortin, Paul & Suzanne White, John Bouckaert, James Reilly.**

Pray for the repose of the soul: Worcester Firefighter Christopher Roy, Jo-An Mszanski.

Weekly Meetings/Gatherings

Rosary: Before weekday Masses

AA Meetings: Monday @ 7:00 PM; Thursday @ 7:00 PM and Saturday @ 9:00 & 10:00 AM all at St. Stephen's Church Hall.

Wednesday @ 7:00 PM (Woman Only 12 Step Meeting) @ St. Stephen's Church Hall. For more info call 774-253-3995 Sharon.

Charismatic Prayer Meeting (French) Wednesday @ 7:00 PM Msgr. Ducharme Center. **Baptismal** Preparation for parents and Godparents: Please call the rectory.

PARISH FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

The offertory collection for the weekend of

St Stephen Parish: 12/9/18 \$4,225.47

Holy Family Parish: 12/9/18 \$5,715.10

Thank you for your generosity to our parishes. It is through your goodness that we are able to accomplish all that we do. May God bless you for all that you do to support our work and ministries at Saint Stephen and Holy Family Parishes.

Giving Tree

All purchased items should be placed in bags and returned to St. Stephen's Church on or before Dec. 16th. Please attach the Giving Tree tag to the bag. All gifts will be donated to St. Joan of Arc Parish Outreach and to Pernet Family Health Center. Volunteers will be needed on Sunday Dec 16, from 12:15 to 2:00 pm for sorting & bagging.

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