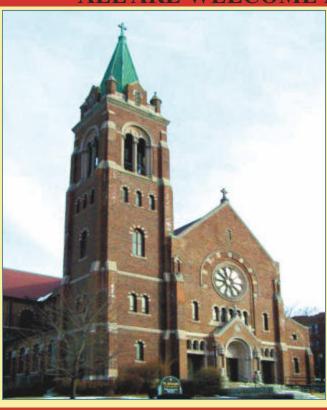
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GRAFTON HILL PARISHES

DECEMBER 26, 2021

ALL ARE WELCOME IN THE NAME OF CHRIST



HOLY FAMILY PARISH AT SAINT JOSEPH CHURCH

20 Hamilton St Worcester, MA

508-754-6722

 $ndsj@holyfamilyparishworcester.org\\ --Email~Address\\ www.holyfamilyparishworcester.org\\ --Parish~Website$

SUNDAY MASSES

9:30 am (English)

11:00 am (Brazilian Portuguese)

1:00pm (French)

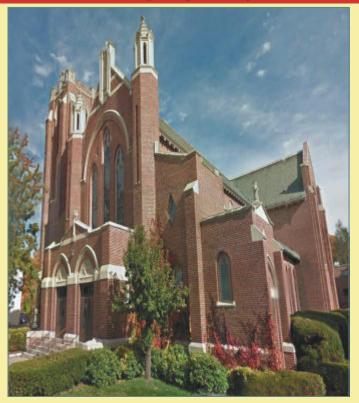
7:00 pm (Brazilian Portuguese)

WEEKDAY MASSES

8:30 AM Tuesday, Thursday—Chapel 7:30 PM Friday, (Brazilian Portuguese)

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

7:30 PM Thursday (Chapel)



SAINT STEPHEN PARISH

20 Hamilton St Worcester, MA 508-755-3165

ststephenchurch2@verizon.net—Email Address www.ststephenworcester.org—Parish Website

SUNDAY MASSES

11:00 am (English)

6:00 PM (Spanish)

Saturday Vigil Mass:

4:00 PM (English)

WEEKDAY MASSES

8:30 AM Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturdays at 3:00 PM

WORCESTER, MA

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY - December 25

Christmas Day

10:00 am (St. Stephen)

7:30 pm (St. Joseph) Brazilian

SUNDAY - December 26

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

9:30 am (St. Joseph) + Paul Largess, by Alice Douglas &

Tamı

11: 00 am (St. Stephen) + Celestina Torres. 1st Ann. by The Rodriguez and Torres Families,

+ Angela Ridick 19th Ann. by Jim and Nancy Ridick

MONDAY – December 27

8:30 am (St. Stephen) In Thanksgiving for a special

intention

TUESDAY – December 28

8:30 am (St. Joseph) For the People of Holy Family Parish

WEDNESDAY – December 29

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

THURSDAY - December 30

8:30 am (St. Joseph)

FRIDAY – December 31

Vigil of The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

8:30 am (St. Stephen)

6:00 pm (St Stephen) + Mass in Spanish

7:30 pm (St Joseph) Mass in Portuguese

SATURDAY - January 1

New Year's Day

10:00 am (St. Joseph)

4:00 pm (St. Stephen) + Normand & Jean Cote, by the

Family

7:30 pm (St. Joseph) Mass in Portuguese

SUNDAY - January 2

Solemnity of the Holy Family

9:30 am (St. Joseph) For the People of Holy Family Parish 11:00 am (St. Stephen) + Gloria Liset Contreras, by the

Onofre Family

Music in the Parishes

Music is an integral part of the celebration of the Mass in the Roman Rite. Our participation in the Liturgy includes our participation in the singing of liturgical music. During the restrictions of co-vid we had been singing the Entrance Antiphon and Communion Antiphon. This is actually the most proper way for Roman Catholics to begin both the Mass and the procession to Holy Communion. The singing of the psalms in the Sacred Liturgy predates the singing of hymns historically. As of the First Sunday of Advent we will return to the singing of these two antiphons at all Sunday Masses to be followed by the singing of a hymn.

Music for the Solemnity of the Holy Family

Entrance Antiphon:

The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the infant lying in a manger.

Entrance Hymn #327 Once in Royal David's City

Readings and Psalm are found at #876

Hymn at the Preparation of the Gifts

#318 Christ was Born on Christmas Day

Communion Antiphon:

Our God has appeared on earth, and lived among us.

Hymn for the Communion Procession

#319 The Snow Lay on the Ground

Recessional Hymn #303 Joy to the Lord

NATIVITY SCENES ARE THE SCHOOL OF LIFE

During the Christmas Season, nativity (manger) scenes or "crèches" are commonplace in our churches and in our homes. Some years ago, Pope Benedict offered the following reflection on the value of this centuries-old tradition:

"The custom of setting up manger scenes in our homes is more than mere tradition. As Christians we must seek to live what the nativity scene represents the reality of our everyday lives: that is, the love of Christ, his humility and his poverty.

The manger scene is a 'school of life' where we can learn the secret of true joy. This joy does not consist in possessing many things but in experiencing ourselves as loved by God, in making ourselves a gift for others, and in loving one another.

When we gaze upon the nativity scene, the Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph do not appear to be a very privileged family. Their child was born amidst great hardship. And yet, they are full of joy because they love one another, they help one another and, above all, they are certain that God is at work in the story of their lives.

True joy consists in experiencing ourselves as touched by and filled with the great mystery, the mystery of God's great love for us. These are among the great life lessons taught by the manger scene."

As you pass by the nativity scene in our churches, located in the sanctuary area during the Christmas Season, and gaze upon the images of the Holy Family, please pray for all the very diverse and different kinds of families that make up our parish community. May they experience the love of God in their midst.

St. Stephen and Holy Family Parishes Religious Education News

Now open for 2021-2022 Online Religious Education Registration For grades Kindergarten - 11th ststephenworcester.org

holyfamilyparishworcester.org

K-5 Classes resume January 2, 2022 Merry Christmas

Religious Education Classes have started for the year 2021-2022. In order to provide an exceptional program we will be providing breakfast for our students at least once a month. The motto is to provide food for the Mind, Body and Soul.

Daily Mass Schedule

Beginning on September 6, Mass will return to Monday Morning at 8:30 at St. Stephen

Monday—8:30 am St. Stephen Church Tuesday—8:30 am St. Joseph Church Wednesday—8:30 am St. Stephen Church Thursday—8:30 am St. Joseph Church Friday—8:30 am St. Stephen Church

Feliz Natal! Joyeux Noel! ¡Feliz Navidad!

WELCOME TO SAINT STEPHEN & HOLY FAMILY PARISHES

Our parish community joins with Christians throughout the world to celebrate the love of God revealed to us in the birth of Jesus Christ. It is in the spirit of joy having been called to live in the light of God's radiant love that we welcome you.

We open our church doors and our hearts to all.

Along with our parishioners, we welcome those who have traveled to be with family and friends.

We welcome those who have no church.

We welcome those who struggle with their faith or find it difficult to pray.

We welcome those who carry the burden of past sins. *Please know that you can leave that burden here.*

We welcome those who are hurting, grieving in any way and find it difficult to celebrate Christmas. *It is our prayer that you will find healing and strength.*

We welcome those whose hearts are brimming with joy. *You bless us by lifting our spirits.* We welcome the young and the old; the wise and the foolish; the strong and the weak, the humble and the proud.

Everyone is welcome in the name of Christ.

May our celebration of Christmas unite us in faith, hope, and love.

Monsignor Robert Johnson, Pastor

Christmas Flowers

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 . 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

Envelopes for Christmas flowers con be found at each of the Church entrances near the bulletins

THANK YOU

The students and catechists of our Religious Education Program thank all members of our family of faith for their generous support of our Giving Tree Program. Drive. Catholic Charities was grateful for the many and wonderful gifts and gift cards that were donated. May God bless you for your generosity and we wish you and your families a blessed an joyful celebration of Christmas!

Weekday Masses & Winter Weather

Reminder: In the event of school cancelation or delay due to winter weather, the 8:30 am weekday, Monday-Friday Mass is cancelled. St. Josephs and St. Stephens both share the same policy concerning weekday Mass. When weather is bad, it is important to remain safe at home and let the snow removal crews do their work.

PARISH CONTACTS

Msgr. Robert Johnson, Pastor

graftonhillpastor@gmail.com

Father Thiago DaSilva, Associate Pastor

frthiagodasilva@outlook.com

Father Hugo Cano—Hispanic Ministry

ststephenchurch2@verizon.net

Father Jean Robert Brice—Haitian Ministry

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Deacon Paul Reuter, RCIA

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Alex Garcia, Deacon Safe Environment Coordinator

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Theresa O'Brien, Administrative Assistant

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Brazilian Community

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Karla Reuter, Director of Religious Education

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Lucia Clemente Falco, Music Director

luciacfalco@msn.com

Theresa Turgeon, Ducharme Hall Manager

508-770-1053

If you or someone you know has been sexually abused by a priest, religious, or lay person working for the Church and you would like to talk with someone. Please contact the

Victim Services Coordinator at The Diocesan Office for Healing and Prevention at 508-929-4363 (a direct line).

A 24-hour-a-day confidential voicemail is available and your inquiry will be addressed.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

In the charity of your prayers, you are kindly asked to remember the sick, especially: Janet Lebeau, Jules Andre Alcide, Cyrus Hiatt, Denise Thibeault, Carey Santiago, David Peloquin, Paul & Suzanne White, Therese Adams, John Bouckaert, Cindy Bourgault, Marie Lee, Joseph Vancelette, Tina Quinn, Lorraine & Roger Fortin, Doug Cooper, John Brennan, Erin O'Brien, John Reidle and Lisa Bishop.

Please pray for: Persecuted Christians and religious minorities living in the Middle East. For those individuals and families impacted by addictions.

Weekly Meetings/Gatherings
Rosary: 3:30 PM recited before the 4:00 Mass
Saturdays

Parish Stewardship

Week of December 12, 2021 St. Stephen Parish — \$2,934.00 Holy Family Parish — \$4,548.61

NEW St. Stephen Church Tower Update!

As you know the work has been completed on the tower as well as the repairs to the chimneys of the Church building.

As of July we have received our Second amount of rent from the Worcester Public Schools for the school building.

After setting aside an amount for our portion of the insurance and to cover our responsibility for any captial repairs, we were able to use the remainder for the loan from the Diocese for the tower.

As of August 26, 2021, the Bell tower project is all paid.

We will now turn our attention to the two other loans that are outstanding to the diocese for payment.

NEW Holy Family Parish Loan Update!

As you know we have paid our loan for the repair of the front of the Church Building 19,000.00 and now we are paying an existing loan for our share of the rectory renovation which was 45,695.52. We have made four months of payments and taking into consideration interest owed, our loan stands now at 39,082.80 remaining.



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