

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@holyfamilyparishworchester.org—Email Address
www.holyfamilyparishworchester.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.ststephenworchester.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

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 & Tammy

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**
ststephenworchester.org
holyfamilyparishworchester.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 can 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
grafonhillpastor@gmail.com

Father Thiago DaSilva, Associate Pastor
frthiagodasilva@outlook.com

Father Hugo Cano—Hispanic Ministry
ststephenchurch2@verizon.net

Father Jean Robert Brice—Haitian Ministry
sbjeanrobert@yahoo.com

Israel Fernandez, Deacon
deacifernandez@gmail.com

Paul Reuter, Deacon
pjreuter@gmail.com

Deacon Paul Reuter, RCIA
pjreuter@gmail.com

Alex Garcia, Deacon
Safe Environment Coordinator
nds@holyfamilyparishworchester.org

Theresa O'Brien, Administrative Assistant
nds@holyfamilyparishworchester.org

Brazilian Community
ccbrasileiro2018@gmail.com

Karla Reuter, Director of Religious Education
kkreuter1@gmail.com
[508-335-7968](tel:508-335-7968)

Lucia Clemente Falco, Music Director
luciacfalco@msn.com

Theresa Turgeon, Ducharme Hall Manager
[508-770-1053](tel: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.

Dirsa-Morin Funeral Home
298 Grafton St., Worcester
(508) 753-4211

Henry-Dirsa Funeral Service
33 Ward St., Worcester
(508) 756-8346



Worcester Funeral, Inc.
www.worcesterfuneral.com
Caring for families for over one hundred years.

Patient, CPA & Associates
CPA'S & BUSINESS ADVISORS
WWW.PATIENTCPA.COM

Helping you and your small business prosper
Dedicated to helping individuals and businesses succeed financially through quality Tax, Business, and Accounting Services.

508-791-7982
rpatient@patientcpa.com &
rpatient@moneyconcepts.com

Financial Planning Service
Health, Life & Disability Insurance
Socially conscious investment options available
• Pro-life • Environment • Wildlife
50 Lake Ave. Worcester, MA 01604
All Securities Through Money Concepts Capital Corp.
Member FINRA/SIPC




OSHA
INSURED & BONDED

Val Toigo
PRESIDENT

Discover
CLEANING CORPORATION

Discover what **CLEAN** really MEANS!

Commercial, Industrial & Construction Cleaning
508-796-5335
vtoigo@discovercleaningcorp.com

FREE AD DESIGN

WITH PURCHASE OF THIS SPACE

CALL
800.477.4574

Philip P. Massad
MOVERS AND STORAGE
754-1225



SUPERIOR Waste & Recycling
508-797-4848

DUMPSTERS - CLEANOUTS - ONE TIME PICK UPS
TRANSFER STATION OPEN TO THE PUBLIC • 2 KANSAS ST • WORCESTER
Mon-Fri 7am-6pm • Sat 7am-5pm • NEIGHBOR

AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME!
ADVERTISE HERE NOW!

Contact **Gary Zakrzewski** to place an ad today!
gzakrzewski@4LPi.com or (800) 477-4574 x6413

THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE

NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17TH
1PM-3PM

- Catholic, Independent, All-Girls School in Central MA
- Founded by the Sisters of River Diane
- Dual Enrollment Program with Assumption University

Register today at www.nda-worc.org

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL PARISH.

Buy a bulletin ad space today!

Joseph J. Cariglia
ATTORNEY AT LAW

"No Fee On Any Injury Claim Unless Money Collected"

188 LINCOLN ST.
WORCESTER, MASS.
For Free Consultation & Estimate On Any Matter!

General Practice of Law
CALL 791-2357

WE'RE HIRING
AD SALES EXECUTIVES

BE YOURSELF. BRING YOUR PASSION. WORK WITH PURPOSE.

- Paid Training
- Some Travel
- Work-Life Balance
- Full-Time with Benefits
- Serve Your Community

Contact us at careers@4lpi.com
www.4lpi.com/careers




Nothing's More Important Than Your Loved One's Care

Proudly Caring for the Worcester Community and Your Family for 20 Years!

39 Queen Street Worcester, MA
StMaryHC.com

St Mary's Health Care Center
508.753.4791
A Member of Covenant Health




Jim O'Brien
Phone: 508-854-0996

Central MA Handyman Services, Inc.
Professional Remodeling & Handyman Work
Kitchen, Bath, Windows, Doors, Painting,
All Flooring Types, Routine Home Repairs
Rated A+ with the BBB
MA HIC #154944 / MA CS # CS 89325



Mercadante FUNERAL HOME INC.
Est. 1961

370 Plantation Street, Worcester, MA 01605
754-0486
Committed Every Day to Caring
Pre-need Plans and Trust Available