

# THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GRAFTON HILL PARISHES

JANUARY 9, 2022

**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](mailto:ndsj@holyfamilyparishworchester.org)—Email Address  
[www.holyfamilyparishworchester.org](http://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](mailto:ststephenchurch2@verizon.net)—Email Address  
[www.ststephenworchester.org](http://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 - January 8

*Vigil of The Baptism of the Lord*

4:00 pm (St. Stephen) + Kathleen Carney, 1st Annv., by the Family  
+ Deceased members of the Tripodi Family, by Lou Tripodi

SUNDAY - January 9

*The Baptism of the Lord*

9:30 am (St. Joseph) + Charles & Robert Bouchard, Lisa Sansoucy, by Samantha Storey  
11:00 am (St. Stephen) For the People of St. Stephen Parish

MONDAY - January 10

8:30 am (St. Stephen)

TUESDAY - January 11

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

WEDNESDAY - January 12

8:30 am (St. Stephen)

THURSDAY - January 13

8:30 am (St. Joseph)

FRIDAY - January 14

8:30 am (St. Stephen) + Gerard Duplessis, by his grandchildren

SATURDAY - January 15

*Vigil of The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*

4:00 pm (St. Stephen) For the People of St Stephen Parish

SUNDAY - January 16

*The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*

9:30 am (St. Joseph) + Paul Largess, by Donna & Steve Fontaine

11:00 am (St. Stephen) + Roberta & John Connolly, Alexander Connolly & James Connolly, by the 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 Baptism of the Lord

Entrance Antiphon:

*After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.*

Entrance Hymn #337 When Jesus Comes To Be Baptized

Readings and Psalm are found at # 881

Hymn at the Preparation of the Gifts

**#333 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise**

Communion Antiphon:

*Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and Testified that this is the Son of God.*

Hymn for the Communion Procession

**#824 Christ Be Our Light**

Recessional Hymn #338 When John Baptized By Jordan's River

**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](http://ststephenworchester.org)  
[hollyfamilyparishworchester.org](http://hollyfamilyparishworchester.org)

6th -11th grade Classes January 9, 2022 9-12  
 K-5 grade Classes January 16, 2022 9-12

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**

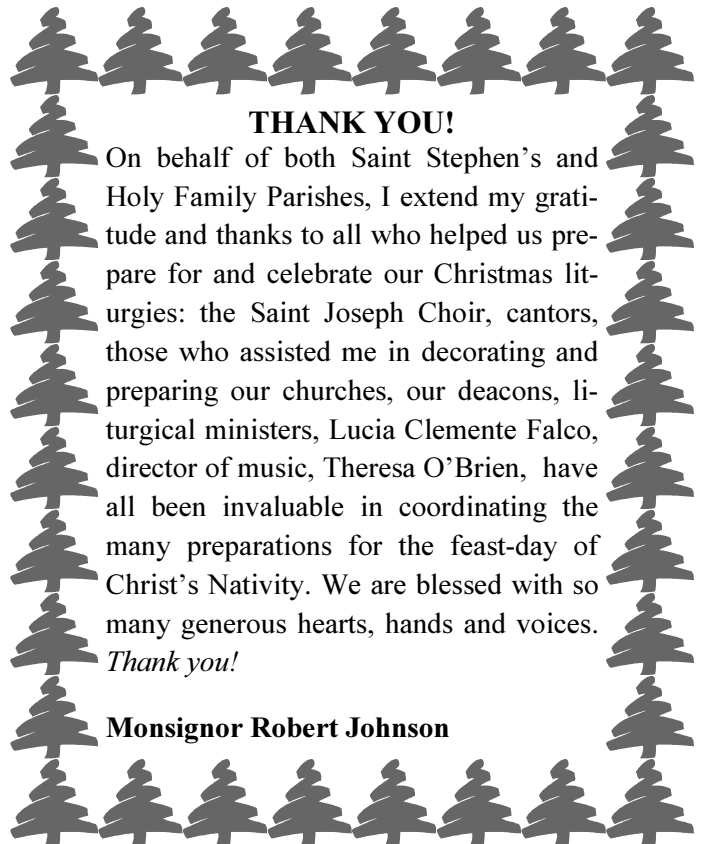
**THE SOLEMNITY OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

When the Season of Advent began we heard the words of the Prophet Isaiah: "O that you would tear open the heavens and come down!" Today on the final day of the Christmas season, we celebrate the fulfillment of that prayer. Jesus goes into the Jordan River to be baptized by John. The skies open. God's Spirit descends in the likeness of a dove. The voice of God is heard: "This is my beloved."

In Hebrew, the name of Jesus is *Joshua*. The name means "Savior." A thousand years before the time of Jesus, in the days of the Exodus, after Moses had died, a man named Joshua became the leader of the Hebrew people. Joshua led the people through the Jordan River and into the Promised Land.

For Christians, our Savior Jesus is the new "Joshua." Jesus leads us into the Jordan of Baptism. We pass through this water into a new life. Jesus has come to do God's will. He is consecrated in the Spirit. From the banks of the Jordan Jesus will begin his ministry.

These proclamations about Jesus summon us to a deeper awareness of our own baptismal call. Through baptism we become apprentices and students of Jesus Christ. We too are called to be open to the Holy Spirit, mindful of our relationship with God, our Father. It is recognizing that we are truly God's children that we begin to appreciate our identity and the meaning of our lives. As God's "beloved" we are invited to participate in the ongoing work and mission of Jesus in the world.



**Weekday Masses & Winter Weather**

Reminder: In the event of school cancellation 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](mailto:grafonhillpastor@gmail.com)

**Father Thiago DaSilva, Associate Pastor**  
[frthiagodasilva@outlook.com](mailto:frthiagodasilva@outlook.com)

**Father Hugo Cano—Hispanic Ministry**  
[ststephenchurch2@verizon.net](mailto:ststephenchurch2@verizon.net)

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**Safe Environment Coordinator**  
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**Lucia Clemente Falco, Music Director**  
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**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 26, 2021*  
**St. Stephen Parish — \$3,727.00**  
**Holy Family Parish — \$2,680.32**

### **\*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 five months of payments and taking into consideration interest owed, our loan stands now at **34,967.00** remaining.

### **Thank You**

Msgr. Johnson, Fr. Thiago , and all the priests, we would like to extend a special Thank You to all of our parishioners who sent Christmas greetings, or sent Christmas treats and goodies to the rectory. We are all so appreciative of the thoughtfulness and care shown to us during this Christmas Season.

Thank you and God Bless you

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