

NORTH QUABBIN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

192 School Street, Athol MA 01331-2399

978.249.2738 (Office) 978.830.4046 (FAX) 978.249.7690 (CCD) www.nqcatholic.com

Church Office: ourladyrectory@hotmail.com • Pastor: fatheredwin31@gmail.com

Religious Education: ourlady.ccd@mail.com



OUR LADY IMMACULATE

192 School Street, Athol MA 01331

Church Office Hours:
M, T, W 8:30am-3:30pm

Masses:

Lord's Day ~ 4pm (Vigil) & 11am
Holy Days of Obligation ~ 12:10pm
Weekday ~ 8am M, T, W
First Saturday ~ 8:00am

Confessions:

Tuesdays ~ 7:00pm -7:30 pm

Holy Hour of Adoration:

Tuesday ~ 2:00pm -3:00pm

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

101 Main Street, Athol MA 01331

Masses:

Lord's Day ~8:00am
Holy Days of Obligation ~ 7:00pm

Confessions:

Saturday ~ 3pm at OLI
Divine Mercy Chaplet:
Sunday ~ 6:40am

Prayers to Our Lady of Perpetual Help:

Wednesdays at 9:00am

SAINT PETER

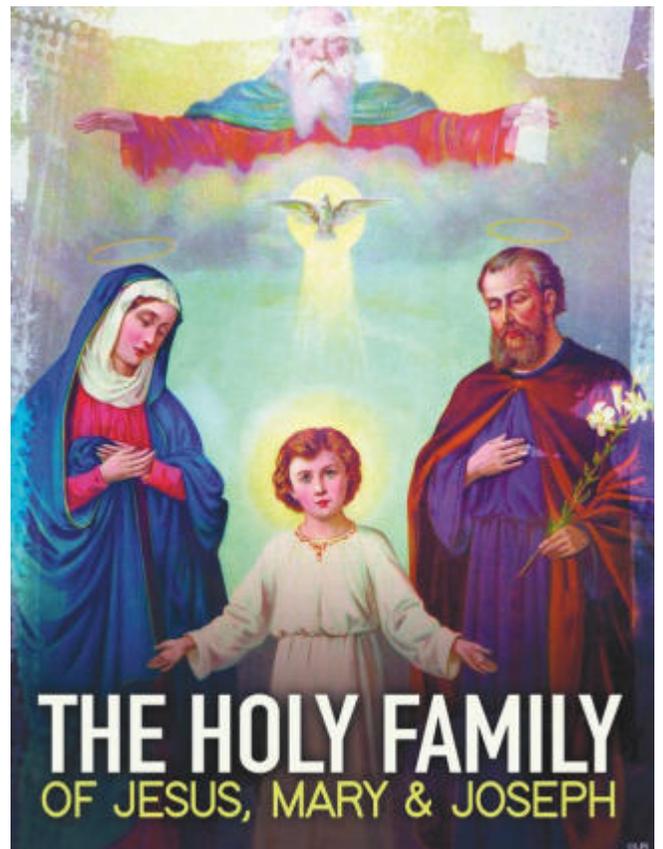
18 North Street
Petersham MA 01366

Mass:

Lord's Day ~ 9:30am

Confessions:

Saturday ~ 3pm at OLI



Rev. Edwin Montaña, Pastor
Bryan Lagimoniere, Deacon

Gayle Bassett, Secretary

Irene Inniss, Cluster CCD Administrator
& Safe Environment Coordinator

Rene Gagliardi, Cindy Winters
& Lori Hunt-Peterson
Music Ministry

Christian Cormier, Maintenance

Visitors and New Parishioners

Please introduce yourself. We want to meet you.
Registration forms are available in the sacristy.

Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated on Saturdays and Sundays. Please contact the Church Office for the preparation session, which includes parents and godparents.

Marriage

Contact the Church Office one year in advance.

Visitation of the Ill and Homebound

Please contact the Church Office if you know of anyone who is in need, so a Priest, Deacon or Eucharistic Minister may visit.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Adults seeking information about the Catholic Faith or seeking full admission into the Church through Baptism, Confirmation & Eucharist ~ Please call the Church Office.

Lending Library

Temporarily Suspended—thank you.

NQCC Facebook Page

For those of you with a Facebook page, please “LIKE” the North Quabbin Catholic Community Facebook page. Stay up to date with all the happenings in the Cluster

Sharing Our Fathers Bread

Meals are served Wednesdays, Sept.-May, at St. Francis Hall at 5pm for those in need. Donation baskets are located at each church for your convenience to support this important program. For questions please call 978-249-7304.

Healing and Prevention

If you or someone you know has been sexually abused by a priest, religious or lay person working for the Church, and you need a place to talk about your feelings, please call the Office for Healing and Prevention, (508) 929-4363. A 24 hour-a-day confidential voicemail is available.

Other Information

Prayer Line: Please notify the Rectory
Bulletin Deadline: Prior Monday by 12N

THE HOLY FAMILY

It's still Christmas and not just Christmas season. The really big feast days, Christmas and Easter, are so important that we celebrate them for eight days. The Sunday between Christmas, December 25th, and Mary Mother of God, January 1st, is the Feast of the Holy Family – Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. This is a great feast for us since Christmas has a lot to do with family.

At an even deeper level, this feast reminds us that God comes to us as part of a family. Jesus Christ is the Eternal Son begotten of God the Father who, nevertheless, is conceived in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary and born, just like we were. Mary, of course, is married to Joseph, the foster-father of Christ.

God chose to enter into human existence as part of a family because family life is part of the image of God we all carry within us. God, in His inner life, is a family – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Family is our first and most basic human experience.

Family life isn't easy, community life isn't easy. Hear the Gospel for today. The community where Joseph and Mary live want to kill their child. They must flee to Egypt, and they couldn't just hop on a flight – that trip was over 500 miles on foot! Our experience of family life is often difficult, but we have the example of Mary and Joseph trusting God.

The image of God in which we are created is the need to live self-giving love. That drives us to need to be part of something greater than ourselves. That is why family is so important. No matter what our experience of family is, hopefully loving and supportive, but sometimes painful, we all have the concept of what family is supposed to be.

If we all reflect honestly on our lives, we have to admit we don't always live our relationships the way God wants, or even the way we really want to. That is especially true of our families. The beauty of our religion, the miracle of Christmas, is that God has entered our world to show us the way and give us the strength to live authentic love.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD JANUARY 1ST

In the Creed we profess that “we believe in one Lord Jesus Christ who is God from God and true God from true God.” If Mary is the mother of Jesus and Jesus is God, then she is the “Mother of God”. This is what we celebrate on this Holy Day of Obligation. A vigil Mass will be celebrated on December 31st at 4pm at Our Lady and on January 1st at 10am at St. Francis.

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION ROSARY

The First Saturday Devotion for January will be held on January 2nd at 8:00 at Our Lady Immaculate. Every 13th of the month, everyone, especially the Living Rosary members, are encouraged to pray the rosary. The rosary is a powerful prayer to fight all evils. Let us ask our Blessed Mother's intercession to her Divine Son Jesus Christ by praying the Rosary.

COVID-19 VACCINES

On December 14, the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops issued a statement on the new COVID-19 vaccines. In their statement, the bishops address the moral concerns raised by the fact that the three vaccines that appear to be ready for distribution in the United States all have some connection to cell lines that originated with tissue taken from abortions.

With regard to the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, they concluded: "In view of the gravity of the current pandemic and the lack of availability of alternative vaccines, the reasons to accept the new COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna are sufficiently serious to justify their use, despite their remote connection to morally compromised cell lines.

"Receiving one of the COVID-19 vaccines ought to be understood as an act of charity toward the other members of our community. In this way, being vaccinated safely against COVID-19 should be considered an act of love of our neighbor and part of our moral responsibility for the common good."

With regard to the AstraZeneca vaccine, the bishops found it to be "more morally compromised" and consequently concluded that this vaccine "should be avoided" if there are alternatives available. "It may turn out, however, that one does not really have a choice of vaccine, at least, not without a lengthy delay in immunization that may have serious consequences for one's health and the health of others," the bishop chairmen stated. "In such a case ... it would be permissible to accept the AstraZeneca vaccine."

At the same time, the bishops also warned that Catholics "must be on guard so that the new COVID-19 vaccines do not desensitize us or weaken our determination to oppose the evil of abortion itself and the subsequent use of fetal cells in research."

PARISH APPEALS

The 2020 Parish Appeals are now underway. Please consider making a contribution to keep our parishes fiscally viable. Contributions can be mailed to the Church Office or put in the collection basket. Thank you for your prayers and generosity.

Our Lady Goal: **\$20,000** ~ by December 31st
To Date: \$22,097.54

St. Francis Goal: **\$5,000** ~ by December 31st
To Date: \$4,625.00

St. Peter: **No Goal** ~ by Thanksgiving
Raised: \$5,900.00 ~ Thank You!!

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has been part of our church community for over 10 years. We are a small group of women that share our talents and time to create beautiful shawls for anyone in need of prayer; whether the need is for comfort, healing, or support in life's ups and downs, we feel we share God's healing touch with each shawl.

If you or someone you know is interested in helping this ministry, we welcome all. We are not meeting in person at this time, but if you are interested in joining us please email Rebecca at rrichards282@gmail.com with your name and we can send you the google meet link. We meet the 2nd and 4th week of the month.

OUR LADY IMMACULATE

COLLECTION

12-20-20 ~ Collection amounts were not available at time of bulletin submission.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

Repairing the exterior trim around the stained glass windows in the church. To date \$44,005.51 has been collected.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

COLLECTION

12-20-20 ~ Collection amounts were not available at time of bulletin submission.

SHOE DRIVE

St. Francis will continue to collect used, gently used or new shoes. A container for your shoe donations with "SHOES for SHOE DRIVE" will be placed under the stairs going into the sacristy in the back of the church and will be checked daily. In coordination with Funds2Orgs, the shoes collected will go directly to small business owners or micro enterprises in 25 different developing countries where they are sold in their local community. The shoes provide opportunities for microentrepreneurs to support their families and create a path out of poverty. Funds2Orgs is the leader of the shoe drive fundraisers. Thank You!

ST. PETER'S

COLLECTION

12-20-20 ~ Collection amounts were not available at time of bulletin submission.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

For the time being, there will be no Masses held at St. Peter's Church in Petersham. Confessions will be held on Tuesdays from 7-7:30pm in the OLI Chapel. Thank you.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Contribution Statements for 2020 will be available for those in the Cluster that use the envelope system for their contributions. Please call the church office and leave your Name, Address and Church and a letter will be mailed to you before Jan 31st.

OUR LADY IMMACULATE IMPORTANT ENVELOPE INFORMATION

Parishioners from Our Lady Immaculate church who are current envelope users are asked to pick up your 2021 box set of contribution envelopes at the rectory after Mass. Gayle will assist you with pick up the weekend of December 19th & 20th. Come to the rectory porch after Mass and follow normal social distancing and please wear a mask.

DECEMBER 27, 2020

Hymnal Readings: 799

Readings for the week of December 27, 2020

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1] or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [7a, 8a]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

Monday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18

Friday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 1:19-28

Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12



Saturday, December 26th Vigil: Holy Family

4:00 PM OLI: +Gail Blanchard by her Family

Sunday, December 27th Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

8:00 AM St. Francis: +Linda Plourde by Marie Shatos

11:00 AM OLI: +Fern Fregeau
by Mark & Cindy Winters

Monday, December 28th

8:00 AM OLI: +Agnes Breton by the Family

Tuesday, December 29th

8:00 AM OLI: +Camille, Bibianne & Leo Boudreau
By Francis

Wednesday, December 30th

8:00 AM OLI: +Marcial & Emerenciana Yandoc
by the Family

Thursday, December 31st Vigil: Solemnity of Mary

4:00 PM OLI: +Stephen Brisciano
By Paul & Deb Kuzmeskas

Friday, January 1st The Solemnity of Mary

10:00 AM St. Francis: +Robert Hunter
by Marie Shatos

Saturday, January 2nd

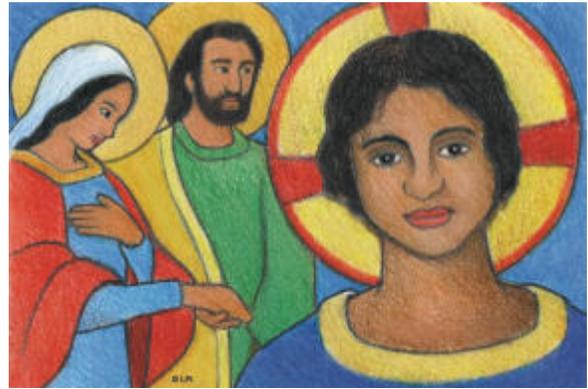
8:00 AM OLI: All Parishioners
Vigil: The Epiphany of the Lord

4:00 PM OLI: +Pamela & Dennis Lence
By Charles & Paula Thibault

Sunday, January 3rd The Epiphany of the Lord

8:00 AM St. Francis: +Elaine Bartus
by Dr. Jim & Ruth Couture

11:00 AM OLI: +Emerenciana Yandoc, 8th Ann.
By her Family



Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

SATURDAY 26th

4:00 PM Vigil Mass at Our Lady Immaculate

SUNDAY 27th

8:00 AM Mass at St. Francis of Assisi
11:00 AM Mass at Our Lady Immaculate

MONDAY 28th

8:00 AM Mass at Our Lady Immaculate

TUESDAY 29th

8:00 AM Mass at Our Lady Immaculate
2:00 PM Holy Hour with Adoration at OLI
7:00 PM Confessions at OLI Chapel until 8pm

WEDNESDAY 30th

8:00 AM Mass at Our Lady Immaculate

THURSDAY 31st

4:00 PM Mass at Our Lady Immaculate

FRIDAY 1st

10:00 AM Mass at St. Francis

SATURDAY 2nd

8:00 AM First Saturday Devotion at OLI
4:00 PM Vigil Mass at Our Lady Immaculate

SUNDAY 3rd

8:00 AM Mass at St. Francis of Assisi
11:00 AM Mass at Our Lady Immaculate

FOOD PANTRY

Thank you for your support! This week we will collect:
Jams / Jelly / Canned Chicken~Meat~Spam

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