

# OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY

33 Adams Street, Easthampton, MA 01027



*Fear not! for behold, I bring good tidings of great joy, which will be for all people*

## Lord's Day Mass Schedule

Saturday 4:00pm

Sunday 7:15am 8:30am 11:00am 12:30pm  
(Mass in Polish is last Sunday of the month at 8:30am)

## Daily Mass Schedule

Mon./Tues./Thurs./Fri. - 8am Wed. - 6pm and Sat. - 9am

Eucharist Adoration after the Friday 8:00am Mass

### **Live Stream on You Tube:**

Daily Mass, Saturday 4pm, Sunday 8:30am

### **OLV Masses are televised on Channel 191**

Thursday & Friday at 3pm  
Saturday & Sunday at 2pm.

## Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 3:00 -3:45pm

Before each daily 8am Mass

After the 6pm Mass on Wednesdays

## Catholic School Tuition Assistance

Catholic School families wishing parish sponsorship and/or tuition assistance in any Parochial School must be registered, practicing, and supporting members who volunteer at some level. Call the rectory for a copy of our policy.

**Contact:** Tel: 413 - 527- 9778  
Fax: 413 - 527- 9353  
OLVEasthampton.org

## Office Hours

Monday - Friday 8am - 3pm

## Parish Staff

Rev. Ryan Sliwa - Administrator  
fr.sliwa.olv@gmail.com ext. 160

Henry Dabek - Business Manager  
dabek.olv@gmail.com ext. 100

Caroline Growhoski - Cemetery  
growhoski.olv@gmail.com ext. 210

Dan Rattelle - Parish Clerk  
rattelle.olv@gmail.com ext. 110

Christine Wodecki - Administrative Assistant  
wodecki.olv@gmail.com ext. 130

**Facilities:** Kevin Molloy  
Dave Paquette  
Nelson Murphy

## Our Lady's Child Care Center

Perri Taylor - Child Care Director  
Tel: 527-6133  
Email: OurLadysccc@gmail.com  
35 Pleasant St.  
Easthampton, MA 01027

## Baptism

By Appointment. Contact the Rectory.

## Marriages

Contact the rectory at least one year in advance. Please consult the Pastor prior to setting the date.

## Ministry to the Sick & Shut-ins

Please contact the rectory if you become unable to attend Mass and wish to receive the Eucharist.

## Prayer Line

Please call the rectory at 527-9778. Prayer Intentions are prayed for 2 months. Please call to reinstate if necessary.

## LITURGICAL ROLES

### Christmas Eve Lector **EMHC**

4:00pm	M. Nadeau	R. L'Heureux
6:00pm	R. Labato-Baily	L. Jacque
Midnight	K. Williams	G. Delozier

### Christmas Day Lector **EMHC**

8:00am	D. Laprade	T. Brown
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### Dec 26 Lector **EMHC**

7:15am	E. Bernier-Feeley	
8:30am (Polish)	M. Stochel	L. Zoltowski
11:00am	S. Glatki	

### Dec 31 Lector **EMHC**

6:00pm	M. Nadeau	D. Aubrey
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### Jan 1 - Jan 2 Lector **EMHC**

4:00pm	B. Ellis	L. Jacque
7:15am	M. Lecko	
8:30am	M. Conroy	B. Campbell
11:00am	A. Bialek	

### Receiving Communion at Mass for parishioners with mobility issues

For all parishioners with mobility issues there will now be reserved seating at the very back pew against the wall and also behind the gift table both left and right. Communion will be brought to you at these locations. Please call the office at 527-9778 should you have any questions or concerns.  
Thank you.

## REQUIESCANT IN PACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of parishioners **Patricia Morrier & Richard Neumann** who died last week.



Heart of Mary, Throne of Glory  
Pray for Us!

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Saturday, December 25 *Christmas Day*

Midnight †Roland & †Gertrude Cote; †Doretta Picard & †Baby Naveah – Frank & Anne Marie Picard

8:00am †Dolores Gawle (37th Anniv.)  
– Sister Mary Tharaldson, Charles & Stan Gawle

10:00am (Latin) †Ann Boulanger – Her family

### Sunday, December 26 *Holy Family*

7:15am †Thomas Szumowski – Brother Tony

8:30am †Genowefa & †Edmund Zoltowski – Family

11:00am †John & †Genevieve Woodman – Daughter Jeanne

12:30pm (Latin) †Maria Yacuzzo (2nd Anniv.) – Loving Family

### Monday, December 27 *St. John*

8:00am †Eugene & †Frances Burgielewicz – Children & Grandchildren

### Tuesday, December 28 *Holy Innocents*

8:00am †Samuel Garcia, Jr. – VanOudenhove Family

### Wednesday, December 29 *St Thomas Becket*

6:00pm †John Sak – Sister Paula

### Thursday, December 30

8:00am †Adela Kusiak – Dabek Family

### Friday, December 31

8:00am †Aurora Labrie – Estate

6:00pm †Adela Kusiak – Dabek Family

### Saturday, January 1 *Mary, Mother of God*

9:00am †Richard P. Connly (3rd Anniv.) – Loving Wife & Family

4:00pm †Rita & †Ed Morrissey | †Mary & †William Halford, Jr.  
– Family

### Sunday, January 2 *Epiphany (Observed)*

7:15am †Jim Britton – Mac & Carol McClellan

8:30am †Genevieve Bimbane & Grandparents †Mary & †Martin Bemben – Carol & Chuck Growhoski

11:00am †Stanislaus & †Helena Przytulo – Daughter & Family

12:30pm *Missa Pro Populo*

## CANDLE INTENTIONS

### Seven-Day Candle at the Statue of Mary

Dec 27- Jan 2: Surowiec & Wozniak Families

– Surowiec Family

Dec 27- Jan 2: Norman Bach – Pat & Tom

Dec 27- Jan 2: Oscar Garcia (10th Anniv.) – Son Daniel & Family

### Seven-Day Candle at the Black Madonna

Dec 27 – Jan 2: Anthony & Sadie Szumowski – Son Tony

Dec 27 – Jan 2: Paul Growhoski – Brother Chuck & Carol

Please note: The office will be closed on Monday, December 27th.

Correction: Last week, the Late Mr. Richard Moreau's name was misspelled.



## MARY, MOTHER OF GOD MASSES

DECEMBER 31: 6pm

JANUARY 1: 9am | 4pm

## CAN YOU HELP THE COUNTERS?

The computer that the counters have used for many years to keep track of parish donations has just about run its course. Do you have a old laptop that you could donate to the parish for their use? Call the office 527-9778 if you can help!

## AUDIO UPGRADE UPDATE

Thanks to all who have donated to update our audio system. We have already raised \$11,575 which is nearly fifty percent of our total goal. There's still time to donate and every little bit helps!

## FROM THE ST. CECELIA CHOIR

The St Cecilia Choir gratefully acknowledges donations received in memory of Edwina Watroba from Frank and Carolyn Blajda and George and Gail Kemensky Jr. Dziękuję!



### **Angel's Attic Hours:**

Thursdays 4pm - 7pm

Saturdays 9am - 1pm



**CLOSED** for Winter Break Dec. 30 and Jan. 1  
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email: [angelsattic01027@gmail.com](mailto:angelsattic01027@gmail.com) or call the rectory at 413-527-9778 for contact information.

Follow us on Facebook at:  
[AngelsAttic01027](https://www.facebook.com/AngelsAttic01027)

**Donations Accepted  
During Open Hours**

Angel's Attic will be closed Saturday, December 25; Thursday, December 30 and Saturday, January 1. Will reopen Thursday, January 6 regular hours. Thank you to all for a very profitable 2021.



**Our bulletin publishing company requested early transmission. Figures for the weekend of the 18th & 19th will be included in next weekend's bulletin.**

## DIVINE MERCY PRAYER GROUP



Our Divine Mercy Prayer Group will meet at 6:30pm on Wednesday, **January 5**. The service includes recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, confession, & Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

## FROM THE CEMETERY

Thanks to everyone who removed flowers from grave sites. Any remaining summer & autumn flowers & pots will be discarded by our grounds staff.

# SAINT OF THE WEEK: ST. STEPHEN



Saint Stephen was one of the first ordained deacons of the Church. He was also the first Christian martyr. The Greek word from which we derive the English word martyr literally means witness. In that sense, every Christian is called to bear witness to Jesus Christ, in both their words and their actions. Not all are asked to shed their blood.

Those who do shed their blood for the faith are the greatest of witnesses. They have been especially honored since the very beginning of Christianity. Stephen was so conformed to Jesus in his holy life that his martyrdom was both a natural and supernatural sign of his love for the Lord. It also inspired the early believers as they faced the first round of brutal persecution.

His behavior, even forgiving those who were taking his life while he was being stoned to death, was a beautiful reflection of how conformed he truly was to the Lord Jesus Christ. It is recorded in Chapter 7 of the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 7:54-60), which immediately follows the Gospels in the New Testament.

The 6th chapter of the Acts of the Apostles contains an account of the choice of the first seven deacons of the Church. As the Apostles worked to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ as his elders, some of the Greek-speaking widows were being neglected in their practical needs. The Twelve decided to ordain seven deacons to oversee their care. In doing so, the deacons extended the pastoral care of the Apostles, the first Bishops of the early Church, enabling them to attend more to teaching.

Great preaching and miracles were attributed to Stephen. The Bible records that Stephen "full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people." Stephen's popularity created enemies among some Jews, members of the Synagogue of Roman Freedmen. They debated with him, to generate evidence against him in furtherance of their persecution of the early Church.

They accused him of blasphemy, of speaking against God and Moses. The charges inflamed the local populace which demanded he be tried and punished. When Stephen was put on trial, several false witnesses were brought forward by the Sanhedrin to testify that he was guilty of blasphemy. He was charged with predicting that Jesus would destroy the Temple and for preaching against Mosaic law.

As Stephen was being brutally stoned, he spoke his last words, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. Lord, do not hold this sin against them." Words which echoed the very words of Jesus on the Cross.

## Coffee Shop

Stop by the coffee shop after the 7:15 and 8:30 AM Masses and get to know your fellow parishioners! We hope to remain open through May of 2022. All are welcome to enjoy donuts, coffee, tea or juice for just \$1 each. Since the church hall is very big, safe distancing can be practiced.



### Workers Schedule:

Dec 26	Closed for Christmas!
Jan 2	Closed for New Years!
Jan 9	Knight of Columbus



## FROM FR. RYAN 'CHRISTMAS BLESSING'

Dear Friends,

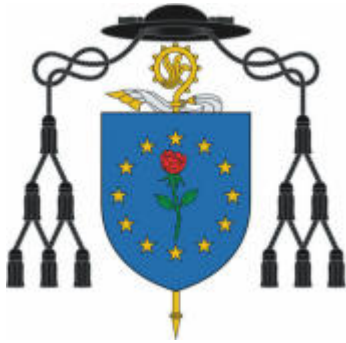
A word of blessing and gratitude to everyone in the parish. I'm very grateful to everyone who sent cards, gifts, and well-wishings during these very sacred days. And in light of that, I ask Christ and His Immaculate Mother to bless you and your families. Please God these Christmas solemnities can remind us about how sacred things belong at the center of our lives. As for yourselves, I place you at the center of my prayers during all our solemn liturgies. Please be sure to afford yourselves some rest during these days, so as to give yourselves over to the love of God all the more. God love you!

In Jesus & Mary

*Fr. Ryan*

# FROM DOM GUERANGER

## "ON HEARING MASS DURING CHRISTMASTIDE"



This tender Lamb is come; the child is born unto us and even now is on the Altar of his Sacrifice. St Paul tells us that this Jesus, on his first entrance into the world, said to his Father: Sacrifice and oblation thou wilt not; but a Body thou hast fitted unto me. Then said I; behold I

come: to do thy will, O God. It is true that the Sacrifice of the Cross, of which that of the Mass is the continuation, was the Sacrifice of Christ at the end of his three-and-thirty years; still, during these days of Christmas, when we have so much to learn from the mystery of the Sacred Infancy, we shall be in strict accordance with the spirit of the Church if, whilst assisting at Mass, we keep before our minds not only the bleeding Victim of Calvary, but likewise the sweet Lamb of Bethlehem. Moreover, does not our Jesus offer himself for us to his Father from his Crib as well as from his Cross? Thus, we read in the Acts of the Saints, that as often as this our Redeemer wished to requite the faith and love of his servants by manifesting to them his real Presence in the sacred Host, he appeared to them in the form of a lovely Babe.

The liturgical iconography of the Greeks represents the mystery of the Eucharist under the symbol of a Babe reposing on a Paten. So, too, in many of our Latin Missals, up to the end of the sixteenth century, we find an illumination or engraving, as the case may be, representing a Priest vested in a Chasuble, standing at the Altar, and holding in his hands the Body of our Saviour under the form of a Child.

Let the faithful, therefore, enter the House of God in the dispositions wherewith the Shepherds and the Magi were animated, when they went to Bethlehem, the House of Bread. They too must come with haste from the midnight of this world to that Light which shineth in darkness. They must come to the Altar as to the Crib of Jesus, and in the joy of this Mystery, they must offer their whole heart to the New-Born Babe. Then, uniting themselves with Mary and the Church, they must offer the Lamb of God to the heavenly Father, and themselves together with him - and all this with the humility and simplicity of little children.



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