



# *The* **CATHOLIC** *Parishes of* **STOUGHTON**

*We are a collaborative of two  
Roman Catholic parishes of  
the Archdiocese of  
Boston serving the faith  
community of our town.*

*We are deeply committed  
to our Lord Jesus Christ  
who is the source  
of all our faith, hope,  
strength, and love.*

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**  
122 Canton Street

**Parish Office Hours:**  
Monday through Friday  
9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
781-344-2073

**STOUGHTON,  
MASSACHUSETTS**

**ST. JAMES PARISH**  
560 Page Street

**Parish Office:**  
781-344-9121



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# A Message From Our Pastor Father Carlos

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Merry Christmas! Although the world around us might beg to differ, the Christmas season doesn't begin until the first Mass on Christmas Eve and it continues until the Feast of the Epiphany, which we celebrate on January 2. It's important that we celebrate Christmas to its fullest extent because we all need the graces and the blessing that this season gives us. Among the gifts that God gives us during this season are Light, Peace, and Joy.

The Gospel of John, which we heard from on Christmas day, reminds us that Christ is the Light of the World. He is the Light that conquers all darkness. When we find ourselves caught in the midst of difficulties and it seems the clouds close in, we need to remember to turn to Jesus for His light, so that we see the obstacles in our lives for what they are, opportunities to allow God to work in us and through us. After Christ comes to give us His light, He then invites us to go forth and to bring that light to the lives of others. Much like the moon reflects the light of the sun our lives are most authentic when we reflect the light of Christ in everything we say and do.

Many of us crave a sense of peace and we equate it with an absence of conflict or difficulty. We're then frustrated when such moments seem so fleeting in this life. In part that frustration comes from a misunderstanding of peace. The peace which Christ proclaims is not an absence of conflict rather it's a stability that comes from being rooted in the truth of who God is and who He calls us to be. Peace comes from knowing that we are loved by God and that He is always with us giving us the strength and graces that we need to move through any difficulty. So, this peace can be found whether we are in a quiet moment of life or whether the storms of life are raging around us.

Joy is one of the greatest gifts we have as Christians. Joy is not an empty eager smile, but rather steady and firm confidence in the knowledge that we are loved and cared for by God. If we live in this knowledge then we know that nothing can overcome us and we also know how richly God provides for us.

This Christmas season let us commit ourselves to cultivate these great gifts that God has entrusted to us and to sharing them with others so that they too may come to an experience of God's infinite love for them. —Fr. Carlos



In the light of spiking numbers of new COVID cases and the likely increase in those numbers in the upcoming holiday season, Cardinal Seán is mandating that throughout the archdiocese all people attending public Masses, including weddings and funerals, wear masks.

**This mandate took effect the weekend of December 18/19, 2021,  
and expires on January 17, 2022.**

# Upcoming Parish Events

## 150 Anniversary of Immaculate Conception Parish

Our Immaculate Conception Parish will celebrate its 150th Anniversary on December 8, 2022. Beginning this December 8th, we will observe a year of gratitude for the many blessings God has bestowed on this community through Immaculate Conception Parish.



Thank you for your giving spirit!

The Giving Tree program at both parishes was a tremendous success! Gifts are being distributed to those in need throughout the town of Stoughton. There was a huge list of those who needed help this year and with your help we did our best to fill it. Thanks to your generosity there will be many happy faces and grateful parents on Christmas morning.

A special thank you to Melissa Lynch, Ellie Morris, Minalyn Ebanculla and Ginger Hoffman who spearheaded the planning, organizing, and distribution of the gifts to the Stoughton Schools, Stoughton Youth Commission, and many needy families. Thank you one and all for your thoughtfulness and commitment!

## Christmas Flowers



The flowers that will decorate the sanctuaries of both parishes for Christmas are funded by the People for the glory of God in celebration of our Savior's birth. Thank you to all who so graciously donated to decorate our place of worship for the Christmas season.



Please join us on Sunday, January 9th at the 11:00 a.m. Mass at Immaculate Conception to honor all the children that were baptized at both Immaculate Conception and St. James in 2021. Following the Mass there will be a reception with light refreshments. Come meet the newest members of our parishes!



## First Friday Adoration

at Immaculate Conception  
Next First Friday January 7th!

First Friday Adoration will be available after the evening mass on Friday at 7:00pm at Immaculate Conception until 1:30pm on Saturday afternoon. Adorers needed. Sign up on the parish website or by calling the parish office at 781-544-2075.

[www.stoughtoncatholic.org](http://www.stoughtoncatholic.org)



The Parishes offices will be open with limited hours  
Thursday December 24th through  
Friday December 31st.

Please visit our website at [www.stoughtoncatholic.org](http://www.stoughtoncatholic.org)

# Stewardship

## EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP All in the Family

At first glance, we can often find the image of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph and the Christ Child intimidating — who are we to aspire to that level of discipleship? How could we ever hope to conform ourselves to that mold? Sometimes, it can even be painful — perhaps we hail from a broken family or struggle with a broken relationship within our family, or perhaps we long to be a mother or a father ourselves and that state in life has eluded us.

But the image of the Holy Family is, in reality, a beautiful invitation to us all, no matter our vocation or our state in life, and the example of Mary, Joseph and Jesus is rich with the symbolism of stewardship.

You need not be a biological mother who has carried a child in her womb to be a mother in spirit. Who in your world needs you to love them with the heart of a mother?

The same goes for fatherhood. The Church and the world are crying out for the courageous witness of Christian men like St. Joseph. Who can you love with the steadfast, selfless protection of a father?

Who in your life needs you to love them with the faithful, unconditional love of a son? Who needs your gentle and constant love as a daughter?

We are the Body of Christ, friends. Those of us rejoicing in heaven, those of us suffering in purgatory, and those of us struggling here on earth. We are the great family. Let us love each other well. — Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi



## ***Are you over 72? Do you need to take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA?***

***If yes, then please continue reading.***

As you are aware, the change in the tax laws in 2018 means that many people no longer receive a tax deduction for charitable contributions. But if you are over 72 and need to withdraw the RMD from your IRA there is still a tax benefit available to you. This benefit will let you get the effect of a contribution to lower your income tax. Here's an example of how this works.

Say an individual gives \$20 per week in the offertory basket. That is \$1,040 for a year. Instead of making that weekly contribution, instruct the bank or investment company that manages your IRA that you want \$1,040 of your RMD sent directly to your favorite parish (either St. James or Immaculate Conception). The bank or investment company will reduce the amount that is paid to you by the amount of the charitable contribution. They will send the contribution amount directly to your parish. When you report the IRA income on your tax return, you reduce the IRA distribution amount by the amount of the contribution. This lowers your taxable income. The \$1,040 contribution for which you wouldn't get a deduction now saves you at least \$100 in taxes (higher tax savings if your income exceeds the 10% tax bracket).

Right now many banks are sending out notices of what your RMD amount will be in 2022. Contact your bank or investment advisor and ask about making a charitable contribution from your IRA's RMD. So, think of fulfilling your annual support for your parish in one payment, save on your income taxes, and leave the cash in your pocket for the rest of the year.

CONSIDER AN  
END-OF-YEAR  
CONTRIBUTION

Sign-up for Online Giving Today on our  
website [www.stoughtonctholic.org](http://www.stoughtonctholic.org)

# Gospel Meditation & Reflections

## GOSPEL MEDITATION

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Families can be very difficult things to negotiate. This is true not only of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our Church, our society, and our global family as well. Everything human can be found in family stories. Those stories speak of wonderful life-giving successes as well as painful spirit-robbing abuses. Our greatest joys and our greatest wounds are usually connected with the experience of family. Our needs, experiences, and unresolved baggage often color what we bring to our familiar relationships. They contribute to our level of defensiveness, how guarded and protected we become, and what prejudices we believe.

In order to break the cycle of dysfunction we have to remember that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate the difficult and challenging events of our lives. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. For sure, the human effort can create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of any family with which we are associated. Today's Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that there is a Divine Story being told as well. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair, healing when we see nothing but wounds, and light where there is darkness.

Do we believe that God is always working, guiding, restoring, and leading? Unless we do, we will never be free from the imperfections and wounds that bind us and never be able to understand what it really means to forgive. Pope Francis tells us that the "light which comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth to other families." While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to do this when we realize that we are still works in progress, not anchored to the wounds and sins of our past, and still a leading star in God's continually unfolding story of love. The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. We can too. ©LPi



### *Coming Back to Church*

#### *Question:*

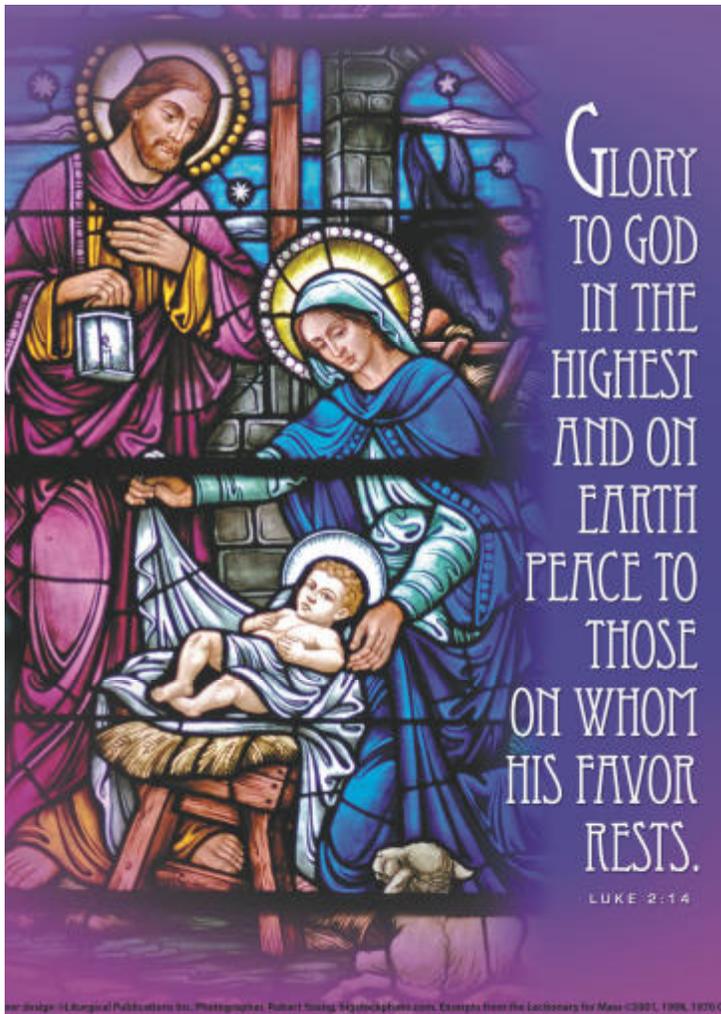
I have been away from the Church for a few years and really want to get active again, not so much for me, but for my children. Is this a bad reason to come back to Church?

#### *Answer:*

If you are on your way to the supermarket, and you are forced to detour from your usual route because of road work, does the food you buy taste different? Is the meal less filling? Are the vegetables less tasty? Of course not. In our faith journey, there are many detours called sin. Some are greater than others, some are even a bit longer. But God's grace comes to us in ways we understand and recognize and need. Your children leading you back to the Church is not as important as the fact that you are back. This is an opportunity for you to renew, strengthen, and deepen your faith. Regardless of how we get to Church, or what draws us closer to God, the fact is we are there. Do what you need to do to get right with God and the Church. Go to confession, begin good family religious practices, and be involved in the ministries your parish offers. Be more than a lukewarm parishioner. Be the kind of Catholic you want your children to be.

©LPi

# Christmas



## GOSPEL MEDITATION

### The Nativity of the Lord

“He so loved us that for our sake He was made man in time, through Whom all times were made; was in the world less in years than His servants, though older than the world itself in His eternity; was made man, Who made man; was created of a mother, whom He created; was carried by hands which He formed; nursed at the breasts which He had filled; cried in the manger in wordless infancy, He the Word without Whom all human eloquence is mute (St. Augustine, Sermon 188).” The miracle of what happens at Christmas is truly an awesome mystery. Revealed in the silent ordinariness of life is God’s intimate love for humanity and all that he made. The Word, existing for all time, comes and dwells among us. God kisses us. We can seek and soar with playful delight as a joy never known before fills our heart.

Joy is best expressed through dance. There is just something truly wonderful about the self-abandon a beautiful melodic dance reveals. If we are able to let go and really be free, it celebrates life in a way few other experiences really can. With the birth of Jesus Christ, God takes the Divine Dance to a deeper and more tangible level. We can now not only see what we believe but believe what we see! This most perfect dance is a call to beauty, innocence, truth, purpose, hope, faith, and love. Today we know, beyond doubt, that we are a necessary part of God’s beautifully choreographed masterpiece of life and not just a random happening without real intent or purpose. We are loved, treasured, and blessed.

Accepting the truth of God’s birth in time we also accept an invitation to dance with God. We can let go of what tethers us to anxious concerns and superficial securities. Throw caution to the wind and go with God. We have been blessed with talents, gifts, and life eternal. Follow the rhythm of the dance with joy and listen to what the Word who became flesh tells us about what the next steps can be. Today, heaven remains the same, but earth has been profoundly changed. ©LPi

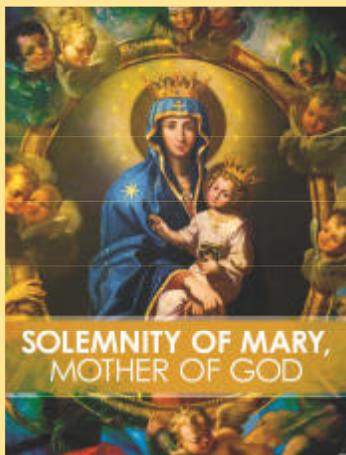
## *Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Holy Day of Obligation*

**Friday, December 31st  
Vigil Mass**

**6:30 p.m.**  
(St. James)

**10:30 p.m.**  
(Immaculate Conception  
~ Portuguese)

**Saturday, January 1st  
9:00 a.m.**  
(Immaculate Conception)



**There will be NO 7:00am Mass at St. James  
on Saturday, January 1st.**

## Christmas Offertory

As directed by the Archdiocese, the only collection taken up during the Christmas Masses will be for the disabled and retired priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. Your customary generosity will be appreciated. However, as is the custom at both churches, a “free will” offering toward parish support will be gratefully accepted as you leave the church on Christmas.

## Mass Intentions

Saint James

**Saturday, December 25th**

9:30 a.m.

5:00 p.m. NO MASS

**Sunday, December 26th**

9:30 a.m.

**Tuesday, December 28th**

7:00 a.m. Jacqueline Weeks (Month's Mind)

**Thursday, December 30th**

7:00 a.m.

**Saturday, January 1st**

7:00 a.m. NO MASS

5:00 p.m.

**Sunday, January 2nd**

9:30 a.m. Maria Faria



Confession  
&  
Adoration  
**Wednesdays**  
St. James  
560 Page Street -Stoughton  
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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**Saturdays**  
Immaculate Conception  
122 Canton Street -Stoughton  
12:00p.m. to 1:30 p.m.



Confissão  
&  
Adoração  
**Sábados**  
Imaculada Conceição  
122 Canton Street Stoughton  
12:00p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

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**Quartas-feiras**  
St. James  
560 Page Street Stoughton  
6:30p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

## Mass Intentions

Immaculate Conception

**Saturday, December 25th**

**P 9:00 a.m.**

11:00 a.m.

1:00 p.m.

4:00 p.m. NO MASS

7:00 pm NO MASS

**Sunday, December 26th**

7:30 a.m. Dominique Family

**P 9:00 a.m.** Jose Tomas

11:00 a.m. Dalia Jimenez & Anabel Jalicia

**P 6:30 p.m.**

**Monday, December 27th**

9:00 a.m. Kristopher Rosa

**Tuesday, December 28th**

**P 8:00 a.m.**

**P 7:00 p.m.**

**Wednesday, December 29th**

9:00 a.m. Dominique Family

**P 7:00 p.m.**

**Thursday, December 30th**

**P 8:00 a.m.**

**Friday, December 31st**

9:00 a.m. Manuel Garcia

**Saturday, January 1st**

9:00 a.m. All who died in November

4:00 p.m. Paula Ross

**P 7:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, January 2nd**

7:30 a.m.

**P 9:00 a.m.** Jose Tomas

11:00 a.m.

**P 6:30 p.m.** Elizabeth Gallagher

*P - In Portuguese*

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD AND  
LET YOUR PERPETUAL LIGHT  
SHINE UPON THEM



**Maria Howley  
Joseph Cleary**

# Uma mensagem do nosso pastor Padre Carlos

Feliz Natal! Embora o mundo ao nosso redor possa discordar, a época do Natal não começa até a primeira missa na véspera de Natal e continua até a festa da epifania, que celebramos no 2 de janeiro. É importante que celebremos o Natal em sua plena extensão porque todos nós precisamos das graças e as bênçãos que esta temporada nos dá. Entre os presentes que Deus nos dá durante esta temporada estão Luz, Paz e Alegria.

O Evangelho de João, que ouvimos no dia de Natal, lembra-nos que Cristo é a Luz do Mundo. Ele é a luz que vence todas as trevas. Quando nos encontramos no meio das dificuldades e parece que as nuvens se aproximam, precisamos nos lembrar de nos voltarmos a Jesus pela Sua luz, para que vejamos os obstáculos em nossas vidas pelo que são, oportunidades para permitir que Deus trabalhe em nós e através de nós. Depois que Cristo vem para nos dar Sua luz, Ele nos convida a sair e levar essa luz à vida de outras pessoas. Assim como a lua reflete a luz do sol, nossas vidas são mais autênticas quando refletimos a luz de Cristo em tudo o que dizemos e fazemos.

Muitos de nós desejamos uma sensação de paz e a equiparamos à ausência de conflito ou dificuldade. Então, ficamos frustrados quando esses momentos parecem tão fugazes nesta vida. Em parte, essa frustração vem de um mal-entendido sobre a paz. A paz que Cristo proclama não é uma ausência de conflito, mas sim uma estabilidade que vem de estarmos enraizados na verdade de quem Deus é e quem Ele nos chama para ser. A paz vem de saber que somos amados por Deus e que Ele está sempre conosco nos dando a força e as graças de que precisamos para superar qualquer dificuldade. Portanto, essa paz pode ser encontrada quer estejamos em um momento de tranquilidade da vida ou se as tempestades da vida estão se alastrando ao nosso redor.

A alegria é um dos maiores dons que temos como cristãos. A alegria não é um sorriso vazio e ansioso, mas sim a confiança firme e constante no conhecimento de que somos amados e cuidados por Deus. Se vivermos com esse conhecimento, saberemos que nada pode nos vencer e também sabemos quão ricamente Deus provê por nós.

Neste período de Natal, comprometemo-nos a cultivar estes grandes dons que Deus nos confiou e a partilhá-los com os outros, para que também eles possam experimentar o amor infinito de Deus por eles. —Pe. Carlos



À luz do aumento do número de novos casos de COVID e do provável aumento desses números na próxima temporada de férias, o Cardeal Seán está a ordenar que, em toda a arquidiocese, todas as pessoas que assistem a missas públicas, incluindo casamentos e funerais, usem máscaras.

**Este mandato entrou em vigor no fim de semana de 18/19 de dezembro de 2021,  
e expira em 17 de janeiro de 2022.**

## Solenidade de Maria, Mãe de Deus Dia Santo da Obrigação

Sexta-feira, 31 de  
dezembro Missa da  
Vigília

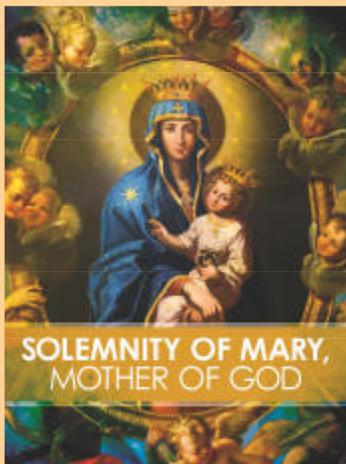
18h30.m.  
(ST. James)

22h30.m.  
(Immaculate Conception  
~ Português)

Sábado, janeiro 1  
9:00 da .m.

(Immaculate Conception)

Haverá missa às 7:00 em St. James.  
Sábado, 1 de janeiro.



## 150 Anniversary of Immaculate Conception Parish

A Nossa Paróquia Imaculada da Conceição celebrará o seu 150 Aniversário no dia 8 de dezembro de 2022. A partir deste dia 8 de dezembro assistiremos a um ano de gratidão pelas muitas bênçãos que Deus concedeu a esta comunidade através da Paróquia da Imaculada Conceição.



## Oferta de Natal

Como dirigido pela Arquidiocese, a única coleção retomada durante as missas de Natal será para os padres deficientes e aposentados da Arquidiocese de Boston. Sua generosidade habitual será apreciada. No entanto, como é costume em ambas as igrejas, uma oferta de "livre arbítrio" para o apoio à paróquia será gratamente aceite ao sair da igreja no Natal.

## Voluntários necessários!!!



É aquela época do ano outra vez! Precisamos desesperadamente de voluntários para ajudar na remoção da neve na Imaculada Conceição. Estamos à procura de quatro voluntários 4 para imaculada Conceição para ajudar na remoção da neve.

Se você está interessado em dar uma mão na entrada para a Igreja ou para colocar o gelo derretido, nós apreciaremos muito a sua ajuda!

Entre em contato com Paula Myers para mais informações.  
[pmyers@stoughtoncatholic.org](mailto:pmyers@stoughtoncatholic.org)

Os escritórios de Paróquias serão abertos com  
horários limitados

Quinta, 24 de dezembro, até  
Sexta, 31 de dezembro.

Visite o nosso site em [www.stoughtoncatholic.org](http://www.stoughtoncatholic.org)

## Primeira Sexta-feira Adoração

at Immaculate Conception

A primeira sexta-feira estará disponível após a missa da noite de sexta-feira, às 19h00, na Immaculate Conception até às 13h30 de sábado à tarde. Os adoradores precisavam. Inscreva-se no site da paróquia ou ligando para o escritório da paróquia através do 781-344-2073.

A próxima Sexta-feira Frist  
será 7<sup>de</sup> janeiro.

[www.stoughtoncatholic.org](http://www.stoughtoncatholic.org)

## Horário de missa portuguesa

Diariamente: Terça-feira 8:00 e 19:00, Quarta  
19:00, Quinta 8:00

Fim de semana: Sábado 19:00 &  
Domingo 9:00 & 18:30

Katia Silva trabalha no escritório da paróquia às terças e quintas das 16h às 19h. Ela pode entrar em contato por e-mail na [ksilva@stoughtoncatholic.org](mailto:ksilva@stoughtoncatholic.org)

# Mass Times

## St. James Weekend Masses

### **Saturday Evening:**

5:00 p.m.

### **Sunday Morning:**

9:30 a.m.

### **St. James Weekday Masses**

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 7:00 a.m.

### **Confession & Adoration:**

Wednesdays, 6:30pm-8:00pm

## Immaculate Conception Weekend Masses

### **Saturday Evening:**

4:00 p.m. (In English)

7:00 p.m. (In Portuguese)

(First Saturday of the Month there will be a 9:00 a.m. English)

### **Sunday Morning:**

7:30 a.m. (In English)

9:00 a.m. (In Portuguese)

11:00 a.m. (In English)

### **Sunday Evening:**

6:30 p.m. (In Portuguese)

## **Immaculate Conception Weekday Masses**

Tuesday, Wednesday: 7:00p.m. In Portuguese

Tuesday, Thursday: 8:00 a.m. In Portuguese

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9:00 a.m. English

### **Confession & Adoration:**

Saturday, 12:00pm-1:30pm



Classes for grades 1-3 will be on Sunday Mornings from 8:30 – 9:30 AM.

Classes for grades 4-6 will be on Mondays from 4:00 - 5:15 PM.

Classes for grades 7- 8 will be on Mondays from 5:30 - 7:00 PM

Classes for grades 9 & 10 will be on Mondays from 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Classes for grades 1-3 will be held on Tuesdays 4:00 - 5:00 PM

RCIA – Adapted for Children – Sundays 9:30 am to Noon

# Our Parish Staff

## Clergy:

Rev. Carlos D. Suarez, Pastor ~ ext. 102

Rev. Jose Eduardo Marques, Parochial Vicar ~ ext. 111

Rev. Ixon Chateau, Parochial Vicar ~ ext. 119

Deacon Dave Giangiordano ~ ext. 122

Deacon Pat Guerrini ~ ext. 124

## Parish Office Staff:

Paula Myers: Secretary ~ 781-886-6073

Erika Thornton: Communication ~ 781-886-6059

Mary Ann Caldwell: Religious Ed. ~ 781-886-6058

Bridget Horan: Religious Ed. ~ 781-886-6060

Barbara Sferrazza: Sacristan ~ 781-886-6066

## Music Director:

Robin Cedrone ~ ext. 123



## **Saint Anthony's Free Market food pantry**

**2 Park Ave, Stoughton**

**Contact Ginger Hoffman, RD, LDN**

**Phone: 781-886-6070 ext 116**

**Email: [foodpantry@stoughtoncatholic.org](mailto:foodpantry@stoughtoncatholic.org)**

The mission of Saint Anthony's is to contribute to the nutritional needs of low-income residents of Stoughton. During COVID a family of 1 with weekly income less than \$613 or a family of 4 making less than \$1260 weekly (\$65,500 yearly) are eligible. Please contact Ginger if you know someone who could use our help, or send them to us:

### **Pantry Times: Fridays 10am-12:00 noon**

or

2nd Thursday of the month Council on Aging for home bound seniors;

Contact COA at 781-341-1300

**Monetary Donations:** [Stoughtoncatholic.org](http://Stoughtoncatholic.org), online giving: choose either parish and St. Anthony's will appear as a choice Make checks payable to Immaculate Conception Parish with St. Anthony's Free Market in the memo line. Gift cards are also welcome.

Mail to 122 Canton St, Stoughton

### **Non-perishable food donations:**

Drop off at 2 Park Ave on Wed 9-10:30 & Fri 9:30-12 noon  
Or leave in foyers of St. James or IC churches

Call Peg Carbone at 508-889-1385 for pick-up at your home or business on Thursdays

Thank you and God Bless!

Although our office hours are limited, our website is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Much of what you might need can be found on our website. Parish activities, Mass times, Religious Ed. Updates and more.

[www.stoughtoncatholic.org](http://www.stoughtoncatholic.org)



## Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation Center

Christine Simonson - Director of Admissions

Steven Tyer - Administrator - Parishioner

JCAHO ACCREDITED

380 Sumner Street • Stoughton, MA 02072

781-341-2300 x109

E-mail: [referrals@copley-nh.com](mailto:referrals@copley-nh.com) Fax: 781-341-2402

## Attorney Francis T. Crimmins, Jr.

Ab Initio Elder Law Solutions, LLC

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247 Washington Street, Stoughton, MA 02072

Phone: 781-318-8295

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Branch:

20 Park St. • Stoughton MA 02072

781-344-3083

[stoughtoncoop.bank](http://stoughtoncoop.bank)



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