



The Nativity of the Lord

Our Lady of Grace Parish Dunstable, Groton, Pepperell, MA

December 25, 2018

**WELCOME TO
OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH
OF
DUNSTABLE, GROTON & PEPPERELL**

We are glad you joined us today!

OUR TWO WORSHIP SITES



*St. James Church
West Groton*



*St. Joseph Church
Pepperell*

St. James Church
13 St. James Ave.
Groton, MA 01450

Father Jeremy St. Martin—Administrator

Fr_jeremy@ourladyofgracema.org

Fr. Jason Worthley—Parochial Vicar

St. Joseph Church
28 Tarbell Street
Pepperell, MA 01463

Ph: 978-433-5737 x303

Fax: 978-433-9566

Web Site: www.ourladyofgracema.org

Parish Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9a.m. - 5p.m.

For a Sacramental Emergency, please call the office and select ext. 302 and leave a message and Fr. Jeremy will get right back to you.

Parish Staff

Deacon: Michael Markham

dcnmichaelmarkham@gmail.com

Director of Religious Education: Robert Daly

Ph: 978-433-2028 Robert@ourladyofgracema.org

Finance & Operations Manager Debra Lackey, M.B.A.

Ph: x307 Debbie@ourladyofgracema.org

Administrative Assistant: Cotty Reid

Ph: x301 Cotty@ourladyofgracema.org

Music Director: Ellen Blackwell

Ph: 978-433-6131

Baptism Ministry Leader: Rena Mendel

Email: renacutchin@hotmail.com

Cemetery Manager: Joseph Viel

Ph: 978-208-0266

Liturgy Schedule

At Saint James Church

Sunday: 7:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.

At Saint Joseph Church

Weekday Mornings: Wed, Thurs, Fri 8:30 a.m.

Saturday: 4 p.m.

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.

Once a month: 5:30 p.m. Rel. Ed. Mass

For CY1 & CY2 & Families

Confessions: 3:00—3:30 PM at St. Joseph Church
or by appointment with the Pastor.

Information regarding any sacraments, (Baptism, Marriage, Anointing) please check our website or call the parish office.



A Note From Fr. Jeremy ~~

Merry Christmas everyone! As we all receive the grace of Christmas we are struck by a profound answer to a question that many people have on their minds these days. What difference does religion make. The answer is simple; it makes all the difference. We are religious beings and to be religious is the highest expression of our human natures. The fullness of religion is in the Catholic Church and this is a statement that some might question. The answer to this question is also simple and it is simply the same. The Catholic Church makes all the difference.

Think about Christmas. Is there any other celebration on earth that brings so much goodwill and peace to men? Is there any other feast or celebration that is so universally recognized?

The feast of Jesus's birth is essentially a Mass of Christ, hence the word Christmas. It is the case that many Christians historically here in Massachusetts rallied against the celebration of Christmas and against images and statues of the manger - but our separated brothers and sisters in Christ have come back to the power and nature of Christmas. It is the revelation from God that heaven and earth have come together. They are not at odds. The spiritual and the physical, God and man, our souls and our bodies, are both good. And the dawn of this revelation is God being born in our world as one of us, in the everyday ordinary and most humble manger in Bethlehem.

This is no mere religious story. This is something that could not come from a human mind. This is the religious story, this is the true revelation of God to the world, the effects of which we experience now and everywhere.

The miracle of Christmas is also palpable throughout history. The places on earth where Christmas has flourished are the most excellent of places. Europe and America, for example, are places where Christmas has taken root and flourished. The times and places in Europe where Christmas has its deepest roots are the most beautiful and peaceful places on earth. They are the best places to be poor. They are the best places for family and for equality between men and women. They are the most just places.

Think for example of places people would long to go on a honeymoon. Paris would be on many a list, no doubt, and it would be old Paris. Not the modern part (there is such a place.) We would look to sitting in a square at a cafe looking at a cathedral. It is the height of civilization and still is.

The time to return to the practice of the Catholic faith is always now. The people who have made the mistake of thinking that it is not really necessary or at best a nice hobby are starting to realize their mistake the hard way. The long term results of not practicing are as dark and horrid as you can imagine. The only place it looks like our culture is going to have a chance to flourish, is in and through the Catholic Church. The rest of the world including many, if not most Protestant churches, have been born away with all kinds of strange teachings which strike at the heart of all that is wholesome and pure - the family.

Christmas is a revelation of God's love for us; to be born for us in a manger to save us. It is also a contemplation of the power of simple and ordinary family, of the importance of serving the poor, as Mary and Joseph served their poor infant, and of the difference between male and female as a cosmic foundation of love. As we draw closer to Christ, we are filled with light and love, warmth, joy, and security. As we look again at the Church and our families involvement in it, we realize that herein lies the key and the difference that we are all looking for, that has been found before in every generation, and that will eternally lift up a broken world and produce the closest thing to heaven on earth that anyone has ever dreamt of or imagined.

May you and your family have a Blessed and Merry Christmas,

Fr. Jeremy St. Martin



*Frs.
Jeremy,
& Jason,
Deacon Mike
And the entire
Office Staff of
Our Lady of Grace*

*Wish all a very Blessed and Holy
Christmas and a
Happy, Healthy
New
Year!*



**Kept in Our Lady of Grace Parish
July - November 2018**

	ACTUALS 7/1 - 11/30	BUDGET 7/1 - 11/30	DIFF
Offertory collected at Mass	\$ 90,077		
Holy Day Masses	\$ 1,225		
ONLINE Offertory	\$ 47,150		
Total Offertory (see note below)	\$138,452	\$136,776	\$ 1,676
Parish Monthly Collection	\$ 10,039	\$ 8,260	\$ 1,779
Grand Annual	\$ 22,384	\$ 25,930	(\$ 3,546)
Annual Fuel Collection	\$ 50	\$ 00	\$ 50
Memorial Altar Flowers	\$ 50	\$ 275	(\$ 225)
Mass Offerings	\$ 705		
Wedding Offerings	\$ 3,477		
Funeral Offerings	\$ 6,167		
Baptism Offerings	\$ 260		
Priest Stipend Payments	(\$ 570)		
Total Sacramental Offerings	\$ 10,039	\$ 9,338	\$ 701
Gifts and Requests	\$ 2,563	\$ 00	\$ 2,563
Religious Education	\$ 41,677	\$ 48,567	(\$ 6,890)
Craft Fair	\$ 3,779		
Appliance Recycle	\$ 150		
Parish Trip Commission	\$ 4,122		
Total Fundraising	\$ 8,051	\$ 5,243	\$ 2,808
TOTAL	\$233,305	\$234,389	(\$ 1,084)

NOTE: Other Income Sources July 1 - November 30

Sale of Sacred Heart Church 2nd time profit sharing \$5,053
Inspiring Hope Campaign 75% of donations to date \$12,836

Sent outside the parish

Retired Religious \$1,741 Holy Father/Peter's Pence \$1,630
Clergy Benefit Trust-Sept \$1,519 Campaign for Human Development \$1,174
World Missions \$1,080 Pentecost/Seminarians \$960 Catholic Universities \$959
 Communications \$914 KofC Ultrasound Machines \$822
Project Bread/Walk for Hunger \$300 PACH \$96 My Father's House \$50
 Loaves & Fishes \$45

**NOTE: Total Income budget for FY July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 assumes a \$64k loss of Income because of the administration change.
The Offertory budget ending November 2016 was \$156,250.**

2018 Grand Annual



**52% complete
Please help if you can!**
(YTD To 11/30/2018)



Christmas Collection CLERGY HEALTH & RETIREMENT FUND

In the 200-year history of the Archdiocese of Boston, over 3,000 men have answered the call to the priesthood. The Clergy Funds is our way of giving back to those priests who enable us to live our Catholic faith, and to keep the promises made to care for those who have given up their lives out of love for us. We do this because our priests have been there for us when we needed them; we do this because it is our privilege and our duty to care for our priests when they need us.

Thank you for your generous and prayerful support of our priests. For more info, please visit: www.ClergyTrust.org



A note about the CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

All of the money collected during the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses will be sent into the Archdiocese for the Clergy Health & Retirement Fund. The parish does not keep any of this money. (NOTE: if you send us your Christmas envelope early, it also goes to this fund.)

If you want to make a special donation to the parish during this season, please use the Offertory collections before or after Christmas. Thanks!



Important Information for your DONATION STATEMENTS for 2017

Statements for donations are only sent to those parishioners who submit their donations in a parish envelope or through our OnLine Giving system. *Loose checks put into the Offertory basket are not recorded into the database.*

Please give Debbie a call at 978-433-5737 or email Debbie@OurLadyofGraceMA.org for information.

Our Lady of Grace Parish Ministries



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

This group of parishioners to assist the Pastor and staff in providing leadership for Our Lady of Grace Parish.

Contact: Fr. Jeremy St. Martin, fr_jeremy@ourladyofgracema.org

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

A group of parishioners who have backgrounds in business management, property maintenance and administration, finance, planning, budgeting, accounting, investment, fund-raising and/or the law, who meet with the Pastor & Business Manager (Debbie Lackey) to help with the administration of parish finances, facilities & business matters. **Contact:** Debbie Lackey, 978-433-5737, ext. 307. debbie@ourladyofgracema.org

WORSHIP COMMISSION

This group is comprised of a variety of parishioners with diverse gifts and skills, i.e., some who have special talents in art, sewing, music, interior decorating, etc., who together with the Pastoral Staff, study, plan and coordinate all aspects of the worship in our parish.

Contact: Fr. Jeremy St. Martin at 978-433-5737, or fr_jeremy@ourladyofgracema.org

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY – Those entrusted with this caring ministry, reach out to others at a time when they are experiencing loss and grief. **Contact:** Joan Croteau, Ministry leader, at joancroteau@gmail.com

RCIA TEAM - This group of individuals are entrusted as catechists, mentors and leaders for those who have approached us, seeking the sacraments of initiation and reception into full communion with the Catholic Church. There are three ongoing groups: The Adult group (age 18 +), "Seekers II" – for Middle and High School-Aged children, and "Seekers I" – for Elementary School-Aged Children.

Contact: Deacon Michael Markham at 978-433-5737, ext. 111 or dcnmichaelmarkham@gmail.com

KITCHEN CREW – This group of individuals organize, schedule, cook/bake and host many parish social events. Some of their annual and very successful events include: Parish Picnic, Pasta Supper, and, Craft Fair (food table),

Contact: Debbie Lackey 978-433-5737 ext 307 Debbie@ourladyofgracema.org

MONEY COUNTERS – These individuals are entrusted with things temporal. They are the good stewards of the gifts, the treasures we offer. **Contact:** Debbie Lackey, Business Manager, OLOG at 978-433-5737, ext. 307 or Debbie@ourladyofgracema.org

BAPTISMAL MINISTRY – Couples involved in this ministry welcome our youngest members into the Catholic community. They meet with young parents, and educating them/their families about the Sacrament of Baptism, they also assist the priest and deacon at the many and varied celebrations of this sacrament (i.e. at Mass, at special communal baptismal celebrations. **Contact:** Rena Cutchin Mendel, Ministry leader, at renacutchin@hotmail.com

MARRIAGE MINISTRY – These married couples collaborate with others in the Merrimack region to prepare engaged couples for a Sacramental Marriage. **Contacts:** Pete & Therese Braudis, Ministry leaders at tpbraudis@verizon.net

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS – We are a worldwide Catholic, fraternal organization based in New Haven, CT. The Sister Lydia Madeleine Longley Council (#13140) serves Our Lady of Grace with a primary focus of supporting the youth of our Parish and community. We hold annual fund raisers including our Spaghetti and Ham 'n' Bean suppers. **Contact:** Dennis Murray, Grand Knight, at info@grotonkofc.org.

Legion of Mary: This dedicated group of parishioners meets every Wednesday afternoon for prayer, lifting up the concerns of our congregation as they say the Rosary together. Our Legion group is also part of a wider community of prayer & spiritual support which is based in the Merrimack Valley. Their apostolic works include visits of friendship & faith to those who are in hospitals, nursing homes or who are homebound. **Contact:** Parish Office– 978-433-5737

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE – Parishioners meet regularly to support the pro-life cause in all its forms. Educational programs and fund-raisers in support of life are planned through the year. It is the mission of this group to help promote the vision of our Church that every human life has God-given dignity and deserves complete respect, from the first moment of conception to the last moment of natural death. **Contacts:** Stephanie Dunsmoor, 978-433-3397 or Dottie Zale, Ministry leader at dotizale@hotmail.com

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Extraordinary Ministers of Eucharist – These individuals are entrusted with administering the Eucharist, the Sacred Body and Blood of Christ at our Sacred Liturgies, and they may bring Communion to the sick or dying.

Contact: Deborah Penny, Ministry leader at pennies4@charter.net

Lector Ministry – These individuals are entrusted with the Word of God, with the proclamation of Sacred Scripture...that which lies at the heart of our Christian life. **Contact:** Patricia Buckjune, Ministry leader at pbuckjune1@charter.net

Music Ministry – Liturgical music is an art placed at the service of communal prayer. In this ministry, through music, the musicians, cantors and choir assist the assembled believers to express and share the gift of faith that is within them. **Contact:** Ellen Blackwell at 978-433-6131, or ellenbmusic@gmail.com.

Ushers/Greeters – These individuals are committed to hospitality, welcoming friends and strangers alike who gather for liturgy – as the assembled Body of Christ. These are the ones who "meet, greet, and seat" people, making sure that all feel welcome. **Contact:** Sharon & Ken Marshall, Ministry leaders at Sharon.marshall416@gmail.com

Altar Servers – These young people serve at the Lord's table, giving assistance to the priest and deacon at Mass. **Contact:** Fr. Jeremy St. Martin at 978-433-5737 or fr_jeremy@ourladyofgracema.org

LITURGICAL COORDINATORS & SACRISTANS– These individuals prepare an inviting space for the worship of the community, and ensuring that the proper books, objects, vessels and linens are available and in place for *all* liturgies. In addition, the Liturgical Coordinators are the "point people" for all liturgical ministers, answering any questions that arise, greeting visiting clergy, ensuring that seats are reserved when needed, and ensuring that all in ministry have arrived as scheduled. **Contacts:** For Liturgical Coordinators: Patricia McGuire at pmcg2@verizon.net; for Sacristan: Karen McKusick at kmckusick@charter.net

Pastoral Visitors Ministry–This group of people reaches out to the sick, lonely and homebound (including those in nursing homes & assisted living facilities) of the parish. The Eucharistic Ministers of this group bring Holy Communion to those who wish to receive, but are no longer able to be present at the celebration of the Eucharist. **Contact:** Fr. Jeremy St. Martin at 978-433-5737, or fr_jeremy@ourladyofgracema.org

