



MARY  
*Queen of the Apostles*



MARÍA  
*Reina de los Apóstoles*

December 6, 2020

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

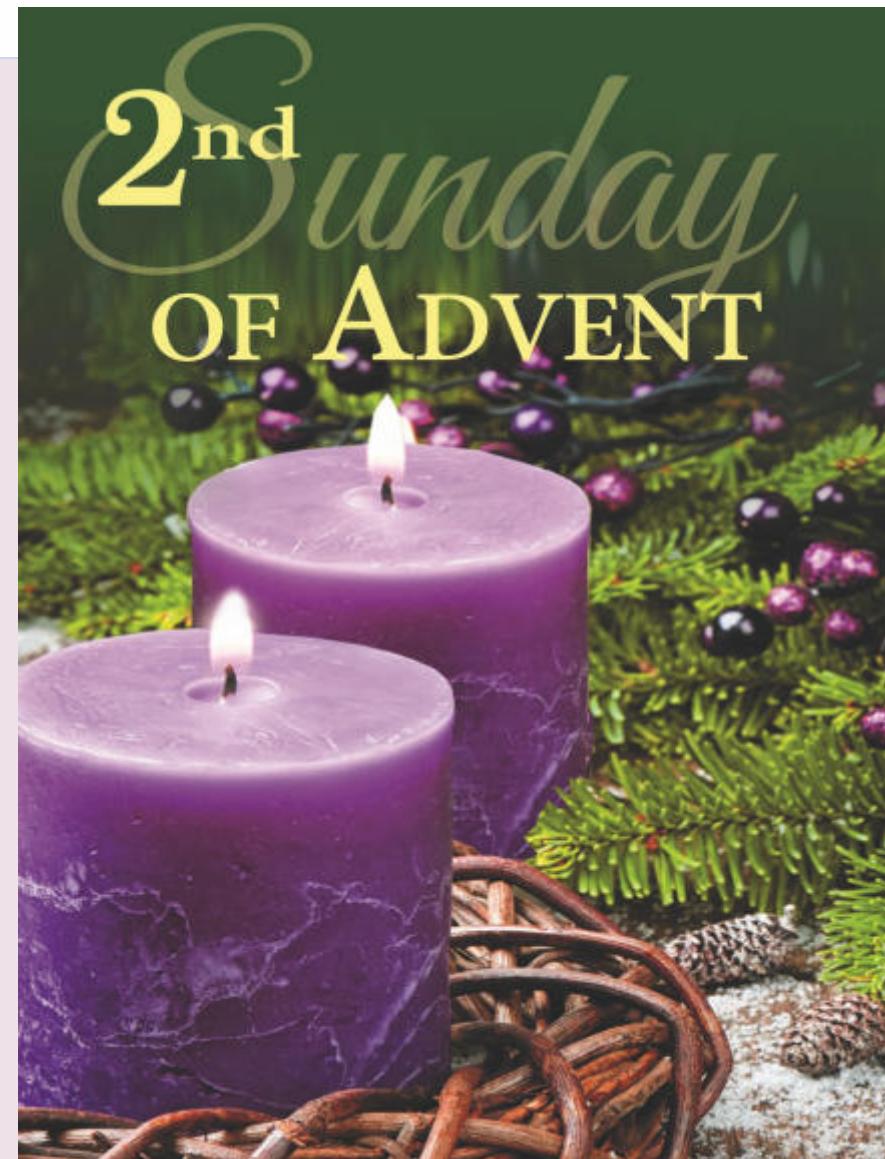
978-745-9060 | [info@MQOA.org](mailto:info@MQOA.org)

## WELCOME

Thank you for staying connected with us in prayer, wherever you are.

We hope that you find us to be Holy Spirit-filled disciples of Jesus Christ, centered in the Eucharist.

Contact us soon to find out how you can be a part of what MQOA is doing to offer welcome and healing to all.



## THIS WEEK AT MQOA:

03

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

04

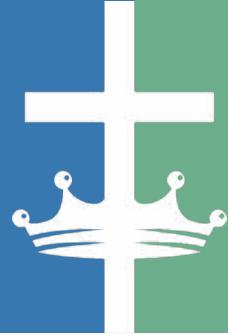
THIS WEEK AT MQOA

06

GRAND ANNUAL UPDATE

07

CHRISTMAS WALK 2020



## 02 A MESSAGE FROM FR. MURRAY



It is fitting that we begin this new liturgical year with the Gospel of Mark. It is a Gospel full of questions and unsure

responses to the marvels witnessed throughout the lifetime of Jesus, until the very end with the crucifixion scene. This Gospel shows the faith of the apostles despite their unsure feelings, doubts, and fears about who Jesus was, and what it meant to follow Him. They were living in a society and time that was rejecting and repelling Him when He told the truth, but revered and needed Him when He was feeding, healing, or raising from the dead.

The whole secret to the Gospel of Mark is that we must accept the *whole* story of Jesus, from his humble birth to his ugly death and glorious resurrection. From the Roman centurion (who was an outsider in faith but a participant in the crucifixion of Jesus) comes this proclamation: "Truly, this man was the Son of God!" (Mark 15:39) What he didn't realize, but we do, is that Jesus is still the Son of God. That is the Good News for all time. Death and sin and all the challenges of life did not overcome Jesus, and that is true

for us today, too.

The Gospel of Mark is believed to have been written during a time of persecution and suffering for the Church. It is critical to remember that the crucifixion of Jesus is part of the truth of the story and we have to accept it. It is hard to imagine God loves us this much, that He would send His Son to die for each of us, and to give us the courage to say to ourselves that Jesus is truly the Son of God. And yet, that glorious, grace-filled truth is exactly the mystery we proclaim.

We live in a time of challenge to the Christian message, and yet we know this message will bring the most strength and healing to us all. As I think about all the challenges we face as a parish and Church, as a city, state, nation, and world, I can only return to the message that Jesus Christ is Lord and entrust to Him all that lies before us. We must remember we are meant to invite others to know Jesus Christ, and hope they, like the centurion, believe and eventually join us in proclaiming the Gospel. All our efforts this year and last year are toward this work, whether directly or indirectly. I hope that the Gospel messages of the closing weeks of last year will help us all to examine what we do

for our faith: how we work to deepen and strengthen our understanding, and our capacity to share it and put it into action.

The Holy Father's most recent encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, challenges us to see other people as made in God's image and that they are our brothers and sisters. It is not some radical behavior; rather it is our consistent call as a way of living out the Gospel we have been given. I hope and pray that in this new liturgical year, despite the insecurities of the pandemic and the upheaval in the political world, we can grow more consciously as a parish for having welcomed more people to know the whole story of Jesus Christ and encounter the power of God's love in the world.

*Peace,  
Father Murray*

Building news: We are still waiting for the final judgment on the tower at St. James. The plan now is to remove the windows, put in plywood, and address the problems in the spring. We received a commercial refrigerator from a donor, and we are working to upgrade the kitchen at St. James hall so that we can be ready to feed Alpha guests and others, as soon as that's possible.

## PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Offices: 158 Federal St. Salem, MA 01970 | 978-745-9060 | Open: Please call.



### ST. JAMES CHURCH

156 Federal St. Salem, MA 01970

#### Conference Room:

158 Federal St.

Rear Hall: enter from rear parking



### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

15 Hawthorne Blvd. Salem, MA 01970

Rectory: 30 Union St.

# UN MENSAJE DEL PADRE MURRAY 03

Conviene que comencemos este nuevo año litúrgico con el Evangelio de Marcos. Es un Evangelio lleno de preguntas y respuestas inseguras a las maravillas presenciadas hasta el final en la escena de la crucifixión. Es un Evangelio que muestra la fe de los apóstoles a pesar de sus sentimientos inseguros, sus dudas y temores sobre quién es Jesús y qué significa seguirlo en medio de una sociedad y un tiempo que lo rechazaba y repelía cuando decía la verdad; pero lo veneraba y lo necesitaba cuando los alimentaba, sanaba o resucitaba de entre los muertos. El secreto del Evangelio de Marcos encierra la verdad de que debemos aceptar toda la historia de Jesús, desde su humilde nacimiento hasta la horrible muerte y la gloriosa resurrección. Del centurión romano, un forastero en la fe, pero participante en la crucifixión de Jesús, surge esta proclamación. "¡En verdad, este hombre era el Hijo de Dios!" (MK 15:39). Lo que él no se dio cuenta, pero nosotros sí, es que Él todavía es el Hijo de Dios y esa es la Buena Nueva para siempre. La muerte, el pecado y todos los desafíos de la vida no vencieron a Jesús, y esa es la verdad para nosotros también en la actualidad.

Se cree que el Evangelio de Marcos fue escrito durante una época de persecución y sufrimiento para la iglesia. Es fundamental recordar que la crucifixión de Jesús es parte de la verdad de la historia y que tenemos que aceptarla. Es

difícil imaginar que Dios nos ama tanto, que enviaría a su hijo a morir por cada uno de nosotros y para darnos el valor de decirnos a nosotros mismos que Jesús es verdaderamente el Hijo de Dios. Y, sin embargo, esa verdad gloriosa y llena de gracia es exactamente el misterio que proclamamos.

Vivimos en una época de desafío al mensaje cristiano y, sin embargo, creamos que ese es el mensaje que, con certeza, nos traerá más fortaleza y sanidad a todos. Al pensar en todos los desafíos que enfrentamos como parroquia e iglesia, como ciudad, estado, nación y mundo, solo puedo volver al mensaje de que Jesucristo es el Señor y encomendarle todo lo que tenemos ante nosotros. El desafío para todos nosotros en este tiempo es recordar que somos personas que invitamos a otros a conocer a Jesucristo para que lleguen a ser como el centurión, crean, y finalmente se unan a nosotros para proclamar el Evangelio. Todos nuestros esfuerzos este año y el año litúrgico pasado están dirigidos hacia ese objetivo, ya sea directa o indirectamente. Espero que los mensajes del Evangelio de las últimas semanas del año pasado nos ayuden a todos a examinar lo que hacemos por nuestra fe, cómo trabajamos para profundizar y fortalecer nuestro entendimiento del Evangelio y nuestra capacidad para compartirlo y ponerlo en acción.

La encíclica más reciente del Santo Padre, "Fratelli Tutti", nos desafía a todos a tomar conciencia de que estamos llamados a ver siempre a las otras personas como hechas a imagen de Dios, al igual que nosotros, y que somos hermanos y hermanas. No se trata de un comportamiento radical, sino de un llamado constante a asumir la forma de vivir el Evangelio que se nos ha dado. Espero, rezó y estoy trabajando para hacer de este año, a pesar de nuestra inseguridad con la pandemia y la agitación en el mundo político, un año en el que podamos crecer más conscientemente como parroquia por haber dado la bienvenida a más personas para que conozcan toda la historia de Jesucristo y el poder del amor de Dios en el mundo.

*Paz, Padre Murray*

Construyendo noticias. Todavía estamos esperando el juicio final sobre la torre de St. James. Ahora, el plan es quitar las ventanas, poner madera contrachapada y resolver los problemas en la primavera. Recibimos un refrigerador comercial de un restaurante cerrado.

## *Scripture for the week of December 6, 2020*

- 6 SUN Is 40:1-5, 9-11/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8
- 7 Mon Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26
- 8 Tue Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
- 9 Wed Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30
- 10 Thu Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15
- 11 Fri Is 48:17-19.Mt 11:16-19
- 12 Sat Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
- 13 SUN Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8,19-28

Daily Readings can also be found at  
[www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)



Feast of the Immaculate Conception  
December 8

# 04 THIS WEEK AT MQOA

## MQOA THIS WEEK In-Person/Online

### SATURDAY

Mass, 4:00 PM Online

### SUNDAY

**Mass, 8:30 AM\*\***

St. James Hall

Online & In-Person

**Mass, 11:30 AM \*\***

Immaculate Hall

Online & In-Person

en español

**Mass, 6:00 PM \*\***

Immaculate Hall

Online & In-Person

**\*\*Listen in your car**

from the church parking  
lot on 88.1 FM

### MONDAY

Online message from

Fr. Murray

9:00 AM, en español

### TUESDAY

Daily Mass

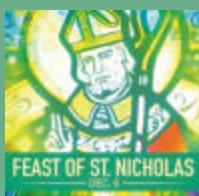
Online at 9 :00 AM

Healing Service

7:00 PM on ZOOM

### WEDNESDAY

This Week @ MQOA  
posted online



## ONLINE POSTS

Mass, Father Murray's Monday message in Spanish and "This Week @ MQOA," can be viewed via our Facebook page: [facebook.com/mqoasalem](https://facebook.com/mqoasalem)

## IN-PERSON MASS

Sunday Masses indoors: **PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED** before attending one of our Indoor Masses. Sign up, up to four weeks in advance, at [mqoa.org/worship](http://mqoa.org/worship) or call the office. Please only sign up for the Sunday you plan to go indoors to celebrate Mass. Please wear masks and maintain social distancing.

**YOU MAY ALSO REMAIN IN YOUR CAR.** Mass will be broadcast on 88.1 FM and online. Communion will be brought to your car following Mass. If you plan to remain in your car, registration is not needed.

## FOLLOW ALONG WITH MASS!

If you are celebrating Mass in-person or watching Mass online, use this Mass Guide to follow along. Updated weekly with Sunday's Readings.

[mqoa.org/worship](http://mqoa.org/worship)



**TUESDAY, DEC 8 AT 7:00 PM, ON ZOOM**  
As Catholic Christians, we believe that God still heals in practical and visible ways today. Join us for this bilingual online Healing Prayer Service. Our Healing Team consists of trained priests

and lay ministers who guide prayers of healing for physical, spiritual, and emotional needs.

## Christmas Eve

3:00 PM ~ Join us at St. James parking lot to sing carols from your car.

3:30 PM ~ Drive-in Mass at St. James parking lot following Christmas carols.

4:00 PM ~ A beautiful Christmas Eve Mass, recorded at Immaculate Conception Parish, will be posted on our Facebook and website. Your family can view this special Mass together, anytime during Christmas.

## Christmas Day

11:00 AM ~ Bilingual Drive-in Mass outside at St. James parking lot.



## SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL

### MATCHING DONATION DOUBLES YOUR GIFT THIS DECEMBER

Once again this year, we have been blessed with an anonymous donor who will match all donations made to the Salem St. Vincent de Paul Society during the month of December. This is an opportunity for members of the Salem community to double the value of a gift to help Christ and His poor. What better way to celebrate this Christmas season, especially in this year of a pandemic, than to help the needy in our own city. We can't be at the church doors for our regular collections, but all donations made in the month of December will qualify for the match.

You may place your donation in one of the collection boxes at St. Anne's, St James, or Immaculate Conception Parishes any time during the month of December, or you may also mail checks, made out to **St. Vincent de Paul** and addressed to:

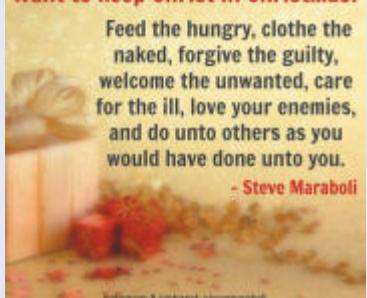
Society of St. Vincent de Paul, 158 Federal St., Salem, MA. 01970.

For the last month, your donations helped to fund \$17,786 in assistance to the poor in Salem (the most we have ever spent in one month), including \$8,672 for overdue rent to avoid eviction; \$2,786 for past due electricity and fuel bills to avoid shut-off of those utilities; \$4,009 for food vouchers; and \$1,173 for miscellaneous items such as beds and bedding, and adult diapers. Because we are a volunteer organization, our operating expenses were just \$147 for the month. **We gratefully acknowledge your generous contributions which help the needy of Salem.**

#### Want to keep Christ in Christmas?

Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, forgive the guilty, welcome the unwanted, care for the ill, love your enemies, and do unto others as you would have done unto you.

- Steve Maraboli



## YOUR WEEKLY FINANCIAL SUPPORT MAKES EVERYTHING HAPPEN

Everything we do at Mary, Queen of the Apostles Parish is supported by your prayerful and financial support.

Your regular weekly contribution makes online ministries like Alpha, our streamed Adoration times, and recorded Masses happen, and supports our efforts to keep in touch, minister to, and serve our parishioners and beyond.



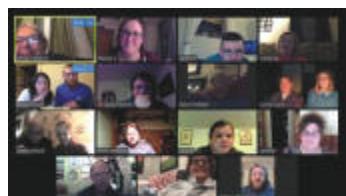
If you have envelopes, please mail them to our office at **158 Federal Street**. You can also drop them in our secure mailbox at the office door.



You can give **Online** via Venmo, credit card, or PayPal with **Givebutter**; visit our website: [www.givebutter.com/mqoa](http://www.givebutter.com/mqoa) or scan this code >>>>>>



Become a sustaining giver, learn how you can support the parish with your Amazon purchases, and more at [www.mqoa.org/donate](http://www.mqoa.org/donate)



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

# 06 GRAND ANNUAL

**GRAND ANNUAL** Thank you to those who have already responded to our Grand Annual letter. If you did not receive Father Murray's Grand Annual letter in the mail, you can find it on the Home Page of our website. We know this has been a challenging year for many, especially financially. If you are able, we hope you will consider donating to our Grand Annual. We are grateful for your donations and for your prayerful support.

## HOW TO DONATE

### Regular/sustaining:

- Online via WeShare
- Online with Givebutter
- Envelopes: call 978-745-9060

### One-time gifts:

- Online with WeShare
- Online with Givebutter
- Checks written to MQOA Parish

### Legacy:

Wills, bequests, estate planning help is available: 978-745-9060

### In-kind:

Carpentry, electrical, plumbing, cleaning, food preparation, tech, equipment, other expertise. Tax receipts are available.

**MQOA.org/donate**  
(or scan below with your phone)



*May the grace of God's world, the guidance of His hand, and the loving wisdom of His words, fill your heart and light your way today and every day.*

*Best wishes on your Confirmation!*

## GRAND ANNUAL

**UPDATE  
(as of 11-23-20)**

**\$12,237.25  
Thank you!**

**Goal: \$45,000**



## Congratulations to our Confirmation Students.

On Sunday, November 15, twelve of our faith formation students made their Confirmation. We welcomed Bishop Mark O'Connell who officiated the sacrament of Confirmation.

May the Holy Spirit be forever with them, guiding them to a life with Christ.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS 07



*Christmas Walk*  
at IC Church lawn  
December 2020  
Stop by any evening...  
15 Hawthorne Blvd. Salem

**WALK THRU CHRISTMAS MAGIC AT IMMACULATE!**  
We have transformed our side lawn at IC into a beautiful Christmas lit wonderland to walk thru during the month of December. Come take a stroll during the evening thru a magical festival of lights. The Christmas Walk will be ever growing, so visit often!

Help us decorate! We hope to keep expanding and invite your family to come help us decorate. Sign up on a day/time in December to add your family's decorative touch to our displays! Contact Margo to arrange a time to decorate at mmoring@mqa.org. We want the walk to grow and grow all month.

If you have no eye for decorating but have decorations to spare, we need Christmas lights (white and multicolored) and any Christmas decorations you are willing to give. If you have new or used decorations/lights to donate or let us borrow, drop them off anytime at our parish office at 158 Federal Street. You can leave them in our lower mailbox or by the door.

This Christmas can still be a safe celebration. We hope to see you this month!

## Do you know an ALPHA fan?



Buy them an ALPHA MQOA mask for Christmas! (Just \$12 and they make great stocking stuffers!)



## Are you an Alpha fan?

Buy yourself an ALPHA mask to share the spirit!

Use this QR Code to make your purchase.  
Or, call the office.



## SHOP AT AMAZON? KEEP US IN MIND



If you do your Christmas shopping on Amazon this year, remember us! For every purchase you make, MQOA will receive a percentage.

Use the website link or QR Code:



Amazon smile link:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/82-2263996>

Thank you for keeping MQOA in mind!

## TIMMY'S ANGELS BRINGS SANTA TO SALEM

Our Santa mailbox is out and ready for letters!! We just ask for a donation. All money raised will go to Timmy's Angels for our toy/coat drive for the homeless. Every child will get a personalized letter back. Please, DONT FORGET TO PUT YOUR RETURN ADDRESS!!

Santa will be here December 11th, 12th, 18th and 19th from 5 PM to 7 PM. If those dates change we will let you know. SANTA will have his own bench, up the walkway, and kids can say hello. You can also take pictures at a safe distance. Every child will get a candy cane and a special stuffed animal from Santa. We have our candy chute ready to go for Santa to send those candy canes down to the kiddos.

We can't wait to see all these happy kiddos!! Our address is 14 Preston Rd Salem. The house is decorated and ready to go (although we may not be done just yet). Make sure you look for the 12-foot Santa in the side yard.



God Bless and Merry Christmas to you and your family!



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Mary, Queen of the Apostles Salem, MA

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