



MARY
Queen of the Apostles



MARÍA
Reina de los Apóstoles

December 5, 2021

www.MQOA.org

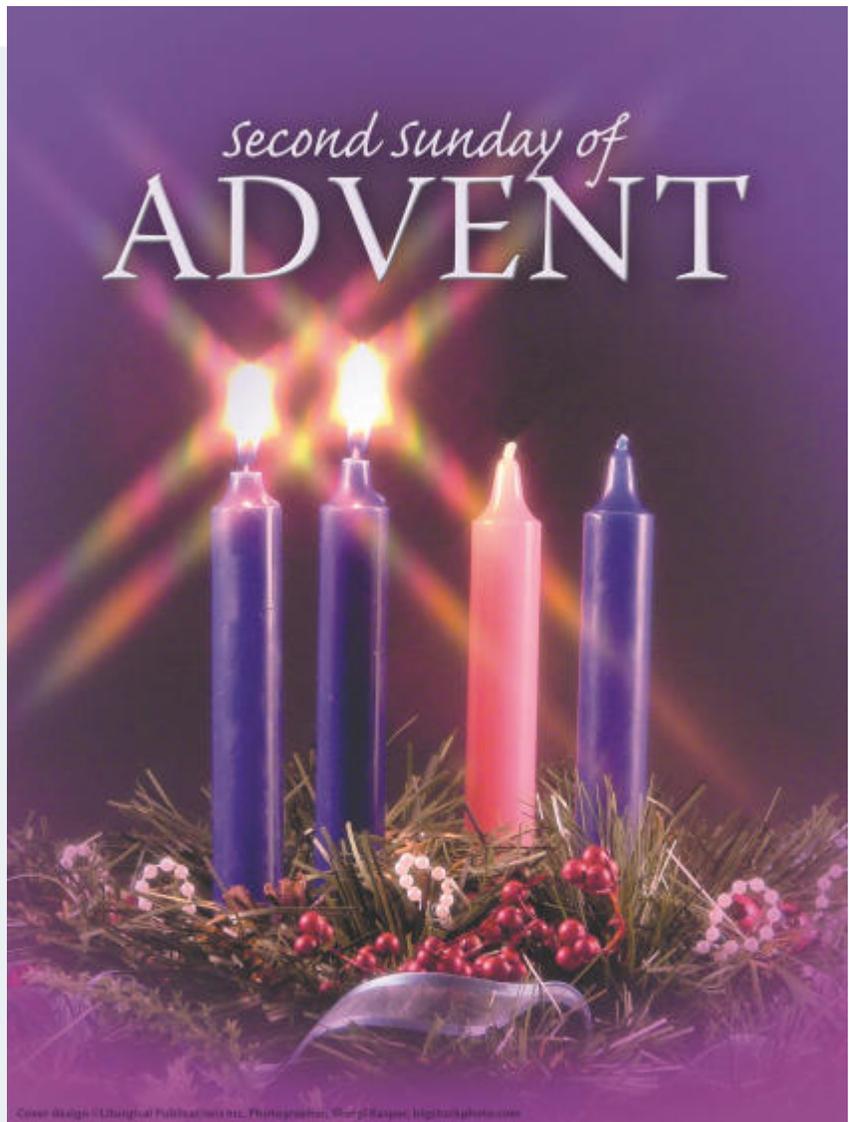
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WELCOME BIENVENIDO

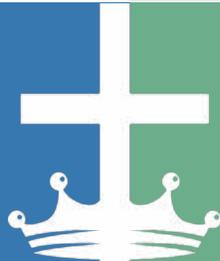
**Be welcomed.
Be healed.
Belong.**

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

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



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THIS WEEK AT MQOA:

02-03

A MESSAGE FROM FR. MURRAY/UN MENS AJE DEL PADRE MURRAY

04

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FORM A COUNCIL

05

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASSES

06

ST. VINCENT DEPAUL GIFT MATCH

02 A MESSAGE FROM FR. MURRAY



I love the season of Advent, because it reminds us that we are a people who value tradition, and at the same time

we are forward-thinking. In this new season, we look back to remember the extraordinary event of the Incarnation and theophany (visible manifestation of God) and think about how we can prepare ourselves to see God. John the Baptist will be featured prominently in the Gospels this week and next. His challenging message of repentance and the need to change is balanced against the hopeful messages of the prophets and Paul in the first and second readings.

Repentance is changing our view and our minds about who we are, so that we can easily be prepared to accept Jesus and His teachings when He comes again.

As we continue with the season of Advent, we also celebrate another major figure of our faith. Mary's Immaculate Conception was declared as an official dogmatic teaching in 1854 by Pope Pius IX. It is celebrated this Wednesday, December 8. It was considered controversial at the time to make this teaching dogmatic (i.e., divinely revealed),

but the belief was widely held that Mary must not have had the effects of original sin in her body; this was a gift from God. It is also a precursor to receiving the gift of the Annunciation later in her life.

What I always admire about Mary is her free acceptance of the will of God without knowing what it would do to her in her life. It is a practice that I have heard some people use and call "the Scary Prayer." In fact, a few others in the Bible have used it, including Moses and the prophet Jeremiah. It basically says, "Lord I am willing to do whatever you want me to do without knowing the outcome, the changes, or the effect it will have on my life."

Mary is singular in her immediate "yes" and in how she lives her life. We can see that when God chooses us to do something for Him, it will glorify Him directly, and us indirectly. I have a great devotion to Mary, and believe that she is always helping us, through the example of her yes and trust in God. She also helps us realize that we are not made only for ourselves and our own destinies.

A popular spiritual writer of our time, Richard Rohr, wrote a book about achieving spiritual maturity. One of his points was that we must recognize that "our lives are not only about us." Mary, from the youngest age,

realized this; even before her wedding and before all that she experienced. Her Immaculate Conception signals that she was being prepared to do God's will. The good news for us is that we are welcome, too, to say yes to God's will. Like Mary and so many others, God is there alongside of us to help us.

I hope that this Advent is an opportunity for all to accept the invitation to be on a path of discipleship. We are all called to hear God's word, and must not forget that God wants the very best for us. If we ready the way for God in our hearts, He will ready a way for us in His grace.

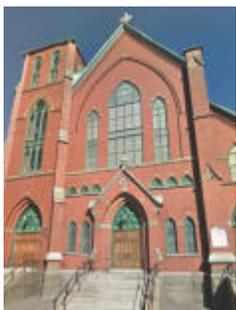
Peace, Father Murray

Building News: This week we finished the bell project, and soon we will have the memorial plaque dedicated and mounted. I plan to invite Bishop Mark O'Connell to both churches for these events. We also had a leaky oil tank removed at Immaculate Conception and had new basement windows put in the rectory. They were in very bad shape and were quite porous. Now that they've been replaced, we have some lightly used mouse traps available if anyone needs them.

PARISH INFORMATION

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

The office is not open for visitors at this time. Please call to make an appointment.



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

Me encanta la temporada de Adviento porque nos recuerda que somos un pueblo de tradición, recordamos y, al mismo tiempo, pensamos en el futuro. En esta nueva temporada miramos hacia atrás para recordar el evento extraordinario de la encarnación y toda la teofanía (apariciones de Dios) y pensamos en cómo podemos prepararnos para ver a Dios. Juan el Bautista será destacado en los Evangelios esta semana y la próxima. Su desafiante mensaje de arrepentimiento y la necesidad de cambiar se equilibra con los mensajes esperanzadores de los profetas y de Pablo en la primera y segunda lectura. El arrepentimiento implica cambiar nuestro punto de vista, nuestras mentes, acerca de quiénes somos, para que podamos estar preparados más fácilmente para aceptar a Jesús y sus enseñanzas cuando él venga.

A medida que continuamos con la temporada de Adviento, también celebramos a otra de las figuras más importantes de nuestra fe. La Inmaculada Concepción de María fue declarada doctrina dogmática en 1854 por Pío IX. Se celebra este miércoles 8 de diciembre. Se consideró controvertido en ese momento hacer que esta enseñanza fuera dogmática (es decir, revelada divinamente), pero la creencia de que María no debe haber tenido los

efectos del pecado original en su cuerpo como regalo de Dios, fue ampliamente generalizada. También es un precursor de recibir el regalo de la anunciación más adelante en su vida. Lo que siempre admiro de María es su libre aceptación de la voluntad de Dios sin saber lo que le haría en su vida. He escuchado que es una práctica que algunas personas usan y se conoce como la "Oración de miedo". De hecho, algunas otras personas en la Biblia la han usado, incluidos Moisés y el profeta Jeremías. Dice, básicamente, "Señor, estoy dispuesta a hacer lo que quieras que haga sin saber el resultado, los cambios o el efecto que tendrá en mi vida". María es singular en su sí inmediato para luego vivir su vida. Ahora podemos ver que cuando Dios nos elige para hacer algo por Él, lo glorificará a Él directamente y a nosotros indirectamente. Tengo una gran devoción por María y creo que ella siempre nos está ayudando con el ejemplo de su sí y su confianza en Dios. También nos ayuda a darnos cuenta de que no estamos hechos solo para nosotros y nuestros propios destinos. Un popular escritor espiritual de nuestro tiempo, Richard Rohr escribió un libro sobre los hombres que logran la madurez espiritual. Uno de sus puntos fue que debemos reconocer eso. "Nuestra vida no se trata solo de nosotros" María desde la muy joven se dio cuenta de esto, incluso

antes de su boda y antes de todo lo que vivió. Su Inmaculada concepción indica que estaba preparada para hacer la voluntad de Dios. La buena noticia para nosotros es que somos bienvenidos a decir que sí a la voluntad de Dios y, como María y tantos otros, Dios está a nuestro lado para ayudarnos.

Espero que este Adviento sea una oportunidad para que todos recuerden que la Iglesia nos está llamando a estar en el camino del discipulado. Todos estamos llamados a escuchar la palabra de Dios y no debemos olvidar que Él quiere lo mejor para nosotros. Si le preparamos el camino en nuestro corazón, Él nos preparará un camino en Su gracia.

Paz, Padre Murray

Esta semana terminamos el proyecto de la campana y ahora tendremos que dedicar y montar la placa conmemorativa. Planeo invitar al obispo Mark O'Connell a ambas iglesias para estos eventos. También nos quitaron un tanque de aceite que goteaba y pusieron una nueva ventana en el sótano en la rectoría. Estaban en muy mal estado y eran bastante porosos. Ahora que se reemplazan, tenemos disponibles algunas trampas para ratones -de poco uso-, por si alguien las necesita.

Readings for the week of December 5, 2021

Sunday:	Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6
Monday:	Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [cf. Is 35:4f]/ Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday:	Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13 [cf. Is 40:10ab]/ Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday:	Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/ Lk 1:26-38
Thursday:	Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15
Friday:	Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19
Saturday:	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/ Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday:	Zep 3:14-18a/Is12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

Daily Readings can also be found at www.usccb.org



04 THIS WEEK AT MQOA

MQOA THIS WEEK

MONDAYS, TUESDAYS,
WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS

Daily Mass at IC chapel
8:00 AM (NEW TIME)

SUNDAY, DEC 5

Advent Teaching Series
3:30 PM at IC

Rosary and Reflection
5:45 PM at IC Chapel

TUESDAY, DEC 7

Young Adults Advent Beta
8:00 PM via Zoom

WEDNESDAY, DEC 8

Feast of the Immaculate
Conception
8:00 AM Mass at IC
6:00 PM Mass (bilingual) at IC
followed by a potluck

FRIDAY, DEC 10

Mass en español
7:00 PM at IC

SATURDAY, DEC 11

Confession & Adoration
3:00 PM at IC Chapel

Serie de Enseñanza de
Adviento: La Generosidad de
San Lucas
7:00 PM at IC Church

SUNDAY, DEC 5

Advent Teaching Series
3:30 PM at IC

Rosary and Reflection
5:45 PM at IC Chapel



Immaculate Conception.

Luke's Generosity

Advent Teaching Series with Father Murray

Sundays, thru December 19

3:30 PM – 4:45 PM

As we begin a new liturgical year, our gospel readings will be taken from the Gospel of Luke. During Advent, join Father Murray as he leads a discussion on Luke and Luke's generosity. The Advent Teaching Series will meet at

Serie de Enseñanza de Adviento: La Generosidad de San Lucas

próximas reuniones: 11 y 18 de diciembre

7:00 PM a 8:00 PM

Inmaculada Concepción

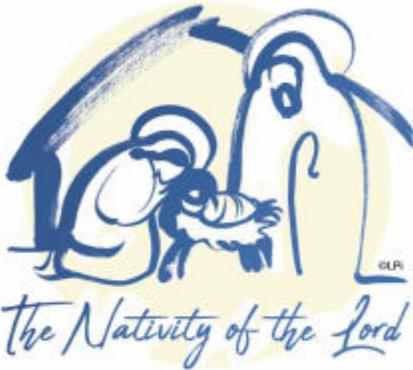
Al comenzar el nuevo año litúrgico, las lecturas dominicales del Evangelio vendrán del Evangelio de Lucas. Durante el Adviento, reúnanse con el Padre Murray mientras él dirige una conversación sobre la generosidad de Lucas. Esta serie de enseñanza de Adviento se reunirá en la Inmaculada Concepción.



Members of our new Knights of Columbus Council #17837

Did you know our new Knights group is officially a council? The Disciple of Salem Knights, Council #17837, is looking for more men to join this great service organization built around the principles of charity, unity, and fraternity. If you are interested in learning more about the Knights of Columbus and our Disciples of Salem Council, come to their next meeting on Monday, December 27, at 7 PM in the St. James Conference Room.

The Knights meet on the fourth Monday of every month.



*We hope you will join us for
Christmas Mass*

For a child is born to us, a son is given to us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. Isaiah 9:5

Christmas Eve

Friday, December 24th

4:00 PM - St. James Church | English

Christmas Day

Saturday, December 25th

8:30 AM - St. James Church | English

11:30 AM - St. James Church | Spanish



Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Wednesday, Dec 8

Miércoles, 8 de Diciembre

8:00 AM Mass at IC

6:00 PM Mass (bilingual) at IC followed by a potluck in the hall.

6:00 PM Misa (bilingüe) en el IC seguida de una comida en el salón.

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



ONLINE GIVING IS CONVENIENT AND SAFE

- You can set up recurring payments, which helps the parish budget each year
- Even if you are unable to attend Mass, you can still support your parish
- Helps our parish avoid check and bank fees
- You don't have to remember your envelope each week



Find information and links to the above online giving platforms by scanning the MQOA QR Code or visit:

<https://flow.page/mqoa>



Our new Knights has a Giving Tree to support St. Vincent de Paul and Lifebridge. The tree is located at IC Church! Please take an ornament and return your donation by Christmas. Thank you for your support!



Use your checking account or a major credit card. You can make a one-time or recurring donation.



Text: "MQOA" TO (202) 858-1233

GIVEBUTTER is a quick and easy way to give using your Venmo, Apple Pay, Google Pay, PayPal, or any major credit cards.

06 CONNECT AND GROW

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

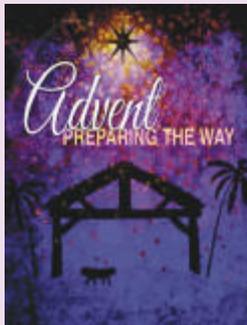
SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL | MATCHING GIFT OPPORTUNITY

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 Jesus care for the poor. What better way to celebrate this Christmas season, especially in this second year of the pandemic, than to help the needy in our own city? All donations made in the month of December will qualify for the match. We can't be at the church doors for our regular collections, but you may place your donation in one of the collection boxes at St. Anne's, St James, or Immaculate Conception 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 fiscal year ending September 30, your donations helped to fund \$110,349 in assistance to the poor in Salem, including \$58,891 for overdue rent to avoid eviction; \$19,663 for past due electricity and fuel bills to avoid shut off of those utilities; \$23,609 for food vouchers; and \$7,046 for miscellaneous items such as beds and bedding, car repairs, diapers and medical expenses. Because we are a volunteer organization, our operating expenses were just \$1,140 for the year. We gratefully acknowledge your generous contributions which help the needy of Salem.

Two of our valued team members died during the last year and another valued member moved out of state. We are therefore very much in need of new members. If you would like to join in Jesus' call to help those in need, please consider joining our team. Our next meeting will be at 6:30 PM on Monday, December 13 in the St. James conference room, which is below the MQOA office. The entrance is from the large parking lot behind St. James church, at the corner of Flint St. and Bridge St.

Thank you again for your generosity which helps the needy of Salem.



December 5 ~ Second Sunday of Advent

"Prepare the way of the Lord." This is what the Church calls us to focus on in these opening weeks of Advent. How might we prepare for the coming of Christ now and at the hour of our death? St. Paul offers some ideas for what we need to do. He prays that our love will increase in knowledge and perception, that we will discern what is of value, and that we will live pure and blameless lives. St. Paul encourages us with the reminder that God has already begun this good work in us and will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus. In this coming week, ask for the grace to keep the focus on Christ. Remember, that even in the midst of all that seeks to distract, God is with you.



Join Steven as he hosts an Advent BETA reflecting on the Sunday's Gospel online. Make your favorite holiday drink and join us online, Tuesdays at 8PM. To join, visit: www.mqoa.org/christmas.





Sun., December 5

8:30 AM Julietita & Anthony Gioioso
61st Wedding Anniversary
5:00 PM Sally, John, and Helen Zegarowski
Memorial

Sun., December 12

8:30 AM Dick Lowe Memorial
5:00 PM Kathleen McGah Memorial

If you would like to schedule a Mass intention to remember or honor a loved one, call the office at 978-745-9060.

Or email mbarrette@mqa.org.

SHOP AT AMAZON? KEEP US IN MIND



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Thank you for keeping MQOA in mind!



Jesus is Here: Archdiocese of Boston Eucharistic Congress

June 18, 2022

We are excited to announce that registration is now open for the 2022 Eucharistic Congress, Jesus is Here—a day-long event featuring Mass with the Cardinal, dynamic speakers including Bishop Robert Barron, Bishop Daniel Flores, Bobby and Jackie Angel, and Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers, Adoration, and a Eucharistic procession. Visit jesusishereboston.org for more information and to register



Daily Mass in the chapel at IC has a new time: **8 AM** Monday, Tuesday, Wednesdays, and Fridays

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

God's Personal Assistants

If you have ever planned a large-scale event, whether it's a musical performance or a religious conference, you may have dealt with someone's personal assistant. Possibly this person would be a representative of the keynote speaker or the master of ceremonies for the local bishop; perhaps it's even the staffer of a local politician or the lackey of a well-known musical act.

Personal assistants are masters of stewardship—overseeing things in their boss' absence. They prepare the way. This person's job is to get everything ready for the person in charge, so that when he or she shows up—whoever he or she is—it's smooth sailing for them to do whatever it is they need to do: sing, speak, pray, mingle, what-have-you. It's usually a big job full of little things, a gig where attention to detail is key.

God is the guest of honor in our life, the keynote speaker, the main event. And what He wants—what He needs—to do is to change our hearts. Constantly, over, and over, and over again.

We are all His personal assistants in this endeavor. We need to prepare the way of the Lord, to make straight His paths. We need to make everything ready so that when He shows up—however He shows up, whether it's in the form of a neighbor in need or a burning bush right in front of us—everything is ready for Him to do His job.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

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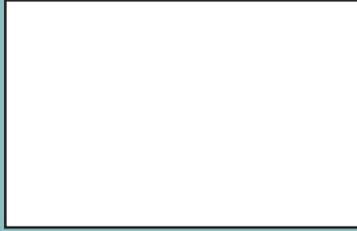

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