

Parish of St. Mary

Worship Schedule

Lord's Day Mass:

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 PM (Lee) 5:30 PM (Otis)

Sunday: 8 & 11 AM (Lee) & 9:30 AM (Stockbridge)

Weekday Mass: (Lee) - 7:00 AM

Holy Days of Obligation (please see inside)

Parish Offices

40 Academy Street / Lee, MA 01238

Hours: Tues, Wed, Thurs 9am-12pm or by appt

Telephone (413)243-0275

Fax: (413)243-1926

Faith Formation Office (413)243-1079, Ext. 8

Email: icsmchurch@gmail.com

Website: www.stmarylos.com

Prayer Line (413)243-1523 (Vicki)

Parish Pastoral Staff

Fr. Brian F. McGrath - *Pastor*

Fr. John Duy Anh Le - *Parochial Vicar*

Deacon Jim McElroy - *Permanent Deacon*

Deacon Bob Digan - *Deacon Emeritus*

Mrs. Karen T. Vidoli - *Office Manager*

Mrs. Katherine Murray - *Faith Formation Coordinator*

Mrs. Fernanda Haywood - *Bookkeeper*

Ms. Sandy Cummings - *Music Director (Lee)*

Ms. Susan Aery - *Music Director (Otis)*

Mr. Art DeVlyder - *Music Director (Stockbridge)*

Mrs. Colleen Free - *Youth Ministry*

Mr. Charles Houff - *Pastoral Council*

Mr. Richard Brittain - *Administration & Finance*

Mrs. Brenda Bianco - *Child Advocate*

Mr. Jeffrey Simmons / Mr. Dion Hall - *Maintenance*

Pastoral Council

Charles Houff
Chairperson

Brenda Bianco

Joe Cox

Verna Houff

Richard Lacey

Carol Lombardo

Lynda Newton

Sheila Viale

Kate Murray

Finance Council

Richard Brittain
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www.StMarysLee.org

Mrs. Jennifer Masten| *Principal*

Mrs. Linda Winters| *School Secretary*

Mrs. Gina Reiners | *School Board Chair*



St. Mary, Mother of the Church

140 Main Street

Lee

St. Mary of the Lakes

72 North Main Road

Otis

St. Joseph Church

11 Elm Street

Stockbridge

One parish serving God and Neighbor in three worship sites.



1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



"Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come." - Mk 13:33

Parish of St Mary

Please pray for the men and women who have been activated to serve our nation, all our police officers, firefighters, first responders, health care workers, research scientists and essential services workers.

Let us also pray for our departed brothers and sisters, especially those who have died due to the pandemic, anyone who has passed away recently, for those we miss so much.

May they rest in the loving arms of God in heaven. AMEN.

If you would like to add a name of a deceased loved one, please call the rectory.

Mass Intentions for This Week

Sat.	Nov 28	4:00 PM	† Richard Brunell (29th anniv.), by Becky and Bill Brunell
	Otis	5:30 PM	† Deceased Member of our Parish Family
Sun	Nov 29	8:00 AM	† George O'Brien, by his Family
	Stockbridge	9:30 AM	† Mary and Michael Baccoli, by the Children
		11:00 AM	† Fredrick Costella, by Mary Morrissey
Mon.	Nov 30	7:00 AM	† All Who Are Listed on our All Souls Envelopes
Tue.	Dec 1	7:00 AM	† Bob Wilson, by the Blooms
Wed.	Dec 2	7:00 AM	† Kathleen Arment, by Ed and Laurie Forfa
Thur.	Dec 3	7:00 AM	† John + Mary Murray, by the Family
Fri.	Dec 4	7:00 AM	† Rosemarie Dolson, by Chris and Art Dutil
Sat.	Dec 5	4:00 PM	† Robert Perry, by his wife Rita
	Otis	5:30 PM	† Joseph Kolzalka, by his wife Theresa
Sun	Dec 6	8:00 AM	† Barbara Puleri, by her husband Monk
	Stockbridge	9:30 AM	† Patrick McCarthy, by Vicki O'Neil
		11:00 AM	† John Guidice, by Bill and Mary Morrissey

The Candles this Week

Sanctuary:

Grotto Lamps:

Oratory Lamps: Consolo Merovglia

Candles may be reserved by calling the rectory at 243-0275



Weekly Parishioner Contributions 11/18/20 - 11/24/20

At Masses: \$2, 147

Mailed/Dropped Off: \$1,195

Online Giving: \$391

Special Collections: December - Christmas Flowers (12/6), Feast of the Immaculate Conception (12/8), Retirement Fund for Religious (12/13), Christmas (12/25)

Ministers on the Altar

For now there will be no altar servers at any Masses. EMs and Readers, please review the new procedures for COVID re-opening. Thanks to all who serve! You make our worship together possible, in a special way thanks to all our Ushers and Ministers of Hospitality.

Sat. 12/5 3:00 pm Confessions: Fr. Duy

4:00 pm (Lee): Fr. Duy

E.M.: Mary Ann Simmons, Tom Rollinger

Lector: Barb Scolforo

5:30 pm (Otis): Fr. Brian

E.M.: Carol Lombardo, **Lector:** Joan Benham

Sun. 12/6

8:00 am (Lee): Fr. Duy w/Deacon Jim

E.M.: Ann O'Brien

Lector: Richard Lindsay **A.S.s:** Kara Curtin

9:30 am (Stockbridge): Fr. Brian

Lector: Paula Valenti

11:00 am (Lee): Fr. Duy w/Deacon Jim

E.M.: Julie Choi **Lector:** Chad Klapes

Readings for the Week of November 29nd, 2020

1st Sunday of Advent: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37

Monday, **St. Andrew, Apostle—Feast:** Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19/Mt 4:18-2

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72/Lk 10:21-2

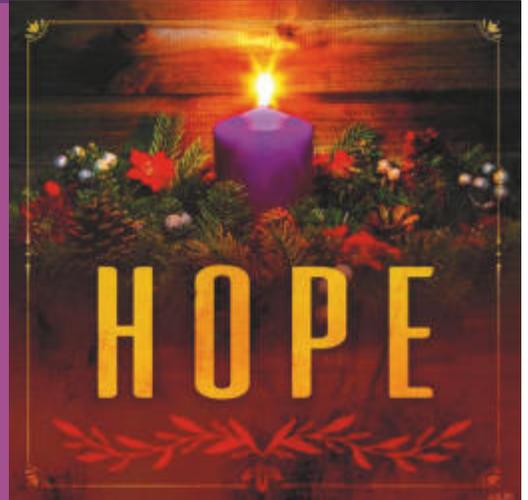
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23/Mt 15:29-3

Thursday: **Saint Francis Xavier, Priest:** Is 26:1-6/Ps 118/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: **Saint John Damascene, Priest, Doctor:** Is 29:17-24/Ps 27/Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

2nd Sunday of Advent: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/2 Pt 3:8-14/
Mk 1:1-8



November 29nd, 2020 - Christ the King of the Universe

We are a Eucharistic community, finding strength in Jesus and His Church by living both Word and Sacrament. We minister to the needs of the People of God through Worship and living out the Gospel and the Teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

Rectory Office Hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 am to Noon. Please wear a mask.

Registration: Our parish census helps us keep track of who is a member of the parish. It is how we send parishioners the Catholic Mirror and parish mailings. If you want to be registered with us, simply fill in the Census Form (found at the entrances of the church or on our website) or stop by the rectory.

Baptisms take place at the request of the family. In preparation, parents are asked to complete one class. Contact the rectory for additional information

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Will take place in the Main Church Mon. - Fri. 7 AM - 12 Noon
The Oratory is closed until further notice

The Sacrament of Reconciliation & The Anointing of the Sick is offered every Saturday from 3:00-3:30 **outside at the grotto of St. Mary's, Lee**. These sacraments may be received any time by appointment.

Sick or Homebound: Kindly inform the Rectory if you or someone you know would like a visit at home, hospital or nursing home. You've come to church for all those years, now let us bring church to you.

Marriage: Congratulations to our newly engaged. Please contact the rectory to begin the process of preparation. The preparation can take up to a year. God's grace lasts all the days of your life.

Holy Orders: If you feel the call to religious life or a vocation to the diaconate or priesthood; contact Fr. Brian or Fr. Duy at the rectory or the diocesan Vocations Directors, Fr. Michael Wood and Fr. David Darcy; 413-739-0456, ext. 4

email: vocations@diospringfield.org

Scripture Meditation - November 29, 2020

Have you ever felt like giving God a good shake to wake Him up? If so, you're in good company. Impatiently, the Psalmist, speaking for his people, exclaimed, "Arouse Yourself, why do you sleep, O Lord? Awake, do not reject us forever. Why do you hide your face and forget our affliction and our oppression?" (Ps.44. 23-24).

He was desperate. Where was God when he most needed Him? Where is He when we most need Him? Has He forgotten us? Does He no longer care for us? Or is He just asleep and needs waking up?

These are the anxieties and doubts, which the prophet Isaiah expressed in today's 1st Reading for the 1st Sunday of Advent. There he cries, "Tear open the heavens and come down!" (Is. 64. 1). The prophet expressed the frustrations and longings of God's people. They'd returned joyfully from exile in Babylon. But they'd found their land devastated, Jerusalem in ruins, its temple destroyed. They'd become depressed by the arduous task of re-building their lives. Now the God who had rescued them seemed so distant. Against this background the prophet begged God to tear open the heavens and come down to help them.

Deep within God's people the Lord had planted the conviction that He would always come to their rescue. His prophets had foretold the coming of the Lord's anointed—a Messiah—who would establish His sovereignty over the whole of creation. They foresaw a time when He would banish evil, a day when God's love, justice and peace would reign.

God has responded magnificently to our needs and to our longings. He has torn the heavens open and come to save us. His Son, the Word of God, has become flesh and dwelt among us. He has shared our human life, so that we could share His divine life and happiness. God could not have paid the human race a greater compliment than by joining it!

The heavens were torn open and God came to our rescue most decisively at the moment of Christ's death. This was dramatically symbolised when the veil of the Temple was split from top to bottom. That divided the Temple into God's dwelling place in the Holy of Holies, and man's domain. Only on the Day of Atonement could the High Priest enter the Holy of Holies. But with His death Jesus tore asunder the barrier separating man from God. Through the blood of the cross He has atoned for our sins; He has made our peace with God. Through Jesus God has torn open the heavens. One of us, Jesus, now dwells as High Priest in the Holy of Holies. Through Him we now have free access to God.

Advent is a special time for us to reflect on our need for God to come to save us from the power of sin. This holy season brings with it the special graces for us to enter into the wonder of Christmas—the wonder of the Son of God becoming a human baby, while remaining truly God. At that moment the Son of God became forever a member of the human race, forever committed to us. Nothing can destroy God's love for us.

Especially during Advent we should long for God to tear open the heavens and come down - to save us, personally - to remove the veil of sin, preventing us from approaching God. Now, more than ever, we should want God to come alive in each of us and transform us, so that we can embrace the salvation Jesus has already won for us.

Jesus has promised to return in glory at the end of time. That should fill us with hope of eternal happiness with Him, rather than fill us with fear. During Advent we will sing, "Oh, come, oh come, Emmanuel." That expresses our need for Jesus, our longings for Him to enter ever more deeply into our lives, and we into His.

- Fr. Isidore Clarke is a member of the community at Holy Cross Priory



FAITH FORMATION

Advent is upon us. We continue to have our Zoom Classes. Thanks to our teachers and students who are making this year such a wonderful time of growth and learning.

Our First Communion children gathered with their parents for a mini-retreat last Sunday. We prayed and learned more about the Sacrament of Reconciliation and made a votive candle. First Confession is being scheduled for Saturday, December 12th.

Next year's schedule of Zoom Classes and Sacraments should be emailed soon. Thanks to all of you for continuing to have your kids attend class and grow in their faith, despite the Zoom format. Please, as always, email with any questions or concerns.

Joyfully in Christ, Katie Murray

12/6: 9:15 am Class via Zoom
12/12: 9:00 am First Confessions - SMC
12/13: 9:15 am Class via Zoom



One Parish Serving through Three Churches, Two Cemeteries and Our School



ST. MARY'S CEMETERY RECORD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

As many of you have experienced when calling into the rectory to get information regarding grave sites and location of loved ones at St. Mary's Cemetery, our cemetery records are old and tired and desperately need to be brought into the electronic age. We have been working with cemetery software companies that offer cloud based software as well as Google Map, pin point location services for burial locations. As is often the case, the cost for the software at approximately \$15,000 is a bit daunting and we could use your help.

To donate towards this project, please make out a check to St. Mary's Cemetery "cemetery software" in the memo line.

One challenge we will have after purchasing the software will be manual entry of existing cemetery records. If you are interested in volunteering for the data entry phase of this project, please contact Karen at the rectory.



Strike our Chest: Penitential Act

Question: When we say the Penitential Act at Mass, why do we strike our chest three times?

Answer: Our rituals and liturgical celebrations are filled with a variety of symbols, some of which also relate to our gestures and physical postures (e.g. kneeling, sitting, processing, making the Sign of the Cross). The custom of striking our breast three times during the "I Confess" of the Penitential Act of the Mass is one of those gestures that is loaded with symbolism.

The tradition of Christian's striking the breast (above the heart) is rooted in the image of Sacred Scripture, especially texts like Psalm 51 which speak of a "humbled contrite heart" or how God heals broken hearts, binding up our wounds (see Psalm 147:3). Early Christian writers like Saint Augustine of Hippo and Saint Jerome also refer to this custom in their writings.

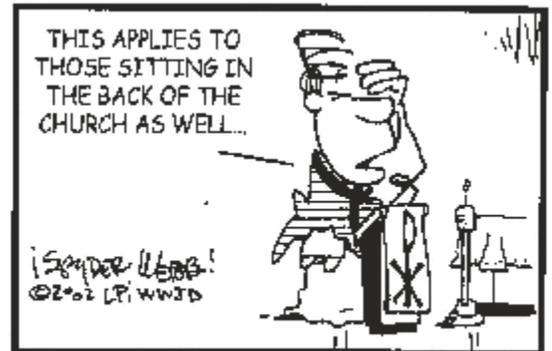
Ultimately, this practice is an expression of our sorrow for those times when we have been guilty of faults and a sign that we are willing to take responsibility for our sins and failings. That we all perform this gesture together is also an act of solidarity, recognizing that none of us, regardless of where we are on our journey of faith, is without fault and the need for grace and forgiveness.

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St. Mary's Bottle & Can Drive

Don't want to be bothered too much with getting rid of your bottles and cans?: The St. Mary's School PTO would like to invite our community members to join in the fundraising process and support our students this year. There is a large collection bin outside the school's kitchen door awaiting your donations of returnable cans and bottles! Please feel free to make a deposit at your own convenience! Every nickel gets us closer to a fantastic opportunity for creative learning and community building at the school! Thank you!

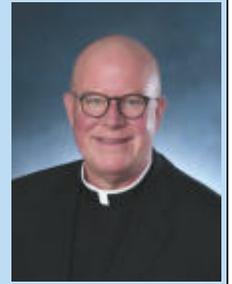
1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



DREAMS OF JOY: Dreams of Joy "clouds" are available at the entrances to our churches. The gifts purchased are for local children and elders in need. St. Mary's church plays an important role in making Dreams of Joy a reality each year. If you pick up a cloud,

please attach the cloud to an unwrapped gift (or in a gift bag, ok to wrap gift cards) and return the gift to the church no later than Sunday **Dec. 6th**. Thank you for your thoughts, prayers, support, and generosity for this upcoming Christmas season. Please feel free to contact Keri 281-7897 with any questions or concerns.

From the Area and the Diocese



CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR OUR BISHOP ELECT: Pope Francis has named Father William D. Byrne, a priest of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., as the 10th bishop of Springfield. The announcement was made today, Oct. 14, in Washington D.C. by Archbishop Christophe Pierre, U.S. papal nuncio. He will be ordained and installed in a few weeks. Evening Prayer will be prayed on Sunday, 12/13, at 5:30 pm and the Ordination will take place at 11:00 am, on Monday, 12/14. Both will be live streamed on diospringfield.org, and the Installation Mass will air live on WWLP 22News and CatholicTV. EWTN will carry a few days after installation. Let's continue to pray for him as we await his arrival.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS: In good times and bad, religious sisters and brothers have dedicated themselves to God's work. Together with nearly 30,000 elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests in the United States, they educated the young, tended the sick, and ministered to the needy. Today, they pray for a world that is hurting. Yet many religious communities do not have enough retirement savings and struggle to provide for aging members. Covid-19 has only increased these challenges. Your tax deductible gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish medications, nursing care, and more. On December 13th there is an envelope in our parish packets (make those checks payable to St. Mary's Parish). Or you can give directly by mailing a donation to To donate by mail: National Religious Retirement Office 3211 Fourth Street NE Washington DC 20017-1194 (make those checks payable to Retirement Fund for Religious). Please be generous to those who have given a lifetime. For more information, check out retiredreligious.org

DAILY DRIVE-THROUGH CONFESSIONS are offered at the Shrine of Divine Mercy up on Eden Hill in Stockbridge from 1:00 - 2:00 pm DAILY and from 3:30-4:15 on SAT. & SUN. Come experience God's grace of mercy and forgiveness!

THE CHALICE OF SALVATION, the region's only one-hour weekly televised Mass is broadcast Sunday Mornings at 6:00 a.m. WXXA Fox23 Albany, NY and 10:00 a.m. on WWLP 22NEWS, Springfield, MA. Each week there is a guest celebrant from among the area parishes. Join us for the great grace of the Mass.



**PRAYER HELPERS OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD
MONTHLY PRAYER FOR PRIESTS
IN THE DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD, MA**

Good St. Joseph and Mary Immaculate, intercede with the Son of God to prepare the hearts of our priests for the great celebration of the Nativity. Inspire them with awe in the miracle of the Incarnation, and journey with them this Advent so that it may be a prayerful time of deep longing for the Savior's coming among us. When Christmas arrives, may the Divine Child find in each of their souls a welcoming manger of innocence, simplicity, and hopefulness where the Precious Infant can safely rest.

Blessed Virgin Mary and Blessed Joseph, glorious models of perfection, pray for [Name] and all those clergy who have recourse to you. Remind priests that you will tenderly provide for their needs just as you did for Jesus while He was on earth. Most Holy Family, hold all priests close in your loving embrace. Amen.

December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Mary, Queen of the Clergy, inspire chosen souls for a life of service in Christ.</i>		1 Rev. Magr. Ronald Yargeau	2 Rev. Michael Bernier (Healing)	3 Rev. Robert Coonan	4 Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI	5 Rev. John McDonagh
6 Rev. Lionel Bonneville	7 Fr. Benedict Fagone, OFM Conv.	8 Rev. James DeVine, MIC	9 Rev. Diego Maximino, MIC	10 Rev. William Cyr	11 Rev. Jose Bernudez	12 Rev. Mark Miller
13 Rev. Alfred Cournoyer	14 Most Rev. William D. Byrne	15 Rev. Paul Bombadier	16 Bishop Emeritus Timothy McDonnell	17 Rev. Allen Alexander, MIC	18 Rev. J. Lessard-Thibodeau, JCL (Healing)	19 Pope Francis
20 Rev. Francis Crombie	21 Rev. Donatus Ironuma	22 Rev. C. Lee Gilbertson	23 Rev. William Hamilton	24 Rev. Adolf Busobozi	25 All Priests	26 Rev. Vitor Oliveira
27 Rev. James Joyce	28 Rev. Charles Kuzmeski	29 Rev. Steven Montesanti	30 Rev. Daniel Pacholec	31 Rev. Francis Reilly	<i>May the joy of the first Christmas and the peace of Christ's presence be with our clergy always.</i>	



Currently, we have two separate envelope accounts with our vendor - one is for St. Joseph's and the other is for St. Mary's and the Lakes. Not only that but in some cases, the funds for each of these accounts are different and the frequency at which they are printed is different. Effective with the January/February packets of envelopes which envelope people will receive in December, we will have merged into one single account/one set of fund types with our envelope company. The only significant change for you to understand is that you will need to indicate on each of your envelopes which church you want your donations to be credited to. Each envelope will have a check box for our churches for you to select from. If no selection is made, the donations will be applied to St. Mary's Lee. The merger to one account with our vendor is more efficient and cheaper!



"What tongue, human or angelic, may ever describe a power so immeasurable as that exercised by the simplest priest in Mass?"

-St. Leonard of Port Maurice



For more copies, contact:
Mrs. Anna Maria Dias, O.P.B.
P.O. Box 346, Ludlow, MA 01056
(413) 530-3198; faithfirst@1791.com

November 29th, 2020



St. Mary's School
... where every child shines!

St. Mary's School's Annual Parish Appeal

We, the students, families, teachers, and staff of SMS, feel extremely blessed to have been in school full-time since 8/31. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, we are learning, praying, and serving. We have carefully and prayerfully adjusted to COVID-19 regulations that enable us to attend school in-person.

As we prepare for Christmas during this Advent season, we realize how blessed we are to have such a supportive parish. We want to take this opportunity to *thank you*, our faithful parishioners, for all of your support. You are generous in many ways; as prayer partners, attending and sponsoring fundraisers, and joining us for school Masses, plays, and events. You are so very important to all that we do; your prayers sustain us!

Thank you for your ongoing contributions via the envelopes, as well! If you have not contributed to our school envelopes in the past, we ask you to consider supporting our school with a donation this month. *We appreciate any gift that you can give.* As you are probably aware, we have relied on fundraising efforts over the years in order to keep school tuition affordable. Our fundraising events have changed drastically this year, due to the pandemic. We have been challenged to "re-imagine" events. We hope that an annual Parish Appeal will help relieve some of the fundraising stress.

Some of you might be alumni and might have recently received our alumni newsletter. We are in the midst of our first Alumni Appeal, as well. If you are a St. Mary's School alumni and have not received a newsletter from us, please contact the school office: 413-243-1079. We want to reach out to you!

During the month of December, we would like to highlight just how important our parish is to our school. Please take some time to reflect on how important the school is to our parish, as well. Tune in next week to hear from a faithful parishioner! God bless.

Virtual Festival of Trees

Even though this year due to COVID-19 restrictions we are unable to hold our Annual Holiday Bazaar, we are going to be holding some of our favorite Bazaar Events online. This year, we will be holding a Virtual Festival of Trees - you will be able to bid online for three week on some of the most popular trees from past Festivals:

The American Girl Doll Tree | The Lottery Ticket Tree

The Gift Card Tree | The Wine Tree

The Bath & Body Tree

The auction is online until **December 11**. The trees will be available for pick up at St. Mary's School from December 14 through 12 noon on December 18.

Please check our website for pictures of our trees & details:

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