

# 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](mailto:icsmchurch@gmail.com)

Website: [www.stmarylos.com](http://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

Chairperson

David Galisa

Fred Keator

Bob Kelly

Richard Lacey

John Masten

Cathie Sparks

Thom Swift

Fernanda Haywood

## *St. Mary's School*

Est. 1885

Celebrating 135 years of Catholic education!

115 Orchard Street — Lee, MA 01238

Telephone (413) 243-1079 | Fax 243-1022

[www.StMarysLee.org](http://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

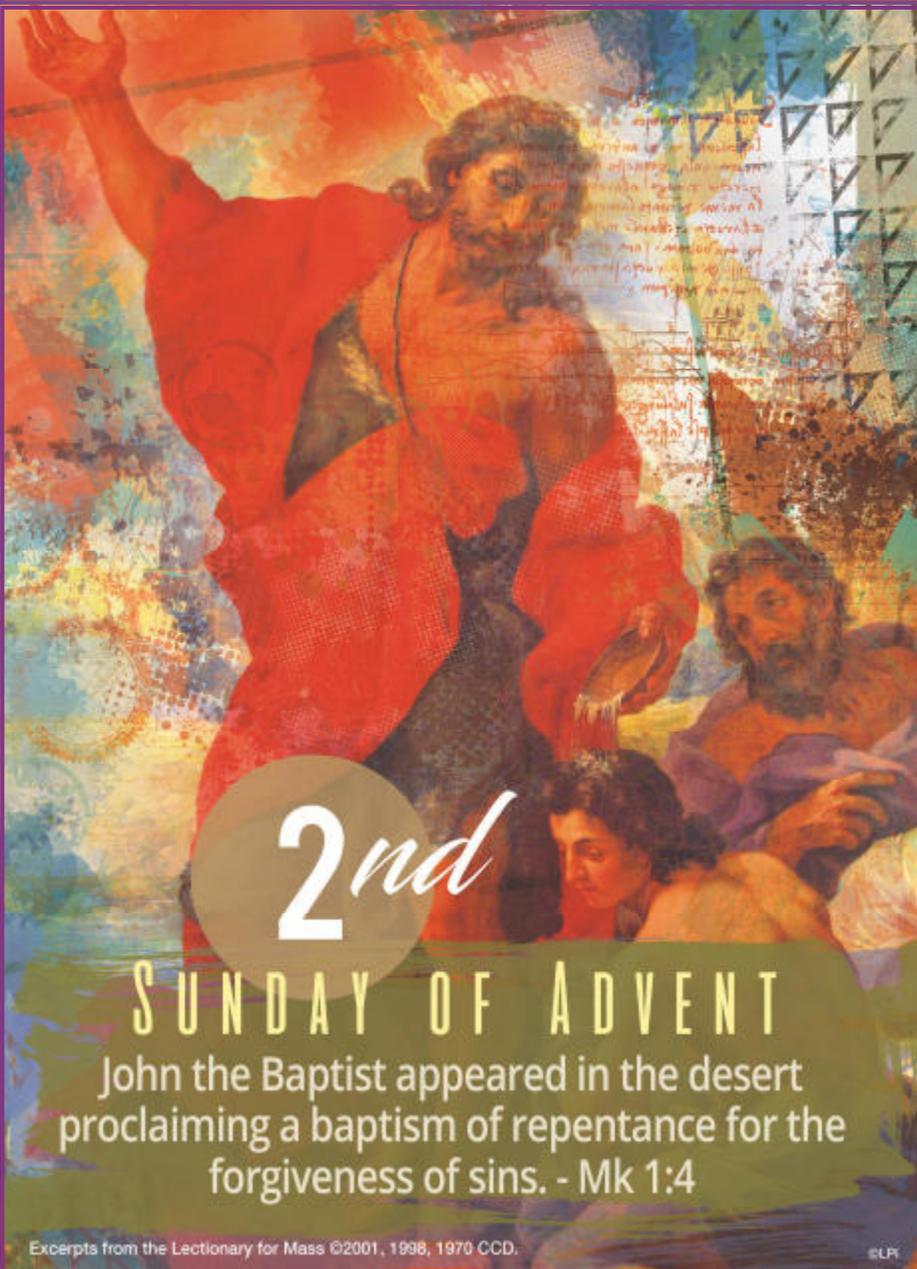
Otis

St. Joseph Church

11 Elm Street

Stockbridge

*One parish serving God and Neighbor in three worship sites.*



# 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.

**Jessica Lahert**

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

<b>Sat. Dec 5</b>	<b>4:00 pm</b>	† Robert Perry, <i>by his wife Rita</i>
	<b>5:30 pm</b>	† Joseph Kolzalka, <i>by his wife Theresa</i>
<b>Sun Dec 6</b>	<b>8:00 am</b>	† Barbara Puleri, <i>by her husband Monk</i>
	<b>9:30 am</b>	† Patrick McCarthy, <i>by Vicki O'Neil</i>
	<b>11:00 am</b>	† John Guidice, <i>by Bill and Mary Morrissey</i>
<b>Mon. Dec 7</b>	<b>7:00 am</b>	†
	<b>4:00 pm</b>	SMC † Alfred Zanelli
	<b>5:30 pm</b>	SML † People of the Parish
<b>Tue. Dec 8</b>	<b>7:00 am</b>	SMC †
	<b>12:00 pm</b>	SMC † Deceased Adorers, <i>by the parish</i>
	<b>5:30 pm</b>	SJC †
<b>Wed. Dec 9</b>	<b>7:00 am</b>	† Joseph F. Sorrentino, <i>by Vicki O'Neil</i>
<b>Thur. Dec 10</b>	<b>7:00 am</b>	†
<b>Fri. Dec 11</b>	<b>7:00 am</b>	† Fred and Cecilia Paulmann, <i>by Fred and Margie Paulmann</i>
<b>Sat. Dec 12</b>	<b>4:00 pm</b>	† Albert & Madeline Coles and Michael Heat, <i>by Mary Ann Simmons</i>
	<b>5:30 pm</b>	† Art Riordan, <i>by Paul and Gail McDonald</i>
<b>Sun Dec 13</b>	<b>8:00 am</b>	† Joseph F. Sorrentino, <i>by Bill and Bobbie Anne Salinetti</i>
	<b>9:30 am</b>	† Helen Pigott, (5th anniv.) <i>by her husband Chris</i>
	<b>11:00 am</b>	† Ann Collins (3rd Anniversary), <i>by her family</i>

## The Candles this Week

Sanctuary: Eda Salice

Grotto Lamps:

Oratory Lamps: Scott Philip-Peebles

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

**FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY** is this Tuesday. Check the box above for Mass times. Because of COVID it is not a day of Obligation, but it is very holy. Let's honor our mother Mary



### Weekly Parishioner Contributions

**11/25/20 - 12/01/20**

**At Masses:** \$2,095

**Mailed/Dropped Off:** \$1,589

**Online Giving:** \$781

**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 Usbers and Ministers of Hospitality.

**Sat. 12/12 3:00 pm Confessions: Fr. Brian**  
**4:00 pm (Lee): Fr. Brian**

E.M.: Donna Abbott, Maureen Wellspeak

Lector: Don Zukowski, A.S.s: Claire, Ryan & Maggie Murray

**5:30 pm (Otis):**

E.M.: Carol Lombardo, Lector: Janet Qubeck

**Sun. 12/13 8:00 am (Lee): Fr. Brian**

E.M.: Charles Houff, Bill Ingegri

Lector: Verna Houff A.S.s: Kara Curtin

**9:30 am (Stockbridge):**

Lector: Richard Lacey

**11:00 am (Lee): Fr. Brian**

E.M.: Sue Scarpa

Lector: Ed Lahey

## Readings for the Week of December 6th, 2020

**2nd Sunday of Advent:** Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

Monday, **St. Ambrose:** Is 35:1-10/Ps 85/Lk 5:17-2

Tuesday, **The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary:** Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-3

Wednesday, **St. Juan Diego:** Is 40:25-31/Ps 103/Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145/Mt 11:11-15

Friday, **St. Damasus I:** Is 48:17-19/Ps 1/Mt 11:16-19

Saturday, **Our Lady of Guadalupe:** Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

**3rd Sunday of Advent:** Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28





## December 6th, 2nd Sunday of Advent

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](mailto:vocations@diospringfield.org)

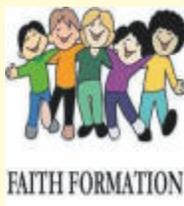
### Scripture Meditation - December 6, 2020

People knew over a year in advance that the Pope was coming for a visit to America and the preparations began. Security, space limitations and requirements, protocols, crowd management, itineraries, invitations, regulations, and so much more was necessary to pull this event off effectively. It's not every day that we get a visit from such a prominent dignitary. Thought, effort, meticulous attention to detail and vision all are necessary to make this thing work. After all, he can't just show up in the ordinary and normal daily routines of life and catch people unprepared! Tickets have to be purchased, buses rented, hotel rooms reserved, and travel arrangements made early because it will be impossible to see him if we wait too long!

We do this kind of preparing not only for prominent religious figures but for political dignitaries, notable sports figures, people of fame, and even actors. If an individual intrigues us, we are going to want to do all we have to do to get a "good seat" in the house. Does Jesus Christ captivate this much of our attention? We are asked to prepare the way of the Lord and to do so not with frantic frenzy but patient enthusiasm. We do not have to stand on a street corner making profound announcements about God's coming or become overly zealous in our embrace of the Good News. Our task is quieter, more interior, captivating, and consuming. We are asked to change. We have to conduct our lives with holy devotion.

Is the cost of that ticket too much for you? Don't you want the "best seat" in the house? You don't want to miss Our Lord's arrival when he comes, do you? After all, if he comes while you are going about your daily routines without you even knowing, he may catch you off guard. Or, he may come in disguise looking like a beggar, a prisoner, migrant, refugee, or someone who is lost. Would you be ready to recognize him then? Preparing for the coming of Christ requires a change of mind, heart, and behavior. It is not adequate to simply do the things we always do. We want our lives to speak of the exciting news of Christ's coming and the joy that the Gospel brings. It has to do with our demeanor, values, priorities, choices, and how we structure daily routines. Of course, it involves sacrifice. All anticipations do! Are you excited, captivated, enthusiastic, and sitting on the edge of your seat eager to celebrate his coming among us at Christmas, and waiting for him to come again? If not, why not?

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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.

**CHRISTMAS** is coming! We have no idea if our Masses will be full or very empty. So we are instituting a reservation system for Christmas Eve and Day Masses. The schedule is below. Please **email** your reservation to [lscm-church@gmail.com](mailto:lscm-church@gmail.com). If you cannot email, call during rectory hours (Tue, Wed & Thur, 9 am - 12 Noon). A third option is that we hope to have sign-up sheets on the weekend before Christmas at each church to take in-person reservations. To make a reservation you must leave **your name, an email address, phone number & number of seats you want reserved.** We will be taking reservations based on our occupancy limits (*max of 40% capacity*) and distancing restrictions (*COVID bubbles are 6 feet apart with the pew and between pews*). Make your reservations now!

Christmas Eve 3:00 pm at the School | 4:00 pm at SMC | 5:30 pm at SMC

Christmas Day 8:00 am SMC | 9:30 am at SML & STJ | 11 am at SMC

**Question:** Can a divorced Catholic receive holy Communion?

**Answer:** Unfortunately, too many people today — Catholics and non-Catholics alike — mistakenly believe that divorce separates one from the Communion of the Church and that divorced persons may not receive Communion. However, as the Church has communicated in a number of places, the issue at hand is not the reality of divorce, but is more often the reality of re-marriage outside of the Church (such as in the case of a Catholic who was previously married within the Church, divorced, and remarried without receiving an annulment).

Divorced persons are called to live chastely as single people and to observe the same call to avoid sin as anyone else who desires to receive the Eucharist. Beyond this, however, Pope Francis has reminded us that the healing power of the Eucharist can be especially significant for those who have "endured separation, divorce, or abandonment ... divorced people who have not remarried, and often bear witness to marital fidelity, ought to be encouraged to find in the Eucharist the nourishment they need to sustain them in their present state of life." (*Amoris Laetitia*, no. 242) Moreover, he continues, "The local community and pastors should accompany these people with solicitude, particularly when children are involved or when they are in serious financial difficulty." (*AL*, no 242)

As Pope Francis has also reminded us, the Eucharist is "not a prize for the perfect," but "a powerful medicine and nourishment" (*Evangeli Gaudium*, no. 47). Because we all stand in need of healing and wholeness, the Church invites all who seek to live their faith in integrity and devotion to come and receive the grace offered in the Eucharist.

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**DREAMS OF JOY:** This Sunday is the deadline to drop off the Dreams of Joy gifts. If you picked up a cloud, please attach the cloud to an unwrapped gift (or in a gift bag, ok to wrap gift cards) and return it this weekend. 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.

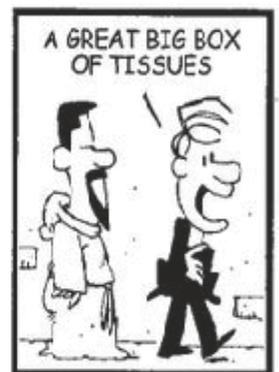
## St. Joseph's Tree Removal

The tree removal project is scheduled to start December 7th. Many thanks to those who have contributed to the project! We have received \$2,620 in donations so far. Thanks to those who have donated!!!

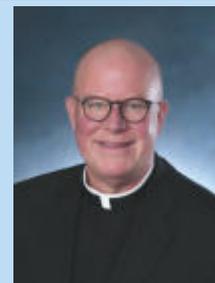
Cost of the project is \$30,000. If you would like to donate, towards this project, you can make out a check to St. Joseph's Church with "tree work" in the memo or go to our online giving page at <https://osvhub.com/stmaryslee/funds> where you will see the option to make a donation directly to the St. Joseph's Tree Removal project.

**Thank you for your support!**

## 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## 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 2:00pm, on Monday, 12/14. Both will be live streamed on [diospringfield.org](http://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 13<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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>	

"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:  
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P.O. Box 346, Ludlow, MA 01056  
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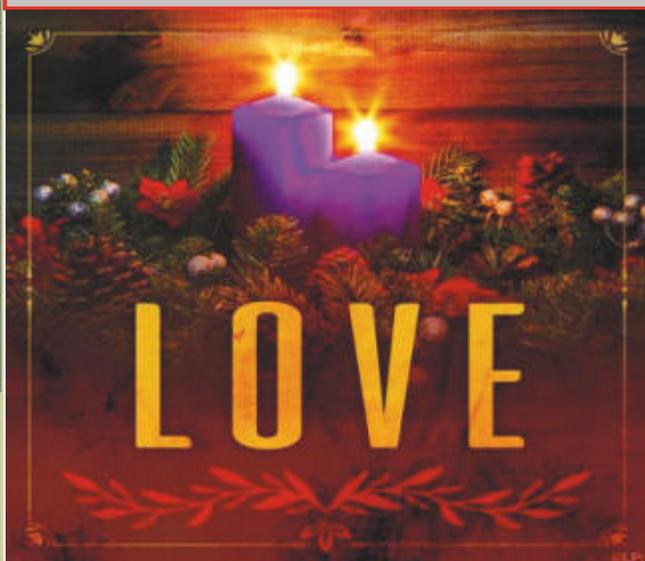
[www.prayerhelpersofthepreciousblood.org](http://www.prayerhelpersofthepreciousblood.org)



We are finalizing the transition to one envelope account with our vendor. This is being done to save on costs as well as to make the collection system more efficient. Those that currently receive envelopes will soon be receiving your January/February packets. All standard weekly envelopes will be white and all special envelopes will be colored or contain a picture. Please remember if you want your donation to be reflective of a specific church, you will need to check the appropriate box on each envelope. If no selection is made, the donations will be applied to St. Mary's Lee.

As always, if you no longer wish to receive envelopes or currently do not receive them and would like to, please contact Karen at the rectory. And of course, don't forget the option to transition to online giving!

<https://osvhub.com/stmaryslee/funds>



December 6th, 2020



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

### St. Mary's School's Annual Parish Appeal

We asked a few St. Mary's parishioners to reflect on "What does St. Mary's School mean to me?" Here's what one long-time parishioner enthusiastically contributed:

"I am able to witness first hand not only the amazing test scores the students are able to accomplish, but their polite and respectful habits that they have and develop with their peers every day.

"When walking the hallways of the school, I see the children in classrooms with their hands up, respectfully ready to be called upon, proudly answering questions. A little farther down the hall, I can witness a hint of laughter and the children expressing their enormous talents. When I volunteer in the kitchen and help serve lunch, the children respond with please and thank you which draws me like a magnet. After leaving the building you feel nothing but joy. I get my fix of pure energy from the atmosphere there amid the joy of a happy academic environment.

"Looking back, the Catholic faith was a huge part of growing up in our family, particularly at this time of year. Advent is a time of preparation for the joy that Christmas brings us. As a family there were traditions, especially on Christmas morning. Mass was the priority, then breakfast together and kitchen cleaned. Then and only then were we allowed to enter the room where the Christmas tree was and open our gifts one at a time. What a beautiful gift of Christmas morning our parents left us. Faith, family, sharing!!! Being the eldest of a large family I remember the details ... faith was strong in our family and it has continued through my life. I, too, fondly remember being a student of SMS, was one of the instrumental foundations of my faith." ~ Libby (Collins) Driscoll

Not only is Libby a SMS alumna but she has also volunteered at the school (kitchen helper, prayer partner, and so much more). 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 alumni of St. Mary's School and have not received a newsletter from us, please contact the school office: 413-243-1079. We want to be connected to you!

We ask all parishioners to consider investing in our school. We are planting seeds of faith in our students, who could bear fruit in this parish, just as Libby has. We sincerely appreciate any donation that is meaningful to you. You can either use the **school envelopes to donate**, or you can donate online: [Support St. Mary's Catholic School in the Berkshires](https://www.stmaryslee.org/donate.html) or <https://www.stmaryslee.org/donate.html> Thank you, God bless you, and stay healthy.

### Virtual Festival of Trees

One of our favorite Bazaar Events is now online until **December 11** with a pick up at St. Mary's School from December 14 through 12 noon on December 18. You will be able to bid 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

<http://www.stmaryslee.org>

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