



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
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

Mrs. Jennifer Masten| *Principal*

Mrs. Linda Winters| *School Secretary*

Mrs. Gina Reiners | *School Board Chair*



St. Mary, Mother of the Church

140 Main Street

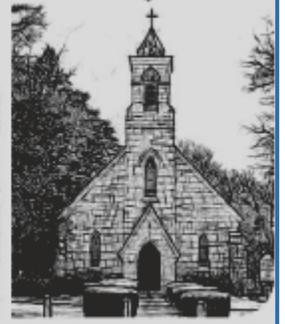
Lee



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.



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

Parish of St Mary

Mass Intentions for This Week

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.

**Father Daniel Boyle,
David Gilmore,
Anna Sabin,
Enes Gaherty**

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.

<i>New Year's Eve</i>	4:00 pm	† Clarence (Pickle) & Gertrude Barnum, by Bill and Becky Brunell
Fri. 1/1	9:00 am	† Jeffrey Zerbato (18th Anniversary), by his dad Michael
<i>Stockbridge</i>	5:30 pm	† Deceased Members of our Parish Family
Sat. 1/2	4:00 pm	† Thomas R. Garrity, by Ralph and Gail Schmitdt
<i>Otis</i>	5:30 pm	† Ernie Hood Jr. by mom, dad and sister Laurie
Sun. 1/3	8:00 am	† Mary Jane Horton Dacri, by Teresa Bregdon
<i>Stockbridge</i>	9:30 am	† Timothy Chichester, by Wendy Flynn
	11:00 am	† The O'Neil Family - Living and Deceased, by Victoria O'Neil
Mon. 1/4	7:00 am	† Souls in purgatory
Tue. 1/5	7:00 am	† Thomas Leahey, by his parents
Wed. 1/6	7:00 am	† Fanny Mohl, by Ed and Laurie Forfa
Thur. 1/7	7:00 am	† Spike Biasin, Mark Livernash+Mary Theresa Valleri
Fri. 1/8	7:00 am	† Fanny Mohl, by her husband, Tim
Sat. 1/9	4:00 pm	† George Membrino, by Jane and Family
<i>Otis</i>	5:30 pm	† Deceased Members of Our Parish Family
Sun. 1/10	8:00 am	† Audie Furgal, by Joe, Tobey and family
<i>Stockbridge</i>	9:30 am	†
	11:00 am	† Joseph Scapin (Birthday Remembrance), by the family

Call the rectory (243-0275) to have Mass said for your intention.

The Candles this Week

Sanctuary: Marshal & Kelly Coty

Grotto Lamps: Barry Griffin

Oratory Lamps: Tom Finnegan

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

Ministers on the Altar

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. 1/9 **3:00 pm Confessions:** Fr. Duy

4:00 pm (Lee): Fr. Duy **Lector:** Tom Rollingner

E.M.: MaryAnn Simons, Maureen Wellspeak

A.S.: Claire, Ryan & Maggie Murray

5:30 pm (Otis): Fr. Brian w/Deacon Jim **Lector:** Logan & Dillon

Sun. 1/10

8:00 am (Lee): Fr. Duy

E.M.: Roger Scheurer, Bill Ingegna **Lector:** Hilary Walker

9:30 am (Stockbridge): Fr. Brian w/ Deacon Jim

Lector: Richard Lacey

11:00 am (Lee): Fr. Duy

E.M.: Chad Klapes, Julie Choi

Lector: Chad Klapes

Weekly Parishioner Contributions

With the Holiday Bulletin schedules we are not able to put in a tally of contributions. We will put a complete tally in next week.



The new packets have been mailed. Remember to mark on your envelope which worship site you want your envelope to go to otherwise it goes to the parish in general. If you want to receive Parish Envelopes, please call the rectory.

Readings for the Week of December 27, 2020

Sunday, The Epiphany of the Lord: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-1

Monday, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton: 1 Jn 3:22-4:6/Ps 2/Mt 4:12-17, 23-2

Tuesday, St. John Neumann: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2/Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday, St. Andre Bessette: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2/Mk 6:45-52

Thursday, St. Raymond of Penyafort: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72/Lk 4:14-22a

Friday, : 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147/Lk 5:12-16

Saturday, : 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149/Jn 3:22-30

Sunday, The Baptism of the Lord: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29/Acts 10:34-38/Mk 1:7-11



From the Associate Pastor

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!

I am sure that many of you are excited as I am about leaving 2020 behind. 2020 has been a rough year for all of us, and I pray that 2021 will be a year full of hope and joy. It is hard to say anything for 2021 because I do not want to jinx myself coming into the new year.

I always like the New year because it is a time to reset 'officially.' A time in which I no longer have any excuses and cannot say, 'I will start it next year as my resolutions.' I pray that everyone will stick to their New Year Resolutions this year and accomplish them.

For me, this year, my resolutions are the same as last year. To be a bit more prayerful in spending time with the Lord, to read more, and to lose the weight that I have gained. I was doing well last year until Covid hit. When Covid hit, I thought to myself, 'now that I have all this extra time, I can work on my goals better.' I was wrong. Just because I had the extra time does not mean I have the will to go through with it, and so for 2021, I am hopeful once again. (If I fail, I will blame Covid again. Just kidding. Not really. ☺)

I pray that everyone had a wonderful and peaceful Christmas season. That your New Year will be filled with hope and that our world will finally conquer this pandemic this year. May you find your New Year Resolutions and manage to stick to them all year long!

God Bless, Fr. Duy

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

SMC = St. Mary, Mother of the Church, Lee | STJ = St. Joseph's, Stockbridge
SML = St. Mary of the Lakes, Otis | SMS = St. Mary's School, Lee

We are live-streaming the Weekend Masses from St. Mary's Church on our Facebook page (St Mary Lee, Otis, Stockbridge).

We also have Sunday 11 am Mass broadcast on C.T.S.B (CTSBtv.org | Spectrum 1301)

The obligation to attend Mass continues to be lifted. We encourage anyone who is sick, symptomatic or concerned about their health to refrain from coming to church.

You can keep updated on the diocesan (diospringfield.org) parish (stmarylos.com) and school websites (stmaryslee.org) as well on Facebook (St Mary Lee, Otis, Stockbridge) & MyParish App.

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Sun 1/3 The Epiphany of the Lord

Mon. 1/4 7:00 am Mass follow by Adoration until Noon

Tues. 1/5 7:00 am Mass follow by Adoration until Noon

Wed. 1/6 7:00 am Mass follow by Adoration until Noon
6:00 pm K of C Leadership Meeting

Thu. 1/7 7:00 am Mass follow by Adoration until Noon

Fri. 1/8 7:00 am Mass follow by Adoration until Noon

Sat. 1/9 Diaper & Bottle Drive starts

Sun. 1/10 9:15 am Faith Formation Classes - Zoom
11:00 am RCIA

Upcoming: 1/29 March for Life in Washington DC; 1/31 Bishop Byrne to visit

Have you checked out our parish website? On it you can find tons of information about the ministries and efforts of our parish as well as valuable links to great Catholic resources and so much more.

www.stmarylos.com

PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN MARY FOR PROTECTION, BY POPE FRANCIS

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey
as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross

you participated in Jesus' pain with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the Roman People,
know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide,
So that, as you did at Cana of Galilee,
joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform ourselves to the Father's will
and to do what Jesus tells us.

He who took our sufferings upon Himself,
and bore our sorrows to bring us,
through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection.

We seek refuge under you protection,
O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas
- we who are put to the test -

and deliver us from every danger.

O glorious and blessed Virgin. AMEN.



January 3rd, Epiphany of the Lord

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 - January 3rd, 2021

"Where is that thing?" mumbled Bob as he searched frantically on his dimly lit desk for the current electric bill. "I know I put it right on top of these papers this morning!" Growing in frustration and bordering on anger, he flies stuff around, moves books and opines why simple tasks need to be so hard. Enter his wife, who calmly says, "Maybe it would help if you put the light on, dear." The desk light goes on and lo and behold, there is the electric bill right where Bob left it earlier. All it took was a little light!

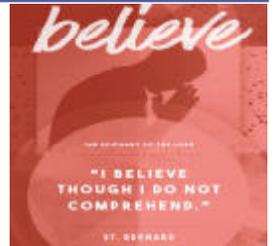
We stubbornly refuse to turn on the lights! Either we are distracted, determined, disinterested, preoccupied, stubborn, apprehensive, or all of the above. Or perhaps, we fail to do the obvious. We would rather live our lives with the dimmest of lights or even in total darkness. Why are we afraid to do something so that we can actually see? It might help us to find quicker and better answers to problems, the meaning of life, relationships, happiness, and what is ultimate truth. Yet, we stumble along, moving things from one side to the other, getting angry, feeling cheated, being unsettled, resigning ourselves to the agony of defeat once again.

"And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was." The light has come into the world in the person of Jesus Christ! We no longer have to fumble in the darkness. We have been gifted with the illumination we need to see our way through things and find what we really are looking for. All these years later, however, so many are still reluctant to accept him. Perhaps they are unconvinced, disinterested, preoccupied, stubborn, apprehensive, or all of the above. Everyone has their own reason for not wanting to turn on the switch.

But there are so many answers to so many of our problems in this humble Child of Nazareth. A simple birth teaches us about God's tender wedded relationship with humanity. It speaks to the expanse of God's salvation across the globe, and the incarnate Divine wonders and blessings that are a part of our life moment to moment. It calls us to understand the design of world order God intended as found in the Beatitudes, the sacredness of every human life and all of creation and the meaning of things we struggle with most, like suffering and death. We have a lot of Good News to share, not just with a privileged few but with all the world. All races and creeds can receive God's healing word. God continues to manifest himself even now! Use the light to find what you are really looking for!

©L.P.

PRO LIFE REFLECTION: From the 2nd Reading of the Feast of Mary, Mother of God (1/1) ~ Galatians 4: "So you are no longer a slave but a son and if a son then also an heir thru God." Everyone has dignity, has worth, is a child of God. Let us value human life and work to protect it from conception through natural death.



I pray this Christmas finds each of you at peace in your hearts and homes. The faith formation students have been so adaptable this year with their response to our zoom format. I am so grateful at how attentive they are and how much they share each week. I know all of our catechists are inspired by their words and their grace.

Please continue to pray for all parish students and for our Sacramental preparation classes who are growing in their faith every day.

I hope every parishioner enjoy a wonderful Christmas with much rejoicing. I hope each of you is also looking forward to a more peaceful, healthier New Year. This year more than ever, a truly "weary world rejoiced."

Please be aware that we will be teaching Circle of Grace (our safe environment parish training) to all grades in faith formation virtually this year. This is required by the diocese and is beneficial in its teaching of safe boundaries and respecting our own circles of grace. More information will be sent home as the dates approach for your child/children's class. As always, if you have any questions, please email me at stmaryleccd@gmail.com.

Please note that classes begin again on 1/10. We look forward to virtually seeing students then! Joyfully in Christ, Katie Murray

[Schedule for January 2021](#) (For the full year schedule, please check the website)

January 10, 24 & 31 - Zoom Class, 9:15 am

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



JANUARY DIAPER DRIVE AND BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

Beginning next weekend, January 9-10, and extending through the weekend of January 30-31, we, as a faith community and life-affirming people, will once again participate in the annual Diaper Drive and Baby Bottle

Campaign sponsored by the Berkshire County Diaper Project, Inc. and new Directions Women's Center.

There is a lot more to being pro-life than being opposed to abortion, which is only the starting point. Many of the babies most in danger of being aborted are the babies of young women who cannot afford the expense of feeding, housing, and caring for a child. As pro-life Christians, we not only have a duty to help these mothers and babies but are compelled by Christ's words in chapter 25 of Matthew's Gospel to reach out to them and feed, clothe and care for them.

A baby crib will be set up in front of the side altar where the Holy Oils are displayed to serve as a collection receptacle for your disposable diaper donations. All sizes of diapers are sought but sizes 4, 5 and especially 6 are in great need this year.

Also, a receptacle for the collection of full baby bottles (with coins and bills) will be placed in the same general area. Empty baby bottles for you to fill will be available starting January 9. Please be as generous to these two very worthy charitable efforts as we reach out to our sisters and brothers most in need as they struggle to feed, clothe and care for their children, "the little children" for whom Jesus had boundless love.

Question: What is the difference between a chastisement and a punishment?

Answer: The distinction between chastisement and punishment is, in many ways, a subtle one, but which is still relevant in our Catholic tradition.

First, chastisement is a concept that is grounded in Sacred Scripture. Here, we see chastisement as a response by God to people's actions that is intended to teach a lesson. As St. John Paul II observed, "chastisement appears to be ... a kind of divine pedagogy, in which the last word is reserved to mercy: He scourges and then shows mercy, casts down to the depths of the nether world, and he brings up from the great abyss" (Tobit 13:2). The idea here is that in order to capture our attention or to highlight how we have not lived out our covenant-relationship with God as we should, there are times when God uses events in life to draw us back to the quality of relationship or faith that we should have.

The concept of punishment, however, has a different sense. The Catechism of the Church observes that punishment is the consequence of a damaging action that "has the primary aim of redressing the disorder" and to protect the community and the common good from further damage or harm (see no. 2266). Although we always hope that someone who is being punished for a crime or some other harmful action will learn from their actions, punishment isn't necessarily intended to teach a lesson in the same way that a chastisement is.

Ultimately, how we make the distinction between chastisement and punishment is a matter of discernment. As with almost everything in life, our experiences can be an opportunity for grace — or for something less — depending on how open we are to recognizing the movement of God's Spirit within them.

©LPi

The Knights of Columbus Berkshire Hills Council 314 has named the families of Colleen and Jason Free and Erin and Jeremiah Pollard as Families of the Month for October and November 2020, respectively. The Free and Pollard families have served as an inspiration to our parish, community and council by supporting and strengthening Catholic Family Life. It is an honor to proudly recognize these families for their contributions.



Also, there will be no members meeting on Wednesday, January 6, 2021.

PLEASE WEAR YOUR MASK THROUGHOUT THE MASS: Unless you have an exemption and cannot wear a mask, please be sure to **wear a mask to Mass**. We all need to be respectful of each other and recognize that while most will be wearing masks, there are folks who have a qualified exemption not to wear one. If you have concerns regarding being seated near someone without a mask, please don't judge, just ask an usher to reseat you. We also hope people will **use the bathroom and wash up before you get to the church**. We will continue to **seat people three rows apart and try to separate "COVID bubbles" within the pews by at least 6 feet**. There is **no holy water in the fountains, no sign of peace and communion is now allowed both on the tongue or hands**. These are unusual procedures that we continue to get used to, but they are acts of charity and solidarity with each other as we navigate this time of pandemic. Thank you for your patience.

ADORATION: Takes place each day, Monday through Friday, following the 7 am Mass until Noon (**except Christmas Day and New Year's Day**). We are using the main church of St. Mary Mother of the Church in Lee until we get to a situation when we can safely re-open the Oratory. Join us for a few moments of quiet or stay for a whole hour. God's grace is present in a powerful way. **We are currently looking for someone to take the Monday 10-11 AM slot.** Please call the rectory if you are interested in filling this vacancy.



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults:

We continue to prepare two amazing adults for their full initiation into the Church. Their formation continues to Easter! Please pray for them. Are you, or do you know someone who wants to

become Catholic? Fr. Brian is organizing this year's Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. He extends the invitation to you. Contact the rectory if you are interested in the RCIA. (243-0275)

From the Area and the Diocese

ELMS COLLEGE: A collection is being taken up today for the College of Our Lady of the Elms - the Catholic college in the Springfield Diocese. The Sisters of St. Joseph founded Elms College in 1928 to educate the children of immigrants in the faith that was their heritage, and prepare them to fulfill the promises of the American Dream. Today, Elms continues to fulfill that mission by empowering its students to effect positive change in the community and world by combining a liberal arts education with professional studies while drawing upon the traditions instilled by the Sisters of St. Joseph. This collection will be applied to the Founder's Fund for Excellence, which supports student scholarships. For info about scholarships or to apply, please visit the Elms College website, www.elms.edu/apply, or call at 413-265-2213

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!

DON'T TRASH YOUR CHRISTMAS TREES: Goats love to eat them. Dave Carrington's goats at Monte Vista Farm (190 East St. in Lee) love holiday greens (wreaths, trees ... NO tinsel, wire or sprayed items). You can drop off your tree there, or if you cannot get it there, the Lion's Club and Boy Scouts will pick them up Saturday, January 9th for a \$5 donation. To schedule a pick up, contact Thom Swift (4130243-6737 or the Lion's Club at Leelions1965@gmail.com). We thank you and so do the goats!

2021 A Year Under the Patronage of St. Joseph

On December 8th 2020, Pope Francis released an Apostolic Letter entitled **PATRIS CORDE**. It celebrates the 150th Anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. Here's an excerpt:

"WITH A FATHER'S HEART: that is how Joseph loved Jesus, whom all four Gospels refer to as *'the son of Joseph'*.

"Matthew and Luke, the two Evangelists who speak most of Joseph, tell us very little, yet enough for us to appreciate what sort of father he was, and the mission entrusted to him by God's providence.

"We know that Joseph was a lowly carpenter (cf. Mt 13:55), betrothed to Mary (cf. Mt 1:18; Lk 1:27). He was a 'just man' (Mt 1:19), ever ready to carry out God's will as revealed to him in the Law (cf. Lk 2:22,27,39) and through four dreams (cf. Mt 1:20; 2:13,19,22). After a long and tiring journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, he beheld the birth of the Messiah in a stable, since 'there was no place for them' elsewhere (cf. Lk 2:7). He witnessed the adoration of the shepherds (cf. Lk 2:8-20) and the Magi (cf. Mt 2:1-12), who represented respectively the people of Israel and the pagan peoples.

"Joseph had the courage to become the legal father of Jesus, to whom he gave the name revealed by the angel: 'You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins' (Mt 1:21). As we know, for ancient peoples, to give a name to a person or to a thing, as Adam did in the account in the Book of Genesis (cf. 2:19-20), was to establish a relationship.

"In the Temple, forty days after Jesus' birth, Joseph and Mary offered their child to the Lord and listened with amazement to Simeon's prophecy concerning Jesus and his Mother (cf. Lk 2:22-35). To protect Jesus from Herod, Joseph dwelt as a foreigner in Egypt (cf. Mt 2:13-18). After returning to his own country, he led a hidden life in the tiny and obscure village of Nazareth in Galilee, far from Bethlehem, his ancestral town, and from Jerusalem and the Temple. Of Nazareth it was said, 'No prophet is to rise' (cf. Jn 7:52) and indeed, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' (cf. Jn 1:46). When, during a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, Joseph and Mary lost track of the twelve-year-old Jesus, they anxiously sought him out and they found him in the Temple, in discussion with the doctors of the Law (cf. Lk 2:41-50).

"After Mary, the Mother of God, no saint is mentioned more frequently in the papal magisterium than Joseph, her spouse. ..."

2021 will be a year dedicated to the patronage of St. Joseph. May he be our model of faith and an intercessor for our needs before his foster-son, Jesus. For the full text check out the Vati-



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

Dearest Jesus, for our salvation, You were born in a stable, endured a life of pain and sorrow, and died on a cross. Lovingly unite Your priests, especially [Name], to Your Heavenly Father so that they will remain close to those who belong to Him. When they are overcome in their struggles, intercede for clergymen by begging Almighty God, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Never abandon or forsake them. May priests always thirst for You, Fountain of Living Water. When their days on earth come to an end, say to each and every one of Your ordained ministers, "This day you shall be with Me in paradise." Into Your hands, O Merciful Savior, we commend their spirits, now and forever. Amen.

--Adapted from a prayer by St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Mary, Queen of the Clergy, pray for those priests who lack the courage to profess the true teachings of Christ. Amen.</i>					1 Pope Francis	2 Rev. Mark Stelzer
3 Most Rev. William D. Byrne	4 Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI	5 Rev. Douglas McGonagle	6 Rev. J. Lessard-Thibodeau, JCL (healing)	7 Rev. Julian LaFlamme	8 Rev. Yerick Mendez	9 Rev. Ron McBride, MIC
10 Rev. Merle Lavioie	11 Rev. John Roach	12 Rev. Shaun O'Connor	13 Rev. John Salatino	14 Rev. John Bonzagui	15 Rev. Michael Lillpop	16 Rev. Stefan Niemczyk
17 Rev. Gerald Oenowski, MIC	18 Rev. Msgr. David George	19 Rev. John Lis	20 Rev. James Longe	21 Rev. Donald Noisieux	22 Rev. William Rousseau	23 Rev. Michael Bernier (healing)
24 Rev. David Raymond	25 Rev. Piotr Calik	26 Rev. Peter Ha Dinh-Dang	27 Rev. Msgr. Christopher Connelly, JCL	28 Rev. John Larson, MIC	29 Rev. Richard Drabik, MIC	30 Rev. Thomas Shea
31 Rev. John Smegal	<i>Lord, grant priests the grace to ardently desire all that is pleasing to You, and strengthen them to accomplish it perfectly. Amen.</i>					

January 3rd, 2021



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

St. Mary's School's Annual Parish Appeal

In the parish envelope packets you will find a monthly envelope in support of St. Mary's School. Please use it! St. Mary's School has been a vital ministry of our parish family since 1885. For generation upon generation we have been forming the whole person to be faithful, intelligent and good.

We believe that St. Mary's School plays a crucial role in developing our youth, both academically, and more importantly, spiritually and morally. Our nation (and our world) needs people to put into action the Gospel values; our school strives to teach these values by example and action, as well as in the lessons.

Learn. Pray. Serve.

Yes, children are the future (as the saying goes), and I can't wait to see how our students blossom in this parish as adults. But they are also the present! They are contributing to our parish in very real and important ways even now. They are altar servers at funerals, as well as at Sunday Masses; they are prayers partners, praying for many of our parish; and they are even learning how to tithe and give generously of themselves (by following our examples).

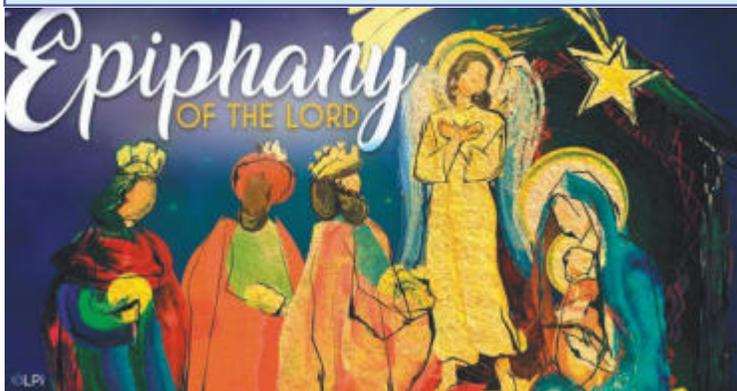
2020 has been a particularly challenging year. The St. Mary's School community (teachers, staff, students, families, and school board) has been determined to continue to be together in-person to learn, pray, and serve. The COVID-19 pandemic is not stopping us. In reality, it does cost money to run the school and despite our best efforts, our fundraising events have been challenged. We have therefore been working hard on an alumni appeal and school board appeal. We are now reaching out to all parishioners with an intentional ask:

"The gift you have received, give as a gift." ~ Matthew 10:8

We need your support! Please consider a monthly contribution. Each dollar goes to making the school the best it can be. No gift is too big; no gift is too small. To Donate: you can either use the *school envelopes* in our monthly envelope set, or go online to: **Support St. Mary's Catholic School in the Berkshires**, or you can **mail your gift directly** to St. Mary's School, 115 Orchard Street, Lee, MA 01238.

The students, families, teachers, staff, and school board wish to sincerely thank you for your generosity, as well as your prayers, which sustain us throughout the year.

May God bless you with good health and joy in 2021!



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