

Saint Joseph Parish— Needham, MA



December 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent



*Father Bryan, Father Joseph, Deacon Bob and
the Staff Members of St. Joseph Parish
wish everyone a **Merry Christmas!***



Bulletin
12.13.20

Dear Friends:

We received the happy news that on Dec. 8 Pope Francis announced a Year of St. Joseph in honor of the 150th anniversary of the saint's proclamation as patron of the Universal Church, an event indicated in the right front stained glass window in our church near the baptistry. The year begins Dec. 8, 2020 and concludes on Dec. 8, 2021, according to a decree authorized by the Pope. The decree states that the Holy Father had established a Year of St. Joseph so that "every member of the faithful, following his example, may strengthen their life of faith daily in the complete fulfillment of God's will." The decree added that the pope had granted special indulgences to mark the year.

I look forward to writing further about this initiative once we receive additional information and guidance. Personally, I am grateful to Pope Francis for this special recognition of devotion to St. Joseph, as he is one of my favorite saints and, of course, the patron saint of our parish and our school. Among the many stunning windows of St. Joseph in our church, I am particularly fascinated by the window depicting "St. Joseph's Dream," on the left side wall approaching the organ. If we look closely at the face of St. Joseph as he is visited by an angel of the Lord, we can imagine his spiritual struggle with the angel's words: "Do not fear to take Mary as your wife." In fact, three times in Matthew's Gospel St. Joseph is visited by an angel of the Lord offering guidance and a command. Each time, Joseph responds with faith and obedience.

I love St. Joseph because of his quiet faithfulness, his obedience in following God's will, and his selfless support of his wife Mary and the child Jesus. He teaches us the virtue of trusting in the Lord, whatever our circumstances might be, and he intercedes for us in our needs. "Do not fear!"

St. Joseph, pray for us!

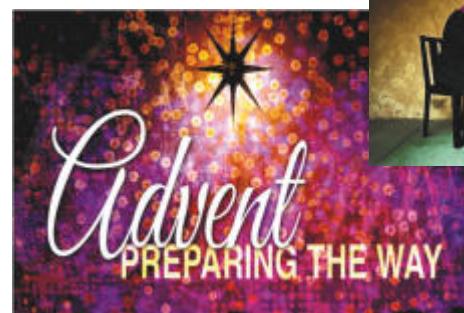
God bless,
Father Bryan Parrish



© Musei Vaticani



The Sacrament of Reconciliation
By appointment and
on Saturdays from 2:30- 3:30 pm
in the former baptistry, in the upper church.



Fourth Sunday of Advent, Cycle B

Sunday, December 20, 2020

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel visits Mary to announce the birth of Jesus.



Background on the Gospel Reading

This Sunday we read the story of the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary about the birth of Jesus. This story is found only in Luke's Gospel. On this fourth Sunday of Advent, the liturgy shifts our attention from John the Baptist to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Both John and Mary serve as important figures for our reflection during the season of Advent; they both played instrumental roles in preparing the way for Jesus. Last week we reflected on John the Baptist's announcement that the Savior was among us, although not yet recognized. This week we reflect upon Mary's example of faith and obedience to God, traits which permitted her to receive the angel's message that God's Son would be born as a human person, as one of us.

We are familiar with the story of the Annunciation, and it is fitting that we recall how God announced the birth of Jesus as we make our final preparations for our celebration of the Incarnation. The angel Gabriel visited Mary, a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph. Mary greeted the angel's news with awe and wonder and asked how it could be possible that she could give birth to a child. In his reply, the angel Gabriel announced the seemingly impossible reality: the child to be born would be conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and would be God's own Son. The angel reported to Mary another miracle; her relative Elizabeth was also pregnant despite having been thought to be unable to have a child. Mary's response to the angel, which is called her fiat, is an example of complete faith and obedience to God.

The story of the Annunciation calls to our attention God's wondrous action in human history. God chose a human person to give birth to his Son so that all humanity would know God's salvation. Mary, already full of God's grace, was able to cooperate in this great plan for our salvation. Thus Jesus was born as one of us, fully human and also fully divine. This is the mystery we prepare to celebrate at Christmas, the mystery of the Incarnation. In the model of Mary, we pray that we will be people of faith who recognize God's saving plan for us and are able respond with obedience.

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May the immeasurable peace and joy of our Savior's birth be yours this Christmas season.

Merry Christmas and happy New Year to all families, catechists, and volunteers.

Yours in Christ,

Debbie, Melissa, and Michael



**It is Christmas every time
you let God love
others through you .
. . yes, it
is Christmas every time
you smile at your
brother and offer him
your hand**

~ Mother Teresa ~





TODAY

Contactless Christmas Food Drive

The Needham Knights of Columbus Fr. Daniel J. Kennedy Council 1611 will be sponsoring a contactless Christmas Food Drive on the weekend of December 19th and 20th from 12:00 noon to 4:00 PM. Last year at this time it would have been unthinkable that today so many of our neighbors would be without food for Christmas. Business closures, layoffs, even evictions have created a need beyond what our local food pantries are capable of handling. But together, we can meet that need. Please come to our **drive through food drop off at our hall at 1211 Highland Ave. (rear of building), next to Dunkin' Donuts and across from Memorial Field.** You need not get out of your car, our masked and gloved members will accept your non perishable food items and we will deliver them to St. Monica Parish in South Boston where there is great need. Your generosity is deeply appreciated.

We wish you a blessed Christmas!



Guidelines for Mass Attendees

- Wash hands thoroughly before coming to the Church.
- Wear a face mask before entering the Church and throughout the Mass.
- Bring hand sanitizer, your own missal or other Mass aids.
- Always maintain 6 feet between you and others.
- Follow the instructions of the ushers as you enter and leave the Church.
- Do not congregate

Communion- Persons should come forward in a single communion line in the center aisle at six-foot intervals. Masks should be worn in the communion line and then lowered after receiving the Sacrament from the Communion Minister. After communion the mask should be raised immediately.



MEDITATIONS FOR ADVENT

Ester Munt-Brooks is an educator and public speaker and leads programs designed to help Catholics deepen and apply faith in their daily lives. Please join Ester for a series of three meditations during Advent, to prepare ourselves spiritually for the birth of our Savior, find more joy in the season, and deepen our relationship with Mary. All are welcome!

Sunday, 7 p.m. on Zoom.

Dec. 6 ~ Preparing Our Hearts for Christmas

Dec. 13 ~ Waiting With Joy

Dec. 20 ~ Advent With Mary

Join Zoom Meeting:

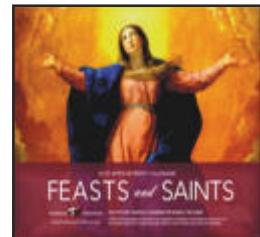
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84032208313?
pwd=RklzMWgxSjM5ZzhLVStibTR3RGxwUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84032208313?pwd=RklzMWgxSjM5ZzhLVStibTR3RGxwUT09)

Meeting ID: 840 3220 8313

Passcode: 040113



2021 CALENDARS



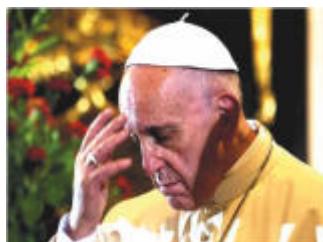
The Saint Joseph Parish calendars donated by our friends from Doherty Funeral Home are located on the Tables at the entrances to the church.

Each family in the parish is welcomed to take one or more copies home!

We are grateful to Mr. Ed Doherty for his continued generosity to our parish.



**The Holy Father's
Intention for
December 2020
FOR A LIFE OF
PRAYER**



We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.



Christmas Day Collection

The only collection will be to support the retirement, medical and financial needs of priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. On behalf of all of our priests, thank you in advance for your generosity. Checks should be made payable to St. Joseph Parish, and the memo line notation should read Christmas Collection.

NOTE- Due to early submission of the bulletin there is no Financial table for this week.



St. Joseph Grand Annual Appeal 2020

St. Joseph's Grand Annual Appeal continues. This Annual collection, supports the day-to-day needs of the parish such as employee and clergy compensation and benefits, utilities and building maintenance, faith formation and various pastoral ministries.

An anonymous family in the parish has generously offered to match any \$1000 gift to the Grand Annual Appeal (up to maximum total match amount of \$5000) from a parishioner who makes this level donation for the first time.

We are grateful to all of our parishioners who have supported the Grand Annual Appeal and hope that this challenge will assist in increasing participation in this important collection.

Sign up through the parish website www.stjosephparishneedham.com or by downloading the app from the Apple or Google store. Or if you prefer, you could set up a regularly scheduled e-check through your own bank account. For those who use envelopes, a Grand Annual envelope has been included in your November and December Offertory Packets.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 19

8:30	Martha Dunleavy– Memorial
4:00	Sandra Magine– Memorial

Sunday, December 20

7:30	Jake Berger– Special Intention
9:00	Paula Lawson Pearson– Memorial
11:00	Timothy Ryan– Memorial

Monday, December 21

6:50	Conversion of Sinners
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Tuesday, December 22

6:50	John Edward Beam– Memorial
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Wednesday, December 23

6:50	The People of Saint Joseph Parish
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Thursday, December 24– Christmas Eve

6:50	
3:00 pm	<i>Christmas Eve</i>
5:00 pm	<i>Christmas Eve</i>
7:00 pm	<i>Christmas Eve</i>
9:00 pm	<i>Christmas Eve</i>

Friday, December 25

7:30 am	<i>Christmas Day</i>
9:00 am	<i>Christmas Day</i>
11:00 am	<i>Christmas Day</i>

Saturday, December 26

8:30	Elsie Fitzgerald– Memorial
4:00	Maureen E. Calkins– Memorial

Sunday, December 27

7:30	Barbara Walsh– Memorial
9:00	Lydia Heck– Memorial
11:00	Eleanor Marie Cadigan– Memorial

Rose for Life

Each week roses are placed beside the tabernacles as reminders to pray for the unborn.



The week of December 20 roses are donated by the Joseph Tierney Family, Diane, Bill, and Grace Ryan, Betty and Mike Heffernan and Family

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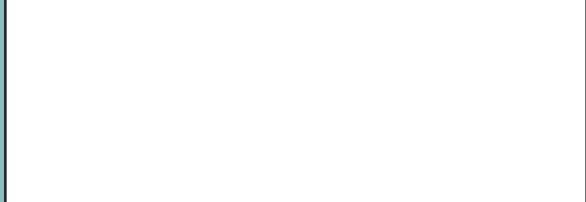
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Mario A. Clavell, Jr., Administrative Assistant

Religious Education

Melissa Harrigan, Director (K-6)
Michael Lescault, Director (7-11)
Debbie Coyle, Coordinator (K-11)

Parish Staff

Development Office
Mary Beth Cox, Director

Music Ministry
John Cice, Director
Adult Choir & Children/Family Choir
Daryl Bichel, Organist
Adult Choir & Children/Family Choir
Robert English, Asst. Children/Family Choir

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM:

To request the Sacrament of Baptism for your child please fill out the form found on the parish website at: <http://www.stjosephparishneedham.com/baptism> or If you don't have online access or have a question, please contact the Parish Office at 781-444-0245.

RECONCILIATION (Confession) :

Saturday from 2:30pm to 3:30pm and by Appointment.

MARRIAGE:

Contact one of the parish priests to schedule a date. A preparation period of at least six months must be allowed between initial contact and the date set. Couples are required to attend a Marriage Preparation Program during this time.

SAINT JOSEPH PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Office..... 781-444-0245
..... Fax: 781-444-7713
Mailing Address..... 1382 Highland Avenue
..... Needham, MA 02492

Parish Website-
www.stjosephparishneedham.com
Religious Education..... 781-449-3744
Schools..... 781-444-4459
Schools' Website:..... www.saintjoes.com
Development Office..... 781-444-4459 X114

TEMPORARY MASS SCHEDULE

Upper Church

Saturday Vigil 4:00 pm

Sunday 7:30 am
9:00 am
11:00 am

Daily Mass 6:50 am (Monday to Friday)
8:30 am (Saturday)

Temporary Church Prayer Hours

Lower Church

MON – FRI 6 AM TO 6 PM

SAT – SUN 9 AM TO 5 PM