

December 1, 2019 First Sunday of Advent

St. Anne - St. Catherine Faith Community

1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“So too, you also must
be prepared, for at an
hour you do not
expect, the Son of
Man will come.”
- Mt 24:44

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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Saint Anne Parish

75 King Street
Littleton, MA 01460
978-486-4100

Welcome!

Saint Catherine of Alexandria

107 North Main Street
Westford, MA 01886
978-692-6353

No matter what your present status is in the Catholic Church,
No matter your current family or marital situation,
No matter your personal history, age, income, background, gender, race, sexual orientation,
gender identity, ethnicity, or spirituality,
No matter your own self-image of holiness or virtue
You belong to Jesus Christ and you belong to us!
You are invited, accepted, and respected here at the St. Anne - St. Catherine faith community.
We want to share our Roman Catholic way of faith and life in Christ with you!

Faith Community Liturgical Celebrations and Mass Intentions

Saturday, November 30

3:00 PM **Confessions** St. Anne
 4:00 PM **Leonard Curcio** St. Anne

Sunday, December 1

7:45 AM **Hugh & Roberta McWatters** St. Anne
 9:30 AM **Mary M. Sears (2nd Anniv)** St. Catherine
 11:15 AM **Nicholas Sorrentino, Robert T. Sorrentino, and Carmela & Carmin Macchia** St. Catherine

Monday, December 2

8:00 AM **Buck Collins** St. Anne

Tuesday, December 3

8:00 AM **Parishioner Intentions** St. Anne
 8:30 AM **Adoration** St. Anne

Wednesday, December 4

8:00 AM **Prayer Service** St. Anne
 6:15 PM **Rosary** St. Catherine

Thursday, December 5

8:00 AM **Donna Connell** St. Catherine

Friday, December 6

8:00 AM **Parishioner Intentions** St. Catherine
 3:00 PM **24-Hour Adoration Begins** St. Anne

Saturday, December 7

3:00 PM **24-Hour Adoration Ends** St. Anne
 3:00 PM **Confessions** St. Anne
 4:00 PM **Esther Lawrence** St. Anne

Sunday, December 8

7:45 AM **Sophie Arena** St. Anne
 9:30 AM **Patricia Marrkand (5th Anniv)** St. Catherine
 11:15 AM **Frank Buffo** St. Catherine

A spiritual practice Fr. Peter recommends is to reflect on the scripture readings before coming to church.

Next Sunday's readings: December 8, 2019

Reading I Isaiah 11:1-10
Reading II Romans 15:4-9
Gospel Matthew 3:1-12

Adults: In what areas of your life do you need God's forgiveness right now? What Advent practice would assist you in expressing your repentance?

Kids: What do you want to ask God to forgive you for? What can you do during Advent to show you are sorry?

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come."

Matthew 24:42

People who have had health issues or near-death experiences generally have a greater appreciation for each day being a gift from God. The rest of us usually take for granted that we will be around tomorrow. But when you start to look at each day as a gift, you realize all the little miracles that happen daily and grow in gratitude for all that we have been given. You begin to see God's active presence in your life.



July 2020 High School Mission Trip

A general interest meeting for current high school students and their parents will be held on **December 4 at 7:30 p.m.** in the St. Catherine Parish Hall. The trip is open to current 9th through 12th grade youth, as well as adult chaperones from St. Anne's and St. Catherine's parishes. **The dates for the 2020 High School Mission Trip will be July 11 to July 18, 2020. We will be announcing the location for the trip at the meeting!!** Immediately following the general interest meeting will be an informational session for anyone interested in becoming an adult chaperone. Following this meeting, a two-week open registration for Adult Chaperones and a four-week open registration period for the Youth participants will begin. Please contact Matt Edison or Beth Anne Frechette for further information. **Matt Edison - matt.edison@gmail.com or Beth Anne Frechette - sca.mission.reg@gmail.com**



Ultreya

If you have lived Cursillo or are interested in finding out more about this weekend experience, please join us for Ultreya on Thursday, December 5th at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Catherine Mezzanine. Communion service, a witness speaker, fellowship and faith sharing. All are welcome!

24 Hours of Adoration

Friday December 6th 3:00 p.m. to
Saturday December 7th 3:00 p.m.
in the St. Anne Chapel

Come to 24 Hours of Adoration. Come, spend some time with our Lord. He is waiting there to embrace you, lovingly and mercifully! Don't know what to do? Don't know what to say? All relationships start with being willing to participate - to spend time in each other's presence. If it's your first time, let yourself just sit and contemplate: this is Christ - this is what love looks like! You are coming to visit your best friend, pour your heart out! Tell Him about your joys and worries, thank Him, ask for guidance and strength, ask for forgiveness and intercede for others or just sit in silence and enjoy the sweet peace that comes from simply being in the Presence of God! You may bring your own prayer books (or use the books and other materials that will be available), pray the Rosary, meditate using Scriptures and reflect on them. Sing in your heart!

Come! Let us adore Him!



Holiday Bazaar

The Holiday Bazaar will take place Saturday, December 7th at the Littleton Middle School gym from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We are looking forward to the support of the ladies from our faith community as well as Sodality members. Donations of baked goods as well as gift items for our raffles are gratefully accepted. All types of baked goods i.e., cakes, pies, cookies, breads, bars, fudge, brownies, etc. are needed. No nuts, please. Labeled baked goods and raffle items, such as gift baskets, gifts, quilts, and afghans can be dropped off at our bazaar table between 8:30 and 9:30 a.m. Saturday morning. Raffle winners must be present to pick up items after 2:30 p.m. in the gym. Volunteers to help please call Jonell Boroski at 978-486-8306. For raffle tickets to sell, call Kathy Coughlin at 978-263-9761. We will also have chili and baked beans available to buy. Looking forward to a large crowd and lots of fun!



Littleton Community Christmas Concert

Saturday, December 7
at 7:00 p.m.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Join us for this joyous celebration of Christmas music featuring the choirs of First Church Unitarian of Littleton, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, St. Anne - St. Catherine Faith Community, Congregational Church of Littleton, and the First Baptist Church of Littleton. This is a free concert. We will be accepting non-perishable food donations for the Littleton Council of Churches food drive. Refreshments will be served after the concert.



The Living Joyful Mysteries Pageant

The Living Joyful Mysteries Pageant is offered Wednesday, December 11th, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. at St. Anne church. Celebrate Advent and the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe by attending this inspirational pageant presented by our K-5 children. Refreshments, and finger foods only, will follow in the Hall, hosted by the Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality. All parishioners from St. Anne and St. Catherine are most welcome to attend. Last year's celebration was a huge success and we look forward to another wonderful event.



Assistance with Hearing

Anyone wishing to use the Assistive Listening System at weekend Mass should speak to an usher to receive a device and instruction.



Our Lady of Mount Carmel Thanksgiving & Christmas Message

Gracias and Feliz Navidad from Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Aguacate, Cuba and the "Friends" of Our Lady.

The prayers and financial support received during this year have made it possible for this parish, in a small town in Cuba, to continue their elderly breakfast/lunch program 3-4 days a week and the catechesis education classes for children on Saturday afternoons. Critical repairs to the church have taken place when parts, material, and funding were made available. Our Lady's Parish Council offers a Mass for the intentions of all parishioners and supporters on the Feast of St. Anne and St. Catherine of Alexandria and sends their blessings to each of you and your families. A Year End in Review by "The Friends" who continue to support this small parish, which carries on with its Catholic mission despite many limitations and difficulties, will follow after the holidays.



Christmas Giving Tree

Seasons Greetings to all in our faith community! It is hard to believe, but yes the season is upon us! Each year our Confirmation Candidates really bring this Ministry to life. This year we will be donating to Lazarus House in Lawrence and House of Hope in Lowell. The tree will be set up in the Gathering Space at St. Catherine Parish decorated with ornaments designed by the Confirmation Candidates of: Madeleine Baker and Jean DeLuca/Cheryl O'Hearn classes. These classes will also be delivering the gifts you generously give to Lazarus House and House of Hope.

We ask that all of your gifts be returned to us no later than December 9th.

Thank YOU all so very much for your on-going generosity, it is truly amazing. ~ Caroline Barry

Charity Ornament Tree



The Charity Ornament Tree has become a favored icon during St. Anne's holiday season, supporting four local charities and enabling our friends and neighbors in need of help from their financial struggles. The tree with its ornaments will be available starting on the weekend of November 30, 2019. Take an ornament, give the card and the ornament as a gift, place your donation in the self addressed envelope with checks being payable to St. Anne's and mail or place in the collection basket. Voila' The four benefiting charities will be Neighborhood Supper, Loaves & Fishes, Lazarus House, and St. Vincent de Paul. On behalf of those who will have their suffering reduced, thank you from the deepest part of their hearts.



Advent Lessons & Carols Concert

All are invited to an Advent Lessons and Carols Concert hosted by the St. Anne - St. Catherine Music and Lector Ministries on Sunday, December 15 at 4:30 at St. Anne Church. Experience joy, wonder and awe during this blessed season of hope as we tell the story of the promised Messiah through scripture, prayer and song. The concert is offered in gratitude for our many friends in the faith community who contributed to a new digital piano at St. Anne. Refreshments and holiday cheer will follow in the church hall, donations will benefit the St. Vincent de Paul Society. **All are welcome!**

Concord Prison Outreach Holiday Gift Bags



This year, we are again collecting toiletry and stationery items for the men at the two Concord prisons. Paper bags, with a letter listing the needed items, are available at all entrances. Please return the filled bags to the large boxes provided in each church by Monday, December 9th. For more information or if you are interested in assisting with the project, contact Joan or Dick Leaver at 978-692-6655 or [jl9971 at msn.com](mailto:jl9971@msn.com) or visit www.concordprisonoutreach.org

Rosary for Life

The For Life and Rosary Ministries are collaborating this Advent in a Rosary for Life on Wednesday, December 11th at 6:15 p.m. at Saint Catherine's. All are invited to attend as we reflect on, and pray, for the dignity of human life at all of its stages.



Three-Minute Retreat

The 3-Minute Retreat invites you to take a short prayer break online. Anytime, day or night, spend some quiet time in prayer and reflection. You can receive the 3-Minute Retreat every day for free with an email subscription. Visit www.3minuteretreat.com to register.

We're Collecting Hats, Mittens & Gloves

The Saint Vincent de Paul Youth Ministry will be collecting hats and mittens for distribution to children of St. Michael's Parish in Lowell as a part of our annual Christmas in the City event. The hats and mittens will help to keep these children warm during the upcoming winter season. We are asking for donations of new and unused hats, mittens, and gloves that will fit children from pre-K through middle school. Collection bins will be located near the religious education classrooms at both St. Anne and St. Catherine. Donations will be accepted through December 9th. Thank you for your generous support of our ministry.



CONFIRMATION PREP PROGRAM for our Faith Community

FALL and Spring Classes
Time of Prayer - Sunday, December 8 at 2:00 p.m. @ St. Anne Church

Questions regarding Confirmation please contact: Mary Collins, Director, MaryC at LWCatholic.org or Diane Gavel, Admin Assistant, DianeG at LWCatholic.org

All that matters is that one is being created anew. Galatians 6:15
 Matthew Kelly describes holiness as seeking to become "the best version of yourself."
 He says that God wants us to be ourselves, but not the self our ego wants us to be nor the self the world wants us to be, but rather the self that God had in mind when he created us.



Girl Scout Roman Catholic Medals

The Catholic Church has created religious awards for Girl Scouts, including "God is Love" for girls in grades K-1, "Family of God" for girls in grades 2-3, and "I Live my Faith" for girls in grades 4-5. To earn the Roman Catholic medals, girls work with their families to complete activities in a workbook, and then review what they learned with their parish priest. The program usually takes 3-4 months. Last year, five girls from St. Anne's earned the "Family of God" medal, which they received at a special Mass. Again this year, we will organize a springtime gathering for Girl Scouts working on any of the Catholic medals to review their learning with one of our priests. If you would like to be included in this group, or for more information, please email Kathleen Guinee kguinee at alumni.princeton.edu. For more information about the Catholic Medals for each grade level, please visit: <https://www.bostoncatholicscouting.com/awards>

Community Christmas Chorus Concert

42 singers from area towns will present their annual concert to support the Westford Food Pantry on December 8, at 7:00 p.m. Suggested donation for admission is \$5.00 plus 2 non-perishable food items for the pantry. The program features Britten's **Ceremony of Carols**, other Christmas songs performed by the chorus, plus a carol-sing with the audience. The Westford Girl Scout Chorus will also perform under the direction of Laurie Oliver. For further information, please call 968-692-8416.



Low-Gluten Altar Bread is available

If you have Celiac Disease and wish to receive Communion, please see the celebrant prior to Mass so he can consecrate the low-gluten hosts during the Mass.

Catholic Grandparents Potluck Christmas Luncheon

The St. Anne - St. Catherine Grandparents invite it's members to a Pot Luck Christmas Party in the Conference Room Mezzanine at St. Catherine Church on Sunday, December 15, after the 11:15 a.m. Mass. Baked ham will be provided as the main dish. Please RSVP with your favorite casserole or dessert to Jeanne Rodwell at 978-877-6493 or Mary Eve Miller at 978-692-7651. **New members are always welcome.** If you can't bring a dish for any reason, please come anyway. **We want you there!**



World Mission Sunday

Thank you for your generous response to the collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith on World Mission Sunday. Our faith community raised \$1,856. You may stay connected year-round to the Pope's missions, continuing the commitment of World Mission Sunday, by visiting www.propfaithboston.org. Thank you again for your generosity.



Our Mission Statement:
 Together living our faith
 By joyfully following Jesus through
 Prayer ~ Evangelization ~ Stewardship



Thank You!

Thanks to all who participated in the first annual "Thank a Veteran Day" on 11/11/2019. We visited Westford House and the Life Care Center of

Nashoba Valley. All Veterans were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Moms and Pops of Military Servicemembers of the St. Anne - St. Catherine Faith Community. The Servicemember Prayer Board was displayed at the 4:00 p.m. Veterans Mass on November 9th. A duplicate is on display in the St. Catherine gathering space in the front of the church. Everyone is encouraged to send the name and a photo of their loved Servicemember for the prayer list and prayer board. This event took the place of our regularly scheduled meetings for November and December. Hope to see you all in the New Year! Hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and have a blessed Christmas.

St. Joseph's Men's Group

The Men of St. Joseph in the Greater Lowell area meet on the second Saturday of every month. Each monthly meeting includes prayer, food, and faith-building fellowship. Our next meeting is Saturday, December 14th, 2019 from 7:00 - 9:00 a.m. Sat t. Mary Magdalen, located at 95 Lakeview Avenue, Tyngsboro, MA. There will be Mass, followed by a talk on "The Mass As The Prayer of the Church - The Church's Prayer" with Father Michael Harkins. **All are welcome!**

Second Causes of Support St. Anne

December 25 Clergy Benefit Trust

St. Anne Monthly Offertory for: October

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Needed</u>
Envelopes & Collections	\$ 30,819	
Online Direct Deposit (EFT)	\$ 12,927	
TOTAL:	\$ 43,746	\$ 41,666
Offertory Year-to-date*	\$ 140,923	\$ 166,669
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 2,526	
Holy Father Missionary Effort	\$ 390	
World Mission	\$ 788	

*These numbers are Fiscal Year to Date 7/1/19 - 6/30/20



*We welcome in Baptism
the newest Members of
our Parish Community:*

- Elijah Mary Antonia Coffin*
- Joshua Henri Cyr*
- Madelyn Alise Czuchra*
- Gavin Charles Ernest*
- Braden Mark Gagne*
- Kiera Noelle Glasheen*
- Margaret Elizabeth Molognano*
- Matthew Daniel Schmidt*
- Lillian Marie Christine Wilson*

Snow & Weather Cancellations

As the weather changes, if Littleton or Westford Schools are closed due to inclement weather, ALL activities at the both churches will be cancelled for the day and evening. If there is a school delay in Littleton or Westford, there will be no morning Mass. This is to allow work crews to remove snow, de-ice our walkways, and make our facilities safe for all. Faith Formation class cancellations for weekends will be posted on WCVB Channel 5. If dangerous weather occurs, please use extreme caution. The Lord does not want you to be injured trying to come to Mass. Thank you for understanding.

God Love, Father Peter

Second Causes of Support St. Catherine

December 25 Clergy Benefit Trust

St. Catherine Monthly Offertory for: October

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Needed</u>
Envelopes & Collections	\$ 30,776	
Online Direct Deposits (EFT)	\$ 35,319	
TOTAL:	\$ 66,095	\$ 87,250
Offertory Year to Date*	\$ 272,879	\$ 349,000
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 3,430	
Holy Father Missionary Effort	\$ 2,280	
World Mission	\$ 1,068	

*These numbers are Fiscal Year to Date 7/1/19 - 6/30/20