

December 19, 2021
4th Sunday of Advent



Sacred Heart

A Welcoming Catholic Community

Welcome!

OUR PASTORAL STAFF IS HERE TO SERVE YOU

Parish Office — 56 Newell Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201

Father Steven Montesanti, Pastor

Laura Scholz, Parish Secretary (413)443-6960

Mary Verdi, Director of Music - email: mary@maryverdi.com

John Richardson, Bulletin Editor (413)443-6960 ext 112

Rectory Hours: Monday thru Thursday 9 AM - 1 PM

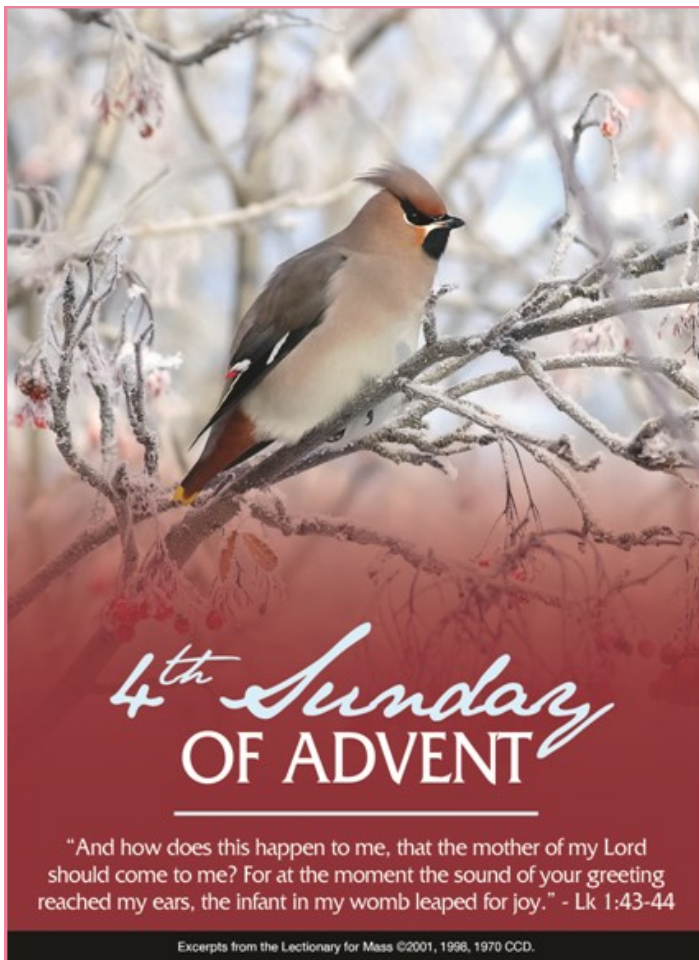
Website: www.thepinkchurch.com

Email: pinkchurch@aol.com

Telephone: (413)443-6960 Fax: (413)442-9649

Our Mission:

"Sacred Heart Parish is dedicated to responding faithfully to God's call as a Catholic Community and to serve Him and others through worship, fellowship, education and social justice."



"And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy." - Lk 1:43-44

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

PARISH INFORMATION:

Parish Office Hours — Monday thru Thursday 9-1

Enter the Parish Center building via the Newell Street entrance.

New parishioners should register at: www.thepinkchurch.com

LORD'S DAY MASSES

Saturday 4:00 PM Sunday 8:30 A.M. and 10:30 AM

DAILY MASS

Monday through Thursday 9:00 AM Mass.

Communion Service — Friday 9:00 AM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday at 3:00 PM — 3:30 PM

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Friday — After Mass (9:30 AM to 12 Noon) in the church

BAPTISMS

Contact the Rectory 443-6960 to assist in the planning for the Sacrament of Baptism in accordance with the Catholic Faith

RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

Contact St. Joseph Rectory at 445-5789

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Please notify the parish office one year in advance

PRAYER REQUEST LINE

Please call the Rectory at 443-6960

Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK




At Rest in the Arms of Jesus

Please remember in your prayers:

Joel Cooper

May he rest in peace

Saturday, December 18th

4:00 PM+ **Deceased Members of the Carchedi and Monteleone Families**
requested by: Josie Carchedi & Family

Sunday, December 19th

8:30 AM+ **Judy & Mike Joyce**
requested by: Jean Connelly

10:30 AM+ **The Deceased Members of the Murphy and Heimann Family**
requested by: Bob & Maureen Heimann

Monday, December 20th

9:00 AM+ **Emma & Wilfred Dupont**
requested by: Their Daughter

Tuesday, December 21st

9:00 AM+ **Lorraine & Susanne Wechter**
requested by: Her Niece

Wednesday, December 22nd

9:00 AM+ **Joe Gleason** (Birthday Remembrance)
requested by: Peggy & Family

Thursday, December 23rd

9:00 AM+ **Marie Siciliano**
requested by: Carol & Ken Morris

Friday, December 24th

4:00 PM+ **CHRISTMAS VIGIL**
The Nativity of the Lord
Sacred Heart Parishioners

Saturday, December 25th

8:30 AM & 10:30 AM+ **CHRISTMAS MASS**
The Holy Family
Sacred Heart Parishioners

Sunday, December 26th

8:30 AM+ **Cora Ellen Cooney**
requested by: The Knights of Columbus
St. Stephen's Council #2284

10:30 AM+ **Timothy DeMarco**
requested by: Helen Ward



THE SANCTUARY CANDLE

will burn this week for:

Sheran Ostrander

requested by: Marilyn Herrman



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

May you have the **SPIRIT** of Christmas, which is **FAITH**;
the **JOY** of Christmas which is **HOPE**; and the
GIFT of Christmas, which is **LOVE**.+

GIVING TREE—THANK YOU!

A very special thank you to the wonderful parishioner support for our Giving Tree. Your willingness to give to those less fortunate will bring much joy to many this Christmas!

ALL OUR BEST HOLIDAY WISHES!

Rev. Peter Gregory

199 Lenox Avenue, Pittsfield, MA 01201

Rev. James Joyce - Devonshire Estates Apt #228
329 Pittsfield Road, Lenox, MA 01240

Rev. William Cyr – 207 Cole Avenue Apt #100
Williamstown, MA 01267

Deacon Robert Esposito

77 Elaine Drive, Dalton, MA 01226

A DONATION TO SACRED HEART CHURCH

was made from the family of:

Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Cimini

CHURCH CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

Parishioner Volunteers Needed!

The church will be decorating for Christmas on
Thursday, December 23rd following the 9 AM Mass
Please join us!

WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY

Please note that during the winter season, when Pittsfield Public Schools are canceled or delayed due to inclement weather, Sacred Heart parish offices are closed, Mass and communion services are canceled.

Sunday — Fr. Brian McGrath

Monday — Fr. Dariusz Warduski

Tuesday — Bishop William Byrne

Wednesday — Fr. Gary Caster

Thursday — Fr. John Touhey

Friday — Fr. Peter Gregory

Saturday — Vocations for Priests & Diaconate

THE ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

Advent is a perfect season to encourage children to be grateful for what they have. Take a few minutes every day to count your blessings as a family. Ask your children to think of as many things for which they are grateful as the date on the family Advent calendar. Helping children be aware of the blessings God has given them can help them learn to be grateful for even the smallest things in their lives.

ON CHRISTMAS - GIFT YOUR PRESENCE TO OTHERS

If you were born into a practicing Catholic family, nine times out of 10, your family had a Christmas crèche. The French word for the trough where food for animals is set out, these nativity sets are used to illustrate the story of Christmas — the birth of Jesus Christ and those who came to worship at his feet.

As we get older, many of us come to realize that the nativity set is so much more than just some wooden figures and pieces of sweet straw. There are actually a lot of ways that the purpose of a crèche can be used to enhance our faith life this Christmas.

To fill your heart, add less — Over the years, Christmas has become the “season of consumption.” From Black Friday until December 24th, we spend our time buying more gifts, spending more money, and running ourselves ragged as we try to give one another the “perfect” Christmas. But isn’t that the exact opposite of how Christ himself came into this world — not as the King of Kings, but as a lowly servant?

To steep ourselves in his love, we need to allow ourselves to share it fully with others. As cliché as it is, we need to gift our presence to others, not just our presents. Instead of purchasing the latest iPhone for your husband, doll for your granddaughter, and makeup for your aunt, consider sharing an experience with them. Spend a quiet afternoon making cookies or snuggling on the couch with hot cocoa and a movie. Or have an active morning sledding on the nearest hill. These are the things that will be remembered years from now.—lpi

A GREAT WAY TO START THE NEW YEAR!

Giving made easy while you are on the go!

- GIVE* • 24/7 web based access
ON-LINE • Schedule donations
 • Enter bank information into a secure site
 • Donations credited to your tax statement

On line giving is an easy way to support our continued mission. Visit our web site: www.thepinkchurch.com to get started today!

SACRED HEART— ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK!

Viale Florist, Inc

Flowers For All Occasions!

99 Wahconah Street, Pittsfield, MA

(413) 442-6956

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The official florist of Sacred Heart Church

Please be sure to patronize our bulletin advertisers!

"May the Peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this reason that you were called together in one body." Colossians 3:15

A Most Peaceful Christmas to Everyone!

Comedian Victor Borge once said: "Santa Claus had the right idea. Visit people only once a year." It a funny line when we consider how goofy, annoying and challenging we can all be, especially during these crazy times!

So it might be a good idea to not take ourselves too seriously during these challenging days. To sit back and show God we can relax as we trust in Him. Let us call upon and allow the Spirit of the Savior to caress our minds and hearts with His Love and Light, the two gifts God gives to the world at Christmas in Christ, the Prince of Peace.

As we stand on the threshold of a New Year, let us be renewed by the Spirit and Message of Christmas. God is with us and for us always! Thanks be to God!

May God bless your hearts and minds with the grace of Christmas peace and joy. You deserve it! Merry Christmas!

All the best in 2022!

Fr. Steve

**GIVING UNTIL IT HURTS**

In the time of Christ, sacrifice was nothing new to the Jewish people. The Israelites were experts at sacrifice. So, after centuries of every

kind of offering imaginable, what was so special about Christ's? What made it so different from the sacrifices offered by the Levitical priests for centuries before his death?

Well, to adequately answer that question would consume whole volumes. And, of course, the first and most important reason is that Christ was the son of God and the savior of the world, not a random (if “unblemished”) lamb offering. It was only by the blood of Christ that we could be redeemed.

But another answer is this: Christ's sacrifice cost him. In fact, it cost him everything. The offerings made by the Israelites through their priests cost them too, of course. They gave of their flocks, of their household stores, of their wealth. But Christ gave differently. He gave of himself. He gave until it was all gone.

Such is the highest form of stewardship: the gift of self to the point of discomfort. It can take a multitude of forms and I am not saying we are all called to be nailed to the cross. In fact, for most of us, our gifts will not involve physical discomfort at all. But certainly, stewardship demands discomfort. It demands that we go against our human nature of putting ourselves first, of thinking primarily of our own needs and desires. And most of all, it demands love. For that, above all else, distinguished the gift Christ gave us. -lpi