

HOLY REDEEMER CHURCH



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas as Holy Redeemer Women's Club hosts its annual Holiday Evergreen Sale in the church hall after all the Masses on December 15 and 16. Make sure you drop by and see the wonderful arrangements that have been created.

PASTOR

Father John M. Sullivan

DEACON

Joseph F. Mador

RECTORY

57 Highland Avenue
Chatham, MA 02633

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday - Thursday 9:00AM - 3:00PM
(By appointment at other times)
(508)-945-0677 - FAX (508) 945-3186
www.holyredeemerchatham.org

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Help Line: 508-237-7983

HOLY REDEEMER MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 4:00PM

Sunday: 8:00, 10:00 AM

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday - Friday at 8:00 AM

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

Saturday: 3:00 - 3:45 PM

OUR LADY OF GRACE CHAPEL

Closed for the Season



The Church is accessible to the Handicapped.
The **ELEVATOR** is to the left of the Main Entrance.

NEW PARISHIONERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Please see Father Sullivan after Mass
to register with the Parish.

Mass Intentions



This Weekend

Saturday 4:00PM Andrew Marx
Sunday 8:00AM Jay Kennedy
 10:00AM John & Barbara McCarte
 Ann McCarte

This Week

Monday Janet Capodilupo
Tuesday David Martin
Wednesday Thomas Deane
Thursday Catherine L. Buchanan
Friday Rosalie Labbe

Next Weekend

Saturday 4:00PM Frank Duffy
Sunday 8:00AM For Living & Deceased
 Members of the
 Holy Redeemer Women's Club
 10:00AM Lois M. Sullivan

Retired Religious Collection

This weekend the second collection will be for the Retired Religious Fund. Many parishioners tell me of the years of Catholic education they had the privilege of receiving in their youth and young adulthood. Many of their teachers were religious sisters, brothers and priests who received very modest salaries and are now retired and elderly. They need our support at the end of their lives. Please remember the retired religious who were so helpful to so many and be generous to this weekend's collection for retired sisters, brothers and priests.

Knights of Columbus Donate to Parish

Thank you to Pope St. Paul VI Knights of Columbus Council who recently made an end of the year \$2,000 charitable donation to Holy Redeemer Parish for Religious Education and charitable purposes. Pope Paul VI Council serves Holy Redeemer; Holy Trinity, Harwich; and Our Lady of the Cape, Brewster. Their generosity is appreciated.



GIVING TREE: The giving of gifts and the Christmas tree join together at Holy Redeemer as the tradition of "The Giving Tree". Once again, the members of St. Vincent de Paul ask you to keep the needy amongst us in your hearts at Christmas and make a contribution to The Giving Tree. "Just as you do it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40). Any amount that you can share will be greatly appreciated and put to good use. The name or names you designate will be added to the tree. **Envelopes available at the main entrance of the church.** Please place returns in the collection basket, Rectory drop off-box or mail to the Rectory.

Tabernacle Lamp: In Memory of Philip Doyle.

Prayers: Please pray for those who are sick: Christina Boyle, James Nelson, Leila Porter, Marley Marie Smith, Fred Magnusson, Vera Russo, Sawyer Craig, Jack Gerard, Joyce Gallup, Dr. Peter McKay, Bill Manley, Joseph Filardi, Madeline Keogh, Oscar Sprague, William Harahan, Ed Dash, Krissy Labbate, Clarence Silvia, Thomas Chestaw, Leonard Gratton, Pam Weiler, Heather Duarte, Claire Kirby, Hazel Byrne, Donna Grant, Dr. Peter Saunders, Helen Duarte, Christopher Westdyk, Ken Elliott, Sidney Harvey. Please pray for our beloved deceased: Philip Doyle.

Christmas Invitation

As part of our parish evangelization efforts the parish is sending a post card to invite everyone covered by the Chatham, S. Chatham, W. Chatham and N. Chatham Post Offices to Christmas Masses. Be on the lookout for the cards in your mail this week. Maybe you can share one with a person you would like to invite to Mass on the holy day.



Follow Us on Facebook

If you're a social media devotee you can follow parish activities on our Facebook. More and more parishioners are accessing the page and also "Liking Us". Why not do the same?

No Matter who you are
 No Matter what you do
 No Matter where you come from
 No matter where you are going
 No matter how good or how bad things may seem
 Please know that you are always welcome
 at Holy Redeemer

Catholic Calendars

Parish calendars are available at the back of the church. They are provided by the generosity of the Nickerson Funeral Home. A Catholic calendar should be in every home. They show us the various Liturgical Seasons, saint's feast days and give some interesting information about our Catholic Church. Pick one up before you leave church today.

**Holy Redeemer Parish
 Financial Report**

Thank you for your generosity
 to last week's collection

Last Weekend's Collection: \$3,454.00
 Last Year's Collection: \$5,049.00

Living Stewardship Now

Spend some time in a quiet place. Use the silence to ask what God is waiting to tell you this Advent.
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From the Pastor

Commemorating the Winter Ember Days

In September I shared with parishioners my intention to observe the seasonal Ember Days as my own personal time of fasting and prayer in reparation for the clergy sexual abuse scandal. Ember Days are an ancient Christian practice of marking the change of each of the seasons with three days of fasting and prayer. This year the winter Ember Days are Wednesday, Friday and Saturday during the week after St. Lucy's Day which is on December 13. So, this year the Ember Days are December 19, 21, 22.

Ember days have a rich history in the liturgical life of the Church. They date back to as early as the 4th Century. In the reforms after the Second Vatican Council the celebration of Ember Days was put to the discretion of the local bishops and their observance is optional here in our country. Historically the Ember days are observed by fast and abstinence. The faithful are asked to limit consumption of meat to one regular meal on Wednesday and Saturday and to abstain completely from meat on Friday. They are also requested to fast by consuming one full meal and two smaller meals during the day for each of the Ember days.

As the Church continues to deal with the effects of the clergy abuse scandal, I intend to use the observance of the Ember Days as my personal time of prayer and fasting in reparation for the suffering of its victims and to ask the Holy Spirit to purge the Church from the sins of abuse.

I recognize that it is my personal choice to observe the Ember days as days of fasting and prayer for the clergy abuse scandal but I would like to invite parishioners to do the same. I feel that, as Jesus told his disciples, really dreadful demons such as the abuse of children and other vulnerable people can only be driven out of our society with the help of fasting and prayer.

As a public way of marking the Ember days I would like to invite those parishioners who would like to join me in a Holy Hour on Friday, December 21, 2018, at 3:00 PM. The Holy Hour will include Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, some reflection on the Penitential Psalms and Benediction. I hope you will join us.

In February Pope Francis will be meeting with bishops from throughout the world to formulate a policy to prevent sexual abuse and hold those responsible for it accountable. This policy will be applicable for the Church throughout the world. Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance for Pope Francis and those planning this meeting so that they will formulate a response that ends sexual abuse once and for all.

Financial Transparency Improvements

The Anchor, the Diocese of Fall River's official newspaper, reported in its November 16, 2018 issue that the diocese has made great strides over the last year in regards to its financial transparency. Voice of the Faithful, a Catholic watchdog group, rated the diocese as the eighth most improved in its reporting on financial matters. Voice of the Faithful believes that proper accountability in financial matters is a must in response to the sexual abuse scandal. It says that when dioceses are financially accountable it is much more difficult to hide transactions such as secret abuse settlements.

In the Anchor article Bishop da Cunha acknowledged that one of the reasons the Fall River Diocese showed such great improvement was that it was so low in the past. Last year saw the diocese complete the first comprehensive financial audit of its finances in its over 100-year history.

The Voice of the Faithful reviewed each diocese asking ten questions. Each question was given a value between 5 and 15 points. A perfect score was 60 points. This year's score for the diocese was 43 compared to only 22 last year. Fall River lost points with regards to its explanation of the diocesan assessment and contact information regarding the business office. It also lost quite a few points with zero ratings on two questions. One was regarding whether parish financial guidelines are posted and whether detailed collection and counting procedures are posted. Kevin Kelley, vice chairman of the diocesan finance council, pledged to continue to make improvements to accountability and hopefully get a perfect score.

With the help of the parish finance council I've been working to make Holy Redeemer's finances as transparent as possible. The parish website www.holyredeemerchatham.org has last year's financial statement posted on it. There is also a statement for the July-September quarter. We will be posting quarterly statements on a regular basis. The statements and other financial data can be accessed on the website by clicking on the "About Us" tab. On the drop-down menu click on Finance Committee. There are pictures and short biographies of the committee members there. On the sidebar you will see Parish Finance Committee Report. Click that tab and you have access to the reports along with some pictures showing how donations to our Annual Collection are being spent. If you have any questions regarding parish finances please don't hesitate to ask a Finance Council Member or contact the Parish Office 508-945-0677.

End of the Year Parish Donations

Many people need to take an end of the year distribution from a 401K, IRA or other such funds. It is often advantageous for tax purposes to make a charitable donation of some of these funds. If you find yourself in such a situation please consider a gift to Holy Redeemer Parish.



Join us on Saturday and Sunday, December 15th & 16th, for refreshments after all the Masses. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet your fellow parishioners. All are welcome.

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Church Name: Holy Redeemer

Church Number: 005003

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Date: 12/09/18

Contact Info: Beth Norcross - 508-945-0677

Special Instructions: