

# HOLY REDEEMER CHURCH



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## **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](http://www.holyredeemerchatham.org)

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## **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

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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 Deceased Members of the Ryer & Dunn Families**  
**Sunday 8:00AM Aucoin & Tacke Families**  
**10:00AM Wesley King**

**This Week**

**Monday 8AM Laurette L. Zimmer**  
**4PM People of the Parish**  
**6PM People of the Parish**  
**Tuesday 10AM People of the Parish**  
**Wednesday Philip Doyle**  
**Thursday Janet Minihane**  
**Friday Janet Capodilupo**

**Next Weekend**

**Saturday 4:00PM Jerome Downie**  
**Sunday 8:00AM Francis Linnehan**  
**10:00AM Ted Vreeland**

**Tabernacle Lamp:** In memory of Edward & Gertrude Carroll.

**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: Claire Kirby.

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



**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?

**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.



**Children's Christmas Pageant Planned**

Speaking of Christmas Pageants, plans are being made for the children's Christmas Pageant which is scheduled for Sunday, January 6, 2018, before the 10 AM Mass. We are planning the pageant for the Feast of the Epiphany, the twelfth day of Christmas, because last year we had to cancel our plans to hold it on Christmas Eve. We didn't have enough Faith Formation children able to participate on Christmas. It seems too many were going out of town for Christmas or had other commitments. Holding the pageant on Epiphany is a good plan because the pageant will be after the hubbub of Christmas Day. The pageant will take about fifteen minutes so I'm sure you'll understand if the 10AM Mass might run a little after the 11 o'clock hour but please come and support our parish youth.



**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.

**A Pilgrimage to Poland/Budapest**

Looking for the perfect Christmas gift? We invite you to join Fr. Marcel Bouchard and Fr. George Bellenoit in a pilgrimage to Poland and Budapest July 30-August 10, 2019. Come with them and follow the lives of the great saints John Paul II, Sr. Faustina and Maximilian Kolbe. This exciting adventure will lift your spirits and delight your senses! For more information, to request a brochure, please contact Randy Pinto @321-987-8173 or email randypinto1@gmail.com.

**Knights of Columbus Pope Paul VI Council #7312**

We would like to thank the parishioners of Holy Redeemer, Holy Trinity and Our Lady of the Cape for their contribution to our Annual Charity raffle in 2018. All of the proceeds go back into our communities in ways like the three parishes mentioned, St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Family Pantry of Cape Cod and much more. Our Council's goal is community service. Again we thank everyone that helped make this happen.

**Holy Redeemer Parish  
 Financial Report**

Thank you for your generosity  
 to last week's collection

Last week's collection total is not available as there was an early bulletin transmittal date.

**Living Stewardship Now**

Ways to help new life: Make donations or volunteer time to Birthright, Right to Life, the Christ Child Society, or any other organization that benefits new mothers and their children.

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## From the Pastor

### Silent Night Turns 200

Silent Night, perhaps the most popular song ever written, turns 200-years-old this Christmas. Silent Night is often referred to as the song heard round the world because of its popularity. Its recording by Bing Crosby is the third most popular recording of all time. The United Nations has declared it an international treasure.

While the song made its debut in 1818 at Christmas midnight Mass in St. Nicholas Church located in the village of Oberndorf outside of Salzburg in present day Austria, its origins are earlier. The poem on which it is based was written by a young priest, Fr. Joseph Mohr, in 1816 while he was stationed at a pilgrimage church in Mariapfarr, also close to Salzburg.

The circumstances around Mohr's composition of the words to Silent Night aren't clear. The area around Salzburg was filled with war, violence, famine and suffering during the years of the second decade of the Nineteenth Century. The Congress of Vienna reconfigured the map of much of Europe in the wake of the Napoleonic Wars. The area around Salzburg suffered greatly during these wars. Salzburg, which had been under the authority of the Archbishop of Salzburg, was secularized and the surrounding area that included the villages of Oberndorf and Mariapfarr were dissected up among several neighboring territories. Lands and families were cut apart by the new international border.

In addition to war and political strife, the area in which Fr. Mohr ministered was also hit by economic changes. The industrial revolution was beginning in Europe and industrial machinery was replacing the local cloth weaving that was used by farm families to supplement their incomes. Also, the weather was seriously impacting Europe. In 1816 a volcanic eruption in the East Indies caused so much ash to be thrown into the air that temperatures were lowered by 2-3 degrees Centigrade. Throughout most of the northern hemisphere in 1816 it was referred to as the year without a summer. Crops failed badly and famine struck the land.

In light of the failed harvest and ensuing hunger many people perceived the disaster as punishment from God. It was in response to these feelings of despair and apathy that Fr. Mohr penned the words of Silent Night to try to lift his parishioner's spirits. Just before Christmas 1818 Mohr brought the poem he had composed to the local schoolmaster and composer Franz Gruber. Together they added a melody and guitar accompaniment.

The beauty of the song caused its popularity to spread. Two local singing groups performed it for such noteworthy persons such as Kaiser Frederick William IV of Prussia. It was a favorite carol of Frederick and its popularity grew. Silent Night was translated into English by an Episcopal priest, John Freeman Young, who was serving at Trinity Church in New York City. Allegedly it was first sung in this country in front of the Alexander Hamilton monument at the church. That is a bit of a twist of history in relation to the popularity of the present-day musical.

Conditions in the world today and the historical circumstances around the composition of Silent Night remind us that all too often many people face similar feelings of despair and apathy. War, civil unrest, violence, hunger, division of families because of the dire economic conditions and borders are all still circumstances faced by too many people this Christmas.

As we sing the slow, sweet words of Silent Night this Christmas hopefully we will recommit ourselves to work to bring calm, pure light and heavenly peace to our world. May we pray that all humankind can experience the true miracle of God's abundant love as we welcome the Prince of Peace this Christmas.

### No Volunteers to be the Christmas Pageant Innkeeper

I recently read an article in the Jesuit publication, [America Magazine](#). Yes, it is one of my favorite places to follow Catholic news. The article was written by Jack Bentz, S.J. and was entitled, "[How parishes can turn 'Christmas Catholics' into regular Mass goers.](#)" In his article Bentz says that the one role no one willingly volunteers for in the Christmas pageant is the role of the Innkeeper who turned Joseph and the pregnant Mary away from his establishment.

Bentz reminds regular Mass attendees to be on guard against unwittingly being like the Innkeeper with regards to "Christmas Catholics" this year. We do not want to be people who shut the door in the face of visitors, seekers, and returnees who might be looking to reconnect with the parish this Christmas. In anticipation of Christmas Holy Redeemer sent out a card to all mail patrons in Chatham. Hopefully, it will increase our Christmas attendance and help many lapsed Catholics to reconnect. So, we hope to have some extra guests at the Christmas Masses.

Here are a few things every one can do to not appear to be playing the role of the Innkeeper. First, it might be wise to choose to go to either the 6:00 PM Christmas Eve or 10:00 AM Christmas morning Mass. That way there will be more room at our 4:00 PM Mass that is the most popular with visitors. The 10:00 AM Mass is often a good one for those with children to attend. They have most likely already seen what Santa Claus has brought them and aren't quite so excited as they are on Christmas Eve.

When you come to park for Mass make sure you pull as far forward as possible leaving enough room for all in the parking lot. This one day of the year be very patient with the parking situation. Be welcoming to each other and especially to strangers as you come into church. Please do not save seats in your pew for family or friends who will come later. It is very inhospitable to turn away someone who has come to Mass on time looking for a seat because you are saving a seat for someone who is coming in late.

If you are the first one in your pew try to take a place toward the middle. That way people will see there is room at the end of the pew and not have to ask to crawl over you to get to a seat. If for some reason you definitely need to sit on the end of a pew please get up and invite some one seeking a seat to share your pew. If you notice people who seem to be looking for a bathroom or have some other need please offer to show them the way.

Bentz also suggests we be aware of the fact that Christmas visitors bring with them the reasons and experiences that prevent them from coming every week. He also suggests that if you are a visitor please remember to come with an open mind. He says to remember that the music, preaching, building and parishioners are not out to disappoint you. Please cut us some slack and try to be hospitable too. Looking forward to large crowds this Christmas.