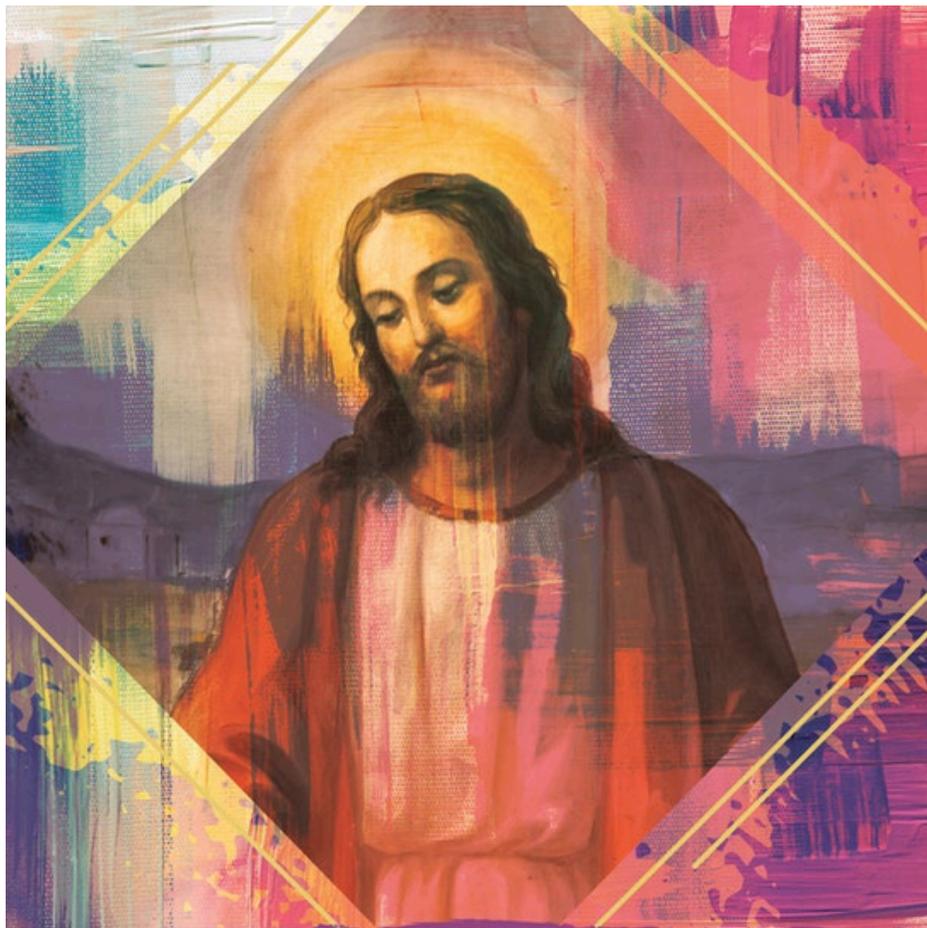


# St. Joseph Church

## CHARLTON, MA

We are a Community of Faith, called by Jesus Christ to reach out in love to each other, our families, our neighbors, our nation and the world.



### 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see." - Mt 11:4

**10 H. PUTNAM EXT.**

**P.O. BOX 338, CHARLTON CITY, MA 01508**

**Phone: 508-248-7862**

E-mail: [stjoecharlton@aol.com](mailto:stjoecharlton@aol.com)

Website: [www.stjosephscharlton.com](http://www.stjosephscharlton.com)

 St. Joseph's Parish Charlton

 @stjosephscharlton



**DECEMBER 14, 2025**

### MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil | 4:30 pm

Sunday | 8:00 am, 10:00 am & 5:00 pm

Daily Monday-Friday | 8:30 am

### SACRAMENTS

#### RECONCILIATION

Saturday | 3:45 pm or by appointment

#### BAPTISM

To register a child for Baptism, call the parish office or scan parish QR code below.

#### MARRIAGE

Arrangements begin a year prior to wedding date.

#### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Monday & Friday | Noon-5:00 pm

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of Month | 2:30-4:30 pm

### CLERGY

Pastor: Fr. Bob Grattaroti

Senior Priest: Fr. Charles Monroe

Permanent Deacons:

Steve Miller & Bill Shea

# MASS INTENTIONS

## Saturday, December 13

4:30 pm Steve Ide (birthday remembrance) by Family

## Sunday, December 14

8:00 am Francis & Elizabeth Nowak by Daughter

10:00 am Jeanne Carter by Parish

5:00 pm Paula Fisher by Family

## Monday, December 15

8:30 am Gerri Nazas, (Anniversary) by Vicki Molnar

## Tuesday, December 16

8:30 am In Memory of Fr. Barfarot & Fr. Rocco

Piccolomini by Assunta D'Annolfo

## Wednesday, December 17

8:30 am Matthew & Dorothey Machajko by Donna & John Galonek

## Thursday December 18

8:30 am Victor Fernando by Family

## Friday, December 19

8:30am Laurette Sleeper by Parish Family

## Saturday, December 20

4:30 pm Allan Turmelle by Wife, Sandra

## Sunday, December 21

8:00 am Tom Nichols by Family

10:00 am Robert Bourgeois, (birthday) by Family

5:00 pm Fr. George Ridick (4<sup>th</sup> Anniv) by Mark & Lynn Lorusso & Family

The Sanctuary Lamps burn this week for Nichols Family by Clara



Welcome to St. Joseph Church Charlton, we are glad you are here. New members are asked to register via our website or call the parish office.

We ask that you prepare for Mass by silencing your cell phone.



## WELCOME ST. NICHOLAS

We will receive a visit from St. Nicholas at the 10:00 am Mass this weekend.

St Joseph Church, Charlton

## Bambinelli Blessing

Sunday, December 21 at 10:00 am Mass



Bring Baby Jesus from your Nativity to Mass for a special blessing. Families can even make their own "bambinelli".

When you bring your blessed "bambinelli" home, consider gift wrapping it. Let it be the first gift your family opens for Christmas, then together place Baby Jesus in the crib, and have a home blessing of the Nativity for the whole family.

## PRAYER BEFORE MASS

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever AMEN.



We will host an Ultreya here on Friday, December 19 at 6:30 pm with George Leite as witness speaker. All are welcome.

Blessed Oplatek Christmas Wafers and straw for your Christmas creche are available in the Narthex for your enjoyment.

## REST IN PEACE

Jeanne Carter, mom of Deb Seaman. May she rest in the arms of the Lord and rejoice in the glory of Heaven. May her family find comfort in their faith.

## CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

### CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 pm Main Church & Hall

10:00 pm Christmas Chorale

10:30 pm Holy Family Tableau

### CHRISTMAS DAY

8:00 am Main Church

10:00 am Main Church

### NEW YEAR'S EVE

4:00 pm Main Church

### NEW YEAR'S DAY

10:00 am Main Church



# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## ADVENT

Today is the third Sunday of Advent, also known as Gaudete Sunday or Rejoice Sunday. Rose vestments are worn to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near, and we also light the rose candle on our Advent wreath.

O Antiphons begin on December 17, starting with "O Wisdom," and continue through December 23 with a different antiphon each evening during Vespers (evening prayer), leading up to Christmas Eve, marking the final week of Advent preparation. These antiphons address Christ with seven magnificent Messianic titles, based on the Old Testament prophecies and types of Christ. The Church in these Golden Nights travels through the centuries recalling the longing for the Redeemer. Our O Antiphon banners hang in the back of the Sanctuary.

The Jesse Tree traces the lineage of Christ all the way back to Adam and Eve. Ornaments are available or you/family can make your own. Place them on the Jesse Tree in the Sanctuary.



Many messages during the season are about coming home, being with family and friends. We suggest that you invite someone "home" to Mass this Christmas season. It could be the greatest gift you give!

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION

## 12 Trees of Christmas

Thank you to all who have offered to decorate a tree, all 12 have been adopted!

AFF will host a tree decorating event on Saturday, December 20 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Decorators; lights are on the trees, and the trees are numbered. Trees can be decorated any time after December 13, if you cannot join us on the 20<sup>th</sup>. All trees must be decorated by 3:00 pm Sunday, December 21.



## Cherished Belonging

The Healing Power of Love in Divided Times

In a time of division, Fr. Gregory Boyle urges us to embrace our shared humanity by cultivating compassion and connection to build a loving, healing community.



Register Now!

Join Joe Krans for this 5 week study group to explore the wisdom of Cherished Belonging

To register, contact Joe at 508.867.8881 or joseph.krans.presencework@gmail.com

Fridays 6:30 - 8:00 pm  
January 16 - February 13

Books available for \$12, contact Pat in the church office - limited supply.



A gift from the Parish, *The Forgotten Way* by Matthew Kelly is a quick, impactful read that is easily applied to everyday life.

Be Sure to Grab YOUR Copy at Christmas Mass!



# WHAT'S HAPPENING

Christmas Caroling at the Charlton Manor today, December 14, at 1:00 pm with the Knights of Columbus. We provide the song sheets. All are invited to join in.



## LIFE TEEN CORNER



## COMING SOON

St. Joseph Church, Charlton

# CHRISTMAS

*Vacation Bible School*

December 29 & 30  
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome to join in this 2 day program focusing on the King of Kings and discovering how to have a personal relationship with Him!

Free registration on the parish website or St. Joseph's table in the Narthex!

## CHRISTMAS EVE-CHRISTMAS CHORALE

We will feature the combined choirs of St. Joseph Church, the Federated Church of Charlton and the Charlton City United Methodist Church, as well as the St. Joseph Church Handbell Choir at 10:00 pm Christmas Eve.

St. Joseph Charlton LIFE TEEN

## SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, January 31

# TRIVIA NIGHT 2026

- Prizes
- Popcorn
- Extra Games
- BYOF

(Bring Your Own Food)  
All proceeds benefit Life Teen

The National Shrine of OUR LADY OF LA SALETTE

## Christmas Festival of Lights

# REJOICE IN HOPE

*"The Night Is Far Gone, the Day Is At Hand"*

November 22, 2025 - January 4, 2026  
FEATURING MORE THAN ONE MILLION LIGHTS!

lasaletteattleboroshrine.org

## TRAINING WORKSHOP

Allison LeDoux, Director of the Respect Life Office will offer a "Respect Life Ministry in the Parish: The Church's Vision" Workshop on Saturday, January 24 from 10:00-11:30 am in the Cornerstone. Register at [markjayne05@gmail.com](mailto:markjayne05@gmail.com) or call Mark Kackley at 508-463-7834.

## CHRISTIAN UNITY

*Week of Prayer  
For Christian Unity  
January 18<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup>*

"THERE IS ONE BODY AND ONE SPIRIT, JUST AS YOU WERE CALLED TO THE ONE HOPE OF YOUR CALLING".  
(Ephesians 4:1)

*Pulpit Exchange - More Information to Follow*

## A PROMISE TO PROTECT

A Cori is required for all involved in ministry here at St. Joseph Church, regardless of being CORI'd elsewhere. Request a CORI to ensure the youth of our parish are safe, and we are compliant with Diocesan mandates. Contact [Deaconbill@stjosephscharlton.com](mailto:Deaconbill@stjosephscharlton.com).

## PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL

Adorers needed to spend 1 hour a week with Jesus at the Perpetual Adoration Chapel, Webster. All hours are available, and they also need substitutes. Contact 508-206-8153 to be placed on the list.

# STEWARDSHIP

## PARISH OFFERINGS

**Weekend of December 7, 2025**

Weekly Offerings: \$15,385.00

Building Fund: \$655.00

We thank you for your continued support, helping to ensure the sustainability of our parish. Please remember, we do not "pass the basket", but rather invite you to leave your parish support in the collection basket at the entry or with an usher.

**YOU make a difference!**

## ONLINE *giving*

You can schedule your weekly offerings through our fast, easy and convenient online program. Please contact Lynn Lorusso at [lynn@stjosephscharlton.com](mailto:lynn@stjosephscharlton.com) or go to [stjosephscharlton.com/e-giving](http://stjosephscharlton.com/e-giving) to do so. It is of great help to us!

## FOOD PANTRY

### Hours of Operation

Tuesday: 6:30-7:30 pm

Wednesday: 9:00-11:00 am



## MINISTRY MINUTE

**Liturgical Environment**-The Liturgical Environment Ministry is a team of dedicated individuals ministering to our church by transforming our Sanctuary (worship space) into a place of beauty and transcendence in tandem with the Liturgical Year. This is especially true during the high holy seasons such as Easter & Christmas. Holy Week is our most intense season when the church is dressed and redressed throughout the week. Contact Alex Diaz 774-200-3381 for more information on how you can be a part of this ministry.

## FOOD PANTRY CHRISTMAS HOURS

St. Joseph Church, Charlton Food Pantry will not be open the week of Christmas, December 23 or 24. The regular schedule will resume on December 30. Thank you.

## GIVING TREE DEADLINE IS THIS WEEKEND

Your Giving Tree gifts should be returned this weekend, (unwrapped or bagged with no bows). Batteries must be inserted into the toy (do not tape to the gift). Please do not include any food items.



Given the challenge to meet the demand for gifts from all giving trees this year, Urban Missionaries of Our Lady of Hope, is accepting financial donations which they will use to procure the needed gifts. You can use the QR code or go to [gofund.me/e036a4dcd](http://gofund.me/e036a4dcd).



## FREE WINTER COATS

The Winter Coat Closet at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 446 Hamilton Street, in Southbridge, is open Saturdays thru December 20 from 9:30 - 11:30 am offering free gently used winter coats for men, women and children. New donations have just been received. One per person please.



# MINISTRY CONTACTS

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### FIRST LIGHTS

Grades K-5

Sr. Agnes Patricia [sisteragnespatricia@yahoo.com](mailto:sisteragnespatricia@yahoo.com)

### EDGE

Grades 6-8

Sandra Buron [mrsbedge2018@gmail.com](mailto:mrsbedge2018@gmail.com)

### LIFE TEEN

Grades 9-12

Deacon Bill Shea [deaconbill@stjosephscharlton.com](mailto:deaconbill@stjosephscharlton.com)

### YOUTH MINISTRY

Kathy Wandmacher [kathryn@stjosephscharlton.com](mailto:kathryn@stjosephscharlton.com)

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Ellen Thibodeau

[ethibo6000@gmail.com](mailto:ethibo6000@gmail.com)

Chris Mullen

[cmullen@charter.net](mailto:cmullen@charter.net)

## ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Ted and Patty Covill

[tcovill@charter.net](mailto:tcovill@charter.net)

## PRO LIFE MINISTRY

Mark Kackley

[markjayne05@gmail.com](mailto:markjayne05@gmail.com)

# PARISH RESOURCES

Assistive  
Listening  
System  
Available  
-Please Ask-



**Gluten free hosts**  
available upon request.  
Please ask an usher.

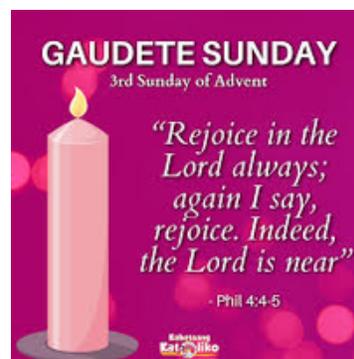
## 24 Hour Prayer Line

[prayer@missionariesofmercy.net](mailto:prayer@missionariesofmercy.net)

## DIOCESAN VOCATIONS OFFICE

*"Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?"*

John's question invites us to seek Christ's presence in our lives. If you feel a spark of joy in serving others, God might be calling you to the priesthood or consecrated life, sharing His healing love as a shepherd. Listen closely to His voice. Contact the Vocation Office at 508-630-4473 or [donato.infante@worcesterdiocese.org](mailto:donato.infante@worcesterdiocese.org).



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JCR Welding & Fabricate-Joe Roberts (P) 774-329-3919  
Jeff Helgerson Excavating & Septic 508-248-7242  
Joseph Szela & Associates, PC [www.szela.com](http://www.szela.com)  
LGM Studio, Joseph Leaming, Architect 413-668-5528  
Life Care Center of Auburn 508-832-4800  
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Storage Space, LLC Charlton (P) 508-248-6461

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