

January & February 2025

St. Joseph's Church Charlton MA

10 H Putnam Road Ext

Charlton MA 01507

508-248-7862

www.stjosephscharlton.com



A New Year Prayer

*A special prayer is offered for you on New Year's Day -
May God in His unceasing love
Send many gifts your way,
And may He fill your heart with peace
And be forever near,
Blessing you and guiding you
Throughout the coming year.
Happy New Year*

Dear Parishioners and friends,

And so we are here 2025 by God's good grace. It is so very significant that we celebrate three noteworthy events this year.

First and foremost the great Universal Church Holy Year, proclaimed by our Holy Father, Pope Francis. He invites us all to celebrate this year as "Pilgrims of Hope". Beginning over a thousand years ago, the church began to celebrate Jubilee every twenty five years. Going back to the Old Testament, Jubilees were special years of rejoicing, embracing and even the forgiveness of debts.

You will note on the Jubilee year logo which depicts humanity coming from the four corners of the earth in the act of clinging to the Cross.

The cross is in the shape of a sail, one of the signs of Christian Hope that carries with it the certainty of the victory of good over evil.

Secondly, we observe the 75th Anniversary of our Dioceses, established in March of 1950. We were originally part of the Diocese of Springfield and in 1950 Pope Pius XII established our

Diocese to comprise the entire County of Worcester with Bishop John Wright as the founding Bishop. Finally, as a parish we celebrate this year the 125th founding of our parish. Which was established in April of 1900.

For several years before that time our church community was here,

called Sacred Heart Church, as a mission of St. Mary's parish in Southbridge. In 1900 it became a parish in its own domain with

Father John Bell as first pastor. We will be celebrating our 125th Anniversary in the spring time.

Bishop Robert McManus will be present at Mass during the celebration.

Please be aware of other events being planned, which will be announced in our next newsletter.

All of these, anniversaries, Jubilees, are remembrances to highlight in time the presence of God in our midst.

Just like the procession the clergy and ministers engage in as Mass begins—so life for us has a beginning and although it will end on this earth—it does not have an end. We need reminders to become more and more aware of our walk through life and what that means.

When Jesus healed a person or feed the multitudes or raised people from death — did the healed person ever get sick again? Did those who were fed ever go hungry again? Did the people whom Jesus rose from the dead eventually die?

Of course we can say yes to all this so what then was its purpose—if not to give a promise that we will eventually never become ill again. Because of Jesus we will be constantly fed and never die at all.

The circumstance of our life of faith speak to us of eternal realities.

Pilgrims of hope then, as we are, may we continue to forward and to ever rejoice in the consolations of God.

With joy, love and peace,
Father Bob Grattaroti



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

This month we observe the week of Christian Unity in a pulpit exchange on January 26th. This year's theme is taken from the Gospel of St. John 11:26 "Do you Believe This?"

Rev. John Lucey pastor of the Methodist Church will preach here and Fr. Bob will be preaching at the Federated Church.

May we be reminded of our Lord's prayer in John's Gospel 17:21 "that they may be on so that the world may believe."



Shining Light

This month's shining lights Will & Susan Bond. They both grew up in Oxford, Ma and met in high school. They were married after college, while Will was in the Army. They have been blessed with a healthy, happy marriage of 50 years! They have a beautiful family of two daughters Jessica & Kristy and 4 wonderful grandchildren, Chloe, Anthony, Jacob & Ryan.

Will and Susan have been a part of St. Joseph's community for 50 years too. They loved the acceptance of everyone in the community and the all the action taking place.

Susan teaches in our First Lights Religious Education program, she is an active member of our Mary Martha Guild and helps in our parish food pantry.

Will is a member in our Knights of Columbus and is always available for all functions happening, helping to set up or break down.

They love to travel especially to other countries.

Their best advise given to us all is We all have a gift, find it and give it back!

They feel very fortunate to be a part of such a wonderful Church community.

A little piece of history:

Bond Road in Charlton is named after Will's great, great, great grandfather who was also served in the Civil War.

12 Trees of Christmas

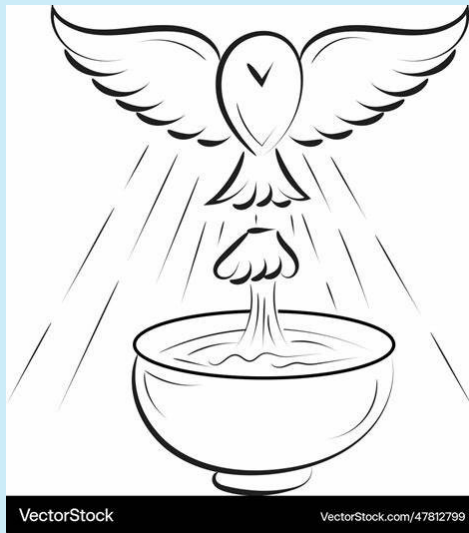




**Blessing of Throats
Following Each Mass February 1st & 2nd**

Looking Ahead

Ash Wednesday is on March 5th



BAPTISMAL PREPARATION SESSIONS 2025

Classes take place on Sunday mornings after the 10:00am Mass in the upstairs

Conference Room on the following dates. Please register online.

Jan 12th	Feb 9th	March 16th	April 6th	May 4th
June 8th	July 20th	Sept. 21st	Oct 19th	Nov 23rd

To schedule a Baptism please contact Lynn at 508-248-7862.



We are Pilgrims of Hope

On May 9, 2024 Pope Francis solemnly announced that the Church's Jubilee year 2025 "will be a Holy Year marked by a lively experience of grace and an opportunity to be renewed in the hope does not fade, our hope in God. May it help us to recover the confident trust that we require, in the Church and in society, in our interpersonal relationships, in international relationships and in our task of promoting the dignity of all persons and respect for God's gift of creation. May the witness of believers be for our world a leaven of authentic hope, a harbinger of new heavens and a new earth, where men and women will dwell in justice and harmony, in joyful expectation of the fulfillment of the Lord's promises."

The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,
may the *faith* you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of *charity* enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed *hope* for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.

May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever.

Amen

We are so blessed to have a community of faith
that is so prayerfully active.
Here are some of the things that have been happening



Walking with Purpose Tree Decorating



Thanksgiving Meal
& Ministry Fair

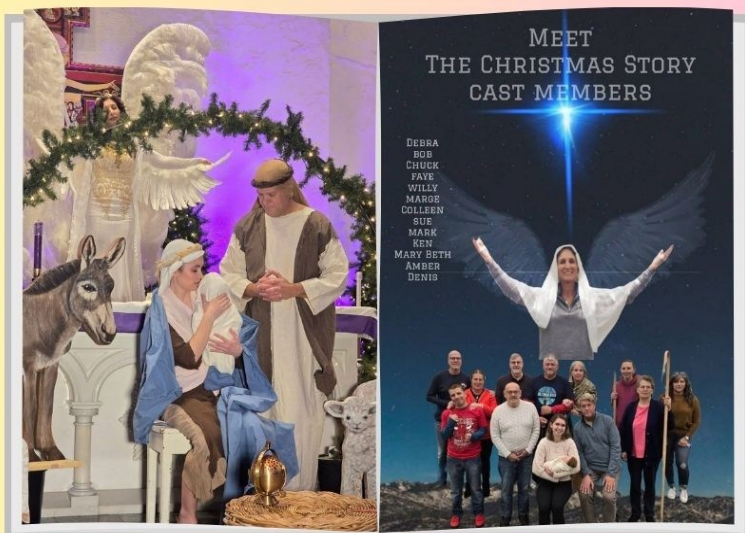


Christmas 2024





Christmas VBS



Holy Family Tableau

LOCAL

THE CATHOLIC PRESS | DECEMBER 16, 2019

People in the pew | New ministry to perform 'The Christmas Story'

"How does art bring Christ to you? How do you hope to use art to bring Christ to others?"

BY TARA CONNOR | PHOTOS BY NICK

A new ministry at St. Joseph Parish in Chatham is offering its first performance: "The Christmas Story" in the church at 6 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Performances are free and open to the public, but donations are being sought to give to the parish, to help support future presentations and people in need.

Parishoner Alexander Durr Salisbury said he felt called by God to start the ministry. The living art of Christ, to use art to inspire people to follow Christ. Ministry members are to pray and read Scripture together and recite Bible passages at St. Joseph's for the wider community.

"The Christmas Story" for which the Salisbury wrote the script, based on Luke's Gospel, uses drama and a pre-recorded sound track. He hopes in the future to get anyone interested, whether or not they are parishioners, to show their support with other types of art, including painting and music. For performance, and music, etc. (including performance) use "The Resurrection" and "Who made the Bread?"

"It allows one way to connect with my grandfather. He passed away two years ago. He was very close to church and God. So, being able to do this... it's a tribute to him. I hope it gives everyone a different way to understand the Bible story. For a little more visual. Everyone knows and understands different ways. It might be music, art, drama."



"This is my first time doing anything like this, so I'm breaking new territory. Just by bringing people in to watch the show, hopefully it will reach their Christmas experience."

- Sue Strick (in print)



"When I saw the people acting, I saw Christ. I want to show the love, because Jesus is love."

- Margaret Gill (woman who questions Zachariah about naming his son John)



"I feel a close relationship with Jesus and his teachings because acting in these biblical presentations, it's as if I was living the story... The meaning is much deeper... when you put yourself in the shoes of the person in the story. How to use art to bring Christ to others... other people can experience... it means deep meaning for watching a performance rather than reading about it... it's a different experience... if you watch the story unfolding in front of you, it's a more lasting experience."

- Mary Beth Bryant (Elizabeth, John the Baptist's mother)



"By studying the dialogue, you have to think about what was happening in the Gospel. I think a lot of people learn a lot by visual representation and music. When I was in seventh grade, Jesus Christ Superstar came out. Because I loved the music, it brought me into the story."

- Mark Nenech (in print)



"I read the books, but to see it in person, with the special effects, it's really going to pull the tale... keep them from... I'm a kid. The live performance, with the special effects, is better than reading the book... They're going to live in the time."

- Robert Backi (Zachariah, John the Baptist's father)

The Christmas Story





Semester 2025 with New Faith Lessons, Guest Speakers and Service Projects

ST. JOSEPH'S



Thank you for everyone's support & participation in the 2024 Thanksgiving Basket Service Project. We were able to fill 5 baskets with food and goodies to assist five local families.



Grateful Hearts

Thanksgiving
Service Project
2024



EDGE Winter Semester 2025

We meet every Tuesday evening between 6:30-8PM in the church hall
Sandra Buron/EDGE Director
Mrsbedge2018@gmail.com
508-523-1562

January Classes:

January 7, 2025 *God is Love*
Virtue of the Month / Saint of the Month
January 14, 2025 *Praying with the Holy Spirit*
January 21, 2025 *God the Creator*
January 28, 2025 *We are Creation*

February Classes:

February 4, 2025 *The Problem of Evil*
February 11, 2025 *Our Need for Redemption*
February 18, 2025 *SCHOOL Vacation - NO EDGE*
February 24, 2025 *Service Project Work*

Have a blessed New Year!!
2025

Contact Info:

Sandra Buron/EDGE Director
mrsbedge2018@gmail.com
508-523-1562



Thank you to our small group leaders:
Ginger Blaszczyk: 6th Grade students
Christine Drisco: 7th Grade students
Dennis Lataille & Christine Knowlton: 8th Grade students



St Joseph Charlton
LIFE TEEN
Leading Teens Closer to Christ



Upcoming Events

- January 5th - Life Teen
- January 12th - Life Teen
- January 19th - No Life Teen due to the MLK Jr Holiday
- January 26th - Life Teen
- **January 31st - Friday TRIVIA NIGHT!!!**
- February 2nd - Life Teen
- **February 8th - HS Rally Springfield, MA**
- February 9th - No Life Teen enjoy
- February 16th & 23rd - No Life Teen due to the Feb. break.
- **February 17th - 21st Camp Sunshine Winter Mission Trip - Limited to 8 teens - RSVP asap!**



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TRIVIA NIGHT

Tease Your Brain
All proceeds to benefit the Life Teen program and it's summer mission trips

Friday, January 31
Doors open at: 06:30pm
Game starts at: 07:00pm
Popcorn provided.
Feel free to bring food and/or snacks for your team!

\$20 per person or register a team of 4 for \$150

For registration & further information
Kathy 508-248-7862 ext 115
Deacon Bill 508-248-7862

Sponsored by the Office of Youth Ministry and the Diocesan Youth Leadership Team

THE PATH THAT LEADS TO YOU

Youth Rally

FEBRUARY 8 2025
POPE FRANCIS PREP
SPRINGFIELD, MA
5:30-9PM

featuring: **BISHOP JOSEPH ESPAILLAT**

Music by Psalm 35

DOORS OPEN AT 4PM FOR FUN ZONE INCLUDING GAMES, BASKETBALL & CONCESSIONS

MORE INFO OR REGISTER:
EASTERNMASSCATHOLIC.ORG/YOUTHRAI

St Joseph Charlton
LIFE TEEN
Leading Teens Closer to Christ

CAMP SUNSHINE

- Who - Open to teens 16 years of age to college students
- When - Feb Winter vacation Feb 17 - 21st
- Where - Sebago Lake, ME
- Cost - \$100
- What - Service week working with children with life threatening illnesses and their families.

St. Joseph's Church
10 H. Putnam Ext.
P. O. Box 338
Charlton City, MA 01508

Return Service Requested



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WEEKEND MASS IS CELEBRATED

Saturday at 4:30 PM and Sunday at 8:00am, 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM

Mass can be heard from your car in the parking lot by Tuning in to 89.5FM

OR follow Mass via a Live Stream from our website or our Facebook page.

WEEKDAY MASS IS CELEBRATED

Monday –Friday at 8:30 AM