

# March-April 2025

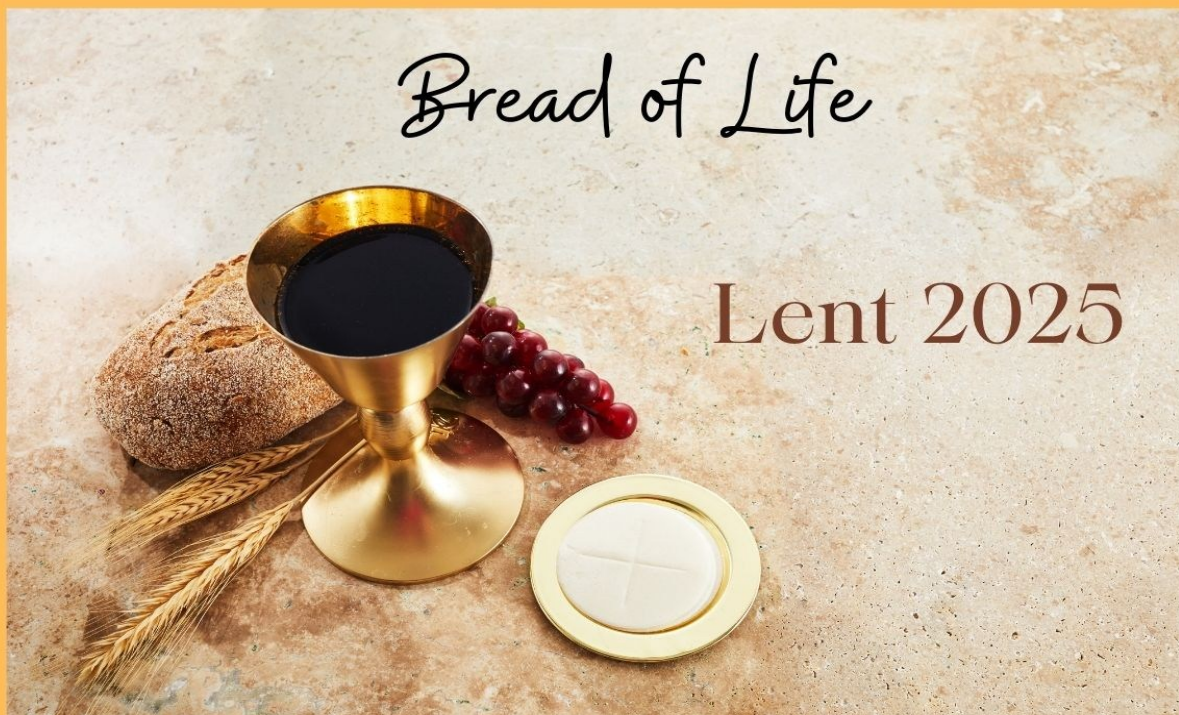
## St. Joseph's Charlton, Ma

10 H Putnam Rd. Ext.  
Charlton, Ma 01507

P.O. Box 338  
Charlton City, Ma 01508

508-248-7862

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



"I am the bread of life; whoever come to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

John 6:35

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Joseph's,

Lent is upon us and we begin this year with our Parish Mission.

Fr. Simeon Gallagher returns and will speak on the beauty & importance of the Holy Eucharist. Preaching at all Masses March 1st & 2nd, the reflection will be from Monday to Thursday following morning Mass and in the evening at 7:00pm. Please invite family and friends to begin our Lent with a Mission.

This year's patron for the Annual Partner in Charity appeal is Blessed (soon to be Saint) Carlos Acutis. He was a British born Italian website designer who documented Eucharistic Miracles and approved Marian apparitions. He died of leukemia at the age of 15 and is buried, per his request, in Assisi. His last words were: "Mom, don't be afraid. Since Jesus became a man, death had become the passage towards life, and we don't need to flee it. Let us prepare ourselves to experience something extraordinary in eternal life." He will be the first millennial saint.

We celebrate 3 wonderful events this year: Our parish's 125th Anniversary, the 75th Anniversary of our Diocese and the Church's Jubilee Year of Hope.

Special activities observing these events are being scheduled.

More information will be forthcoming.

We extend our prayerful best wishes and heartfelt Congratulations to Bishop elect Richard Reidy of our Diocese, who was our Diocese Vicar General. He was recently appointed the Bishop of Norwich in Connecticut and will be consecrated and installed on April 29 at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Norwich, Ct.

During this time of Lent, may I suggest that we spiritually adopt a prayer partner and offer special prayers for them. It can be anyone and we can pray to Our Lord through Mary, asking special blessing on them. Think of some family member hurting in some way, someone who is unchurched, a child who has not yet been baptized, someone who may be chronically ill, whomever it may be—pray for them.

As always you are in my prayers, may the special graces of this Lenten time enhance your walk with Jesus, to love Him more and more and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Peace, love and joy in the Lord

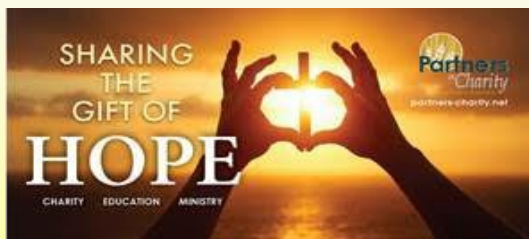
Fr. Bob Grattaroti



### **Celebrating Deacon Steve**

What a blessing to celebrate Deacon Steve's 30th Anniversary as a Deacon!

We will have a celebration on Sunday, May 18th in the parish hall. More details to follow but we hope to see you there.



### **Sharing the Gift of Hope**

We hope for your kind consideration of a gift to the  
***2025 Partners in Charity Appeal***

Partners in Charity advanced gifts have started coming in and we have so far received 71 gifts totaling \$38,895 towards our goal of \$77,500.00. Thank you to those who have already donated. We appreciate all of your help. Partners in Charity kick off dates will be announced soon. Please check the bulletin for details as they are available.

## ***Shining Light***

This month's Shining Lights are Jayne and Mark Kackley. The Kackley's have been married for 43 years. They met at a social gathering and have been together ever since. Jayne grew up attending Our Lady of Assumption and Mark attended St. Frances X. Cabrini. Together they have two sons, Patrick and Christopher. They also have five grandchildren Madison, Aidan, Sawyer, Wells and Ellis. There are also two more on the way.

The family came into town to go to Dresser Hill for ice cream. While driving around town they saw a house being built and stopped to check it out. One month later they bought that house and moved to Charlton. The family has been in Charlton for 37 years. St. Joseph's Church was the only Catholic Church in town, so they became parishioners. Jayne said that the people at St. Joseph's are so friendly. Mark said that the Church is like a second home to them. Everyone knows you and we have a wonderful community.

Jayne and Mark are both very active in the Church and community. Mark is in the Knights of Columbus, Ordinary Men, a lector, an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, Adult Faith Formation, prayer meeting and helps with retreats. He also shows a movie once a month in the Cornerstone and is working to restart the Pro-Life Ministry. Jayne is active in the Mary Marth Guild and part of the Funeral Ministry. Jayne helps wherever she is asked and never says no. In the community Jayne is a volunteer at the Senior Center and on the Golden Age Club Board, she also is in the Historical Society, the Grange, and works in the Farmer's Market. Jayne hand writes a card or letter everyday to reach out to others.

When asked what advice they would give to the parishioners here, Mark said get involved in a ministry, our community is great. Jayne said if you want to have a friendship with anyone, you need to try and make an effort, you need to make a phone call, write a note, make a date and make it happen.



## **Cursillo & Ultreya**

**Women's Cursillo**  
**March 13-16, 2025**

**Men's Cursillo**  
**May 15-18, 2025**

**St. Joseph Ultreya March 21st begins at 6:30pm**

## **RCIA THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS**

Please keep in your prayers the young adults and adults who will be fully initiated into our Catholic Faith through Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist at the Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 19th at 7:30 PM.







*All are invited to join us on Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> 2025 as we Celebrate 125 years as a faith community here in Charlton.*

*We are pleased to share that Bishop McManus will be joining us at the 10am Mass.*

*A luncheon will follow at 12:00PM at the Public House Restaurant in Sturbridge. The luncheon buffet is \$40.00 for 1, \$75.00 for 2. Later this month all parishioners will receive an invitation to attend. More details will be listed in future parish bulletins...*



Knights of Columbus

*"Irish Sweepstakes"*

Saturday  
March 22, 2025  
at the  
St Joseph's Church  
Charlton



**After the 4:30 Mass.**  
**Admission & Dinner**  
**\$20.00**

### MARY MARTHA GUILD 20 WEEK RAFFLE

\$20 raffle tickets (one dollar for every week of play) will be on sale after all Masses starting February 22. The raffle is for 20 consecutive weeks, and each ticket has 24 chances to win! Only 300 tickets are sold. Weeks 10 and 20 have three winners each. All other weeks have one winner each. Cash/ checks to Mary Martha Guild accepted.





**ST JOSEPH CHARLTON**  
We are a Community of Faith, called by Jesus Christ to become His hands, His feet, His heart, reaching out in love to each other, to our families, to our neighbors, to our nation and to the world.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

**Easter Baskets for Visitation House**

ONCE AGAIN THE CONFIRMATION STUDENTS ARE PACKING EASTER BASKETS FOR VISITATION HOUSE IN WORCESTER. HERE, WOMEN WITH UNPLANNED PREGNANCIES ARE GIVEN A PATH TO CHERISH AND SUSTAIN THE LIFE OF THEIR BABIES. COME INTO THE NARTHEX, CHOOSE AN EGG TAG OFF THE EASTER TREE, AND PURCHASE THE GIFT. BRING THE GIFT BACK TO THIS TREE, UNWRAPPED, BY APRIL 6TH. FORGOT TO GRAB A TAG? DIAPERS, WIPES, BABY CLOTHES ARE ALWAYS NEEDED.

*Sponsored by*  
**St Joseph Charlton LIFE TEEN**  
Leading Teens Closer to Christ

## Faith



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**Easter Sunday EGG HUNT**  
April 20th after the 10 am Mass



**Meet The Easter Bunny**  
**Bring your own basket**  
**All children are welcome!**

**Sponsored by:**  
**St Joseph Charlton LIFE TEEN**  
Leading Teens Closer to Christ

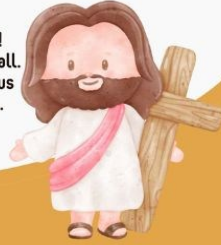
## Fellowship



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We are a Community of Faith, called by Jesus Christ to become His hands, His feet, His heart, reaching out in love to each other, to our families, to our neighbors, to our nation and to the world.

**Potluck Lenten Meal & Way of the Cross for Children**  
Friday April 4th @ 6 pm  
**Open to all families!**

Bring your favorite meatless dish or side.  
Bring your favorite dessert!  
Meal begins @ 6 pm in the Hall.  
Please RSVP below and let us know what you're bringing.



**RSVP**



Sponsored and served by our teens! **St Joseph Charlton LIFE TEEN**  
Leading Teens Closer to Christ

## Service



**Tenebrae Service**  
**All Are Welcome!**  
April 13th @ 7 pm  
Join us as we enter into the Passion and Death of Christ. We will reflect more deeply on the words that our Lord spoke while on the cross and the impact that they have on each of our lives.

## Grace



**Can and bottle collections will begin again on March 15th.**  
All proceeds from the collections will be going with our teens to **Op Sunshine** on July 28th. Please drop off your donations in the bins located outside the Church hall doors, downstairs. We appreciate your donations



**Op CAMP LE** where families find family





## CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF DIVINE MERCY AT ST. JOSEPH CHURCH (Sunday, April 27th)

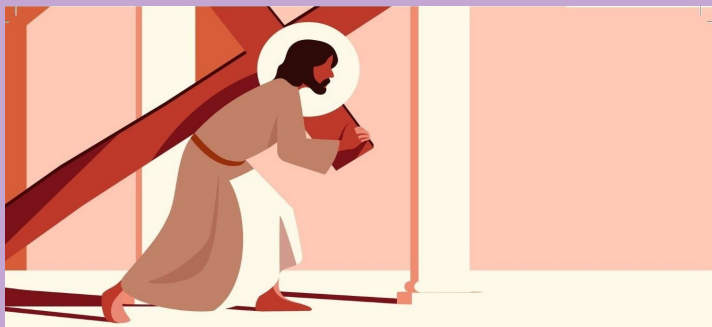
Join us for a Feast of Divine Mercy celebration on Sunday, April 27th. More details will be forthcoming in the bulletins.

## THE DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET NOVENA (Friday, April 18th to Saturday, April 26th)

We hope you will join us in praying the Novena to the Divine Mercy beginning on Good Friday, April. The Divine Mercy Chaplet Novena pamphlet with daily meditations will be available at all Masses on Palm Sunday weekend. A supply will also be on the St. Joseph's table in the Narthex.

The Chaplet can be said at any time, but the Lord specifically asked that a Novena to the Divine Mercy be recited on the nine days before the Feast of Mercy, ending on Divine Mercy Sunday. He promised, by this Novena (of Chaplets) *I will grant every possible grace to souls.*

Jesus gave St. Faustina daily intentions to pray for during the Novena: *On each day you will bring to My heart a different group of souls and immerse them in this ocean of My mercy.*



**Dive deeper into prayer this Lent with Hallow**

*"I have prayed for a guide during Lent and I have found it!"*  
Thank you Hallow!"

- 
**Daily Prayers**  
Start your day with the Daily Gospel, Rosary, Examen, or one of over 10,000 sessions, including daily meditations, homilies, reflections, and Bible studies.
- 
**Family Content & Kids Challenge**  
Pray as a family with weekly Mass Prep, and guide your little ones through the season with our kid's challenge.
- 
**Bible Stories & Sleep Content**  
Close your day with Christ with an Examen, Night Prayer, or a Rosary with guests like Bishop Barron, Mark Wahlberg, and Jonathan Roumie.

Scan with your phone  
hallow.com/parish

Get it on Google Play | Download on the App Store

**Hallow**

# Pray Every Day with Your Kids this Lent





## Lenten Activities

### Parish Mission

Fr. Simeon Gallagher will present on March 3-6 following 8:30am Mass & at 7pm and will speak on a "Gift of Finest Wheat: Developing a Eucharistic World View"

### Ash Wednesday-March 5

Mass with distribution of Ashes at 8:30 AM & 7:00 PM,  
Distribution of Ashes at 4:00 PM

### Confessions

Wednesdays March 12, 26 & April 2 from 6:00-7:00 PM

### The Way of the Cross

Fridays during Lent at 7:00 PM

### Resurrection Live Performance

Saturday, April 12 6:30 PM & Sunday, April 13 at Noon

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

### Holy Thursday-April 17

7:00 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper,  
Washing of the Feet and Adoration until 10:00 PM

### Good Friday-April 18

6:30 PM Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord

### Saturday, April 19

Blessing of the Food at Noon

Easter Vigil 7:30 PM

### Sunday, April 20

Easter Mass at 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM & 5:00 PM





**All high school teens  
are welcome!**

## March

- 2nd - Life Teen Night - Effects of Original Sin
- 13th - Life Teen begins collecting cans and bottles
- 16th - Life Teen Night - Jesus Son of God, Source of Salvation
- 23rd - Life Teen Night - One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic Church
- 30th - Life Teen Night - Sacramental Marriage

## April

- 4th - Life Teen sponsored Potluck Lenten Meal and Children's Stations of the Cross - Service project for 9th and 10th students
- 6th - Life Teen Night - How to be Christ's hands and feet in the world
- 13th - Life Teen Night - Tenebrae Service
- 20th - Life Teen sponsored and led Parish Easter Egg Hunt after the 10 am Mass - Service project for Confirmation students

## Save the Date

- Sunday May 4th - Life Teen year end/Summer kickoff party
- Sunday May 18th - Service of Light @ 5pm. Sponsor dinner immediately following Mass - All teens and their families are welcome to join us for the 5 pm Mass to support the teens who are being Confirmed later that month.

St Joseph Charlton  
**LIFE TEEN**  
Leading Teens Closer to Christ

**Welcome  
Summer 2025**

- 1 All Summer Diocesan Volleyball Team
- 2 June 24th Summer Kickoff Bonfire
- 3 July-Mini Golf Tournament @ Crystal Caves
- 4 August-Cookout, Volleyball, and swimming at Buffumville Lake

More information coming soon!

St Joseph Charlton  
**LIFE TEEN**  
Leading Teens Closer to Christ

**It's time  
for  
Steubenville  
East!**

Mass Mutual Center  
Springfield, MA  
July 25th - 27th

SUMMER 2025

All teens entering 9th grade through to graduated seniors in HS

**CONSUMED**  
DEUTERONOMY 4:24

Let us know your interested here

FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY OF STEUBENVILLE

STEUBENVILLE CONFERENCES

St Joseph Charlton  
**LIFE TEEN**  
Leading Teens Closer to Christ

**100th**  
CAMP SUNSHINE

where families find family

Let us know your interested here

- Who - Open to teens 16 years of age to college students
- When - July 28 - Aug 1
- Where - Sebago Lake, ME
- Cost - \$100
- What - Service week working with children who have had a solid organ transplant and their families.



*How are  
you  
and your  
family  
preparing  
for Easter?*



**Lent** invites us to return to the Lord with our "whole heart". Our Lenten journey is a special time to learn and grow with Jesus, walking with Him and building good habits so we can open hearts more fully to Him. This can be done by:

1. Spending time each day in **prayer**,
2. **Fasting** from things that take us away from Jesus, and
3. Almsgiving, also known as **charitable works**.

St. Joseph Charlton



**EDGE**  
Middle School Ministry



*your  
child  
belongs*

...in this parish  
...in this church  
...in this community  
...in the body of Christ  
...in the Catholic faith  
...in the kingdom of God  
...in Religious Education

## EDGE Spring Semester 2025

*We gather every Tuesday evening in the church hall 6:30-8PM*

### MARCH Classes:

**March 4, 2025 ....** Lenten Preparation

**March 11, 2025 .....** Service Project Night

**March 18, 2025 ....** Stations of the Cross

*~ Families are Welcome to Join~*

**March 25, 2025 ....** New Messages (10)

### APRIL Classes:

**April 1, 2025 ....** Service Project Work

**April 8, 2025 ....** Journey through the Mass

**April 15, 2025 ....** Easter /Divine Mercy Sunday

**April 22, 2025 ....** School Vacation - NO EDGE

**April 29, 2025 ....** Easter Eggstravaganza



## Divine Mercy Sunday

*Sunday, April 27th*

Watch for  
more details  
coming soon!



Save the date:  
Saturday, May 17, 2025 !

*Afternoon Spring Tea  
Fundraiser* **2 - 4 PM**

Sponsored  
by EDGE



*St. Joseph Church Hall*  
10 H Putnam Road ext.  
Charlton, Ma 01507

**Tickets:**

\$30/ Adult

\$20/ Children

under 10

\$150/ Table of 6

**Extraordinary Baskets  
for Raffle**

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



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

**Return Service Requested**



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**CHARLTON CITY, MA**  
**PERMIT #5**

**WEEKEND MASS IS  
CELEBRATED**

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

Mass can be heard from your  
car in the parking lot by Tun-  
ing 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

**LENTEN REGULATIONS:**

1) Abstinence on all the Fridays of Lent, and on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. • No meat may be eaten on days of abstinence. Catholics 14 years and older are bound to abstain from meat. Elderly, pregnant and nursing mothers are exempt. 2) Fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. • Fasting means having only one full meal to maintain one's strength. Two smaller, meatless and penitential meals are permitted according to one's needs, but they should not together equal the one full meal. Eating solid foods between meals is not permitted. Catholics from age 18 through age 59 are bound to fast.