



Most Holy Redeemer
 120 Russell St., Hadley, MA
 mhrhadleychurch@gmail.com
 www.mhrhadley.org
 Office Telephone: 413-584-1326

December 18 , 2022
Weekend Masses: 4:00pm Saturday
Sunday 8:00 & 10:30am
Daily Mass: Mon, Tues,
Thurs, & Fri 8:00am
Confessions: Saturday 2:45 – 3:30pm

MHR PARISH STAFF

Fr. Douglas McGonagle
Pastor
Email: fr.mcgonagle@gmail.com
John Gibbons
Faith Formation
Barbara Kopacz
Administrative Assistant
Pauline Danylieko
Funeral Organist
Frank Wilda, Folk Choir

ADVISORY

Finance Council
Jim Maksimoski
Cemetery
Paul Mokrzecki
Pastoral Council
Joan Smola

OFFICE HOURS:

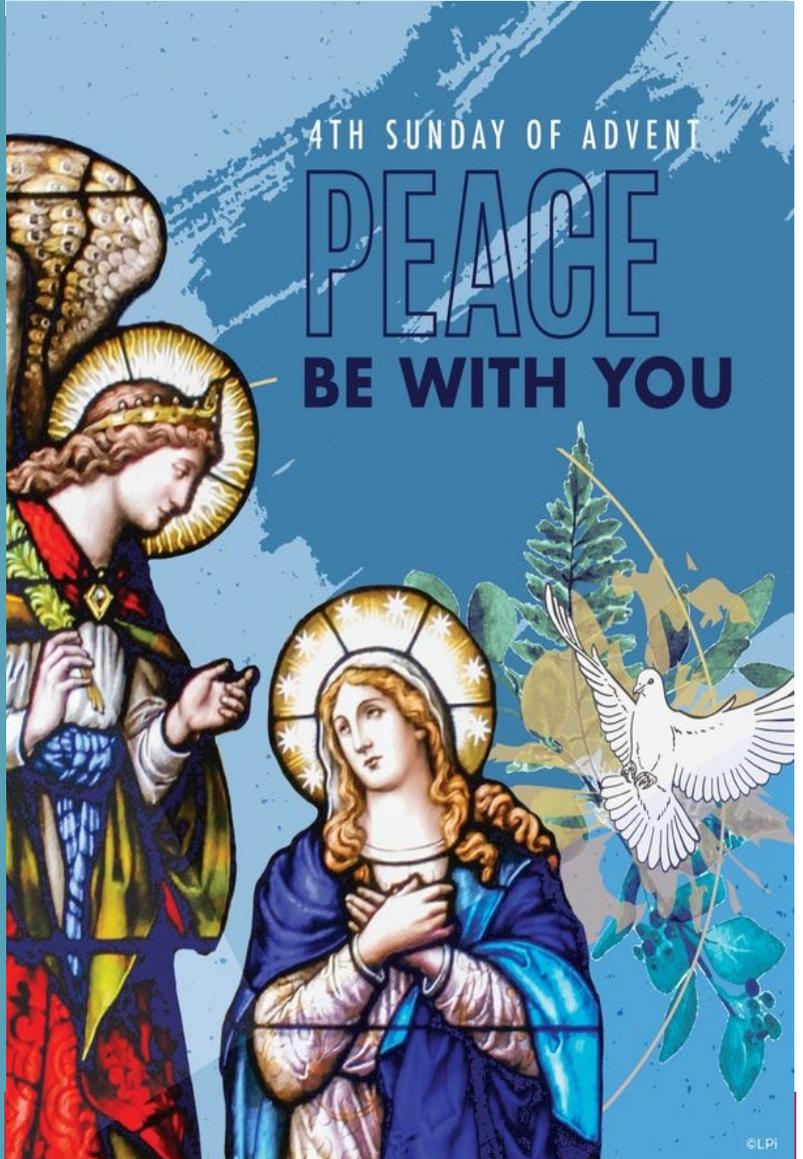
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri. 9AM –2PM
Wednesday-CLOSED
(temporary change of hours)

First Friday

Confession 12:30pm
Mass 1:00pm
Adoration 1:30—5:00

**MIRACULOUS MEDAL
 NOVENA**

During Monday morning Mass
Hadley at Elaine Manor
Monthly Mass



Holy Rosary Cemetery,
Huntington Rd.,
Hadley, MA

This Week's MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 17, 2022

4:00 pm: James McConkey, requested by Grampy Joe.

Sunday, December 18, 2022

8:00 am: Richard D. Waskiewicz; requested by wife Marion & family.

10:30am: John G. Kieras, Jr., requested by wife Lorraine & family.

Monday, December 19, 2022

8:00 am: Walter Wanczyk, Jr., requested by Ben & Cindy Borowski.

Tuesday, December 20, 2022

8:00am: John Walkowicz, requested by friend, Rick.

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

NO MASS

Thursday, December 22, 2022

8:00am: Claire Madej, requested by Helen Kapinos.

Friday, December 23, 2022

8:00am: Clara Pipczynski; requested by family.

Saturday, December 24, 2022

4:00 pm: Edward & Helen Waskiewicz, requested by Ron, Chris, & family.

9:00pm: The People of MHR

Sunday, December 25th, 2022

9:00am: Catherine Woodard, requested by Wayne & Irene.

11:00 John Hanieski, requested by wife and family.

Weekly Collection		Year to Date Collection	
Dec . Online Contribution	\$970		
Dec. 3-4	\$2,422		
Dec 11-12	\$2,449	Actual:	\$71,444
		Budget	\$ 87,600
		Shortfall	\$16,156

VOTIVE LIGHT PRAYER INTENTIONS

For Our Military: Chris Ahlemeyer, Edmund Loughran, & Troy Meyer, Sam Salvatore, Austin Boisvert

For **Adeline Rocasah** from Dianne & Joe

For **Victoria, Edward, & Theresa Banas** from Fr. Charles

For **John & Justina Kzcowski** , from family

For **Philip, Catherine, & Nancy Woodard** from Wayne & Irene Woodard

For **Edward Machno & Frances (Machno) Slattery** from Fr. Charles

For **Patricia M. Bye** , from husband Joe

For **Henry Malek, Sr** from Betty & Bill Koszewski

For **Adams, Asselin, Daughdrill & Muraski** families from Nancy & Stan Adams

For **Bill, Jr. & Peg Dion** from Bill

For **Claire**, from James & Helen O'Donnell

For **John G. Kieras, Jr.**, from his wife, Lorraine, & family.

Barbara Fyvdenkiewicz, from Richard Buckowski & family.

For Maria Rytuba, requested by James Rytuba.

For **Clara Pipczynski**, requested by family.

For Stanley Rodak 100th Birthday Remembrance

Baptism, Confirmation, & Wedding Information

Baptism is available for infants, children, and adults. To sign up for classes, call the Faith Formation Office: 413-584-1326. For the Sacrament of **Confirmation for Adults**, please call the office: 413-584-1326 or pick up a brochure at either church entrance. **Wedding** dates cannot be set until after a meeting with the parish priest, at least 1 year before the desired date. Please call the office for an appointment.



If you would like a hospital visit, please call the Office at 413-584-1326

Thanks for your continued & generous support of our Parish. Parish community.

December 18, 2022



Gospel Reading

Matthew 1:18-24

An angel appears to Joseph, directing him to take Mary as his wife and telling him that the child she will bear will be called Emmanuel.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Finally, on this the Fourth Sunday of Advent, our Gospel Reading permits us to begin our contemplation of the mystery of the Incarnation we celebrate at Christmas: "Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about" (Matthew 1:18).

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of the birth of Jesus from Joseph's perspective. Today's Gospel passage is the second movement in this story. In the preceding verses of the first chapter of Matthew's Gospel, the Evangelist has listed the genealogy of Jesus, tracing his lineage through King David to Abraham. In the chapter to follow, Matthew tells of the visit from the Magi, the Holy Family's flight into Egypt, and Herod's massacre of the infants in Bethlehem. (The other stories which we associate with Christmas, the Annunciation, the Visitation, the angel and the shepherds, are found in the Gospel of Luke).

We must not gloss over too quickly the difficult circumstances described in today's Gospel. The way that Joseph and Mary face these circumstances tells us much about these holy people and their faith in God. Joseph and Mary are betrothed to be married. This is sometimes described as an engagement period, but it is more than that. Betrothal in first century Jewish culture was in fact the first part of the marriage contract. A breach of this contract was considered adultery. Mary is found to be with child. If adultery is proven, the punishment might be death. Joseph has rights under Mosaic law, but chooses to act discreetly in his plans to break the marriage contract, so as to protect Mary. Then God intervenes.

The message of the angel of the Lord given to Joseph in his dream tells us much about the child that Mary bears and his role in God's plan. He is conceived by the Holy Spirit. His name will be Jesus, which in the Hebrew means "Yahweh saves." He will be the fulfillment of the prophecy heard in today's first reading from Isaiah: ". . . The virgin shall be with child . . . and shall name him Emmanuel [God with us]."

Joseph does as the angel of the Lord directs. He takes Mary to be his wife and accepts the child in her womb as his own. Joseph and Mary are both cooperative with God's plan. They are both models for us of what it means to be faithful servants of God.

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Most Holy Redeemer Church was created in 1998 with the merging of Holy Rosary Church (1917) and St. John's Church (1915), both of Hadley.

As the one Roman Catholic Church in the Town of Hadley, Massachusetts, our Mission is:

- to be a welcoming place of worship for all.
- to proclaim the word of God and celebrate the sacraments.
- to attend to our ongoing formation in Christian living and support one another in spiritual growth.
- to dedicate our service to God.
- to recognize and support our responsibility for God's people, for spiritual and corporal works of mercy to the larger community, area, and world.
- to celebrate our belief in the message and teachings of Jesus Christ and the Roman Catholic Church and demonstrate our appreciation for the many gifts we have received.

Most Holy Redeemer is saying the Rosary on two Tuesdays of each month at 6:00 pm.



December 18, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent:

"It can be hard to receive this love. . . We can pray, Father help me to experience your love for me today, or Jesus I believe in your tender love for me, help my unbelief. You are immersed in a sea of infinite love, so I invite you, let yourself be loved." Sr. Maris Stella - **Don't forget to register for the Eucharistic Congress at the Mass Mutual Center, Saturday, March 4th - Website: catholiclifeconference.org**

Fourth Sunday of Advent -- December 19, 2021

God chose to become man to lead us in a path of righteousness, is God calling you to grow in holiness? He may be inviting you to the priesthood, diaconate or consecrated life. Call Fr. Jonathan Reardon 413-248-7034, or write: vocations@diospringfield.org

Hadley Food Pantry

A project of MHR and First Congregational Church

If you, or someone you know, are struggling to buy enough food, the Food Pantry can help by providing a variety of nonperishable items and personal care products to supplement purchased items. The Hadley Food Pantry is open every Sunday from noon to 1:00 pm. The food pantry is open to any Hadley resident in need..

Items needed this week:

Personal care items such as soaps & toothpaste, etc.

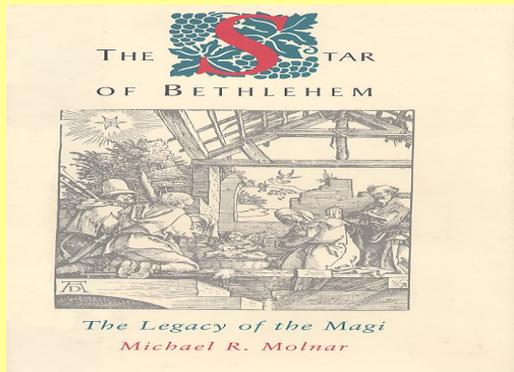


THANK YOU TO PANERA BREAD FOR PROVIDING BREADS AND PASTRIES FOR THE FOOD PANTRY EACH WEEK!!

Monetary donations are always welcomed to help cover the cost of replenishing the shelves. You may drop off donations at the office during regular hours or put them in an envelope marked "food pantry" and place in the collection basket. Checks should be made payable to MHR Church with "food pantry" written in the memo line. Your continued support is appreciated by those who rely on the pantry. **Please do not donate expired food.**

The Star of Bethlehem: The Legacy of the Magi

Could a fifty-dollar purchase of an ancient coin by Rutgers University astronomer Michael Molnar have unlocked the mystery of the Christmas star? Come Most Holy Trinity Parish on Epiphany Sunday, January 8th, at 2pm to hear Fr Doug tell the story of how Dr. Molnar combined his knowledge of modern astronomy with ancient astrology to try and unlock the mystery of the Star of Bethlehem.



Rosaries will be said on Dec 27th & Jan. 10th.

Please join us for coffee after 10:30 Mass on Sunday at the Parish Hall.



Christmas food drive time! We deliver to 5 elderly and 7 families in Hadley. We fill our boxes from the Hadley Food Pantry so please donate to bins at the entrance. Please call Denise at 584-1859 with any questions. Thank you! We have enough turkeys to give out for Christmas!

We have Oplatki for sale in the office. The cost is \$5.00 per package.

Christmas Masses are scheduled as follows:
Sat., December 24th 4 and 9pm
Sun., December 25th 9 and 11am

Many thanks to all the parishioners that have contributed to The Christmas Flowers. Family members will receive a listing after the holidays.

Love to Decorate? We are looking for assistance to decorate the Church for Christmas. Please plan to join us after the 10:30 Mass on Sunday, December 18. Thanks!

Many thanks for the generous donation in memory of Charles Gant from the family.

Many thanks for the generous donation to MHR from the Kozera family.

The Knights of Columbus Council 1619 of Amherst and Hadley have boys and girls coats that they would like to give to those children that need them. You can either contact Frank Lattuca, Grand Knight, 253-5858, or the Most Holy Redeemer office with your request. Please let us know the size and if it is for a boy or girl. We hope you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The 1st Annual 'Ugly Christmas Sweater Weekend at MHR' this Epiphany!

Don't put your Ugly Christmas Sweater away too soon!! On the Feast of the Epiphany, January 7-8th, we will inaugurate "Ugly Christmas Sweater Weekend" at Most Holy Redeemer. This will be an annual event, usually on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord but because that falls on a Monday, this year, we will celebrate on Epiphany weekend. So, put on your favorite ugly Christmas sweater and help MHR keep the Christmas spirit strong throughout Christmastide.



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: THE GREAT GIFT FROM GOD AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD



We are nearing the end of the Advent season, and our readings for this Fourth Sunday of Advent turn our attention toward the great feast of the Nativity. The first reading from the Second Book of Samuel features David the King, at home in his palace, with a strong desire to honor God and show gratitude for God by building a great “house” for God as well. This good intention of David is an opening.

God’s message through Nathan is that God not only doesn’t need David to build him a house, but that God will build a “house” for David. We might also understand house as a dynasty here; the reference is to Jesus, who will be born of the house of David, an heir to the Davidic kingdom. And the gospel reading reinforces this with the story of the Annunciation, when Gabriel appears to Mary. In the Incarnation, God made flesh, God has made his dwelling with us.

David wants to build a house for God, but God wants to build a house for David. God, who cannot be contained in a house, nonetheless makes his house among us. The awesomeness of the Incarnation cannot be exaggerated!

At our best moments, we know that we – like David – recognize our blessings and the way God has worked within our lives. We also want to honor God, to shout his praises, and to find some way to pay God back, give God his due for all God has done for us. This inclination toward gratitude, and our desire to praise him is a gift. And if David had such a response, how much more should we also desire to show our gratitude for the Incarnation.

Perhaps this is why there has been a longstanding tradition of giving gifts to the baby Jesus. Some cultures will bring physical gifts to the church on the night of Christmas Eve. Others encourage extra prayers or acts of charity as gifts to Jesus, who is honored when we help others.

During this unusual season of Advent during a pandemic, such gifts to Jesus should not be put aside. Perhaps we have been too busy or overwhelmed to prioritize acts of charity; if so, we can offer those feelings and our suffering as gifts to Jesus that we have embraced. If we find ourselves able, however, we should recognize how many needy people surround us this year. There are the lonely and isolated who would appreciate a phone call or a card. There are many suffering hunger as a result of the pandemic; food pantries need our donations more than ever.

Advent is nearing an end, but we still have the Christmas season... and the rest of the year... to thank God and to praise God and to honor by serving and caring for each other.