150th ANNIVERSARY

ST. DENIS CHURCH - DOUGLAS, MA

Making Disciples!

Holy Trinity

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St. Denis Catholic Church
Go Make Disciples

Welcome to Our Parish Community!

Weekend Masses Sat. 4pm (Live on Facebook) — Sun. 7 & 10:15am
Weekday Masses Mon, Tue and Wed – 8:30am
Confessions Sat. 3:15-3:45pm or by appointment
Food Pantry Hours Mon 4-6pm and Wed 1-3pm
Rectory Office Hours Mon, Tue, Wed & Fri – 9am to 1pm & 2-5pm

Mass Intentions

Date	Time	Intention
Saturday May 29	11 am 4 pm	FIRST COMMUNION † Patsy & Dora Colonero By: The Family
Sunday May 30	7 am 10:15 am	The People of St. Denis † Nicki & Dan McLaughlin By: The Morin Family
Monday May 31	9:00 am	†All Deceased Veterans Mass at St. Denis Cemetery
Tuesday June 1	8:30 am	† Nancy Salvas By: St. Pierre/Salvas Families
Wednesday June 2	8:30 am 7 pm	† Francis Torchia By: Pia & Family HOLY HOUR
Thursday June 3		No Mass
Friday June 4		No Mass
Saturday June 5	4 pm 5pm-midnight	† Barbara Yacino By: The Family Overnight Adoration
Sunday June 6	1am– 10 am 7 am 10:15 am 11:15 am	Overnight Adoration † Peggy Herlihy By: The Family † Arthur & Regina Pechie By: Janet Ouillette Corpus Christi Holy Hour

We light this week's Tabernacle Candle to pray for the special intentions of:
Patsy & Dora Colonero

SECOND COLLECTION
Catholic Communications Campaign

Next weekend **June 5/6** there will be a second collection for the Catholic Communications Campaign. This collection helps to spread the "Good News" throughout our Diocese. Thank you in advance for your support.

Ushers will only pass the basket once during the Offertory. Second collection envelopes should be placed in the basket at that time.

Go make disciples

Happening This Week

If you have been away—Welcome Back!
If you're here to stay— We're glad you're here.

SATURDAY May 29
11 am FIRST COMMUNION
No Confessions Today
4 pm MASS—or Live on Facebook
SUNDAY May 30
7 am MASS
10:15 am MASS
CHILDREN'S LITURGY—available all day on Flocknote or our website
MONDAY May 31– Memorial Day
9 am MASS AT ST. DENIS CEMETERY
FOOD PANTRY CLOSED
TUESDAY June 1
8:30 am MASS
5:30 pm
6:30 pm Adult Faith & Fellowship– ZOOM
WEDNESDAY June2
8:30 am MASS
1-3 pm Douglas Food Pantry Open—R
5:30-6:30 pm AA Meeting—H
7 pm **HOLY HOUR**—C
THURSDAY June 3
7 pm Al– Anon—GR
SATURDAY June 5
3:15-3:45 pm Confession—GR
4 pm MASS
5 pm-Midnight– ADORATION– C
SUNDAY June 6
1 am– 10 am– ADORATION– C
7 am MASS
10:15 am MASS
CHILDREN'S LITURGY—available all day on Flocknote or our website
11:15 am—noon CORPUS CHRISTI HOLY HOUR & BENEDICTION– C

Memorial Day Mass

This **Monday May 31st at 9 am** at **St. Denis Cemetery**, (in the church if raining) we will celebrate Mass and Remember all our family, friends and neighbors who lost their lives in service of our country.

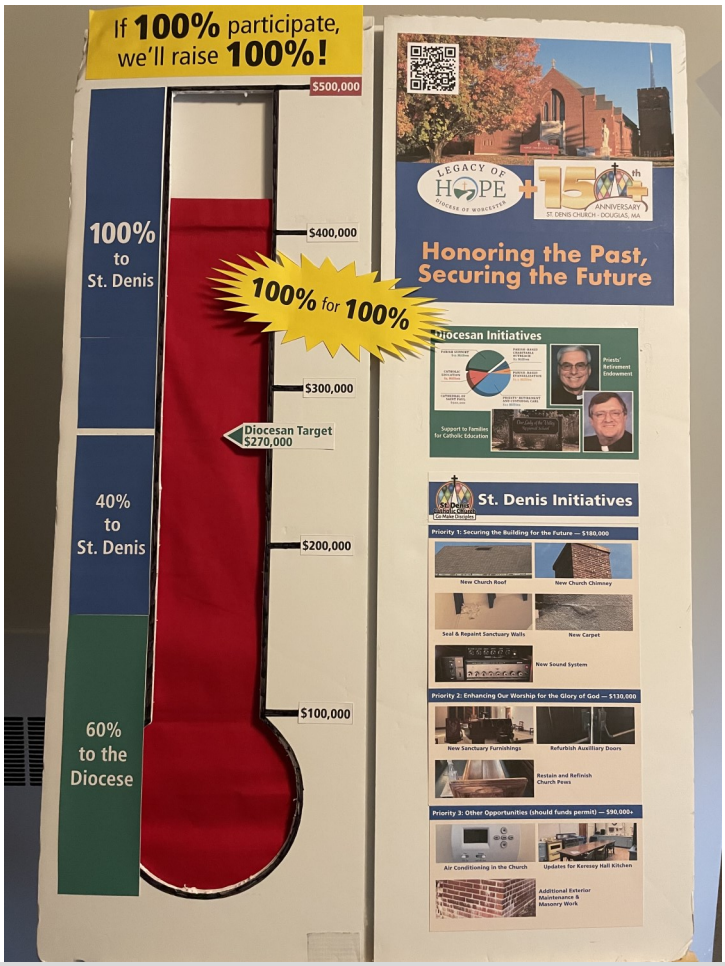
Please JOIN US and begin the day in memory of our loved ones.

LEGACY OF HOPE
DIOCESE OF WORCESTER

150th ANNIVERSARY
ST. DENIS CHURCH - DOUGLAS, MA

OUR LEGACY OF HOPE

Honoring the Past, Securing the Future



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE MADE THEIR PLEDGE TO THIS CAMPAIGN !!

With 100% participation we will reach our goal of $500,000—Please make your pledge today!!

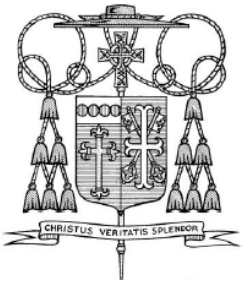
Overnight Adoration

Beginning on **Saturday June 5th at 5:00 pm** through **Sunday June 6th at 10 am**, we will have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Please sign up online or call the Rectory if you are able to come and sit with the Blessed Sacrament. **Following the 10:15 Mass on June 6th we will have a Holy Hour Service and Benediction. Please plan to join us as we give glory and praise to Him.**

Votive Candles for the CORPUS CHRISTI Celebration

Votive Candles will be lit at Mass in memory of loved ones for the Celebration of Corpus Christi on **June 6**. To offer a votive candle with your intentions, please visit our website or call the Rectory and leave a message with Nancy. When the celebration has ended after the overnight adoration, you may take the candle home for your personal prayer or dedicate the candle to be used as the Sanctuary Candle next to the Tabernacle. The Sanctuary Candle is the one next to the Tabernacle, which signifies the real presence of Christ within it. Each candle will remain lit in memory of your loved one for the entire week.

Suggested donation for the candle is $10.



Coming Home to Mass

A Pastoral Letter to the Diocese of Worcester

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

During this past year so much of our life has moved online, to a "virtual" reality, including Masses streamed from our parish churches. However, as much as technology has helped us to bridge somewhat the pandemic divide, virtual reality remains virtual and is not the same as being present at the celebration of Holy Mass in person.

We only have to remember the longing we have felt to be present for a meal with family members or friends for anniversaries, weddings or birthdays. How much we have yearned to see them face-to-face. It's the same with the Mass. As helpful as it has been to stay connected to our parishes virtually, it is nothing like gathering in person with our brothers and sisters at Sunday Mass.

The celebration of the Eucharist is the source and summit of our lives as Roman Catholics. It is where Christ gives himself to us in his Body and Blood. Christ is present at every Mass, in his Word proclaimed, in a tangible way in his Body and Blood and in the person of his priest. He is present to feed us with Word and Sacrament, to embrace us with his love and to give us the grace we need to face the struggles of our daily lives. We hunger for his presence. We draw from the Mass the grace we need to love and we return to it in thanksgiving to God for all he has given to us.

In the early Church, when cruel judges condemned the first Christian martyrs for worshipping God they replied, *Sine dominico non possumus:* "Without the Lord's day, we cannot live."[1] With the inspiring words of these martyrs, our beloved Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI reminds us, "the Sunday Eucharist was not a commandment but an inner necessity…Without [Christ], who sustains our lives, life itself is empty."[2]

That is why our hearts ache when we see the pew where a brother or sister used to sit in Church. We must admit that the great societal change in our world, and especially in New England, has led to profound changes in the relationship of many Catholics with the Sunday obligation of attending Mass. So often Sunday, the Lord's Day, has been supplanted by "the weekend," a sort of secular sabbath, a weekly break from work set aside for everything from sports to recreation, from shopping to cleaning the house.

Rest is good. Time for family, recreation and catching up on the practicalities of life is good. However, can any leisure activity inspire us to know that we are loved for who we are, or forgiven for our failings or make us stronger as a family? How much more fulfilling our lives would be if we would give our hearts to Sunday Mass and allow the Mass to satisfy them.

Christ waits for you, my dear friends. He waits for you to come home with all your brothers and sisters in the Church, to hear his saving Word proclaimed, to join your joys and sorrows to his Holy Cross, and to receive him in Holy Communion, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity.

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[1] Pope Benedict XVI, Homily, 9 September 2007.

As Pope Saint John Paul II wrote, not so many years ago:

> Do not be afraid to give your time to Christ! Yes, let us open our time to Christ, that he may cast light upon it and give it direction. He is the One who knows the secret of time and the secret of eternity, and he gives us "his day" [Sunday] as an ever new gift of his love…Time given to Christ is never time lost, but is rather time gained, so that our relationships and indeed our whole life may become more profoundly human.[3]

Just think of that. Our attendance at Mass is not "time lost," but "time gained."

How grateful we now are that we can "gather once again to praise God's name in the heart of his Church, delivered from all distress and confident in his mercy!"[4] As a community of faith we have been praying for this moment during these many long months of the pandemic. Now our ability to be present personally at Mass is a blessed reality.

With this letter, therefore, I restore the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, effective on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, June 6, 2021.

Whether you attended Mass every Sunday before the pandemic, or not for many years, I invite you to come home now to Mass which is "a foretaste of the eternal bliss and repose to which we are called and which we share, even now, in Holy Communion."[5]

Come home to joy. To the God who waits to embrace you with his tenderness and become the joy of your soul.[6]

Come home to hope. To hope that in the present moment at Mass, Jesus will change your life by giving you the strength to love. To hope for heaven, where you will "forever enjoy the fullness of the Lord's glory."[7]

Come home to the Church, to your brothers and sisters, as imperfect and struggling as we all are, but each of us in need of the Lord Jesus, joined together with him through our worthy reception of Holy Communion.

Come home to Mass. Christ invites you and so do I, along with your brothers and sisters in the Household of Faith, the Body of Christ, his Church.

With every prayerful best wish, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Robert J. McManus

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester

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[3] Pope Saint John Paul II, Apostolic Letter *Dies Domini*, no. 7.
[4] Diocese of Worcester, *Prayer in Time of Pandemic,* 2020.
[5] Pope Francis, General Audience, December 13, 2017.
[6] Cf. Isaiah 61:10.
[7] *Roman Missal*, Eucharistic Prayer III.

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Making Disciples!

Welcoming You Back to St. Denis

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

With the lifting of most pandemic gathering restrictions this week, Bishop McManus has announced the restoration of the obligation to take part in Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, effective next Sunday, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, June 6, 2021.

Bishop McManus has also modified those adaptations of liturgical practices which we have been observing for the past year in mitigation of the virus.

Beginning on Saturday, May 29th, masks and social distancing are no longer required of all parishioners. However, per CDC guidelines, non-vaccinated persons are still encouraged to wear masks and maintain social distancing. Starting next weekend, we will move the tape to every other pew leaving more pews open for parishioners, while still maintaining some distance.
Pre-registration for masses will no longer be required and you may choose your own seat. Our safe team will transition from safe team to greeters.

We will continue with the cleaning of most commonly touched surfaces after every mass and limitations of the size of gatherings in non-liturgical spaces have also been lifted. The singing of hymns and acclamations has been restored.

Holy Water and Mass guides will, once again, be available. Processions will also be restored. The distribution of Holy Communion and Offertory collection will return to its pre-COVID form, although the distribution of the Precious Blood will be restored in the fall.

Starting next weekend confessions will go back to the original time from 3:15 pm to 3:45 pm. We will continue having them in the gathering room for the next couple of weeks. Visitation of the sick will return to its previous schedule.

All of this will take some time to get used to. Please be assured we will continue to carefully monitor the number of cases as we proceed to return to a “new normal.” Please join in praying that the success we have so far enjoyed in quelling the pandemic may continue throughout the summer and the months to come.

Love you all,

Fr. Juan

Answering your questions about returning to Mass as of May 29, 2021 in the Diocese of Worcester

1. Did Governor Baker lift the use of masks and other restrictions in churches, too?

As of May 29, 2021 fully *vaccinated* people are no longer required to wear masks or physically distance from others in our parishes, as in other public settings. This applies to attending Mass as well as other parish activities, but does not apply to schools and not to the office spaces.

2. Will someone be checking whether I was officially vaccinated?

We are not policing our parishioners. This is an honor system and we pray that people will be honest and avoid participating unmasked near other parishioners if they have not been vaccinated.

3. What if I am not yet vaccinated? How can I safely return to Mass?

You should continue to attend Mass as you have been over these past months during the pandemic. All parishes are being advised to have a section of the church available for people who want to wear a mask and remain physically distanced 6 or more feet apart. You can always wear a mask anywhere in the church even if you have been vaccinated but are still concerned for personal reasons about the pandemic.

4. Will Mass feel like it did before the pandemic began?

For the most part things will return to normal as your parish can accommodate it. Worship aids (e.g., missalettes and hymnals) can be used again and you will notice more congregational singing. The Diocese of Worcester is recommending waiting until the fall for choirs to resume. For the time being we will not exchange the sign of peace and Holy Communion will not be offered from the chalice.

5. I heard that Bishop McManus is restoring the obligation to go to Sunday Mass. What if I am sick, or have compromised health or care for someone at home whose health is compromised?

The obligation to be at Mass in person never applies to someone who is sick, or has compromised health, or caring for someone who is sick and at risk or infecting someone for whom they provide care at home. For this reason, parishes are encouraged to continue to stream Mass on their social media channels and the Diocese offers Sunday Mass from the Cathedral on select cable access stations and on the internet at worcesterdiocese.org.

6. I've been away from Mass for a while. What if I'm just not ready to go back?

We understand that for some people, you may feel uneasy for a variety of reasons to come back to Mass. All we ask is that you read the letter from Bishop McManus about going to Mass in which he reflects on what the Mass means for all of us as baptized Catholics.

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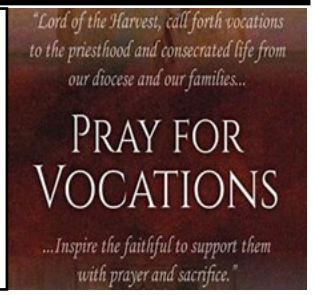

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Remember in Prayer

Lori (Manyak) Cyr

Paul Lamontagne *Jacqueline Boucher* *Robert Lamontagne*
Francis Gavlak *Helen Fox* *Julius Gavlak*
Susan Gavlak *John Gavlak* *Joseph Gavlak*
Joseph Gavlak *Tim Guertin* *Gerard & Mary Picard*
H. Edward Phelps *Norma Baker* *Mary M. Emerick*
Dennis Halley *Debbie Carey* *Marilyn Halley* *Doug Halley*
In memory of the family members of Joseph Brown & Mary Paciga
Catherine & Stephen Gressak *Wanda & Edward Therrien*
Sister Mary Denis *Joan & Joseph Virostek* *Joseph & Maryellen Friend*
The Sughrue & Kellett Families *Viola & Felix Vecchione & Family*

For a $50.00 donation, we will publish the names of your loved one in our bulletin for 1 year.
Please call 508-476-2002 for more information.

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