



Mass Intentions

MASS INTENTIONS

PUBLIC MASSES HAVE RESUMED WITH COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS INCLUDING: WEARING MASKS, SOCIAL DISTANCING, AND USE OF HAND SANITIZER PRIOR TO RECEIVING THE EUCHARIST.

TO SCHEDULE A MASS INTENTION OR REQUEST A TABERNACLE LAMP PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE

* PERSON IS LIVING

NOTE: PUBLIC MASSES WILL BE LIVESTREAMED ON FACEBOOK SO YOU MAY PARTICIPATE FROM HOME.

Saturday, December 19:

5:00 pm Leon LaMarche
Requested by Bill and Lucille Bailey

Sunday, December 20:

8:00 am Clealand Blair, Sr.
Requested by Elaine and Bob Munzner

10:30 am James Curtis
Requested by Elaine and Bob Munzner

Monday, December 21:

8:00 am Tricia O'Malley
Requested by Paul & Nancy McKenzie

Tuesday, December 22:

8:00 am Michael Aufiero
Requested by his wife Chris

Wednesday, December 23:

8:00 am James Curtis
Requested by Paul & Nancy McKenzie

Christmas Eve, December 24:

4:00 pm: In-person & Livestreamed

6:00 pm: In-person*

8:00 pm: In-person*

10:00 pm: In-person & Livestreamed

Christmas Day, December 25:

8:00 am: In-person*

10:30 am: In-person & Livestreamed



* These Masses will be livestreamed ONLY if we exceed capacity in the Church and need to use the Parish Center

Saturday, December 26:

5:00 pm Aurora Allard
Requested by Nichols Family

Sunday, December 27:

8:00 am Shirley Stidsen, 9th Anniversary
Requested by the Stidsen Family

Papal Tweet



To pray is to light a candle in the darkness. Prayer rouses us from the tepidness of a purely horizontal existence, lifts our gaze to higher things, makes us attuned to the Lord, allows God to be close to us; it frees us from our solitude and gives us hope.



Upcoming Events Please Mark Your Calendars

December 21: Holy Hour 6:30 pm

December 22: Usher and Cleaner Training for Christmas Masses, 6:30 pm, Parish Center Hall

December 30: *Rosary* with the Knights Of Columbus, 7:00 pm, in the Church & Livestreamed on Facebook.

January 3: *Rosary* following the 10:30 am Mass All are welcome.

January 4: Holy Hour 6:30 pm—Postponed to January 18th

January 8: *Lay Prayer for Priests:* 7:00 - 8:00 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish, 353 Grove St., Worc. (2nd Friday of the month) All are welcome.



*Please Pray
For the
Repose of the Soul of*

Dorothy Lambert

December 13, 2020

Mass/Mailed in/Electronic Collections

Weekly Offering	\$ 1,401.00
Electronic Giving	\$ 2,268.16
Higher Utilities	\$ 120.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 210.00
Christmas Offering	\$ 555.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 205.00
Mary Mother of God	\$ 30.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 4,789.16

Special Collections:

Retirement Fund for Religious \$155.00

We are grateful to all who have been able to make their weekly offering or make use of on-line giving during this time. It is a great help to us. Thank you!





Diocese of Worcester
Office of the Bishop
49 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts 01609



Christmas 2020

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As Advent gives way to Christmas, we find ourselves in a continued state of waiting, longing and expectation for a promised vaccine. How our world has changed in a year!

Last Christmas, none of us had heard of COVID-19. Since then our lives, jobs, recreation and worship have been shaped by it. COVID precautions have led to COVID-fatigue as we long for a return to normal life.

Anxious waiting and expectation for the vaccine marks and impacts our celebrations. Gatherings in church and at home will be smaller, travel truncated, carols fewer, precautions increased and parties cancelled.

But Christmas is not cancelled. Our way of celebrating has changed, but our reason for celebrating remains the same. While the world awaits the arrival of a vaccine, we celebrate the arrival of the world's Savior.

We hope for a vaccine that for a time will ward off illness and death. The Divine Savior whose birth we celebrate gives us resurrection and reunion. We pray the vaccine will restore normal life on earth. The grace Christ offers promises eternal life in Heaven.

For two millennia Christians throughout the world have celebrated Christ's birth. Many of these Christmases have been marked by famine, plagues and wars. Through those hardships and others, Christians have found in Christ the strength, hope and joy to persevere, endure and triumph over all of life's uncertainties.

As we wait for the vaccine to come, let us rejoice, give thanks and find peace in the Savior who has already come, defeated sin and death and will come again to share His definitive triumph of eternal life.

With every prayerful best wish for a Blessed and Merry Christmas, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester



Still **looking for a seat** at a Christmas Mass?
Have your **plans changed** and you need to change or
cancel your seat?

Please call Denise Skrocki as soon as possible
at the Parish Office **508-886-4984**.

Advent - Week 4

Advent Wreath Prayers

(Light all four candles.)

Quiet the worries and fears in our hearts, Lord.
Give us your peace.
Thank you for the life you share with us.
Help us share that life with others.
Come, Lord Jesus!

Pause for silent prayer.



A Message from the Pastor...

Dear friends,

*“Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire and await from God eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ’s promises and relying on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit to merit it and to persevere to the end of our earthly life.”**

It’s hard to wait, isn’t it? For many, the world often is something of a culture of immediacy: We want it, we can get it almost on-demand — food, water, shelter, clothes. For many who are fortunate, these topics are not daily worries, but not for all. And these are only our physical needs.

We don’t have to look around the world to see how we’ve been gifted with much. Even those close to us can be suffering, sometimes silently, dealing with significant burdens. Sometimes it’s us who are suffering, carrying the weight on our shoulders but still moving forward. Is there relief to be found? Is there peace?

The short answer is YES. But first, it requires a recalibration of our interior life in this sense: Is our Christian faith the center of our lives, or is it merely an additive – something we do on the side? Fr. Jacques Phillipe, a prolific writer on prayer, states in his book *Searching for and Maintaining Peace* states the following:

*In order to understand how fundamental it is for the development of the Christian life to strive to acquire and maintain peace of heart, **the first thing of which we must be convinced is that all the good that we can do comes from God and from Him alone: Apart from Me, you can do nothing, Jesus said (John 15:5). He did not say, “you can’t do much,” but, you can do nothing. It is essential that we be persuaded of this truth.** We often have to experience failures, trials and humiliations, permitted by God, before this truth imposes itself on us, not only on an intellectual level, but as an experience of our entire being. God would spare us, if He could, all these trials, but they are necessary in order that we should be convinced of our complete powerlessness to do good by ourselves. According to the testimony of all the saints, it is indispensable for us to acquire this knowledge. It is, in effect, a necessary prelude to all the great things that God will do in us by the power of His grace. This is why St. Thérèse of Lisieux, the Little Flower, would say that the best thing that God could have done in her soul was “to have shown her her smallness, her powerlessness.” **(Bold and underlines my emphasis)*****

When we celebrate Christmas, it’s not merely about jolly St. Nick, presents, and the like. It’s about God’s greatest gift to humanity: **Jesus Christ, His only Son**. If we haven’t put Christ and our faith at the top of our lives, now is the time. It is where we will begin to find the peace and hope that can sustain us and strengthen us in all things. I genuinely believe this is the greatest Christmas gift we can receive.

Merry Christmas my dear friends. I will be praying for you all during this busy week of Christmas and please pray for one another.

God Bless,

Fr. Jim

*-[#387](http://www.vatican.va/archive/compendium_ccc/documents/archive_2005_compendium-ccc_en.html)

** - Searching for and Maintaining Peace by Fr. Jacques Phillipe – page 12



Need a Last Minute Christmas Gift?

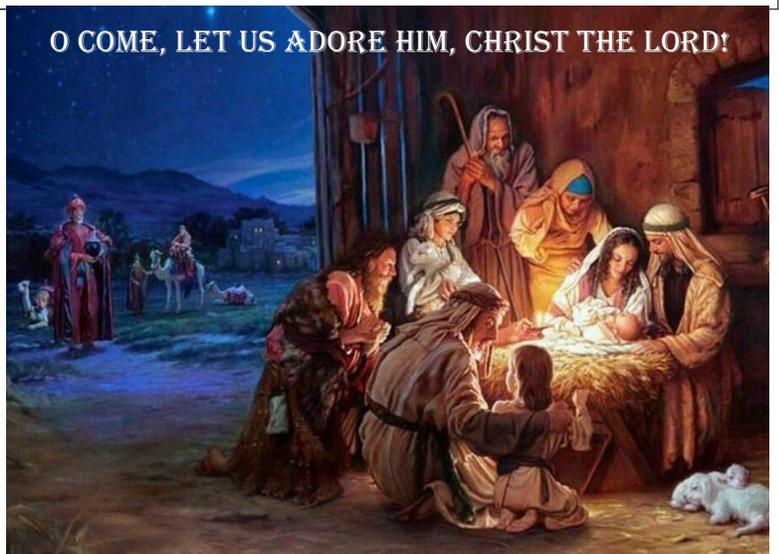
St. Patrick’s Cookbook is filled with
“Recipes from the Heart”



Available at the
Parish Center Office
Monday through Wednesday
December 21 – 23
9:00 am to 2:00 pm



O COME, LET US ADORE HIM, CHRIST THE LORD!





Dear Friends,

As many know, every year we remember those who have served the Church with a small gift. With ongoing Covid-19 restrictions and especially with the prevalence of the virus now within town, I have struggled with finding the best way to do this – saying thank you but also not putting you in contact with anything as well. With that in mind, there was one surefire way we could accomplish this. By offering a Mass for each person’s intentions, I believe this will be a great way to express thanks for all the service provided to our Parish by so many.

I invite you to join me in thanking those who have served our Parish Family over this past (crazy) year by praying each of these Masses with me:

- ◆ January 3rd, 8 am, for our Sacristans
- ◆ January 16th, 5pm, for our Altar Servers
- ◆ January 17th, 8 am, for our Cleaners/Sanitizers
- ◆ January 17th, 10:30 am, for our Ushers
- ◆ January 23rd, 5 pm,. For those who have prayed for and supported our parish over the past year
- ◆ January 24th, 8 am, for all those who served in our Music Ministry
- ◆ January 24th, 10:30 am, for all those who served the church decorating, preparing the linens for Mass, and any other capacity
- ◆ January 30th, 10:30 am, for our Lectors
- ◆ January 31st, 8 am, for our Parish Staff
- ◆ January 31st, 8 am, for those who work and support our Food Pantry

Thank you all and have a very Merry Christmas!

God Bless,

Fr. Jim



Rutland Food Pantry Here to help...

Thank you for your wonderful support of our Christmas Distribution.

Merry Christmas!

Distribution Dates	
Date	Time
<i>January</i>	
Thursday, January 14, 2021	6:00 - 7:00 PM
Saturday, January 30, 2021	9:00 - 11:00 AM

Blessings To You



First Reconciliation Class 2020

Congratulations to those children who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Sunday, December 13!

*Anthony Annunziata
Anthony Barbarino
Quinn Grilli
Jackson Holdom
Jack Kelly
Ryan LaRange
Sydney Larsen
Gisele Machado*

Also, thank you to all our parishioners who have prayed for these children over the past few months. Watch for more in the next few weeks!

On Your First Reconciliation



Last Call for our Giving Tree 2020



Thank you to all who supported our Giving Tree this year. If you have not yet returned your donations, please get them to the Parish Center no later than Monday, December 21st.

The Parish Center will be open from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Or call 508-886-4984 and we will arrange another time for you to drop off your donation.

Thank you for your generosity!

May the Lord bless you with all that you need.



Fourth Sunday of Advent



First Reading: 2 SM 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16

When King David was settled in his palace, and the LORD had given him rest from his enemies on every side, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent!" Nathan answered the king, "Go, do whatever you have in mind, for the LORD is with you." But that night the LORD spoke to Nathan and said: "Go, tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Should you build me a house to dwell in?'"

"It was I who took you from the pasture and from the care of the flock to be commander of my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you went, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you. And I will make you famous like the great ones of the earth. I will fix a place for my people Israel; I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance. Neither shall the wicked continue to afflict them as they did of old, since the time I first appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also reveals to you that he will establish a house for you. And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever."

Responsorial Psalm: PS 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29

R For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

The promises of the LORD I will sing forever; through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness. For you have said, "My kindness is established forever"; in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness. **R**

"I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant: Forever will I confirm your posterity and establish your throne for all generations." **R**

"He shall say of me, 'You are my father, my God, the Rock, my savior.' Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him, and my covenant with him stands firm." **R**

Second Reading: ROM 16:25-27

Brothers and sisters: To him who can strengthen you, according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith, to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever. Amen.



Alleluia:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.

May it be done to me according to your word.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel: LK 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Select Mass Prayers

Penitential Act Form A (Confiteor)

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen

Profession of Faith (Nicene Creed)

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Preface Acclamation

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.



Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present
in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen

Prayer to St. Michael

St. Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle.
Be our protection
against the wickedness
and snares of the devil.
May God rebuke him,
we humbly pray; and do Thou,
O Prince of the Heavenly Host,
by the Power of God, cast into hell
Satan and all the evil spirits
who prowl about the world
seeking the ruin of souls. Amen



The Memorare

REMEMBER, O most gracious
Virgin Mary, that never was it known
that anyone who fled to thy protection,
implored thy help,
or sought thy intercession
was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence,
I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins,
my Mother; to thee do I come;
before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful.
O Mother of the Word Incarnate,
despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy
hear and answer me. Amen.



Prayer In Time of Pandemic : O God, whose Only Begotten Son bore the weight of human suffering for our salvation, hear the prayers of your Church for our sick brothers and sisters and deliver us from this time of trial. Open our ears and our hearts to the voice of your Son: Be not afraid, for I am with you always. Bless all doctors and nurses, researchers and public servants; give us the wisdom to do what is right and the faith to endure this hour, that we might gather once again to praise your name in the heart of your Church, delivered from all distress and confident in your mercy. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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