

St. Patrick Parish

258 Main St. Rutland, Massachusetts - WEBSITE: stpatricksrutland.org

Serving the People of Rutland, Oakham and Hubbardston

PARISH CENTER: 9 POMMOGUSSETT RD.

508-886-4984 FAX 508-886-2897

Rev. James Boland, Pastor

RESIDENCE: 508-886-4309 290 Main St. Rutland

E-MAIL: FrJim@stpatricksrutland.org

Deacon Pierre Gemme:

E-MAIL: gemm01@msn.com

Deacon Brian Stidsen:

E-MAIL: bstidsen51@gmail.com

Denise A. Skrocki, Office Manager

Office Hours 9:00 - 2:00 Monday - Thursday

E-MAIL: das@stpatricksrutland.org

Directors of Religious Education:

Christine Mulry, Grades 1-10 508-886-2010

E-MAIL: Chris@stpatricksrutland.org

Jean Urbanowski, Grade 11 508-886-2010

E-MAIL: Jean@stpatricksrutland.org

Diocese of Worcester

Office of Healing & Prevention

Victim Services Coordinator

Judith Audette, LICSW 508-726-2880

49 Elm Street Worcester, MA 01609

EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATIONS

Mass Schedule is: **Only 8am Mass Livestreamed***

Saturday (Vigil) 5:00 pm

Sunday *8:00 am and 10:30 am

**WEEKDAY: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
*8:00 am**

BAPTISM: Parents please call the Parish Office to arrange for instructions and Baptismal date.

MARRIAGE: Couples planning marriage should contact the Pastor at least one year in advance. Participation in a Marriage Preparation Program is expected.

RECONCILIATION: Saturday 3:30-4:30 pm in the Church

HOME & HOSPITAL VISITATION: Please notify us if you know of someone who is ill or homebound.

NEW PARISHIONERS: Welcome! We hope that you will become an active part of our parish family. Please introduce yourselves at your first opportunity, or call the Parish Center to register.

PRAYER REQUEST LINE: Call with your requests.

Paula Stidsen 774-696-3008

Or email: PaulaStidsen@gmail.com



December 17, 2023



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. - Jn 1:6-7

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

SLP

PROTECTING OUR YOUTH AND CHILDREN

If you or someone you know has been sexually abused by a priest, religious or lay person working for the Church, and you want to share feelings of hurt or betrayal, call Judith Audette, Victim Services Coordinator, Office of Healing and Prevention, 508-929-4363 (confidential line).



Handicap accessibility by the elevator entrance on the left driveway side of the Church building or by the Ramp located on the right side of the Church building.





Mass Intentions

FAMILIES REQUESTING A MASS ARE WELCOME TO BRING UP THE GIFTS AT THE OFFERTORY.
PLEASE LET THE SACRISTAN KNOW YOU ARE AT MASS.

To **SCHEDULE A MASS INTENTION** OR
REQUEST A TABERNACLE LAMP,
PLEASE **CALL** THE PARISH OFFICE: **508-886-4984**
(*Living Intention)

Saturday, December 16:

5:00 pm Kenneth J. Sweeney, Sr. - 7th Anniversary
Requested by the Sweeney Family

Sunday, December 17: 8 am Livestreamed Mass ☩

8:00 am (*Living Intention) Vivian Guzman's 9th birthday
Requested by the Family

10:30 am Wladyslawa Kadziewicz
Requested by the Silvestris Family

Monday, December 18:

8:00 am Jennifer (Loosemore) Gaudette
Requested by Stan Mikoloski

Tuesday, December 19:

8:00 am Francis E. Pike
Requested by Light of the World Small
Faith Group

Wednesday, December 20:

8:00 am Richard Burgio
Requested by Joe Luca

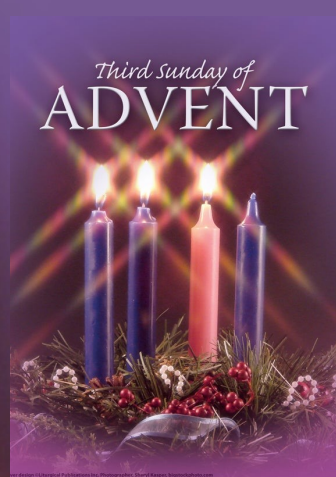
Saturday, December 23:

5:00 pm Shirley Stidsen - 12th Anniversary
Requested by the Stidsen Family

Sunday, December 24: 8 am Livestreamed Mass ☩

8:00 am Diane Fagan (Heather Ferguson's Mother)
Requested by the Parish

10:30 am Mildred Ivan Conrad
Requested by her daughter Nancy Mathieu



LORD God, Your Church joyfully awaits the coming of its Savior, who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin.

Pour forth your blessings upon us as we light the candles of this wreath; may their light reflect the splendor of Christ, who is LORD,



Event Calendar

December 18: Holy Hour, 5:55-7:30 pm

December 18: Confessions, 6:00 pm

December 19: Divine Mercy Chaplet, After 8 am Mass

December 19: Scripture Study & Faith Sharing, 9 am,
in the Church Hall following the Divine Mercy Chaplet

Christmas Masses:

December 24: Mass with Christmas Pageant, 4:00 pm

December 24: Mass, 10:00 pm

December 25: Mass, 10:30 am

January 1: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, Holy Day - Mass at 10:30 am only. Note change in time

January 7: Rosary following the 10:30 am Mass
(First Sunday of every month) Please join us.

January 12: Holy Hour to Pray for Priests, 7-8 pm,
Immaculate Conception Church, 353 Grove St.
Worcester. Every second Friday of the month.

January 15: Holy Hour, 6:30 - 7:30 pm



TABERNACLE LAMP

**Rosalie Lawless Borbone,
Michael T. Lawless, and
Thomas (Tom) Lawless**

December 17 - December 23, 2023



December 10, 2023

Mass/Mailed in/Electronic Collections

Weekly Offering	\$ 3,191.00
Electronic Giving	\$ 1,366.80
Higher Utilities	\$ 10.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 448.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 293.00
Christmas Offering	\$ 35.00
	\$ 5,343.80

Special Collection:

Retired Religious Fund \$515

Thank you!



A Message from our Pastor

Dear Friends,

This week, in the third week of Advent, we celebrate Gaudete Sunday. You may notice we light a pink candle this day (as well as my wearing of a certain vestment...). What does all this mean? Read on:

The third Sunday of Advent is known as "Gaudete Sunday," from the Latin word for "rejoice." It is called this, from the first words of the second reading, because Christmas is near and the Church lifts the penitential atmosphere of Advent to turn our hearts to the joy that is to come.

*Pope Benedict XVI reflected on this theme during a Sunday Angelus in 2007, and mentioned a frequently asked question in light of the great suffering that still exists in the world. He said, "Some people ask: **but is this joy still possible today?**"*

This is a crucial question to answer, as it is difficult to see how we can rejoice when so many of us suffer.

Benedict XVI pointed to the saints for the key to unlock Christian joy.

Men and women of every age and social condition, happy to dedicate their existence to others, give us the answer with their lives! **Was not [St.] Mother Teresa of Calcutta an unforgettable witness of true Gospel joy in our time?** She lived in touch daily with wretchedness, human degradation and death. Her soul knew the trials of the dark night of faith, yet she gave everyone God's smile. In one of her writings, we read: **"We wait impatiently for paradise, where God is, but it is in our power to be in paradise even here on earth and from this moment. Being happy with God means loving like him, helping like him, giving like him, serving like him"** (The Joy of Giving to Others, 1987, p. 143). Yes, joy enters the hearts of those who put themselves at the service of the lowly and poor. **God abides in those who love like this and their souls rejoice.**

The key to joy is in serving others. This is something we don't always understand, as we often try to "make" happiness.

If, instead, people make an idol of happiness, they lose their way and it is truly hard for them to find the joy of which Jesus speaks. Unfortunately, this is what is proposed by cultures that **replace God by individual happiness, mindsets that find their emblematic effect in seeking pleasure at all costs**, in spreading drug use as an escape, a refuge in artificial paradises that later prove to be entirely deceptive.

Above all, we need to remember that lasting joy cannot be found in our own pursuits, but only in God. He alone can give us the joy we seek.

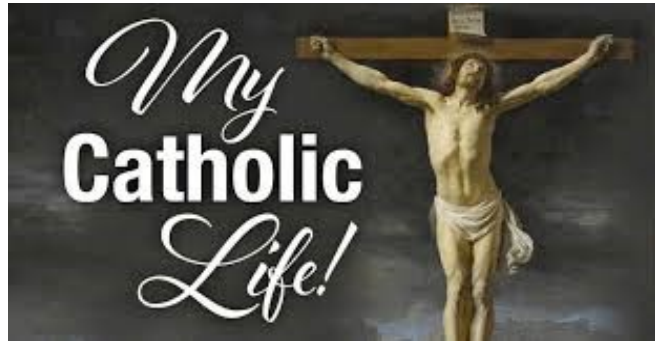
Dear brothers and sisters, one can lose the way even at Christmas, one can exchange the true celebration for one that does not open the heart to Christ's joy. May the Virgin Mary help all Christians and people in search of God to reach Bethlehem, to **encounter the Child who was born for us, for salvation and for the happiness of all humanity.**

God Bless, *Fr. Jim*





*Please Pray For the
Repose of the Soul of*
✙ **Antone A Monteiro**
Stephanie Bennet's Father



EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

A Constant Companion

As Christians, we are called to a life of prayer. This is not just during seasons like Advent, but all year long. When we talk about being prayerful everyday stewards, we are speaking about cultivating an awareness of God being with us at all times. Each day we begin by offering God the entirety of our day. Each night we rest in Him and hope that the hours that passed gave Him glory.

During this busy time of Advent, it is hard to cultivate this life of prayer, but without it we can too easily lose sight of the reason for the season. It is during this time of year we need to heed the words of St. Paul more than ever when he wrote to the Thessalonians, "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing." This is how we will be able to avoid the pitfalls of consumerism and secularism and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Bring Jesus with you into the office Christmas party. Take him with you shopping for gifts in the department store. Be aware of him when you sit down to watch television specials you have seen every year of your life. Give him all your time and let his presence fill your every moment. By striving to be connecting with Jesus at all times, you will bear greater fruit and the joy you experience will be much greater than you could imagine. You might even spend a few less dollars and spend more time with those you love, particularly the one who loves you the most, the Incarnation himself.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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A Message From The Rutland Food Pantry

On behalf of the Rutland Food Pantry we would like to thank all who supported the 5th Annual "Fill the Pantry" Golf Scramble held in September, 2023. At this event they were able to raise \$18,000 that was shared with Barre Food Pantry, Joseph's Project in Holden and the Rutland Food Pantry, all receiving \$6000.00.

Special Thanks to the Knights of Columbus Councils from St. Mary's (Jefferson) #14298, St. Cleophas (Barre) #15756 and St. Patrick's (Rutland) #16001.

We would also like to thank **Spectrum Health Systems, Inc.** of Worcester for the \$5,000.00 grant that the Rutland Food Pantry received.

How truly blessed we are !



**Christmas Blessings
to all our friends and supporters!**



©LPi



First Celebration: Sacrament of Reconciliation

First Reconciliation Class 2023

Congratulations to all those children
who received their
first Sacrament of Reconciliation
during this past week!

We thank you, all our parishioners,
who have prayed for these children
over the past few months.

Camdyn Amann

Ava Barahona

Adeline Bostock

Dominic Boulmetis

Madelyn Christiano

Ryder Cook

Timothy Elbag

Anna Gil

Teagan Goyette

Aalyson Hayes

Ainsley Jaskot

Peter Kinnas, III

Kaitlyn Lamothe

Keeley LaRange

Daisy Laurenzi

Emelia Lavallee

Madeleine Lemelin

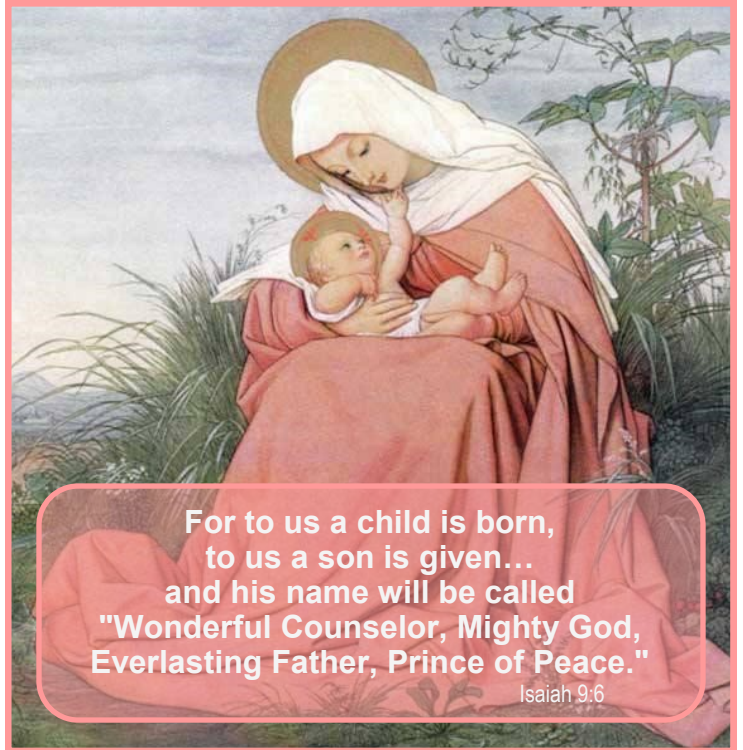
Savanah Mancini

Luke Richards

Kacper Sporna

Harper Votruba

Maeve Warsheski



For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given...
and his name will be called
"Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6



Discernment Retreat for Women Spring 2024

The Diocese of Massachusetts have invited Fiat Ministries to host a discernment retreat for women April 5-7, 2024. Single women, age 18-30 who are seeking to do God's will, are invited to attend an upcoming Fiat Ministries Discernment Retreat at Betania II Spiritual Retreat Center. Fiat Ministries cultivates an authentic culture of discernment for young women by inspiring them to say yes to God's call. Religious sisters from various communities assist at the retreat by giving talks, leading small groups, giving their testimonies, and providing a joyful witness of what it means to be a consecrated religious sister. Cost is \$150. fiatministries.org/ret...



On
The
Lighter
Side...





Knights of
Columbus

*"Knight's
Corner"*

*Wishing you
and your loved ones a
Very Merry Christmas!*

INVITE SOMEONE TO MASS THIS CHRISTMAS!



So many messages during the Christmas Season are about coming home, being with family and friends. Consider inviting someone with you and your family to Mass this Christmas and experience the joys of the Christmas Season. It could be the greatest gift you give this year!

Photo by Diane Twiss

Preparing Our Hearts For the Celebration of The Birth of Our LORD, Jesus Christ

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** (Confession)
will be available
Monday, December 18th,
6:00 - 7:00* pm
during Adoration

* Confessions will continue until
everyone has been seen.

Confessions continue to be available
Saturdays, 3:30 - 4:30 pm.



December 17, 2023 | 3rd Sunday of Advent



*"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.
Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is
the will of God for you in Christ Jesus."*

1 Thessalonians 5:16 - 18



This scripture reading sums up Stewardship.
"Rejoice always" means place your trust in
God; He will provide all that you need.



"Pray constantly" means prayer should be a
running conversation with God throughout
the whole day, every day.



"Give thanks in all circumstances" means
even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering
a little bit helps build empathy for others in
similar situations and shows our dependence
on God.



Thank you for supporting
St. Patrick's
Christmas Giving Tree

Please return
your gift today.

Thank you for
your generosity!



Rutland Food Pantry

Thank you all for your wonderful
support of our Christmas Distribution.

Upcoming Distribution Dates

Date	Time
<i>January</i>	
Thursday, January 11, 2024	6:00 - 7:30 PM
Saturday, January 27, 2024	9:00 - 10:30 AM

Items needed are:

- ☐ **Cereal (our shelves are empty!)**
- ☐ Spaghetti Sauce (Plastic Jars preferred)
- ☐ Cooking Oil
- ☐ Pie Filling (Any Flavor)
- ☐ Boxed Rice/Pasta Sides
- ☐ Boxed Potato Side dishes
- ☐ Coffee/Tea/Cocoa

Non-perishable, non-expired, unopened food
donations may be dropped off downstairs on the
stage at St Patrick's.

How truly blessed we are by all our wonderful
supporters. **Thank You and Merry Christmas !**

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Matthew Moreno, Au.D.
Doctor of Audiology
St. Patrick's Parishioner

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CONTACT ME
Michael Reese

mreese@4LPi.com
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