

North American Martyrs Church

December 17, 2023 Third Sunday of Advent

PASTOR

Rev. Frederick D. Fraini, III

OFFICE STAFF

Lisa Burkitt

Mass Schedule

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday 7 a.m. Saturday 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. (Vigil) Sunday 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.



Parish Office

The parish office is located in the Church Hall and open Monday -Friday 9 am-2:30 pm

BAPTISMS

Please contact the parish office for assistance or visit <https://namartyrsauburn.org/baptism> for detailed information and to obtain the Godparent Baptismal Testimony Form

MARRIAGE

Contact the parish office at least one year in advance of the wedding date to make arrangements

ANOLTING OF THE SICK

If you have family members who are ill, anticipating surgery, or weakened because of prolonged illness or advanced age, contact the parish office for assistance

COMMUNION CALLS

Parishioners who are sick or disabled may call the parish office to arrange for the Holy Eucharist to be brought to them at home

CONFESSIONS

Saturday 3 - 3:45 p.m. or by appointment

8 Wyoma Dr. Auburn, MA 01501 | www.namartyrsauburn.org | 508 - 798- 8779



Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 16th, Blessed Honoratus Kozminski

8:00am John McLeod by Corey Roy

4:30pm Dennise Vega, Birthday Remembrance
by Heidi and John Worster

Sunday, December 17th, Third Sunday of Advent

8:30am Susan McCarraher and Doris Carver by family

10:30am Helen Graham by David Sweeney

Monday, December 18th, Blessed Anthony Grassi

7:00 am John McLeod by Corey Roy

Tuesday, December 19th, Blessed Urban V

7:00 am John McLeod by Corey Roy

Wednesday, December 20th, Saint Dominic of Silos

7:00 am John McLeod by Corey Roy

Friday, December 22nd Blessed Jacopone da Todi

7:00 am Andrea Beth Lachance

Saturday, December 23rd, Saint John of Kanty

8:00 am Father Lee Gross

4:30 pm Deceased members of Sheeran, White and Foley
Family by their family

Sunday, December 24th, Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30am Bette Dunn by Pat and Patty Ann Fennell

10:30am Raymond Fluet by his family

Sunday, December 24th, Christmas Eve

4pm Kathy Stasaitis and Arthur Carter by Paul Stasaitis

Midnight Dorothy Van Keuren by family

KATERI'S KITCHEN



This weekend our food pantry is seeking donations of:

Ketchup and Mustard

Donations can be left by Kateri's Kitchen

or in the basket at the front of the church.

Children are invited during the Offertory procession at Masses place their donations in the food basket.

North American Martyrs Christmas and New Year's Day 2023 Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve, December 24th

4pm & Midnight

Christmas Day, December 25th

8am

Monday, January 1st, Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin
Mary, the Mother of God

8am



Let Us Pray

Ava Blazis, Kayla Bowes, Eric Baumgarten, Michele Burke-Pellegrini, Louie Costagna, Frank Cole, Shirley Connor, Christine Cote, Isabelle Couture, Gail Craig, Brianna Croteau, Patricia Darrah, Jacob DeCarolus, Derosas Family, Ellie Devereaux, Kevin Dobson, Elaine Doherty, Sadie Dutton, Paul Dyke, David and Pat Faucher, Connie Flynn, Joan Fouhy, Bob Fuller, Suzanne Gird, Lori Girouard, Therese Gosselin, Deacon Jim Graves, Jim Groves, Mary Hannon, Robert Hehir, Elijah Johnson, Kim Johnson, Maureen Jones, Edward LaConto, Jean LaConto, Roger and Rosalie LaCroix, Larry, Donna and Michael Langevin, Paige Lariviere, Alice Leduc, Peter Letourneau, Richard Levansavich, Sr., Audrey-Lynn Marron, Bill Martin, Michael McGrail, Sue Morizzo, Max Mullen, Gary Nickerson, Mary Lou Paulli, Peggy Patenaude, Kaise Pinard, John Power, Theresa Power, Anthony Real, Edward J. Rutkowski, Joseph Sbrogna, Raymond Scanlon, Scott Staruk, David Tatro, Jake Thibeault, David Toomey, Bonnie Turner, Michael Young and Lucille Zammarelli.

For all the men and women serving in our country's military.



2024 Calendars
will be available this beginning
this weekend in the church.

The Third Week of Advent: December 17, 2023

*light the first and second purple candles and the pink candle

Scripture Reflection: "And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them." Luke 2:20

*pause for reflection

Advent Wreath Prayer: Dear Jesus, help us focus on you during this busy season. May we stay aware of the joy you bring into our lives. We want to find you in the everyday moments and come with hearts of gratitude to your manger on Christmas. Amen.

STEWARDSHIP

December 10, 2023

Sunday Collection	\$4,105.75
Monthly Renovation	828.50
Coffee Shop	8.00
Christmas	102.50
Donations	2,550.00
Hall Rental	615.00
HolyDays	718.00
Share in the Care	789.50
Wreaths	25.00
Online Giving	1294.00
Total:	\$10,991.25

Thank you for your generosity!

Safe Environment Notice: Our parish follows the guidelines of the national charter for the protection of children & young people approved by the US Bishops & Diocese of Worcester policies. If you have been abused or victimized by someone representing the Catholic Church, please believe in the possibility for hope and help and healing. Contact Judith Audette, L.I.C.S.W., Victim Services Coordinator. A report can be made by phone to 508-929-4363 (a 24 hour confidential voicemail is available.)

Gaudete Sunday

Dear Friends,

This weekend as we celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, you'll notice that the third candle of our Advent wreath has been lit. I'll give you a hint...it's the one that isn't violet! However, the next question becomes, what color is it? Many people will incorrectly identify it as pink. However, any Catholic liturgist worth his salt, would correctly inform us that the color is actually rose! It's a subtle difference, but it has a more subdued shade than pink. Liturgists would tell us it signifies rejoicing, and signals a spirit of joyful hope during Lent and now, during Advent. It breaks the somber tone of these penitential times of the year. Incidentally, did you know that I have the option to wear rose colored vestments this weekend and on Laetare Sunday during Lent? Thankfully, due to the tremendous generosity of a former parishioner who gifted the parish with the vestment that I am wearing this weekend in honor of her late mother, I'm afforded the privilege of doing so. I remember she said that her mother always brought her joy, so it was the most appropriate gift to give us in memory of her.

In any event, the dark color of violet in Advent harmonizes well with the diminishing sunlight late in the year. It also points to royalty, and Christ as our King. Meanwhile rose is a softening of violet. It is violet approaching white. In this sense, it anticipates the pure white of the Birth and Resurrection of Christ. Rose, a color that foreshadows the miracle of God's Incarnation, the purity of Emmanuel. Rose, a color that is named for a delicate and sweet-scented flower of Hope, a symbol of Eternal Love, the same Perfect Love that would bring into the world, in the most unexpected humble of places, the Son of God! For all of us today, the color rose is a sign of life in the desert of human existence, the very place that Christ came to redeem.

On the Advent wreath, one rose colored candle adds even more light as we draw closer to Christmas, closer to the Christ child. You may also have noticed all the beautiful wreaths which have adorned our Church for some weeks now, evergreen reminders of growth and life. In the here and now of our lives, the solemnity Advent gives way to joy on this Gaudete Sunday! Everything in this beautiful Church suddenly bears the color and promise of new life. This is what we're called to cling to, and hope for, in these final days of Advent. The words of this fifteenth century carol articulate today's celebration better than I am able, reminding us that the color we celebrate today points to a promise about to be fulfilled.

"Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from
tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old
have sung.

This Flower, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere..."

Have a wonderful week, everyone!
God Love You!!!

Father Fraini

Christmas Pageant

**Join us for the 2023 Christmas Pageant which will be held
after Masses on Saturday, December 16th and Sunday,
December 17th in the church!
Please note there will be no coffee and after the 8:30 Mass.**



Lottery Tree!

Tickets are on sale beginning
this weekend after all Masses or
contact Lisa at
lburkitt@namartyrsauburn.org!
Tickets are \$5 for 5 & \$10 for 12!
Winner will be chosen on
Christmas Eve!



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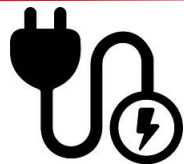


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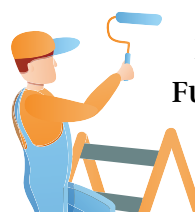
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