

Saints Patrick & Raphael Parish

Williamstown, Massachusetts

www.williamstowncatholics.org

Church: 63 Southworth Street
Parish Center: 53 Southworth Street
Parish Office & Rectory 54 Southworth Street
Mailing Address: 54 Southworth Street
Williamstown MA 01267-2414

Phone: 413.458.4946, ext. 11
Ext. 10 for mass times only

Email: saintpatrickraphael@gmail.com

Web site: www.williamstowncatholics.org
Church and center are handicapped accessible.

Parish Staff

Pastor Rev. John P. McDonagh
Deacon Rev. Mr. Gregory LaFreniere
Catechetical Leader & Parish Secretary
..... Debbie Cameron
Parish Accountant Linda Ludwig
Maintenance Gary Jolin

Lay Leadership

Pastoral Council Chair Jeffrey Welch
Finance Council Chair Tom Gajda
Child Advocate Donna Denelli-Hess
ddenelliheiss@gmail.com

Organists

Michael Dilthey, D. Mus & Christopher Caproni

Mass Schedule

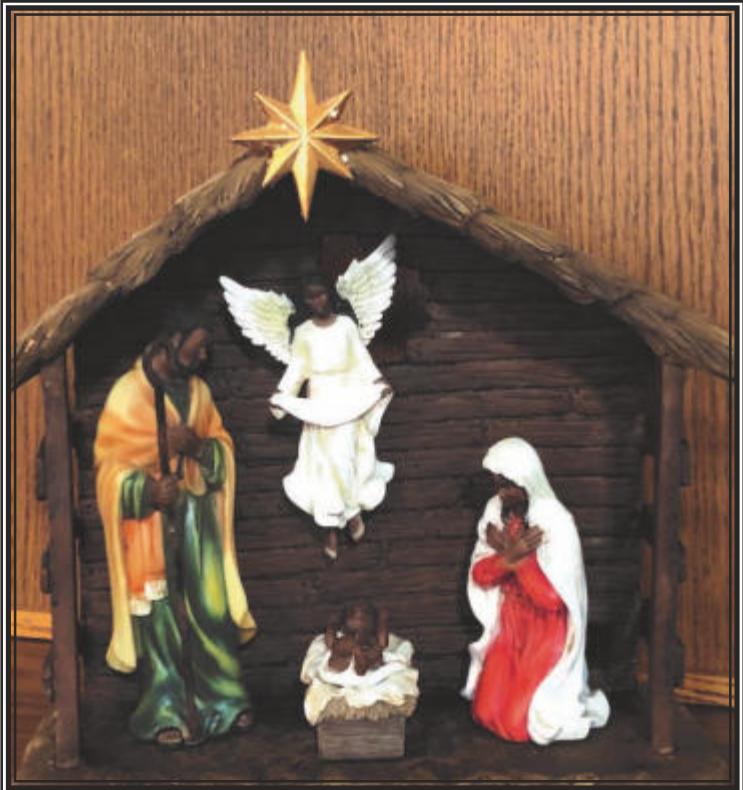
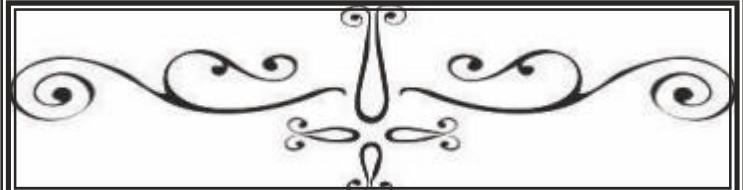
Saturday: 4.30pm
Sunday: 8.30am; 10.30am & 8:30pm
Weekdays Monday through Thursday: 8.30am
Holy Day Mass: 8.30am & 7.00pm
Reconciliation: Saturday 3.00-4.00pm
Adoration: Saturday 3.00-4.00pm

Parish Mission Statement

Affirming our common baptismal call to holiness and discipleship, we at Saints Patrick & Raphael Parish strive to deepen our communion with Christ and His Church. By worshipping God through Word and sacrament, serving our community with God's healing compassion, giving freely what we have received, nurturing our children in faith, and respecting the dignity of all human life, we hope to be a sign of – and invite all people into – God's loving presence in the world.

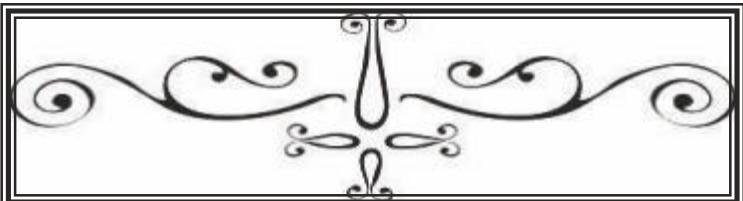
December 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent



*The angel Gabriel said to Mary,
"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."*

Luke 1:30-31



Fourth Sunday of Advent— December 20, 2020



Welcome to all who are visiting this weekend! We hope you feel at home here in the parish.

If you have any news you'd like posted here, births, baptisms, marriages, deaths, prayer requests, etc. please notify the parish secretary.

Low-gluten hosts are available for those who have a gluten allergy. Please notify the priest in the sacristy before Mass.

DONATIONS ~ THANK YOU!

Food Pantry: Ronald & Linda Brown; Burnham Gold Real Estate, LLC; Tom & Elizabeth Costley; American Legion Post 152; Ruth Richardson; Donald & Bonnie Clark; Steven Fogel; David & Donna Rempell; Mt. Greylock Regional High School Student Activity Fund; David & Suzanne Dewey; John & Judith Madden; Palma Fleck; Brian Renaud; Mark & Debbie Windover; Bernard & Frances Bassi; Tim & Maureen Moore;

In memory of: Patricia Brewer by her brother Alexander Durant and family & her sister Barbara Mutart and family;

In memory of: Linda Raimer by John Raimer

In memory of: Jimmy Judge by Therese Taft

OFFERTORY REPORT

Weekend Masses have resumed thanks be to God! Please note that we now have online giving as an option to support your parish. Please see the enclosed directives to utilize this option.

PARISH COLLECTIONS: December 6, 2020

GENERAL:	\$1,185.00
CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:	\$522.00
ONLINE DONATIONS:	\$872.00
MISALETTES	\$80.00
MAIL IN DONATIONS:	\$2,095.14
TOTAL PARISH DONATIONS:	\$4,754.14

Thank you for your continued support of our parish., it is greatly appreciated. Your friend in Christ, Fr. John

Candle offerings this week ...

Sanctuary light: A Christmas remembrance for Admiral & Gertrude Fields by Dan & Caroline Horan

Blessed Virgin: In memory of Owen & Ruth Morrisey by their family

St. Raphael: A birthday remembrance for Jennie Pierce by Paul & Dir Giamborino



To reserve candles for a particular week, please call the parish office. The suggested offering is ten dollars.

RESPECT LIFE

From today's 1st Reading, 2 Samuel 7:

"Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me, your throne shall stand firm forever."

Each individual serves a purpose in God's plan; each life has value and purpose and should be guarded and nurtured.

Baptism: Call the parish office to schedule. Baptisms normally celebrated on the last Sunday of month, 11.30am

Marriage: Call for an appointment with the priest at least 12 months prior to the wedding date for planning and preparation.

Rosary: Mon-Thu., 8.05am /**Confessions:** Sat., 3-4pm

Eucharistic Adoration – Sat., 3-4pm

Adult Choir Rehearsal, Sunday mornings after the 8.30am Mass in choir loft (9.15am).

RCIA: See pastor if interested in becoming Catholic.

Food Pantry: distribution 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 1-3pm

Meals Ministry prep & delivery: 2nd Sundays.

Office Hours: Mon.-Thu. 9am-noon and 1-3.00pm
Closed holidays, Fridays, and as announced in bulletin.

Membership: Contact the office to join our parish.

To report child sexual abuse by any employee of the Roman Catholic Church call the confidential number at 800.842.9055 or email reportabuse@dioceseofspringfield.org.

New Direction - formerly N. Berkshire Pregnancy Center 413.346.4291 or email: info@newdirectionpc.org

Bulletin: Deadline for notices: **Mondays at noon.**

Please remember the Catholic Church in your Last Will and Testament either by a bequest to the Diocese of Springfield or to our Parish, or to both. The legal title for the Diocese of Springfield is **Roman Catholic Bishop of Springfield, a corporation sole**; the legal title for our parish is **Roman Catholic Bishop of Springfield, a corporation sole, for Saints Patrick and Raphael Parish**.

ONLINE GIVING

We now have Online Giving. You can now support your parish by using your debit or credit card or checking or savings account.

1.) visit www.williamstowncatholics.org (our website) to give. 2.) Set up your account. 3.) Choose a payment option and customize your donation.

BULLETIN OPTIONS—YOU CAN NOW GET THE BULLETIN THROUGH YOUR EMAIL EACH WEEK

On our webpage, there is a link to allow you to sign up to get the bulletin weekly through your email. This is an easy way for you to stay current if you are not yet comfortable with attending Mass.

TAPED WEEKEND MASSES

Fr. John will still be taping the weekend Masses for those of you who do not yet feel comfortable attending Mass here at church. It will be the same format—channel 1303 on Sunday morning at 10:30am and you can click on the link on our website as well as on our Facebook page.

LET'S STAY CONNECTED

As many of you know, weekly Masses are being taped here at the Parish. There are several ways for you to access this along with additional information.

It is on our website: www.williamstowncatholics.org.

It is on our **FaceBook** page, Sts. Patrick and Raphael Roman Catholic Parish.

The Mass from our church is televised on Willinet on Sunday mornings for Williamstown residents at 10:30am on channel 1303.

Diocesan Information—with the ever changing situation from the Coronavirus, we will try to put all updates on these two sources for you. For diocesan information you can go to diospringfield.org

The televised Mass “**Chalice of Salvation**” is broadcast on WXXA, Fox 23 Albany at 6am Sunday.

Making the House Ready for the Lord

Dear Lord, I have swept and I have washed but still nothing is as shining as it should be for you. Under the sink, for example, is an uproar of mice—it is the season of their many children. What shall I do? And under the eaves and through the walls the squirrels have gnawed their ragged entrances—but it is the season when they need shelter, so what shall I do? And the raccoon limps into the kitchen and opens the cupboard while the dog snores, the cat hugs the pillow; what shall I do? Beautiful is the new snow falling

in the yard and the fox who is staring boldly up the path, to the door. And still I believe you will come Lord: you will, when I speak to the fox, the sparrow, the lost dog, the shivering sea-goose, know that really I am speaking to you whenever I say, as I do all morning and afternoon: Come in, Come in.
-Mary Oliver

RETURNING PARISHIONER NEEDS A PLACE TO STAY

A parishioner who has been teaching out of state would like to return for the Christmas holidays. She is looking for a private dwelling that might be available from **December 14 through January 4**. If you know of anyone who would like a house or apartment sitter for the holidays, please give the parish office a call, 413-458-4946 X1. Thank you!

THANK YOU!

It is with grateful hearts, that we thank everyone who contributed to the Christmas Mission this year through the donation of gift cards. Your generosity is much appreciated and will help those in our community who needed support this year. Please know of our prayers for you and we ask that you please remember us in your prayers as we continue helping others.

The Christmas Mission Committee

SUMMARY OF THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

<u>Sat., Dec 19</u>	3-4pm Adoration & Confessions (<i>Confessions are now held in the parish center. Please enter from the parking lot entrance.</i>) 4:30pm Mass
<u>Sun., Dec 20</u>	8:30am; 10:30am Masses
<u>Mon., Dec 21</u>	8:30am Mass
<u>Tues., Dec 22</u>	8.30am Mass
<u>Wed., Dec 23</u>	8:30am Communion Service
<u>Thurs., Dec 24</u>	Christmas Eve 3.00pm Mass 4.30pm Mass 6.00pm Mass (overcoat Mass outside in parking lot) 10.00pm Mass <i>Office closed</i>
<u>Fri., Dec 25</u>	8.30am Mass 10.30am Mass
<u>Sat., Dec 26</u>	3-4pm Adoration & Confessions (<i>Confessions are now held in the parish center. Please enter from the parking lot entrance.</i>) 4:30pm Mass

Oplatek available at Masses this Sunday

Oplatek (pronounced *<Op-wah-tek>*) can be a wonderful pre-Christmas Eve (or Christmas Day) dinner experience. As we gather with those of our household instead of extended family this year, consider sharing Oplatek (a Polish tradition since the 10th Century) before dinner.

Thanks to Al Chrosney for sharing the background on this wonderful tradition: "A sheet of opłatek is broken in medium size pieces, as many as there are people partaking in the meal. Each person takes a piece. The head of household makes a general prayer of thanksgiving and wishes for Blessed Christmas and New Year. Then each person exchanges individual wishes with everyone else. The two people face each other and offer their blessings to each other. After they have exchanged the wishes, the two people offer their opłatek to each other. The person receiving the opłatek, breaks off a small piece of the offered opłatek and consumes it. The offering, breaking off a piece and consuming can be done simultaneously by the pair or it can be done in turn. Often the older person offers the opłatek to a younger person first and waits until the younger person consumes it and then breaks off a piece of the opłatek from the younger person."

Over the years, I have witnessed Catholic Campus Ministry students embrace this Polish tradition, as they offer a pre-Christmas blessing to classmates, teammates, friends at the end of Fall Semester and at the end of Advent prior to returning home for Christmas. This year, opłatek offers us all an opportunity to wish a specific blessing only upon individual family members. How wonderful to express our hopes for each other.

Packets are available at the 4th Sunday of Advent and at the Parish Office, while the supply lasts. Why not try opłatek this year?

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS will be broadcast on **WILLINET channel 1303** on the following dates and times:

*Thursday, December 24 at 5pm

*Thursday, December 24 at 8pm

You can also participate in this Mass on our website, www.williamstowncatholics.org.

"God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving. If he gives us the gift of Christmas, it is because we all have the ability to understand and receive it."

Pope Francis



THIS WEEK'S EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION

Saturday, Dec 19

4.30pm **J Paul Dube**, 42nd anniversary remembrance, by Paul Dube

Sunday, Dec 20—Fourth Sunday of Advent

8.30am **Margaret S. Connors**, 15th anniversary remembrance, by Kathleen Connors

10.30am **Joan Callahan**, by the Nolan family

10.30am **(Willinet Channel 1303 in Williamstown)**
Robert Saulnier, by Lorraine Saulnier

Monday, Dec 21

8.30am **Wendy Anne Lincoln**, 33rd anniversary remembrance, by Nancy McShane

Tuesday, Dec 22

8.30am **Patti Brundage & the Brundage family**, by the family

Wednesday, Dec 23

8.30am **Communion Service**

Thursday, Dec 24 Christmas Eve

3.00pm **For the end of the Pandemic**

4.30pm **For the People of the Parish**

6.00pm **For family members not together this Christmas**

10.00pm For peace in the World

Friday, Dec 25 The Nativity of the Lord

8.30am **Jake & Stefania Jacob** by Bob & Barbara St. Pierre

10.30 **McDonagh & O'Connor families**

Saturday, Dec 26

4.30pm **Jack McConnell**, by his family

Sunday, Dec 27—The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

8.30am **Raymond Brown**, by Mary Kirby

10.30am **Robert Brewer**, by his family

10.30am **(Willinet Channel 1303 in Williamstown)**
Blue Christmas Mass

MINISTRY OF SERVICE

Date	Time	Lector	Euch. Minister
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Thursday, Streaming

Dec 17 11.00am Fran Flaherty

Weekend Masses

Dec 19 4.30pm Jo-Ann Murch Terri Lamb

Dec 20 8.30am Geoff King Carole Kalisz
10.30am Jack Miller Stephanie Wood

BISHOP BYRNE in his recent book, "FIVE THINGS WITH FR BILL" shares his Christmas wish list

Two ingredients that have become central to the celebration of Jesus' birth are fat and sugar. I bemoan this not because I do not like fat and sugar but because I really like foods that have lots of fat and sugar. Celebrating a feast historically included such things because the feast had been preceded by a period of fasting. However, Christmas now is preceded by Thanksgiving and a bunch of Christmas parties.

With the priest shortage, I would like to recommend some things to get for your priest that do not involve sugar or fat (These words were difficult to write, but I managed through the grace of the Holy Spirit!):

1.) **Your neighbor.** Bring your neighbor to Mass and introduce him or her to the priest. Growing numbers and a new soul tops even a cream pie.

2.) **A spiritual bouquet.** A not with a promise to say some prayers for your priests is a wonderful Christmas gift. Quite frankly, looking at our world, it is clear that some serious spiritual battles are going on. Your prayers are the invisible powerhouse that allows the priest to face the most difficult situations with joy. If your pastor is a bit grumpy, maybe it is because you don't pray for him enough.

3.) **Live your Baptism.** I pray each day for my parish not only that they will come to Mass and receive Jesus in the Eucharist, but also that they will bring him to the world. As Jesus is the great high priest, this gift is probably more for him than just for your local pastor. Being a great mom/dad/son/daughter/friend/employee/boss and being truly a person of faith is a challenge. But heroes and saints are people who face challenges. So, stand up and tell the world that you're proud to be a follower of Jesus. Let people see how you love his church. Say grace before meals, go to Mass while on vacation. Make a list of people who need your prayers and pray it with your kids each night. Defend the faith.

4.) **Encourage and pray for vocations.** We just opened Blessed John Paul II Seminary in the Archdiocese of Washington because we have good numbers of men following the Lord to discern a call to the priesthood. The movement of the Holy Spirit is clear, but we need to pray that young men will be preserved from things that block them from hearing Christ's call. This is where you come in. Encouragement of a young man and prayers for those already in the seminary must be part of your daily regime. This is a great gift not only to the seminarians but to the whole archdiocese.

5.) **Food for the poor.** Write a note to the priest: "I gave your cookies to the hungry." Once his blood pressure lowers, which it probably needs to anyway, he will be very grateful. We need your generosity more than we need your chocolate chips. (Once again, the Holy Spirit helped me pen that sentence.)

Blue Christmas Week Mass

will be offered for the intentions of those who find the Christmas Season not a happy time. Some grieve losses of relatives or friends. Others know relationship difficulties, health issues or financial worries. Some dread the arrival of the holiday. The Blue Christmas Week Mass is meant to be more meditative and reflective. While no trumpets play "Joy to the World", the liturgy offers encouragement.

Check it out Sunday Dec 27 broadcast on Willinet, Parish website and Facebook.

The Lord is close to the broken hearted; and those who are crushed in spirit he saves.

Many are the troubles of the just, but out of them all, the Lord delivers them. -- Psalm 34



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