

2nd Sunday of Advent



St. Roch Parish

PARISH DIRECTORY

Rev. James J. Boulette, Pastor

Mr. Paul Connolly, Deacon

RECTORY OFFICE & ST. ROCH CEMETERY

Administrative Assistant ~ Mrs. Teri Rawson

Email: parishoffice@strochoxford.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE

Coordinator of Religious Education ~ Ms. Jaclyn Green

Email: faithformation@strochoxford.com

Office Hours ~ Monday-Thursday 9:00 am—4:00 pm

Mass Schedule

Saturday 4:00 PM & Sunday 8:30 & 11:00 AM

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday at 8:30 AM

Friday Mass at 6:00 pm

Adoration at 6:30 pm

Confession during Adoration

Benediction at 7:30 pm

Confessions

Tuesday 6—7 pm, Friday 6:30—7:30 pm,
and Saturday 3—3:30 pm
or by appointment

Phone: (508) 987-8987

Email: parishoffice@strochoxford.com

Website: strochoxford.com

St. Roch Prayer Line Email:

Prayerline@strochoxford.com

334 Main Street, Oxford, Massachusetts 01540

Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.

Matthew 3:3



Greetings to my brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Mass 2025, Issue Twelve

At the beginning of the Liturgy of the Eucharist, the Roman Missal says: “When all this has been done [in the liturgy of the Word], the Offertory Chant begins. Meanwhile, the ministers place the corporal, the purificator, the chalice, the pall, and the Missal on the altar. It is desirable that the faithful express their participation by making an offering, bringing forward bread and wine for the celebration of the Eucharist, and perhaps other gifts to relieve the needs of the Church and of the poor” (pp 21-22).

At the conclusion of the Universal Prayer, if the Deacon is present, he will approach the altar and begin to set it for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. In the absence of the Deacon, the Priest himself will set the altar. He will receive the Roman Missal to be placed either directly on the altar or on a book stand. At the same time, he will receive a veiled chalice with paten, pall, purificator, and corporal to be placed on the altar. Following this, the side chalices will be brought to the altar for the congregation, so they can receive from the Precious Blood at communion, and these are placed on the altar as well.

You may have noticed that we began using a chalice veil during Advent. The Adoremus website says this about the chalice veil:

...The General Instruction for the Roman Missal [GIRM 118] states, “It is a praiseworthy practice for the chalice to be covered with a veil, which may be either of the color of the day or white”... Like most liturgical vestments, the chalice veil is a mysterious garment. We may be tempted to dismiss it as a kind of decoration. But the chalice and the veil not only have a function during the celebration of Mass, [but] they also remind us of a dignity that is [also] often veiled. A veil is used to cover the chalice when it is carried to and from the altar during the celebration of Mass. It is usually the same color as the vestments. As a liturgical vestment, it was probably introduced in the Middle Ages, and may have had a functional origin, perhaps developed from a sacculum or small bag for carrying the sacred vessels. The veil still has a function. For example, the veil is [a]...sign to parishioners accustomed to reciting the entrance and Communion antiphons during weekday Masses, which vary according to the feast. The priest is often given the choice of celebrating a memorial in honor of a martyr. When he uses a red chalice veil, this indicates even before Mass begins that he has chosen that optional memorial.

The veiled chalice can also highlight both the relationship and the distinction between the two main parts of the Mass, the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Just as the Gospel book, which contains God’s Word, is adorned and dignified with beautiful covers, so the vessels that will contain the Body and Blood of the Lord should be adorned and dignified with the veil. Also, since the chalice is the visible sign of the Eucharist, it seems appropriate that it should be veiled during the first part of the Mass, the Liturgy of the Word. The source of a deeper symbolic meaning of the chalice veil is found in the Scriptures. As prescribed in Exodus and described in Hebrews, a veil or curtain separated the Holy of Holies from the rest of the Temple...The chalice veil reminds us of the curtain setting apart the Holy of Holies, and prompts us to approach the altar aware of our unworthiness to enter into union with God. The removal of the chalice veil is one of the first liturgical actions at the Offertory in preparation for the reception of the gifts of bread and wine from the congregation. The removal of the veil following the Liturgy of the Word signifies that the sacred mysteries are about to be revealed...Despite the barrier of our unworthiness, the unveiling of the chalice invites us to enter into the celebration of the sacred mysteries. When the veil is removed, the splendor of the chalice is exposed. (<https://adoremus.org/1997/02/the-veil-the-chalice-and-the-dignity-of-man/>)

Once everything that is needed is placed on the altar, the Deacon, or the Priest himself, sets the altar in a way that is needed for the celebration of the Eucharist. The corporal (a large square or rectangular cloth that contains the elements to be consecrated) is placed in the center of the altar. The chalice veil is removed and placed at the top of the altar with its burse (the flat container that holds the corporal). The chalice is placed on the corporal with its paten (the flat plate that holds the Priest’s larger host). The side chalices are placed on the corporal and the purificators to the side. A purificator is a rectangular cloth that accompanies the chalices to wipe them after one consumes and is used to clean up any drops of the body or blood after the consecration. They are also used to purify the sacred vessels with water at the end of Mass. The pall is also placed at the top of the altar and is used during Mass to prevent dust or flies from entering the chalice.

Once the altar is set, the book is positioned for the Priest to be able to celebrate and is set to the proper page, then the Priest moves to the front of the sanctuary to receive the gifts from the people of God. The Priest is accompanied by the servers and, if there are not enough servers, the Deacon, if present. The Priest will receive the gifts and pass them to the servers and/or Deacon. If the Deacon is present, he will mix wine with a drop of water into the main chalice (representing the blood and water that flowed from the side of Jesus on the cross). While this mixture is taking place, the Deacon, or the Priest himself, says a prayer in a low voice asking God to allow us to share in the divinity of Christ, as He chose to share in our humanity. Once this is completed, the Priest says prayers over the bread and wine to be consecrated. On Sundays, the prayers are in a low voice, but during the week, they can be out loud since there is no music. Next, we will finish the Offertory and then the Eucharistic prayer.

With all my love and blessings from God,
Fr. Jim

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 6	4:00 pm	Marion Senior Quitadamo by the family
Sunday, December 7	8:30 am	Ryan Bernier by Mom & Dad
	11:00 am	Frederick Reeks, Jr. (7th Anniversary) by sister Yvonne Nelson & family
Monday, December 8	8:30 am	The Parishioners of St. Roch Church
	6:30 pm	Julia M. Feeney by the Parish
Tuesday, December 9	8:30 am	The Parishioners of St. Roch Church
Wednesday, December 10	8:30 am	Kayla Gentile (living) by Paula Miner & Ken Mills
Thursday, December 11	8:30 am	No Mass
Friday, December 12	6:00 pm	Noah Miner & family (living) by Paula Miner & Ken Mills
Saturday, December 13	4:00 pm	Martha Przelomski by daughter Valerie & son-in-law Louie
Sunday, December 14	8:30 am	Karen Cowperthwaite by the Jalbert family
	11:00 am	Bob Dutkiewicz (26th Anniversary) by the family



Sacrificial Offering

NOVEMBER 29 & 30

Offertory Envelopes	4,966.00
Online Giving	542.00
Other sources of income	1,369.00
	<hr/> 6,877.00

Thank you!



The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Holy Day of Obligation

**Masses will be celebrated
Monday, December 8th
at 8:30 AM & 6:30 PM**



A second collection for the **Retirement Fund for Religious** will be taken this weekend, **December 6 & 7**.

A second collection for **Fuel** will be taken next weekend, **December 13 & 14**. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Christmas Flower envelopes received by **December 16th** will be enrolled in a special memorial listing to be inserted in the bulletin the weekend of December 27 & 28.

2025 ADVENT SCHEDULE

Join us as we enter this Holy Season of Advent, a season of waiting and preparing for the celebration of the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Light your Advent wreaths! Wishing that this season of Advent fills your heart and home with peace and happiness!



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Sunday, December 7th

Christmas Breakfast
with Children's Activities and Bake Sale!
for all ages after 9:30—10:30 AM
A Special Presentation of the Nativity
10:30 – 10:50 AM



Advent Penance Service
Wednesday, December 17th at 6:30 PM
All are invited to seek God's mercy.



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Sunday, December 14th

Annual Card Writing Project
9:30—11:00 AM in the church hall ~ Join Us!
Everyone is invited to sign a Christmas card to fellow parishioners who are confined to their homes or have lost a loved one this past year.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Sunday, December 21st

Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.
-Luke 2:14



PRAY FOR... Kathy Perry, John & Bev Makowski, Cynthia Clark, David Dumais, Ann Caplette, Deacon Jim Denning, Jay and Jon Moore, Rose, Jill, Desirae, Jenn, Rayana and Julie, Fern Goldsmith, Cameron Chickering, Evelina Piscopo, Annmarie Morrissey, Julia Krasinskas, Paula Kapurch, June Deary, Paula Bouthillier, Andrea Reeves, Nancy Mott, Adam Yankauskas, Joel Balsh, Robert & Aline Krasinskas, Mary-ann Richard, Leona Shaw, Lorraine Dumais, Ernie LaVallee, Lisa Ackley, Lorna Hennessey, Cheryl Ducharme, Judy Leone, James Malo, Joseph, Matthew & Marie, Kyle Brodeur, Donald Morin, Pam Jackman, Leonard Marcotte, Chloe Jones, Jane Desy Montigny, Linda Vigeant, Dianne Ackley, Randy Henderson, Charley Theodore Cutting, Barbara Lavallee, Andrea Boyle, Melissa Dube, William Patrick Bernard, Peter Giles, Michelle, Susan Maass, Jack Hamilton, Barbara Wessell, Barry Fanion, Laura Kida, Sr. Jeanne Rouillard, Vinnie Rivers, David Breault, Gail Dunham.



COME, SING TO THE LORD!



Calling all singers and musicians !!!

The Choir: IS SEEKING NEW MEMBERS!!

Please join us for practice on Tuesdays at 5:00 pm in the choir loft or contact John Drahos (508) 667-4073, jdrahos@charter.net

The Contemporary / Folk Group: IS ALSO SEEKING NEW MEMBERS!!!

Please contact John Drahos (508) 667-4073, jdrahos@charter.net, to talk about how you can share the gifts God has given you!

JUBILEE YEAR 2025 YEAR OF HOPE

A Special Year of:

**FORGIVENESS
RECONCILIATION
CONVERSION
and CELEBRATION**



<https://worcesterdiocese.org/jubilee>

ALL ARE INVITED TO A

FAMILY HOLY HOUR



SATURDAY 12/6/25 @ 9:30 A.M.

The Feast of St. Nicholas

OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS PARISH
1222 MAIN ST, WORCESTER, MA 01603

Adoration, Praise & Worship, Confession, Followed by fellowship. All kid-friendly!

RSVP and learn more at bit.ly/family-holy-hour

This event is a joint effort of various family-focused groups and ministries of the diocese, as well as the Diocese of Worcester Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

ST. ROCH CEMETERY NEWS

Fall decorations may now be placed on the cemetery lots. Please be sure that all decorations are placed by the monument or on top of the flat marker.

We recommend removing small statues and lamps before winter. We will not be responsible for any broken items. For more information call the rectory office at (508) 987-8987.



CALLING ALL BAKERS!



Religious Education is fundraising to support our youth programs, and we could use your talents!

We are planning a bake sale in the church hall on **Sunday, December 7th after the 8:30 AM Mass.** Would you consider making some tasty treats to help support our kids? It's the perfect time to share your favorite holiday recipes!

Please email Jackie at

faithformation@strochoxford.com

or call the office if you'd like to participate.

American Heritage Girls and Trail Life USA



AMERICAN
HERITAGE
GIRLS®
FAITH | SERVICE | FUN

THE ADVENTURE BEGINS HERE!

Trail Life for boys is now chartered in our parish. We are now Trail Life Troop MA1321!



In addition, Troop MA0716 of the American Heritage Girls has transferred their charter to Saint Roch.

If you are looking for a Christian Catholic alternative to the Boy and Girl Scouts, here it is! If you have children in your life between the ages of 5 and 18 who want live a Christ Centered life, go on adventures, and have fun, check out our webpages at <https://strochoxford.com/american-heritage-girls> or <https://strochoxford.com/trail-life-usa> or scan the QR codes. There are interest forms to fill out so you can receive more information about signing up.



Religious Education & Youth Nights

Schedule 2025-2026

December Sessions:

12/7 - Holiday Bake Sale and Pancake

Breakfast @9:30 in Church Hall

- High School Session @4:00-7:30 PM
at St. Louis in Webster

12/12-12/13 - Confirmation Retreat

at Immaculate Conception
Retreat Center

12/14 - K-8th Grade Religious Ed

@9:30-10:45 AM at Parish Center

- First Reconciliation @12:30

12/21 - K-8th Grade Religious Ed

@9:30-10:45 AM at Parish Center

CATHOLIC MOMS GROUP

St. Roch Parish (334 Main Street, Oxford, MA)
Moms from all parishes are welcome!



1st Wednesdays of Month - Adoration/Confession & Potluck

Evening starts with reverent, kid-friendly adoration, then young children head downstairs for potluck dinner and fellowship.

Moms take turns adoring the Blessed Sacrament and going to confession. Please RSVP Monday or Tuesday to gina.hamwey@gmail.com or via Google spreadsheet.

Location: St. Roch Church (334 Main Street, Oxford)

Time & Dates: 4:30 - 6:00pm on 11/5, 12/3



2nd & 4th Wednesdays - Pray & Play

Pray the rosary and sip coffee with other mamas while our children play. Kids are always invited to join in the prayer too! Prayer starts at 9:30am.



***Time & Dates:** 9:00-10:30am on 9/24, 10/8, 10/22, 11/12, 12/10 (off on 11/26 and 12/24 for Thanksgiving and Christmas)



3rd Wednesdays - Post-Bedtime Prayer/Discussion

Join other moms for a kids-free evening of faithful fellowship.

***Time & Dates:** 8:15 - 9:45pm on 10/16, 11/19, 12/17



**Pray & Play and Post-Bedtime Discussions are hosted at various moms homes. Contact Gina for locations.*



New to moms group? Got questions? Got ideas for ways we can build up our moms group community?

Please contact Gina at gina.hamwey@gmail.com.

St. Roch Nativity Play

Sunday, December 7th 10:30-10:55 a.m.

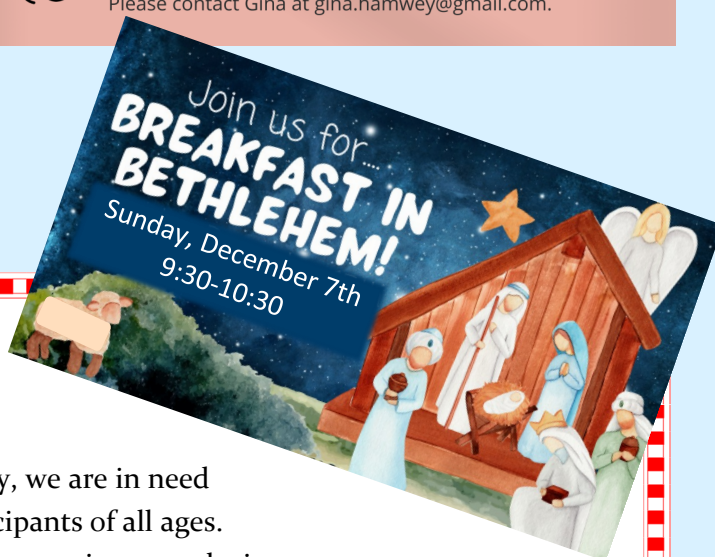
Hello all St. Roch families! As we plan the Nativity Play, we are in need of you and your families' help! We are looking for participants of all ages.

We understand that it is a very busy time of year, so we are going to make it as easy as possible. We will have a narrator read the entire play and the other participants will act out the scenes accordingly. We will take care of providing costumes and props.

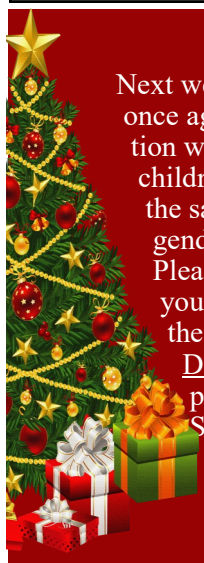
All we need is for the kids to come to the church hall on **Sunday, December 7th at 9:45 a.m.-10 a.m.** to get dressed and run through the play once or twice. If you would like to have your children or grandchildren participate, please email lynnejalbert@aol.com or even just bring them that morning!

We are hoping to have a beautiful and meaningful portrayal of our Lord Jesus Christ's birth.

Thank you in advance for any help and God Bless you and your families during this Advent and Christmas season!



OPERATION LOVE



Next weekend the Saint Vincent de Paul Society is once again sponsoring Operation Santa in conjunction with the Oxford Police Department for the children of Oxford. A basket will be on display in the sanctuary and will have tags with the age, the gender of a child and a few choices of gifts. Please take a tag and purchase one gift and place your wrapped gift with the original tag next to the display table. The Due date is Monday, December 15th. Please be on time. If late, please drop off at the Oxford Police Dept. Suggested gift value \$15-\$20. The community of St. Roch's always has the spirit of giving deep within its heart! Thank you in advance for this worthwhile project! Your generosity truly makes a difference!

Holiday Bishop's Dinners

We are excited to invite you to be a part of something special! *Catholic Charities Worcester County's Holiday Bishop's Dinner* are just around the corner, and we are seeking dedicated volunteers to help make this year's event a success. Your time and support will go a long way in helping us serve our community during the holiday season.

There are a few volunteer opportunities available, including:

- Meal Packaging
- Meal Deliveries
- Sit Down Dinner

If you're interested in lending a hand, we'd love to have you on board! To register, please visit the link below and sign up for your preferred opportunities:

www.ccworc.org/bishopsdinnervolunteer



Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf

Holiday Food Drive to Benefit the Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf

Will you help please?

This year, each church in Oxford is collecting "fixings" for Christmas dinner to distribute to local families in need through the Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf. To go with the fixings, the Food Shelf also will be providing our families with gift cards to purchase turkeys.

We are asking our parishioners to donate: cranberry sauce, turkey gravy, instant mashed potatoes, packaged stuffing, canned peas, canned carrots, canned yams, quick bread mix or muffin mix.

Please bring your donations to church and put them in the DROP BOX located in the bins inside the front doors of the church.

Your donations will be distributed to our clients in December so that they can prepare and enjoy Christmas dinner with their families.

Questions? Please call the Food Shelf at 508-987-1062.

Thank you! Food Shelf families and volunteers appreciate your continued generosity.



GOD'S HELPING HANDS

Are you homebound or need a little extra love and assistance?

We Can Provide:

**Visits and Conversation
Pickup a Needed Item
Food Delivery**

**Rides to the Doctors
Groceries
or Other Needed Services**

Call the Parish Office at **508-987-8987** for more information. Linda Lloyd is leading this vital new Parish Ministry with a small number of ministers who are here to help. Call today!

SLEEPING BAGS FOR THE HOMELESS



The **Golden Bees Group** at the *United Church of Christ, Federated in Webster*, has been putting together "**Sleeping Bags for the Homeless**" for over 30 years.

They are looking for gently used blankets, comforters, and bedspreads to help continue their ministry. Donations can be put in the marked bin downstairs inside the church hall of St. Roch Church. For pick up please call Charlene Lachapelle 508-987-3003. **PLEASE: ONLY BEDDING!**

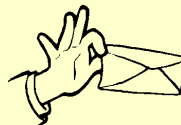
THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



We are looking for volunteers to help our custodial staff with **snow shoveling** at both properties. It is important to get an early start before morning Masses to clear away the snow and salt the walkways and stairs before our parishioners arrive.

Any help is always welcome and appreciated!



Important Notice Regarding Offertory Envelopes

Beginning in January, those who drop checks in the collection baskets without an envelope will no longer receive envelope recordings. Please use your envelopes so we can accurately provide you with an annual contribution statement at the end of the year.

Those who remit directly with their financial institutions or use the Online Giving module will be recorded. No envelope needed.

Those that receive envelopes and have not used them for over six months will be discontinued to save the expense of printing and mailing.

If you do not receive offertory envelopes and would like to, please call the rectory office at 508-987-8987 to enroll.

We thank you for your continued generosity & understanding.