# ST LEONARD CHURCH

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WEEKLY BULLETIN

DECEMBER 19, 2021



### MASS SCHEDULE

### Saint Leonard Church

Saturday 5:00 PM

Sunday 9:00 AM

10:30 AM (Italian)

12:00 Noon

Mon-Fri 12:05 PM

### Confessions

Saturdays 4:15-5 PM

and upon request

### **Saint Stephen Church**

Saturday 4:00 PM

Sunday 11:00 AM

Thurs-Fri 7:30 AM

### **Sacred Heart Church**

is temporarily closed

Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

Luke 1:38

### Saint Leonard of Port Maurice Parish

320 Hanover Street, Boston, MA 02113 admin@saintleonardchurchboston.org P: 617-523-2110 | F: 617-367-0456

### Saint Stephen church

401 Hanover St, Boston, MA 02109 P: 617-523-2110 | F: 617-367-0456

### SAINT LEONARD CHURCH

### Schedule of Devotions

Mon - Fri 11:30 AM Rosary

12:05 Mass

Monday 12:30 PM Divine Mercy ChapletTuesday 12:30 PM St Anthony NovenaWeds 12:30 PM Litany of St Joseph

1st Wed of every month

Queen of Peace Prayer Group 6:30 PM Rosary, 7PM Mass

**Thursday** 11:00 AM Adoration

Pure in Heart Young Adults

6:30 PM Rosary, 7PM Mass

Friday 12:30-3:30 PM Adoration

3:00 PM Divine Mercy Chaplet

### **Pastoral Staff**

Pastor: Rev. Michael Della Penna, OFM Deacon: Brother Charles Gingerich, OFM Italian Ministry: Rev. Federico Cinocca

Sacristan: Charles Falla, OFS

St Stephen Rector: Rev. David Costello

### **Parish Office**

New Office Hours:

Mon - Thu 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Friday Closed

Office Manager: Janine Martignetti

Administrative Assistant: Maryann Ligotti

Business Manager: John Kutch

### Saint John School

Principal: Claire Cassidy

Tel: 617-227-3143 Mon - Fri 8AM - 3PM

### Saint Francis Gift and Book Store

Mon - Thurs 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Fri - Sat 1:00 pm - 7:30 pm Sunday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

St Leonard Church will be closed for cleaning on Mondays 8:00 AM - 11:00AM & Thursdays 8:00 AM - 11:00AM

### SAINT LEONARD CHURCH

### Mass Intentions December 19 - 25 December 18 - Saturday

5:00pm - Anna & Stephen Lynch; Vincenza Raspa; Deceased members of the Tavilla Family; Michael Romano; Angelo Federico; Bob Agrippino; Anna & Andrew Russo; Michael Romano; Anthony Lovuolo; John "Jack" Daley; Luigi & Maria DiMechell; Theresa Ciardiello

### December 19 - Sunday

**9:00am -** For the intersection of Saint Joseph of Cupertino; Deceased members of the Cataldo & Merola Families; Deceased members of the DePasquale & Varano Families.

**10:30am -** Domenico & Sestilia Federico; Carmine Cataldo; Angelina LePore

12:00pm - Luigi & Angelina Cogliani; Joseph Todesco; Joseph Cutille; Laurann Romano; Johanna Dellagona; Frank & Laura Brogna; John & Rose Picone; Dr John Picone; Robert Giovanditto; Charles

Ognibeni; Rosemarie & Frank Caratelli

### December 20 - Monday

12:05pm - Daniel Capodilupo

### December 21 - Tuesday

12:05pm - In thanksgiving to God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and his angels and saints

December 22 - Wednesday

12:05pm - Mike Vendetti

December 23 - Thursday

12:05pm - John Gannon

### December 24 - Friday

5:00pm - For all our Parishioners

12:00am - (Midnight) For all our Parishioners

December 25 - Saturday

9:00am - For all our Parishioners

**10:30am -** Per tutti I Nostri Parrochiani

**12:00pm** - For all our Parishioners

5:00pm - For all our Parishioners

The Bread and Wine will be offered the week of December 19 - 25 at Saint Leonard Church for Mario Pallotta





The Sanctuary Lamp will burn the week of December 19 - 25 at Saint Leonard Church for Mike Vendetti

### ST. STEPHENS CHURCH

Mass Intentions December 19 - 25

**December 18 - Saturday** 4:00pm - Camella Flynn

**December 25 - Saturday** 11:00am - Noel Costello

### CALENDAR OF THE ADVENT-URE

December 18-3:00pm

In the Peace Garden, the Saint Leonard Choral Society (President Mrs. Laurie Warlock) presents a Christmas Carol Concert with Music Director Dr Dan Drzymalski.



THE LYRICS OF THE SONGS WE
WILL BE SINGING WILL BE
AVAILABLE AT THIS QR CODE



RAIN OR SHINE, CONCERT WILL GO ON!

## FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT, DEC 19 - DEC 24, 2021



On the Fourth Sunday in Advent the "Peace" Candle is lit.

The white candle is lit on **Christmas Eve** representing the coming of Christ

### December 20, 21, 22 7:00 pm

Fr. Rick Martignetti

The Gift of Jesus: A Christmas Mission
-Confession will be available
following the Christmas Mission.



**December 21– 5:00pm** Advent with Mary: Mass, Rosary and meeting with Ivan via Zoom.

### CHURCH DECORATION

Father Michael is looking for volunteers on December 23 at 4:00pm to help decorate the church for the Christmas Season

## CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2021

4:00 Confession

5:00pm- Mass

12:00am - Midnight Mass



# CHRISTMAS DAY SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2021

9:00am

10:30am - Italian

12:00pm

NEW YEARS EVE DECEMBER 31, 2021

12:05pm - Mass St. Leonard's Church 5:00pm - Mass St. Stephens Church (This year only)

For further information on any further events, please go to our St Leonard website https://saintleonardchurchboston.org/



### The Peace Prayer of St Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console;
To be understood, as to understand;
To be loved, as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
And it is in dying that we are born to Eternal
Life.

Amen.

**MEDITATIONS** 

### FATHER MICHAEL DELLA PENNA

"WHERE THERE IS DESPAIR, HOPE"

Sadly, there are many people in the world who suffer from despair and hopelessness. Henry David Thoreau once commented "The mass of people lead lives of quiet desperation." More recently Pope Benedict XVI observed, "The drama faced by our contemporaries is...that of living without hope in an ever more profane world."





In Hanover, Germany, there is a very peculiar grave that had high slabs of granite and marble cemented together and fastened with heavy steel clasps and a headstone that read "This burial place must never be opened." It belongs to Henriette Juliane Caroline von Rüling (1756 -1782), a woman who adamantly denied the resurrection of the dead. She gave explicit instructions in her will that her grave be made so secure that if there were a resurrection it could not reach her. The irony however is that a little seed fell into the tomb at the time of her burial, and after a short time, began to sprout and grow. It eventually pushed its way through the soil and out from beneath the tomb. As it grew, its trunks enlarged, and the great slabs were gradually uplifted so that the steel clasps were wrenched from the sockets and, eventually, the entire grave was exposed. A tiny seed had succeeded in pushing aside those enormous stones meant to

keep her closed in. The tomb has become a popular tourist attraction.

This is an apt metaphor for the power of Christian hope. The seed that was planted in Mary was Hope Himself who was born to offer his life as a ransom for many, in order to rise from the dead and sprout as the first fruit of those who have fallen asleep. The means on which Christ cross saved us is itself the greatest sign of hope as it represents how God's love has the power to transform a symbol of torture into a symbol of salvation. No one is beyond redemption. The season of Advent reminds us therefore that the tiny seed of Christian hope is neither optimism nor wishful thinking nor in any way a false hope but rather the authentic virtue which is grounded in the confident expectation about the truth of what God has promised about our future, and in fact has already shown us in Christ through his resurrection.



The Valley of Tears - Gustave Doré

### Our Lord promised:

"An hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment (John 5:25-29)." Like that tiny seed that eventually upset the grave in Hanover, the Bible says that our bodies will be sown in the ground and will be raised with immortality (1 Corinthians 15:32-45).

Pope Francis exhorts us not to be robbed of hope by the spirit of the world, the spirit of vanity, arrogance, and pride. Hope overcomes despair and discouragement. God has given each of us the gift of true hope so that we can confidently expect from Him both eternal life in heaven and all the help we need to obtain it. As it is written in Hebrews 6:19, "This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast..." The certainty of Christian hope therefore looks beyond circumstances and rests in the immutable promises of God.



The Triumph of Christianity Over Paganism, Gustave Doré

"God has determined, unless I interfere with His plan, that I should reach that which will be my greatest happiness. He looks on me individually, He calls me by name, He knows what I can do, what I can best be, what is my greatest happiness, and He means to give it to me."

Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman



### ST. PETER CANISIUS

Feast day: December 21



St. Peter Canisius, Dutch Sint Petrus Canisius, also called Peter Kanis, (born May 8, 1521, Nijmegen [now in the Netherlands]— died December 21, 1597, Fribourg, Switzerland; canonized 1925; feast day December 21), doctor of the church, Jesuit scholar, and strong opponent of Protestantism. He has been called the second apostle of Germany (with St. Boniface being the first) for his ardent defense of Roman Catholicism there.

Educated at the University of Cologne, Canisius became a Jesuit (1543) and taught at the universities of Cologne, Ingolstadt, and Vienna. He founded colleges at Munich (1559), Innsbruck (1562), Dillingen (1563), Würzburg (1567), Augsburg, and Vienna.

Perhaps more than any of his contemporaries, Canisius delayed the advance of Protestantism by his participation in the religious discussions at Worms (1557) and at the Council of Trent and the Diet of Augsburg (1559). He sought to renew the Roman Catholic Church in Germany by means of his friendship with the Holy Roman emperor and numerous magnates, by his zealous preaching in various German towns, by the extension of the Jesuit order, and especially by his desire to provide worthy and scholarly priests. His German missions won him fast friendships with persons in all walks of life, including the emperor. He did important

work in southern Germany and Austria, Bohemia, and Switzerland, where in 1580 he settled in Fribourg and founded a Jesuit college (now the University of Fribourg).

His major work was the Triple Catechism (1555–58), containing a lucid exposition of Roman Catholic dogma. It became the most famous catechism of the Counter-Reformation, going through 400 editions in 150 years.

ST. PETER CANISIUS PRAY FOR US!

# The Gift of Jesus: A Christmas Mission





DECEMBER 20TH, 21ST AND 22ND AT 7:00PM

THE NORTH END'S OWN FATHER RICK
MARTIGNETTI WILL BE BACK IN TOWN TO LEAD
US IN A THREE EVENING MISSION DEC. 20-22 TO
PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR CHRISTMAS.

FR. RICK GREW UP IN THE NORTH END AND STUDIED IN ROME WHERE HE RECEIVED A DOCTORATE IN SACRED THEOLOGY / FRANCISCAN SPIRITUALITY.
HE IS CURRENTLY THE DIRECTOR OF CAMPUS MINISTRY AT AVE MARIA UNIVERSITY IN FLORIDA.

HE WILL BE TAKING US THROUGH SAINT BONAVENTURE'S REFLECTIONS ON CHRISTMAS AND HELPING US EXPERIENCE THE JOY THAT THE LORD WANTS US TO EMBRACE DURING THIS BLESSED SEASON.



### CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

### **CHRISTMAS AT MONICA'S KITCHEN**

The Good Samaritan Ministry at Monica's Kitchen serves individuals and families whose health and happiness are threatened by poverty, hunger, violence, addiction and other hardships. Through our food pantry. community peace gatherings and recovery support services we hope to be instruments of hope and healing for our friends and neighbors in South Boston.



You can make Christmas bright for our friends and neighbors in need by taking a Giving Tree gift ornament that describes who will receive the gift. Once the gift is purchased, put the ornament on the *unwrapped* gift and please place in the Christmas box. You can also donate by purchasing a gift from our Amazon Christmas Wish List for Children and Adults. The wish lists can be found on the homepage at

goodsamaritanministry.org



### **EVENINGS WITH MARY**

Tuesdays & Saturday In person or via Zoom call, join us at St Leonard's Church from 5:00-7:15 PM in celebrating the Eucharist, reciting the rosary and at 6:40 PM a virtual meeting with Ivan, the visionary from Medjugorje. The evening concludes with a benediction after ten minutes of silent adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. Because the prayer service will be live streamed internationally, please log-in before 5:00PM.

Meeting ID: 792 438 9838

Passcode: StJames



### **PURE IN HEART**



Each Thursday, the pure in heart young adult group meets at Saint Leonard Church beginning with the rosary at 6:30pm followed by Mass at 7:00pm. All young adults 20s & 30s are welcomed.



### ST LEONARD PARISH DECEMBER OFFERTORY

Week 1: \$ 2,352

Week 2: \$ 2,840

Weekly Budget: \$ \$ 9,636

### SAINT FRANCIS GIFT AND BOOK STORE

Visit the Gift and Book Store which features: Books, Rosaries, saint Medals, Prayer Cards, Statues, Bracelets, Greeting Cards, Monastery Goods such as Chocolates, Wine Jellies, Honey, Biscotti, Flavored Coffees, Fruitcake and other Religious items.



### VOLUNTEER CORNER

We will be having "PGC" Protecting God's Child class on December 28, 2021 at 6:00 pm - in St Joseph Hall.

The parish is looking for a volunteer as an assistant to our sacristan.

Father Michael would like to invite our parishioners to volunteer and help us to clean the peace garden, collect the fallen leaves and in preparation for winter, volunteer snow shovelers will be needed.

Please contact the parish office at 617-523-2110.

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# PRAYERS FOR LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLES

### **Fourth Week**

All-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

