

ST LEONARD PARISH

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

WEEKLY BULLETIN JANUARY 1, 2022

SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

*“In the past God spoke to our
ancestors through the prophets;
in these last days, he has spoken to
us through the Son.”*

LK 2:16-21



SAINT LEONARD OF PORT MAURICE PARISH

admin@saintleonardchurchboston.org

P: 617-523-2110

Mass Schedule

Saturday	5:00 PM
Sunday	9:00 AM
	10:30 AM (Italian)
	12:00 Noon
Mon-Fri	8:15 AM
	12:05 PM

Confessions

Saturdays 4:15 - 4:45 PM
and upon request

SAINT STEPHEN CHURCH

401 Hanover St, Boston, MA 02109

P: 617-523-2110 | F: 617-367-0456

Mass Schedule

Saturday	4:00 PM
Sunday	11:00 AM
Thurs-Fri	7:30 AM

Pastoral Staff

Pastor: Rev. Michael Della Penna, OFM

Deacon: Brother Charles Gingerich, OFM

Student Priest in Residence: Rev. Federico Cinocca

Guest Priest: Rev. Alexander O'Kere

Rev. Robert Caprio, OFM

Rev. Francis Walter, OFM

Deacon: Nick Albin, SJ

Sacristan: Charles Falla, OFS

St Stephen Rector: Rev. David Costello

Parish Office

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

Friday Closed

Saint John School

Tel: 617-227-3143

Mon - Fri 8AM - 3PM

<https://sjsne.com/>

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

SAINT LEONARD CHURCH SCHEDULE OF DEVOTIONS

Mon - Fri 11:30 AM Rosary
8:15 AM Mass
12:05 PM Mass

Monday 12:30 PM Divine Mercy Chaplet

Tuesday 12:30 PM St Anthony Novena

Wednesday 12:30 PM Litany of St Joseph
1st Wed of every month
Queen of Peace Prayer Group
6:30 PM Rosary, 7PM Mass

Thursday Pure in Heart Young Adults
6:30 PM Rosary, 7PM Mass

Friday 12:30-3:00 PM Adoration
(First Fridays from 12:30pm until 3:00pm)
3:00 PM Divine Mercy Chaplet



SAINT LEONARD CHURCH

Mass Intentions January 1 - January 7

SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

JANUARY 01 - SUNDAY

9:00 am - Deceased members of the DePasquale & Varano Families; Angela Federico; Idea Susi

10:30 am - Michela Barone dai Nonni; Guido, Enrica & Carlo DiCenso; Michelangelo Andreotto la & Pasqualina Lena

12:00 pm - Theresa Leone

JANUARY 02 - MONDAY

8:15 am - Healing of Miriam Vincent

12:05 pm - In Honor of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary

JANUARY 03 - TUESDAY

8:15 am - Healing of Charlie Falla

12:05 pm - In Honor of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary

JANUARY 04 - WEDNESDAY

8:15 am - For the homeless people around the world

12:05 pm - Peter R. Nobile Jr.

JANUARY 05 - THURSDAY

8:15 am - Souls of Purgatory

12:05 pm - Former Speaker Thomas P Oneill JR.

JANUARY 06 - FRIDAY

8:15 am - For all the students at St. Johns School

12:05 pm - Angelo Martignetti

JANUARY 07 - SATURDAY

5:00 pm - In Honor of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary



The Bread and Wine will be offered the week of January 1 - January 7 at Saint Leonard Church for Michael R. Tirella Jr.



The Sanctuary Lamp will burn the week of January 1 - January 7 at Saint Leonard Church for Michael R. Tirella Jr.



HEADPHONES FOR HEARING IMPAIRED

Headphones for hearing impaired are available upon request.

Please let us know before Mass begins

GLUTEN FREE HOST

Gluten Free Host are also available upon request

Mary Mother of God

by *pluscarden Abbey*

Shepherds, the crowded inn, the manger, the ox and the ass, Herod, the silent night, the little baby; humility, poverty, weakness, littleness, obscurity; we have rightly dwelt much on these things these past days. Now today, on the eighth day, we emphasise the other aspect of the same mystery: power, majesty, divinity, glory; light, grace, truth; salvation, redemption, divinisation: for the name of this child is Jesus (Lk 2:21), which means God's power to save. Who is this little baby? He is God's eternal Word made flesh; He is God the Son Incarnate; He holds the stars in His hands, and knows all the secrets of our hearts, for through Him all things came to be, and without Him nothing that has being can exist.

In the early Fifth century the Patriarch of Constantinople was a learned theologian who prided himself on his anti-Arian orthodoxy. Yet he came to be known as a heresiarch; one of history's great corrupters of the Christian faith, almost ranking with Arius himself. Nestorius seems to have been very content to honour Mary as Mother of Jesus, Mother of the Messiah, Mother of the Redeemer. But he would not call her Mother of God. And so, even if unwittingly, he compromised the

mystery; even emptied it out. Nestorius refused to acknowledge that wonderful exchange of which our liturgy sings, the *admirabile commercium*.

According to the Catholic and Apostolic faith, God Himself took on our humanity, in order to give us a share in his divinity. God the Son made himself Son of Mary, in order that we might be made Sons of God. As St. Paul put it to the Galatians: in Him we are slaves no longer, but sons; and if sons, then also heirs (cf. Gal 4:7).

What is that baby doing, there in the crib? He is exercising power that he alone possesses: power to free our world from the grip of the devil, and from slavery to corruption. Already he is busy with the work he came to do: to set each of us free from sin and death; to reconcile us with his Father; to sanctify us; to give us eternal life with himself in heaven.

And what is his Mother doing, there in that stable? She is loving him as her child, and worshipping him as her Lord. She is dedicating her whole life to him, without condition or qualification, to the end, in order to cooperate in all his work. She is magnifying God in her heart, and saying "Yes" in advance to everything he will ever ask of her.

The Collect of today's Mass touches on the mystery of Our Lady's grace and merit. Of course no one can merit to receive God. The very idea is ridiculous. The coming of God the eternal Creator to us his mortal creatures can only be sheer gift, grace, overflowing divine goodness. Yet we say that God's grace is so abundant, so generous, that he enables us also to merit. So Our Lady's graced consent at the Annunciation was an act of sovereign freedom, and also truly meritorious. Setting aside the acts of Christ himself, this was at once the most graced act in human history, and also the most perfectly free, and also the most meritorious. Our Collect asks that, through Mary, we too might enter into that circle of grace, gift, freedom, merit, exchange. With and through Mary, we also can say "Yes" to God. In particular today we want to say "Yes" to all that God will ask of us this coming year; "Yes" also to all he wants to give us; "Yes" to Jesus; "Yes" to our life in him.

As today we celebrate Mary's divine Motherhood, we hear God in turn saying "Yes" to us. "Yes", that is, to all humanity's purest, best, dearest, most noble, most sublime aspirations, desires, yearnings: desire for God; desire for life; for holiness; for union; for love. These aspirations were without contamination or compromise or qualification in





Mary. And God's response was without measure or limit or comparison, in Jesus Christ our Lord. I wonder if I might be allowed to say something a bit personal now? This year in August will mark the 25th anniversary of my Ordination to the Priesthood. That's a cause for thanksgiving, without any question. But for me, even more so, it's an urgent and alarming call to conversion. I feel like the man with the Talent in the parable, or like the dishonest Steward in another parable, called to give an account for what he has been given (cf. Mt 25, Lk 19, Lk 16). What fruits of holiness there should have been; what perfect conformity to Jesus Christ; what burning and transforming love for God, for the Church, for the brethren! And instead, with shame and sorrow, I have to acknowledge myself to have been slothful, unobservant, negligent (HR 73:7). How can I possibly correct this dire situation? In whatever little time might remain to me? It seems to me that there are two very obvious and divinely indicated pathways I should take: ever greater

devotion to Mary, and ever greater devotion to the Holy Eucharist. Why? Because we receive Jesus through Mary, and we receive Jesus through the Holy Eucharist. So in both of them we have the source of living water. Probably I should add a third: greater devotion also to Holy Scripture. Why so much devotion? Because in comparison with what they give us, nothing else whatever matters. Nothing, nothing, nothing! And having this gift, we have to let it have its effect on us, and we have to mediate it for others.

So today once again we ask the Holy Spirit to come on us as he came on the Holy Virgin, and as he comes on the Eucharistic elements. May he cast divine fire in our hearts. May he set us aflame with divine love. Then with Blessed Mary, with the whole Catholic Church, may we be found worthy to stand in his presence, and to serve him

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All masses are transmitted on our Facebook page "St Leonard's Parish, North End, Boston"



ST LEONARD PARISH DECEMBER OFFERTORY

Week 1:	\$ 2,177
Week 2:	\$ 6,754
Week 3:	\$ 2,627
Week 4:	\$ 3,773

December Monthly Budget: \$ 9,636

Adoration on Fridays will be held during first Fridays from 12:30pm until 3:00pm ending with the benediction

Each day the friars of St. Christopher Friary pray for the intentions entrusted to them. If you would like your intention included in our prayers, please call the friary prayer request line: 617-742-4190 ext. 100. We are happy to keep you in our prayers.



ONLINE DONATIONS

For the convenience of our parishioners online donations are encouraged.

Use the following QR code for our website donations



venmo

Also Venmo is available for online donations

All intentions and holy cards found near the Saints will be offered up once a month at the Sunday mass

St Leonard Church will be closed for cleaning on Mondays 9:00 AM - 11:00AM & Thursdays 9:00 AM - 11:00AM
Schedule subject to change

Need a meal, or a place to donate clothes?

St. Leonard will be partnering with **Haley House**, a soup kitchen and donation center in South Boston.

Currently, they are most in need of men's clothing. Please check the link haleyhouse.org/goods for list of accepted items.

Donations can be brought to our parish office.



HALEY HOUSE





Pilgrimage to Medjugorje July 24- August 1, 2023

The date for Youth Festival Medjugorje 2023 are July 24 - August 1. Fr Michael Della Penna will be leading a Pilgrimage to Medjugorje for St Leonard's Parish. All the information is posted on the website www.pilgrimages.com/medj_July_31-August_8

All parishioners are invited to sign to the pilgrimage. It is currently listed as Waiting List. It will be open next week and spots will then be first come first served.

Click on Waiting List and register under the pilgrimage. You will be confirmed as soon as you sign up.

RETREAT Bishop Mark O'Connell Vicar General - 2nd in Command to the Cardinal



God's Great Love For Each of Us

Wednesday, January 11, 2023 7PM
Saint Florence
47 Butler Ave
Wakefield MA 01118
www.stflorenceparish.org

Pure In Heart's Winter Break

WE WILL RESUME OUR MEETINGS ON JANUARY 5TH, 2023, OUR MONTHLY PRAISE & WORSHIP NIGHT!

SUGGESTION BOX

We have a suggestion box in the back of the church for all parishioners and visitors





150th NEWS

Happy New Year and Happy Sesquicentennial!!

This new year marks the beginning of the 150th anniversary of St. Leonard's Church. We are so excited to celebrate this milestone anniversary; recognize the contributions of the Italian immigrants who built this Church and honor the Franciscans who have ministered to the parishioners and the North End community since 1873. We are "Building the Future by Honoring the Past." We are focused on the Cross and hope to be transformed by it this year. What an amazing 14 months we have planned and, like our namesake—St. Leonard—we will be centered on the Stations of the Cross. With monthly Stations on the 4th Sunday of each month, hosted by various North End faith based groups; dedication to one Station of the Cross every month with meditations by Franciscan Friars; and the chance to bring the Franciscan San Damiano Cross into parishioners' homes for veneration and prayer, we hope to inspire others to follow in Jesus' footsteps and become more intimately united to Him.

January 8th

KICK-OFF MASS WITH THE CARDINAL- Please join us at the Mass of Thanksgiving for the 150th and the Installation of Father Michael as Pastor on Sunday, January 8th at Noon. We will have light refreshments after the Mass.

If you can help the night before with cleaning the Church and setting up and/or helping the morning of the event, we could use the help.

Please let us know at

celebrating150years@tleonard.org



CELEBRATING 150 YEARS

Please join us as we commence the
year-long celebration of

*The 150th Anniversary of
St. Leonard's Church*

and rejoice in the investiture of

*Father Michael Della Penna O.F.M.
as Pastor*

Sunday, January 8, 2023

Twelve o'clock Mass

St. Leonard's Church

- with Cardinal Seán O'Malley OFM Cap. -

refreshments to follow in St. Joseph's Hall

Building the Future by Honoring the Past



January 22nd

NORTH END LED WAY OF THE CROSS -

Beginning on Sunday, January 22nd and every 4th Sunday through February 2024, a different faith-based group will lead us in an afternoon of prayer and worship that begins with a social after the 12:00 mass from 1:00-2:00, followed by a Holy hour of Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament from 2:00-3:00, and culminates with the Way of the Cross at 3pm. The Italian community will host the first of our 4th of the month Stations in Italian on January 22nd. Please come.

TRAVELING CROSS - Inviting parishioners to host the Sesquicentennial San Damiano cross in their home. This traveling cross will move each week from house to house and offer family, friends, and neighbors the chance to venerate the Cross. Please email celebrating150years@sleonard.org and choose a week to host.

January 28th

FROM ITALY to the NORTH END—An in-depth discussion about Anthony Riccio's recent publication of oral history accounts of neighborhood residents which sheds new light on Italian immigration to Boston and its enduring legacy to the North End. This will be held on Saturday, January 28th from 3-4:30pm in the Church Hall. We hope you can attend.

Be sure to check St. Leonard website (www.saintleonardchurchboston.org) for more information about other upcoming events; the Stations of the Cross meditations; history of the Church and St. Leonard and to volunteer or donate to our Building the Future Fund. Please get involved, this is going to be a banner year!



Saint Leonard's 150th Anniversary Celebration Presents

From Italy to the North End: Migrant Stories & Human Lives

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2023
3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

ST. JOSEPH'S HALL (ENTRANCE
AT 44 PRINCE STREET)



Join North End historians and friends for an in-depth discussion about Anthony Riccio's recent publication of oral history accounts of neighborhood residents ("Stories, Streets and Saints") which sheds new light on Italian immigration to Boston and its enduring legacy to the North End.

For more information:
celebrating150Years@sleonard.org

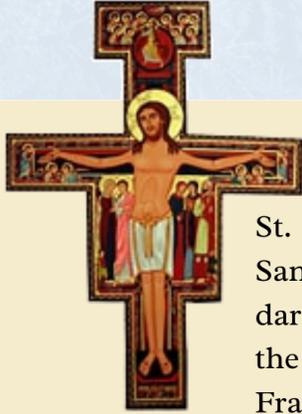
This is our Sesquicentennial Prayer; we hope you will join us in praying it during this year:

Almighty and merciful God, who made Saint Leonard an outstanding herald of the mystery of the Cross, grant, by his intercession, that, acknowledging on earth the riches of the same cross, we may be worthy to attain the fruit of redemption in Heaven.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen

Let us pray that this 150th celebration be an opportunity for us to be transformed by the Cross and more intimately united with Christ.





Travelling San Damiano Cross

St. Francis' vocation began at the foot of the Cross at San Damiano where he prayed to God to "enlighten the darkness of his heart..." Later he heard Jesus say from the Cross, "Go, repair my Church" and as a result the Franciscan order was born. Since that time all Franciscans have a longstanding devotion to the Cross.

St. Leonard, coming out of this tradition, refined the devotion of the Cross by popularizing the Stations of the Cross and preached that we can be transformed in and through the Cross.

Thus, as part of the 150th Anniversary, we would like to invite parishioners to welcome the San Damiano Cross into their homes and allow themselves to be transformed by the Cross.

Parishioners can have the Cross in their home for one week. Let us know if you are interested. We will fill weeks consecutively beginning on January 29, 2023. The Cross will be blessed and handed over at the noon Mass each week. We hope you will invite family, friends and neighbors into your home to pray before the Cross.

To sign-up for the travelling San Damiano Cross, please contact celebrating150Years@sleonard.org or by calling the Parish office at 617-523-2110 and asking for Claudia.



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THE MOST-HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Prayer of intercession

O Mother of God, our queen and our hope,
the refuge of the abandoned and the
intercessor for those who have gone astray;
the joy of all who sorrow and the
protectress of the needy; you see our
poverty, our affliction and misery.

Help us who are weak; feed us who are
hungry; intercede for us with your Son and
our God, and may He deal with us as He
pleases. For we have no other hope, no
other intercessor, no other consolation
except you, O Virgin **Theotokos**.

Protect us beneath your veil, now and ever,
and unto the ages of ages.

Amen.

THEOTOKOS: derives from the Greek terms: **Theos** / 'God'; and **tiktein** / 'to give birth'.

Mary is the Theotokos, the one who gave birth to God