

FOR THIS WEEKEND'S LITURGIES

Processional Hymn (4,8,10:30): #386 in *Worship -verses 1-3*
 Order of the Mass: Front Page or #202 in *Worship*
 Liturgy of the Word: #1001 in *Worship*
 Responsorial Psalm (4,8,10:30): #96 in *Worship*
 Gospel Acclamation (4,8,10:30): #328 in *Worship*
 Preparation Hymn (4,8,10:30): #387 in *Worship*
 Acclamations (4,8,10:30): #353, 367, 357, 384 in *Worship*
 Communion Litany (4,8,10:30): #606 in *Gather*



"If the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into. So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."
 Mt 24:43-44

MASS INTENTIONS & REMEMBRANCES

Sat., 11/30 4:00 pm Donald Painchaud, 6th Anniv., by family
 (Remembrance) Helen & Robert Shannon, by family
 (Remembrance) Arthur Smith, 3rd Anniv., by Mae Desautels
 (Remembrance) Diane Margaret Turner, Month's Mind,
 by the Ford family
 (Remembrance) Stephen Brown, Birthday, by family
Sun., 12/1 8:00 am Patrick Flynn, by Jack Murphy
 10:30 am Jack McShera, Month's Mind,
 by the Erickson family
 (Remembrance) William Hoey, 7th Anniv., by family
 6:00 pm Jeremiah Lucey, 20th Anniv., by family
Mon., 12/2 9:00 am Joseph Trainor, 32nd Anniv., by family
 (Remembrance) William Gemme, 10th Anniv., by his wife
Tue., 12/3 9:00 am John McShera, by Barbara Burdzel
Wed., 12/4 9:00 am Jack McShera, Month's Mind, by family
Thu., 12/5 9:00 am Albert Belsito, Sr., by Barbara Burdzel
 (Remembrance) Lewis Hassett, 19th Anniv., by family
Fri., 12/6 9:00 am For Jonathan Giachelli's Health
Sat., 12/7 4:00 pm Nellie (9th Anniv.) & Albert (35th Anniv.)
 Rabidou, by family
 (Remembrance) Donna Murphy, 15th Anniv.,
 by Joe Chakuas
 (Remembrance) Tommy Desautels, by his mother
 (Remembrance) Roger King, 10th Anniv., by family
 (Remembrance) Theodore George, Sr., by family
 (Remembrance) Michael Chalifoux, by family
Sun., 12/8 8:00 am Irene O'Keefe, by family
 10:30 am Parishioners' Intentions
 6:00 pm Parishioners' Intentions

REST IN PEACE

Pray for the repose of the souls of *Jean Smith, Helen Barton, Phyllis Sullivan, Chris Liazos, Judith Kapetanios* and all our deceased benefactors.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

Envelopes can be found at the church doors and in contribution packets for those who would like to make a donation to defray the cost of decorating the church for Christmas. We place the envelopes at the Christmas creche for remembrance of those listed on the envelopes at all Masses during the Christmas season.

FIRST RECONCILIATION

Next Saturday from 9 to 11:15 am, ten of our young parishioners will participate in a retreat session to be followed at 11:30 am by their First Confessions during a communal Penance Service in the church with their parents and other parishioners. All are welcome to join them. The children will begin First Communion preparation in January and make their First Communion at the 10:30 am Mass on Sunday, April 26th.



We have now raised \$379,117 from 167 donors for the capital campaign – 91% of our target -- just \$38,870 worth of gifts and pledges needed to reach our goal. As of today, \$151,646.80 will be coming back to OLA as pledges are paid over the next 4 years. It should be noted that \$500 of the total is a matching pledge from one donor's employer.

We urge those who have not yet responded to prayerfully consider what they might be able to offer. No gift is too small. Envelopes remain available in the pews of the church in addition to forms everyone should have received in the mail.

CONTRIBUTION REPORT

Last weekend, we deposited the following donations:

-- Weekly Adult Offerings:	\$5,213.55
(\$648.00 in loose offerings and \$4,565.55 in 170 envelopes)	
-- Liturgical Memorials:	\$ 50.00
-- Charitable Ministries:	\$ 50.00
-- Funeral Offerings:	\$ 300.00
-- Rieger Hall Use Donation:	\$ 350.00
-- Maintenance Fund:	\$ 75.00
-- Debt Reductions Donations:	\$ 55.00
-- Catholic School Appeal:	\$ 5.00
-- Christmas Flower Donations:	\$ 200.00

We also received the following online donations:

-- Weekly Adult Offerings:	\$1,030.82
-- Charitable Ministries:	\$ 15.00
-- Maintenance Fund:	\$ 66.49
-- Debt Reduction Donations:	\$ 39.45

LITURGICAL MEMORIALS

The bread and wine being used at all Masses this week has been donated in memory of *Donna Murphy* by Joe Chakuas. The tabernacle candles for the month of December have been donated in memory of *William Gemme* by his wife.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Is 2:1-5/ Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Rom 13:11-14
 Mt 24:37-44
 Monday: Is 4:2-6/Ps122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11
 Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24
 Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 15:29-37
 Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118: 1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27
 Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Mt 9:27-31
 Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6
 Mt 9:35 -10:1, 5a, 6-8
 Next Sunday: Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 19/Rom 15:4-9
 Mt 3:1-12

RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

On the weekend of **December 8th**, our parishes will be conducting the appeal for the **Retirement Fund for Religious**. In 2019 this national collection assisted 30,151 elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who are members of 360 religious institutes throughout the country.

As Christians, we are called to “serve the Lord with gladness” (Ps 100:2). Our elderly religious offer a shining example of what it means to answer this call. During their days of active ministry, they worked tirelessly to build Catholic schools and hospitals, promote social justice, and embrace the neediest among us. In retirement, many continue in volunteer ministry, and all pray for the needs of our Church and world. Inspired by love, their service, past and present, is marked by joy and a deep desire to do the will of God.

As you may know, many religious communities find it increasingly difficult to provide for aging members. Most older religious worked for little or no pay. Today, their communities do not have enough retirement savings. At the same time, health-care costs continue to rise, and fewer members are able to serve in compensated ministry.

Just as our annual *Celebrate Priesthood* event helps our diocese to care for its retired diocesan priests, this national collection assists many religious communities which struggle to provide for aging members. Most elder religious served for small stipends, leaving a large gap in retirement savings. Rising health-care costs and decreased income compound the struggle to provide adequate care. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides vital funding for medications, nursing care, and more. It also helps religious congregations implement long-range retirement strategies, even as they continue to serve the People of God.

I recognize this is but one of numerous worthy causes in need of assistance; I ask simply that you consider giving to those who have given a lifetime. In thanksgiving for their faithful service, please join me in supporting the Retirement Fund for Religious and in praying for God’s blessing on our nation’s elderly religious women and men.

With prayerful best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus

Bishop of Worcester

GIVING TREE PROJECT

This weekend, we begin our annual charitable project for Christmas. A tree is set up at the Holy Family Shrine decorated with paper ornaments that each represent a specific gift requested by children being served by the Diocesan Urban Ministry agency, families with children who have requested assistance for food and gifts for their children and diapers for Visitation House that serves expectant and new mothers with limited means in the city of Worcester.

Gifts for Urban Ministry should not be gift wrapped – the recipient families want to do that themselves. Please attach paper ornaments to gifts. Ornaments asking for Walmart or Supermarket gift cards should be placed in an envelope with the gift card and placed in the collection basket or brought to the rectory. Do not put gift cards at the tree. We have sadly experienced theft in the past. Gifts should be brought to the tree by 6:00 pm Sunday, December 15th.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BASKET RAFFLE

The OLA Charitable Ministries Group will hold this raffle after the 10:30 am Mass on December 8th.

Chances will be on sale before and after all Masses this weekend: November 30th & December 1st before and after all Masses and at the 4:00 pm Mass, December 7th and 8:00 am and 10:30 am Masses December 7th.

Chances will be offered at the following rates: \$1 each or 6 chances for \$5. The money raised is used by our Charitable Ministries Group to fund their Thanksgiving and Christmas outreach and other assistance needed during the year.

HALO SUPPORT GROUP

HALO stands for **Healing After Loss (from) Overdose**. On the first Monday of each month this support group meets to help family members cope with the loss of a loved one from drugs or alcohol. They meet at 7:00 pm in the Rieger Hall of our church. The next session will take place Monday, December 2nd. For more information or to ask questions, contact Aileen Lovejoy at 508-755-5041 or Deb Dowd-Foley at 508-248-5622.

THE WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun., December 1 – First Sunday of Advent

8:00 am Lord’s Day Mass

9:00 am Religious Education Classes

10:30 am Lord’s Day Mass

1:00 pm Baptism

6:00 pm Lord’s Day Mass

Mon., December 2 – Monday of First Week of Advent

9:00 am Daily Mass

Tue., December 3 – St. Francis Xavier

9:00 am Daily Mass

Wed., December 4 – St. John Damascene

9:00 am Daily Mass

Thu., December 5 – Thursday of First Week of Advent

9:00 am Daily Mass

Fri., December 6 -St. Nicholas

9:00 am Daily Mass

Sat., December 7– St. Ambrose

3:00 pm Confessions

4:00 pm Vigil Mass

120 CLUB

The winner of last week’s drawing is **Debra D’Agostino - #221**.

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

December 8th is the usual date for this feast day of Our Lady. This year it falls on the First Sunday of Advent which liturgically takes precedence over feast days, the feast will, therefore, be observed on Monday, December 9th. However, holy day obligation is not transferred. We will have just the usual 9 am Mass that day to observe the feast. There is NO OBLIGATION to participate in Mass this year.

PRESIDERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday, December 7	4:00 pm	Fr. Monroe
Sunday, December 8	8:00 am	Fr. Dougherty
	10:30 am	Fr. Monroe
	6:00 pm	Fr. Monroe