

# Fourth Sunday of Advent

## Mass Intentions - Week of December 24<sup>th</sup>

<b>Saturday</b> 4:30 pm @ SM	<b>Dec. 23 Vigil of 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> Marc Bussiere (deceased, birthday), by his parents
<b>Sunday</b> *9:00 am @ SH	<b>Dec. 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> Terence Connor, by Michele & Wally Connor
<b>Sunday</b> 4:30 pm @ SH 10:00 pm @ SH	<b>Dec. 24 Vigil of Christmas</b> Elizabeth Cronin Tetrault, by her family All OLSH parishioners and benefactors
<b>Monday</b> 8 am @ SM 10:30 am @ SH	<b>Dec. 25 The Nativity of the Lord</b> All OLSH parishioners and benefactors All OLSH parishioners and benefactors
<b>Tuesday</b> 8 am @ SH	<b>Dec. 26 St. Stephen</b> Holy Souls from the Nov. 2 <sup>nd</sup> offering
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Dec. 27 NO MASS TODAY – NYC BUS TRIP</b>
<b>Thursday</b> 8 am @ SH	<b>Dec. 28 The Holy Innocents</b> M/M Albert Doiron, by the family
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Dec. 29 No Mass Today</b>
<b>Saturday</b> 4:30 pm @ SM	<b>Dec. 30 Vigil of the Holy Family</b> Raymond McGee, by Gerry & Brede Woods
<b>Sunday</b> 8:00 am @ SH 10:30 am @ SH	<b>Dec. 31 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary &amp; Joseph</b> Helen Dunn, by her family

Please pray for our brothers & sisters who have asked for our prayers:



*Lisa Marie Berthel, Dee Barrett, William Boland, Dora & Ray Brunelle, Micah Burt, Michael Carpenter, Fr. Dave, Ginger Duhamel, Scott Falls, Doris Fenton, Callie Fitzgerald, Herbert Frew, Rev. Charles Gonet, Brian Hanrahan, Peter Jennette, Sandy Kady, Deborah Kaplavka, Bernie & Priscilla Kulas, Theresa Lupacchino, Juanita Morse, Julie Nydam, Isabella Paolucci, Rita Pare, Janyce Parker, Karen Trainor Resseguie, Janice Smith, Kathleen Thompson, Brian Trudeau, Richard Trudeau, Patricia Tuttle*

We pray for all the deceased members & benefactors of our parish; all those in Military Service; and those suffering from the effects of natural disaster, epidemics, and political strife.

joy to the world

## Christmas Greetings!

*We wish you a Blessed Christmas as we once again celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.*

*May the Lord Jesus be welcomed into every heart & home within our parish. Thanks for bringing joy to our world!*

Gratefully,

*Fr. Chet & our Parish Staff*



### *Last Weekend's Offertory*

<b>General</b>	<b>\$3,087</b>
<b>Fuel Donation</b>	<b>\$1,358</b>
<b>Religious Retirement Fund</b>	<b>\$88</b>

The bank accepts checks written in BLUE or BLACK ink only.

Special Collections	
<b>12/24 &amp; 25</b>	<b>Christmas</b>
<b>1/1/18</b>	<b>Solemnity of Mary (Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year)</b>

### *~Stewardship~*

*"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" - LUKE 1:28*  
Faith is a gift from God. Take time in silence and thank Him for all the gifts He has given you. Try to set aside any anger or resentment you have and really open your heart to receive the gift of God's mercy and forgiveness. We can't give what we don't have. We need to receive God's mercy and forgiveness first before we can give it to others.

### *~Word of Life~*

"An unexpected pregnancy can be a difficult and frightening time, and it's important that your friend knows you are thinking of her and supporting her. ...Your support might be the only support she receives. Even if we never know how, the smallest things we do can change someone's life." USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "10 Ways to Support Her When She's Unexpectedly Expecting."

### **New Year's Day 2018**

January 1<sup>st</sup> is usually a Holy Day of Obligation when we honor Mary as the Mother of God & pray for world peace. However, in 2018, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> is on a Monday. As a result, the Bishops of the United States have removed the obligation to attend Mass. OLSH will celebrate the Holy Day on 1/1/18 with one Mass @ 8 am at SH. It's still a wonderful way to start the new calendar year.



## Religious Education News...

### No Classes

Sunday 12/24 – No Classes – Christmas

Sunday 12/31 – No Classes – New Year's

Office of the Bishop  
49 Elm St.  
Worcester, MA 01609

December 2017

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

A chapel in Shepherd's Field outside of Bethlehem commemorates the wondrous events of Christmas in three beautiful paintings.

In the first painting, the shepherds, keeping watch over their flock by night, are roused from their silent vigil by the glad tidings of an angel, glorious streams from Heaven, and the strains of an angelic choir. In the second painting, the shepherds, having traveled to Bethlehem, bow in awe and adoration before the new born Christ child in the manger as heavenly light illuminates the Holy Family. In the final painting, dawn is breaking, the Heavenly streams of God's glory are fading, and the shepherds are again back amidst their flock. But the shepherds are changed.

In the third painting, an elderly shepherd looks upward with an expression of wonder. Another shepherd pipes a tune on a simple musical instrument while a shepherd boy skips with exuberance, joy, and uplifted arms. They have returned to the place where they were but they have not returned the way they were. They are filled with joy, wonder and awe that God has come to them.

Christmas reminds us that God has also come to us. The shepherds' path to joy is also ours. At Christmas Mass and every Mass we might think of ourselves as shepherds going to Bethlehem. After hearing God's Word, we go to Him in the communion line, bow in adoration and receive the same Divine Child born of Mary and worshiped by the shepherds at the manger.

As the shepherds departed from the stable, so may we depart Christmas Mass, and every Mass, with joy, wonder and awe that God has come to us. May this Christmas change us so that as we return to our routines with a deeper appreciation of God's love for us, we may bear witness to that love just as the shepherds did on that first Christmas morning.

With every prayerful best wish for a Blessed and Merry Christmas, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus  
Bishop of Worcester

### New York City Trip

No Mass on Wednesday - Some of us will depart West Brookfield for our day away exploring America's largest city for the holiday season. Pray that we have a safe trip and a memorable adventure.



**KNIGHTS  
OF COLUMBUS**  
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

**\*NOTE DATE CHANGE: NEXT REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY DEC. 27TH @ 7 PM**

### JANUARY CALENDAR RAFFLE

Starts next week!

31 Chances to Win for only \$10!

Great Stocking Stuffers!!

Don't miss out. There are a few tickets left. Get yours NOW!!



### Red Cross Blood Drive

Thursday Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>

1 – 7 pm in Dugan Hall



### Make A Christmas Donation...

Please consider making a tax deductible donation to the St. Aloysius Catholic School Scholarship Fund. A generous donor is matching every donation, dollar for dollar, up to the first \$20,000 raised - twice the amount pledged last year. This money will help to reduce tuition rates for each student during the 2018/2019 school year.

Donate online at

[www.staloyusiuscatholicsschool.com](http://www.staloyusiuscatholicsschool.com) or mail checks to the school at PO Box 522 Gilbertville, MA



- NYC trip 12/27
- K of C Red Cross Blood Drive 12/28

