

# St. Joseph's Church

*Established 1849*

## 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday OF ADVENT



### MASS SCHEDULE

Sat. 4:00 p.m. ~ Sun. 9:00 & 11:30  
Daily Mass ~ 12:10 PM  
RCIA ~ Wed. 6:30 PM  
Holy Hour ~ Mon-Fri. 11 AM  
Rosary ~ Mon-Fri. 11:30 AM  
Prayer Line (413) 494-0354

*PASTOR*  
Msgr. Michael Shershanovich  
e-mail:  
msgrmike@stjoepittsfield.com

*DEACON*  
Robert Esposito  
(413)-281-5812

*IN RESIDENCE*  
Bishop Timothy McDonnell

414 NORTH STREET, PITTSFIELD, MA  
MON. - WED: 10:00 AM-3:00 PM  
TEL: (413) 445-5789  
WWW.STJOEPITTSFIELD.COM

*SECRETARY*  
Michele Madden  
e-mail: mmadden@stjoepittsfield.com

*PASTORAL MINISTER*  
Mrs. Patricia Momnie

*YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION*  
John Arasimowicz  
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December 1, 2024



As we prepare to celebrate the Thanksgiving festival, I just want to take this opportunity to once again express my appreciation and

my gratitude for the wonderful 175th anniversary for the Parish and my 50th Anniversary as a priest. I'm so very grateful to you all for your kindness, your love and your generosity. This has been one glorious year of celebrations. The Diocese has focused our celebration on Real to Reel. You can find that on YouTube. They did a masterful job of presenting the highlights of the year celebration. I feel as if I am the luckiest priest in our Diocese to be here with you at St. Joseph's. Bishop McDonnell, Deacon, Bob, and myself extend to you our best wishes and prayers for a happy and blessed Thanksgiving holiday. Sincerely, Father Mike

Hair fashion color specialist.  
Jackie Carty, Catholic owned business  
35 Stoddard Ave., Pittsfield  
\$25 hair cuts.  
Call 413-441-3859

### CHRISTMAS BUS TRIP

Sunday, December 15th to the Majestic Theater in West Springfield. **Home For The Holidays** at 2PM and then to dinner at Hamel's Summit View Restaurant in Holyoke. The cost of the trip is \$75. For reservations please call the Rectory 413-445-5789.

Berkshire Lyric will present its annual Christmas concert **Love's Pure Light** at St. Mark's on Friday, December 13th at 7:30 PM.

Traditional and contemporary a cappella carols by Warlock, Pärt, Bruckner, Brahms and others.

The 85 voice Berkshire Lyric Chorus will be joined by our young women's ensemble Melodious Accord as well as our own Lyric Children's Chorus. With soloists Lily Lothrop, Rich Geiler and John Demler.

Tickets are \$20 and will be sold at the door or in advance through the website, with children and students 18 and under admitted for free.



### TOY DRIVE

The Knights of Columbus annual toy drive

December 8th from 12 to 3. The

drop off point for the toys will be at St. Joseph Church Parish Center. Please do not wrap the toys. Thank you

### ST. MARY'S CHRISTMAS BAZAAR & LIVE AUCTION

St. Mary's Church - 159 Church St., Cheshire  
Day 1 - Saturday, December 7th - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Classic Christmas Bazaar: Bring a non-perishable food item to benefit the Cheshire Pantry and be entered to win a prize! The event will feature: White Elephant Tag Sale, Christmas Crafts & Gifts, Santa's Cafe, Baked Goods & Candy, Jewelry, Religious Goods, Adult & Children's Chance Auctions, Money Raffle, Scratch Ticket Raffle, Large Item Raffles - Cord of Wood, Generator, & More, and a 50/50 to benefit the Cheshire Food Pantry!

Day 2 - Sunday, December 8th - noon  
Live auction featuring local gift certificates, items, a pallet of pellets, 100 gallons of fuel oil, & more! This auction is fun and an easy way to start if you have never been to an auction before! Registration begins at 11:00 a.m. Food will be available along with leftover White Elephant tag sale items from the day before! For questions, please call 413-743-2110 or email [bazaar@acparishes.org](mailto:bazaar@acparishes.org).



Confirmation classes for Sunday, December 7th and December 22nd from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Attendance is required.



**December 1st** - No Class. Thanksgiving weekend.

**December 8th** - Classes for grades K through grade 5 from 10:00-11:00 a.m. Classes for grades 6-8 from 5:00-6:30 p.m.

**December 15th** - Classes for grades K through grade 5 from 10:00-11:00 a.m.





### RCIA

Sessions are on Wednesday's at 6:00 p.m. in the North Chapel. Any adult wishing to be baptized or needing to complete the sacraments. Please call the rectory at 413-445-5789.

### PREPARING THE MANGER

Where do you fall in the "Christmas-songs-in-November" debate — do you like them, tolerate them, or outright hate them? There's no theological problem with Christmas songs in November outside of worship, even if it's not everyone's cup of tea. But there is a problem with getting so caught up in the baggage of the season — the trimmings, the gifts, the celebrations, all of which are marvelous in their own way — that you forget to prepare the manger. Every good Catholic knows that Lent is a penitential season. It's hard to miss that point — Lent doesn't even have any fun songs you can groove to on the radio. We are pretty good at recognizing that Lent calls us to examine ourselves. To deny ourselves. To give of ourselves. And most of all, Lent calls us to prepare, as a good steward does, for the return of our master. It's harder for us to remember that with Advent, but Advent is just as much of an opportunity for penance, preparation, and reconciliation to God — and just as much reason, too. The very name of the season — "advent" — encourages us to focus on what is coming, not what is already here. Be on guard, the readings tell us today, "so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and (the coming of the Lord) catch you unexpectedly, like a trap." So let us not forget — our master's advent is upon us. And let us ask ourselves: how can we prepare the manger?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

### REMEMBERING ADVENT

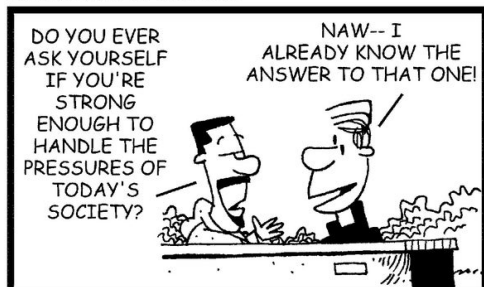
By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

It always makes me laugh a little, these apocalyptic Gospel readings that come at the beginning of Advent. What a funny juxtaposition — all of us stringing twinkle lights and wrapping presents, with Jesus thundering on about the end of the world. It's Christmas! Don't be a downer. Pour me some more eggnog and turn up the Nat King Cole. Well, except it's not Christmas. It's Advent. There's nothing wrong with the cultural accessories that have developed alongside this religious holiday. There's nothing wrong with the twinkle lights and the eggnog. But here's the thing: when Satan knows we're watching the front gate, he slips in the back door. And something I've found is that one back door he likes to use in my life is Cultural Christmas. I love Cultural Christmas. I tend to overdo Cultural Christmas. I overschedule, I overdecorate, I overgift. All this "over" leads to — you guessed it! — overwhelm. "The anxieties of daily life," as Jesus describes in today's Gospel, make my heart drowsy. My spiritual Christmas joy, time and time again, is diminished — all because I embrace Cultural Christmas and ignore Advent. Satan sneaks in with the twinkle lights and the Christmas carols and he snatches The Present like the nasty little Grinch he is. He photobombs my experience of the religious holidays with the anxieties I so willingly embrace because of the production that is Cultural Christmas.

So, remember to rest this Advent, folks. Rest your heart. Rest your hands. Watch the back door and the front. Remember that this is the perfect time to be thinking about the state of your soul and not just the state of your house.

(Even though, yes, I know, the guests are coming any minute.)


1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Important  
DATE!

Save the Date! - The 12th Night Festival will be held on January 11, 2025, starting with Mass at 4:00 pm, followed by a dinner at Zucchini's. More details to come!

### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

 Sat. 4:00 p.m.	Sun. 9:00 a.m.	Sun. 11:30 a.m.
Robin O'Brien	Jeff Vincent	Mike McMahon
Mary Sukiennik	Sharon Vincent	Mike McClusky
Sheila Bouquet	Nancy Woitkoski	Sharon McClusky
Pat Momnie	Rebecca Cao	 Jeff Gerard



## DECEMBER 1, 2024 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

When I was a young priest, about one year after ordination, I was called to the hospital to anoint a dying mother of three young children. She had a painful, terminal cancer. After celebrating Last Rites with her, I said, "Don't be afraid." She looked me square in the eye from her hospital bed and said, "Oh Father, I am in a lot of pain, but I am not afraid. Something wonderful is about to happen." A few days later she died.

Christians face the ending of our personal various "worlds" in a totally unique way. This first Sunday of Advent, Jesus says that when people see their world falling apart, they find themselves "fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world" (Luke 21:26). In our fear, our natural response is to check out, to hide our heads in drunkenness, distraction, and false securities. But Jesus commands us to "look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

He then compares what's coming to a lovely summer in full bloom. That's what the cross and resurrection empower us to do, as strange as it may seem.

Advent challenge: What world in your life is collapsing? A relationship, a dream, a work opportunity? Maybe you're troubled by a crumbling world in the political or economic sphere. Or maybe someone you love is seriously ill or dying. Name that world or worlds. Then pray: "Lord, help me to not faint with fear. Help me to raise my head and see your redemption coming."

— Father John Muir

## MASS REQUESTS

<b>Saturday, November 30th</b> Karyl Murphy & Marge Flynn Requested by Friends	4:00 PM
<b>Sunday, December 1st</b> William Pietrefase Requested by Cousin and Godson	9:00 AM
Living & Deceased Members of the Aulisi Family	11:30 AM
<i>Sanctuary Candle</i> Bruno Montini Requested by Vivian	
<b>Monday, December 2nd</b> Margaret Knight Requested by Family	12:10 PM
<b>Tuesday, December 3rd</b>	12:10 PM
<b>Wednesday, December 4th</b> Ronald Pelletier Paul & Corinne Mays	12:10 PM
<b>Thursday, December 5th</b> Bunny O'Donnell Requested by Pat	12:10 PM
<b>Friday, December 6th</b> Gene Momnie Requested by Pat	12:10 PM
<b>Saturday, December 7th</b> Bill Gilmore-4th Anniversary Requested by Family	4:00 PM
<b>Sunday, December 8th</b> Irene Menard Requested by Family	9:00 AM
Deceased Members of Notre Dame	11:30 AM
<i>Sanctuary Candle</i> Bob & Mary Traversa Requested by Vivian	

### READINGS FOR WEEK DECEMBER 1, 2024

Sunday: Jer 33:14-16/Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 (1b)/1 Thes 3:12-4:2/Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 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 and 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