



st. patrick's
ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH
LOVE GOD. LOVE ONE ANOTHER. GROW DISCIPLES.

Bear Your Cross



23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
September 7, 2025

LOVE GOD, LOVE ONE ANOTHER, GROW DISCIPLES

Address: 7 East Street | Whitinsville, MA 01588

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Rectory Phone: 508-234-5656

Rectory Fax: 508-234-6845

Parish Website: www.mystpatrickss.com

Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. Tomasz Borkowski

FrTomasz@mystpatrickss.com

Deacon: Deacon Chris Finan

DeaconChris@mystpatrickss.com

Director of Finance and Operations:

Mrs. Elizabeth Baker: Liz@mystpatrickss.com

Director of Ministries & Growth:

Mrs. Sadie Perkins: Sadie@mystpatrickss.com

Interim Director of Student Ministries:

Mrs. Shelly Mombourquette: Shelly@mystpatrickss.com

Director of Music Ministries:

Mr. Christopher Bilodeau: Chris@mystpatrickss.com

Director of A/V Ministries:

Mr. Shawn McPherson: Shawn@mystpatrickss.com

Cemetery Superintendents:

Mr. Derek & Mr. Tom Ciccone: Dtciccone6@gmail.com

Volunteer Support

Wedding Coordinator:

Ms. Mary Contino: MaryC@mystpatrickss.com

Bulletin, Staff Support:

Mrs. Marylin Arrigan: officesupport@mystpatrickss.com

Home Visits Coordinator:

Joyce Silva: Joyce.silva44@Verizon.net
or call her cell at 508-341-3371

Masses & Sacraments

Masses: Sat. 4:30 p.m.; Sun. 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

Confession: Sat. 3:30 - 4:00 p.m.

*Call the Office for Information on receiving the
Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Matrimony,
Sacrament of the Sick, and Homebound Visits.*

Follow us on Social Media!



**St Patricks Parish
Whitinsville**

Live Stream Mass Schedule

Saturday: 4:30 p.m. Sunday: 10:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

Cable: NCTV 191 & 192

Mon: 12:00 Noon Wed. 8:00 a.m. Sat: 8:00 a.m.

Mass schedule

Weekend of September 6 – 7

Sat.	4:30 PM	+	Leo Brochu (10th Anniv.) By his Family
Sun.	8:00 AM	+	Robert Tougas By his Friends
	10:00 AM	+	Ana Afonso (birthday remembrance) By her Family
	5:00 PM	+	Evelyn & Ted Decoteau By their Friends

Week of September 8 – September 12

Mon.	8:30 AM	+	Patricia Beaudoin By her Friends
Tues.	8:30 AM	+	Jeannette & Gerald Richer By their Family
Wed.	3:00 PM	+	<i>Adoration & Divine Mercy</i>
Wed.	4:30 PM	+	Parishioners of St. Patrick's
Thurs. + Fri		+	No Mass

Weekend of September 13 – 14

Sat.	4:30 PM	+	Mary & Leo Beaulieu By their Daughters
Sun.	8:00 AM	+	Parishioners of St. Patrick's
	10:00 AM	+	Elizabeth Gjonaj (remembrance) By a Friend
	5:00 PM	+	Michael Connors (1st Anniv.) By his Family

BAPTISM

James Ciaran Clarke
Sunday, September 7 at the 10:00 Mass

The Mass book is open for the months August through October. If you would like to book a Mass in memory of or in honor of a loved one, please call the Rectory at 508-234-5656. The stipend for a Mass is \$10.00.

Reflections:



What does it mean, to bear one's cross? Honestly, I'm not sure I know. What's more, I'm not certain that what previous generations of my family believed about bearing the cross of Jesus, is something which I hold to be true, because it conflicts so strongly with what I believe about the nature of God.

In our Gospel from Sunday, Jesus says, *Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.* (Luke 14:26) What does this mean? Is Jesus referring to his coming suffering and death on a cross? Is Jesus saying that in order to follow him, we must suffer like him? I know plenty of folks who would say that, yes, Jesus is saying that, for us to take up our cross, we must endure our suffering quietly, and perhaps even with gratitude, because it's through our suffering that we earn discipleship with Christ. This is what my parents were taught, and their parents, etc. When you google search 'What does it mean to bear one's cross,' it will say something like, 'to submit to a painful duty or responsibility in a way that mirrors Jesus' obedience to God's will.'

But, does God want us to suffer? Wasn't Jesus' death on a cross an act of God's love for us? Why would suffering and pain be a necessary part of our relationship with God?

To me, there's a problem with this requirement for suffering; something that just doesn't add up, especially coming from the beginning and end of all love in the universe, which is God. Jesus' story didn't end with his suffering on the cross! When we look upon Jesus on the cross, we can't allow ourselves to stop at the suffering, because Jesus was doing something much more powerful; he was giving! Jesus didn't simply endure pain, he gave himself over; his whole self, poured himself out, not to suffering, but to love! Jesus submitted himself to love, out of love, for love. There's no way around it. Period. Exclamation point! The most bottom of the bottom line.

I'm not saying anything new here. I'm also not trying to downplay the importance of bearing our cross. I do believe that there is real wisdom in this idea, especially in knowing that we are not alone when we suffer; God is always with us, and it's the image of Christ on the cross which reminds us that God knows our pain when we do suffer. In my own life, I've seen the concept of 'bear your cross' over-simplified and used to justify harmful behavior towards others or towards oneself — a sort of 'Shut up and take it,' kind of thing. There is no way that the Jesus we know about would teach such a thing.

So, maybe when we think of bearing our cross, we can remember that the cross doesn't represent suffering, it represents giving, and giving all out of love. God doesn't want us to suffer. Romans 5:1 says that, because of Jesus, we are at peace with God. Earlier in Romans, Paul says that it is out of God's kindness that we are saved in Christ! If we were all meant to carry crosses as Jesus did, Jesus' cross wouldn't have meant anything. But, it meant everything!!

What does it mean to bear one's cross? I guess I don't fully know. I'm pretty sure I know what it doesn't mean, but I'm no theologian. I'm just a guy who plays piano. I guess what I know is that God loves me, and that he wants the best for me, and he knows that my joy rests on my capacity to love. Giving is a big part of that. I know that if I follow Jesus, I'll know how to love fully. But, I will stumble because life is hard sometimes. God is always there for you, and for me... always! I will trust in that, and that will be enough!

St. Pat's *fellowship* POTLUCK

Where: Fairwood's Recreation, 116 West Hartford Avenue, Uxbridge, MA

When: Sunday, September 21

Time: 11:30 a.m.

What to bring: Families, please bring a main dish *and* salad (green, potato, pasta.) Singles, please bring a side dish *or* dessert. Drinks will be provided.

Please join us as we celebrate the end of a fantastic summer and the beginning of a wonderful season at the St. Patrick's Annual **PARISH POTLUCK**. This is a great way for people to come together over a meal. Jesus ate with his disciples, and He is present with us every time we sit down to eat.

We can't wait to see what amazing food you bring to share! Let's make this potluck a memorable gathering filled with *faith and fellowship*!

You may register on our website at mystpatrickss.com and by signing up at church entrances.

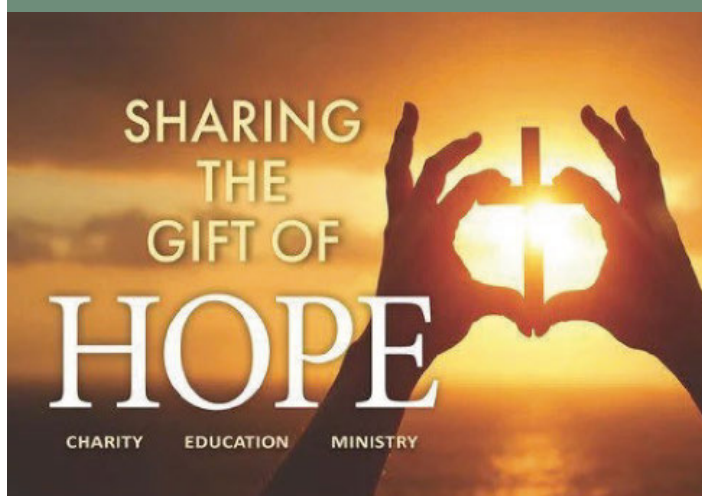
For questions, please contact Sadie Perkins, Director of Ministries & Growth, by e-mailing her at sadie@mystpatrickss.com.

Picnic Tables Swimming/Beach Fire Pit Playground Outdoor Games

All Are Welcome!



LOVE GOD, LOVE ONE ANOTHER, GROW DISCIPLES



The 2025 Partners in Charity Campaign is complete.

This year, our parish goal was \$50,000.

Due to your generosity, we were able to raise **\$50,300** through **141 donors**.

THANK YOU to all who donated!

Thank you

Thank you for remembering St. Patrick's in you memorial and will contributions.

A special thank you to the family of

Joan Steele

Who asked for donations to the Building Fund.

We greatly appreciate your generosity in memory of your loved one.

Upcoming Collections

September 14: John 21 Breakfast

September 21: Faith Formation

September 28: Catholic Schools

To Give a Contribution:

Text the word **mystpatrick's** to the number 508-475-5725 and it will bring you to the link to donate.

Scan this **QR Code** with your phone and it will bring you to our giving link.



- OR -

For **VENMO** accounts, search business for: @mystpatrick's



Also, please consider St. Patrick Parish for a Charitable Bequest as part of your estate planning.

OFFERING

Week	Weekly Envelopes & Cash	Weekly Online	Weekly Total	Goal
7/27/2025	\$3,711.00	\$1,953.36	\$5,664.36	\$8,700
8/3/2025	\$5,667.00	\$8,600.08	\$14,267.08	\$8,700
8/10/2025	\$3,691.00	\$2,114.12	\$5,805.12	\$8,700
8/17/2025	\$3,693.00	\$3,263.36	\$6,956.36	\$8,700
8/24/2025	\$4,458.00	\$2,356.58	\$6,814.58	\$8,700
Average Weekly To-Date FY 2025	\$4,671.54	\$3,811.69	\$8,483.22	\$8,700

Fr. Emmanuel Ogu is Visiting St. Patrick's This Weekend!

Dominicans in Africa are currently located in some 25 countries. Our Dominican Province of Nigeria & Ghana is the largest entity on the African continent. We are engaged in a diversity of ministries. Our efforts are very much concentrated in the areas of basic formation and training for the priesthood and religious life; primary evangelization in rural parts of Africa; ongoing Christian formation in the faith through parish ministries; ministry among Muslims; social justice ministries, and health care delivery; chaplaincies and education ministries at all levels. In Nigeria, about 94% of Catholics (more than 30 million Catholics) attend Mass on Sundays, and vocations are booming with more than 25,000 Seminarians who are eager to serve God as priests.

However, Christians are extremely persecuted, priests and nuns are incessantly kidnapped, churches are sometimes burnt, along with other forms of persecution. Yet in all these, we are committed to bringing Christ in a relevant way to all the people that we minister unto. In his presentation, our representative will be making reference to these ministerial engagements of ours. We would greatly appreciate your support and encouragement for a successful appeal.



***From all of us at
St. Patrick's...***



YIA Autumn Recycling Event

Please start saving items for the
YIA Autumn Recycling Event
Saturday, October 25th 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

There will be stations for clothing/textiles &
accessories, electronics, books,
media & bottles/cans.

More information:

www.mystpatricks.com/recycling-event

All proceeds benefit YIA service projects.



**Note: Paper Shredding will NOT be offered at
the Autumn Recycling event.**

Agape Café

AGAPE (Love) Café is open after the 10:00 a.m. Mass. Come downstairs to the Parish Center to enjoy coffee, donuts, juice, and fruit.

We hope that all will attend. Have a great time catching up with old friends and making new friends.

All are welcome!



***Please come to
socialize and enjoy.***



September 14 at the 10:00 a.m. Mass there will be a backpack blessing. Students, bring your backpacks to church and receive a blessing to start your new school year off with faith.

After Mass, all are welcome to join at an ice cream social in the Parish Center, along with Agape Café.

Let Us Pray for Those in the Service

Almighty God, we stand before you asking for your divine mercy and protection. Embrace with your invincible armor our loved ones in all branches of the service. Give them courage and strength against all enemies both spiritual and physical and hasten their safe journey back to their homes.

Please remember the following service personnel in your prayers as they serve and protect our

country: L. Cpl. Aaron Marshall, Okinawa, USS Dwight D. Eisenhower, U.S. Army;
L. Cpl. Troy Monteville, Stateside; Capt. Jason Jordan, U.S. Army, So. Korea;
U.S. Marine L. Cpl. Kevin James Sabin, Lejeune, NC;
Command Master Chief U.S.C.G. Ben Richards, Charleston, South Carolina;
Marine Corps PFC Nathan Kozlowski, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri;
Captain Robie Sabourin, Army, Middle East

Safe Environment

As a reminder, our parish follows the guidelines of the national Charter for Protection of Children and Young People approved by the U.S. Bishops and the policies of the Diocese of Worcester in screening those who work with children in our care and in helping victims of abuse find healing.

Call Judith Audette, Victims Service Coordinator for our Diocese at 508-929-4363 (direct line & confidential voicemail.)

Office of Healing and Prevention Diocese of Worcester

Victim's Assistant Coordinator Judith Audette:
508-929-4363 or go to WorcesterDiocese.org
for more information.

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