

First Sunday of
ADVENT



**Our Lady of Mt.
Carmel and Our Lady of
Loreto Parish
PRAYER FOR PARISH
SPIRITUAL RENEWAL**



Lord God, You love us with an everlasting love, and You choose us to share Your love with others. We ask that You rekindle in our hearts a new spirit of faith, of prayer and of reconciliation. Inspire us to search out and find ways of bringing one another closer to You. We pray for all who form our parish community, that we remain faithful to Your teaching, that we remain steadfast in our prayer, both personal and communal, that together with You and the Holy Spirit, our parish may be renewed and transformed. All this we ask in the name of Jesus and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Please cut out and pray daily.



1st Sunday of Advent

Another Advent is here! Do you remember what you did during Advent last year to prepare for the coming of Jesus? Did you feel a sense of anticipation while being watchful and alert? You can be honest.

In Mark's Gospel reading for this Sunday, Jesus speaks of a man who leaves on travels and before he departs he puts his stewards in charge, so that upon his return his home will be ready. You and I are those whom Jesus has put in charge. We each have our own work to do. If we are not preparing using our own unique gifts and talents, who will do our work? Perhaps we think we can do that later, or maybe next year. But if no one knows when he is coming, how do we gauge how much time we have to complete our work?

Most of us get so caught up in holiday shopping, making travel plans, preparing for guests, and attending holiday parties that even if we meant well, the motivation we had on day one of the Advent season slowly slips away. This year, let us resolve to be good stewards and be about our Lord's work. He trusted us enough to leave us in charge. He must believe we are up to the task

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CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve – 4:00 pm (Choir) and 6:00 pm
Christmas Day – 8:00 am and 10:00 am

Christmas Giving Trees

Our parish continues to support the poor at Christmas through our Giving Tree tradition.



One tree supports:

The children from the Guild of St. Agnes. These gifts should be wrapped with the tag firmly attached on the outside.

AND

The Nazareth Home for Boys (red stocking with silver loop). These gifts should be returned unwrapped in a gift bag with the tag firmly attached.

The second tree supports:

The Rainbow Child Development Center and local families in need. Please bring your gifts, unwrapped, in a gift bag with the tag attached.

All gifts are to be brought to church on the weekends of December 8/9 and 15/16. Gifts will be displayed at the entrance of our sanctuary.

PLEASE BRING ALL GIFTS IN BY DEC. 16

Also, gift cards, in any denomination, are requested for our Seminarians, which may be mailed directly to them.

What a wonderful way to prepare ourselves for the celebration of Christmas!

Feast of the Immaculate Conception



Saturday, December 8, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary and a holy day of obligation. Mass for the holy day will be held at 6 pm on Friday, December 7, the vigil of the holy day, and at 7 am on Saturday, December 8. The feast is celebrated nine months before the Nativity of Mary, which is celebrated on September 8. It is the patronal feast day of the United States. In the Constitution *Ineffabilis Deus* of December 8, 1854, Pope Pius IX pronounced and defined that the Blessed Virgin Mary "in the first instance of her conception, by a singular privilege and grace granted by God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved exempt from all stain of original sin."

SAVE THE DATES!!!!

August 8-9-10-11, 2019

ITALIAN FESTIVAL 2019

Celebrate Advent by Lighting a Candle



The season of Advent begins this week. The traditional Advent wreath is set up in our sanctuary. We invite you and your family to come forward at the beginning of each Mass during Advent to light the candles on the wreath. A sign-up book has been placed on the table in the vestibule of the church to reserve the Mass at which you and your family would like to come forward. This is a wonderful way for you and your family to participate in this centuries-old Advent tradition.

ADULT CONFIRMATION

Bishop McManus will celebrate Confirmation for those over the age of 18 who are baptized Catholics and have received their First Communion but have never been confirmed. The ceremony will take place on Sunday, February 3, 2019 at St. Paul Cathedral. If you are interested in participating, please see Monsignor Pedone, Deacon or Deacon Gerry.

SODA SALE

The CYC will be selling 12 packs of Pepsi, Diet Pepsi, Mountain Dew and Orange Crush for the extremely low price of \$2 per 12 pack. Proceeds will benefit the church. They will be selling after all Masses the weekend of December 14 and 15. This is a great opportunity to stock up for the holidays.



Ministry Assignments for December 8 & 9

December 8 @ 4:00 pm

Lectors – Jim Buffone

Ministers – Nancy Gurgone & Tom Lavin

December 9 @ 8 am

Lector - Chris Cook

Ministers - Joe Sama & Louise Faiola

December 9 @ 10 am

Lector - Dave Soares

Ministers - Chizoma Nosike & Elizabeth Santley

December 9 @ 11:30 am

Lector—Pat Solitro

Ministers—Maria Sciannameo & Al Cecchini

Please arrange for a substitute if you cannot fulfill your assignment. Thank you for the good work that you do!

AND THE WINNER IS.....

The winner of the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Knights of Columbus Thanksgiving Turkey Dinner raffle was Debbie Colletta. Congratulations! Thank you to all who purchased tickets.

November 29, 2018

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

On **December 8 and 9**, our parishes will be conducting the appeal for the **Retirement Fund for Religious**, a national collection that benefits nearly 31,000 elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who are members of 547 religious institutes throughout the country. The sad reality is that only 23 of those communities are adequately funded to care for their elderly and infirm members who have consecrated their lives to serving God and the Church.

During the 2018 World Day for Consecrated Life, Pope Francis remarked, “There is no growth without roots and no flowering without new buds.” This analogy has certainly born out within the life of the Church in the United States. Senior religious were the roots that established Catholic schools, hospitals, and social service agencies—allowing generations of Catholics to flourish. Today the example of older religious inspires younger members to persevere in mission and 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 give what you can. 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.

With prayerful best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester

This Week in Our Parish

Mon., Dec. 3—7 pm—Adult Faith Formation

Tues., Dec. 4—10 am-2 pm—Golden Years Gathering

7 pm—Knights of Columbus

Fri., Dec. 7—6 pm—Vigil Mass for Holy Day

Sat., Dec. 8—7 am—Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Sun., Dec. 9—Religious Education classes:

8:30 - 10 am: Pre-K - Grade 4

11 am - 12:15 pm - Grades 5-10

WINTER WEATHER POLICY

If Worcester schools cancel or delay the opening of school, the 7:00 AM weekday Mass is also canceled. This is done as a matter of safety and to allow us to clean the parking lots and walkways.

Financial Stewardship

For the week ending November 25, 2018

Income



Offertory:

Week-End	\$3,545.00
Fuel	565.00
EFT	237.12
Mail	180.00
Maintenance	115.00
Campaign for Human Development	20.00
Religious Education	20.00
Total Offertory	\$4,862.12
CYC Youth & Family Programs	381.00
Rent	375.00
Funeral Stipends	300.00
Parking	135.00
Candles	52.00
Mass Stipends	40.00
Total	\$5,695.12

Expenses

Campaign for Human Development	282.00
Religious Education	213.00
Office Supplies	12.99
Total	\$507.99

Harvest Bazaar Financial Report

REVENUES:

Gross Event	\$8,009.00
Grand Raffle	3,755.00
Total Revenues	\$11,764.00

EXPENSES:

All Costs	\$1,847.22
Grand Raffle Prizes	1,750.00
Total Expenses	3,597.22

NET INCOME **\$8,166.78**

GRAND RAFFLE WINNERS:

First Prize	Adam Pultorak	\$1,000.00
Second Prize	Phyllis D'Angelo	500.00
Third Prize	Virginia Frankian	250.00
		<u>\$1,750.00</u>

ARE YOU INTERESTED???

Our Parish has a wonderful group of people who are Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers but we are always looking for more people to help out with these important ministries. Aside from serving during Masses, the Eucharistic Ministers assist in visiting our homebound parishioners. Are you interested in joining us? If so, please call Sue Cozzolino (Lectors) at 508-615-7914 or scozzo1227@gmail.com, Julie Tufano (Eucharistic Ministers) at 508-757-3170 or tufanojulie@yahoo.com, Chet DiLeo (homebound) at 508-852-3048 or cdileo2t@gmail.com, or Deacon John at deaconjb09@gmail.com.

CYC EVENTS

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

December 2—8:30 AM—11:30 AM

Pancakes, sausage and juice \$4 per person



MOVIE NIGHT

How the Grinch Stole Christmas

December 2—4:00 PM—6:30 PM

No charge

We will serve hot dogs, green popcorn, cookies and green punch.

We are asking for donations of backpacks, new or gently used blankets, adult size hats and gloves, bottled water, snacks such as granola bars or fruit snacks. We will be giving these donations to the Veterans Shelter.

Any and all donations are appreciated.



CYC ICE SKATING NIGHT

Friday, December 14th

More details to follow.



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

We will be going to O'Connor's Restaurant on Monday, December 3 at 6:00 p.m. to celebrate an Irish Christmas. This includes wearing an ugly Christmas sweater. We will be singing Irish Christmas songs. The Group will read *The Dead* by James Joyce and have a book discussion on the book and author on Wednesday, December 12 at 3 p.m. If anyone would like to join please contact Joan D'Argenis at 508-753-5001 or joan_dargenis@yahoo.com

Upcoming Events

- Sun., Dec. 2—**Pancake Breakfast**—8:30-11:30—Parish Center
- Sun., Dec. 2—**MOVIE NIGHT**—4-6:30PM—Parish Center
- Mon., Dec. 3—**Adult Faith Formation**, Parish Center, 7:00 pm
- Mon., Dec. 10—**Adult Faith Formation**, Parish Center, 7:00 pm
- Tues., Dec. 11—**Salem Cross Inn / Yankee Candle Trip**
Hosted by Joan D'Argenis. Details to follow.
- Thurs., Dec. 13—**Wright's Farm & LaSalette Lights**
hosted by Immaculate Conception Church. \$59 pp
Call Michelle Deignan @ 508-853-0820.
- Fri., Dec. 14—**CYC Ice Skating Night**

FOOD DONATIONS

Through your generosity, we are able to help families in our local area. Please drop off food items in the church vestibule or at the parish center. Your donations to the Friendly House Food Pantry makes a big difference to someone who is hungry. Many thanks!

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 1, 2018—3:00 p.m.—Confessions

Saturday, December 1, 2018—4:00 p.m.

Richard Battelle by Wife

Anthony Murgio and Anthony Aiello by Dionne Family

Sunday, December 2, 2018—8:00 a.m.

John “Jackie” Lyons by Ralph, Helen and Rudy Aromando

Sunday, December 2, 2018—10:00 a.m.

Theresa Groccia (Birthday Remembrance) by Family
Francis Pascucci and Greg Travaglio by Carmine and Esther

Sunday, December 2, 2018—11:30 a.m.

Joseph McGee (10th Anniversary) and **Philomena Ritacco** (30th Anniversary) by Family

Monday, December 3, 2018—7:00 a.m.

All Deceased Firefighters

Tuesday, December 4, 2018—7:00 a.m.

The Sick of the Parish

Wednesday, December 5, 2018—7:00 a.m.

Parishioners Intentions

Thursday, December 6, 2018—7:00 a.m.

The Souls in Purgatory

Friday, December 7, 2018—6:00 p.m.

Immaculate Conception Vigil Mass

Parishioners Intentions

Saturday, December 8, 2018—7:00 a.m.

Immaculate Conception Holy Day Mass

The People of the Parish

Saturday, December 8, 2018—3:00 p.m.—Confessions

Saturday, December 8, 2018—4:00 p.m.

Lucy Sjosten (Birthday Remembrance) by Family
In Thanksgiving for Charles Vasquez by Maria Ortiz

Sunday, December 9, 2018—8:00 a.m.

The People of the Parish

Sunday, December 9, 2018 - 10:00 a.m.

Gregory Travaglio by Michael and Rosanna Travaglio
Rita Fairbanks by Family

Sunday, December 9, 2018 - 11:30 a.m.

The Sick of the Parish



Please pray for the sick of our parish: Francis Caffone, Susan Stomski, Donna Grasseschi, Lori Blackwell, Carmela Szklarz, Matteo Fiore, Patrick Loconto, Mary O'Connor, Christopher Collazo, Paula Mari, Sim Simone, Cathy Coffey, Mildred Bassan, Vincent Pusateri, Sylvia Pusateri, Debbie Caffone, Joseph Ginskus, Philip Powers, Virginia Czubrynski, Karen Remian, Sandra Powers, Robert Mazzola, Jennifer Bodinizzo, Martin Laine, Accurzio & Loretta Sclafani, Robert Bacon, Belinda Sahagun, Thelma Ortiz, Caryl Masiello, Cynthia Pedone, Roland Dionne, Maxwell Mitchell, Louis Nape, Carol Youngstrom, Richard Patrone, Sue Cozzolino, Carol Iaconi, Anthony DeAngelis, Reverend Charles Armey, Anthony & Paul Locantore, Antoinetta Froio, Ernest Martone, Kelly Piscillo and Ann Servidio. May the Lord give them strength, courage and healing.

SICK LIST

We are working on updating our sick list above. If you are currently on the list or you know of someone who is on the list and **wish to remain on the sick list** please call the parish office at 508-753-5001 or email Lisa at lisaolmc@gmail.com

Rest in Peace

We, the parish community of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and Our Lady of Loreto, extend our deepest sympathy to the families and friends of Francis Porcaro and Lena Barry. May God grant them peace forever and bring comfort to their families and friends.



PLEASE REMEMBER OUR PARISH IN YOUR WILLS, BEQUESTS AND UPON THE DEATH OF LOVED ONES FOR DONATIONS. MANY THANKS!

Puzzle

Circle the picture that is facing the **wrong** way. Then color in all the pictures.



Saint Francis de Sales reminds us:

“Everyone needs half an hour of prayer each day, unless we are busy — then we need an hour.”

A SALEM CROSS CHRISTMAS December 11, 2018

Featuring Christmas Music & Outstanding Cuisine at Salem Cross Inn & The Brilliant Bright Nights Lights

9:30 AM Depart this morning and travel to Spencer, Massachusetts, where you'll visit The Saint Joseph's Abbey Gift Shop where the famous Trappist Preserves & Jellies are available for purchase along with fresh homemade cakes, a variety of books and musical items as well.

Now you'll visit the well renown and historic Salem Cross Inn for a delicious full course luncheon, featuring Soup du Jour, a Garden Salad, Salem Cross' famous flaky Chicken Pot Pie or Maple Salmon and a Scrumptious Dessert. As you enjoy the holiday ambiance of the beautifully decorated Salem Cross Inn, you'll listen to the sounds of Christmas music.

You will also enjoy a visit to the Yankee Candle Shop's Bavarian Christmas Village in Deerfield.

The time has come to head for the Bright Nights, New England's most elaborate display, where you'll wonder at the artistry of the lights.

You'll arrive back home at approximately 7:00 PM after a delightful day enjoying the seasonal Christmas Spirit at Salem Cross & Bright Nights.

Tour Cost: \$79.00 Per Person

To sign up please call the Parish Office at 508-753-5001 or email Joan at Joan_dargenis@yahoo.com

How about making a Cursillo weekend?

Cursillo or "short course in Christianity", an uplifting and educational experience, facilitated by a team of laypeople and clergy who deliver organized talks and discussions plus the witness of their own lives, struggles and triumphs in Christ. Experience the laughter, prayer, great music, wonderful meals and so much more.

Weekends are held at the Immaculate Conception Spiritual Renewal Center in Putnam, CT.

2019: Men's: March 21-24 & October 10-13
Women's: May 2-5 & November 14-17

For more information, Elizabeth Santley @ 508-304-8871 or esantley@yahoo.com. Applications are available in the vestibule if the church.

Mount Carmel Golden Years Club

December 2018

December 4, 2018

10:00 A.M.	Socializing
11:00 AM	Cake Sale
12:00 NOON	Lunch – Followed by Social.
After Lunch	Bingo

December 11, 2018

10:00 A.M.	Socializing
	Christmas Party

December 18, 2018

10:00 A.M.	Socializing
	Secret Santa
12:00 NOON	Lunch
After Lunch	Bingo

December 25, 2018 NO GOLDEN YEARS

January 1, 2018 NO GOLDEN YEARS

If schools are delayed or cancelled there is no Golden Years Club.

*Bingo for members only

ALL DONATIONS FOR THE FOOD BANK WOULD BE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED AND APPRECIATED.

Urban Missionaries of Our Lady of Hope

Walter Doyle, co-director of Urban Missionaries, is asking for our help this Christmas season. This is what they need:

BAG MAKERS, SORTERS, GIFT PASSER-OUTERS, and SITE WORKERS:

Dates: Dec. 8, Dec. 23 from 9:00 am-8:00 pm. A lot of help will be needed on Sun. Dec. 9 and Sun. Dec. 16 and Dec. 16 until Dec. 24, especially from 9:00am-8:00pm.

SPECIAL WORKERS:

Dec. 22, 23, and 24, when the neediest come in for gifts. Sometimes they get turned away because there are no volunteers to make up gift bags for them. If you can help, call 508-831-7455 or email mailbox@urbanmissionaries.com

We will be working out of 242 Canterbury St.

Everyone is most welcome to join us. May your Christmas be blessed because of what you can do for your neighbors.

ENDOW GROUP

A new Endow group, a program for women of all ages interested in growing in faith and community, is starting the first week of Advent. The group will begin with an 8-week study of Pope John Paul II's Letter to Women. Contact Sarah Berry at sarahlizberry@gmail.com or 214-632-3399 for more information.

LIGHT A CANDLE & LIGHT THE WORLD

on 1230AM/970AM/101.1FM Emmanuel Catholic Radio's live Christmas broadcast, "Christ be Our Light" 7am – 6pm on Thursday, December 6. Tune in to hear Bishop McManus and when you make your Christmas donation to Emmanuel Catholic Radio, we will light a candle for your special intention in honor or memory of someone you care about. Support Catholic radio with your tax-deductible donation and help us light 101 candles to make a brighter Christmas for all. Proceeds fund our Catholic Schools Essay Contest Visit: www.1230radio.com. Phone: 508-767-1020 Mail: Emmanuel Radio, P.O. Box 20027 Worcester, MA 01602.