

Fourth 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.

MASS SCHEDULE THIS WEEK

Monday, December 24th – Mass will be celebrated at 7:00 am

Christmas Eve – 4:00 pm (Choir) and 6:00 pm

Christmas Day – 8:00 am and 10:00 am

Wednesday, December 26th – No Mass

Thursday, December 27th – Mass at 7:00 am

Friday – Communion Service at 7:00 am

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS SCHEDULE

New Year's Eve Day – Mass will be celebrated at 7:00 am

New Year's Eve – 4:00 pm

New Year's Day – 10:00 am

PARISH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, DECEMBER 24TH, CHRISTMAS DAY, MONDAY, DECEMBER 31ST AND NEW YEAR'S DAY. MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!!!

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 John or Deacon Gerry.



4th Sunday of Advent

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus." Today is the last Sunday of the Advent season, and we hear in the Gospel the anticipation of the feast we will celebrate in just one day. Christmas is coming! Jesus is on his way!

We have had weeks to prepare for this momentous occasion, and now we are on the very verge of its arrival. The children in our midst can hardly contain their excitement as they wait to wake up on Christmas morning. The thrill of this coming moment is meant to remind us of the joy and anticipation we should all feel as we await the coming of Christ. Yes, Christmas is a great feast, but there is more here than a remembrance of the past or a fabulous party in the present. There is a looking-ahead as well. We celebrate as we anticipate.

Much as Mary must have waited in wonder during the nine months of her pregnancy, we wait in hopeful expectation as Christians looking forward to being reunited with our Savior. Our future is full of hope. The deflating melancholy that afflicts many people after a holiday runs its course need not be the experience of the Christian waiting for Christ. We are always looking forward to something! There is never a moment when we have no cause for joy. Our lives are lived in a kind of unending advent as we stand in watchful waiting.

Let us remember this as we enter into our Christmas Eve gatherings and festivities. As we join with family and friends to share in the good things of this life, may we carry with us the joy of knowing that even better things lie in store for us who welcome the infant Jesus into our hearts and homes.

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Christmas Giving Trees

Thank you so much for your generosity to those in need. Many people - children as well as adults - will have a brighter Christmas because of you. A veritable mountain of Christmas gifts were contributed to the children of St. Agnes Guild, the residents of the Nazareth Home for Boys, and several other charities. The gifts were attractively - and thoughtfully - wrapped. Many of you brought "extra" gifts - beyond what was listed on the tag. You are incredibly generous people. God bless you all!

IF YOU STILL HAVE A TAG FROM ONE OF THE GIVING TREES BUT HAVE NOT YET PURCHASED A GIFT, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE.

December 2018

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem stands as an ancient witness to the birth of Jesus Christ. Originally constructed in 327 A.D. over a cave venerated as the birthplace of Jesus, most of the original church was destroyed in a sixth century Samaritan revolt. Rebuilt in 565, the second church still stands today.

Through the centuries, the Church of the Nativity has been battered by time and weather. It has suffered fires, earthquakes, desecrations and even gun battles. The interior, too, suffers neglect as squabbles among Armenian, Greek and Catholic caretakers have delayed needed renovations to the roof, walls and paintings.

For some on the outside, the Church of the Nativity, battered, fortress-like and unattractive to the eye, is disappointing. Even to some on the inside, the neglect is disheartening.

But then, descending a staircase to the cave below, one sees on the floor a silver star and the words, "Here Jesus Christ was born to the Virgin Mary." Those words and that realization give one profound pause. Here, on this very spot, salvation came, hope was born. Here, Mary laid God's Son in a manger. To this very place, angels directed shepherds who hastened and worshiped. In this very place, like Mary and Joseph, pilgrims for centuries knelt in awe and wonder. From this spot, they have returned home, closer to God, renewed in faith, convinced anew of the great love of God who created us and draws us on. Realizing all that, pilgrims are glad that they did not let the visible defects deter them from entering the Church and staying in it to reach the sacred spot.

In some ways, the Church of the Nativity might be a metaphor for today's Church. Scandals, desecration, and the neglect of some priests and bishops in past years have caused tremendous suffering and sullied the image of the Church. Looking around from outside, some don't want to enter. Being discouraged on the inside, others have left. This, too, is tragic because it is only in the heart of the Church in the liturgy, sacraments, communion of the saints, the Scriptures and Tradition authentically handed on that one can regularly encounter the ordinary means of God's saving graces. Our world, our society and culture need those graces. We must continue to remain vigilant in order to protect our children but we must also never forget the treasures that have been entrusted to the Church and offered to us in the sacraments. The same Jesus, born at Bethlehem, and laid in the manger by Mary comes to us to nourish our souls, to bring us His love, healing and peace. Like Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds and the Magi, may that encounter give you and your loved ones joy and peace on Christmas and each week at Mass.

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



*May the miracle of Christ's birth
bring joy to you and yours this
Blessed Season!*

*Merry Christmas
from
Msgr. Pedone, Deacon Gerry, Deacon John
and all the staff from our parish*



The Nativity of the Lord

Take a moment to contemplate the **symbols of the season**. The **crèche** tells us the Gospel stories: first from Luke, which details the human birth in a lowly stable and the angels' message to shepherds; and later from Matthew, which describes the arrival of Magi who signify that God's salvation extends to all. The **angels** stand as heralds of the good news, an emblem for each of us on this solemn feast of our own duty to spread the message that Christ is born and saves us from our sins. The **tree** stands as a symbol of life, its green branches unfading even in the winter cold, just as God's life remains in us even though our human form should die. The **wreath** made of evergreens reminds us that God is one, without beginning or end. The **candles** recall the birth of him who is forever the Light of the world. Today, we celebrate the fact that God came to earth as a beautiful, innocent infant who rejects no one. We rejoice this day in the birth of Christ! And tonight, we remember that Jesus Christ came into this world quietly, humbly, and gracefully, an example of how we should live our lives

Liturgical Publications

**NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2019**

Financial Stewardship

For the week ending December 16, 2018

Income

Offertory:	
Week-End	\$4,298.00
Mail	604.00
Fuel	590.00
Religious Retirement	240.00
EFT	237.12
Maintenance	125.00
Immaculate Conception	50.00
Total Offertory	\$6,144.12
Demolition Loan Proceeds	7,386.25
Transfer from Savings	6,752.00
Parking	1,400.00
Donations	853.00
CYC—Youth & Family Programs	632.00
Flowers	304.00
Funeral Stipends	300.00
Miscellaneous	91.00
Mass Stipends	70.00
Candles	63.00

Total	<u>\$23,995.37</u>
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Expenses

Salaries & Wages	\$8,358.46
Payroll Taxes (November)	1,277.46
Clergy Benefit Plan (December)	503.50
Mount Carmel Cleanup	372.00
Organists	250.00
Rubbish Removal	228.41
Funeral Stipends	150.00
Employee Benefits	131.94
Professional Fees	114.00
Office Supplies and Expense	111.12
Total	<u>\$11,496.89</u>

Are you interested?

We have a need for ushers/greeters to greet people as they enter the church, collect the offerings, and pass out bulletins after Mass. Please call the office or see John Oliver at the 4:00 pm Mass on Saturday if you would like to be part of this ministry.

Thank You!

SAVE THE DATES!!!!
August 8-9-10-11, 2019
ITALIAN FESTIVAL 2019

This Week in Our Parish

Mon., Dec. 24—Office closed.
Tues., Dec. 25— Merry Christmas! Office closed.
Sun., Dec 30— No Religious Education classes

Ministry Assignments for December 22-January 1December 24 @ 4:00 pm (choir)

Lectors – Linda Chenevert

Ministers – Heather Morello & Irene Astrella

Dec. 24 @ 6:00 pm

Lector—Sue Cozzolino

Ministers—Maria Sciannameo & Julie Tufano

Dec. 25 @ 8:00 am

Lector—Sandra SanClemente

Ministers—Sr. Roberta & Sr. Linda

Dec. 25 @ 10:00 am

Lector—Flo Dionne

Ministers—Chizoma Nosike and Louise Faiola

Dec. 29 @ 4:00 pm

Lector—Jim Buffone

Ministers—Chet DiLeo & Elaine David

December 30 @ 8:00 am

Lector - Chris Cook

Ministers - Louise Faiola & ———

December 30 @ 10:00 am

Lector - Vera Novick

Ministers - Debbie & Gerry Woods

December 30 @ 11:30 am

Lector—Claudia Minaya

Ministers—Maria Sciannameo & ———

December 31 @ 4:00 pm

Lector—Sue Cozzolino

Ministers—Julie Tufano & Elizabeth Santley

January 1 @ 10:00 am

Lector—Flo Dionne

Ministers—Pat Solitro & Louise Faiola

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

THE POWER OF A CANDLE BURNING BRIGHTLY

Fire is a powerful symbol. That's why flame plays such a prominent role in our liturgies. It helps us to understand Jesus as the Light of the world. We have the opportunity to light a candle as a symbol of our love for departed family and friends and to have it burn brightly for seven days. Witnessing it connects us with our loved one. And knowing that it burns throughout the day and night comforts us. A SANCTUARY LAMP signifies the presence of Jesus in the tabernacle. We have two—one in the church and the other in the chapel. Call the Office to arrange for either of them to burn for your loved one for seven days. The donation is \$10. You may also choose to light a vigil candle in front of Our Blessed Mother's statue in the rear of the church for a goodwill offering. Experience the power and energy of a candle burning brightly.



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 22, 2018—3:00 p.m.—Confessions

Saturday, December 22, 2018—4:00 p.m.

The Fenuccio Family and The Guerra Family by Anna Fenuccio

Lena Barry (Month's Mind) by Fulvia D'Amico

Sunday, December 23, 2018—8:00 a.m.

Thanksgiving for Maria Rand by Family

Sunday, December 23, 2018—10:00 a.m.

Robert Reynolds (15th Anniversary) by Rose Smith

Michael DelloStritto by Wife Josie and Children

Sunday, December 23, 2018—11:30 a.m.

Mary Gabriel (23rd Anniversary) by granddaughter Barbara

Nicholas Verdolino and Pepino, Pauline and Tom

Pellegrino by Fran and Santino

Monday, December 24, 2018—7:00 a.m.

Parishioners Intentions

Monday, December 24, 2018—4:00 p.m.

Charles D'Elia, Sr. by Family

Monday, December 24, 2018—6:00 p.m.

Sarah Dipersia by Kim & Dave Dipersia

Tuesday, December 25, 2018—8:00 a.m.

Peter and Viola Griffin by Family

Tuesday, December 25, 2018—10:00 a.m.

The People of the Parish

Wednesday, December 26, 2018—NO MASS

Thursday, December 27, 2018—7:00 a.m.

The Sick of the Parish

Saturday, December 29, 2018—3:00 p.m.—Confessions

Saturday, December 29, 2018—4:00 p.m.

Joseph Tufano (40th Anniversary) by Family

Lorraine Rocheleau by Marie Adamonis

Joan Mero, Joyce Mills and Janet Eros by John Mero

Sunday, December 30, 2018—8:00 a.m.

Eleanor B. D'Elia (Birthday Remembrance) by Family

Sunday, December 30, 2018—10:00 a.m.

Michael Viapiano by Elvira Migliorelli

Yolanda Minchollo (First Anniversary) by sister Natalie Zois

Sunday, December 30, 2018—11:30 a.m.

Charles (28th Anniversary) **and Eileen** (First Anniversary)

Mombourquette

Domenic Mercurio Sr. by Family



Please pray for the sick of our parish: Francis Caffone, Susan Stomski, Donna Grasseschi, Lori Blackwell, Carmela Szklarz, Matteo Fiore, Patrick Loconto, Frank "Butch" Rano, 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 Naple, Carol Youngstrom, Richard Patrone, Sue Cozzolino, Carol Iaconi, Anthony DeAngelis, Reverend Charles Armeay, 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

THIS WEEK OUR SANCTUARY LAMPS ARE DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF:

Henry C. Pignataro Sr.

(Birthday Remembrance)

By Children

Mary Gabriel

(23rd Anniversary)

by granddaughter Barbara



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 Josephine Tomasetta, Jennie Acampora and John Monopoli. 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!**

Pray...Pray...Pray...

Mount Carmel Golden Years Club**December 2018****December 25, 2018** NO GOLDEN YEARS**January 1, 2018** NO GOLDEN YEARS

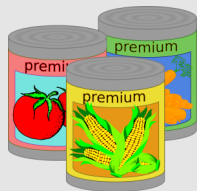
If schools are delayed or cancelled there is no Golden Years Club.

*Bingo for members only

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

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!

**How about making a Cursillo weekend?**

Cursillo or "short course in Christianity", involving laypeople and clergy who deliver organized talks and discussions plus the witness of their own lives, struggles and triumphs in Christ. 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.

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.

**DAILY MASS ON TV AND THE INTERNET**

Tune in on Monday through Friday on Charter TV3 on channel 193 at 9 am for the local Daily Mass on cable celebrated by various priests from around our diocese. Also airs at 4:30 pm in Shrewsbury on Ch. 28, and 5 pm in Clinton area on Ch. 8.

Photos of December 15 Ordination Mass at the Cathedral of St. Paul. Mount Carmel Knights of Columbus assisting.

