

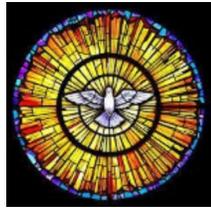


THE HOLY FAMILY



He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man. - Lk 2:51-52

**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

**NEW YEAR'S EVE – FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31ST
– MASS WILL BE CELEBRATED AT 4:00 PM
NEW YEAR'S DAY – NO MORNING MASS.
MASS WILL BE CELEBRATED AT 4:00 PM
SUNDAY, JANUARY 2ND – MASSES CELEBRATED AT 8:00 AND 10:30 AM**

**PARISH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31ST AND
MONDAY, JANUARY 3RD.**

**A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO ALL!
GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GOODNESS AND
GENEROSITY!!!**

LEGACY OF HOPE

You, as a parish community, have pledged and donated \$322,159.55, based on 173 gifts, to this diocesan capital campaign which is a landmark financial endeavor to strengthen our local parish communities and our diocesan Church. This campaign gives us an opportunity to go beyond our comfort zones to sacrifice in the name of Jesus Christ so as to provide a firm foundation of hope for our local Church. Our goal is \$393,760.00 and we are \$71,600.45 short of this goal. So far, the campaign has raised \$30,799,681.94, but the Diocese is still short of its goal of \$32,000,000. The campaign has already returned over \$50,000 to our parish.

It is my hope that we can make up this deficit of \$71,600.45 by giving the opportunity to those who were unable to pledge or donate at the time we were undertaking the drive two years ago to do so now. I will be reaching out by letter to those parishioners who now may be in a better financial position to help out. If anyone can help out in this regard, or give an additional gift, please see Monsignor Pedone. Also, please pray for the success of this capital campaign within our parish and throughout our Diocese. As always, I thank you for your generosity and may God bless you!

*A New Year ~~~
A New Commitment*

Looking for a fresh start seems only natural as we start a New Year. We make commitments to ourselves to improve some aspect of our lives as we look at our new, clean, uncluttered (for the moment) calendars. To help you with your fresh start, consider these suggestions:

- Pray More*
- Advance Your Spiritual Journey*
- Learn Something New*
- Eat Healthier*
- Save Money*
- Spend More Time with Family*
- Say the Rosary*
- Be Less Stressed*
- Read More*
- Look Ahead with Joyful Hope*

These are, however, only suggestions. Ultimately the decision is yours to make. How will you make a "Fresh Start" this New Year?

**HOW TO LIVE A HAPPY LIFE
Some Suggestions**

- Be kinder than necessary.
- Make it a habit to do nice things for people who will never find out.
- Judge your success by the degree that you're enjoying peace, health, and love.
- Be a good looser as well as a good winner.
- Don't drink and drive.
- Don't text and drive.
- Live so that when your children think of fairness, caring and integrity, they think of you.



HAPPY NEW YEAR

*May 2022 bring you
Peace, Love and Blessings!*

Happy New Year!

*from
Msgr. Pedone, Deacon Gerry, Deacon Don
and all the staff from our parish*

Visitation House “Bottle” Drive Update:
Our parish has donated \$1,710 to this year’s drive!
Thank you all so much for your kindness and generosity.

When we come to Mass, let us all be respectful of the Eucharist in the tabernacle and spend some quiet time with Jesus. Its nice to see people we haven’t seen for awhile and gather with friends and family, but as we go through the vestibule and enter the main part of the church, its time to visit with Jesus.

PRAYER BEFORE MASS

Come, Holy Spirit, quiet my heart and my head, as I gather with my family, friends and neighbors to celebrate Mass. Quiet the thoughts and distractions that will keep me from worship. Open my mouth in prayer and song. Open my ears to hear God’s word. Open my eyes to the mystery of the Eucharist. Open my heart to receive Jesus with love. May I go forth strengthened to take the Mass into my life this week.

A grudge is a heavy thing to carry.

ANNUAL MARCH FOR LIFE

The Worcester Diocese will not be able to provide bus service to Washington DC for the Annual March for Life on January 21, 2022 due to covid limitations.

We invite you to attend the Pro-Life Mass being offered at St. Paul’s Cathedral in Worcester on Thursday, January 20th at 7 PM, to pray in solidarity with those who will be marching in Washington DC. for an end to abortion and the restoration of a Culture of Life.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

“See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.” (1 John 3:1) During this season of giving, let us remember a beautiful gift that we have received – being children of God! As God’s children, it’s in our DNA that we share and express our love for others as well. Tell your spouse, children, other family members and friends that you love them, every day! Also, pray for those people that are different than you, those that you may not like or those that go out of their way to annoy you. Your prayers may be the start of a new friendship.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

“He gave power to become children of God.” If you think you may be called to share the Father’s love as a priest, deacon, sister or brother, contact the Vocation Office at (508)630-4473 or email: dona-to.infante@gmail.com.

Something to think about....

If we all did the things we are capable of doing, we would astound ourselves.

Thomas Edison

Financial Stewardship
For the week ending December 26, 2021



Due to the holidays, this bulletin was submitted earlier than usual to the printer. The financial information for December 19 was not available at that time. That information will be posted in the January 2 bulletin.

SAVE THE DATE!

The Annual Worcester Diocesan Catholic Men’s Conference - Men (of all ages, including teens and college students) are invited to this important in-person conference, scheduled for Assumption University on **Saturday, April 2, 2022**. Visit the conference website at www.firstmensconf.org for information and to purchase tickets online and elsewhere. Come and hear dynamic talks from outstanding Catholic leaders: Kevin O’Brien, Tim Francis, Dan Egan, Father Anthony Hamaty and Dr. Pat Castle. For a Conference brochure, further information or registration, call Joan DeMasi at 508-929-4345. Adult tickets are \$45 until March 18th, afterwards \$60. Student tickets are always \$30.

December 23, 2021

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Next weekend, the parishes in our diocese will participate in the national collection for **The Catholic University of America** in Washington, D.C. Established in 1887, the university is the only American university with ecclesiastical faculties granting canonical degrees in canon law, philosophy and theology.

Catholic University is helping to renew and strengthen the Church. The university has always been the research institution where the Church comes to think. For example, by creating an Institute for Diocesan Excellence in Administration (IDEA), where lay scholars and professionals can support clergy by providing expertise and accountability in the areas of education, finance, canon law and culture, Catholic University serves as a springboard in renewing and strengthening Catholicism in our country.

Catholic University is committed to excellence in teaching and research. With its 12 schools and 23 research centers, the university provides an exceptional Catholic education to almost 7,000 students annually. The university prepares students to respond to the many issues facing the Church and society today by way of its many programs, such as those in ethical business practices; classical architecture; intelligence studies; neuroscience; nursing; Hispanic ministry; social service; and Catholic bioethics.

I encourage you to be generous in the special collection for The Catholic University of America to be taken up on the weekend of January 2, 2022.

With every prayerful best wish for a Blessed New Year, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester



MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

"And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." Supernatural communication was nothing new for Mary. The angel Gabriel had already appeared and spoken to her when she agreed to bear God's Son. Her husband Joseph also had a kind of divine intervention in the dream where the angel told him to go ahead and marry her. When she was first pregnant, her cousin Elizabeth had been led by the Holy Spirit to know the secret that Mary was "the mother of my Lord" (Lk 1:43). Now, Jesus has just been born and a crew of earthy shepherds appears at her door with a message from heaven: that the Savior has been born. And Mary believed them. She did not doubt their sincerity or the authenticity of their message. She took the words to heart, and meditated upon the meaning of it all.

What might strike us as peculiar in all of this is that God chose to speak to Mary in a variety of ways. This holy and immaculate woman, this Mother of God, did not always receive direct communication from on high. Sometimes, God chose to speak to her through other people. Sometimes, he revealed himself to them in order to reveal himself to her. And God does the same with us.

It's easy to daydream about having our own personal revelation from God, to hear his voice loud and clear, directing, encouraging, and supporting us in our times of need and confusion. But this isn't the standard pattern of God's operation. Mary was tuned in enough to hear God's voice all around her instead of expecting it to always sound the same. We can imitate this same kind of openness by seeking to discover how God may be speaking to us through the voices of others.

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One way to spread JOY is to put

Jesus first
Others second
You third

**A World at Prayer
is a
World at Peace**



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 25, 2021—8:00 a.m.

The People of the Parish

Saturday, December 25, 2021—10:30 a.m.

Joseph and Katherine Riggieri and Joseph Riggieri Jr. by daughter and sister Dolores

Sunday, December 26, 2021—8:00 a.m.

The Sick of the Parish

Sunday, December 26, 2021—10:30 a.m.

John and James O'Brien by Rita O'Brien
Domenic Mercurio Sr. by Family

Monday, December 27, 2021—7:00 a.m.

Barbara and Robert Domiano Jr. by the Cianci Family

Tuesday, December 28, 2021—7:00 a.m.

Joseph Tufano (43rd Anniversary) by Family

Wednesday, December 29, 2021—7:00 a.m.

Peter and Viola Griffin by Family

Thursday, December 30, 2021—7:00 a.m.

Parishioners Intentions

Friday, December 31, 2021—4:00 p.m.

The People of the Parish

Saturday, January 1, 2022—4:00 p.m.

Jeanette LeClair (19th Anniversary) by Family
Thanksgiving for Merlin and Maria Banzuela

Sunday, January 2, 2022—8:00 a.m.

The Sick of the Parish

Sunday, January 2, 2022—10:30 a.m.

Joseph Froio (4th Anniversary) by Wife Antonietta and Family



Please pray for the sick of our parish: Francis Caffone, Donna Grasseschi, Lori Blackwell, Matteo Fiore, Patrick Loconto, Frank "Butch" Rano, Sylvia Pusateri, Thelma Ortiz, Cynthia Pedone, Roland Dionne, Sue Cozzolino, Anthony DeAngelis, Anthony & Paul Locantore, Ann Servidio, Eleanor Gallo, Joseph Vancelette, Vinny Tiscione, Madelyn Martin, Anthony Paldino, Ann Marie Verdolino, Emma Taubert, Charlene Swalec, Irene Bastardo, Lorrie Tufano, Riccardo & Silvia Cazzaniga, Maxwell Mitchell, Lynn Wagner, Carol Youngstrom, Rudy Aromando, Chris Watson, Aldona Kibelkstis, Richard and Rita Sharameta, Mary Antonucci, Cindy Worthington, William Fiorino, George Burton, Beverly DeMarco, Lucille Carrier, Richard Rolla, George Burton, Charlotte O'Mara, Renate Perry, Angela Vizzo, Elizabeth Cariglia, Chet DiLeo, Jacob Rivera, Stephanie Berthiaume Cowie, Fulvia D'Amico, Dolores Ventresca and Lois Harris. May the Lord give them strength, courage and healing.

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.

Cursillo is back!!!

Cursillo weekends are a wonderful, fun way to give you a start on this journey.

2022: Women's: February 3-6

October 7-10

Men's: March 17-20

December 10-13

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

If anyone who has made a Cursillo would like to be a sponsor, please contact Elizabeth Santley.

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



Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.

Sunday, Dec 26, 2021

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

Bless the children

Holy families aren't necessarily picture-perfect. But they are faithful and consistent in their values and goals. Like Mary and Joseph and biblical parents before them, holy families consecrate their children early and often to the care of God. They do this by baptizing them and seeing to their sacramental preparation. They do this by praying for and with their little ones. They provide them a religious education and share faith-filled practices of compassion and charity. All the children in our lives look to us for love and acceptance, guidance and Christian example. Teach the children well.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3:12-21; Luke 2:41-52 (17A); or 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24; Luke 2:41-52 (17C). "Once the child is weaned, I will take him to appear before the LORD and to remain there forever."*

Monday, Dec 27, 2021

FEAST OF JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST—He lived to tell the tale

John the Apostle is credited with being the author of the Gospel of John. He is also believed to have been the "Beloved Disciple" of Jesus mentioned in that gospel and is presumed to have outlived the other apostles, perhaps being the only one to die of natural causes rather than martyrdom. Imagine being the last survivor, and the heartache he endured on losing his peers to violent deaths for their faith. Perhaps it was John's job to live to tell the story—"that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name"—as he says in his final line. Take John's mission to heart and embrace his good word today.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a, 2-8 (697). "Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed."*

Tuesday, Dec 28, 2021

FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS—Children deserve protection

Nowadays when we think of Christmas pageants, we envision adorable children in bathrobes dressed as shepherds. But in the Middle Ages, religious pageants were a serious business. The whole community gathered to enact mystery plays that told the stories of birth, death, resurrection, and the lives of the saints. It's from such a mystery play that we get the haunting words and melody of "The Coventry Carol"—a song about King Herod's slaughter of the Holy Innocents that asks plaintively, "What may we do to preserve . . . this poor youngling for whom we sing?" Pray today for children who continue to suffer and face certain death without our help.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 1:5—2:2; Matthew 2:13-18 (698). "A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children."*

Wednesday, Dec 29, 2021

FIFTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF NATIVITY OF THE LORD; MEMORIAL OF THOMAS BECKET, BISHOP, MARTYR

Choose God

Everyone must at times make the choice of serving God or something less. Today we remember Saint Thomas Becket, bishop of Canterbury. Thomas was faced with such a dilemma when his friend the king, Henry II, continuously tried to interfere with church matters. Allowing the king to interfere with the church would have allowed Thomas to be in the king's good graces. Instead, Thomas chose to serve God above anything and anyone else, even at the cost of martyrdom. "When is constancy required," Thomas writes, "except under persecution. Are not friends then proved? If they always yield, how can they ever succeed? They must, one time or other, make a stand."

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35 (202). "And you yourself a sword will pierce so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."*

Thursday, Dec 30, 2021

SIXTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD—Take your time to absorb Christmas

Today we continue as a church to honor the feast of our Savior's birth. It is day six in the octave of Christmas—the eight-day liturgical focus on the birth of Christ. The entrance of the Christ into human history is such a significant event that the church notes its magnitude by keeping our gaze on it through the specified readings, psalms, and prayers during these eight days. Take a moment today to allow the wonder of God-among-us to continue to sink in.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40 (203). "She gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem."*

Friday, Dec 31, 2021

SEVENTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD—Out with the new, in with the old

The end of the year gives us pause to reflect on the past and change for the future. Typically, we find something new to embrace or resolve to do. But if it's true that there's really nothing new under the sun, then perhaps we should look to the old! This is exactly what the church does, as it moves into the new year, not with any newfound epiphany, but instead with a commitment to the very old-school value of peace. As we anticipate the World Day of Peace tomorrow, January 1, what are some deeply held and long-standing values that you would like to deepen during the coming year? How might you go old school?

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18 (204). "In the beginning was the Word."*

Saturday, Jan 01, 2022

OCTAVE DAY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD; SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD; WORLD DAY OF PEACE—Rocking with Mother Mary

People in every age have their particular way to celebrate the new year. These days we might change old eating habits to be healthier; get on track financially; spend more time with family. But maybe this year it could be about what young Catholics refer to as "rocking with Mary," that is, getting to know the mother of Jesus on a deeper level. Understanding her courage, strength, and faithfulness can help us realize our own potential as bearers of the Good News. On her feast day and in the days ahead, reflect on Mary and strive to imitate her in bringing Good News to the world.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21 (18). "And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart."*