

1<sup>st</sup> 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 said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be Alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: **'Watch!'**"

The message this week is:

**Stay awake, that you may be prepared!**

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**Feast of the Immaculate  
Conception**

Friday, December 8, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Mass will be celebrated on the Holy Day, December 8 @ 7:00 am and 7:00 pm



**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

Dear Friends,

**Be watchful! Be alert!**

This weekend we begin the holy season of Advent. This is the perfect time to examine our lives and wake up to the urgent call of life within us. Take the time during this Advent season to avail yourselves of the Sacrament of Reconciliation to unburden yourselves of some dead wood. The old year is dying; think of old habits that could likewise be put to rest here and now. We may need to make changes so that our significant relationships may be more life-giving. How can we move in that direction, and how might we ask God to "return" as well? Sometimes the movement required is monumental, like leaving situations of abuse or injustice behind. Or facing our addictions and admitting we need outside help. Sometimes the cost of change will be extraordinary. But what is the cost of remaining as we are?

Because the time is short, whether we can measure it in years or minutes. We do not know when the time of the great "arrival from ahead of us" will come, as the Scripture scholar Jürgen Moltmann put it, nor do we know the hour of our death. Jesus is coming, and we can't just "look busy," as the T-shirt slogan once advised. The time to change is now or never.

May we use this holy season of Advent to prepare us for the great season of Christmas, to welcome Jesus more fully into our hearts and souls. May Advent be a special time of multiple graces for you and your family.

Advent blessings!  
Monsignor Pedone

**A NOTE OF THANKS**

Thank you to all who donated turkeys, fresh vegetables, pies and gift cards to the parish. We were able to provide six area families with a great Thanksgiving dinner with a turkey, fresh vegetables, stuffing, cranberry sauce and pies.

Also, thank you to all who donated to Visitation House for their annual baby bottle drive. Our parish donated \$1,393.00. These funds help expectant mothers and babies residing at Visitation House.

We are so grateful to have so many generous parishioners

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

**Masses will be celebrated on:**

**Christmas Eve at 4:00 PM and  
Christmas Day at 8:00 and 10:30 AM**



### The Season of Advent

In the Catholic Church, Advent is a period of preparation, extending over four Sundays, before Christmas. The word Advent comes from the Latin *advenio*, "to come to," and refers to the coming of Christ. This refers, first of all, to our celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas; but, second, to the coming of Christ in our lives through grace and the Sacrament of Holy Communion; and finally, to His second coming at the end of time.

Let us spiritually prepare for Christmas! "Let every heart prepare Him room"! Celebrate Advent!

### Celebrate Advent by Lighting a Candle

The season of Advent begins on the weekend of Dec. 2-3. Beginning on that weekend, the traditional Advent wreath will be 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.



### STAR OF BETHLEHEM

Maysoon Khair will be at our church in December 2 & 3 after all masses representing over a hundred Christian families who make their livelihood through the selling of their hand carved olive wood religious articles.



After all masses there will be a display of these beautiful hand carved religious items; such as nativity scenes, crucifix, rosaries, last supper and many other beautiful religious statues.

Please stop by and look over the carvings that are available and help support this self-help project to keep the Children and the Christians living in the Holy Land.

Thank you and God Bless you.



### HUGE HUGS AND THANK YOU'S

Many thanks to all who made food and monetary donations to the 9th annual Monsignor Rocco Piccolomini Food Drive. The Knights of Columbus collected over 1000 pounds of food and several hundred

dollars. All of this went to the Friendly House Food Pantry and was distributed to many families in the area. Thank you again for your continued generosity.

### Giving Trees 2023:

Our Giving Tree Program has started in our Parish. Every year we put tags on the trees for children in our area who look forward to receiving Christmas gifts from us. Like last year, this year will also be challenging for everyone. We will do our best to provide these gifts once again.



Thank you for taking all the tags from the trees!  
Please make sure they are all returned with your gifts.

All gifts must be placed in gift bags with the tags firmly attached to the outside of the bag.

Gifts may be brought to the Parish Office  
from 9am-4pm, or brought to the Church,  
As soon as possible  
No later than December 17

### Contacts:

St. Agnes Guild: Julie Tufano @ 508-757-3170,  
508-753-5001 or tufanojulie@yahoo.com  
Gifts unwrapped and placed in gift bag

Rainbow Child Development: Joan D'Argenis  
@ 508-753-5001 or joan\_dargenis@yahoo.com  
Gifts unwrapped and placed in gift bags

Nazareth Home for Boys: Domenic Mercurio  
Domenic@WorcesterPublicMarket.org or  
508-479-1171  
Gifts wrapped and in a gift bag

### RECIPES AND REMEMBRANCES

The Italian Festival Committee will be reprinting the *Recipes and Remembrances* cookbook in the spring. If you were unable to get one or would like to order more please contact the parish office at 508-753-5001. We are hoping to have them available in April or May.

### ITALIAN FESTIVAL MEETING

There will be an Italian Festival Meeting on **Tuesday, December 5th at 6:30 pm** in the Parish Center. All are welcome!

### MEAT RAFFLE

A meat raffle will be taking place on **January 7, 2024** at 1:00 PM at the 4<sup>th</sup> and 1 Club, 7 Muskego St., Worcester, MA. This fundraiser will help support our Italian Festival that will be taking place on August 15<sup>th</sup> through the August 18<sup>th</sup> 2023. The donation for each table will be \$200. We will accept donations for a partial table as well. We will be having 6 different meat tables during the event, as well as a 50/50 raffle, a lottery raffle, and more. Sponsorship forms are available at the Parish Center or by calling the office at 508-753-5001.



Financial Stewardship

For the week ending November 19, 2023

Income

## Offertory:

Week-End	\$4,018.89
Mail	1,390.00
On-Line Giving	310.25
Human Development	223.00
Fuel	185.00
Christmas Flowers	175.00
Maintenance	165.00
Religious Education	116.00
Christmas	45.00
Religious Retirement	20.00
Immaculate Conception	15.00
Solemnity of Mary	15.00
Total Offertory	\$6,678.14
Transfer from Savings	3,534.18
Funeral Stipends	300.00
Cemetery Baskets	120.00
Candles	106.00
Mass Stipends	20.00
Total	<u>\$10,758.32</u>

Disbursements

Parish Center Repairs (Water Heater & Flooding)	\$7,267.73
Repairs and Maintenance	1,848.50
Supplies	204.81
Salaries and Wages	120.00
Total	<u>\$9,441.04</u>
Average Weekly Amount Needed for Parish Operations	\$8,400.00
Total Amount Deposited	\$10,758.32
Less: Diocesan Collections & Restricted Funds	<u>(3,897.18)</u>
Cash Over/(Short)	<u>6,861.14</u> <u>(\$1,538.86)</u>

Financial Stewardship

For the week ending November 26, 2023

Income

## Offertory:

Week-End	\$3,295.93
Mail	1,415.00
On-Line Giving	622.25
Fuel	570.00
Christmas Flowers	338.00
Maintenance	45.00
All Souls	40.00
Religious Education	30.00
Human Development	25.00
Total Offertory	\$6,381.18
Insurance Settlement	8,004.96
Donations	182.00
Candles	102.00
Sanctuary Lamp	70.00
Mass Stipends	40.00
Total	<u>\$14,780.14</u>

Disbursements

Salaries and Wages	\$6,025.00
Rector HVAC—Final Payment	3,534.18
Supplies	467.91
Copier Lease	344.08
Campaign for Human Development	323.00
Funeral Stipends	300.00
Employee Benefits	156.84
Total	<u>\$11,151.01</u>
Average Weekly Amount Needed for Parish Operations	\$8,400.00
Total Amount Deposited	\$14,780.14
Less: Diocesan Collections & Restricted Funds	<u>(8,407.96)</u>
Cash Over/(Short)	<u>6,372.18</u> <u>(\$2,027.82)</u>

We have had some requests from parishioners who contribute online, monthly, quarterly or otherwise to provide a listing of upcoming collections. So, going forward we will now publish this information in the bulletin each week. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Lisa at [lisaolmc@gmail.com](mailto:lisaolmc@gmail.com) or 508-753-5001.

December 1, 2023	Maintenance Fund
December 1, 2023	Christmas Flowers
December 3, 2023	Weekly Offering
December 8, 2023	Immaculate Conception
December 10, 2023	Religious Retirement Fund
December 10, 2023	Weekly Offering
December 17, 2023	Fuel Offering
December 17, 2023	Weekly Offering
December 24, 2023	Weekly Offering
December 25, 2023	Christmas Offering
December 31, 2023	Weekly Offering

Ministry Assignments December 9-10December 9 @ 4:00 pm

Lector – Joe Godek

Ministers – Nancy Gurgone &amp; Chet DiLeo

December 10 @ 8 am

Lector - Chris Cook

Ministers - Joe Sama

December 10 @ 10:30 am

Lector—David Soares

Ministers - Maria Sciannameo &amp; Chizoma Nosike

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

If a substitution is made, please contact Julie so the announcement sheets will be correct.

# MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday, December 2, 2023—4:00 p.m.

**Juana Pignataro** (2nd Anniversary) by Family

**Ernest Martone** (4th Anniversary) by wife Mary Grace and Family

**Elizabeth, James, & Seamus Shannon, Brendan Shanley, Maura & Huey Cathcart** by the Shanley Family

**Patrick Michael Dowling** (19th Anniversary) by Family

Sunday, December 3, 2023—8:00 a.m.

**Alphonse San Clemente** by Wife and Family

**Luigi & Lucia Piarulli** by Family

**Antionietta & Silvestro Menzano** by Family

Sunday, December 3, 2023—10:30 a.m.

**George Ciociolo Sr.** (2nd Anniversary) by Wife and Family

**Francis Pascucci and Gregory Travaglio** by Carmine and Esther

**Deacon Gerald Montiverdi** by Wife and Family

Monday, December 4, 2023—7:00 a.m.

**The Sick of the Parish**

Tuesday, December 5, 2023—7:00 a.m.

**Parishioners Intentions**

Wednesday, December 6, 2023—7:00 a.m.

**The Souls in Purgatory**

Thursday, December 7, 2023—7:00 a.m.

**Parishioners Intentions**

Friday, December 8, 2023—7:00 a.m.

**Parishioners Intentions**

Friday, December 8, 2023—7:00 p.m.

**The People of the Parish**

Saturday, December 9, 2023—4:00 p.m.

**Rita Cenik** (Birthday Remembrance) by Anna Fenuccio

Sunday, December 10, 2023—8:00 a.m.

**Antionietta and Arturo Fraioli** by Josie DelloStritto and Family

**Linda E. Sacco** by husband Pat and Family

**Agnes Lizotte** (50th Anniversary), **Jane Gouin** (18th Anniversary) by Karen and David Gouin

**Rita Czechowski** (Birthday Remembrance) by Family

Sunday, December 10, 2023—10:30 a.m.

**Lucy Sjosten** by Family

**Domenico Visci** (Birthday Remembrance) by Family

**Lucille Carrier** by 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, Paul Locantore, Ann Servidio, Joseph Vancelette, Madelyn Martin, Ann Marie Verdolino, Charlene Swalec, Lorrie Tufano, Maxwell Mitchell, Lynn Wagner, Carol Youngstrom, Rudy Aromando, Richard Sharameta, Cindy Worthington, Beverly DeMarco, George Burton, Charlotte O'Mara, Renate Perry, Angela Vizzo, Jacob Rivera, Stephanie Berthiaume Cowie, Fulvia D'Amico, Isabella Gamble, Melissa Totaro, Nancy Meringolo, Veronika Montiverdi, Nancy Molinari, Joyce Molinari, Lillian Pascarelli, Lisa Cianci, Tina Donahue and Dolores Pellegrino. May the Lord give them strength, courage and healing.

## 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 Alfred DiVerdi and Joseph Genduso. God grant them peace forever and bring comfort to their families and friends.*



## RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

Men and abortion. Women say "My body, my choice". But what about the men? The baby is just as much the father's as the mother's. We hear nothing from fathers. Men will say, "I'll support you in whatever you choose", learning of an unexpected pregnancy. Does that mean they will support an abortion? Some men avoid their responsibilities. Abortion was legalized by an all-male Supreme Court, men own the abortion clinics and most abortion doctors are men. Aren't men supposed to be the protectors of women and children? Our Constitution declares our patriotic purpose to, "Secure the Blessing of Liberty to ourselves and our posterity". Posterity is defined as "all future generations of people and descendants of those people". That includes the unborn. We have a responsibility to protect their lives and liberty. Some men accept these responsibilities, others run away from them. Men have an obligation to stand up for their actions.

Other men have not had any lasting success obtaining constitutional rights in courts with respect to abortion. These men have been pushed to the sidelines. Men have tried arguments focused on marital rights equality and on individual circumstances. They have all failed in court. All court decisions regarding constitutional rights and privacy have been in favor of protecting women from governmental interference with an unfettered right to abortion at any time and for any reason. Gestation is the deciding factor in who has abortion rights. Men, after many attempts in court, have no rights in the abortion decision. Men should have equal rights to their child. Advocates for men must keep fighting for their rights. It is their baby too. Every baby that can be saved is a blessing.



**Upcoming Events**

Golden Years (every Tuesday)  
 Knights of Columbus Meeting—7 pm  
 (every 3rd Wednesday) All men of the  
 Parish are welcome to attend.  
 “At the Foot of the Cross” - 6:30 pm -last Wednesday  
 of the month

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Dec. 3—First Sunday of Advent  
 Dec. 3—La Salette Shrine & Wright’s Chicken Farm  
 Dec. 5—Italian Festival Meeting @ 6:30 pm  
 Dec. 7-10 –Men’s Cursillo  
 Dec. 8—Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin  
 Mary  
 Dec. 17—Nativity Pageant @ 10:30 Mass  
 Dec. 17—Breakfast with Santa after 10:30 Mass  
 Dec. 17—LAST day for returning Giving Tree gifts  
 Dec. 24—Christmas Eve Mass @ 4:00 pm  
 Dec. 25—Christmas Day Masses @ 8:00 and 10:30  
 Jan. 7, 2024 –Meat Raffle

**Cursillo.....**

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

**2024 Schedule:**

Women’s: April 18-21      Men’s: May 23-26  
 October 3-6                      November 21-24

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 and would like to be a sponsor, please contact Elizabeth Santley**

**IS THIS A REAL REQUEST FOR HELP?**

If you receive an email or text message from the pastor, bishop or other church official asking for donations, gift cards or other forms of financial assistance, check with the parish to determine if it is legitimate. Some of the latest email and text scams trying to collect your personal data can look too real! It’s always worth a second look to protect yourself.

**Five Simple Rules to be Happy**

Free your heart from hatred  
 Free your mind from worries  
 Live simply  
 Give more  
 Expect less

**MOUNT CARMEL GOLDEN YEARS CLUB  
December 2023****December 5, 2023**

10:00 AM Socializing  
 12:00 NOON Lunch – Followed by Social  
 After Lunch Bingo

**December 12, 2023**

10:00 AM Socializing



**CHRISTMAS PARTY**

After Lunch Bingo

**December 19, 2023**

10:00 AM Socializing  
 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM VNA “Keep Well Clinic”  
 12:00 NOON Lunch – Followed by Social  
 After Lunch Bingo

**December 26, 2023**

**NO GYC**

\*Bingo for members only

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

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

“Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come.” (Mark 13:33) We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. We make our lives too busy. We plan our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today and begin thanking God for each and every day. Take time in silence, every day, and listen to how God is calling you right now to help build His kingdom on earth.

**Morning Prayer....**

“Show me, Lord, I’m looking.  
 Speak to me, Lord, I’m listening.  
 Lead me, Lord, I’m willing.”

*Adapted from Guideposts  
 Magazine*

When I started counting my blessings,  
 my life turned around.

*Willie Nelson*

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