

# 2<sup>nd</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.**

**December 10...Feast Day of  
Our Lady of Loreto**

On October 7, 2019, Pope Francis ordered the inscription of Our Lady of Loreto into the General Roman Calendar. She is celebrated each year as an optional memorial on December 10th. The Holy House of Loreto, the house in which Mary was born, and where the Annunciation occurred, is also celebrated on this day.



**The Season of Advent**

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



**Celebrate Advent by Lighting a  
Candle**

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.

**PLEASE MAINTAIN A RESPECTFUL SILENCE  
BEFORE EACH MASS. PEOPLE AROUND YOU  
ARE TRYING TO PRAY. THANK YOU!**

**2nd Sunday of Advent**

He is coming. In today's Gospel from Mark:



"John the Baptist, clothed in camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. This is what he proclaimed: 'One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit'".

Did John get your attention? True conversion reveals itself outwardly. When our hearts change, our actions do too. Charity replaces criticism. Forgiveness replaces anger. Service replaces selfishness. The catechism teaches us that the kingdom of heaven belongs to the poor and lowly; in other words, to those who have accepted it with humble hearts (CCC 544). This Advent, may we feel the urgency of John's words and get about the serious business of repentance.

The message this week is:

**Repent! Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight his paths.**

**BREAKFAST WITH  
SANTA**

Please join us for Breakfast with Santa on **Sunday, December 17, 2023** at 11:30 a.m. in the Parish Center  
Cost is \$5.00 per person.



Breakfast will also be served from 9-10:30 but Santa will not arrive until 11:30. All are welcome!

**The brighter your light shines, the easier it is  
for others to find their way.**



**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

**Masses will be celebrated on:**

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



## 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.

## 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 Muskeego 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> 2024. 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.



## 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**  
 ~~~~~  
**Dec. 10—Feast Day of Our lady of Loreto**  
**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 am and 10:30 am**  
**Jan. 1—New Year’s Day—Mass @ 10:30 am**  
**Jan. 7, 2024 —Meat Raffle**

## Ministry Assignments December 16-17

**December 16 @ 4:00 pm**

**Lector – Sue Cozzolino**

**Ministers – Joe Godek & Fran Sena**

**December 17 @ 8 am**

**Lector - Fran Penny**

**Ministers - Joe Sama**

**December 17 @ 10:30 am**

**Lector—Sandra Mercurio**

**Ministers - Laurie Matosky & Heather Morello**

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.

## 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 gifts 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

**Families in Need:** Joan D’Argenis

## Cursillo.....

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

## 2024 Schedule:

**Women’s:** April 18-21  
 October 3-6

**Men’s:** May 23-26  
 November 21-24

For more information contact Elizabeth Santley @ 508-304-8871, or at [esantley@yahoo.com](mailto: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**

“God never tires of forgiving us;  
 We are the ones who tire of  
 Seeking his mercy.”

Pope Francis

Financial Stewardship

For the week ending November 19, 2023

Income

## Offertory:

|                       |            |                   |
|-----------------------|------------|-------------------|
| Week-End              | \$3,603.48 |                   |
| Christmas Flowers     | 465.00     |                   |
| Mail                  | 435.00     |                   |
| On-Line Giving        | 377.25     |                   |
| Maintenance           | 365.00     |                   |
| Christmas             | 110.00     |                   |
| Fuel                  | 45.00      |                   |
| Immaculate Conception | 33.00      |                   |
| Religious Retirement  | 5.00       |                   |
| Total Offertory       |            | \$5,438.73        |
| Cemetery Baskets      |            | 1,020.00          |
| Funeral Stipends      |            | 900.00            |
| Donations             |            | 200.00            |
| Rental Income         |            | 160.00            |
| Candles               |            | 85.00             |
| Mass Stipends         |            | 75.00             |
| Total                 |            | <u>\$7,878.73</u> |

Disbursements

## Music: (November)

|                                                       |                   |                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Organists                                             | \$1,150.00        |                     |
| Choir Director                                        | 700.00            |                     |
| Cantors                                               | 425.00            |                     |
| Total Cost of Music                                   |                   | \$2,275.00          |
| Diocesan Invoices (Novembers)                         |                   | 4,329.00            |
| Salaries and Wages                                    |                   | 1,698.50            |
| Employee Benefits                                     |                   | 916.33              |
| Funeral Stipends                                      |                   | 905.00              |
| Rectory –Food and Household                           |                   | 776.71              |
| CYC—Youth and Family Outings                          |                   | 630.00              |
| Parish Center Flooring                                |                   | 580.00              |
| Mass Stipends                                         |                   | 260.00              |
| Supplies                                              |                   | 211.25              |
| Total                                                 |                   | <u>\$12,581.79</u>  |
| Average Weekly Amount Needed<br>for Parish Operations |                   | \$8,400.00          |
| Total Amount Deposited                                | \$7,878.73        |                     |
| Less: Diocesan Collections<br>& Restricted Funds      | <u>(1,490.00)</u> | <u>6,388.73</u>     |
| Cash Over/(Short)                                     |                   | <u>(\$2,011.27)</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           |

**RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY**

Abortion. It's a hot button issue, with politicians, with family, with friends, with neighbors and even strangers. The past two elections were a disappointment for pro-life advocates. Ohio approved an amendment that "every individual has a right to make and carry out one's own reproductive decision". They say this is health care. When is destroying innocent life in the womb health care? This is the problem. The Dobb's decision held that the United States Constitution does not confer a right to abortion, that it should be left up to the individual states. But voters, Catholic, Christian and others seem to care more about destroying innocent life in the womb, than they do about rising crime rates, woke indoctrination in public schools and in society. They are voting pro-abortion! The Dobb's decision did not go far enough. It did not recognize the child in the womb as a person with inalienable rights to life. Abortion enjoys strong support in inner cities and affluent suburbs. Political, economic and spiritual forces maintain a hold on abortions in our culture by ignoring the basic facts of human nature and indifference to basic facts of human life. Archbishop Dennis Schnurr of Cincinnati said, after the Ohio vote, that the answer isn't more money or better messaging, but a personal witness and public engagement of our Catholic and Christian faith, promoting a renewed culture of life. There must be a conversion of hearts and minds, one that respects the inherent dignity and sacredness of every human being from conception to natural death. This conversion will only come about through earnest prayer and our witness for compassionate care for the most vulnerable in our society. We need to stand up for the truth! Join those praying outside Planned Parenthood Clinics, those standing on street corners on Pro-life Sunday in October, those attending city council and school committee meetings to stand up for the truth. These are our own children, our greatest resource. Let's not abandon them. During the Roe v Wade era we have witnessed the strongest pro-life movement in the world. The foundation is in place, but we must work even harder and more creatively to reach the goal of a culture of life, no abortions, no assisted suicides and no euthanasia.

Don't be afraid. There are many out there leading the way. Please join them. The strength of the wolf is in the pack. We need more workers and more prayers. Will you help do God's work?

**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.

# MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday, December 9, 2023—4:00 p.m.

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

Sunday, December 10, 2023—8:00 a.m.

**Antonietta 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

**Camille Soucy** (Birthday Remembrance) and **Rev. Domenic DiBenedetto** (Anniversary) by Family

Sunday, December 10, 2023—10:30 a.m.

**Lucy Sjosten** by Family

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

**Lucille Carrier** by Family

**Mr. and Mrs. Riccardo and Silvia Cazzigna** by Family

Monday, December 11, 2023—7:00 a.m.

**The Souls in Purgatory**

Tuesday, December 12, 2023—7:00 a.m.

**The Sick of the Parish**

Wednesday, December 13, 2023—7:00 a.m.

**Lucy DiLeo** (In honor of St. Lucy) by Family

Thursday, December 14, 2023—7:00 a.m.

**Mr. and Mrs. Adrian and Sue Martini** by Family

Saturday, December 16, 2023—4:00 p.m.

**Biagio Girardi** (5th Anniversary) by wife Antonietta and Family

**John Gagliastro** (4th Anniversary) by Wife Kay and Family

Sunday, December 17, 2023—8:00 a.m.

**Michael DelloStritto** by wife Josie and Family

Sunday, December 17, 2023—10:30 a.m.

**Joseph Turo** (23rd Anniversary) by Janice and John Morello

**Mary Gabriel** (28th Anniversary) by granddaughter Barbara

**Steven P. Coffone** (3rd Anniversary) by Family  
**Helen Mercurio** by Family

**Nicholas Verdolino, Pepino, Pauline and Tom Pellegrino** by Fran and Santino



**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 family and friends of Matteo Travaglio. God grant him peace forever and bring comfort to his families and friends.*



## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Prepare the way of the Lord..." (MARK 1:3) We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, puts us on the path to holiness and is an example for others to be holy, too. We are responsible not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well. How are you helping others get to Heaven?

## MOUNT CARMEL GOLDEN YEARS CLUB December 2023

### 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.





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

**Sunday, Dec 10, 2023**

**A voice cries out**

This year the Universal Declaration of Human Rights turns 75. The world could use a reminder that human rights belong to each of us and must be defended without exception. We live in an age marred by misinformation. Attacks on others grow more destructive online and in our common spaces. Climate change, hunger, and poverty are unequally borne by those whose rights are not recognized or protected. Advent is the perfect time to identify the rights that resonate most powerfully for you. Claim them. Discover ways to stand up for them. Create alliances with those whose rights are in jeopardy.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8 (5). "In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!"*

**Monday, Dec 11, 2023**

**Backstory on the Bible**

The 73 books in the Catholic Bible were written hundreds, and in some cases thousands, of years before they were officially compiled. It wasn't until the late fourth century that the Catholic Church decided upon the list of sacred scripture to be included. Pope Damasus I presided over the Council of Rome of 382 that determined the scriptural canon, and he commissioned Saint Jerome to translate these texts from Greek into Latin. This collection of sacred books is the inspired word of God, reveals the truth of Revelation, and forms the core of Catholic beliefs. Pass on the Good News!

MEMORIAL OF DAMASUS I, POPE

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26 (181). "We have seen incredible things today."*

**Tuesday, Dec 12, 2023**

**Mysterious mother of the Americas**

On a wall, under glass, is the life-sized image of Our Lady of Guadalupe—enshrined in the Basilica of Guadalupe, on Tepeyac Hill in Mexico City, where Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego in December 1591. As mysterious and symbolic as the Woman of the Apocalypse described in Revelation 12, it continues to defy human explanation, including analysis from a NASA scientist. The humble cactus fiber cloak it appears on hasn't deteriorated in more than 400 years, nor has the image, which experts from Kodak likened to a photograph though photography wasn't invented yet. Countless miracles are associated with Guadalupe, but the greatest is the conversion of an entire continent. Pray for the people of the Americas with the Center of Concern prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe that begins: Hail Mary, Lady of Peace, We pray for the peace in our world; make us peacemakers.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

TODAY'S READINGS: *Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Luke 1:26-38 or Luke 1:39-47 (690A). "A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun."*

**Wednesday, Dec 13, 2023**

**Keep your eye on the divine**

Like many early Roman saints, little is known about Saint Lucy. Tradition says that her eyes were removed in an act of torture before her death for being a Christian. As such, she is the patron saint of the blind. We often take sight for granted, but Lucy should remind us, especially in hard times, to look beyond our own vision—and see with God's eyes. The reward for our faithful acts is the beatific vision. Or as Saint Paul puts it: "We see now in a glass darkly, but then face to face" (1 Cor. 13:12). Work to improve your vision.

MEMORIAL OF LUCY, MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 11:28-30 (183). "Lift up your eyes on high and see who has created these things."*

**Thursday, Dec 14, 2023**

**He wasn't afraid of the dark**

Today is the memorial of Saint John of the Cross, a Spanish Carmelite mystic, poet, and reformer who died in 1591. He may be best known for Dark Night of the Soul, which develops the idea that suffering—including the sense of God's absence—can actually lead to unity with God. "The endurance of darkness is the preparation for great light," he wrote. John came to his insights through experience, having been maltreated and even imprisoned by his own religious community. If God ever seems far away, let John of the Cross guide you to the light.

MEMORIAL OF JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15 (184). "Whoever has ears ought to hear."*

**Friday, Dec 15, 2023**

**The secret to our success**

Damned if you do, damned if you don't. That is Jesus' complaint about public opinion. John the Baptist fasted and they called him crazy. Jesus feasted and they called him a glutton and drunkard. We've all been there. The best response to criticism is success. What is success in the spiritual life? "In God's will, there is great peace" is the answer Saint Josephine Bakhita offers. Wise words. Ignore your critics, and follow Jesus' path to peace.

ADVENT WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19 (185). "Wisdom is vindicated by her works."*

**Saturday, Dec 16, 2023**

**Modernism gets its say**

Maude Petre, who died on this date in 1937, was a British writer and religious sister best known for her work on Catholic modernism. She was a prolific author, writing on a wide range of topics, including theology, philosophy, politics, and literature. She openly supported women's suffrage, which the church opposed at the time. Her 1907 book Catholicism and Independence got her kicked out of her order and she was refused the sacraments by her bishop. Her views were controversial, but they helped form Catholic thinking for the Second Vatican Council. Prayerfully consider that the Catholic controversies of today may lead to the church of tomorrow.

ADVENT WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: *Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13 (186). "Elijah will indeed come and restore all things; but I tell you that Elijah has already come."*

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