

# *Saint Stanislaus Mission*

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**January 11, 2026**

## *The Baptism of the Lord*

The prophet Isaiah says that God's chosen one is called to be *a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness*. For us, God's Chosen One is Jesus Christ. He is the fulfillment of this prophecy. At His baptism, the Trinity is fully present. Jesus, the Son, comes out of the water; the Spirit descends upon Him like a dove; and God the Father speaks from heaven. Jesus, the sinless one, allows Himself to be baptized to identify with us and to show submission to the Father's will for our salvation. Jesus will then begin His ministry knowing it will lead Him to the Cross. As followers/disciples of Christ, we must therefore also submit ourselves to the will of the Father and be the instruments of God's presence in the world.

Dear Parishioners,

Once again, my heart grieves over yet another senseless act of violence plaguing our country. I feel anger over the shooting death of a young mother. It is horrifying how our country seems to be numb to these unwarranted and unnecessary deaths. There is too much intolerance, hatred, and bigotry towards others. What is worse is there are people, who dare call themselves Christians, defending the perpetrators of this violence and providing excuses for such behavior. This is utter madness! This is not what Jesus died for! True Christians follow Jesus Christ and obey all He taught us and requires of us. Do we not understand we are all brothers and sisters in Christ? This past Thursday (January 8), the first reading of the daily Mass was from the First Letter of St. John (4:19-21):

*Beloved, we love God because He first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," but hates his brother, he is a liar; for whoever does not love a brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. This is the commandment we have from Him: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.*

I say there are too many liars. They claim to love God, yet they are full of hatred and intolerance, especially towards immigrants. These so-called Christians forget we are to welcome the stranger (Matthew 25:35) and to treat the alien who resides with us no differently than the natives born among us and love them as ourselves (Leviticus 19:34). We true Christians must stand up for those who are voiceless, who are being mistreated merely for the color of their skin or the language they speak. Jesus identified with the lowly, the outcasts, the marginalized. Now we must do the same! Do not become numb to this. Speak up and scream ENOUGH!! We must demand better from our elected officials and from ourselves. We cannot allow any more of this. Act as if it all depended on us; pray as if it all depended on God.

Adoration is on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, from 5PM to 7PM. There are no Confessions.

Please note the time change for the Sunday morning Mass. The Mass will now be celebrated at 8AM instead of 8:30AM.

January 22 is the Day of Prayer for an end to abortion throughout the United States. Attached is a letter from Bishop McManus discussing the importance of this day.

Are you or someone you know House Bound and are unable to attend church services? Have you or someone you know lost loved ones, had recent hospitalizations, or just need a friend to talk to? If you or the person you know wish to be visited by a Eucharist Minister to receive the Eucharist or have someone from the parish to stop by to say hello, please send an email to [ststanoffice@gmail.com](mailto:ststanoffice@gmail.com) or call either the office at 413-436-8020 or me directly at 774-200-6868.

Yours in Christ,  
Deacon Dom

Quote: "Heavenly Father, in the sacrament of Baptism, You have given us the gift of new life. Through Your Son our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, You have made us Your own. Help us to recognize the gift of human life as a sign of hope in our world. Reveal to us the places where Your precious gift of life is most in need of protection and strengthen us to defend life in all stages and circumstances, from the child in the womb to the elderly and dying. Guided by Your Holy Spirit, guard us from discouragement and give us the grace to be messengers of hope, filled with confidence that nothing can separate us from Your love."

- USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities: "A Prayer for Hope"

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**DEACON DOM'S IN-OFFICE SCHEDULE:** Deacon Dom plans on being in the rectory office Monday (01/12) and Tuesday afternoon (01/13). He may always be reached at [ststanoffice@gmail.com](mailto:ststanoffice@gmail.com) or 774-200-6868.

**ALPHA PROGRAM: St. Anne and St. Patrick Parish in Fiskdale (Sturbridge)** will be starting another Alpha session, a program that fosters spiritual enrichment, invites people to bring friends for a conversation about faith, and serves as an exercise in community building. It will begin on **Friday, Jan. 16 from 6:30PM to 8PM**, and continue until March 27. It is held at the Parish Center and is free. To register, email Ashley C. at [alphasturbridge@gmail.com](mailto:alphasturbridge@gmail.com). Feel free to check it out for the first few weeks, but you still need to register ahead of time.

**NATIONAL NOVENA FOR LIFE:** Join thousands of Catholics nationwide in the annual **9 Days for Life Novena, January 16 through 24**. Sign up to receive daily emails and reflections by text or email at [www.9daysforlife.com](http://www.9daysforlife.com).

**PRO-LIFE MORNING OF REFLECTION:** All are invited to attend a Pro-Life Morning of Reflection and Enrichment on **Saturday, Jan. 17 from 9:30AM through 1PM** at the **Cathedral of St. Paul**, 38 High St., Worcester. The day will include reflections by Msgr. James Moroney, Mass, and light lunch. There is no cost to attend but pre-registration is required. To register, send your name, parish, and email address to [aledoux@worcesterdiocese.org](mailto:aledoux@worcesterdiocese.org), or contact the Respect Life Office at 508-929-4311.

**PRO-LIFE MASS:** All are invited to join Bishop McManus for the annual Pro-Life Mass on the eve of the March for Life on **Thursday, Jan. 22 at 7:30PM** at the **Cathedral of St. Paul**, 38 High St., Worcester. Please join us to pray for and with our pilgrims who will be travelling to Washington, DC for the annual March for Life on Jan. 23, and to pray for an end to abortion and the conversion of our nation. All are welcome.

**SILENT DISCERNMENT RETREAT FOR SINGLE CATHOLIC WOMEN:** On **January 30 through February 1 (6PM Friday to 2PM Sunday)** Little Sisters of the Poor at **1365 Enfield St., Enfield CT** are holding a Silent Discernment Retreat for Single Catholic Women age 18 to 35 years old including Holy Mass, Adoration, Talks, and abundant silence in which your heart may listen for the Lord's voice. At the beginning and end of the retreat, participants will enjoy a time of conversation and sharing with the Little Sisters of the Poor and with the other young women in vocational discernment. To register contact Sr. Carolyn at [sc@littlesistersofthepoor.org](mailto:sc@littlesistersofthepoor.org) by Jan 28. Questions? Call (860) 402-4478. There is no charge for the retreat, but early registration is appreciated

**SAVE THE DATE:** The 25th Annual Catholic Men's Conference will be held on **Saturday, March 21** at the **DCU Convention Center** in Worcester. The theme is "Be Not Afraid". Adult Tickets are just \$60 (through March 11) and Student Tickets are always \$30. All tickets include lunch. For ticket sales or for more information regarding this year's conference and speakers, please visit our website at [www.catholicmenworc.com](http://www.catholicmenworc.com).

**CALL TO VOCATION:** "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:17) God's delight in His Son mirrors the joy He takes in those who follow His call. As a child of God, He desires what is best for you. Take time this week to pray and listen for His guidance in how He wants you to serve Him. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at (508) 630-4473 or email: [donato.infante@gmail.com](mailto:donato.infante@gmail.com).

**PROJECT RACHEL:** Not every pregnancy is easy to talk about. Project Rachel is the Catholic Church's ministry of healing and reconciliation to those who have been wounded by a past abortion. Services are free and strictly confidential. Begin your healing journey by calling 508-791-HOPE(4673).

## MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday, January 10, The Baptism of the Lord, 4PM, St. Stanislaus:  
† Rick Lizak by Steve Fountain

Sunday, January 11, The Baptism of the Lord, 8AM, St. Stanislaus:  
† Maria DeMartino by DeMartino family

## **NO DAILY MASS**

Saturday, January 17, Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, 4PM, St. Stanislaus:  
† Elmer Fontaine by Family

Sunday, January 18, Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, 8AM, St. Stanislaus:  
† Fr. Casmir Swiacki by Wolkowicz family

Collections weekend (01/04/2026 including New Year Masses):

Offertory	\$872	Maintenance	\$130
Higher Utility/Energy costs	\$10	Catholic University of America	\$167
Christmas Offering	\$25	First Offering	\$238
Solemnity of Mary	\$511	Mass Intentions	\$20
Votive candles	\$31		



Diocese of Worcester  
Office of the Bishop  
49 Elm Street  
Worcester, Massachusetts 01609

January 2026

My dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,

On Thursday, January 22, 2026, the Church throughout the United States will observe the “Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children”. This observance is designated by the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (n. 373), as a particular day of prayer and penance, reminding us of our preeminent priority to pray and work for an end to the tragic scourge of abortion. All the faithful in dioceses throughout the United States of America are called to observe this day in a spirit of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for the violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion.

While the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling in the case *Dobbs vs. Jackson Women’s Health* thankfully overturned the infamous and unjust 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized abortion in the U.S. throughout all nine months of pregnancy, the issue of the legalized abortion has now returned to the states and our work is far from over.

Fifty-three years of legalized abortion in this country has left an incomprehensible aftermath. With millions of lives lost, and countless women and men, mothers and fathers, grandparents, siblings, and friends who have been deeply wounded physically, emotionally, and spiritually by this tragedy, we need now more than ever to re-commit ourselves to defending life. I encourage our diocesan parishes and institutions, and all the faithful, to reverently observe the **Day of Prayer and Penance on January 22<sup>nd</sup>** both personally and within your communities. Let us unite our hearts and minds through special acts of prayer, fasting, and sacrifice on this day and in the months to come, to uphold the inherent dignity of all human life from conception to natural death.

As we reflect on this unspeakable tragedy, we also recall how the Church for many years has continued to reach out to those who have been so sadly affected by the culture of death, particularly through ministries providing aid to women and families in crisis pregnancies, offering the healing love and mercy of Christ to those wounded by abortion through the ministry of Project Rachel, and by continuing to teach and preach the truth and beauty about love and life that bring authentic freedom and happiness. It is through our prayers, charitable works, and loving sacrifices that the culture can be transformed.

Let us take this opportunity of the January 22<sup>nd</sup> Day of Prayer and Penance to renew our resolve to live and proclaim the Gospel of Life. May we respond generously to the challenge Saint Pope John Paul II put forth in *Evangelium vitae*: “A great prayer for life is urgently needed, a prayer which will rise up throughout the world. May an impassioned plea rise to God, the Creator and Lover of life, from the heart of every believer.” Our active participation in the shared commitment to the sacredness of human life and the dignity of the human person will, with God’s grace, truly work toward the building up of a Culture of Life and a Civilization of Love.

With every prayerful best wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus  
Bishop of Worcester