

Mass Intentions

Saturday, November 28

4:00 PM Theresa D'Souza

Sunday, November 29

9:00 AM St. Anthony for the Souls in Purgatory

11:30 AM Thanksgiving for Henry Abou-Hamad and Family

5:00 PM For the Parishioners

Monday, November 30

12:10 PM In Memory of the Marron Family

Tuesday, December 1

12:10 PM Open Hearts Memorial Guild

Wednesday, December 2

12:10 PM Margaret O'Gorman

Thursday, December 3

10:00 AM Deceased Family and Friends of Paul Ashton

Friday, December 4, First Friday

12:10 PM Sanctuary Fund

Saturday, December 5

4:00 PM Thanksgiving for Henry Abou-Hamad and Family

Sunday, December 6

9:00 AM Margaret O'Gorman

11:30 AM Swithen & Jolyon Rodrigues

5:00 PM For the Parishioners

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Thank you to all who contributed to our food drive this year to help those in need.



Thank you to those who have volunteered to enhance our Liturgy thru their Ministry of Lector, Minister of Communion and Ministry to the Sick. Working together we continue to share the message of Jesus with so many who long and need to hear his voice.



"Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man." - Lk 21:36

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Parish Support

Thank you for your continuing support. This week's bulletin went to the printer early due to the holiday, so no figures for Nov. 21-22 weekend donations will be available until next week.

SANCTUARY LAMP

Month of November: In Memory of Carmine Deminico

ADVENT BLUE BOOKS

PREPARE

FOR HIM As we begin Advent, or 23 days of preparation for Christmas, once again we have the "Little Blue Books" to help us prepare spiritually. They are available at the church entrance and cost \$2.00 each. They invite us to give the Lord six minutes a day.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Christians always end up with this cultural collision this time of year. While we begin a new liturgical year with the First Sunday of Advent, we find ourselves approaching the final month of the civil year. While we struggle to focus on the religious meaning of one of the central events of our salvation-the birth of the Savior-we are overwhelmed by the crass commercialism of the "holiday" season. Even the sacred names that originated the feasting get pushed to the side in favor of what is perceived to be less offensive nomenclature.



Maybe that's as it should be as we begin Advent. The Gospel readings provided for the final Sundays of the church year and the beginning of the new one invite us to consider what will happen at the end of time. This Advent in particular, for the first three Sundays, the focus is on justice-God's justice, which is brought to completion when the Lord returns in glory.

In the meantime, we wait, sometimes patiently, and sometimes impatiently, like shoppers ready to take advantage of the first "door-busters" of the season. We could bemoan the lack of religiosity in this run-up to Christmas. Or we could use it to our advantage. It doesn't take much to express our faith this time of year. A cheerful greeting of "Merry Christmas" in the check-out line; a teaching moment with children when passing a store display of manger scenes; including religious emblems in our lawn displays; singing a Christmas carol for meal prayer each night: these are all ways that we can easily express our faith in the midst of the culture. The Gospel commands, "Be vigilant at all times." In our vigilance we can look for ways to express faith at every opportunity.

**REFLECTIONS FROM
FATHER CHARLES SHEEHY**

In the days when most Catholic Churches could be left open for prayer a little man spent many hours praying. Finally curiosity led to the questions; "You spend many hours in church yet we never see you reading... how come?"

The answer was simple. "I talk to God and he talks to me."

Thank God we have St. Anthony's Shrine in Boston which can be open all day. We might observe people, who include ourselves, who are there, as one little man, to talk to God. We can be there also for confession.

On weekdays, and probably Sundays as well, experience warns against hurry. Apart from God the only ones who know why a person may seem to take a long time are penitent and priest.

Confession is really spelled "pardon and peace." Neither should be rushed. Persons will be greatly blessed be they in great need of the Sacrament or those who attend Mass daily and who go to Confession frequently just to obtain the grace of the Sacrament.

For some people reconciliation is easily sought. The little man talking to God in Silence can be a good teacher of God's mercy.

No one should ever fear confession.

After all it is the SACRAMENT OF PARDON AND PEACE.

THE ADVENT GIVING TREE

Again this year we will celebrate a 'giving tree' and we will do so for our sister parish An ornament with a child's name will be placed on the tree, and you are invited to take the label with a name on it from the ornament (leave ornament on table), attach label to an envelope and place it along with your donation into the collection receptacle next to the tree. Your gift of love will brighten a child's Christmas and bring Christ's promise of joy alive in South America.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AND PLANTS

If you wish to donate flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one, please let us have your name and the name of your loved one before Wednesday, December 16. Your donation of \$10 will help beautify our church and allow us all to keep your beloved ones in our prayers. Envelopes are at the back of the Church. Your loved ones will be in our prayers throughout this Holy season. Thank you and God bless!

**PARISH HAPPENINGS
AT ST. JOSEPH PARISH**

Dates to Remember

December 4/5/6 Poinsettia Festival

December 9 Advent Evening of Prayer

More on these events as they happen.

**St. Joseph Parish
Christmas Poinsettia Festival**

<i>Friday December 4th</i>	11am-2pm
<i>Saturday December 5th</i>	3pm-6pm
<i>Sunday December 6th</i>	10am-2pm



The Christmas Spirit is coming to St. Joseph Parish! Poinsettia plants, wreaths, food, a cash raffle, gift certificates from local supporters, jewelry, hand made knit goods, kid's crafts and more - even Celtics and Red Sox tickets!

For the young and not so young, Santa and Mrs. Claus will be on hand Saturday and Sunday to collect lists of all kinds !

Don't miss it!

All to Support St. Joseph Parish !

PLEASE HELP WITH THE FESTIVAL We are getting closer to the Festival: many hands are working behind the scenes, and they would like to invite all to help! If you would like to donate old and new jewelry call Theresa Raso at 617-723-8848. To donate baked goods, hand made knit goods, or to volunteer your time please call the rectory (617-523-4342) and leave your name and number.

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Church Name: St. Joseph's

Church City: Boston, MA

Routing Code: Y

Run Number: 8

File Name: 03-0845

Phone Number: 617-523-4342-

Fax Number:

Editor/Contact: Fran

Current Format: prn

Comments: