

## ST. JOSEPH PARISH

Rev. Daniel C. O'Connell, Pastor

Organist-Music Director: Joseph Cipoletta

Parish Secretary: Fran Ryan

Parish Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9:am-3:00pm

Sacrament of Penance: Sat 3:30pm-4pm

Tel: 617-523-4342

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## Mass Intentions

**Saturday, December 5**4:00 PM Thanksgiving for Henry Abou-Hamad  
and Family**Sunday, December 6**9:00 AM Michelle Estillore  
11:30 AM Swithen & Jolyon Rodrigues  
5:00 PM Winifred Duane**Monday, December 7**12:10 PM  
5:15 PM Vigil of Immaculate Conception**Tuesday, December 8, Immaculate Conception**

12:10 PM Thelma Maloney

**Wednesday, December 9**

12:10 PM Pasquale Rosa and Alfonso Croce

**Thursday, December 10**

10:00 AM Margaret O'Gorman

**Friday, December 11**

12:10 PM Jean Marie Archambeau, Month's Mind

**Saturday, December 12**4:00 PM Deceased Members of the  
Moscaritolo Family**Sunday, December 13**9:00 AM St. Anthony for the Souls in Purgatory  
11:30 AM Judy Paone  
5:00 PM For the Parishioners

## Parish Support

November 21-22

Offeratory \$2,442.

Retired Religious \$1,364.

November 28-29

Offeratory \$2,536.



## SANCTUARY LAMP

Month of December:

In Memory of Anthony &amp; Maria Del Vecchio

## IN MEMORIAM

Please remember in your prayers Joseph Logrippo, Sr., and Thomas Simmons, whose funerals recently took place here at St. Joseph's. May they rest in the Lord's peace.

## FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Tuesday, December 8, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation. Vigil Mass will be on Monday, December 7, at 5:15 PM, and the Mass on Tuesday will be at 12:10 PM

## 2nd Sunday of Advent

The very music swells and lifts at the beginning of George Frederick Handel's Messiah as the tenor sings, "Every valley shall be exalted." The staccato of "ev-ry va-al-ley" jumps up the scale as though the music itself is lifting up the valleys making a level path and a smooth highway. Performances of the Messiah abound this time of year in concert halls, churches, and on television. Listen closely, and you may even hear selections punctuate the piped in music of malls and department stores.



What is fascinating is that most people associate one of the most famous selections from the Messiah with Christmas. But the renowned "Hallelujah" chorus is not part of the Christmas section of Messiah. It comes at the end of part two, the section devoted to Christ's passion, death, and (hallelujah!) resurrection. There is a certain wisdom in associating this Easter message with the Advent-Christmas season. It is Christ's resurrection from the dead that is the origin of our faith. And while we prepare to celebrate his birth, what we are ultimately called to do is to be ready for when he comes again.

The prophet's message that "all flesh shall see the salvation of God," is a reminder in this Advent season of where we are really headed. It's likely that we're getting into our cars a little more often these days heading to stores and parties and Christmas events. We hope that the road we travel will be smooth. But the prophet's vision isn't about highway projects. It is about eternal salvation. Maybe when we get behind the wheel each day this month we can just say a little prayer asking God to keep us on the right path.

**REFLECTIONS FROM  
FATHER CHARLES SHEEHY**

Excepting only Jesus Christ, the greatest person who ever walked on Earth was a woman, Mary, His mother. We really know very little about her, yet strangely enough we know a great deal.

She was the wife of a man named Joseph. Her only child came directly from God. She had no relations with any man; yet in the few words we have in Sacred Scripture it was Joseph, a man very close to God, who watched over her.

No human being was ever so close to God as she, yet even in her own life she was so simple. We need no scholar to tell us that what seems such an ordinary prayer, "Hail Mary," said devoutly brings us to God through her.

"Lovely appear over the mountain the feet of them that preach and bring the good news of peace." Can we use the word "lovely" as common to any man? The little quote may well be used to tell us of Mary, who brings the greatest news of peace.

Certainly the absolute wisdom of God brings peace to us through Jesus Christ. It was through Mary that the Son of God came to us in His human nature.

***WEST END CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING***

Saturday, December 12, 6:30 PM  
Cardinal Cushing Park, 1 Bowdoin Sq.

***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!

**St. Joseph Parish  
Christmas Poinsettia Festival**

*Saturday December 5<sup>th</sup> 3pm-6pm*  
*Sunday December 6<sup>th</sup> 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 are available right now down stairs! For the young and not so young, Santa and Mrs. Claus all weekend during the hours of the festival to collect lists of all kinds !**

***Don't miss it!***  
***All to Support St. Joseph Parish !***

**A TIME FOR ADVENT PRAYER**



***Hail Mary ...Full of Grace***  
***An Advent Evening of Prayer***

The Advent season is filled with stories of people turning their hearts and minds to the sounds of God's voice. The Virgin Mary stands at the center. She was asked to trust in God's presence, and did. This evening of recollection and prayer will help us focus on the 'Advent ' call. It will help us further appreciate Mary's response *and* the joyful mystery of Christ's birth. What does her story mean for us today and what does it mean for the way we use His grace to share the call. His voice is always there. We need only listen! Come and spend a few moments in prayer and ask the Lord's blessing for a truly "Happy Christmas"

We will also have an opportunity to pray through Mary in various ways. We will pray using certain elements of :

Guided Meditation

The Prayer of her Litany

The Prayer of the Rosary

***Wednesday, December 9th - 7:00 pm***

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