

## 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 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

## Monday, December 14

12:10 PM St. Anthony for the Souls in Purgatory

## Tuesday, December 15

12:10 PM Helen Darrah, Speedy Recovery

## Wednesday, December 16

12:10 PM Margaret O'Gorman

## Thursday, December 17

12:10 PM Thanksgiving for Mary Saadeh  
and Family

## Friday, December 18

12:10 PM Daniel MacKenzie

## Saturday, December 19

4:00 PM Special Intention

## Sunday, December 20

9:00 AM Margaret O'Gorman

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

5:00 PM For the Parishioners

## Parish Support

December 5-6

Offertory

\$4,375



## SANCTUARY LAMP

Month of December:

In Memory of Anthony &amp; Maria Del Vecchio

**OUR GRAND ANNUAL APPEAL**

We are pleased to report a total of \$33,167 in pledges and donations, to our Grand Annual Appeal to date, 47% of our goal of \$70,000. Pledge cards and envelopes are available in the back of the church. Thank you for your faith, love and generous support! Through your kindness Jesus' work continues.



John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." - Lk 3:16

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

**3rd Sunday of Advent**

Pretty practical advice from John the Baptist in this week's Gospel: if you have two cloaks, share one; if you have food, do the same; be honest, don't cheat; don't lie about others.

Practical advice is the kind of thing elders would dole out to children and grandchildren. Be polite; wait your turn; say "thank you"; wash your hands before meals; take a walk; have regular check-ups.

While the simple practical advice of our elders was meant to situate us in a wholesome life that was respectful of self and others, the practical advice of John the Baptist has a great end in mind. The actions he promotes are directed toward the coming kingdom of God. John's vision takes in the whole world and extends beyond his moment in time. He is foreseeing a day when God's justice will reign supreme. He is asking his listeners to begin now to make that justice happen.

The kind things we do at this time of year are to be more than simple acts of charity. Donating food, bringing gifts for the poor, contributing to agencies that help those in need are all good things. But if we see our actions for what they can be—giving from what has been given to us to the many who have less—we then begin to understand our place in the kingdom of God. If we have more than someone else, it is always incumbent on us to share. That is the practical advice that John lays out for his listeners as preparation for the coming of the Messiah. And just to make it clear, John adds that this Messiah is coming with his winnowing fan to separate wheat from chaff. God's justice will not be denied.

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**REFLECTIONS FROM  
FATHER CHARLES SHEEHY**

The Church in the modern world stresses joy and hope, and regrets the grief and anguish of those who are poor and needy. It is addressed to the sons and daughters of the Church, to all who call upon the name of Christ and to all humanity.

The world today moves very fast yet in some respects seems to creep. The most necessary of all knowledge may be ignored to the great loss of those who pass it by.

“That they may know you even as you Father are in me and I in you, that they may be one in us that the world may believe that you sent me.”

The Second Vatican Council concerned the destiny of nature and humanity. We need only to read today’s news to learn of the frightful disasters in many areas including cities and towns in our own country.

Almost two thousand years ago one person totally unique, absolutely kind and merciful, possessed of all knowledge came into our world. He taught simply and effectively to all who would accept Him. Jesus wants to share His truth and life with us.

(to be continued)

**WEST END CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING**

Saturday, December 12, 6:00 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.

**TO DECORATE OUR CHURCH:**

**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!



**CATHOLIC TV CHRISTMAS PROGRAMMING**

It’s that time of year again! Catholic TV will intersperse Advent and Christmas programming with their regular schedule throughout December, especially from December 21 until New Year’s Eve. Then, all day December 24, 25 and 26, Catholic TV will become Christmas TV for 72 hours of non-stop specials.

**CHRISTMAS COLLECTION**

The upcoming Christmas Collection supports the retirement, health care and financial needs of priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. We encourage you to please give generously on behalf of the priests who have devoted their lives to serving God and the faithful of the Archdiocese. On behalf of all of our priests, thank you in advance for your generosity.

**FEEDING THE HOMELESS**

On Monday, November 30, a group of parishioners hosted a dinner of lasagna, meatballs, Italian string beans, rolls, butter, and ice cream sandwiches to approximately 150 homeless and hungry people. Thank you for your continuing support of this needy project as part of Neighborhood Action outreach.

**THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE**

A note was received from the West End Senior Center:

“Dear Father Dan,

Thank you so much for your generous contribution to the West End Senior Center food pantry! We appreciate your helping us to provide for those in need.

Without the support of community-minded individuals and groups, we could not provide this service.

We are so grateful for the large food collection you and your parishioners donated to us!”

Cordially, Karin Gertsch, Project Coordinator

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA FESTIVAL — THANKS**

A profound thank you to all who participated in our Christmas Poinsettia Festival. We had a chance to beautify our homes and offices, bring a smile to someone’s face and support our parish at the same time. A special thanks to our organizers, table captains and myriad of volunteers for all their hard work and time spent to make our Christmas Poinsettia Festival such a great success. A job well done!

**FESTIVAL OF CAROLS AT ST. PAUL’S**

Sundays, December 13 and 20, at 3:00 PM  
Boston Boy Choir and St. Paul Men’s Schola  
St. Paul’s Church, Bow and Arrow St., Harvard Square.  
All seats reserved; call 617-868-8658.



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