

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

FAX: 617-523-8459

Mass Intentions

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

Monday, December 21

12:10 PM Margaret O'Gorman

Tuesday, December 22

12:10 PM Augustino Baldasari

Wednesday, December 23

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

Thursday, December 24, Christmas Eve

5:00 PM Family Mass, Children's Pageant

12:00 PM Midnight Mass

Friday, December 25, Christmas Day

9:00 AM Christmas Celebration

11:30 AM Christmas Celebration

Saturday, December 26

4:00 PM Theresa, Joseph & Dennis D'Souza

Sunday, December 27, Holy Family

9:00 AM Special Intention

11:30 AM Ignazio Terranova

5:00 PM For the Parishioners

Parish Support

December 12-13

Offertory \$3,116



SANCTUARY LAMP

Month of December:

In Memory of Anthony & Maria Del Vecchio

OUR GRAND ANNUAL APPEAL

We are pleased to report a total of \$34,272 in pledges and donations, to our Grand Annual Appeal to date, 49% 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.



Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." - Lk 1: 41, 42, 45

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

4th Sunday of Advent

For some reason Christmas seems to bring out stories of the underdog—the unseen, unpretentious, almost unknown, who suddenly breaks on the scene. There's the little drummer boy, who has nothing, but shows up to play for the newborn king. There's the fictional story of the fourth magi, who was delayed in getting to the meeting place and so didn't make the journey to Bethlehem but found Jesus later in life. And then there's Charlie Brown's Christmas tree, that forlorn sprig that at the end of the show is shown as a glorious tree.

As we hear in the first reading from Micah, Bethlehem is much the same. A tiny backwater village that isn't even big enough to be numbered among the clans of Judah. Add to the story a young, pregnant girl from a remote town in Galilee and you don't exactly have the makings of fame and fortune.

Yet by God's grace, the underdog triumphs. Mary's kinswoman, Elizabeth, recognizes the greatness when Mary shows up at her doorstep. "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb," exclaims Elizabeth, using words that we now pray every time we say the Hail Mary. Elizabeth points out, "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

When we're in the lowly position, it can be hard to imagine that we can see our way out. But God does raise the lowly, as Mary said in reply to Elizabeth's greeting. Conversely, when we're on top of the world, we might do well to recall the rest of Mary's prayer: "[The Lord] has cast down the mighty from their thrones." A humble spirit can help us act upon God's will for us.



**REFLECTIONS FROM
FATHER CHARLES SHEEHY**

Tucked away in the many and varied words relating to Christmas, we find two opposites: Christmas (with Christ) the “Mass of Christ,” and Christmas (ignoring Christ).

Yet, even when Jesus Christ is ignored, in His special coming to our earth born of the Virgin Mary, we find him present even when forgotten.

Many who ignore Jesus in His coming season are conscious of human need in the time of Advent. Advent means of course “Coming.” A careful study would find, almost without question, that this “Coming” can have only one meaning, “the Coming of Jesus Christ.”

Surely “hope” is very much alive in this season of the birth of Jesus Christ. People who rarely come to Mass will come on this day celebrating the birth of Christ. Would that all who come will keep coming, as each Sunday urges us to be with the Son of God.

Fragments of an ancient prayer directed to the Mother of Christ may help us. “In sorrow you console us. Beg Him for us who shed His blood for us that we might come to Him. Hail Mary, when He came within you, dark night went, and in came day.”

THE ADVENT GIVING TREE

This is the final week for taking an ornament from the Advent Giving Tree 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.



Please keep in prayer Eleanor (Sheehy) Farrell who passed away this week, the sister of Father Charles Sheehy, may she rest in Christ’s peace.



The Poinsettia Festival Committee will meet this weekend to review the why’s and wherefores of the Festival/Bazaar. As usual thank you all buyers and sellers for your support of this important fund raiser.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve -- Thursday, Dec. 24

5:00 PM -- Family Mass
and Children’s Pageant
11:30 PM -- Christmas Carols
12:00 PM -- Midnight Mass

Christmas Day -- Friday, Dec. 25

9:00 AM -- Mass
11:30 AM -- Mass



***A TRIM A TREE PARTY—ALL INVITED!
Christmas Decorating — It’s really fun!***

Can you help? On Wednesday night, December 23, at 7:00 PM, a group will gather to help decorate our church for Christmas. If you can hang garlands or decorate a Christmas tree (poinsettia placement can be a help too) please plan on being there. Many hands make light work, and it really does take just about an hour. Thanks!

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.

Join Fr. Reed, Jay Fadden and the whole Catholic TV staff for the best in Christmas programming.

You can always watch all of the fine Catholic TV programming live and on demand at our easy-to-navigate web site: www.CatholicTV.com

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

Merry Christmas from all of the priests of the Archdiocese.

There is only one collection at all Christmas Masses. Your donations support the retirement, health care and financial needs of the priests that have served our parishes in the Boston area, including those now at Regina Cleri. Each of us can remember fondly those priests who have baptized our children, witnessed our marriages, or brought anointing to loved ones who were dying. We encourage you to give generously on behalf of the priests who have devoted their lives to God and His Church in the Archdiocese of Boston. On behalf of all of our priests, thank you in advance for your generosity.

FESTIVAL OF CAROLS AT ST. PAUL’S

Sunday, December 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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