

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 26

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

Sunday, December 27, Holy Family

9:00 AM Special Intention

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

5:00 PM For the Parishioners

Monday, December 28

12:10 PM Thomas Simmons, Month's Mind

Tuesday, December 2912:10 PM Thanksgiving for Giselle Damiani
and Family**Wednesday, December 30**

12:10 PM In Memory of the Marron Family

Thursday, December 31, Vigil

12:10 PM In Memory of the Marron Family

5:15 PM Vigil Mass

Friday, January 1, Blessed Virgin Mary

10:00 AM Sanctuary Fund

Saturday, January 2

4:00 PM Michael Prisco

Sunday, January 3

9:00 AM In Memory of the Marron Family

11:30 AM Arthur Faucher, Open Heart Surgery

5:00 PM For the Parishioners

Parish Support

Thank you for your continuing support. Due to the bulletin going to the printer early last week and this week no figures will be available till January 3 and 10, 2010.

SANCTUARY LAMP

Month of December:

In Memory of Anthony & Maria Del Vecchio

First Week of January

The D'Souza Family

IN MEMORIAM

A Month's Mind Mass will be celebrated on Monday, December 28, for Thomas Simmons, who was a very active long-time member of St. Joseph's Parish.

Jesus said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. - Lk 2:49-50



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

THE HOLY FAMILY

Adolescents are often characterized in American culture as moody, rebellious, unresponsive to adults, secretive, addicted to text messaging, and generally disconnected from their families. The caricature carries over into films, television shows, and comic strips like "Zits." Television sitcoms often garner great laughs by pitting younger, wittier children against adolescents to the delight of onlooking parents. Such views only serve to separate the members of a family rather than unite them as one household.

While we may laugh at the humor, letting culture define family life is not the direction offered by Christian experience. For starters, Christians begin with baptism, recognizing that each member of the family shares in the gift of the Holy Spirit that dwells in our hearts. As the writer of the First Letter of John says, "We are God's children now." In the family, each member is a precious gift with talents given by God.

The adolescent Jesus slipped away from Mary and Joseph in Sunday's Gospel. (Has it ever happened to you where one of your older kids slipped away because they wanted to stay out a little longer?) In the end, his actions were seen as part of God's larger plan. It remains a delicate balance in helping children to discern their gifts as they grow older, while at the same time providing the discipline and structure that will protect and guide them. This feast that we celebrate today reminds us that the balance comes from seeing ourselves as a family with God in our midst. With that as the starting point, rather than the culture of the day, we can all learn how to be about our heavenly Father's business.

**REFLECTIONS FROM
FATHER CHARLES SHEEHY**

“We propose, God disposes” . . . This expression urges us to try to see and fulfill God’s will for us.

Jimmy and Johnnie were brothers, two little twins whose mother found them to be expert in mischief. One day they ran into the house with good news.

“Mommy, we found a case of ice on our street, so we mailed it.” All that their mother could do was to pray that none of the letters was important. “Dear God, I hope that no letter was special. May there even be one person who wishes they had not mailed.”

We may plan our lives with care. Yet even then we may find that somehow the result will often not be what we want.

Saul of Tarsus was possessed with the determination of finding and destroying the followers of Jesus Christ. On a trip filled with hatred he was suddenly thrown to the ground.

The words “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me” resounded in his ears. The grace of God wiped away hate and overwhelmed Saul, now Paul, with love of Christ.

May all people learn to follow the way to Jesus Christ.

CHRISTIAN VOCATION

On the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, January 10, the Church invites us to consider our own vocation. How can I discern God’s call? How can I listen to God’s invitation? We have all been chosen by God through our Baptism. Take time with God and others to explore your vocational call. The time is right; God is waiting for you.

A panel of men and women will speak about their vocations at St. Michael’s Parish Hall, North Andover, on Sunday, January 10, 2:00 to 5:00 PM, including Vespers and Benediction. Please respond to Sister Marian Batho, CSJ, at 617 -746-5637 or Sr_Marian_Batho@rcab.org

NEW YEAR’S DAY WITH THE POPE

CatholicTV will air vespers service from the Vatican at 8PM Eastern on New Year’s Eve. CatholicTV will also air the Mass of the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God at noon and 8PM on Jan 1st. New Year’s Day will also mark the 43rd World Day of Peace originally introduced by Pope Paul VI. These Vatican events will stream at www.CatholicTV.com and also on CatholicTV where available.

FEAST OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Friday, January 1, is the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God it is a Holy Day of Obligation. We will celebrate the Holy Day with a Vigil Mass on Thursday, December 31, at 5:15pm, and Mass on Friday, January 1, at 10:00am.



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

“Thank You” to Denise Tompkins, Georgeanne Aquino, and the teachers and young people of our parish who presented our Christmas Play at the 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Liturgy. It is always truly wonderful to get the Christmas viewpoint as it is presented by our young people. Their faith and talent brought all of us a bit deeper into the Christmas Mystery.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

We hope that each of you had a wonderful Christmas Day. As a reminder to you all, the Christmas Collection supports the retirement, medical care, and financial needs of the priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. If you have not done so already and you wish to do so, you may include your completed Christmas Collection envelope in today’s collection basket. Thank you for your continued generosity to the church.

CHRISTMAS THANKS

Thanks to all who donated to our Christmas Flower Offering to help beautify our church and allow us all to keep your beloved ones in our prayers.

Thanks to all who helped to make our Christmas Celebrations and Church as beautiful as it was. Working together the task was accomplished in a wonderful way. When we work together, His work continues!

Thanks too, for all who gifted the Rectory in the many ways you did. Your kindness and Christmas ‘goodies’ were appreciated by all the priests! Thank You!!!

THE ADVENT GIVING TREE

Thanks to all who have taken an ornament from our Advent Giving Tree. The children of our sister parish in South America thank you all for your generosity.



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.

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ANY TEXT OR GRAPHICS ON THIS PAGE
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