

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, 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

Monday, January 412:10 PM Thanksgiving for Henry Abou-Hamad
and Family**Tuesday, January 5**

12:10 PM Michael Tirella

Wednesday, January 6

12:10 PM Blanche Mackin

Thursday, January 7

12:10 PM In Memory of the Marron Family

Friday, January 8

10:00 AM In Memory of the Marron Family

Saturday, January 9

4:00 PM St. Anthony and St. Jude

Sunday, January 10

9:00 AM

11:30 AM Mary Colleen Nelson, Month's Mind

5:00 PM For the Parishioners

Parish Support

**December 19-20** Offertory \$2,130**December 25** Clergy Benefit Trust \$5,079**December 26-27** Offertory \$2,074

SANCTUARY LAMP

First Week of January

The D'Souza Family

IN MEMORIAM

Please remember Father Harold Johnson, and Ursula Vincent, a long time parishioner, whose funerals took place recently here at St. Joseph Parish. May they rest in the Lord's peace.



Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." - Mt 2:1b-2

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

Epiphany of the Lord

Stars are amazing--not the people who claim star status because of their work in sports or entertainment--but the stars that populate the universe. Most are between one and ten billion years old, a time span impossible to comprehend. Other than the sun, the closest star to Earth is Proxima Centauri, about twenty-five trillion miles away, another calculation that is impossible to comprehend. The exponential numbers scientists use when working with stars, whether it is age, distance, weight, composition, luminosity, or any other characteristic, race beyond our everyday calculations of hundreds and thousands. Stars are just too big for us humans.

No wonder Matthew's infancy narrative included a star as the sign for the newborn king. Everything about this child's birth seemed unimportant: born in Bethlehem instead of the big city, Jerusalem; unknown to the important people of the day; the pregnant woman taken into Joseph's home quietly so as not to cause scandal; a quiet, unremarkable birth in an unimportant country in the empire.

But then there's that star! Big, shining, revealing that there is more to this event than meets the eye. Visitors come from afar, and upset the balance of power as they seek the child who would be king. Epiphany is the manifestation of Christ to the world. And the star shows him to be who he really is--King of the universe and Lord of all. So it shouldn't seem so strange to us that Matthew would point out one of those incomprehensible entities in the night sky as the signifier of the One who is beyond all human understanding. What is remarkable is that that One came to be one of us so that we could understand him.

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**REFLECTIONS FROM
FATHER CHARLES SHEEHY**

Once a child is born those who love them become very active in their care. In the Catholic Church there are seventeen days this year celebrating the coming of Jesus Christ to our world.

The days begin of course with the birth of the Christ Child. The continuation includes the glorious Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Later we would know of the Holy Innocents, children murdered by a hateful king because he could not find Jesus.

The passing centuries bring us in the inspiration of Saints, including our own American, John Neumann, Elizabeth An Seton and others. We hear of Juan Diego an Indian convert to whom the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared on December 9, 1531 and left a picture of herself upon his cloak.

Two thousand years ago a young woman gave birth to the most wonderful of any infant born in our universe. She was and ever will be the greatest of all persons, the holiest of all mothers who ever graced our world.

Christmas is a wonderful day, it really becomes our most wonderful of gifts when we begin to appreciate and realize how blessed we can be if we treasure the eternal Son of God and His blessed mother bringing Him to our world.

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

OUR GRAND ANNUAL APPEAL

We are pleased to report a total of \$40,652 in pledges and donations, to our Grand Annual Appeal to date, 58% 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.

Happy New Year!

We began our new year looking toward our Blessed Lady. Called in the Gospels "the Mother of Jesus", Mary is acclaimed by Elizabeth, at the prompting of the Spirit and even before the birth of her son, as "the mother of my Lord". In fact, the One whom she conceived as man by the Holy Spirit, who truly became her Son according to the flesh, was none other than the Father's eternal Son, the second person of the Holy Trinity. Hence the Church confesses that Mary is truly "Mother of God". (Catechism of Catholic Church) May she bless us all during 2010.

THANK YOU

A great word of thanks goes out to the committee and the workers who decorated our Church for Christmas. Parishioners and visitors alike remarked on the beauty of our Church. A thank you also for all of the liturgical ministries who worked to make our liturgies fine moments of prayer. Thank you!

Thanks to all who dropped off gifts and goodies to the rectory this past week. The priests are grateful (as well as a bit heavier!)

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION THANK YOU

As we take a moment to reflect on the year past and pray for a hopeful future, we would like to remind you that the yearly 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.

We Remember...We Celebrate...We Believe...

Flowers have been donate in the memory of the following:

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|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Katherine Caliri | Helen Melito |
| Elizabeth Darcy | Timothy, Anna |
| Lt. Col. James F. Darcy | and Lucy |
| Patricia Darcy | The Toussaint Family |
| Tracey Davis | David Pfeiffer |
| Steven Flewelling | M. Bernyce Simmons |
| Barbara A. Glennon | Clifton Simmon |
| Don Gregory | Mary Simmons |
| Mary & Charles Keohan | Catherine & Alfred |
| Joanie Maguire | Tebeau |

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