

ST. JOSEPH PARISH

Rev. Daniel C. O'Connell, Pastor

Organist-Music Director: Joseph Cipoletta

Parish Secretary: Fran Ryan

Faith Formation: Pat Harris

Tel: 617-523-4342 Parish Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9:am-3:00pm FAX: 617-523-8459

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

Saturday 4:00 PM	November 27 Chandra Prakah Tandow
Sunday 9:00 AM 11:30 AM 5:00 PM	November 28 Soumya Misra Margaret Kelliher Parishioners
Monday 12:10 PM	November 29 Mickey Conneally
Tuesday 12:10 PM	November 30 Patrick Barden
Wednesday 12:10 PM	December 1 Don McParland — Good Health
Thursday 12:10 PM	December 2 Erica Matuszewski
Friday 12:10 PM	December 3—First Friday Sanctuary Fund
Saturday 4:00 PM	December 4 Jennie Stone
Sunday 9:00 AM 11:30 AM 5:00 PM	December 5 Swithen & Jolyon Rodrigues Judy Paone Parishioners

Parish Support

Thank you for your continuing support. This week's bulletin went to the printer early due to the holiday so no figures for Nov 20-21 weekend donations will be available until next week.

TESTING YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Last weeks Question (One person at the first Thanksgiving Dinner at Plymouth in 1621 was a Catholic)

Answer: Tisquantum (Indian name) Juan (baptized name) Pilgrims called him Squanto.

ADVENT BLUE BOOKS

As we begin Advent, or 23 days of preparation for Christmas, once again we have the "Little Blue Books" to help us prepare spiritually. They are available at the church entrance and cost \$2.00 each. They invite us to give the Lord six minutes a day.

ADVENT GIVING TREE

Again this year we will celebrate a 'giving tree' and we will do so for our Haiti Sister Parish and the people of Haiti as they continue to try to recover from the many losses they have faced. Envelopes will be on the tree and you are invited to take one from the tree 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 to His people.

1st Sunday of Advent

Wheel of Fortune is more than a TV game show with Pat Sajak and Vanna White. While they have been at it for almost thirty years, having contestants spin the wheel and puzzle out the hidden phrase-"I'd like to buy a vowel, Pat!"- Fortune's Wheel has a much longer history. Going back to Roman times, and then made famous in the Middle Ages, the true "Wheel of Fortune" is an allegory on life. Fortuna (Fortune) is shown as a woman who spins the wheel with a person at the top, one on either side, and a fourth crushed at the bottom. The person on his way up will reign, the one on top is reigning, the person on his way down has reigned, and the final person on the bottom has lost everything. This is fortune's never ending cycle in human existence.

At first glance, the return of the Son of Man in Sunday's Gospel may seem to be no more than the vagaries of fortune. For men in the field and for women grinding grain, the fate is the same: "one will be taken, and one will be left." It is as though Jesus were describing the employment situation in the current economy.

Rather than adhering to the wheel of falling and rising fortunes, with the beginning of the church year today we enter into our annual cycle of celebrations of the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. As Christians, we are on a greater journey than a wheel of fortune. The life of Christ is our life too. As Paul reminds us in his Letter to the Romans, we have put on the Lord Jesus Christ. It is not fortune that guides us, but hope: hope in Christ, who is our salvation. We will follow him in this new year of grace, and through faith and love we will be ready to welcome him when he comes again.



RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION NEWS

Classes for Religious Education will be held on December 5th in the Church. Please come by 10 am and drop off the children upstairs. The Poinsettia Festival will be in our space that day. We will be doing our Church Tour Lesson. The children will be finished at 11:15. Please plan to use the Advent Wreaths the children brought home last week. Today is the first Sunday of Advent and the first purple candle is to be "lit" today. The prayers are glued to the box cover.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA FESTIVAL

*Fri-Dec 3, 11 AM - 2 PM, Sat-Dec 4, 3 PM - 6 PM,
Sun-Dec 5, 10 AM - 2 PM*

St. Joseph's Christmas Poinsettia Festival is next weekend. We still need volunteers! Please let us know if you are interested in contributing in any of the ways listed below.

Raffles Table - Work at the raffles table please e-mail Judy Lauch at jmlauch@netscape.net or call 617-367-4730.

Food Table - Work at the food table please e-mail Karen Kim at kannekim@gmail.com or call 617-959-1966.

Baked Goods - To donate food, please contact Karen Kim to let her know what you will bring and which day you will provide it. Please plan to pre-package your baked goods in \$2 portions. Please e-mail Karen at kannekim@gmail.com or call 617-959-1966.

Jewelry - We are seeking jewelry donations. If you would like to make a donation, please call Theresa Raso at 617-723-8848.

Christmas Music - It would be a nice touch to have musicians and/or vocalists provide Christmas music. If you would like to offer your talents, please e-mail Jessica Dekermanji at jessica.dekermanji@gmail.com.

Set up (Wednesday, 12/1, at 7 PM), **Clean up** (Sunday, 12/5, at 2 PM) - please e-mail Jessica Dekermanji at jessica.dekermanji@gmail.com.

Please tell family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers about this year's event. This is an important fundraiser for our parish. *** Your help is greatly appreciated!! **Remember!!!** Put your order in for your Poinsettias here at St. Joseph's.

**REFLECTIONS FROM
FATHER CHARLES SHEEHY**

Most Catholics seem to concentrate on the four Gospels, surely a fine way to become aware of the Way, the Truth and the Light, helping us to know, love and serve God. A great beginning could be found in the work of Isaiah who opened the minds of many over seven hundred years before the Gospels.

Pagan power had harmed the faith of the Jewish people greatly. Sadly much of the problem came from the indifference of God's own people. Isaiah was the voice crying out to the people of their need to return to God. Ahaz, king of Judah, and his son were very weak people. God spoke to His people through the king. He can protect his people with the help of God. The ruler is afraid to act. The word of God comes to strengthen the king, but his faith is weak, he will not believe or accept God's blessing.

The key words are a promise for the future. God will give His sign. We find a strong sign, though without name, the Lord Himself will give His sign. THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND BEAR A SON, AND SHALL NAME HIM EMMANUEL.



LITURGICAL MINISTRY AFTERNOON

A very important Liturgical Ministry afternoon happened last Sunday. Our Sunday Eucharist is the most important prayer we offer in our parish. Our Lay Ministers realize the sacred import of all they do and seek to bring faith and dignity to the service they offer. Thank you to all those who have volunteered to enhance our Liturgy through their Ministry of Lector, Ministry of Communion and Ministry to the Sick. Working together we continue to share the message of Jesus with so many who long and need to hear his voice.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AND PLANTS

If you wish to donate flowers in memory of or honor of a loved one, please let us have your name and the name of your loved one before Wednesday, December 15. 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!



LITURGY BOOKS

Liturgy books for Lectors are available in the sacristy. You may pick them up before or after Mass.



DON'T MISS GETTING YOUR " St. Joseph's Taste and See Cookbook" they are available in the sacristy after Mass, stop by the rectory during the week or purchase them at the Poinsettia Festival next weekend!

