

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	December 4 Jennie Stone
Sunday 9:00 AM 11:30 AM 5:00 PM	December 5 Swithen & Jolyon Rodrigues Judy Paone Parishioners
Monday 12:10 PM	December 6 In memory of the Marron Family
Tuesday 12:10 PM 5:15 PM	December 7 Joannie Hamilton Vigil of the Immaculate Conception
Wednesday 12:10 PM	December 8 — Immaculate Conception Holy Day Mass
Thursday 12:10 PM	December 9 In memory of the Marron Family
Friday 12:10 PM	December 10 Richard T. Kelly
Saturday 4:00 PM	December 11 Emilio Pasqua
Sunday 9:00 AM 11:30 AM 5:00 PM	December 12 Deceased members of the Curtin Family Deceased members of the Moscaritolo Family Parishioners

Parish Support

Nov. 14	Offertory	\$2,427
Nov. 21	Offertory	\$3,570
Nov. 28	Offertory	\$2,729



**SANCTUARY LAMP - Month of December
In Memory of Vincent Raso**

SPECIAL COLLECTION

Our yearly Missionary special collection will be held next Sunday. Sister Agnes Wan our own parishioner will speak of the important work of the Propagation.

SAVE THE DATE Wednesday, December 15, 7:00pm - Advent Evening of Prayer.

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Wednesday, December 8, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation. Vigil Mass will be on Tuesday, December 7, at 5:15 PM, and the Mass on Wednesday will be at 12:10 PM.



John the Baptist appeared, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said:

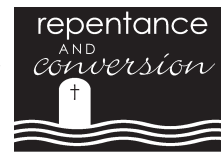
A voice of one crying out in the desert,
Prepare the way of the Lord.-- Mt 3:1a, 2-3b

2nd Sunday of Advent

Has anyone ever called you out? When I lived in the central city of a large metropolitan area, calling someone out in the neighborhood was a commonplace occurrence. Large porches and the lack of air-conditioning meant that folks would often spend summer afternoons and evenings sitting out front. Everyone knew one another. On a warm summer night, even though you were ten houses away from your own home, you could be sure that if you were doing something wrong, whoever was sitting up on the porch would call you out right then and there.

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist had no hesitation about calling out the Pharisees and the Sadducees. From his perspective, they were coming out to take part in a ritual cleansing-an important rite of Judaism in the time of Jesus-without having the proper disposition of repentance and conversion. John's warning to them does not make for comfortable reading, even today.

As we go about all the hustle and bustle of preparation for Christmas, we might lose sight of the fact that Advent is also a time of preparation for our final end. Just like teens don't like being called out when they're doing something wrong, we don't like to think that much about the end of our lives. And it's even harder to do so in this busy season. But Advent celebrates Christ's coming: his coming in time at Bethlehem; his coming to each individual Christian in the fullness of one's life; and his coming at the end of time. Maybe take a little time this week to reflect on your readiness for Christ, so that you're not called out at the end.





Classes for Religious Education will be held Sunday in the Church. Please drop off and pick up the children upstairs in the church.

Today is the second Sunday of Advent and two purple candles are “lit” today.



ADVENT BLUE BOOKS

During 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 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.

OUR GRAND ANNUAL APPEAL

We are pleased to report a total of \$32,962 in pledges and donations, to our Grand Annual Appeal to date, 44% of our goal of \$75,000. 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.

FEEDING THE HOMELESS

On Monday, November 29, 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.

LECTOR BOOKS

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

REFLECTIONS FROM FATHER CHARLES SHEEHY

The man named Saul watched as St. Stephen was stoned to death. Saul hated any followers of Jesus Christ. Soon six words changed Saul’s life. Jesus Christ spoke, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”

Jesus Christ spoke to Saul and his whole life changed. He was no longer Saul who would persecute Christians. His whole life would center on Jesus Christ.

The suspicion toward this new follower of Jesus brought on natural suspicion from many devout believers in Jesus. It was the grace of God who chose Ananias to restore the temporary loss of Saul’s sight. It was not long before the grace of God began to work through the new servant of Jesus Christ.

The adage “God made me to know Him, love Him and serve Him in this world and be happy with Him forever in the next.”

We don’t know how long St. Paul lived. We do know that over the centuries through the grace of God countless people found their way to the joy of Christ through Paul.

There is an expression “The love of Christ urges us on.” In ordinary life we are aware of the blessing of human love. How wonderful then is the love of Christ.



OUR CHRISTMAS ALTAR

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!



RECONCILIATION—THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU

This Advent, on **Wednesdays December 15 and 22, from 6:30-8:00 PM**, St. Joseph Parish and all the parishes and chapels of the Archdiocese of Boston will be open for individual confessions. The Archdiocese has set up a website, www.TheLightIsOnForYou.org, to help you prepare. It has videos on the Sacrament of Reconciliation, sheets on how to make a good confession, answers to frequently asked questions and more. Please plan to come, and spread the word.

OUR POINSETTIA FESTIVAL IS HERE

The Poinsettia Festival continues this weekend, 3:00 to 6:00 on Saturday, and 10:00 to 2:00 on Sunday. Pick up your Poinsettias for Christmas, and visit the tables for jewelry, raffle items, and baked goods. “ St. Joseph’s Taste and See Cookbook” will also be available. This is an important fundraiser for our parish. So please stop by!