

**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**

<b>Saturday</b> 4:00 PM	<b>December 11</b> Emilio Pasqua
<b>Sunday</b> 9:00 AM	<b>December 12</b> Deceased members of the Curtin Family
11:30 AM	Deceased members of the Moscaritolo Family
5:00 PM	Parishioners
<b>Monday</b> 12:10 PM	<b>December 13</b> In memory of the Marron Family
<b>Tuesday</b> 12:10 PM	<b>December 14</b> Annie Sutton
<b>Wednesday</b> 12:10 PM	<b>December 15</b> Deceased Family and Friends of Paul Ashton
<b>Thursday</b> 12:10 PM	<b>December 16</b> In memory of the Marron Family
<b>Friday</b> 12:10 PM	<b>December 17</b> John J. & Thelme E. Maloney
<b>Saturday</b> 4:00 PM	<b>December 18</b> Augustino Baldasari—15th Anniversary
<b>Sunday</b> 9:00 AM	<b>December 19</b> Amelework & Daughter Cynthia—Living
11:30 AM	Family Mass
5:00 PM	Parishioners

**Parish Support**

**December 5                      Offertory                      \$2,954**



**SANCTUARY LAMP -  
in Memory of Vincent Raso**

**SPECIAL COLLECTION....Propagation of the Faith**

Our yearly Missionary special collection will be held this weekend. Sister Agnes Wan, who many of you will recognize as one of our own Eucharistic Minister, will speak of the important work of the Propagation of the Faith.

**CHRISTMAS COLLECTION**

The upcoming Christmas collection supports the retirement needs of the priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. On behalf of all our retired priests, thank you in advance for

Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them." - Mt 11:4-5



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

**3rd Sunday of Advent**

In this day and age, we could indeed act upon Jesus' words to "go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised" (Mt 11:4-5). These very things are happening today in hospitals and clinics all over the world. The miracles of Jesus take place each and every day.

Simple cataract surgery restored sight to many elderly people. Innovations in artificial limbs made it possible for even severely injured veterans who were amputees to be able to walk again. Hansen's disease (leprosy) has been almost completely eliminated, and those who had been considered modern day lepers—people infected with HIV—have been given a new lease on life with modern drugs. Cochlear implants make it possible for many who had become deaf to be able to hear again. And the stories about people who are saved because of automatic defibrillators are recounted almost weekly in the media.

There is one more thing that Jesus told John's disciples that they should recount to him: the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. There are lots of opportunities for Christians to bring good news to the poor during this time of year. But proclaiming good news is about more than a check. It also means working with organizations that are trying to alleviate poverty. We're not all qualified to be physicians who work the miracles of healing, but we can work the miracle of ending poverty through our advocacy for the poor.



**RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION NEWS**

Our Church Tour Project was a sight to behold. We prayed using the images in the Church as inspiration. Please add your prayers to the children's for an Advent filled with joy as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus.

This Third Sunday of Advent we light the pink candle along with the 2 purple ones on our wreaths.



Christmas Cards are needed for the children's crafts. Send any in good shape our way. A box will be near the Kid's Corner at the back of the Church. Thank you!

Family Mass will be next Sunday, December 19 at 11:30am.

Our Christmas Pageant will take place on Friday, December 24 at the 5:00pm Mass. Anyone interested in participating or parents who would like to help please email Pat Harris at [repatharis@verizon.net](mailto:repatharis@verizon.net).

**ADVENT GIVING TREE**

Again this year we are celebrating 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 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**. Envelopes are at the back of the Church. Your donation of \$10 will help beautify our church and allow us all to keep your beloved ones in our prayers.

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA FESTIVAL - THANKS!**

To all who participated in our Christmas Poinsettia Festival a heartfelt thank you. We had a chance to decorate our homes and offices with Poinsettia plants, bring a smile to someone's face and support our parish at the same time. A special thanks to our organizers, table captains and myriad of volunteers for all their hard work and time spent to make our Christmas Poinsettia Festival such a great success. A job well done!

**RECONCILIATION—  
THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU**

**Wednesday December 15—  
6:30pm**

**AN ADVENT EVENING OF PRAYER**

**Advent Persons of Hope**

The Advent season is filled with stories of people turning their hearts and minds to the sounds of God's voice. Zechariah, Elizabeth and Mary are major figures in the Annunciation story. This evening of reconciliation and prayer will help us focus on their "Advent Response" and will lead us to look at our "Advent Call". This grace working in us will assist us to further appreciate the mystery of Christ's birth. His voice is always there. We need only listen!

At the end of the service in keeping with the **LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU** program the sacrament of reconciliation will be offered as we in prayer ask the Lord's blessing for a truly "Happy Christmas"

**Wednesday December 22—  
6:30pm**

**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.

**REFLECTIONS FROM  
FATHER CHARLES SHEEHY**

In one way or other we are blessed with special friends. St. Paul needed only seven words to express his life in Christ: "The love of Christ urges us on." Once Paul found Jesus Christ, he had the perfect friend.

In his letter to the Ephesians Paul speaks of our unity in Christ. There is only one Jesus Christ. He gave Himself up for us. The love Christ has is extensive, offered to all who will accept it.

When a person offers us a gift, it is to show their love for us. When they find that we are very pleased with it, they see it, in a certain sense, as theirs also.

Jesus Christ first knew of Paul as the bitter enemy of all who were friends of Christ. Jesus spoke to the persecutor Saul, soon to become Paul, and the terrible persecutor became a dedicated follower of Jesus. Once Paul realized the life of Christ, and His giving of Himself, the enemy of the people of Christ became the great friend.

The Church has twenty-one letters of Paul, all helping us to love Christ.