

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

Est. 1863

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*M*ission Statement of St. John's Parish

Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the community of St. John's Parish works to spread the Gospel message through a ministry of compassion, education and stewardship. Our life as believers is centered in the Eucharist, which encourages and fosters a deep sense of identity in Christ Jesus and the mission the Lord Jesus calls us to embrace.

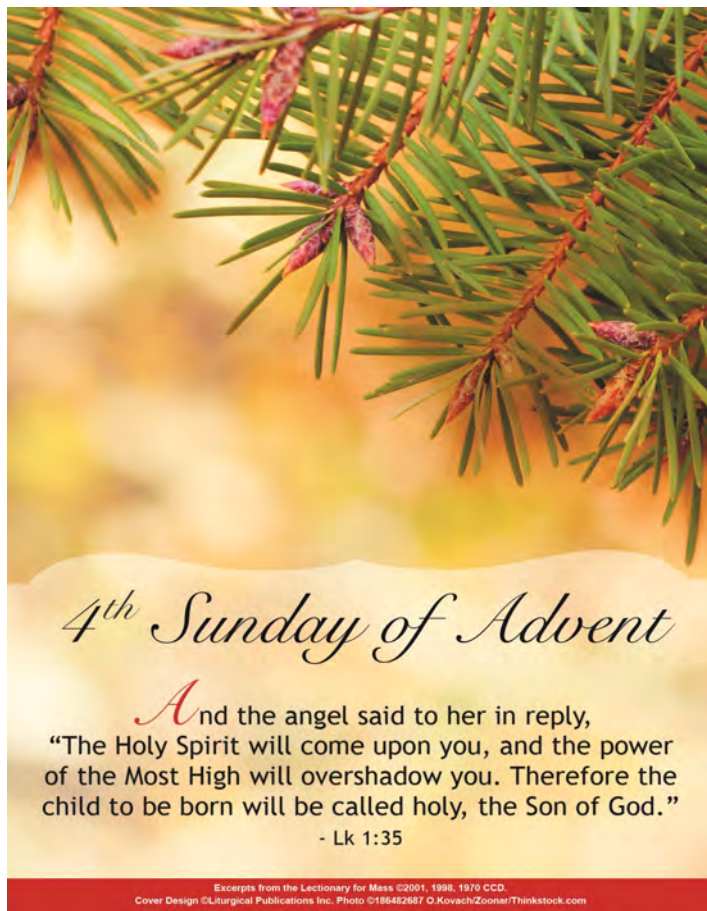
WELCOME! We welcome all who have come to worship in our parish community. If you are new to our parish, please introduce yourself to any of the priests or deacons. We encourage you to register in the parish by calling the rectory. Your presence at St. John's Parish is greatly appreciated and welcomed.

Mass Schedule

Saturday 4:00PM (Vigil Mass)
Sunday 8:30AM, 11:00AM & 5:00 PM
Weekdays 8:00AM Mon.-Sat.
Holy Days & Holidays: As announced

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Robert J. Cullen, Administrator
Rev. W. Chris Palladino, J.C.L., in Residence
Dn. Paul A. Lewis
Dn. William R. Proulx
Joe Stevens, Pastoral Associate
Joanne Curry, Religious Education Director,
K-9 Religious Education Office 617-877-5014
Email: restjohnquinCY@gmail.com
Donna Niosi, Administrative Assistant/Religious
Education Secretary
Paul Kelly, Music Director
St. John's Food Pantry 617-472-4908



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

Lower Chapel, Wednesdays, 8:30-9:00am;
Saturdays, 2:30-3:30pm or call the rectory to make
an appointment with a priest.

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Before you enter the hospital for any major surgery or
in case of an emergency, we encourage you to receive
the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. For this
Sacrament, please contact the Rectory.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION IN THE LOWER CHURCH CHAPEL

Friday: 8:30am-3:30pm
1st Saturdays: 8:30am-9:45am



Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, December 23

8:00 a.m. 1st Anniversary Kyle Sullivan

4:00 p.m. 7th Anniversary Costanzo Ranalli

Sunday, December 24 (Sunday Masses)

8:30 a.m. 9th Anniversary Leslie DeThomaso

11:00 a.m. Birthday Memorial Artie John DePietro



Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve Masses

4:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.

(Carolling for 10:30 Mass starts at 10:00 p.m.)



Monday, December 25, (Christmas Day)

Masses 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

(No 5:00 p.m. Mass)

Tuesday, December 26

8:00 a.m. Memorial Mary Tieso

Wednesday, December 27

8:00 a.m.

Thursday, December 28

8:00 a.m.

Friday, December 29

8:00 a.m. Month's Mind Paul Colarusso

Saturday, December 30

8:00 a.m.

4:00 p.m. Birthday Memorial Doris Crean

Sunday, December 31 (All Sunday Masses)

8:30 a.m.

11:00 a.m. All Deceased Members of the

William & Margaret Dougherty Family

5:00 p.m. Mass for the People



A Note From Father Bob

"With Angelic Hosts Proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem"

On behalf of all of us here at St. John's, the clergy, staff, volunteers, Mother Olga and the Daughters of Mary of Nazareth; our very warmest Christmas prayers and blessings to all of the family members and friends who make up our beautiful community of faith.

In the movie *The Wizard of Oz*, when Dorothy is told that she always had the power to go home but had to learn it for herself, she offers some words of wisdom. "That if I ever go looking for my heart's desire again, I won't look any further than my own back yard, because if it isn't there, I never lost it to begin with." Dorothy learns that her longings lead her right back to herself and the people she loves.

Christmas is a time to remember our hearts desire! It's Jesus. The restlessness we all feel from time to time, the whims we chase, the endless search for the latest and greatest new gadget, the filling up of our time with work and busyness, all leads us right back to the longing that can only be satisfied with God. Jesus is the reason for the season. Let's try to carry that throughout the New Year.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Father Bob

Donations:

For the week of December 24th the Bread and Wine have been donated in Memory of Sr. M. Agnellita, CSJ & Sr. M. Roberta, CSJ. If you would like to make a memorial donation for the altar bread and/or the altar wine in memory of a loved one or for a special intention, please call the rectory at 617-773-1021. The donation for the altar bread or the altar wine is \$30 each for one week (\$60 for both).



SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Arrangements must be made at least 6 months in advance. Please contact the Rectory to set up an appointment (617-773-1021) A Marriage Preparation Program is required.



The Spirituality of Stewardship

*Receiving God's Gifts gratefully;
Nurturing God's Gifts responsibly;
Sharing God's Gifts in love and justice;
Returning God's Gifts generously*

Due to the early transmission deadline requested for this weeks publication, the Total Sacrificial offerings for the weekend of December 17/18 will be printed in next weeks bulletin.

This weekend December 23/24 there will be one collection. Next weekend December 30/31 there will also be one collection.

Clergy Health & Retirement Trust: At all our Christmas Masses, our only collection will be to support the retirement, medical and financial needs of priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. On behalf of all of our priests, thank you in advance for your generosity. For more information, please visit www.clergyfunds.org.

Thank you for your generosity!



Your Prayers are Requested for:

All our parishioners who have died recently, and for all our deceased relatives and friends. Also, please remember all those who are ill and pray for the intentions of all our parishioners.

Infant Baptisms: The Baptisms are celebrated on the third Sunday of the month at 12:30 p.m. Baptismal preparation is required. Please call the rectory for registration and further information call 617-773-1021.

St. John's Food Pantry

St. John's Food Pantry will be **closed** on Wednesday, December 27th for the Christmas and New Year Holidays.

The St. John's Food Pantry is normally open every Wednesday evening from 6:30-7:30p.m. in the building located to the back door of the rectory.

For those who are so generous to the pantry please send donations directly to the rectory or use the blue envelopes in the pews.

Thank you for all your support!!

Sunday Masses for the weekend of Dec. 23/24
Saturday, December 23 (Vigil) 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 24 Masses 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. (**ONLY**)
Christmas Eve Masses
Sun. Dec. 24 @ 4:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.
(Caroling for the 10:30 p.m. Mass starts at 10:00 p.m.)
Christmas Day Masses
Monday, December 25 @ 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
(There is **NO 5:00 p.m.** Mass)

St. John & St. Joseph Religious Education
We would like to wish all our St. John and St. Joseph families a very joyous and wonderful holiday season. We will not have classes for a couple of weeks. Dates and times for starting back up have been emailed, as well as given out during the last class. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us 617-877-5014.

December 24 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent

Today's Gospel is the wonderful story of the Annunciation of the Angel Gabriel to Mary. Over the years we have seen many artistic renditions of the Annunciation story. Take a moment today, before the festivities of Christmas get underway, to pray with your favorite image of this story and ask for Mary's help by praying the "Hail Mary."

Witness to Life Rally - Thursday, Jan. 18, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at St. Stephen parish in Framingham. All are invited to help launch the Witness to Life pilgrimage at a Rally with Bishop Mark O'Connell, the Catholic band Delmore, prayer and adoration, plus two dynamic pro-life speakers: Sarah Mary Toce (Director of the New England Life and Leadership Project) and Dr. Paul Gondreau, Professor of theology at Providence College, and father of Dominic Gondreau, the young boy with cerebral palsy who was embraced by Pope Francis on Easter Sunday, 2013. For more information on this free event, contact Margaret Wakelee at mwakelee@rcab.org.

Witness to Life Pilgrimage: Jan. 18-20. The Archdiocese of Boston Witness to Life pilgrimage to Washington, D.C. begins with a Witness to Life Rally on Thursday, Jan. 18, 7pm at St. Stephen parish in Framingham. The Rally is open to all-even if you're not going on the March for Life in D.C. Pilgrims will board the bus after the Rally and travel overnight to D.C. Join Cardinal Sean O'Malley and hundreds of others as we march with thousands in our nation's capital to stand up for life. If your interested, all the details are at bostoncatholic.org/witnesstolife; or contact witnesstolife@rcab.org.

December 24, 2017 - 4th Sunday of Advent

“Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.” Today is the last Sunday of the Advent season, and we hear in the Gospel the anticipation of the feast we will celebrate in just one day. Christmas is coming! Jesus is on his way!

We have had weeks to prepare for this momentous occasion, and now we are on the very verge of its arrival. The children in our midst can hardly contain their excitement as they wait to wake up on Christmas morning. The thrill of this coming moment is meant to remind us of the joy and anticipation we should all feel as we await the coming of Christ. Yes, Christmas is a great feast, but there is more here than a remembrance of the past or a fabulous party in the present. There is a looking-ahead as well. We celebrate as we anticipate.

Much as Mary must have waited in wonder during the nine months of her pregnancy, we wait in hopeful expectation as Christians looking forward to being reunited with our Savior. Our future is full of hope. The deflating melancholy that afflicts many people after a holiday runs its course need not be the experience of the Christian waiting for Christ. We are always looking forward to something! There is never a moment when we have no cause for joy. Our lives are lived in a kind of unending advent as we stand in watchful waiting.

Let us remember this as we enter into our Christmas Eve gatherings and festivities. As we join with family and friends to share in the good things of this life, may we carry with us the joy of knowing that even better things lie in store for us who welcome the infant Jesus into our hearts and homes.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION -
SIGN UP FOR A HOLY HOUR**

Eucharistic Adoration takes place every Friday in the Lower Chapel from 8:30am-3:30pm. If you are interested in signing up for a permanent hour of adoration, please call Joe Stevens at the Rectory at 617-773-1021 or sign up any Friday during Adoration.

Come, pray, rest and be with Jesus!

**Calendar of St. John’s Upcoming
Dates and Events**

Saturday, December 23

2:30-3:30 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation
Lower Chapel

Sunday, December 24

Sunday Masses 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Masses 4:00 pm., 5:30 pm. & 10:30 pm

Monday, December 25 ~ Christmas Day Masses

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. (No 5:00 p.m.)

Wednesday, December 27

8:30-9:00 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation
Lower Chapel

6:30-7:30 p.m. St. John’s Food Pantry **CLOSED**

Friday, December 29

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration
Lower Chapel

Saturday, December 30

2:30-3:30 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation
Lower Chapel

Sunday, December 31 ~ (Regular Sunday Masses)

Sunday Masses 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

**Monday, January 1, 2018 (New Year’s Day) IS NOT A
Holy Day This Year**

Thinking About Becoming Catholic?

If you're curious about the Catholic faith or have thought about becoming a Catholic, our Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) is just for you. Adults from all faith traditions, no religious background at all, and baptized Catholics who were not raised in the Catholic faith are invited to participate. The RCIA journey incorporates faith, instruction, conversion, liturgy, and community. We welcome you to join others while learning about the beauty of our Catholic faith. For more information, contact Deacon Leo at St. Joseph’s Rectory at 617-472-6321.

Welcome to St. John’s! We encourage all our parishioners who worship with us to register. Please call the Rectory, 617-773-1021, or return this form to the Rectory by the collection basket, mail, or in person.

Would you like to have the bulletin emailed to you? If you would, please give us your email: _____

Name: _____ Tel. # _____

Address: _____ City _____ ZIP _____

Check if address change

Would you like envelopes? (Please circle) YES NO