



St. Margaret Mary

845 High Street • Westwood, MA 02090 • 781-326-1071

www.saintmmparish.org • facebook.com/saintmmparish.org

Mass Schedule

Saturday — 4:30 PM

Sunday — 10 AM and 5 PM

Saturday 4:30 PM and Sunday 10 AM

Masses will be livestreamed on the website at www.saintmmparish.org/live-streaming.

Registration is required for all weekend Masses by going on the parish website or by calling the parish office at 781-326-1071.

Daily Mass (Mon-Fri) — 7:30 AM

Daily Masses will be livestreamed on the website.

Baptisms

Please call the office at 781-326-1071 to schedule.

Contact Information

Administrators:

Rev. Paul Soper and

Rev. Bob Blaney

Deacon:

Rev. Mr. Stephen May

Deacon Emeritus:

Rev. Mr. Joseph E. Holderried

Music Directors:

Bill Grzybowski and Matt Hussey

Director of Faith Formation:

Karlene Duffy – Ext. 101

Faith Formation Administrative Assistant:

Denise Raftery – Ext. 102

Pastoral Assistant:

Brian Cullen – Ext. 107

Parish Administrative Assistant:

Cindy Carlo – EXT. 100

Office Hours

MONDAY - FRIDAY 9 AM - 5 PM



A Note From Father Bob

The first Advent lasted thousands of years. Such is possible when you consider that Advent is a time of waiting and preparation. Our ancestors in the faith waited for eons for God to send a Messiah: one who would save them. For generations, the prophets of old had written and spoken extensively about God establishing a new covenant, ushering in a new era. The new covenant would be permanent and indissoluble. No longer would the covenant depend on the faithfulness of people, but would be established once God had offered a perfect sacrifice. Centuries upon centuries, the people of God waited and prepared for such an event. Each time we celebrate the Eucharist today, we proclaim that this covenant has been established.

The Season of Advent is a period of time when we recall the period of waiting for a Messiah so that we may prepare ourselves for His return in the end of time. Over two thousand years have passed since Christ made the promise to return in glory to bring about the fullness of the Kingdom. In a sense, we have numbed ourselves to this reality and presume that this second coming will be way out in the future. The call of the Christian is to make ourselves ready by using our faith, gifts, talents and all resources to help the Lord in building the Kingdom. This Kingdom, as you well know, is about a life of peace and justice that does not end with earthly death.

The Scripture readings and prayers at Mass in the next several weeks beckon us to pay attention to the essential truths of our faith that Christ will come again to judge the living and the dead.

In our culture, we use an advent wreath to mark the weeks of the holy season. The idea of the wreath is that as the light increases so does the nearness of God in the Kingdom.

The first Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of a new liturgical year in the Church. We begin using the “B” cycle of the lectionary, which is the year of Mark. For the Sundays of Ordinary Time and others Sundays, too, the Gospel of the Mass is from Mark’s Gospel. This Gospel emphasizes the Kingly nature of Christ. You will notice a theme in this Gospel that Jesus urges his Disciples and others not to disclose that he is the Messiah. You would think that the very purpose of a disciple is to do just the opposite: namely we should tell the whole world that Christ is the Messiah! However, Mark holds that truth as a “secret” until Jesus dies on the cross and the Roman guard is heard saying “surely, He is the Son of God.”



Come, Let's Pray the Rosary Together!

Let's take some time to pray together for ourselves and families that we may keep hope in our hearts, peace in our minds and God at the center of our lives especially throughout the upcoming busy holy and holi-day season!

When: Saturdays 11/29, 12/5, 12/12, 12/19 at 9 AM

Where: Near the (outdoor) statue of Our Blessed Mother Mary (weather permitting). If weather does not permit, we will pray inside our church

How: Just bring a chair (and perhaps a blanket)

Weekly Offertory

Parishioners contributed \$6,691 in offertory, \$2,803 which was taken in through WeShare, our online giving portal. Thank you for your generosity.

Grand Annual Update

Grand annual letters went out last week. Thank you to the 69 parishioners who have donated \$26,317. We are off to a strong start.

Mass Intentions

Saturday 11/21: Doris & Louis Qualtieri

Sunday 11/22, 10 AM: Claire V. Gallagher

Sunday 11/22, 5 PM: Pro Populo

Monday 11/23: Julie Barham

Tuesday 11/24: Agnes & Phillip Kelley

Wednesday 11/25

Thursday 11/26

Friday 11/27

Facebook Live Events

Daily Morning prayer at 8:30 AM

Daily Noon prayer

Daily Rosary/Chaplet at 3:00 PM

Friday: Virtual Adoration, Noon — 4:00 PM

Parish Events

Wednesday — Adoration & Reconciliation from 7-8 PM. The Blessed Sacrament will be solemnly exposed on our altar. There will also be the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Friday — The Church will be open for Adoration from Noon to 4 PM

Saturday — Rosary, outside by the statue of Our Blessed Mother Mary. If weather does not permit, we will pray inside our church.

Social Justice — Giving Tree Until December 14

This year the St. Margaret Mary Parish Christmas Giving Tree, which benefits underprivileged students at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Mission School in Roxbury, will be handled a little differently due to the pandemic. We will be collecting monetary donations that will be used to purchase gift cards and small gifts for the family. Parishioners may donate money in several ways: (1) at the doors of the Church you may place in the offertory basket; please put in a separate envelope marked Giving Tree (2) send in a check to the parish office/include in memo line Giving Tree Donation, or (3) donate online by visiting <https://saintmmparish.churchgiving.com/ws/opportunities/ChristmasGivingTreeDonations>. We will be collecting donations through Monday, December 14. If you have any questions, please call the parish office. Thank you for your generosity! — The Social Justice Committee.

Christmas Flowers, Lights and Music

As we prepare for Christmas, we will be accepting donations to make the Christmas season even more special with flowers, music and lights. You can mail a check in with the names of those you wish to remember/honor. You can also donate online at WeShare — go to <https://saintmmparish.churchgiving.com/ws/opportunities/ChristmasFlowersMusicandLights>. All memorial names will be included on a list in the bulletin the weekend of Christmas.

Advent Wreath Blessing for a Home

An Advent wreath is a wreath of laurel, spruce or similar foliage with four candles that are lighted successively in the weeks of Advent to symbolize the light that the birth of Christ brought into the world. Traditionally three of the candles are purple, the color of kings and of penance. A rose-colored candle is used to mark the Third Sunday of Advent as a time to rejoice over the closeness of Christmas and the coming of Christ. Children love the beauty of the simple traditional ceremony. Lighting candles in an Advent Wreath is a simple way to start a tradition of family worship in the home. Those who participate will cherish the experience all their lives.

Each day your family should gather around the Advent wreath, generally before the evening meal. The proper number of candles are then lighted and a prayer is said.

It starts at the evening meal on the Saturday before the first Sunday in Advent with the blessing of the wreath. (The head of the household is the one designated to say the prayers, following with various members of his family to light the candles. If the group is not a family, then a leader may be selected to say the prayers and others appointed to light the candles.) The following prayer can be used.

Parent: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Family: Who made heaven and earth.

Parent: O God, by whose Word all things are sanctified, pour forth Your blessing upon this wreath and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and may receive from You abundant graces. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Family: Amen.

The wreath would then be sprinkled with water. Then follows the prayer which is said before the evening meal each night during Advent. Check out catholicicing.com for more Advent ideas.

From the Desk of Karlene Duffy

Ready? Set? Don't go! You cannot run from turkey, pie and a thankful heart into trees, presents and CHRISTmas decorations! Well, technically you can but does that make sense? To me it is too much too soon. I can't even believe it is already the first week of Advent. Can you? How did that happen! Time flies when you're having fun, right? Well, in any case we have officially entered the Advent Season. But what is Advent? I mean, really, what's the point? Let's start with the most prevalent symbols of Advent: the wreath and the color purple (not the book).

First of all, let's take a peek at the wreath. The wreath itself, a circle, reminds us of life; more specifically, eternal life. Jesus broke the chains of death and as it says in the Gospel of John 11:25-26: "... I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in Me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die." The green of the wreath is usually from an evergreen tree and reminds us that God's love is everlasting. As for the four candles (3 purple and one pink) symbolically they take us on a journey.

Each of the four weeks of Advent, we light another candle: two purples, a pink and another purple. The first candle represents hope. The journey to CHRISTmas began with the prophets in the Old Testament. They told of the Coming of the Messiah. We are full of expectation and anticipate His arrival. Our Lord and Savior is coming to Earth! Wahoo!

The second purple candle represents faith. Mary and Joseph journeyed to Bethlehem; a journey which was arduous and uncomfortable. But we can all relate to that right now as we live with this pandemic and the sacrifices and sufferings which accompany it. But their trust was in God and their faith in Him enabled them to fulfill His Will. The third candle to be lit is pink. We call this Sunday "Gaudete Sunday". The pink candle marks the halfway point of Advent, a reminder to be patient. The anticipation grows and so does the feeling of overwhelming love and from this love an everlasting sense of joy. Of course, waiting is hard but the joy is wondrous!

Finally, the third purple candle represents the last week of Advent. We near the end of the journey to Bethlehem, to the manger and The Greatest Gift: the arrival of the Prince of Peace, Our Savior and Redeemer. This is the last week of waiting and wondering. And that brings us to the color purple. Like Lent, Advent is a season of the three p's: preparation, prayer and penance. As we await His arrival, prayer is ever more important. If we are welcoming Our Savior, our hearts, minds and souls should be as ready as our homes, outfits and presents. Prayer will help us to focus on the "reason for the season".

Finally, if we are cleaning and decorating our houses for His birth, should we not do a cleaning of our souls? If receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before we encounter the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Our Lord in the Eucharist, shouldn't we also atone before receiving Him in this world, into our homes? Oh, how much more space there would be in our hearts and minds for He Who comes to love, to teach, to show us the way to our eternal home! And that is why we need Advent. Prepare ye the way of Our Lord! Get ready for He who brings love and joy and shows us the way to become who we were created to be: saints. Most especially with this darn pandemic hanging on, stress levels rising and exhaustion setting in (if it hasn't thus far), the Season of Advent is a blessing. A time to stop, relax and reconnect with He who will come in glory!

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary — December 8

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception references Mary's conception in her mother's womb without the stain of Original Sin. Masses will be at 7:30 AM and 7 PM and will be livestreamed as well. Registration for the evening Mass is necessary.

Lessons and Carols — Save the Date!

We will have Advent Lessons and Carols along with our usual Wednesday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on December 16 at 7:00 PM in the Church, as well as livestreamed.

Lessons and Carols is a Service with nine readings pertaining to the Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Following each reading, there will be a suitable hymn or instrumental piece of music.

Please call the Parish Office (781-326-1071) to register. Hope to see you there!