

SAINT ANNE PARISH BULLETIN
ST. ANNE PARISH 20 BOSTON ROAD SOUTHBOROUGH, MA

DECEMBER 24, 2017
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



PEACE



**WE WELCOME ALL VISITORS
TO
ST. ANNE PARISH.
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO
JOIN OUR FAITH
COMMUNITY, PLEASE CALL
THE PARISH OFFICE TO
REGISTER
AS AN ACTIVE MEMBER.
MAY GOD BLESS YOU.**

YOU ARE NEAR

**"THE LORD IS NEAR TO
ALL WHO CALL ON HIM.
TO ALL WHO CALL ON
HIM IN TRUTH."
PSALM 145:18**

**THIS TIME OF ADVENT IS
CHARACTERIZED BY THE
THEME OF CLOSENESS,
GOD'S CLOSENESS TO
HUMANITY. MARY AND
JOSEPH ARE THE TWO
PEOPLE WHO, MORE
THAN ANYONE ELSE,
WERE INVOLVED IN THIS
MYSTERY OF GOD'S
CLOSENESS TO
HUMANITY.**

**HOW AND WHEN HAVE I
MOST EXPERIENCED
GOD'S CLOSENESS
DURING THIS ADVENT?**

Lord's Day Mass Schedule:
Saturday ~ 5:00 pm
Sunday ~ 8:30 am & 10:30 am
Children's Liturgy of the Word
10:30 am Mass during school year
Filipino Mass:
Third Sunday of the month - 12 pm

Daily Mass Schedule:
Week Day Mass,
Monday-Thursday: 9:00 am
First Friday: 9:00 am

Confessions:
Saturday ~ 4:15 pm,
or anytime on request

**Exposition and Adoration of the
Blessed Sacrament:**
Wednesday ~ 9:30 am to 4:00 pm

Sacrament of Baptism
Call the Parish Office to
schedule a Baptism.
Baptisms are generally celebrated at
any of the Masses on the first weekend
of the month so that the child may be
welcomed and received in
the presence of the parish community.

Sacrament of Marriage
Arrangements with a Priest required
at least one year prior to
the wedding date.

Visitation of the Sick
Fr. Albert and
St. Anne's Ministers of Communion
are pleased to bring Holy Communion
to parishioners who are unable to join
us for weekly worship. Please call the
Parish Office to arrange a time.

Parish Contact Information
Office Hours, Monday ~ Thursday
9:30 am to 3:30 pm
Friday ~ 9:30 am to noon
Telephone 508-485-0141

Fax 508-481-9374

E-mail:

stanne403@stannesouthborough.org

Web: www.stannesouthborough.org

**Amy Buttiglieri ~ Webmaster
webmaster@stannesouthborough.org**



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE
CHRISTMAS EVE
MASS TIMES: 5:00PM AND 11:00 PM
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD—
CHRISTMAS DAY
MASS TIMES: 9:00AM AND 11:00AM

**PREVENTING CHILD ABUSE IS EVERYONE'S
RESPONSIBILITY:**

It's every adult's moral responsibility to protect possible victims (any age) by reporting suspected abuse or neglect to the responsible authorities. For particular help you may call: The Office for Healing and Prevention, Diocese of Worcester, at 508-929-4363. The Diocese of Worcester requires Safe Environment Training for all staff & volunteers.

**CHRISTMAS WISHES TO
ST. ANNE PARISH PARISHIONERS
FROM FATHER ALBERT**

My dear parishioners,

I wish you all a merry Christmas and a grace-filled New Year 2018. As we are celebrating this joyful feast, I invite you all to reflect on John's gospel that says, "*How humble is our God! He came into a world that "knew him not" (John 1:10) in order to redeem a people who "received him not" (John 1:11).* Jesus came not surrounded by fine gifts, or handled by the finest doctors and servants or clothed in the softest linens. Instead He was born impoverished, placed in an animals' stall and wrapped in swaddling clothes. Yet, Jesus was given the one thing valued most by God: LOVE. Giving their "yes" to God, Mary and Joseph laid aside their own plans to welcome Him into the world. He was greeted by simple, uneducated shepherds who believed the angel's words and so were privileged to see the Messiah.

Why did the Father plan such a lowly appearance for the Word who had been with Him from all time? Certainly the starkness and poverty of Jesus' surroundings reveal the extent to which He would go to save the humanity. But Jesus' humble birthplace also reveals something about us: without Him, we are the poor ones – abandoned and lost, vulnerable to the attacks of our enemy, the devil. Jesus was born in a stable inside a cold cave, probably dark and miserable, just as our hearts are before we allow Jesus to be born within us.

"*The Word became flesh and dwelt among us*" (John 1:14) to bring us back to the Father, to fill us with grace and truth. We have received the greatest of gifts. How can we ever thank the Lord except by humbling ourselves before the lowly manger? Let us welcome Jesus into our hearts as Mary did, by turning our lives over to God completely. May the Infant Jesus bless you and your family.

With prayers
Fr. Albert

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education class dates and times will be published in next week's bulletin, December 30 and 31. You may also check the Parish Website for all the class dates and times.
www.stannesouthborough.org

*We wish all the children and the young adults of St. Anne Parish a wonderful Christmas.
We hope Santa comes down your chimney with the gifts you've wished for.*



OUR FATHER'S TABLE: The St. Anne Parish youth participates by cooking a meal on Wednesday, **December 27** at St. Anne Parish Hall, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. The meal is served in Marlborough at the New Hope Community Church, 204 Main St., Marlborough (entrance in the rear on Weed Street) on Thursday, **December 28** at 4:30pm. If you can make a dessert or serve at 4:30pm on Thursday, RSVP to Regina at 508-485-0159.

A LETTER FOR CHRISTMAS TO THE PARISHIONERS OF THE WORCESTER DIOCESE FROM BISHOP ROBERT MC MANUS

December 2017

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

A chapel in Shepherd's Field outside of Bethlehem commemorates the wondrous events of Christmas in three beautiful paintings.

In the first painting, the shepherds, keeping watch over their flock by night, are roused from their silent vigil by the glad tidings of an angel, glorious streams from Heaven, and the strains of an angelic choir. In the second painting, the shepherds, having traveled to Bethlehem, bow in awe and adoration before the new born Christ child in the manger as heavenly light illuminates the Holy Family. In the final painting, dawn is breaking, the Heavenly streams of God's glory are fading, and the shepherds are again back amidst their flock. But the shepherds are changed.

In the third painting, an elderly shepherd looks upward with an expression of wonder. Another shepherd pipes a tune on a simple musical instrument while a shepherd boy skips with exuberance, joy, and uplifted arms. They have returned to the place where they were but they have not returned the way they were. They are filled with joy, wonder and awe that God has come to them.

Christmas reminds us that God has also come to us. The shepherds' path to joy is also ours. At Christmas Mass and every Mass we might think of ourselves as shepherds going to Bethlehem. After hearing God's Word, we go to Him in the communion line, bow in adoration and receive the same Divine Child born of Mary and worshiped by the shepherds at the manger.

As the shepherds departed from the stable, so may we depart Christmas Mass, and every Mass, with joy, wonder and awe that God has come to us. May this Christmas change us so that as we return to our routines with a deeper appreciation of God's love for us, we may bear witness to that love just as the shepherds did on that first Christmas morning.

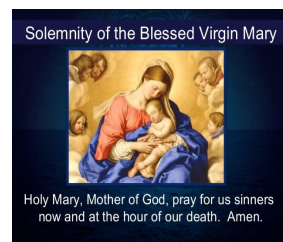
With every prayerful best wish for a Blessed and Merry Christmas, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester



EUCHARIST ADORATION WIL NOT BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27



**SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2018

MASS TIME: 9:00 AM

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
DECEMBER 25, 2017



**MAY THE LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS BRING YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES
THE GIFT OF PEACE AND TRANQUILITY
AS WE CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF OUR
SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST.**

WE WISH YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS.

