

**FOR THIS WEEKEND'S LITURGIES**

Processional Hymn (4,8,10:30): #386 in *Worship*  
 Order of the Mass: Front Page or #202 in *Worship*  
 Liturgy of the Word: #1003 in *Worship*  
 Gospel Acclamation (4,8,10:30): #328 in *Worship*  
 Preparation Hymn (4,8,10:30): #403 in *Worship*  
 Acclamations (4,8,10:30): #365, 366, 367, 382 in *Worship*  
 Communion Litany (4,8,10:30): #596 in *Gather*



*"Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory... stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." - Lk 21:27-28*

**MASS INTENTIONS & REMEMBRANCES**

Sat., 12/1 4:00 pm **Tommy Desautels**, by his mother  
*(Remembrance)* **Ellen Dolan**, 1<sup>st</sup> Anniv., by family  
Sun., 12/2 8:00 am **Parishioners' Intentions**  
 10:30 am **Joseph Trainor**, 31<sup>st</sup> Anniv., by family  
*(Remembrance)* **Jeremiah Lucey**, 19<sup>th</sup> Anniv., by family  
*(Remembrance)* **Roger King**, 9<sup>th</sup> Anniv., by family  
*(Remembrance)* **William Hoey**, 6<sup>th</sup> Anniv., by family  
 6:00 pm **Helen Mahoney**, by family  
Mon., 12/3 9:00 am **Parishioners' Intentions**  
Tue., 12/4 9:00 am **Parishioners' Intentions**  
Wed., 12/5 9:00 am **Lewis Hassett**, 18<sup>th</sup> Anniv.,  
 by Kathleen Hassett  
Thu., 12/6 9:00 am **Parishioners' Intentions**  
Fri., 12/7 9:00 am **Parishioners' Intentions**  
 4:00 pm **Parishioners' Intentions**  
Sat., 12/8 9:00 am **Parishioners' Intentions**  
 4:00 pm **Nellie (8<sup>th</sup> Anniv.) & Albert (34<sup>th</sup> Anniv.)**  
**Rabidou**, by family  
*(Remembrance)* **Deacon Al Desautels**, by family  
*(Remembrance)* **Donna Murphy**, (14<sup>th</sup> Anniv.),  
 by Nancy & Joe Chakwas  
*(Remembrance)* **Thomas & Florence McKinnon**,  
 by Evelyn Coggans & Geraldine Hicks  
Sun., 12/9 8:00 am **Irene O'Keefe**, by family  
 10:30 am **Margaret Rieger**, by grateful parishioners  
*(Remembrance)* **David Shea**, 12<sup>th</sup> Anniv., by mother & family  
 6:00 pm **Parishioners' Intentions**

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Sunday: Jer 33:14-16/Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14/1 Thes 3:12 - 4:2  
 Lk 21:25-28, 34-36  
 Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4c-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11  
 Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24  
 Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 15:29-37  
 Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27  
 Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Mt 9:27-31  
 Saturday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38  
 Next Sunday Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11  
 Lk 3:1-6

**REST IN PEACE**

Pray for the repose of the souls of **Sarah Lavin, Madelyn Hayes, Leo Cardarelli, Frederick Davis** and all our deceased relatives, friends and benefactors.

**HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**

Saturday is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a holy day of obligation. There will be two Masses to observe the feast: **4:00 pm Vigil Mass on Friday and 9:00 am Mass on Saturday morning.**

**CHRISTMAS BASKET RAFFLE**

The St. Vincent de Paul Society will have its annual Christmas Gift Basket raffle this Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> after the 10:30 am Mass. Members of the Society will be in the Family Center Atrium and Main Street vestibule this weekend offering chances for the raffle before and after the 4 pm Mass Saturday and the 8 am and 10:30 am Masses on Sunday. Chances are being sold for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The money raised is used to fund their assistance offered families in need at Christmas.

**GIVING TREE**

There are still some gift requests on the tree. Those who have taken Urban Ministry gift requests (those with typed requests for a specific gift) are asked to have the unwrapped gift with tag attached at the tree by Sunday night, December 16<sup>th</sup>. Gift card requests should be purchased and placed in an envelope with the ornament card inside and placed in the collection basket or brought to the rectory by Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. **Please do NOT place them at the tree. We have experienced theft of these items in the past.**

**CONTRIBUTION REPORT**

Last weekend, we deposited the following donations:  
 -- **Weekly Adult Offerings:** **\$5,822.00**  
 (\$674.00 in loose offerings and \$5,148.00 in 178 envelopes)  
 -- **Children's Envelopes (1)**  
     **for Religious Education:** **\$ 15.00**  
 -- **Holy Day:** **\$ 8.00**  
 -- **Outreach:** **\$ 125.00**  
 -- **All Souls:** **\$ 8.00**  
 -- **Christmas Flower Gifts:** **\$ 449.00**  
 -- **Maintenance Fund:** **\$ 245.00**  
 -- **Family Center Donations:** **\$ 320.00**  
 -- **Family Center Memorial Gifts:** **\$ 25.00**  
 -- **Campaign for Human Development:** **\$1,372.00**  
 We also received the following online donations:  
 -- **Adult Ordinary:** **\$ 850.90**  
 -- **Children's Offering:** **\$ 3.00**  
 -- **Maintenance Fund:** **\$ 36.49**  
 -- **Family Center Donations:** **\$ 162.75**  
 -- **Unrestricted Gift:** **\$ 600.00**

**BAPTISM**

Last Sunday, we welcomed **Vivian Cyr** into the Church through the waters of Baptism. We congratulate her parents and pray that they and her godparents will help her grow in the practice of her faith.

**STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

"But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." (LUKE 21:28) We celebrate Advent each year in preparation of the birth of Jesus, His first coming, as we await his second coming. In this Advent season, use the sacrament of Reconciliation to strengthen your relationship with Jesus. It's never too late.

**RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT APPEAL**

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

On **December 8 and 9**, our parishes will be conducting the appeal for the **Retirement Fund for Religious**, a national collection that benefits nearly 31,000 elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who are members of 547 religious institutes throughout the country. The sad reality is that only 23 of those communities are adequately funded to care for their elderly and infirm members who have consecrated their lives to serving God and the Church.

During the 2018 World Day for Consecrated Life, Pope Francis remarked, “There is no growth without roots and no flowering without new buds.” This analogy has certainly born out within the life of the Church in the United States. Senior religious were the roots that established Catholic schools, hospitals, and social service agencies—allowing generations of Catholics to flourish. Today the example of older religious inspires younger members to persevere in mission and ministry.

Just as our annual *Celebrate Priesthood* event helps our diocese to care for its retired diocesan priests, this national collection assists many religious communities which struggle to provide for aging members. Most elder religious served for small stipends, leaving a large gap in retirement savings. Rising health-care costs and decreased income compound the struggle to provide adequate care. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides vital funding for medications, nursing care, and more. It also helps religious congregations implement long-range retirement strategies, even as they continue to serve the People of God.

I recognize this is but one of numerous worthy causes in need of assistance; I ask simply that you give what you can. In thanksgiving for their faithful service, please join me in supporting the Retirement Fund for Religious and in praying for God’s blessing on our nation’s elderly religious.

With prayerful best wishes, I remain  
Sincerely yours in Christ,  
**Most Reverend Robert J. McManus**  
Bishop of Worcester

**“LIGHT A CANDLE & LIGHT THE WORLD”**

1230AM/970AM/101.1FM Emmanuel Catholic Radio's live Christmas broadcast, “Christ be Our Light” 7am – 6pm on Thursday, December 6. Tune in to hear Bishop McManus and when you make your Christmas donation to Emmanuel Catholic Radio, we will light a candle for your special intention in honor or memory of someone you care about. Support Catholic radio with your tax-deductible donation and help us light 101 candles to make a brighter Christmas for all. Proceeds fund our Catholic Schools Essay Contest. Visit: [www.1230radio.com](http://www.1230radio.com). Phone: 508-767-1020 Mail: Emmanuel Radio, P.O. Box 20027 Worcester, MA 01602.

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL NOTE**

Our Society seeks to respond to requests from families in need for help with providing a traditional Christmas meal and gifts for children. If you can use such assistance – or know of someone who can, call the rectory with name and phone number so that we can contact them when the items are ready for pickup. The meal bags will be prepared on Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> so any donations of food should be brought to the church by Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWER GIFTS**

Envelopes are available in racks at the church doors for those who would like to make a donation to help defray the cost of decorating the church for Christmas. Those who receive contribution packets in the mail have an envelope for this purpose in their current packet. We will place all the envelopes with name of deceased loved ones behind the creche at the altar throughout the 3 weeks of Christmas as a reminder to parishioners to pray for those listed.

**HALO 18 SUPPORT GROUP**

HALO 18 stands for **Healing After Loss (from) Overdose**. On the first Monday of each month this support group meets to help family members cope with the loss of a loved one from drugs or alcohol. They meet at 7:00 pm in the Rieger Hall of our church. **The next session will take place Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**. For more information or to ask questions, contact Aileen Lovejoy at 508-755-5041 or Deb Dowd-Foley at 508-348-5622.

**THE WEEK AT A GLANCE**

Sun., December 2 – First Sunday of Advent

**8:00 am Lord’s Day Mass**  
**9:00 am K-10 Religious Education Classes**  
**10:30 am Lord’s Day Mass**  
**6:00 pm Lord’s Day Mass**

Mon., December 3 – St. Francis Xavier

**9:00 am Daily Mass**  
**7:00 pm HALO Support Group Session**

Tue., December 4 – St. John Damascene

**9:00 am Daily Mass**  
**6:00 pm Youth RCIA Session**

Wed., December 5 – Wednesday of First Week of Advent

**9:00 am Daily Mass**  
**6:00 pm Adult RCIA Session**

Thu., December 6 – St. Nicholas

**9:00 am Daily Mass**

Fri., December 7 – St. Ambrose

**9:00 am Daily Mass**  
**4:00 pm Holy Day Vigil Mass**

Sat., December 8 – Immaculate Conception of Mary

**9:00 am Holy Day Mass**  
**3:00 pm Confessions**  
**4:00 pm Vigil Mass for First Sunday of Lent**

**120 CLUB**

The winner of last week’s drawing is **Anthony D’Agostino - #219**.

**PRESIDERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND**

Saturday, December 8	4:00 pm	Fr. Monroe
Sunday, December 9	8:00 am	Fr. Monroe
	10:30 am	Fr. Monroe
	6:00 pm	Fr. Dougherty

**WINTER CONCERT**

We are hosting The Worcester State University Chorus and Chorale this Sunday at 3:00 pm in the church. They will present music of Rodrigo, Rochmaninoff, Dr. Seuss, Cyndi Lauper, Queen, Thompson as well as music from the Greatest Showman and holiday favorites. Admission is \$12 for general admission and \$10 for students and seniors. Tickets can be purchased at the doors.

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