

**FOR THIS WEEKEND'S LITURGIES**

Processional Hymn (4,8,10:30): #386 in *Worship – verses 5-7*  
 Order of the Mass: Front Page or #202 in *Worship*  
 Liturgy of the Word: #1010 in *Worship*  
 Gospel Acclamation (4,8,10:30): #328 in *Worship*  
 Preparation Hymn (4,8,10:30): #438 in *Worship*  
 Acclamations (4,8,10:30): #353, 356, 357, 384 in *Worship*  
 Communion Litany (4,8,10:30): #600 in *Gather*



*The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."*  
**Mt 1:20-21**

**BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Christmas brings joy to the world and joy to our hearts as we contemplate and celebrate Christ's birth at Bethlehem.

We can readily appreciate Mary's joy as she gazed on the beauty, mystery and wonder of her newborn Son. It is a joy all mothers experience and one that fathers and families share as they welcome and appreciate the gift of new life.

Mary's joy was deepened by the wondrous knowledge that the Child she bore was also God's Eternal Son who, through her, took on a human nature to be with us and to save us. That presence brought joy to a cold and drafty cave where Mary and Joseph took shelter with animals. Christ's presence brings joy to us no matter what our circumstances.

We marvel not only that God's Son took on our human nature, but that we, through the baptism Jesus instituted, also gain a share in God's divine life. Jesus is God's Son by nature. Through baptism we become God's children by adoption. And just as God was truly in Mary's arms in the Infant Jesus, so too, though in a different way, God is with us in our souls through baptism. Our God is not distant, indifferent or detached from our lives. He is with us. He is Emmanuel.

The Christmas Season begins with the birth of Christ and ends with the Feast of His baptism. The Season with all its beautiful liturgies, traditions and customs will quickly pass. However, for those who have become God's adopted sons and daughters through baptism and who remain in His grace, God does not pass from us. We have His presence, strength and peace with us always. Like Mary and Joseph, we will face uncertainties, disappointments and unexpected trials, but we do not face them alone. We are aided by a strength greater than our own.

May the enduring presence of Christ to you and all the baptized extend the joy of Christmas and the blessings of God throughout the New Year and all of life.

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

**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

There will be four Masses to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord:  
**4:00 pm Vigil Mass, December 24<sup>th</sup>**  
 (children are invited to come dressed as shepherds or angels to participate in the pageant)  
**11:00 pm Mass for Mid Night, December 24<sup>th</sup>**  
 (Choral preludes will begin at 10:40 pm)  
**8:00 am Mass for Dawn, December 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**10:30 am Mass During the Day, December 25<sup>th</sup>**

**CHRISTMAS COLLECTION**

Your donations at Christmas Masses help the parish defray some of the assessment for health care for the priests of our diocese. Your generosity will be much appreciated.

**MASS INTENTIONS & REMEMBRANCES**

Sat., 12/21 4:00 pm **Deacon Al Desautels**, by his wife  
 (Remembrance) **Marguerite McShera**, Birthday,  
 by family  
 (Remembrance) **Sheila Shanley**, 11<sup>th</sup> Anniv., by family  
Sun., 12/22 8:00 am **Mary & Arthur Cousineau**, by family  
 (Remembrance) **Ryan Tivnan**, by family  
 10:30 am **John Alexandrov**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniv., by family  
 6:00 pm **Ryan Finnegan**, by Raymond Morin  
Mon., 12/23 9:00 am **John McKoul**, by Mary Duffy  
Tue., 12/24 9:00 am **Parishioners' Intentions**  
 4:00 pm **Mary & Patrick Murphy**, by family  
 (Remembrance) **Jim & Eileen Diggins**, by family  
 (Remembrance) **Michael Chalifoux**, by family  
 (Remembrance) **Kim Tuyen Le**, by family  
 11:00 pm **Albert, Genevieve & Robert Boza**,  
 by family  
 (Remembrance) **John Alexandrov & Mary Alexandrov**,  
 by family  
Wed., 12/25 8:00 am **Parishioners' Intentions**  
 10:30 pm **Harry Adamiak**, by family  
 (Remembrance) **Barbara Hannen Dumas**, 12<sup>th</sup> Anniv.,  
 by her daughter  
 (Remembrance) **Kim Tuyen Le**, by family  
Thu., 12/26 8:00 am **Parishioners' Intentions**  
Fri., 12/27 9:00 am **Parishioners' Intentions**  
Sat., 12/28 4:00 pm **Pat Mullaney**, Birthday, by family  
 (Remembrance) **Kim Tuyen Le**, by family  
Sun., 12/29 8:00 am **Parishioners' Intentions**  
 10:30 am **Jack McShera**, by the Erickson family  
 (Remembrance) **Robert Miller**, 10<sup>th</sup> Anniv., by family  
 (Remembrance) **Kim Tuyen Le**, by family  
 6:00 pm **Parishioners' Intentions**

**REST IN PEACE**

Pray for the repose of the souls of **Robert Carelli** and all our deceased relatives, friends and benefactors.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS**

Envelopes are still available in racks at the church doors and in current contribution packets for those who would like to make a gift to defray the cost of decorating for Christmas. The envelopes will be placed at the creche to invite worshipers to remember those listed thereon in their prayers at all Masses during the Christmas season.

## LITURGICAL VOLUNTEERS

Lectors, Communion Ministers and Altar Servers are invited to sign up for the Christmas Masses. Signup sheets are posted in the sacristy.

## 2020 CALENDARS

The annual gift Catholic Extension calendars to our parish from Michael Marchand of Roy Brothers Funeral Home has arrived. They are available in trays at the church doors. We thank Michael for his continued generosity to our parish.

## CONTRIBUTION REPORT

Last weekend, we deposited the following donations:

-- Weekly Adult Offerings:	\$6,175.00
(\$500.00 in loose offerings and \$5,675.00 in 188 envelopes)	
-- Holy Day:	\$ 252.00
-- Charitable Ministries:	\$ 550.00
-- Christmas Music Donation:	\$ 200.00
-- Christmas Flower Gifts:	\$ 610.00
-- Rieger Hall Use Donation:	\$ 100.00
-- Maintenance Fund:	\$ 225.00
-- Debt Reductions Donations:	\$ 277.00
-- Religious Retirement Collection:	\$ 300.00

The bulletin was transmitted before the Retirement Collection was counted. The total will be posted in next weekend's bulletin.

We also received the following online donations:

-- Weekly Adult Offerings:	\$ 871.45
-- Holy Day Collection:	\$ 35.00
-- Maintenance Fund:	\$ 184.49
-- Debt Reduction Donation:	\$ 42.00

## LITURGICAL MEMORIALS

The bread and wine being used at all Masses this week has been donated in memory of *Mary and Patrick Murphy and Jim & Eileen Diggins* by their family.

The candles being used at the altar and pulpit have been donated in memory of *Mary and Patrick Murphy and Jim and Eileen Diggins* by their family.

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Is 7:10-14/ Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24  
 Monday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10, 14/Lk 1:57-66  
 Tuesday: 2Sm 7:1-5,8b-12,14, 16/Ps 89:2-3,4-5, 27, 29/Lk 1:67-79  
 Wednesday Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5,16-17,27,29  
 Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:18-25 & Lk 2:1-14  
 Mid Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14  
 8 am Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20  
 10:30 am: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18  
 Thursday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4,6,8ab,16bc,17  
 Mt 10:17-22  
 Friday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8  
 Saturday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 2:13-18  
 Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/ Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Col 3:12-17  
 Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

## CHRISTMAS FLOWER GIFTS

Envelopes are still available in racks at the church doors for those who would like to help defray the cost of decorating the church for the Christmas Feasts. The envelopes will be placed at the creche inviting people to pray for the intentions of those listed on the envelopes.



We have now reached 100+% of our parish target with pledges and onetime gifts from Fr. Monroe and 192 other households that total \$420,209.94 -- \$2,222.94 over our assigned target.

As of today, \$168,528.56 will be coming back to OLA as pledges are paid over the next 4 years. Everything up to our \$417,987 target returns 40% to us, everything raised above that amount will earn us 60%.

***We urge those who have not yet responded to prayerfully consider what they might be able to offer. No gift is too small.***

Envelopes remain available in the pews of the church in addition to forms everyone should have received in the mail.

**PLEDGE PAYMENTS:**

Beginning with the new packet of contribution envelopes many of you receive, there will be a *Legacy of Hope* envelope in the packet for those who would like to make their pledge payments by dropping it in the collection basket to save postage.

**Please make checks payable to Legacy of Hope NOT Our Lady of the Angels.** If you prefer, you can mail your payments to 49 Elm Street, Worcester, MA 01609 or make online payments through our website or at the Legacy of Hope website as follows:

[www.legacyofhope.worcesterdiocese.org](http://www.legacyofhope.worcesterdiocese.org).

## THE WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun., December 22 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 am Lord's Day Mass

*No Religious Education Classes – Classes resume January 5<sup>th</sup>!*

10:30 am Lord's Day Mass

6:00 pm Lord's Day Mass

Mon., December 23 – Monday of 4<sup>th</sup> Week of Advent

9:00 am Daily Mass

Tue., December 24 – Tuesday of 4<sup>th</sup> Week of Advent

9:00 am Daily Mass

4:00 pm Christmas Vigil Mass & Pageant

10:40 pm Christmas Chorale Preludes

11:00 pm Christmas Mass for Mid Night

Wed., December 25 - Solemnity of the Lord's Nativity

8:00 am Christmas Mass for Dawn

10:30 am Christmas Mass During the Day

Thu., December 26 – St. Stephen

9:00 am Daily Mass

Fri., December 27 – St. John the Apostle & Evangelist

9:00 am Daily Mass

Sat., December 28- Holy Innocents

9:00 am Daily Mass

3:00 pm Confessions

4:00 pm Vigil Mass

## 120 CLUB

The winner of last week's drawing is **Robert Barbon - #141.**

## PRESIDERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday, December 28	4:00 pm	Fr. Monroe
Sunday, December 29	8:00 am	Fr. Monroe
	10:30 am	Fr. Monroe
	6:00 pm	Fr. Monroe