We are a growing, joyful, prayerful, Eucharist-centered, vibrant Catholic Community of believers who welcome all people in the name of Jesus Christ. We engage in this faith journey together through sacraments, life-long faith formation, charitable works, and stewardship, in order to be witnesses of God’s love in our daily lives.
My first parish assignment was Saint Richard Parish in Danvers. I was assigned there right out of the Seminary. I was 27 years old, I thought I knew a lot, but I didn't really know anything. I was fortunate to be assigned to a great Pastor: Fr. Paul Keyes. I think of Paul often, he taught me a great deal. I always think of him at the beginning of Advent. I do so in Advent because of Saint John the Baptist. Every year we encounter John in the readings for the second and third Sundays of Advent. On my first Advent with him, on the Second Sunday of Advent, Fr. Paul got up at the kids Mass and told the kids that “Jack” was a nickname for “John” and that my parents had named me after John the Baptist. He said that the gospel tells us that John was a wild man who dressed in Camel's hair and ate Locusts and honey. Fr. Paul explained to the kids that locusts are really grasshoppers. He went on to say that I, was not only a wild man, but that every morning that I would come down for breakfast and have a big bowl of grasshoppers and honey. The kids roared. That was thirty years ago, and to this day, if I meet one of the kids from the parish, now full grown adults, they will still call me Fr. Grasshopper.

What I love about that true story is that, thirty years after that Sunday morning, people still remember the story of John the Baptist. I am sure that some of those now adults will tell the story to their children, and in the process, tell their children about this great biblical figure. Hopefully they will remember that the Baptist’s message was to “prepare the way of the Lord”.

On this third Sunday of Advent we once again encounter the great John the Baptist. I remember those great days in Danvers; I remember Fr. Paul Keyes; and I remember that the Baptist calls me to prepare for the coming of the Lord. I will try my best to do precisely that. I will prepare by trying to spend extra time in prayer. I will prepare by participating in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. I invite all of you to do the same. I ask you to open your ears and your heart to the wild man in the wilderness, take advantage of the tools that our tradition offers, and prepare yourself for the coming of the Lord.

God Bless,

Fr. Jack
FAITH FORMATION & EVANGELIZATION

ALL CLASS SCHEDULES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT THE COLLABORATIVE WEBSITE, WWW.STSMARYJOSEPH.ORG/FAITH-FORMATION

C.O.O.L. MIDDLE SCHOOL FAITH NIGHTS
We hope to see even more of our middle schoolers on January 19 for fun, friendship and a sprinkling of faith!

P3 - YOUTH MINISTRY
Every Monday night at 6pm we gather as a community for Pizza, People and Prayer. A chance to pray with and for one another, while deepening our relationship with Jesus Christ. A typical Monday night is about teens gathering together in prayer and talking about their week. The setting is informal and relaxed. Following prayer, there is plenty of time to socialize, make new friends and of course...EAT PIZZA!

ST. MARY PARISH FAITH FORMATION
Faith Formation classes for Grades 1-8 will resume beginning on Sunday, December 15. The 7th and 8th Grade students will be assisting at the 10:30 am Family Mass.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION
There will be a Teen Mass on Sunday, December 15 at 5 pm at St. Joseph Parish. All Confirmation Prep students are asked to attend. All parishioners are welcome!

Confirmation Prep II classes will resume on Sunday, December 15 at 6 pm at Our Lady's Hall at St. Joseph Parish. Please note, the due date for all paperwork has passed. Any completed paperwork may be dropped off at the Faith Formation Office.

Prep I classes continue on Thursday, December 19 at 6 pm at St. Mary's Parish

ST. JOSEPH PARISH FAMILY FAITH
This month's Family Faith topic focused on the Cardinal and Theological Virtues.

Families with students in Grades 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 should complete Lesson 5 in their ‘A Family of Faith’ books.

Families with students in Grade 2 should complete Lessons 5 and 6 in the purple First Reconciliation folder.

Families with students in Grades 7 and 8 should complete the Gospel Weeklies for the additional lessons in December.

FOR ALL STS. MARY AND JOSEPH GRADE 2 FAMILIES
First Reconciliation will be on Saturday, January 25 at 9:30 am in St. Joseph Church.

COLLABORATIVE CORNER

Our Vision Statement
“We are a growing, joyful, prayerful, Eucharist-centered, vibrant Catholic Community of believers who welcome ALL people in the name of Jesus Christ. We engage in this faith journey together through sacraments, life-long faith formation, charitable works, and stewardship, in order to be witnesses of God’s love in our daily lives.”

We continue to deepen our understanding of who Christ is, what he taught us, how he inspires us, and the amazing gifts his church offers us. Faith formation is something that takes place throughout our entire lives.

“For this very reason make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these things are yours and abound, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

2 Peter 1:5-8
**ST. MARY PARISH NEWS**

**MEETINGS & EVENTS**

**Choir**

Rehearsals for the junior choir Thursdays from 6:30-7:00 in the Sanctuary. Everyone is welcome! The children sing at the 10:30 Mass on Sundays. If you have any questions, please see Beth after Mass or call 781-710-2681.

**Matthew’s Kitchen**

Hot Lunch served every Saturday at 11:30 a.m. Volunteers always welcome. Call the Parish Office.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**

The next meeting for the Prayer Shawl Group is Monday, March 16 at 4:00 p.m. at the Parish Center. For more information call Brenda at 781-585-8954.

**Secular Franciscans**

Meet in the Parish Center the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Call John Harlow 781-585-1854.

**ST. MARY STEWARDSHIP**

Offertory: $4,923
Monthly: $2,484
Grand Annual: $15,554
Catholic Appeal: $0

Thank you for your committed support

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS**

Envelopes for Christmas Flowers can be put in any Offertory Collection. Donations are used to purchase altar flowers during the Advent and Christmas seasons.

**ALL SOULS REMEMBRANCE**

There will be an insert in next week’s bulletin noting those names for All Souls Remembrance that were missed. Again, please accept our apologies. God Bless.

**BRAZILIAN MASS AT ST. MARY**

As of Sunday, December 1st, the Brazilian Weekly Mass is now held on Sundays at 7:00 p.m. instead of Mondays at 7:00 p.m. Father Antonio dos Santos presides over the Mass and welcomes all to attend!

**CLEANING SERVICES**

Members of our Brazilian community are available for house cleaning. For more information please call Edinalva Sullivan at 781-710-7825.

**GIVING TREE**

St Mary Parish will be providing gifts at Christmas time for adults and children in need. The Giving Tree will be at the front doors of the Church on December 1st and holds tags for specific Christmas gifts requested by those in need. Tags will be available until Sunday, December 8th. Please leave all gifts, unwrapped, under the tree or at the Parish Office by Wednesday, December 11th. The gifts will be distributed on Sunday, December 15th.

**ST. MARY PARISH NEWS**

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14**

5:15 PM  David Sheehy

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15**

7:30 AM  Octavia Pestana
9:00 AM  Charles “Chuckie” Warnock
10:30 AM  Carmela Viscariello

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 16**

12:10 PM  Angela Marina

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17**

12:10 PM  Mary Calvino, 4th Year Anniversary Mass

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18**

12:10 PM  Paulette Bochetti, Memorial Mass

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20**

12:10 PM  Ken Phipp

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21**

5:15 PM

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22**

7:30 AM  Parishioners of St. Mary
9:00 AM  John Brennan, Healing
10:30 AM  Eva Zinani

**CHRISTMAS EVE, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24**

4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. & 12:00 Midnight

**CHRISTMAS DAY, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25**

10:30 a.m.

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31**

12:10 p.m.

**FEAST OF SOLEMNITY OF MARY**

Tuesday, December 31-Vigil Mass-5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 1-12:10 p.m
ST. JOSEPH PARISH NEWS

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14
4:00 PM ‘Pro Populo’ Mass

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15
8:30 AM Laura & Cesar Santos
10:30 AM Joan & Kenneth Bradley

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16
9:00 AM No Intention

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17
9:00AM No Intention

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18
NO MASS

Please pray for the repose of the souls of
Mary Medlin, Jane Sager and Paul Santacroce.

CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING TREE - Please return your gifts no later than Monday December 16, 2019. Please know that your support, gift or donation will make a positive difference in the lives of many needy individuals and families. Thank you.

LARGE PRINT BIBLES (New Testament with Psalms) are available here at St. Joseph free of charge. If interested, please call the Parish Office.

ST. JOSEPH CHRISTMAS PAGEANT is scheduled for this weekend Sunday, December 15 at 2 pm in the Church.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD PANTRY
Located at St. Joseph’s Parish Office. Open 2nd & last Thursday of month from 10 - 11:30 am & 4:30 - 6 pm.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - Plymouth Kingston Council #4480
First Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Knights of Columbus Hall, 91 South Street, Kingston. For membership information call Walter McSorley at 774-688-1828.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve—Tuesday, December 24
4 pm Church
4 pm Our Lady’s Hall
6 pm Church

Christmas Day—Wednesday, December 25
8:30 am
Tuesday, December 31
9 am

Wednesday, January 1, Feast of Solemnity of Mary
9 am

FATHER ANTONIO NEEDS YOUR HELP!
Father Antonio will be joining our Missionary Team January 6-11 to serve the poorest of the poor in Haiti.

Each Missionary’s goal is to raise $2300. ($1300 covers food/travel expense i.e plane & helicopter and $1000 directly to our orphanage.

Are you willing to help? If so, please make your donation to Haiti 180 and on the memo line put “Father Antonio’s Mission Trip”.

Let’s make this happen! It’s such a blessing when we have a priest on our mission. This way we can celebrate Mass everyday with our children at the orphanage.

Thank you for your support in advance!
The Haiti 180 Team
Www.haiti180.com

CHRISTMAS FLOWER ENVELOPES are available at the exits of the church. If you wish to donate for flowers in a loved one’s name or names, please print clearly and we will publish the list in December.

ST. JOSEPH STEWARDSHIP

Offertory ...........$5,252.33 (12/1)
Offertory...........$5,346.33 (12/8)
Grand Annual ............$30,744
Catholic Appeal ............$24,326
COLLABORATIVE NEWS & EVENTS

**CURSILLO** An opportunity to deepen your faith. The Boston Cursillo Movement [www.bostoncursillo.org](http://www.bostoncursillo.org)

The Cursillo is a “little course in Christianity” that begins on a Thursday evening and concludes Sunday afternoon. Each Cursillo is an encounter with Christ in a small community of the Church, in order that Christ’s love and grace can be brought to every aspect of life. Fr Bill Murphy and Mary Ann McLaughlin will be the Spiritual Directors of upcoming weekends. For more information call: Chris Graf 617-332-5548 The dates for the Cursillo Weekends are:

**Women’s Weekend** March 5-8, 2020

**Men’s Weekend** April 23-26, 2020

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**CHRISSEY’S CHARITY**

Chrissy’s Charity continues to make rosary beads, small Christian items and Christian jewelry which are sent to churches for use in religious education classes and Catholic Missions. Many responses of thanks and prayers from children and adults have been received. You can help by donating rosaries, even broken.

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**TRANSFORMED IN LOVE MARRIAGE PREP**

Transformed in Love for engaged couples is the Archdiocesan program for marriage preparation. At St. Joseph’s Kingston March 27 and 28, 2020. For additional information please visit bostoncatholic.org/familylife or contact Deacon Kevin Winn at kjw-amdg@comcast.net

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**PRAYER INTENTIONS HAVE BEEN RELOCATED TO OUR WEBSITE AT:**

[https://stsmaryjoseph.org/prayer-list](https://stsmaryjoseph.org/prayer-list)

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**MIRAMAR GIFT SHOP**

Looking for the perfect gift for a Baptism or Confirmation? Or, start your Advent Season shopping now. The Gift Shop at Duxbury’s Miramar Retreat Center offers cards, statues, rosaries, books and more! Stop by Monday–Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or call 781-585-2460 for weekend hours.

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**A gift this Christmas...**

This Christmas, we will be distributing free copies of Matthew Kelly’s newest book, *Rediscover the Saints*.

This book opens our eyes to the amazing possibilities God has for us and encourages us to strive for greatness, with the help of men and women in Church history who have done it before us—the saints.

We look forward to seeing you this Christmas!