

NORTH QUABBIN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

192 School Street, Athol MA 01331-2399

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Church Office: ourladyrectory@hotmail.com • Religious Education: ourlady.ccd@mail.com



OUR LADY IMMACULATE

192 School Street, Athol MA 01331

Church Office Hours:
M, T, W 8:30am-3:30pm

Masses:

Lord's Day ~ 4pm (Vigil) & 11am
Holy Days of Obligation ~ 12:10pm
Weekday ~ 8am M, T, W
First Saturday ~ 8:00am

Confessions:

Saturday ~ 3 to 3:30pm in the OLI Chapel

Holy Hour of Adoration:

Tuesday ~ 2:00pm -3:00pm

Men's Rosary

Tuesday ~ 7:00pm OLI Chapel

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

101 Main Street, Athol MA 01331

Masses:

Lord's Day ~ 8:00am
Holy Days of Obligation ~ 7:00pm

Confessions:

Saturday ~ 3 to 3:30pm in the OLI
Chapel

Divine Mercy Chaplet:

Sunday ~ 7:40am

SAINT PETER

18 North Street
Petersham MA 01366

Mass:

Lord's Day ~ 9:30am

Confessions:

Saturday ~ 3 to 3:30pm in the OLI
Chapel

Rosary

Thursday ~ 9:00am

Rev. Mateus Souza, Administrator
fr.mateussouza@gmail.com

Bryan Lagimoniere, Deacon

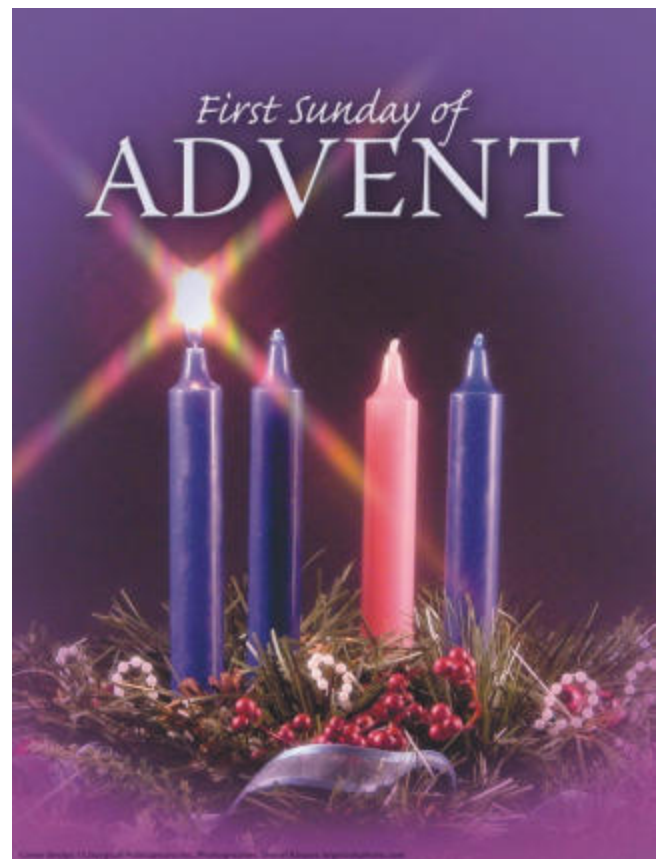
Gayle Bassett, Administrative Assistant

Irene Inniss, Cluster CCD Administrator
& Safe Environment Coordinator

Patrick Kennelly, Business Manager

Terry Parker, Music Director

Christian Cormier, Maintenance



Visitors and New Parishioners

Please introduce yourself. We want to meet you.
Registration forms are available in the sacristy.

Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated on Saturdays and Sundays. Please contact the Church Office for the preparation session, which includes parents and godparents.

Marriage

Contact the Church Office one year in advance.

Visitation of the Ill and Homebound

Please contact the Church Office if you know of anyone who is in need, so a Priest, Deacon or Eucharistic Minister may visit.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Adults seeking information about the Catholic Faith or seeking full admission into the Church through Baptism, Confirmation & Eucharist ~ Please call the Church Office.

Lending Library

Temporarily Suspended—thank you.

NQCC Facebook Page

For those of you with a Facebook page, please “LIKE” the North Quabbin Catholic Community Facebook page. Stay up to date with all the happenings in the Cluster

Sharing Our Fathers Bread

Meals are served Wednesdays, Sept.-May, at St. Francis Hall at 5pm for those in need. Donation baskets are located at each church for your convenience to support this important program. For questions please call 978-249-7304.

Healing and Prevention

If you or someone you know has been sexually abused by a priest, religious or lay person working for the Church, and you need a place to talk about your feelings, please call the Office for Healing and Prevention, (508) 929-4363. A 24 hour-a-day confidential voicemail is available.

Other Information

Prayer Line: Please notify the Rectory
Bulletin Deadline: Prior Monday by 12N

FOOD PANTRY

Thank you for your support! This week we will collect:
Jams / Jelly / Canned Chicken~Meat~Spam

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER MATEUS

Dear brothers and sisters,

This Sunday, the Church dresses in purple to wait, in an attitude of vigilance, for the birth of Christ. But what about today, how can we be attentive to the God who visits us with his grace? What purposes should we pursue to make this Adventa time of true conversion?

The Advent season is the period in which the Church prepares herself, through prayer and penance, for the great solemnity of Christmas. Although there

is a custom of referring to Christmas as the “birthday” of Jesus, this solemn date is actually the celebration of the mystery of the Incarnation, which is why, since the 4th century, the Church has reserved a specific time for the liturgy, dedicated to the preparation of the faithful, through the encouragement of practices of piety and asceticism, in order to welcome the Incarnate Word of God, the Redeemer of mankind, in their hearts.

We know that God is everywhere: He is present in his creatures, but especially in the human being. Through his signs, man can intuit God’s existence. With the Incarnation, however, the Lord revealed himself to men in a very particular way, manifesting to them the fullness of his love, something that would be impossible to do only by looking around. Hence the greatness of Christmas and the reason the Church, wearing purple, dedicates a period of liturgy to meditating on this event, over four weeks. The purpose of Advent is to enable Christians to recognize the presence of Christ in their lives. Christmas refers to one of Jesus’ coming. However, Saint Bernard of Clairvaux teaches that there are actually three of such Jesus’ comings. The first occurred two thousand years ago, in the humility of a manger, in Bethlehem. The third will be the definitive coming, at the End of Time, when Jesus will sit on the throne of glory to judge the acts of humanity. The second coming, however, is an intermediate coming, which can happen every day, through the sacraments, especially through Confession and the Eucharist. And this is precisely the coming for which we must prepare at the time of Advent.

In concrete terms, the person who is in a state of grace must be able to recognize the presence of God in their soul.

It turns out that this presence is, unfortunately, ignored by many of us because of our disordered attachments and passions. Just like in a big city, where the stars end up overshadowed by artificial lights, the presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ is hidden by the hundreds of little distractions of our soul, so that, to find Him, we need to retreat to the countryside, where there is no presence of other lights than that of Heaven itself.

This retreat must be practiced in three ways, according to what our Mother Church teaches:

- 1- Through intimate prayer before God, in which you give yourself absolutely to the Lord and foster a relationship of friendship with him;
- 2 - Through the frequent reception of the Eucharist;
- 3 - Through thanksgiving after Holy Communion.

Of course, these three steps depend, first of all, on the purity of the soul. So it is essential that the person is in a state of grace to be able to see the presence of Christ. May you and your family have a blessed Advent.

God bless you!

Fr. Mateus

WORD OF LIFE

“Those who die in God’s grace and friendship live forever with Christ. Heaven is a true and lasting relationship with God that is beyond all earthly description and understanding.” ~USCCB Secretariat of Pro-life Activities “Catholic Considerations for Our Earthly Passing.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

2022 Contribution Envelopes for Our Lady Immaculate Church will be available for pick at the front of the church after masses the weekend of Nov 27/28 and Dec 4/5. If you are not currently using envelopes and would like a box assigned to you, please call Gayle in the office at 978-249-2738. Thank you.

ANNUAL APPEALS

For your convenience, there are envelopes available at all churches for your donation. To those who have made their contribution, we sincerely Thank You!!!

Our Lady: ~ Goal; \$20,000 - To Date: \$18,790
St. Francis: ~ Goal; \$8,000 - To Date: \$1,730
St. Peter: ~ Goal; \$7,000 - To Date: \$5,160

CHURCH OPEN HOURS

The OLI Chapel and St. Francis Church will now be open daily from 8am-4pm during the winter months. Thank you.

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION / TIME CHANGE

The First Saturday Devotion for December will be held on December 4th at 9:00am at Our Lady Immaculate. Every 13th of the month, everyone, especially the Living Rosary members, are encouraged to pray the rosary. The rosary is a powerful prayer to fight all evils. Let us ask our Blessed Mother's intercession to her Divine Son Jesus Christ by praying the Rosary.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

For the next three weekends the Knights of Columbus will begin selling our December Calendar Raffle tickets before and after Masses in the Cluster. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and we need your support to make our fundraiser a success. Wait until you see this calendar! *Thirty-one chances to win ~ \$50 in cash/prizes each weekday \$100 in cash/prizes every Sunday. Two chances to win 100 gallons in home heating oil. Tickets are \$10ea or 3 tickets for \$25. Checks may be made out to Athol Knights of Columbus.*

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS POSTER CONTEST

In an effort to promote the true spirit of Christmas in our homes, schools, parishes and communities the Knights of Columbus will once again be sponsoring our annual Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest here in our Cluster.

Students will compete in one of three age groups — ages 5 through 7, ages 8 through 10 and 11 through 14. Each poster submitted must reflect the Keep Christ in Christmas theme with a visual image. There is no limit to the number of posters each contestant may submit.

Do you know a young person that you feel would enjoy taking part in this program? If so, entry forms are located in the back of all our Cluster churches. All rules and regulations are explained in detail on these forms. Posters must be returned to church and placed in boxes in the entrance of all three churches no later than the weekend of December 18/19th. Prizes will be awarded in all three age groups.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Do you know anyone who is sick and in need of prayers? Please call the office and their names will be listed in the bulletin every week so our parishioners can include them in their personal prayers. God bless you!

PRAYER LIST

Kevin Doherty ~ Joan Doherty ~ Irene Dearden ~ Roy Dunn
Ann Marie Doherty ~ Vernon Goupil ~ Arline Duguay
Fr's Mother—Terezinha Souza ~ Marcella Catalano
The Phillips' Family: Sam, Kelly, Kaydence,
Alycia, Aulden & Kailyn ~ Darla Brault

OUR LADY IMMACULATE COLLECTION

11-21-21 Sunday: \$1,731.50; Building: 286.00; Memorial: \$50.00; Fuel: \$55.00; Flowers \$47.00; Human Development: \$96.00; SOFB: \$50.00.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

Repairing the exterior trim around the stained glass windows in the church. To date \$51,251.89 has been collected; repairs to date: \$16,944.00.

SHARING OUR FATHERS BREAD

Free Will: \$50.00

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI COLLECTION

11-21-21 Sunday: \$601.00; Monthly: \$45.00; Renovation: \$10.00; Fuel: \$80.00; 2nd Fuel: \$265.85; Human Development: \$18.00.

INSTANT 120 CLUB

Winners of the St. Francis 120 Club are: \$500 ~ Joan Dedinas; \$250 ~ Charlie Shatos; \$150 ~ Linda Kennedy; \$100 ~ Eddie Morandi; \$50 ~ Gayle Bassett, Eric DeHays, Arline Duguay & Noella Boutelle, Lou Hohos. Congratulations to all the winners and thank you for your support!!

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FAIR & BAKE SALE

St. Francis is excited to announce that we will be holding our annual Christmas Fair and Bake sale on Saturday December 4th from 9:00am to 2:00pm in the Church Hall. Items will include a Chinese auction, Raffle Baskets, Christmas greens, and lots of baked goods. From 11 am to 1 pm we will be serving our Lithuanian plate with kielbasa, kugeli, sauerkraut, carrots and bread along with beef stew and hotdogs for lunch.

St. Francis parishioners and anyone else who is interested are asked to donate new items for our Chinese auction table. If you are interested in sweets and want to contribute some baked goods, give us a call. Anyone who wishes to offer any larger items for a special raffle or our themed raffle baskets, please let us know! Contact Jackie Doherty (617-175-3577) or Marie Shatos (617-275-3578) if you would like to volunteer your time to help us at the fair. We would love to have you join us!

ST. PETER'S COLLECTION

11-21-21 Sunday: \$781.00; Memorials: \$20.00; Human Development: \$40.00.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Please join us for the annual Christmas Bazaar at St. Peter's Church, December 4th 2021 from 9:00am - 2:00pm in the Church hall and Sunday, December 5th, 2021 after mass from 10:30am - 12:00pm. Items for purchase are handmade, including: Assorted homemade cookies, Winter-themed gnomes, Holiday decorations, Table runners, Microwave cosies, Kitchen towels, Decorative Angels, Christmas Baskets, Wreaths with live greens...and much more!

We are also asking for bakers to bake their favorite homemade cookies small and medium in size, to be dropped off at the Church hall on Thursday December 2nd between 5pm and 6pm or phone Islay Boeri at 978-724-0205 for other drop off options.

We are excited to share these items with you for the holiday season and hope you can join us.

NOVEMBER 28, 2021

Hymnal Readings: 785

Readings for the week of November 28, 2021

Sunday: Jer 33:14-16/1 Thes 3:12—4:2/Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14
[1b]/Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [10]/Mt 4:18-22

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/Mt
7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. Is 30:18d]/
Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

Next Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Phil 1:4-6, 8-
11/Lk 3:1-6



Saturday, Nov. 27th Vigil: 1st Sunday of Advent

4:00 PM **OLI:** +Norman & Juliette Thibault
By Charles & Paula Thibault
+Judy Gancorz by Rita Soltysik

Sunday, November 28th 1st Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM **St. Francis:** +All Parishioners

9:30 AM **St. Peter:** +M/M Walter Chase
by Don & Carol Ambrozy

11:00 AM **OLI:** +James & Emily Deleo by Cynthia
+Special Intention for Tavakol Family
by the Family

Monday, November 29th

8:00 AM **OLI:** +Angelina Casella by Stella Murphy

Tuesday, November 30th St. Andrew, Apostle

8:00 AM **OLI:** +Blanchard Family by the Family
+Souls in Purgatory by Marcella Catalano

Wednesday, December 1st

8:00 AM **OLI:** +Marcial, Emerenciana & Joseph
Yandoc by the Family
~ Special Intention for the Tavakol Family
by the Family

Saturday, Dec. 4th

9:00 AM **OLI:** +Joseph & Helen Whelan

Vigil: 2nd Sunday of Advent

4:00 PM **OLI:** +Roseann Wrigley by Stella Murphy
+Wesley Laford, Months Mind
by Joseph & Ruth Labrie

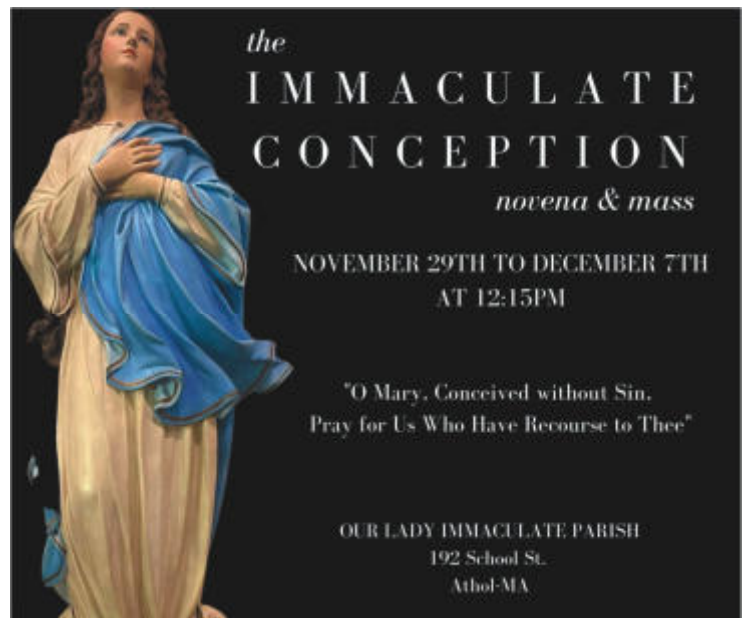
Sunday, December 5th 2nd Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM **St. Francis:** +Nicholas Casella
by Jackie Doherty

9:30 AM **St. Peter:** +Wesley Laford, Months Mind
By his Wife Joyce

11:00 AM **OLI:** +Gagliardi Family by Anna Gagliardi
Beane & Joseph Gagliardi

NOVEMBER 28, 2021



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SATURDAY 27th

3:00 PM Confessions at OLI Chapel
4:00 PM Vigil Mass at Our Lady Immaculate

SUNDAY 28th

8:00 AM Mass at St. Francis of Assisi
9:30 AM Mass at St. Peter
11:00 AM Mass at Our Lady Immaculate

MONDAY 29th

8:00 AM Mass at Our Lady Immaculate

TUESDAY 30th

8:00 AM Mass at Our Lady Immaculate
2:00 PM Holy Hour with Adoration at OLI
7:00 PM Men's Rosary at OLI Chapel

WEDNESDAY 1st

8:00 AM Mass at Our Lady Immaculate

THURSDAY 2nd

9:00 AM Rosary at St. Peter Church

SATURDAY 4th

9:00 AM First Saturday Mass & Devotion at OLI
4:00 PM Vigil Mass at Our Lady Immaculate

SUNDAY 5th

8:00 AM Mass at St. Francis of Assisi
9:15 AM CCD Grades K—5
9:30 AM Mass at St. Peter
11:00 AM Mass at Our Lady Immaculate
6:00 PM CCD Grades 6-10



Please remember **Rita Blanchard** and **Beverly Levanway** who passed away recently, as well as their family. Always remember the power of prayer in helping others.

Family Memorials

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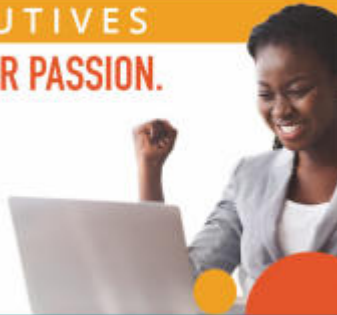
Kevin J. Mack, Director

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Our Lady Immaculate, Athol, MA

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