

WELCOME

If you are alienated or upset, we welcome you lovingly.
If you are in need of forgiveness, Jesus forgives you completely—with unconditional love.
If you have been hurt by the Church, we are truly sorry.
If you are angry, Jesus offers you peace.
If life has become burdensome, we are here to support you.
We are happy you are here and want you to stay.
We would like to share our lives with you.
Come join us each week so we can worship God together.

Parish Staff

Rev. Richard T. Conway—Pastor

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Irene Bonner – Business Manager

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Susan Hurton—Faith Formation Director

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Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday 4:00 pm

Sunday at 10:00 am

Weekdays as announced

Parish Office

978-683-8922

Fax: 978-689-8878

Office Hours:

Tuesday-Thursday

9:30 am to 4:00 pm

(closed from noon-1:00 pm)

Marriage

Please contact the Parish Office at least six months in advance. Participation in both a parish and a diocesan preparation is required of all couples.

RCIA

Adults interested in baptism or joining the Catholic Church should contact Joe Galluzzo at 978-314-3404 or joe.galluzzo@comcast.net.

Anointing & Pastoral Care of the Sick

Please contact the Parish Office when a parishioner is seriously ill or goes into the hospital. Staff and Communion Ministers bring communion to those who are infirm. Sacrament of the Sick is celebrated communally in the spring and the fall.

Baptism

Celebrated regularly at Sunday Eucharist. Mandatory parent preparation sessions are held at church every other month. Please contact the Parish Office four months prior to the intended Baptism date.

A Stewardship Parish

*Building a Catholic community of commitment, passion and love
Celebrating our faith through dynamic liturgy and a rich sacramental life
Welcoming all into the warmth of our parish family
Sharing the gifts God entrusted to us
Striving to learn, live and share our faith*

FROM FATHER RICK

Dear Friends,

Today we conclude our Liturgical Celebration of the Christmas Season with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

Each year I list here those who so ably work on the environment of our parish church in order to prepare it for our celebration of the Incarnation.

The first thanks go to Bill Sullivan for coordinating everyone's jobs.

Those who worked on the church environment: Tom Ciaccia, Sue Coleman, Tom Cuff, Rod Houde, Maria Silvaggi, Anne Sullivan, Bill Sullivan, Joe Tornatore, Jean Tornatore, Dave Waller, Bill Wolfendale.

Those who served at the tables of Word and Eucharist this year were:

- **Lectors:** Ruthie Gordon, Frank Paone, Phil Giguere, Gloria Lucas, Maria Shapiro, Sal Basta, Glen Stump
- **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:** Irene Bonner, Frank Coppola, Betty Galluzzo, Lynda O'Brien, Jan Fay, Kim Millien, Bob O'Brien, Ellen Clancy, Maria Newburg, Laura Szekely, Catherine Eames, Marian Magnan, Maria Silvaggi, Maggie Butler, Sean Szekely, Cheryl Amey, Jill Basta, Sr. Mary Farren SND, Bill Sullivan, Carol Capone, Bob Coleman, Regina Hoell, Mary Jo O'Brien, Sue Coleman, Siobhan Coleman, Carol DiStefano
- **Acolytes:** Bill Sullivan, Tom Cuff, Dan Stump, Eddie Stump
- **Greeters:** Jan Fay, Dick Ogden, Kate Landry, Luke Stump Jill Basta, Pat Viscosi, Regina Hoell, Carol Capone

Our Music Ministers:

- **Directors:** Nina Wolfendale & Kathy Schardin
- **4:00 pm Mass:** Kathy Paone, Trisha Simpson, Barbara Davidson, Kathy Colecchi, Tina Martin, Doris Sidon, Dave Nisco, Sandy Pothier, Sheila Manzi (cantor), Joe Gobis, Juliana Gobis, Emme LaBranche, Robert Dupont, Cheryl Castignoli
- **6:00 pm Mass:** Will Hamilton, cantor
- **Midnight Mass:** John Bonner, Cam Vandermaelen, Ann Vandermaelen (cantor), Katie Wolfendale, Maria Furnari (cantor), Larissa LaBranche, Nina Wolfendale
- **10:00 am Christmas Day:** Melissa Glaister, cantor

The Ten Green Commandments of Laudato Si'

In case it may have slipped your mind, *Laudato Si'* is Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment. Fr. Joshtrom Isaac Kureethadam, a featured speaker at the June 2019 Climate Conference held at Creighton University, jointly sponsored by Creighton and the Catholic Climate Covenant, wrote a book titled *The Ten Green Commandments of Laudato Si'*. The book draws ten commandments from Pope Francis' landmark encyclical on *Care for Our Common Home/Laudato Si'*. The first five are:

1. Earth, our common home, is in peril. Take care of it.
2. Listen to the cry of the poor who are the disproportionate victims of the crisis of our common home.
3. Rediscover a theological vision of the natural world as good news/gospel.

4. Recognize that the abuse of creation is ecological sin.
5. Acknowledge the deeper human roots of the crisis of our common home.

The book is receiving five-star ratings from readers. It is available from Amazon and other sources.

FROM POPE FRANCIS

“The Overwhelming Novelty Is that the Eternal Word Became Flesh”

Here is a ZENIT translation of the address Pope Francis gave Sunday, January 5, before and after praying the midday *Angelus* with those gathered in St. Peter’s Square. In the US, this is the Epiphany; in the rest of the world, it is the Second Sunday of the Christmas Season, with different readings.

Before the Angelus:

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

On this second Sunday of Christmastide, the biblical Readings help us to widen our gaze to be fully aware of the meaning of Jesus’ birth. The Book of Sirach celebrates the coming of divine Wisdom in the midst of the people (Cf. chapter 24); He is still not incarnate but is personified and, at a certain point, He says of Himself: “The One who created me assigned a place for my tent. And He said, ‘Make your dwelling in Jacob and in Israel receive your inheritance’” (24:8).

The Gospel, with Saint John’s Prologue, shows us that the Word, the eternal and creative Word, is the only-begotten Son of God (Cf. 1:1-18). He isn’t a creature but a divine Person; in fact, of Him it is said: “The Word was with God, and the Word was God” (v. 1). Now, the overwhelming novelty is in fact that this eternal Word “became flesh” (v. 14). Not only did He come to live among the people, but He made himself one of the people. After this event, we no longer have only a law, an institution to orient our life, but a divine Person, Jesus, who orients our life, who makes us go on the way because he did so first.

Saint Paul blesses God for His plan of love realized in Jesus Christ (Cf. *Ephesians* 1:3-6.15-18). In this plan, each one of us finds his fundamental vocation. What is it? Saint Paul says thus: we are predestined to be children of God by the work of Jesus Christ. The Son of God became man to make us men, children of God. The eternal Son was made flesh for this: to introduce us in His filial relationship with the Father.

Therefore, brothers and sisters, while we continue to contemplate the wondrous sign of the Nativity Scene, today’s Liturgy tells us that Christ’s Gospel isn’t a fable, a myth, an edifying account, no. Christ’s Gospel is the full revelation of God’s plan, of God’s plan for man and for the world. It is at once a simple and grandiose message, which drives us to ask ourselves: what concrete plan has the Lord put in me, actualizing again His birth in our midst?

It is the Apostle Paul that suggests the answer: “[God] chose us [. . .] to be holy and blameless before Him” in charity (v. 4) Here is the meaning of Christmas. If the Lord continues to come in our midst, if He continues to make us the gift of His Word, it’s so that each one of us can respond to this call: to become holy in love. Holiness is to belong to God, communion with Him, reflection of His infinite goodness. Holiness is to protect the gift that God has given us. It is only this: to guard the gratuitousness. This is to be holy. Therefore, whoever receives holiness in himself as gift of grace, cannot but translate it into concrete action in the everyday. This gift, this grace that God has given me, I translate into concrete actions in the everyday, in the encounter with others. This charity, this mercy

toward our neighbor, reflection of the love of God, purifies at the same time our heart and disposes us to forgiveness, rendering us “immaculate” day after day. However, immaculate not in the sense that I remove a stain; immaculate in the sense that God enters in us, the gift, God’s gratuitousness enters in us and we protect it and give it to others.

May the Virgin Mary help us to receive with joy and gratitude God’s divine plan of love realized in Jesus Christ. *[Original text: Italian] [ZENIT’s translation by Virginia M. Forrester]*

After the Angelus:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Felt in many parts of the world is a terrible air of tension. War brings only death and destruction. I call all sides to keep alight the flame of dialogue and self-control and to ward off the shadow of enmity. Let us pray in silence that the Lord may give us this grace.

A warm greeting goes to you, pilgrims from Italy and from other countries. I greet the families, the Associations, the parish groups, in particular the Confirmation youngsters of Mozzo and Alme – you have a nice sign! – Diocese of Bergamo, and the group of the *Fraterna Domus*.”

On this first Sunday of the year, I renew to all best wishes for serenity and peace in the Lord. In happy and in difficult moments, let us entrust ourselves to Him, who is our hope! I also remember the commitment we made for the New Year, Day of Peace: “Peace as path of hope: dialogue, reconciliation and ecological conversion.” With God’s grace, we will be able to put it into practice.

I wish you a happy Sunday. And, please, don’t forget to pray for me. Enjoy your lunch and see you tomorrow for the Solemnity of the Epiphany. *[Original text: Italian]*

Epiphany Proclamation

The proclamation of the date of Easter and the other moveable feasts on Epiphany dates from a time when calendars were not readily available. It was necessary to make known the date of Easter in advance, since many celebrations of the liturgical year depend on its date. The number of Sundays that follow Epiphany, the date of Ash Wednesday, and the number of Sundays that follow Pentecost are all computed in relation to Easter.

Dear brothers and sisters

The glory of the Lord has shone upon us, and shall ever be manifest among us, until the day of His return. Through the rhythms of times and seasons let us celebrate the mysteries of salvation.

*Let us recall the year's culmination, the **Easter Triduum of the Lord**: His last supper, His crucifixion, His burial, and His rising celebrated between the evening of the Ninth of April and the evening of the Eleventh of April, **Easter Sunday** being on the **Twelfth day of April**.*

Each Easter – as on each Sunday – the Holy Church makes present the great and saving deed by which Christ has forever conquered sin and death.

*From Easter are reckoned all the days we keep holy. **Ash Wednesday**, the beginning of Lent, will occur on the **Twenty-Sixth day of February**.*

*The **Ascension of the Lord** will be commemorated on Thursday the **twenty-first day of May**.*

Pentecost, the joyful conclusion of the season of Easter, will be celebrated on the thirty-first day of May.

The Holy Body and Blood of the Lord will be celebrated on Sunday the fourteenth day of June.

And, this year, the First Sunday of Advent will be on the Twenty-ninth day of November.

Likewise the pilgrim Church proclaims the Passover of Christ in the feasts of the holy Mother of God, in the feasts of the Apostles and Saints, and in the Commemoration of the faithful departed.

To Jesus Christ, Who was, Who is, and Who is to come, Lord of time and history, be endless praise, for ever and ever. Amen.

In light of the announcement of the important liturgical feasts I list the important upcoming events of Parish Life.

UPCOMING PARISH DATES OF INTEREST
Please plan on joining us for these events

DAY OF PRAYER FOR THOSE IN CONSECRATED LIFE – February 2, 10:00 am Mass

COMMUNAL ANOINTING OF THE SICK – February 9, 10:00 am Mass

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY (Renewal of Vows) – February 15, 4:00 pm Mass

PARISH WIDE LENTEN PROGRAM “LIVING THE EUCHARIST” – Begins week of February 23, “Preparing for the First Week of Lent,” – Sign Up Weekend February 15/16

ASH WEDNESDAY – February 26, Masses at 12:10 pm, 5:45 pm, and 7:15 pm

PARISH PENANCE SERVICE – Thursday, April 2, 7:00 pm

SACRED TRIDUUM – April 9-10-11-12

EASTER SUNDAY – April 12, Masses at 9:00 and 11:00 am

FIRST COMMUNION – April 26, 10:00 am

CONFIRMATION – May 2, 4:00 pm Mass with Bishop Robert Hennessey

ASCENSION THURSDAY – May 21, Masses will be held on Wednesday, May 20 at 6:00 pm (followed by Holy Day Supper) and on Thursday, May 21, at 12:10 pm

PENTECOST – May 31, one Mass only this weekend on Sunday at 10:00 am, followed by Parish Pentecost Celebration

MOST HOLY TRINITY/CHOIR APPRECIATION – June 7, 10:00 am Mass

CORPUS CHRISTI – June 14, 10:00 am Mass

FEAST DAY WEEKEND – September 19/20, events to be announced

*I wish you God's Peace,
Fr. Rick*

Stewardship Reflection

*And a voice came from the heavens, saying,
"This is my beloved Son, with whom
I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:17)*

Two thoughts come to mind when reading this. First, God, Our Father, is so generous, that he gave his only son, whom he really loves, to us so that we can have eternal life with him in heaven. God, Our Creator, really loves us, too! Second, Jesus was obedient to his Father's will, even to the point of death. This is a reminder that our own lives are pure gifts from God and meant to serve God and others.

Parish Community Prayer Intentions

At our parishioners' request or with permission, we list those who are sick or in the hospital and wish to be remembered in our prayers:

The names in the Parish Community Prayer Intention list are not included in the web version of the bulletin in order to maintain the privacy of those individuals.

**Liturgical Ministers
This Weekend**

Saturday, January 11, 4:00 pm Mass

Presider: Fr. Rick; Cantor: Melissa Glaister; Lector: Phil Giguere

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Frank Coppola, Catherine Eames, Jan Fay, Rod Houde, Kim Millien, Bill Sullivan

Sunday, January 12, 10:00 am Mass

Presider: Fr. Rick; Greeter: Grace Bouvier; Cantor: William Hamilton; Lectors: Tom Ciaccia and Joanne Nowak; Server: Tom Cuff; Children's Liturgy: Mary Gealow

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Tom Atkins, Grace Bouvier, Carol Capone, Carol DiStefano, Ruthie Gordon, Mary Jo O'Brien, Kevin Roselle



Prayers requested for

Rosalie "Rose" Faherty,
mother of former parishioner Tricia McCall

'I saw the snares that the enemy spreads out over the world, and I said groaning, "What can get through from such snares?" Then I heard a voice saying to me, "Humility."' – St. Anthony the Great, whose feast day is this week, on January 17

In Service

2nd Lt. Luke Beaulieu, USA, Lt. William E. Conway, USN, SN Madalina Yvonne Southworth, USN, SFODA 1324 Detachment, 2nd Lt. Hannah Jean Kuegler, USA, BM2 Stuart Bangs, USCG, Sean Hodgdon, USAF, Cpl Chris Carey, USMC, SFC John B. Nicholas, USA, SGT Jean-Paul Fitzpatrick, USA, SGT Vincent Amasula, USA, CDR Paul Giguere, USN, 1st Lt. Stephen Draheim, USA, Col. James Coffey, USAF, Lyle Shackelford, Pvt. Alexander Sabu, USA, Gen'l. R. Steve Whitcomb, USA, Col. Brian P. Bedell, USA, Capt. Lauren Whitcomb, USA, BG Patrick J. Donahue, USA, BG Brian P. Donahue, USA, Cpt. Michael McGaffigan, USA, Lt. Jesse Salisbury, USA F, Commander Kevin B. O'Brien, USN, Miko Belonia, Maj. Tony Hoffman, USA, Maj. Ross Coffman, USA, Maj. Garth Howe, USA, Chief Warrant Officer II Michael Morris, USA, Captain Matthew Mancini, USA, Sgt. Ellen Barnes O'Connor, USA, Pvt. Adam James Mazza, USA, Pvt. Joseph D. Gagnon, USM



MASS SCHEDULE



Saturday, January 11
Vigil, Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
 4:00 pm: Grace Coco

Sunday, January 12
Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
 10:00 am: Samantha Grace Fedoce

Tuesday, January 14
Weekday Mass
 5:30 pm: Don Robitaille

Wednesday, January 15
Weekday Mass
 6:00 pm: Intention of the Presider

Thursday, January 16
Weekday Mass
 12:10 pm: Mildred Tobyne

Saturday, January 18
Vigil, Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
 4:00 pm: Joanne Rikeman

Sunday, January 19
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
 10:00 am: Sandra Murphy

**Question of the Week:
 Baptism of the Lord**

Theme: We must do what God wants, even when we don't understand it fully.

Breaking Open the Word

Suggested faith sharing text: Today's Gospel

Step One: Listen to the Word

What one word or thought in this reading really strikes you? What image from this reading lingers for you now in your memory?

Step Two: Look into Your Life

Question for Children: What does God want you to do? To forgive? Be generous? To love?

Question for Youth: As you grow, how do you know what God wants you to do? How do you hear the voice of God saying, "you are one of mine, of my chosen?"

Question for Adults: Today's readings lead to a core question: As you follow God and do what he wants, how do you experience his loving words: "You are my own. My favor is upon you."?



Readings for the week of January 12, 2020

- Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10; Acts 10:34-38; Mt 3:13-17
- Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8; Ps 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19; Mk 1:14--20
- Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Mk 1:21--28
- Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Ps 40:2, 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10; Mk 1:29-39
- Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25; Mk 1:40--45
- Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps 89:16-17, 18-19; Mk 2:1--12
- Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1; Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Mk 2:13--17
- Next Sunday: Is 49:3, 5-6; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34

***The Prayer Shawl Ministry
 needs more helping hands!***

Looking for something new to try this year? Not sure what your schedule will allow? No worries! There is no ongoing commitment required and even one shawl is a welcome addition to support this important comfort ministry. The shawls can be made at home at your own pace, and we can help with patterns and prayers.

Reach out to Jan Fay at steve.fay@verizon.net with questions or to get started.



If you're reading this bulletin at the 4:00 pm Mass (*but not during Mass we hope!*), you're in luck – you haven't missed Italian KNight!

Head on down to Driscoll Hall after the 4:00 pm Mass on Saturday, January 11! A free will donation provides a dinner of Italian specialties, prepared by our very own Knight's chefs. The event proceeds will assist in funding the council's sponsorship of local projects supporting individuals with special needs. For example, our Knights volunteer and financially support the annual Special Needs Prom at Tewksbury Country Club, and the Special Olympics at Northern Essex Community College. Please bring your favorite beverage (BYOFB) and a hearty appetite. *Tutti mangia* for a great cause!



If you're reading this after January 11, you missed Italian KNight! But not to worry – you have another tasty option coming up!

The Knights are cooking up a new idea—Sunday Breakfast & Brunch! On Sunday, January 26, breakfast will be served before 10:00 am Mass (beginning at 8:30 am) and brunch will be available after Mass. More details coming up in next weekend's bulletin!

ONE-DAY RETREAT FOR GRIEVING PARENTS

Spiritual Support For Grieving Parents
Who Have Experienced the Death of a Child
No Matter The Age or Reason

Saturday, April 25, 9:00 am to 6:30 pm
Saint John the Evangelist Old Parish Hall
115 Middlesex Street, Chelmsford, MA 01879

For more information or registration contact:
phassett99@gmail.com



Women's Group
Meeting
Tuesday, 1/21
7:00-8:30 pm
Seton Room



This month we will get together to make a Valentine's wreath. It's a great time to relax and chat. We hope you can join us! Questions? Reach out to Jean Tornatore at jeantorn@verizon.net.



**Bread & Roses
Next Weekend,
January 18/19!**

How can you help? It's easy—just drop off food donations when you come to church. Non-perishables can be left in the bin in the vestibule of the church anytime (please NO perishables in the bin in the vestibule). Perishable items can be dropped off in the big silver fridge in Driscoll Hall kitchen. If you need to arrange an alternate drop off time (e.g., if you are away that weekend), Marian Magnan would be happy to help you out. You can reach her at marmagnan@gmail.com or 978-683-8969.

What do we need?

- Cooked ground beef (50+ pounds)
- Tortillas (20 packages of 8-inch size)
- Shredded cheese (15 pounds)
- Salsa (8 large jugs or equivalent)
- Taco seasoning (25-30 packets)
- Lettuce (16 heads)
- Cucumbers (15)
- Tomatoes (48 medium/large)

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

The LORD said to me: You are my servant, Israel, through whom I show my glory. Now the LORD has spoken who formed me as his servant from the womb, that Jacob may be brought back to him and Israel gathered to him; and I am made glorious in the sight of the LORD, and my God is now my strength! It is too little, the LORD says, for you to be my servant, to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and restore the survivors of Israel; I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

A reading from the beginning of the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians 1:1-3

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, to the church of God that is in Corinth, to you who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be holy, with all those everywhere who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 1:29-34

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.' I did not know him, but the reason why I came baptizing with water was that he might be made known to Israel." John testified further, saying, "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven and remain upon him. I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."

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Meal Service Team Needed Third Sunday Every Month

4:30-7:30 pm, Lazarus House Holly Street Shelter

St. Robert's serves the evening meal at the Holly Street residential shelter on the third Sunday of every month, year round. This is a great family opportunity to prepare and serve the meal to about 25-30 residents. Everything you need is at the shelter, or you may prepare a meal at home and bring to the shelter to serve. If you've never done it before, make it a New Year's resolution to pick a date and try it out! Details and sign up are available at signupgenius.com/go/10c0a4cabac2fa4fc1-lazarus. This link is also live on the parish homepage.