

ST. JOSEPH PARISH

Rev. Daniel C. O'Connell, Pastor

Organist-Music Director: Joseph Cipoletta

Parish Secretary: Fran Ryan

Faith Formation: Pat Harris

Tel: 617-523-4342 Parish Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9:am-3:00pm FAX: 617-523-8459

Sacrament of Penance: Sat 3:15pm

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 17

4:00 PM Mary Harold

Sunday, December 18

9:00 AM Family Mass

11:30 AM Deceased members of the
Moscaritolo Family

5:00 PM Parishioners

Monday, December 19

12:10PM In Memory of the Marron Family

Tuesday, December 20

12:10PM Mark Madoff

Wednesday, December 21

12:10 PM William Palizzolo — good health

Thursday, December 22

12:10PM In Memory of the Marron Family

Friday, December 23

12:10PM In Memory of the Marron Family

Saturday, December 24 — Vigil of Christmas

5:30 PM Family Mass with Pageant

12:00 AM Midnight Mass

Sunday, December 25 — Christmas Day

9:00 AM Christmas Mass

11:30 AM Christmas Mass

OUR CHRISTMAS ALTAR Thanks to all of you who have donated flowers in memory of or in honor of loved ones. The flowers will help beautify our church and allow us all to keep your beloved ones in our prayers.

A TRIM A TREE PARTY—ALL INVITED!
Christmas Decorating — It's really fun!

Can you help? On Friday, December 23, at 6:30pm, a group will gather to help decorate our church for Christmas. If you can hang garlands or decorate a Christmas tree (poinsettia placement can be a help too) please plan on being there. Many hands make light work, and it really does take just about an hour! Thanks!

MASS SCHEDULE Please see the insert in this week's bulletin for the complete Christmas Mass schedule.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA FESTIVAL THANK YOU! A heartfelt thanks to Judy Lauch, Anthony and Jessica Dekermanji, and their table captains (who coordinated things such as jewelry, food, knit goods and white elephant tables, etc. and the myriad of volunteers for all their hard work to our Poinsettia Festival. Without you we could not have been such a success. Looking forward to next year!

Parish Support

December 11 Offertory \$ 3,740



ParishPay — MONTH OF NOVEMBER

Offertory \$1,380

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

SANCTUARY LAMP - December

In Memory of the Brian Family

**CHRISTMAS COLLECTION
CLERGY BENEFIT TRUST**

Next week, at all our Christmas Masses, our only collection will be to support the retirement, medical and financial needs of priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. They are the reason we are able to celebrate the sacrament of the Eucharist today and every day. Without them, we could not fully live our Catholic faith. Remember the priests who have made a meaningful impact in your life. Please consider honoring these good holy men through next week's collection and giving them a gift this Christmas that shows them you truly care. On behalf of all our priests, thank you in advance for your generous and prayerful support. For more information, please visit www.CareForSeniorPriests.org.

Our 150th Celebration

GALA FUND RAISING DINNER
Tickets still available!

WHEN: JANUARY 20, 2012 TIME: 7:00pm
WHERE: MILLENNIUM BOSTONIAN HOTEL

THIS WEDNESDAY!!

The Church encourages all Catholics to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation each Advent. In addition to our normal Saturday afternoon confession time, St. Joseph Parish and all the Catholic parishes and chapels of the Archdiocese will be open on this **Wednesday, December 21, from 6:30-8:00pm**. Please take advantage of this opportunity to make a good Advent confession.

REFLECTIONS FROM
FATHER CHARLES SHEEHY

One day a few people unknown to one another and having no reason to be concerned saw a woman suddenly trip and fall as she walked along a small bridge. Immediately some women and men dropped everything and ran over to help her. Fortunately the woman was able to get up, thank her helpers, and proceed on her way.

A little reflection may remind us of help we have been given by strangers or help that we have given to them. Our little part of the world has people who are most generous and regrettably others who are totally selfish.

There is another rather difficult world to understand for some Catholics.

One Good Friday two young men met and talked to a priest. They said they tried very hard to be present at that special time but rarely attended Sunday Mass. Any effort to reason with them was simply ignored.

You never can tell. A Catholic who rarely came to Mass happened to be present for one reason or other. He attended Mass on the next Sunday, then regularly after that, and whenever he could, he attended daily Mass. His final step was to consider becoming a priest. This of course would be quite unusual, but it has happened!

Ultimately our faith has its origin in the life and teaching of Jesus Christ. We come to Mass to be one with Him, serve Him, and ask His love.

ADVENT GIVING TREE—There are still some envelopes left! Again this year we will celebrate a ‘giving tree’ and we will do so for the people of Haiti as they continue to try to recover from the many losses they have faced. Envelopes will be on the tree and you are invited to take one from the tree and place it along with your donation into the collection receptacle next to the tree. Your gift of love will brighten a child’s Christmas and bring Christ’s promise of joy alive to His people.

The CatholicTV® Network
Christmas Programming

It’s that time of year again! **CatholicTV** will intersperse Advent and Christmas programming with their regular schedule throughout December and especially from Monday, December 19th until New Year’s Eve. Then, all day Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and December 26, CatholicTV will become *ChristmasTV* for 72 hours of non-stop specials.

Comcast Ch. 268 Verizon Ch. 296 Or watch LIVE online at www.CatholicTV.com



RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION NEWS

December Children’s Events:

18th: 8:45 @ the Kid’s Corner, Vestibule of Church,
MEETING for anyone wishing to be an
ALTAR SERVER

Family Advent Mass, 9:00AM
Would you like to help?

Religious Education Session, 10:00AM

23rd and 24th: Pageant Practice 9:30 AM

24th: 5:30 PM Family Christmas Eve Mass with Pageant.

All children are welcome to be part of the pageant!

TO PARTICIPATE Contact Pat Harris,
repatharis@verizon.net or 781-535-8655



“Please donate all your **can tabs** to support the Burn Camp at Shriners Hospital in Boston. You can deposit your **can tabs** in the container at the back of the church near the door. Thank you for your help with this Parish Project.”

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent and we light all the candles today!

“Jesus, we love you. Help us to show our love to each other. Come, Lord Jesus, come! Amen.”



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150(0) items: 129 items have been given to the West End Food Bank so far in Advent. We have been showered with thanks from the people at the Food Bank. Thank you so much for helping those who aren’t as well off. Jesus asked us to see Him in those who are hungry. Please bring us dried milk, protein items, and canned veggies and fruit. We deliver them on Monday Mornings.

SESIQUICENTENNIAL QUESTION & ANSWER
A New Question or Answer Each Week

Last week’s question: is there any record of Mass in Boston before 1778? **ANSWER:** There were rumors that Mass had been secretly celebrated in 1732. There is a plaque in front of the church so stating. The celebrant was probably the Jesuit priest Joseph Greaton from Maryland.

**END OF BULLETIN
ANY TEXT OR GRAPHICS ON THIS PAGE
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