

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 3

4:00 PM The Costanzo Family

Sunday, December 4

9:00 AM Donald J. Tice

11:30 AM Swithen & Jolyon Rodrigues

5:00 PM Parishioners

Monday, December 5

12:10PM In Memory of the Marron Family

Tuesday, December 6

12:10PM Alfred Saxe-Coburg

Wednesday, December 7

12:10 PM Chester Darnell

5:15 PM Vigil of the Immaculate Conception

Thursday, December 8—Immaculate Conception

12:10PM Holy Day Mass

Catherine Howard—10th Anniversary

Friday, December 9

12:10PM In Memory of the Marron Family

Saturday, December 10

4:00 PM Open Hearts Memorial Guild

Sunday, December 11

9:00 AM Pasquale & Pauline Aloise

11:30 AM Judy Paone

5:00 PM Parishioners

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Thursday, December 8, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation. Vigil Mass will be on Wednesday, at 5:15 PM, and the Mass on Thursday will be at 12:10 PM.

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA FESTIVAL
CONTINUES THIS WEEKEND,**

Saturday, 3 PM - 6 PM, Sunday, 10 AM—2 PM

The Christmas Spirit is here at St. Joseph Parish. Don't miss our new **Best Cookie Contest**. Be sure to cast your vote for your favorite cookie. Pick up your poinsettias for Christmas, buy your tickets for the 150th Anniversary Gala Fund Raising Dinner on January 20, and visit the tables for jewelry, raffle items and baked goods. This is an important fundraiser for our parish. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Parish Support

November 20—Offertory \$2,953

Retired Religious \$1,326

November 27—Offertory \$2,448

SANCTUARY LAMP - December

In Memory of the Brian Family

**WE WELCOME BISHOP HENNESSEY
150th ANNIVERSARY**

We open our calendar year for our 150th Anniversary this weekend with our Poinsettia Festival and a special blessing by Bishop Hennessey at the 11:30 Mass this Sunday. Please join us on this special occasion.

LITURGY BOOKS

Liturgy books for Lectors are available in the sacristy. You may pick them up before or after Mass.

ADVENT BLUE BOOKS

In preparation for Christmas, once again we have the "Little Blue Books" to help us prepare spiritually. They are available at the church entrance and cost \$2.00 each. They invite us to give the Lord six minutes a day.

ADVENT GIVING TREE

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 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 **Wednesday, December 21, from 6:30-8:00pm**. Please take advantage of this opportunity to make a good Advent confession. Please also reach out to the Catholics you know that have been away from the regular practice of our faith and invite them to seize this chance to begin again. The Archdiocese's website for this initiative, www.TheLightIsOnForYou.org, has great material to help everyone prepare to make a good confession.



REFLECTIONS FROM FATHER CHARLES SHEEHY

Please God one day we enter into the presence of Jesus Christ, His Mother Mary, and the joy of heaven.

Whether produced for the best of reasons or otherwise, a portrait of Mother and Child can offer us an inspiring picture of Jesus and Mary. We can pray to Jesus Christ as the Son of God, as He truly is. The Blessed Virgin is without question closer to God than any other human person who ever lived. Wonderful as she is, Mary is not divine.

Some of us, probably many of us, would be wise to try to set aside some time to reflect slowly and thoughtfully on the prayer "Hail Mary." One person's reflection was to set aside one part of the "Hail Mary" every so often and briefly reflect on it.

Please God the almost forgotten misery, death and anguish of many American soldiers in the East will soon be over. If we should know any Americans in that area, prayers are still a blessing.

The power of prayer never ends.

SESQUICENTENNIAL QUESTION & ANSWER A New Question or Answer Each Week

Last week's question: What was the penalty for a non-Indian who attended Catholic Mass? ANSWER: The priest was to be executed; those attending lost their freedom and were to be sold as slaves in the British West Indies (slavery of whites was common in the 18th century for convicted criminals).

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AND PLANTS

If you wish to donate flowers in memory or honor of a loved one, please let us have your name and the name of your loved one before Friday, December 16. Your donation of \$10 will help beautify our church and allow us all to keep your beloved ones in our prayers. Envelopes are at the back of the Church. Your loved ones will be in our prayers throughout this Holy season. Thank you and God bless!

SAVE THE DATE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

ADVENT EVENING OF PRAYER

Our 150th Celebration Be sure to buy your tickets this weekend at the Poinsettia Festival for the ST. JOSEPH PARISH 150th GALA FUND RAISING DINNER WHEN: JANUARY 20, 2012 TIME: 7:00pm WHERE: MILLENNIUM BOSTONIAN HOTEL



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.

Religious Education Classes: Dec. 11, 18

Family Mass: December 18

December Children's Events:

11th: Waiting...An Advent Workshop

ALL CHILDREN in the Parish, ages 3-15, 10:00-11:15AM, in the Parish Hall

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

Family Advent Mass, 9:00AM

Religious Education Session, 10:00AM

24th: Family Christmas Eve Mass with Pageant. All children welcome!

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



Today is the Second Sunday of Advent and two Purple candles are lit today.

"Jesus, send us your peace. Please send peace to people who are unhappy. Come, Lord Jesus, come! Amen."

150(0) items: 26 items collected for the West End Food Bank. Thank You! Honor our 150th Anniversary - Bring canned items for the Food Bank at the Library. Fill the shopping cart with canned and dried milk, fortified oatmeal, fruits, veggies, rice, and high protein items- tuna, peanut butter. They are having trouble meeting the needs of our neighbors. "Comport, give comfort to my people, says your God." Is 40:1

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

You are invited to attend the 16th Annual Christmas Tree Blessing and Lighting Services on Saturday, December 10, 2011 at 6:00pm at Richard Cardinal Cushing Memorial Park.



In Remembrance of Kip Tiernan, His Eminence Richard Cardinal Cushing, 150th Year Anniversary Celebration of St. Joseph Parish, and the West End and U.S. Armed Forces past and present. The Tree will be blessed by Father Dan. Please join us for this celebration.