

**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 31**4:00 PM For the Faithful Departed through the  
Intercession of Mary**Sunday, January 1**

Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God

**Monday, January 2**

10:00 AM Pauline J. DiStefano

**Tuesday, January 3**

12:10 PM Gerald Roderick

**Wednesday, January 4**

12:10 PM Arthur Faucher

**Thursday, January 5**

12:10 PM In Memory of the Marron Family

**Friday, January 6 — First Friday**

12:10 PM Sanctuary Fund

**Saturday, January 7**

4:00 PM Gertrude Shea — Living

**Sunday, January 8 — Epiphany**

9:00AM Arthur Coughlin

11:30AM Mr. and Mrs. Paul Gorgan

5:00 PM Joe LaPointe

**HOLIDAY - MONDAY, JANUARY 2, 2012**

Mass will be at 10:00 AM.

**Parish Support***Thank you for your continuing support. This week's bulletin went to the printer early because of the Holiday. The figures for Dec. 24-25 weekend donations for the Clergy Benefit Trust will be in next weekend's bulletin.***CHRISTMAS COLLECTION**

We hope that each of you had a blessed Christmas. As a reminder to all, the Christmas collection supports the retirement needs of the priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. If you have not done so already and you wish to do so, you may include your completed collection envelopes in today's collection basket. Thank you for your continued support.

**SESQUICENTENNIAL QUESTION**

Until 1778 the Catholic Mass was forbidden under the direst penalties. Yet on 17 September 1778 a Mass was celebrated openly. What caused the emergency repeal of the law? And where is the large public monument to this? It is only a few streets away. Until 1790 Catholics still could not vote or hold any public office. (Answer next week.)

**In Memoriam**

Please remember in your prayers Andria Lopez whose funeral recently took place here at St. Joseph Parish. May she rest in the Lord's peace.

**Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

January 1 is the oldest celebration of Mary in the Catholic Church. The custom of honoring the Virgin on the first day of the New Year originates in the sixth century, when her celebration was tied to the octave day of Christmas, the eighth day after December 25. In doing so, ancient preachers would remind their congregations about the role that Mary played in the history of salvation. Jesus was born of a woman, and so, as Eucharistic Prayer 4 states, "Made incarnate by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, he shared our human nature in all things but sin." The human nature of Christ is rooted in his being born like us. As we round out the Christmas celebration with its Octave Day on January 1, we venerate the woman who gave birth to him.

There is a dual action in today's Gospel that is sometimes overlooked. The shepherds find the infant in the manger as has been told to them by the angel. And then they go out to tell others about the child. In the meantime, Mary reflects on all these things in her heart. These are the two complementary stances of the Christian: action and reflection. Both are needed for a balanced spiritual life. It is, in effect, putting into practice the two great commandments: love God and love your neighbor.

As we begin the New Year, it is customary to make resolutions: to diet, to exercise, to change something in one's life. Like Mary, who reflected on the events surrounding the birth of her child, we take some time to reflect on our own lives: where we have been, and where we are going. The Gospel gives us the opportunity to situate that reflection in a spiritual context. What does the birth of Jesus mean for me spiritually (reflection), and what do I intend to do about that in my daily life (action)?

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**REFLECTIONS FROM  
FATHER CHARLES SHEEHY**

The Holy Family comes together in three very simple yet blessed ways. One always is eternally Divine, another is chosen by God to be so very special that the Church refers to her as "Holy Mary, Mother of God." The one referred to by a little boy as "only a saint" is the Foster Father of the Son of God.

As we pray that God will bring us the everlasting joys of heaven, we offer special words, "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death."

Surely we pray that, no matter what we may find in various prayers, the simple "Our Father", bringing us the divine faith, should always be cherished.

The story is told of a fine and talented scholar who proclaimed that he had just composed the most wonderful of new prayers. One woman asked, "What of the Our Father?"

Surely the everlasting Son of God while on our earth would have loved the woman whom the Church refers to as "Holy Mary, Mother of God."

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**Prayer for the New Year**

As a parish family we begin 2012 and turn to our God who is always filled with new beginnings and surprises and thank him for the gift of this New Year. We ask that He make it a year of favor and grace for our families, our parish and our world. We ask that it be a year of blessing for us and a time to thank Him more each day for the many gifts he has given to us. We ask that it be a time of continued growth in our relationship with Him. May the grace of His Son Jesus shine through us and be seen in all we do.

***HELP SUPPORT THE PARISH  
WE LOVE***

***Our 150th Celebration***

***GALA FUND RAISING DINNER***

***Still time to get your ticket!***

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



**RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION NEWS**

Happy New Year to you all!

January: Religious Education 8<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 AM in the Parish Hall

Family Mass: 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 AM

***Reconciliation Preparation Meeting***

Parent Meeting: January 11, 7:00PM in the Parish Hall

Meeting for one parent/adult of everyone making First Penance on February 5, at 2:00PM.

Your Christmas Cards and religious pictures are needed by our Religious Education Program. Please leave in the box by the Kids Corner at the back of the Church. Thank you!

"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."

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**THANK YOU! THANKYOU!  
GREAT JOB!**

**Over150(0) items: Over 199** items have been given to the West End Food Bank during 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.

If you wish you may still continue to contribute to the food pantry. Your contributions may be dropped off at the Library on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:30am to 1:30pm.

**2011 CALENDARS**

Thank You to the Boston Harborside Home of -J.S. Waterman and Sons · Waring · Langone, 580 Commercial St, Boston, for donating the 2012 calendars to St. Joseph Parish. Hopefully you have all gotten your 2012 calendars that are available at the back of the church.