

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 17, 2023

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 16 - 4:30 pm at Holy Cross

Sunday, December 17- 7:45 am at Holy Cross

**Sunday, December 17 - 9:15 am at St. Martin's
Karen Brown by Steve and Barbara White**

Sunday, December 17 - 10:45 am at Holy Cross

Monday - 8 am at St. Holy Cross, 9 am at St. Vincent de Paul

Tuesday - 8 am at Holy Cross, 9 am at St. Vincent de Paul

Wednesday - 8 am at Holy Cross, 9 am at St. Vincent de Paul

Thursday - 9 am at St. Vincent de Paul

Saturday, December 23 - 4:30 pm at Holy Cross

Sunday, December 24- 8:30 am at Holy Cross

**Sunday, December 24 - 9:45 am at St. Martin's
Maryann Nurmi by Pat Gale**

Sunday, December 24 - 4 pm at Holy Cross

Sunday, December 24 - MIDNIGHT MASS at St. Martin's

December 10 weekly collection: \$724

Retirement Fund for Religious: \$206

Immaculate Conception: \$116

Second Collection this week is for Fuel

PRAY FOR SICK AND SHUT INS

Please pray for Jim O'Malley, Jennifer Strong, Jason Hamel, Diane Lupaczyk, Thomas Lupaczyk, Marguerite Pouliot, Raymond Emond, Janet Clark, Trey Niles, Sandy Kulvete, Mary Amistadi, Dylan Murray, Anne Marie Beliveau, Emma Blais, George Yackowski, and Donald Leblanc.

Our Lady, Health of the Sick, we pray for the comfort of your love.

PRAY THE ROSARY

Plan to come to church early, and join in praying the Rosary, 20 minutes before Mass.

MASS INTENTIONS

If you wish to schedule a Mass for a special intention or remembrance, speak to Pat Gale after Mass or call the parish office at 978-939-5588. The 2024 Mass book is now open and dates are available.



NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Get more out of Sunday Mass, by reading ahead...

DECEMBER 24, 2023: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

2 SAMUEL 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16 • ROMANS 16: 25-27 • LUKE 1: 26-38

CHRISTMAS WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Please be sure to check the MASS TIMES for next Sunday, December 24, as they are changed for this Fourth Sunday of Advent! Mass at St. Martin's will be celebrated at **9:45 am on Sunday** (instead of 9:15 am). There will also be a Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve (Sunday night) at St. Martin's; a period of music and meditation starts at 11:30 pm, and Mass begins at midnight.

Copies of the full Christmas/New Year's schedule are available in the vestibule, and on our parish website: www.saintmartinchurch.org.

VACATION

Fr. Patrick will be on vacation January 1 – February 9. During this time, visiting priests will be covering weekend Masses and there will be no weekday Masses at Holy Cross Church. Mass is celebrated at 9 am on Monday through Thursday at St. Vincent de Paul church in Baldwinville.

Please pray and wish for Fr. Patrick to have a safe and restful vacation.

2024 PARISH ENVELOPES

Boxed sets of weekly offertory envelopes for 2024 are now available in the vestibule. If you have been using personalized envelopes, there should be a set prepared for you. If you have not been using them, but would like to, extra boxes are available; just jot your name and address on them so we can add you to our envelope list.

WORD OF LIFE

“O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free.”— USCCB, “Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita”

INVITE SOMEONE TO MASS THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON!

So many messages during the Christmas Season are about coming home, being with family and friends. Consider inviting someone with you and your family to Mass this Christmas and experience the joys of the Christmas Season. It could be the greatest gift you give this year!

CHRISTMAS ALTAR FLOWERS

If you wish to make an offering for our Christmas flowers and decorations an envelope is available in the vestibule. Offerings may be given in memory of loved ones whose names will appear on our Christmas Flower listing and who will have a special remembrance at Masses during our Christmas Season.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT IN WINCHENDON

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Winchendon will be hosting the Arcadia Players with Andrew Arceci, artistic director, at 7 pm on Sunday, December 17. This beautiful Christmas Concert is in partnership with Winchendon Music Festival and free to the public (donations accepted). All are welcome!

OPLATEK

St. Martin's has Oplatek available in the vestibule for a free will donation for those who would like to keep this beautiful Polish tradition.

120 CLUB

Last week's winner of the 120 Club was #16, Barbara LeBlanc.

TEMPLETON FOOD PANTRY

The need continues year-round in our community. Donations of non-perishable foods may be brought to church any Sunday, and will be delivered to the pantry. **Current needs include ketchup, mustard, sugar, Hamburger Helper, brownie mix, mayonnaise, and kids cereal. Gift cards and cash donations are especially appreciated, as the Pantry is facing difficulty in keeping the shelves stocked.**

BIBLE STUDY AT ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHURCH

Bible Study with Deacon Jim is held on Monday evenings in the hall at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Baldwinville. Join us for fellowship at 6:30 followed by Bible study at 7 pm. The topic is the Book of Isaiah. Bring your Bible with you.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Worldwide Marriage Encounter sponsors a variety of in-person and virtual marriage experiences, some on weekends and some on seven weekdays. Couples explore their relationship with each other, God, and the Church. Registration is limited; there is a \$100 application fee. For more information or to apply, call Joe & Ginny Vatable at 978-870-5646 or <https://www.mema.org/>

YOUTH MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

The Diocese of Worcester Youth & Young Adult Ministry has many activities, opportunities and events schedule this year to engage middle and high school students. For a calendar of events and more information visit their webpage at: <https://neworchester.org/>.

2024 CALENDARS

Wall calendars for 2024 are available in the vestibule. These beautiful calendars include information for all Holy Days and, feast days. The calendars are generously provided to us each year by Boucher Funeral Home in Gardner. Please feel free to take a calendar (or two) home with you.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CLOTHING BINS

Bins for donations of clothing to benefit the St. Vincent de Paul Society are available in the parking lot at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Baldwinville. Donations of good condition clothing and shoes will support individuals and families in need in our community. Visit www.svdpworcester.org to learn more about the Society.



St. Martin's Catholic Church

248 State Road, Otter River, MA 01436

Rev. Patrick Ssekoyole, Pastor • Dennis J. Cormier, Deacon
Telephone 978-939-5588 • www.saintmartinchurch.org

Rosary
30 minutes before Sunday Mass

Sacrament of Reconciliation
During this pandemic, please contact the rectory at Holy Cross Church, 978-632-2121, for an appointment

Sacrament of Christian Marriage
Plans may be made by contacting the Pastor at least one year prior to the intended wedding date.

Ministry to the Sick and Elderly
Please notify us when a parishioner is homebound or hospitalized so that we may visit the confined person and offer the sacraments of the Church.

Parish Registration
If you are new to the area, we welcome you to join our parish family. Please introduce yourself after Mass and register in the parish. We want to know and serve you.