

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 24, 2023

### MASS SCHEDULE

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  
Elsie Smith by Linda Columbus**

Monday - The Nativity of the Lord - 10 am at St. Holy Cross

Tuesday - No Mass

Wednesday - 8 am at Holy Cross

Thursday, Friday - No Mass

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

Sunday, December 31- 7:45 am at Holy Cross

**Sunday, December 31 - 9:15 am at St. Martin's  
Mary White by Steve and Barbara White**

Sunday, December 31 - 10:45 am at Holy Cross

**December 17 weekly collection: \$537 Fuel: \$448  
Christmas Flowers: \$410**

### 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 31, 2023: HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH  
GENESIS 15:1-6, 21:1-3 • HEBREWS 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 • LUKE 2: 22-40**

### MIDNIGHT MASS ON CHRISTMAS EVE

Midnight Mass will be celebrated 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.

### 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 Blessed Mother, at the angel's word you went in haste to the aid of your cousin Elizabeth. Although pregnant yourself, you placed her needs before your own. By your example of radical solidarity, teach us to reverence and protect those in need, without conditions or expectations... Obtain for us the grace to bring Christ to any expectant mother who is alone and afraid.” — *USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities Prayer for Radical Solidarity (www.respectlife.org/prayer-for-radical-solidarity)*

### 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

Thank you to all who have contributed toward our altar flowers for Christmas. A list of the intentions requested is enclosed in this bulletin. Those intentions will be remembered at Masses during this Christmas season.

### PASTORAL MINISTRIES

There are many opportunities for ministry to our fellow parishioners. You are invited to volunteer your time and talent by expressing your interest to the Pastor.

## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM BISHOP MCMANUS

Bishop Robert J. McManus has written a Christmas letter to all Catholics in the Diocese. It was printed in the current issue of *The Catholic Free Press* and copies are available in the vestibule. Feel free to take a copy home with you.

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## 120 CLUB

Last week's winner of the 120 Club was #61, BHeather Purdie.

## 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://wwmema.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](http://www.svdpworcester.org) to learn more about the Society.



## St. Martin's Catholic Church

248 State Road, Otter River, MA 01436

Rev. Patrick Ssekyole, Pastor • Dennis J. Cormier, Deacon  
Telephone 978-939-5588 • [www.saintmartinchurch.org](http://www.saintmartinchurch.org)

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*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.