

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 3, 2023

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, November 25 - 4:30 pm at Holy Cross

Saturday, December 2 - 4:30 pm at Holy Cross

Sunday, December 3 - 7:45 am at Holy Cross

**Sunday, December 3 - 9:15 am at St. Martin's
Pepe Provonsil by the family**

Sunday, December 3 - 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

**Friday - Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
8 am and 7 pm at Holy Cross, NOON at St. Martin's**

Saturday, December 9 - 4:30 pm at Holy Cross

Sunday, December 10 - 7:45 am at Holy Cross

**Sunday, December 10 - 9:15 am at St. Martin's
John Lempart by Pat Gale and family**

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

November 26 weekly collection: \$599

Second Collection next week: Retirement Fund for Religious

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 10, 2023, SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ISAIAH 40: 1-5, 9-11 • 2 PETER 3: 8-14 • MARK 1: 1-8

MIDDLE SCHOOL AMPLIFY NIGHT IN WESTMINSTER

Middle school youth (6th-8th grade) are invited to middle school Amplify night Friday, Dec. 15, 5:30-8:30pm at St. Edward the Confessor, Westminster. Join us for pizza, games, skits, witness talks, music, & Eucharistic Adoration. There is NO COST to attend. Sign-up using the following link so we can get a headcount for food: <https://neworchester.org/middle-school-amplify> These events are planned and run by the Diocesan high school Discipleship Team

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

"The Gospel of Life recognizes the full range of threats against human life, from poverty and malnutrition to murder and war. Particular emphasis, however, is placed on threats to life at its beginning and end—precisely when it is most in need of protection. In modern times, children in their mothers' wombs and those approaching the end of their lives are certainly among the 'least of these' in our world's estimation."
— USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities respectlife.org/live-the-gospel-of-life



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.

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. We ask these offerings be returned by December 17 to allow enough time for printing. Thank you!



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.



ST. MARTIN'S HOLIDAY FAIR - THIS WEEKEND!!

Our Holiday Fair continues this Sunday, December 3, at the American Legion Hall in Baldwinville, from 9 am to 1 pm.

After Mass, why not stop by the Fair -- shop for holiday decorations for your home and hand-crafted gifts! Enjoy coffee and pastry, or stay for lunch! Take a chance on our beautiful Theme Baskets or raffle items on the Major Prize, Chinese Auction, 50/50, or Scratch Ticket tables. Take home some goodies for your holiday table.

Many hands make light work -- we'll be dismantling the Fair starting at 1 pm, and bringing all our tables, uncollected prizes and other materials to the Rectory. If you can lend a hand, please stop by the Legion before 1 pm.

120 CLUB

Last week's winner of the 120 Club was #71, Tom Kane.

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 Sugar, mayonnaise, and kids cereal. Gift cards and cash donations are especially appreciated, as the Pantry is facing difficulty in keeping the shelves stocked.**

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

This year, Christmas Day falls on a Monday. Mass times are as follows:

Regular Schedule Masses

Saturday, December 23 - 4:30 pm at Holy Cross
Sunday, December 24 7:45 am at Holy Cross and 9:15 am at St. Martin's
No 10:45 am Mass

Christmas Schedule

Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve - 4 pm at Holy Cross
Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve - MIDNIGHT Mass at St. Martin's
Monday, December 25, Christmas Day - 10 am at Holy Cross
Tuesday, December 26 - NO 8 am Mass

New Year's Schedule

Sunday, December 31 - Regular Schedule Masses (7:45, 9:15, 10:45 am)
Monday, January 1, New Year's Day - 10 am at Holy Cross
Tuesday, January 2 - NO 8 am Mass

OPLATEK

has Oplatek available in the sanctuary and at the Rectory for a free will donation for those who would like to keep this tradition.

MARCH FOR LIFE DEADLINE DECEMBER 15

There's still time to register for the bus trip to the 51st annual March for Life in Washington, DC, Friday, January 19, 2024! For details and to download registration forms, visit www.worcesterdiocese.org/respect-life or contact the Respect Life Office at 508-929-4311, or email aledoux@worcesterdiocese.org. Can't attend this year but want to help? Consider making a donation to help defray expenses



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.