

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 22, 2019

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 21 - 4:30 pm at Holy Cross

Sunday, December 22 - 7:45 am at Holy Cross

Sunday, December 22 - 9:15 am at St. Martin's
Our parish family

Sunday, December 22 - 10:45 am at Holy Cross

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

Tuesday, Christmas Eve - 4 pm at Holy Cross

***Tuesday, Christmas Eve - Midnight* - at St. Martin's**
Elsie Smith by Linda and Bob Columbus

Wednesday - Christmas Day - 10 am at Holy Cross

Saturday, December 28 - 4:30 pm at Holy Cross

Sunday, December 29 - 7:45 am at Holy Cross

Sunday, December 29 - 9:15 am at St. Martin's
Mary White by Steve and Barbara White

Sunday, December 29 - 10:45 am at Holy Cross

Weekly collection, December 15: \$331 **Fuel:** \$255

Christmas Flowers: \$60

PRAY FOR THE SICK AND SHUT INS

Please pray for Kate Nicholson, Rick Tanzi, Brenda Bourgeois, Anthony Strong, Maryann Robinson, Marguerite Pouliot, Diane Lupaczyk, Joseph Seamans, Raymond Emond, Janet Clark, Marie Quader, Trey Niles, Sandy Kulvete, Alice Ostrowski, Deb Nichols, Mary Amistadi, Dylan Murray, Anne Marie Beliveau, Alicia Wieszorek, Claudette Yackowski, Emma Blais, George Yackowski, Donald Leblanc.

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

REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the happy repose of the soul of Richard Roberge, brother of Father Francis Roberge, who died last week, and for his family.



CHRISTMAS MASSES

December 24: 4 pm at Holy Cross

December 24: Midnight at St. Martin's

Music Prelude begins at 11:30 — Come early, unwind, and prepare for a blessed Christmas

December 25: 10 am at Holy Cross

MERRY CHRISTMAS, DEAR PARISH FAMILY!

We are joyfully thankful that, this year also, God has given us yet another opportunity to celebrate the birth of his only Begotten Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ into the world. Certainly, there are also other things that we are thankful for as we celebrate this year's Christmas. On the other hand, though, some of us are celebrating this year's Christmas with grieving hearts for a loss of a loved one or a job, or because of any other misfortune. Nonetheless, when we remember the Paschal mystery events Jesus went through, our hearts fill with strength and hope on Christmas because Jesus' birth renews us in all challenges.



During this year's Advent Season, we have come to realize that as the Lord comes to us, we too have to go to him. Our encounter with the Lord changes us profoundly and fills us with love, joy, and happiness. It also moves us to work for peace within ourselves, among peoples, and nations. It has taught us that we need to emulate Jesus Christ in caring about the poor, unprivileged, abandoned, afflicted, abused, sidelined, and oppressed. This is one of the major reasons we are always called to "go to the house of the Lord" (Ps. 122:1, 4) – for every time God feeds us with his word in his house – i.e., the church as a gathering place for worship, we get more enlightened and increasingly become people of Christ's light and "throw off the works of darkness" (Rm. 13:12b). Therefore, let us embrace and live in the Lord's light, not only on Christmas Day, but every day of our lives. Let us be messengers of Jesus' glad tidings to everyone in the world as we allow God's word – i.e., the holy Scripture – to instruct us in our day-to-day engagements.

This Advent Season has taught us that when we heed God's word, our lives get and remain filled with exuberance because our spiritual blindness and deafness disappear. We get to realize that God's love and faithfulness are forever; and we are able to remain hopefully patient amidst the challenges of life – because God does not disappoint. And, as our hearts reel in the salvation the Lord brings, joy and happiness abound in us.

Throughout the Christmas Season, we remember that Jesus – Emmanuel (God is with us) – is the ultimate sign of God's love for us and the world. We should, then, never allow the lures or challenges of the earthly life to separate us from him. He is the Lord and Master of history and the universe – whose identity and mission are well delineated in the holy Scriptures. So, let us by regular introspection stand sinless before him and proclaim him to the world.

May you all be filled with the joys of Christmas.

Fr. Patrick Ssekoyole



LEGACY OF HOPE

We are in the midst of our pledge drive. Our goal of \$62,989, is attainable if we all pitch in with our contributions. To date, we GRATEFULLY report the following pledged gifts, totaling \$45,660 in the following amount categories:

\$6,000 x 2	\$1,440 x 1
\$5,000 x 2	\$1,200 x 1
\$3,600 x 1	\$1,000 x 2
\$3,200 x 1	\$800 x 2
\$3,000 x 2	\$500 x 1
\$2,500 x 1	\$100 x 1
\$1,500 x 1	\$20 x 1

We ask you all to prayerfully determine what you can give over a period of four years, and pray for the success of this campaign, as we continue our commitment drive. Thank You!

COPIES OF A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM BISHOP ROBERT McMANUS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE VESTIBULE



OPLATEK

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

120 CLUB

Last week's winner was ##23, Bob Leblanc

MARCH FOR LIFE REGISTRATION

Plan now to attend the 47th annual March for Life in Washington, DC on Friday, Jan. 24, 2020! Cost is \$80 per seat for registrations postmarked by Dec. 31, and \$95 thereafter. Registrations will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis until all seats are full, or until Jan. 13, whichever comes first. For more details and to download registration forms, visit www.worcesterdiocese.org/respect-life. Buses will leave from St. Paul's Cathedral on Thurs., Jan. 23 following the Respect Life Mass at 7:30 p.m., and will travel to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC in time for Friday morning Mass followed by the March for Life at noon. Buses will return to Worcester immediately following the March.

PARISH CALENDARS

Calendars for 2020 are available in the vestibule. Thank you to Normand and Andrew Boucher, who make these calendars available each year.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

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

December 29, 2019 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
SIRACH 3:2-6, 12-14 • COLOSSIANS 3:12-21 • MATTHEW 2:13-15, 19-23

Love

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