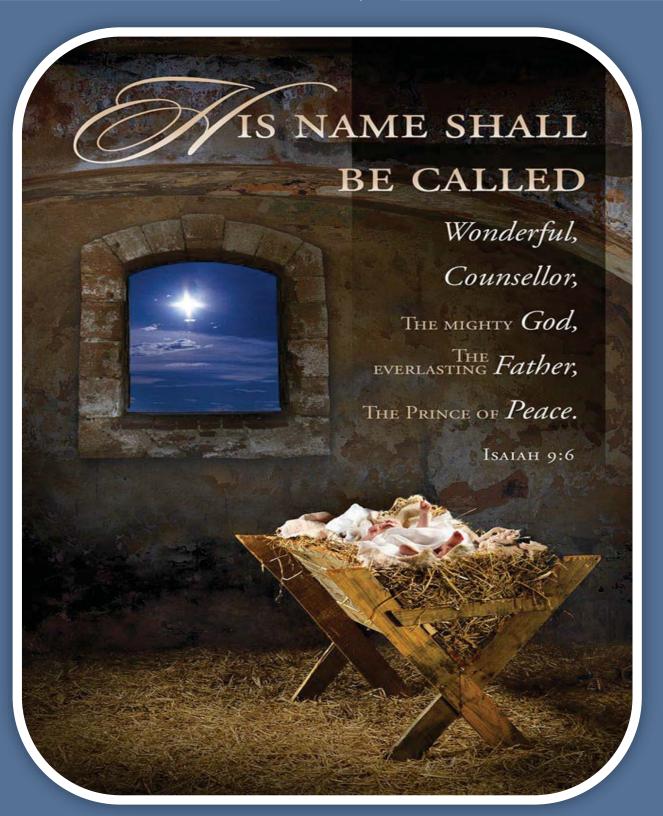
St. André Bessette Parish

Star of the Sea Church Salisbury



St. Joseph Church **Amesbury**

December 25, 2023





Parish Office Address: 11 Sparhawk Street, Amesbury, MA 01913

Hours: 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM, Monday - Thursday Closed: Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Holidays

Phone: 978.388.0330 Web: www.StAndreB.org

elcome! We are glad you are here to join us in worship in the celebration of the Eucharist (Mass). At the Eucharist, the Church comes together to hear the Word of the Lord, to pray for the world's needs, to offer the sacrifice of the Cross in praise and thanks to God, to receive Christ Jesus in communion, and then to be sent forth in the Spirit as disciples of the Gospel. If you are not familiar with the Mass, the Order of the Mass can be found on pages 3-29 of the Breaking Bread hymnal. We call particular attention to the text of the Gloria and the Nicene Creed located on the inside cover. The scripture (Bible) readings for today's Mass can be found on page 46

EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATIONS

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday

4:00 p.m. - St. Joseph Church

6:00 p.m. - Star of the Sea Church (Town Church)

Sunday

8:00 a.m. - Star of the Sea Church (Town Church)

9:30 a.m. - St. Joseph Church

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday

9:00 a.m. - St. Joseph Church

Tuesday

9:00 a.m. - Star of the Sea Church (Town Church)

Wednesday

9:00 a.m. - St. Joseph Church

SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS

Reconciliation - Wednesdays, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. - Parish Office, 11 Sparhawk St., Amesbury

Baptism: Call parish office for scheduling

Sacrament of the Sick: For home emergency or when entering the hospital, please call the office.

Marriage: Arrangements should be made by calling the parish office at least one (1) year in advance for

marriage preparations and desired date.

Parish Office Hours during Christmas Week

Monday, Dec. 25: Closed, Christmas Day

Tuesday, Dec. 26: Closed

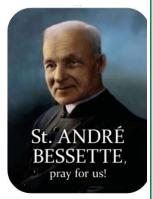
Wed. & Thurs., Dec. 27 & 28: 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Friday, December 30: Closed

Monday, January 1: Closed, New Year Day

Beginning Tuesday January 2, 2024, daily Mass at Star of the Sea Town Church will be celebrated at 5:30 p.m. The time change gives an opportunity for more parishioners who wish to attend a daily Mass.

God, friend of the lowly, who gave your servant, St. André Bessette a great devotion to St. Joseph and a special commitment to the poor and afflicted, help us through his intercession to follow his example of prayer and love and so come to share with him in your glory. Through



our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

From the Desk of Fr. Ron

Just a few days ago I unpacked the family nativity set. It is a simple cardboard crèche, with figurines made of paper mâché and chalk. I remember when



some of the pieces were purchased in the fifties. To say it is a humble sight would be an overstatement but, I wouldn't even consider getting a newer set. It speaks to me of the reality of that humble scene that happened in Bethlehem so long ago of our God who became one like us.

Our God is forever coming to us, seeking to share with us the depth of His love. All He asks is that we welcome him into our hearts. That simple act has the potential of changing our lives forever.

I am reminded of what Robert Louis Stevenson, the freethinker and agnostic once said:

"You can give without loving, but you can never love without giving."

May God, who by the Incarnation brought together the earthly and heavenly realm, fill you with the gift of his peace and favor and make you sharers with the Church in heaven. Amen

May the blessings of almighty God, come down on you and remain with you forever. Amen

Merry Christmas to you and your family. Peace, Fr. Ron

Remembering Mary at Christmas by Deacon Chuck

When I was in junior high in upstate New York, I belonged to a tiny Methodist church, and every Christmas, the church had a little pageant that told the story of the birth of Jesus. I was a shepherd. The young woman who portrayed Mary was perhaps the most beautiful young woman I had ever seen.

I remember that pageant each year at this time and each year it becomes more beautiful. And as my faith matures, I venerate our Blessed Mother more and more, and now, so many decades later, she remains a woman of timeless, eternal beauty - the one who's example teaches us to say to Our Lord what she said to the Angel: "Let it be done to me according to Your word."

How beautiful you are, Mary!

Christmas Message by Beverley Fournier, MA, MTS, MDiv

Our Christmas gospel reading from John holds significant theological premise: "And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14)

I wonder if it is not a whole lot easier for us to delve into this mystery a bit more gently and bring to prayer these simple words: "... Unto us a child is born"

There is no question that some of us will be drawn to contemplate John's passage and attempt to uncover something deeper about this great mystery. Others of us may sit peacefully and ponder Jesus' birth in a quiet manger without any inclination to make sense of it as theological mystery.

Whatever way we are drawn to pray about the events of this day, the meaning behind the words is the same. This is the day where we are all invited to discover a deeper trust in the truth and promise of hope. Such trust is not found in complicated theological perspectives; quite instead, such trust is found in the simple ways we feel God present to us. It is not only simple, but also amazing. How could God's presence be made more

known to us when we can pray the words:
"Unto us a child is born ..."?

"And the Soul Felt Its Worth" by Diana Giard MAPC

"Till He appears, and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices." The famous line in "Oh Holy Night" resonates with me each year as I contemplate Jesus' birth. Holding a newborn baby evokes an awe and wonder deep within us. We see the vulnerability, innocence, and the uncanny strength in the baby's hands. Wanting to love and protect the child all at once, we can also feel overwhelmed by a baby's presence. In an instance, we get a glimpse of God's love for us through the witness of this beautiful child. We feel the worth of our soul. God, the King of the Universe, has appeared. He came to us. He came to you to offer you eternal life. May His promise and Love give you a thrill of Hope in our weary world. Rejoice!







In Memory/Honor

George Pilon • Ida DeWilde • Noreen Jutras Page • Skip Jutras • Sandra Jutras • Tirone • Kelleher Family • Leo J. Pouliot • Danie & Nora Downey • Jack Cameron • Ita & Al Cameron • Reynold Graunas • Joseph & Barbara Fortuna • Mary Thornton • Mark Simpson • Peter Surette • Rose McGloin • Kurt McGloin Frank McGloin • Bill & Terry Axten and Isabel • Joan & Alexander Iworsky and David Angelina & Baptista Bertolini • Rignoli & Pappalardo Family • Daniel Sr. & Regina Sheehan • Jeanne Sheehan Daniel Sheehan Jr • Ronald Arthur • Charles M. Butler • Foley & Callahan Families • Butler Family • Bro. Alexis Joseph, CFX • Mr. & Mrs. Leo R. LeBlanc • Jennifer Wilkins • Dr. & Mrs. Beale • Sue Maggio Francis & Evangeline Hession • Stanley, Helen, Mary & Florence Grodzicki • Mr. & Mrs. William W. Cowie • Mr. & Mrs. Charles A. Mueller • Mr. John Downes • Mr. Ross Lacroix • Alphonse Rignoli • Geoffrey Cyr • Deceased Members of Robert & Cathy Gaudet • Jim Flannery • Allen Bailey Dunham & Washak Family & Friends • Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gonthier Sr • Mr. & Mrs. Walter Deladurantaye • Henry Wristen • Robert Nelson • John & Eleanor Mulcahy • Joseph Cote • Mary, Joseph & Paul Hefron Albert J. Peterson & Marguerite A. Peterson • Charles M. Butler, George Patton, Joanne Patton, Grace Foley• Robert L. Gosselin • Bernard Gosselin • Moughan Family • Robert Allsopp Jr • Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Proulx & Sons • Bill Croteau • Reynold & Delia St. Germain • Clinch & Doherty Families • Agnes Romano Frank, Angelina, & John Calobrisi • James & Michelina DiResta • Deceased Members of the Calobrisi, Diresta, Casale and Marino Families • James Simmons • Johnny Brown • Gail Christmas • David, Gautreau, Humphries, & Barry Families • John J. Ward • Howard A. Dalton • Margaret Dalton • Ron Ray Helen & Granard Kennison • Colleen Scoville • LaFrance & McGrath Families • Eleanor Morris Matthew Nunzio Harty • Billie G. Ferrick • Herman A. & Clare M. Ferrick • Allan & Norma O'Brien Jack, Rose, Pat & Suzzy Donahue • John, Kathleen, Jack, Brian Flanagan • Victor Cortez Thomas & Therese Lawless •Nancy & Domenic DiClemente • Concetta & Tierino DiClemente • William Frost Allen & Willwerth Families • Leahy & Kennedy Families • Mary Degnon • Helen Bleczinski Stanley Bleczinski • Prentiss Family • Kasenko Family • Cuddihy Family • Ernest & Elizabeth Smith Patricia Clifford • Richard Howe • Foley Family • Bastien Family • Gilbert Family • Getchell Family Margaret DiPrete • Esther Garrett • David Risso • Sandra Jutras • Noreen Jutras Page • Skip Jutras • Tom & Elinor White • Yolanda & Alfio Potito • McDonough & Davey Famlies • John & Ninfa Carpino John, Marie & Nan Theriault • Montalbano Family • Moira Carpino • Carpino Family • Marie & Sal Ciaccio • Kerri DeRosa • Michelle Lynde • Marge & Jerry Hughes • Dora & Paul Watson Anne & Frank Hughes • Margaret & Leo Gallagher • Helen Johnson • Julia O'Connor • Margaret Bascom Patty Natale • Laurie Darcy • David & Emma Gagnon • Betty & Al Gagnon • Beatrice Field • William Brooks Terry Russo • Annie & Jospeh Gagnon • Eric Lewandowski • Bobbie Cameron • John & Florence Regan Robert D. Tougas • Stanislaw & Anna Lewandowski • Adele Lewandowski • Lindy Lewandowski Robert & Margaret Doyle • Henry & Sheila Schruender • Ralph & Frances Klein • Al & Mary Lisauskas James Lisauskas • Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Tirone • Kelleher Family • James Del Principle • George Jacobs • Rev. Dennis Nason • Clinton & Anna Nason • The Schissel & McNeil Family • Cynthia Steeves • Normand & Mary McDonald • Mr. & Mrs. Everett G. Bartlett • Mr. & Mrs. Wilfred Bernier • Ann Raymond • Michelle Champagne • Jack Flynn Sr. • Fr. Thomas Morgan • Sharon Brown • Louis Masiello • George Jr., Annette, Wayne, & Robin Dodge • Edith Wilkey • Norman Stuart • Mr. & Mrs. Richard Savage • Kathleen Meeks • Ann Reymond

PRAYING FOR OUR FUTURE PRIESTS

Please include in your prayers, an Archdiocese of Boston seminarian by name every day and at every Mass.

Seminarian:

Sunday, December 24 - Diego Mendoza Monday, December 25 - All Seminarians & Clergy Tuesday, December 26 - Henry Seuffert Wednesday, December 27 - Tim Walsh Thursday, December 28 - Fritz Anacreon Friday, December 29 - Aaron Arbizo Saturday, December 30 - Girirs Azize

Clergy Health and Retirement Trust

Today's collection helps provide for the health and wellbeing of our 580 active and senior priests in good standing in our Archdiocese.

Among the gifts you give this Christmas season, please consider supporting this special collection for the priests who dedicated their lives to our parishes and families. Drop your envelope in today's basket or send your contribution to Clergy Health and Retirement Trust, Archdiocese of Boston, 66 Brooks Drive, Braintree, MA **02184.** To donate online, please visit clergytrust.org

Please

Please remember in your prayers pray for all those who are sick in our Parish

May the Spirit of Christ renew the gift of life within them and bring healing to their minds, body and spirit.

Pat Ponticelli, Edward Kelleher, Dotty Jean, Maureen & John Leahy, Anthony Ronan, Bob Sousa, Paul Palen, Stacia Simmons, Liam Ford, Paul Lajoie, Kathryn Connelly, Helen Fricano, Deacon Paul Specht, Patrick Sonier, Hannah M., James Blood, Nanette Daley, Carole Young, Brian Donahue, Liam Austin, Matthew Specht, Julio Folgar, Jennifer Campano, Glenn Fournier, Joan Ferraro, Mary B., Dan G., Marty G., Armand Hyatt, Elizabeth Mulcahy, Sandra & Cliff Buttry, Liam Ferrick, Jennifer Riley

Remember Our Veterans This Christmas

Whether a veteran is physically in battle or just mentally, we mustn't forget the price that they've all paid. Some veterans have found salvation from their post-traumatic stress disorder however, others have not.

When you utter prayers for veterans remember that a soldier's work is never done. Even though they may not be physically on the front lines their mind and soul may still be there. All in all, it's important to pray for protection for the men and women in uniform. It's important to not forget their sacrifice.

We shouldn't categorize their prayers in representation of a holiday or celebration. Instead these prayers for our soldiers should be recited every day. Thank you for vour service.



MILITARY FAMILY OUTREACH Please remember in your prayers the men and women of our parishes who are serving our country.

is Holiday

SSGT Ben Dignard, USAF, & wife Aurora 1LT Nicholas Fortuna, US Army National Guard SGT Keagan Gorman, USMC SPC Zachary Zbierajewski, US Army SSG Heath Coburn, US Army TSGT Meaghan Zieske, USAF CAPT William Austin, US Army SGT Jonathan Krafton, US Air National Guard 1LT Olyia Bashaw, USAF LCPL Emily Janvrin, USMC SPC Nicholas Everett, US Army GM Cody Russell Morin, US Navy **2LT Evan King USMC** LCPL Ruairi Cleary Bentley, USMC SGT Anthony J. Tomkiewicz Jr., USMC AFC Lucas J. Tomkiewicz, USAF SGT Evan M. Munson, US Army SN Ryan Perkins, US Navy

SGT Alec V. Salzer, US Army

PV2 Matthew DiBona, US Army

Spencer T. Butzen, US Navy AA

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Reverend Jack O'Brien Visiting Senior Priest

Reverend Mister Chuck Hall Deacon

DeaconChuckHall@gmail.com

Reverend Mister Paul Specht Senior Deacon

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DianaG@StAndreB.org

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Office Hours Open:

Monday - Thursday: 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Religious Education Office Hours:

Tuesday: 12:30 - 4:30p.m.

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Flock Note: To sign up, text SAB to 84576, or online

via the link on our web site.



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WEEKEND MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 24

4:00 p.m. St. Joseph - Christmas Eve. Mass

4:00 p.m. Star of the Sea Beach - Christmas Eve. Mass

6:00 p.m. Star of the Sea Town - Christmas Eve. Mass

8:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church - Christmas Eve. Mass

WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 25

8:00 a.m. Star of the Sea - Christmas Day Mass 10:00 a.m. St. Joseph - Christmas Day Mass

Tuesday, December 26

9:00 a.m. Star of the Sea - Celebrant's Intention

Wednesday, December 27

9:00 a.m. St. Joseph - John M. Sawyer



St. Joseph Church, December 2023

Host & Wine

Leo Boudreau Jr.
By His Loving Wife Noella Poulin Boudreau

Sanctuary Candle

Leo Boudreau Jr.
By His Loving Wife Noella Poulin Boudreau



Star of the Sea Church, December 2023

1

Host & Wine

Charles M. Butler By His Loving Family

Sanctuary Candle

Deceased Members of the Foley & Butler Families

By His Loving Family





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Fr. Tom Nestor has served as pastor at the Collaborative Parishes of Resurrection and Saint Paul in Hingham for the past ten years, and previously served at St. Eulalia's in Winchester for 17 years. A Harvard graduate and native of West Roxbury, Fr. Nestor is known for fostering a sense of community wherever he goes.

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