



CHRISTMAS

So the shepherds went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. Luke 2:16



St. André Bessette Parish

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

Welcome! 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**

EUCCHARISTIC 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.

As we prepare to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of Father Jack, Deacon Chuck and the entire parish staff in wishing you and your family a Blessed and Holy Christmas.

May the Peace, Hope and Joy of the Christ Child be with each of you during this Holy Season.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Fr. Ron



WITH APPRECIATION

The following volunteers gave of their time and talent to make our Christmas Celebrations possible.

Fr. Jack O'Brien, Deacon Chuck Hall, Bev and Rick Fournier, Sue Greaney, Helen Theriault, Diana Giard, Larry Learned, Don Beaulieu, Jacob Gabrian, Tim Tuxbury, Terry Beecroft, Claudia Keyian, Mike Driscoll, Jack Rogers, Margaret Doyle & St. Joseph Choir, Paula Fortuna & the Contemporary Group, Eddie LaBatte, Bob Fowler, Bob Thomas, Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Greeters, Ushers, and Decorators.

Thank you again and my apologies if I have missed anyone. Fr. Ron

From the Desk of Fr. Ron

Dear parishioners and friends

Welcome! We are delighted that you have come to worship this Christmas. May the songs and prayers about the birth of Jesus help you to lift up your own heart in prayer to the Lord.

This year we will be reading and studying the message found in Luke's Gospel. He shares a Nativity account, like Matthew's Gospel, but quite different (no kings). Luke shares the shepherds' encounter with the angels who reassure them that they have nothing to fear. In fact, they bring good news of great joy. A savior has been born wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. The shepherd says, "let us go and see".



What a humble encounter.

We have come here today to see and to hear the good news anew. Let us not be afraid and allow ourselves to be moved by God's great gift to us of his Son.

Blessings to you this Christmas. May our faith in Jesus deepen this Holy Year of grace. Amen.

Peace to you and your families.

Fr. Ron.



"Presence" by Diana Giard

Every year, I choose a word that I believe the Lord has placed on my heart to ponder for the next Liturgical Year. In the past the words that came to me were dwell, hope, renewed Joy, and healing. This year - Presence. As we arrive at Christmas, I can only imagine what it was like to experience God's presence as Mary held this delightful newborn in her arms. Hearing baby squeaks and adorable stretches radiate the glory of God in the simplicity of His Presence. What word comes to you as you celebrate Christmas and anticipate the coming year? What is God whispering to you in the depths of your soul? Where is He calling you?

"FIRST CHRISTMASES"

By Deacon Chuck



Each Christmas season, we are given the opportunity to hear the Christmas story once again. It's a familiar story but when we hear it, it's as fresh as the first time. The good news gets better every year.

I have several "First Christmas" memories. The first I remember featured a boat lighted with Christmas lights sailing the Cape Cod Canal, where I grew up. Unforgettable. I remember my first Christmas after truly embracing faith in Jesus Christ, how all the symbols of the season unfolded the message of God's love in a beautiful way I hadn't known before. Suddenly, I understood. I remember my first Christmas as a Roman Catholic when the sights and sounds – especially the music! – revealed a joy I hadn't experienced before.

Every Christmas, including this one, is a "first Christmas." Not because the story has changed, but because we have changed. Because I am not the same person I was a year ago, I am truly seeing Christmas for the first time, every year. Our Lord has said, "Behold, I am making all things new!" He does that by giving Himself to us. Each gift we give or receive on Christmas is an echo of the gift He gave that first Christmas – the gift of Himself – and we experience Christmas again, for the first time. May this Christmas be a First Christmas for you and your family – one that you will never forget. God bless you!"

Christmas Hope

Jesus assumed at his first coming the lowliness of human flesh, and so fulfilled the design you formed long ago, and open for us the way to eternal salvation, that, when he comes again in glory and majesty and all is at last made manifest, we who watch for that day may inherit the great promise in which now we dare to hope.





St. André Bessette Parish

Memory/Honor



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



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

Edward Kelleher, Paul Palen, Hannah M., James Blood, Carole Young, Brian Donahue, Julio Folgar, Jennifer Campano, Joan Ferraro, Armand Hyatt, Sandra & Cliff Buttry, Jeanine Fowler, Paula Klein, Patrick Willwerth, Sue James, Evelyn Gebala, Donna & Frank O'Neil, Renee Fowler, Linda Follansbee, Jeanne Turgeon



Put Your Faith into Action

We are a Men's Fraternal organization. We are here to help serve our community, and our Knights are involved in all aspects of church life in Amesbury and Salisbury.

The Knights of Columbus, Council 16437 would like to thank all those who contributed to the monthly food drive and tootsie roll drive.

Men interested in becoming a Knight can call Mike Sanborn at 978-815-6583



Merry Christmas to you and your family.

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 22 - Thien Ngo
- Monday, December 23 - Lich Ngueyen
- Tuesday, December 24 - Pope Francis
- Wednesday, December 25 - All Seminarians
- Thursday, December 26 - Jose Leonardo Gonzalex
- Friday, December 27 - Connor Roukey
- Saturday, December 28 - Zachary Smith

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



The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (commonly known as the R.C.I.A.) is the normal way that adults become full, active, participating members of the Catholic Church.

You may know someone who has never been Baptize or Baptized in a Protestant faith and would like to become Catholics are invited to join us along with other adults.

Also, adults who were Baptize but never received First Communion or Confirmation are welcome to participate in the process with your questions, insights and your faith story in a warm accepting setting.

RCIA sessions are on

Sundays, after 9:30 Mass in the parish office.

For more information, please contact Chris Moore at (978)815-4341

Blessings to you and yours during this Holy Season!

Keep Christ in Christmas



A Special Remembrance this Christmas for the men and women of our parish who are serving our country so we can be free to enjoy our Christmas.

Heavenly Father, hold our troops in Your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen



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Please remember them as you leave the church by leaving a donation in the poor boxes. Thank you.

Parish Office Hours during Christmas Week



- Tuesday, Dec 24: Closed at Noon
- Wednesday, Dec. 25: Closed, Christmas Day
- Thursday, Dec. 26: Closed
- Friday, December 27: Closed
- Tuesday, Dec 31: Closed at Noon
- Wednesday, January 1: Closed, New Year Day

Almost There!!

St. Joseph's Grand Annual



An ongoing collection for each church

HELP US REACH OUR GOAL

Star of the Sea Grand Annual



Donations can be place in an envelope marked "Grand Annual" located in the pew and placed in the weekend collection basket or mailed to the parish office,
11 Sparhawk St.
Amesbury, MA. 01913

Collaborative Staff

Reverend Ronald St. Pierre	Pastor
Reverend Jack O'Brien	Visiting Senior Priest
Reverend Mister Chuck Hall	Deacon DeaconChuckHall@gmail.com
Reverend Mister Paul Specht	Senior Deacon
Sue Greaney	Admin. Assistant/Cemetery Secretary SueG@StAndreB.org
Helen Theriault	Receptionist/Bulletin Editor HelenT@StAndreB.org
Diana Giard	Coordinator of Faith Formation DianaG@StAndreB.org

Contact Us:

Parish Office:(978) 388-0330

Parish Office Mailing Address:

11 Sparhawk Street
Amesbury, MA 01913-3315

Office Hours Open:

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

Religious Education Office Hours:

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

Follow us on:

Our Web site: www.StAndreB.org

On Facebook: St. André Bessette

Flock Note: To sign up, text SAB to 84576, or online via the link on our web site.



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**Mass times, weather cancellations, ministry updates
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Text SAB to 84576 or sign up online at: www.standrebflocknote.com



WEEKEND MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, 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

Wednesday, December 25

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



St. Joseph Church, December 2024

Host & Wine

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Star of the Sea Church, December 2024

Host & Wine

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By Their Loving Family

Sanctuary Candle

In Honor of the Bartlett & Bernier Families
By Their Loving Family



St. Joseph Church
Amesbury, MA 01913



Star of the Sea Town Church
Salisbury, MA 01913



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