



The Season of Advent marks the start of a New Year in the Church. It is a season of increased prayer, penance, and good works. It is a time to renew our love of Jesus and through Him our love of others. It is a time in which we ask God's mercy and rededicate ourselves to His joyful service. In this way, even as we mark the birth of Jesus, we ourselves are making a new beginning as children of God.

“THE COMING OF THE SON OF MAN” ~ AN ADVENT MINI-RETREAT

Sunday, November 28, 3:30 – 4:30 PM. Come and prepare your hearts for the season of Advent by spending one hour of prayer and reflection before the busyness of Christmas takes over. Join us in the Church for an Advent Retreat with Eucharistic Adoration. Deacon John Barry will give a reflection on the coming of the Son of Man and help us invite the Lord to come anew into our lives. Refreshments will be served following the retreat.



“FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY,” A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION ~

Tuesday, December 7 Vigil Mass at 6:30 PM.

Wednesday, December 8 Feast Day Masses at 9 am & 7 pm. The Immaculate Conception is that sacred moment when Mary was conceived in her mother Anna's womb and specially protected by God from any touch of original sin. In this way, Mary became the new Eve, a new beginning for the human race and a pure vessel to receive the Son of God and bear Him into the world. This is the Patronal Feast of the United States of America, a nation consecrated to Mary under her title as the Immaculate Conception.



ADORATION WITH CONFESSION ~

Thursdays, December 2, 9, & 16, from 7 – 8 PM. Bring your day to a restful end by basking in the True Presence of our Eucharistic Lord. Clear and quiet your soul from all that has come between you and God by making a good confession – especially if it has been awhile. Confession is a healing encounter with Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins. The Lord's mercy, healing and grace are given to us through this encounter. In it Jesus also strengthens us to resist future or ongoing temptation. The Sacrament of Confession is a moment of accountability for us and before the Lord. The Lord's forgiveness and mercy is infinite. Nothing we have done or could do can ever separate us from experiencing God's forgiveness through this sacrament. Confession will also continue to be offered each Saturday in the church from Noon to 12:45 PM.



ADVENT VESPERS ~ Tuesdays, November 30; December 14 & 21, 7:00 PM. Bless your soul with this twenty minute experience of the Psalms, calming your spirit and letting go of distractions and anxieties. The Liturgy of the Hours connects you to the whole Church in prayer worldwide.

GIVE A GIFT ~ December 4 & 5 at all Masses.

Once again we ask the people of St. Mary's to help make Christmas truly a season of sharing. All items go to needy families in Boston, and are distributed through two inner city Catholic parishes. Please bring an article of new clothing and a new toy, unwrapped together in a plain bag or gift bag with a tag stating "Boy" or "Girl" and size or age up to age 18. No adult gifts please. Kindly place your gift in front of St. Mary's altar at any Mass the weekend of December 4 & 5. Gift bags only please.



COOKIE WALK FOR HAITI ~ December 11 & 12, after all Weekend Masses.

Long rows of tables will be set up in Fr. Haley Hall – tables loaded down with over 2,000 delicious homemade cookies baked by St. Mary's Middle School Youth Group Members. They will be carefully sealed in plastic, 2 x 2. For \$6, you may purchase an empty cookie bag, then "walk" down the rows of tables and select a dozen cookies which youths (wearing masks and plastic gloves) will place in your bag. All proceeds will benefit the poor of Haiti, a deeply impoverished nation recently rocked by a presidential assassination, a major earthquake, and a hurricane.

LESSONS & CAROLS ~ Sunday, December 12, 5-6 PM IN THE CHURCH. Join us for an evening of beautiful music and scripture, anticipating the wondrous birth of our Lord Jesus. This year's Lessons and Carols will feature the combined choirs and ensembles of St. Mary's Church, as well as our new Artist in Residence, Scott Ellaway. The program will include familiar carols as well as choral music by Praetorius, Victoria, and more. Bring your whole family and fill your Christmas preparations with plenty of holiday cheer!





LITTLE BETHLEHEM CHRISTIANS OLIVE WOOD OFFERINGS ~ After all Masses

December 18 & 19 in the Parish Center Lobby.

In 2003, the Alshouri Family fled the fighting in Bethlehem between Palestinians and Israelis, finding a new home in the United States. Christians used to make up 80% of the population of Bethlehem, but many have been forced to flee. Now less than 10% of Bethlehem's residents are Christian, with 200 of those families supporting themselves by carving religious articles of olive wood. The Alshouri's then sell some of these artworks in Catholic parishes in the United States. We are delighted to welcome them with their beautiful olive wood creations for sale just in time for Christmas!



Friday, December 24, Christmas Eve

3:00 PM Masses in both the Church and Fr. Haley Hall

5:00 PM Masses in both the Church and Fr. Haley Hall

7:30 PM Mass in the Church

11:00 PM Midnight Mass in the Church

Saturday, December 25, Christmas Day

9:30 AM Mass in the Church

11:30 AM Mass in the Church

Sunday, December 26, The Holy Family

7:30 AM Mass

9:30 AM Mass

11:30 AM Mass



The Sunday Mass Obligation for Catholics was restored in the Archdiocese of Boston on June 20, 2021.

Give yourself and your family the best gifts of all this Advent and every Sunday ...

... the Word of God to encourage and guide you,

... the Holy Eucharist to feed your soul and strengthen God's presence in your life,

... the grace and peace that come when we give thanks to God in worship for all the good things He has given us. Welcome home!