

SAINT ANNA PARISH

199 Lancaster Street • Leominster, Massachusetts 01453 • 978-537-5293

Rev. Father Frederick D. Fraini, III, Pastor

Weekly Schedule

Daily Mass: Monday-Friday, 7:30am

Saturday Vigil: 4pm

Sunday Mass: 8am, 10am, 11:30am

School Mass: Wednesday 9am (September-June)

Adoration: Tuesday 8am-12pm

Confessions: Saturday 2:45-3:45pm; or by appointment

Brazilian & Portuguese Mass: Sunday, 6:30pm

New Members: We warmly welcome new members to our parish family. To register, contact the parish office or visit our website at www.stannaparish.org

Sacraments

Baptisms: are celebrated on the 3rd Sunday of the month with preparation classes for parents and God parents on the 1st Tuesday of the month.

Marriage: Contact the parish office 1 year before the date to make arrangements.

Anointing of the Sick: If you have family members who are seriously ill, anticipating surgery, or weakened because of prolonged illness or advanced age, contact the parish office for assistance.

GAUDETE SUNDAY



The Third Sunday of Advent is called *Gaudete Sunday*, the day when we light the pink candle on the Advent wreath (hence the 'pink candle' Sunday). Rose vestments are worn to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near.

Gaudete means "rejoice". This day reminds us of the joy that is to come, and serves, amid this season of penance, as a kind of 'break' when we recall the hope we have because of the coming of Our Lord Jesus.

Staff

Mrs. Beth Donlan, Administrative Assistant

Deacon James Graves

Mrs. Mary Lou Petty, Religious Education Coordinator

Mrs. Lorraine Carrier, RCIA Director

Mrs. Bobbie French, Principal, St. Anna School

Mrs. Marian Priddy, Secretary, St. Anna School

Parish Contacts

Rectory / Fax	978-537-5293 / 978-537-2950
Religious Ed / St. Anna Society	978-537-5293
Church Hall	978-537-2094
Respect for Life	978-534-4053
RCIA	978-537-5293
Altar Servers	James.Graves@umassmemorial.org
Extraordinary Ministers	mpriddy@stannaleom.org
Parish Email	stannaparish@gmail.com
St. Matthew 25 Society	Paul Schiavitti
St. Anna School	978-534-4770
RCIA Director—Lorraine Carrier	978 297 1062



Safety Environment Notice

Our parish follows the guidelines of the national charter for the protection of children & young people approved by the US Bishops and Dioceses of Worcester policies. Contact Judith Audette, Victim Services Coordinator, at 508-929-4363 (direct & confidential.) Claire Freda is St. Anna's Safety Environment Coordinator.

MASS INTENTIONS
 **FOR THE WEEK**
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16TH

4:00PM: Pellegrino and Martence Piermarini
by family
Samuel Valera (1st anniversary) by St.
Anna Parish
Margaret Howard by Sylvia Lovewell
Assunta Mullaney by David R. Mullaney
and family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH

8:00AM: Matteo Longo by Emanuel & Karen Longo
Russell Enderle by Daniel and Donna
Benoit
Giovanni Lappa by Mr. & Mrs. Archie
Carboni

10:00AM: John Sonia (1st anniversary) by St. Anna
Parish
Douglas Carr (20th anniversary) by Mark
and Mary Jane Lanza
Vanessa Marcotte by Virginia Stanley
Richard Barnaby Sr. by his wife and
children

11:30AM: William & Irene Jacobs by their daughter
Cheryl
Jacalyn M. Lastella (month's mind) by
St. Anna Parish
Joseph DePasquale (month's mind) by St.
Anna Parish

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18TH

7:30AM: Respect for life from the moment of
conception to the point of natural death by
St. Matthew 25 Society

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19TH

7:30AM: Vanessa Marcotte by St. Anna Parish

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20TH

7:00AM: Rev. Edmund J. Falvey by Fraini Family

9:00AM: School Mass

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21ST

7:30AM: Ronald J. Palazzi by wife Lorraine

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22ND

7:30AM: Richard Falvey by Fraini Family

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23RD

4:00PM: Vittorio DiCiccio by wife and children
Lena Friedman (2nd anniversary) by family
Gloria Palazzi (1st anniversary) by St.
Anna Parish

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH - 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00AM: Alfred and Albina Gagnon by Daniel &
Donna Benoit

10:00AM: Vanessa Marcotte by John Marcotte

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH - CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00PM: Deceased members of the Petty Family by
family

6:00PM: Erin Pottier by daughter Linda
Janice LaLiberte by the family

12:00AM: Armand Millette by wife and sons

**PARISH COLLECTIONS**

Thank you for your support of St. Anna Parish!
Remember, you can set up your donations
online!

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS	\$ 3,975.00
RETIREMENT FOR RELIGIOUS	\$ 1,163.00
HOLY DAY	\$ 693.00
<u>CANDLES, MASSES, MISC.</u>	<u>\$ 572.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 6,385.00

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED

If your son or daughter is interested in becoming an altar server, please contact Deacon Jim at James.Graves@umassmemorial.org or contact Beth in the rectory. Training will be provided. Thank you!

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIOCESE OF WORCESTER

As you know the 4th Sunday of Advent is celebrated by the Church this year on the 23rd and the morning of the 24th of December. The celebration of Christmas begins on the afternoon of the 24th and continues into Monday the 25th of December, Christmas Day. As disciples of the Lord, and good stewards of all that we have received, we are called to return to God a portion of the good things we have received to God himself. In addition to our talent and our treasure, an essential portion of our life as good stewards is our time, time for worship even amidst the many demands placed upon us in this month of December. Also, our journey through this time of Advent preparation which the Church has provided for us is only completed with the celebration of the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

While we recognize the difficulty for many in coming to Holy Mass twice in three days, the Church calls upon us to prioritize these days of sublime Grace, for us, for our families, and for our communities, and join with us in being good stewards, by returning that portion of our commitment to worship at Holy Mass with our brothers and sisters in the Lord.

After consultation with the office of the Bishop's Committee on Divine Worship in Washington DC, they confirm what is contained in the document General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar.

++ As Christmas is a solemnity, ranked at No. 2 on the Table of Liturgical Days, Mass on Sunday evening, Dec. 24, is that of the Nativity, and Evening Prayer I of the Nativity is prayed. Sunday Masses usually scheduled for that Sunday, if celebrated after 4:00 PM give way to the Vigil of Christmas.

++ The Solemnity of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph follows on Saturday -Sunday, Dec. 30-31; Evening Prayer II of the Holy Family is prayed as Monday, January 1, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God is not a Holy Day of Obligation, this year any Mass celebrated on the evening of Dec. 31st is the Mass of the Solemnity of the Holy Family, not of Mary, Mother of God.

++ Monday, Jan. 1, marks the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, which in 2018 is not a holy day of obligation because it falls on a Monday this year.

++ The solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord follows on Saturday -Sunday, Jan. 6-7.

++ Due to the number of days required within the Christmas Season, the Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord which ends the Season of Christmas is not celebrated on a Sunday in 2018. Rather it is celebrated on Monday, January 8, 2018 and is not a Holy Day of Obligation.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

“Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God.” Let us learn to comfort each other better by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are Jan 19th-21st, 2018 in South Kingstown, RI and Mar 9th-11th, 2018 in Duxbury, MA. For more information, call Stephen & Michelle O'Leary at [800-710-9963](tel:800-710-9963) or visit them at <https://wwmema.org/>.

ST. BONIFACE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #16480 CRIBBAGE TOURNAMENT

On Sunday, January 28th from 1pm—5pm at St. Boniface Parish Church Hall located at 817 Massachusetts Avenue, Lunenburg will host a Cribbage Tournament. Entry fee is \$10. The tournament is double elimination with prizes for 1st and 2nd places. For more information, contact Thomas Laford at kofc16480@gmail.com or (978) 430-7600

HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING IDEAS FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES

With Christmas just around the corner, here are two great ways to shop for your loved ones and support those served through Catholic Charities. With every online ski lift ticket purchase through Wachusett Mountain, \$10 goes to Catholic Charities. Purchase items online through AmazonSMILE and Catholic Charities Worcester County will receive .5% of eligible purchases.

For more information about each program, visit www.ccworc.org and click on Holiday Gift Giving Ideas! Questions? Contact Rose Gage, Coordinator of Volunteer Services at rgage@ccworc.org or at 50-798-01891.

GAUDETE: MUSIC FOR ADVENT ST. JOHN'S IN CLINTON

On Sunday, Dec. 17th, at 5 p.m., join us for the next installment of our Sacred Music Series, as we welcome back one of the country's most gifted Catholic musicians, David Hughes. Joined by our music director, Marc DeMille, he will present a program of hymns, chants and organ music for the season of Advent. Admission is free and families are welcome. Donations will be accepted at the door. The church is located at 80 Union St. (Routes 62 and 70) in Clinton and is ramp accessible.

MARCH FOR LIFE – EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION DEADLINE APPROACHING

Please join us for the Diocese of Worcester's bus trip to the 45th annual March for Life in Washington, DC. Buses leave on Thurs. Jan. 18th after the 7:30 p.m. Mass at St. Paul's Cathedral, travel to Washington for the March for Life on Jan. 19th followed by the return trip to Worcester. Cost is \$75 per seat for registrations **postmarked by December 31**, and \$90 thereafter. For more information, and to download registration forms, visit www.worcesterdiocese.org/respect-life.

VOLUNTEER TO HELP AN ABUSED CHILD

Please consider helping an abused child TODAY! Become a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) and advocate for a child in foster care. You will both play a critical role in the life of a child as well as see your own life enriched through the experience. There is a great need for more volunteers. Call 508-TRY-CASA, email us at volunteers@thecasaproject.org, or learn more about us at www.casaworcester.org.