

OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA PARISH

Marblehead, Massachusetts

Glory to God in the highest,



And on earth peace to people of good will

Christmas 2023 ~ 2024

OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA PARISH



We see our community as one moved by Faith, led by Hope and united in Charity, seeking, as a caring family, to walk in the footsteps of Jesus Christ by reaching out in welcome to all: the young, the old, the stranger, and the neighbor. We commit ourselves to helping and healing, to feeding the hungry, to visiting the sick, and to consoling the bereaved as Jesus commanded in the gospels.

PARISH STAFF

Monsignor Timothy Moran, Pastor
Senior Deacon John E. "Joe" Whipple
Reverend Timothy Kelleher, Weekend Assistance
Reverend William T. Schmidt, Weekend Assistance
Reverend Stephen Okoli, Weekend Assistance
Robert "Mitch" Mitchell, Facilities Manager
Jonathan Johnston, Facilities Assistant

Lynne Celli, Director of Faith Formation
Matthew Arnold, Director of Music
Jean Ranger, Office Manager
Yvonne Verrette, Receptionist
Linda Poehler, Business Manager / Accountant
TBA: Bulletin Editor/ Website Administrator
Ivo Palavra, Facilities Assistant

RECTORY OFFICE:

(781) 631-0086 ~ *Fax*: 1 (781) 631-5668
85 Atlantic Ave.

Mon-Thu 9:00am-3:00pm / Fri 9:00am-12:00pm
sosrectory@verizon.net

PARISH CENTER / RELIGIOUS ED. OFFICE:

(781) 631-8340 ~ 80 Atlantic Ave.

Mon-Thu 9:00am-2:00pm
sosreligious@staroftheseamarblehead.org

CONFESSIONS: Saturdays at 2:30-3:30pm. Also upon request, at any reasonable time. Please contact the Rectory to make an appointment.

BAPTISM: For Baptism and Baptismal Catechesis, please contact the Rectory Mon - Thu 9am-3pm.

WEDDINGS: By personal appointment with a priest, six to eight months prior to the date desired.

FUNERALS: Contact the Rectory Mon-Thu 9am-3pm.
SICK & SHUT-INS: Priests are available to bring Holy Communion to the home. Please contact the Rectory.

NEW PARISHIONERS ARE MOST WELCOME: Please make yourself known to us at the Rectory. We want to know you.

BULLETIN DEADLINE: In writing by Mon 10am.



Thank you for your generous support of the 2023 Catholic Appeal at Our Lady Star of the Sea. To date, your pledges amount to **\$49,069.00**, (74% of our Parish Goal of **\$66,401.00**). If you have not already had the opportunity to do so, we invite you to pick up a pledge envelope located at the back of the Church, fill it out, then drop it off at the Rectory or into the regular Offertory collection.

You can also give online today by visiting bostoncatholicappeal.org/donate/. **Thankful for YOUR HELP !**



Welcome !

Would you like to be a Registered Member of Our Lady, Star of the Sea Parish?
Would you like our mailings?

Family Name: _____

Husband: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Wife: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Children (please include date of birth): _____

Street: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Please Check: New Registration

Change of Address

Offertory Envelopes

To sign up for Electronic Giving,
please visit us at
www.sosmarblehead.org.

You may email us your information at SOSRectory@verizon.net,
or use this form returned to the collection box or mailed to:

Our Lady, Star of the Sea Parish, 85 Atlantic Avenue, Marblehead, MA 01945.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	<u>December 23</u>
9:00 AM	Dianne Binter
4:00 PM	Ralph Laundry
Sunday	<u>December 24</u>
7:30 AM	Michael Rojee
9:00 AM	Pro Populo
11:00 AM	Cynthia Recchia
	<u>The Nativity of the Lord</u>
6:00 PM	Fred Chandler
Monday	<u>December 25</u>
11:00 AM	Pro Populo
Tuesday	<u>December 26</u>
9:00 AM	Michael Iacobucci
Wednesday	<u>December 27</u>
9:00 AM	Felix and Margaret Petrilli
Thursday	<u>December 28</u>
9:00 AM	Rita Nuscher
Friday	<u>December 29</u>
9:00 AM	Ryan McMahon Murphy
Saturday	<u>December 30</u>
9:00 AM	Rose Marie Sansone
4:00 PM	Stephen Papageorge
Sunday	<u>December 31</u>
7:30 AM	John F. Reiley, 45th Anniversary
9:00 AM	Pro Populo
11:00 AM	William Weese

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2023 - 2024

New registrations still continue.

★ **Second Graders' First Confessions** ★

Alternate opportunity
Saturday, December 23 at 2:30

First Communion Parents' Meeting

January 7, 8, 9 or 10 during your child's class or
Tuesday evening, January 9 at 7 p.m.

Christmas Recess

December 13th was the last day for religious education classes this semester. Classes will resume Sunday, January 7th.

Christmas Prayers!

We wish all our students a Blessed Christmas and remind each and every one of the importance of celebrating with the Church the joy of Jesus' birth throughout the Feast. We hope to see you at Mass!
~ Yvonne Verrette ~ Lynne Celli ~ Msgr. Moran

Questions? Please contact the Office of Religious Education at 781-631-8340 or email:

sosreligioused@staroftheseamarblehead.org.

OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA PARISH Scholarships 2023

The Parish is pleased to announce the following Scholarships for the Year 2023 for recent graduates, now new collegians, who have served the Parish in special ways over their High School years:

Anna E. Kelly Scholarships
Aeryn Vizy; Patrick Tolan; Cait Mullins

Smith Family Scholarship
Chloe Curtis

Eric Ciccone Scholarship
Massimo Bottari

Each awardee receives \$1,000.00.

The Parish will have an opportunity to present the awards at Mass during the upcoming holiday season when the recipients are home visiting family and friends. Congratulations!

Sunday, December 17, 2023

Offertory Collection

Collected/mailed in: \$6,865.00 • Online: 2,244.00

Offertory Total: \$9,109.00

St. Vincent de Paul
\$1,532.00

With gratitude for this, your share in mission.



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Simply visit our parish webpage at

www.sosmarblehead.org

and click on the **We Share** link to get started.



clergytrust

For Christmas, at all masses our only collection will be to support the retirement, medical and financial needs of priests in good standing throughout the Archdiocese of Boston. On behalf of all of our priests, thank you in advance for your generosity. For more information and ways of giving to this effort, please visit:

www.clergytrust.org.

Thank you!

OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA PARISH

Marblehead, Massachusetts

December 25, 2023
The Nativity of the Lord

Dear Parishioner of Our Lady Star of the Sea,

“I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the City of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord.” These words of angelic glory (see Luke 2:1-14) echo through the mid night of Christmas and give substance to the warm greetings it is my honor to share with you on behalf of Fathers Tim Kelleher, Bill Schmidt, Stephen Okoli, Deacon "Joe" and all the staff of Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish:

Merry Christmas One and All!

It is truly good news of great joy that gathers our Parish family in celebration of Christmas each year. We welcome in a special way those home for the holidays and we pray with deepened fervor for those who are away from family and friends, especially those in service to our country.

The first Christmas was announced by the angels of heaven. It is now up to you and to me, we who celebrate Christmas, to bring its message and meaning to our world today. “I proclaim to you good news of great joy!” The Word that was made flesh and that was brought to birth in Bethlehem was God’s own Word of mercy, forgiveness and peace. Our lives, our words and our decisions are moments of proclamation concerning what we truly believe to be important and urgent. Proclaim by your life, by the content and tenor of your words and by the way you manage and direct your life and circumstance the “good news of great joy” we celebrate in Christmas.

Just as Jesus was born for the sake of the world, the message God has given you is not meant *for* you but to you for the sake of the world. The joy God gives to you is not meant *for* you but to you for the sake of the world. The message and the joy of Christmas, like the reality of the birth we celebrate, are given to you for the sake of the world. I pray that you will take the message and the joy of our prayer together and allow it to give new fervor, new purpose to your loves, your works and your words throughout the New Year! This is especially true in fostering an every more generous response among our co-citizens to the needs of the many. It is most true of all in urging a sober and effective choice of peace over violence and of persons over powers, in the affairs of our world today. Contribute to peace and respect through the exercise of each, each day.

My deep thanks to all of the many hundreds of parishioners who participated in the annual Christmas Tree Gift Program. I am so thankful, and proud, at the wonderful generosity of our Parish family. You and I join in thanking Marylyn Kusek and her co-workers from the bottom of our hearts.

Our Christmas prayers could not take on the beauty and richness they have without the services of so many of our faithful parishioners in roles of ministerial service, both visible and behind the scenes. To all of these generous folk, including each and everyone in our music ministries, who give of themselves to proclaim the “good news of great joy” of our Savior’s birth, our deepest thanks and recognition of their generous commitment.

To one and to all go the prayers and best wishes of all of here at Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish for God’s peace this blessed Season of grace!

Yours in the Lord’s service,

Msgr. Timothy J. Moran

CHRISTMAS TREE GIVING

Thanks to all who have participated!

Each Advent Season, our parish donates a goodly number Christmas gifts to needy children living on the North Shore. This wonderful program is coordinated with Catholic Charities North, and your gifts will be shared with neighbors that will otherwise go without. It was clear donors were happy with the possibility of giving toys this year! The Parish is grateful to Marylyn Kusek and all who worked with her to organize and carry out this year's program.

Christmas Eve Masses

Sunday, December 24, 2023
4:00, 6:00 & 10:00 p.m.

Christmas Morning Masses

Monday, December 25, 2023
7:30, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Feast of the Holy Family
Saturday, December 30, 2023
4:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 31, 2023
7:30, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

(not a day of obligation this year)

Sunday, December 31, 2023
4:00 p.m.

with *Te Deum* in thanksgiving for the past year
Monday, January 1, 2024
9:00 a.m.

Solemnity of the Epiphany
Saturday, January 6, 2024
4:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 7, 2024
7:30, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Christmas Gift from the Fair to the World

Efforts to reduce waste at the Christmas Fair Food Court were very successful with only ONE actual trash bag of landfill waste generated despite hundreds of visitors! Additionally, no single-use plastic water bottles were sold; instead, we offered water from an Igloo with compostable cups. Thanks to "Recycling Elves" Christine Cudihy and Joan Thayer, waste was kept to a bare minimum with five bags of compost and the rest being 75 recyclable soda cans, other mixed recycling and some cardboard.



Thanks to Linda Vizey for taking the bags of compostable materials to the transfer station and to team members Dylan Vizey, Mary McCormick-Gendzel and Pat Chiappa for talking to community members about the Creation Care Team, composting and waste reduction. We would like to thank Msgr. Moran, Peter Fallon, Linda Newall and parishioners for their support and participation in making this such an eco-friendly event aligning with Pope Francis' goals to care for our earth.

~Creation Care Team

Sacrament of Penance

There is no better preparation for a good celebration of Christmas than through a good confession.

Wednesday Evenings
6 - 7 o'clock

Saturday Afternoons
2:30 - 3:30 o'clock

and at Rectory by appointment.

Mary, Joseph, Jesus, Angels, Shepherds, Kings!

A Christmas Pageant will be presented at the Dec. 24 Mass at 4pm in the Church.



You are invited to share with our children the wonder of our Christmas Feast.

Our Thanks to Jaclyne Ainlay and Parents!

Christmas Flowers

We invite you to enhance the beauty of our Church during our Christmas Liturgies with a flower donation in memory of your loved one(s). The Church will be decorated with your generous donations in preparation for Christmas Eve. We will also remember your loved one(s) in a special Memorial List. Flower donation envelopes are available at the Rectory and at all Church entrances. Christmas Flower Donations can be



mailed to or dropped off at the Rectory, or placed in the regular offertory collection.

The Pope's Monthly Prayer Intention

You are invited to join with many people worldwide in praying for the monthly intention.

December ~ For Persons with Disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

For further information please consult:

[Pope's WorldWide Prayer Network \(Apostleship of Prayer\) - EYM \(popesprayer.va\)](http://Pope's WorldWide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) - EYM (popesprayer.va))



St. Vincent de Paul —Collection Boxes

Please remember that there are boxes at the doors of the Church for charitable donations for the benefit of persons in need who seek help from the Church.

Thank you so much for remembering those in need this Christmas Season.



Comments from Deacon Joe

Merry Christmas!

This week we have one solemnity and three feasts. Today, December 25th, is the **Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**. The birth of Jesus was, of course, a necessary step along the way to his saving work. His visible presence in our world is certainly something to celebrate, and the Church does so throughout Christmastide, which



extends to the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which will be on January 8, the day after Epiphany. December 25 was chosen for the date of the celebration in the Fourth Century, for reasons which are not definitely known, but it is appropriate. John the Baptist said of Jesus, "He must increase and I must decrease." The lengthening of daylight hours from now until summer is a good image of this. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas>.

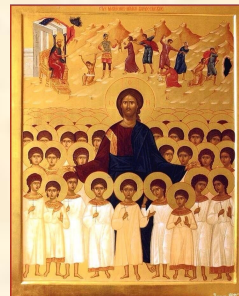
Next is the Feast of **St. Stephen**, on December 26, the day on which "Good King Wenceslas looked out," according to the carol. The King's charity reflects the original task of Stephen and the other deacons: assuring a fair distribution of goods; and his charity is reflected in the English custom of Boxing Day on which gifts were given to servants and workers. Stephen became an effective preacher of the Resurrection of Christ and was martyred for his efforts, the first Christian martyr. See Acts of the Apostles, chapters 6-7. Since Stephen was the first deacon, his day is special for me and other deacons https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Stephen.



December 27 brings the Feast of **St. John the Evangelist**, believed to be the one referred to in the Gospel of John as "the disciple whom Jesus loved." He is prominent at various points in all four gospels, and he alone among the apostles did not die a martyr's death. It is generally believed that he is the author of the three epistles of John as well as the gospel which bears his name. For various reasons, most scholars believe that the author of the Book of Revelation was a different John. John's gospel is a powerful witness to the belief of the Church that Jesus is divine [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John the Evangelist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_the_Evangelist).



Then on December 28 we celebrate the Feast of the **Holy Innocents**, baby boys of Bethlehem who were killed by order of King Herod in an attempt to eliminate "the newborn King of the Jews" whom the Magi had spoken of. Matthew 2:1-18, especially verse 16. Although they did not know of Christ, they died because of Herod's opposition to Christ and thus can be considered martyrs [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Massacre of the Innocents](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Massacre_of_the_Innocents).



Taken together, the three feasts tell us that we must have faith in Jesus, who was born in Bethlehem and died and rose to save us. But Jesus and his message continue to find opposition, which can lead to persecution. We have to stand firm in our faith as we rejoice in the birth of the Lord.

Merry Christmas!

~Deacon Joe Whipple
December 25, 2023

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