

OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA PARISH

Marblehead, Massachusetts

December 3, 2023



First Sunday of Advent

Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come.

Mark 13:33

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.

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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
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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

| | |
|------------------|---|
| <u>Saturday</u> | <u>December 2</u> |
| 9:00 AM | Thelma Thornton |
| 4:00 PM | Jean H. Fallon |
| <u>Sunday</u> | <u>December 3</u> |
| 7:30 AM | Bridget McDermott |
| 9:00 AM | Valerie McFadden |
| 11:00 AM | Pro Populo |
| <u>Monday</u> | <u>December 4</u> |
| 9:00 AM | Marie Nouri |
| <u>Tuesday</u> | <u>December 5</u> |
| 9:00 AM | Barbara Dowd |
| <u>Wednesday</u> | <u>December 6</u> |
| 9:00 AM | Mary Adamo |
| <u>Thursday</u> | <u>December 7</u> |
| 9:00 AM | Josiah Morrill |
| <u>Friday</u> | <u>December 8, <i>The Immaculate</i></u> |
| | <u><i>Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i></u> |
| 9:00 AM | Harry Brown |
| 7:00 PM | Pro Populo |
| <u>Saturday</u> | <u>December 9</u> |
| 9:00 AM | Anne Aleda |
| 4:00 PM | Benjamin Riola Ramos, |
| | Birthday Remembrance |
| <u>Sunday</u> | <u>December 10</u> |
| 7:30 AM | Michael Rojee |
| 9:00 AM | Pro Populo |
| 11:00 AM | Albert Irato, Family and Friends |

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2023 - 2024

New registrations still continue.

Second Graders' First Confessions



Saturday, December 9, 2023,
at 11:30 a.m. or 1:00 p.m.

Families, please review with your child lesson five in their books and arrive a few minutes early.

Thanks to all the families who contributed to the

Christmas Gift Baskets

at the Fair. The Baskets were beautiful, added wonderfully to the offerings and, most assuredly, will add to the happiness of recipients in the days ahead!



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

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 Vizey; 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!

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:



PopesWorldwidePrayerNetwork.org (Apostleship of Prayer) - EYM (popesprayer.va)

Sunday, November 19, 2023

Offertory Collection

Collected/mailed: \$7,725.00 • Online: \$3,765.66

Offertory Total: 10,765.66

Retired Women Religious

Collected/mailed: \$2,039.37 • Online: 500.00

Special Collection Total: 2,537.37

Sunday, November 26, 2023

Offertory Collection

Collected/mailed: \$4,115.00 • Online: \$1,929.00

Offertory Total: \$6,044.00

St. Vincent de Paul: \$120.00

Our Thanks to All who Give!

Coffee and Donuts

Raffle Drawing

following 9:00 a.m. Mass

OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA PARISH

Marblehead, Massachusetts

December 3, 2023
First Sunday of Advent

Dear Parishioner of Our Lady Star of the Sea,

“Be watchful and alert! You do not know when the time will come.” Indeed, the time has come, rather suddenly. Advent is here!

Our Christmas Fair has been a wonderful occasion this weekend as we make our transition towards the celebrations of Christmas. I hope you and your loved ones had a wonderful day and took the opportunity to join the festivities. We will be drawing this Sunday morning the winners of our Christmas Raffle. Good luck to all who have taken part. My deepest thanks to all who have contributed to the Fair, especially to members of our planning committee. We will have an opportunity for complete thank-you acknowledgements in next week's Bulletin.

The time has now come for us to begin a new Year of Grace, that of 2024. With this First Sunday of Advent, we begin anew our cycle of prayer, of Gospel reading and meditation and our weekly renewal in the life, death and resurrection of the Lord, Jesus. The Gospel Reading cited above (see Mark 13:33-37) tells us that we, the servants, have been put in “charge.” The Lord has entrusted to us all of the blessings of life and love for which we should be thankful each day. What precious gifts has God put into our hands! Be alert, then. Be Watchful! Take great care to cherish and increase all that the Lord has brought your way.

But more follows. God has also given into our hands, our charge, the gift of his very own life and love confided to us in the Lord Jesus Christ. As St. Paul points out (see 1 Corinthians 1:3-9) “for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, that in him you were enriched in every way.” We who are barely worthy of the natural gifts given to us have also been entrusted with the Gospel, the Word made flesh in Jesus Christ, with God's loving plan of salvation for the entire world. It has been entrusted to you. What are you doing with these divine gifts? Are you watchful, alert, engaged? Are you bringing the full power of these wonderful gifts to bear on your life and that of the world?

As we look at the world, and the violence, oppression and dangers that abound, we very much know how urgently we need and desire the Lord to “come.” The Prophet Isaiah once voiced with great heart at a time of precariousness for God's people, begging the Lord to return, to come to our help and aid: “Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you, while you wrought awesome deeds we could not hope for, such as they had not heard of from of old” (see Isaiah 63:6b-17, 19b, 64:2-7). Our world needs more than ever the faithful presence and strength of God in faithful and strong witnesses to God in this world. You are that person. Be strong; be alert, be watchful for the goodness of God that alone can set us right.

As we begin our new year of prayer together, we ask for the grace to recognize the power of the gifts of word and sacrament we receive at God's altar. Let us ask for the grace to let that love received powerfully transform our lives and, through us, the lives of all around us.

Asking God's blessing on you and your loved ones for this new Year of Grace, I am

Yours in the Lord's service,

Msgr. Timothy J. Moran



CHRISTMAS TREE GIVING

Program has begun! Choose a Tag for a toy or gift card for someone in greater need.

Each Advent Season, our parish donates approximately 1,500 Christmas gifts to needy children living on the North Shore. This wonderful program is coordinated with Catholic Charities North, and these gifts will be shared with neighbors that will otherwise go without. Catholic Charities prefers store gift cards but can accept donations of toys this year.

We will have two trees in the Church decorated with ornaments describing the gift needed. Returns should be made by December 11th, together with the ornament tag so that we can assure a timely arrival for Christmas Day. Thanks!

OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA PRESENTS

The New England Brass Band

Sunday, December 10th at 2:00pm



Tickets, \$15.00, at Masses and at Rectory.

Join us next weekend for what has become a new holiday tradition. Come and hear the festive sounds of the internationally acclaimed New England Brass Band at Our Lady Star of the Sea. The award winning 30 piece band promises to delight you and old with rollicking, frolicking tunes that will set your toes tapping. Make this even your family's musical gateway to the holiday season!

MUSIC News

Concert Series 2023-2024
 Sunday, December 17th at 5 o'clock pm
Vivaldi: Gloria
 and select choral works of the Christmas Season.
 Featuring:
 The Star of the Sea Parish Choir & Friends
 with
 Chamber Orchestra.
 Matthew Arnold, Conductor
 Holly Cameron, Soprano
 Kaarin Phelps, Mezzo-Soprano.
 Freewill offering.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

December 8, 2023

Masses

9:00 a.m.

7:00 p.m.

"I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God: for he hath clothed me in the garment of salvation." -Is 61:10



Marblehead Food Pantry

Call for Assistance

Food Pantry Needs Donations of food are very much needed for the Food Pantry whose supplies have run low. Gifts of food can be left at the Center or on the back porch of the Rectory.

Thank you for your help!

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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.

Deepest thanks to the many who donated to the
Refugee Winter Clothing Drive.

The warmth of your love makes the world a better place!
Thanks, too, for your recent donations of recyclable items which have all gone to new and good use.

-Creation Care Team

FAITH AND PLAY

is a time for our youngest parishioners to gather to grow in their faith. This group is perfect for parents with children ages **Baby to 5 Years.**

Join us once a month for a time to play and learn. Each session will include time for a story, activity, snack and play on Mondays from 3:30-4:15 p.m.

Upcoming: December 11th. In nice weather we meet in the gardens next to the Church and then we will move indoors to the Parish Center.



Comments from Deacon Joe

Advent Arrives

We have arrived at the beginning of Advent, the weeks leading up to Christmas. The season begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. This year the Sunday before Christmas is December 24, and the preceding Sundays are December 3, 10, and 17. This means that Advent this year is as short as it can possibly be: three weeks and one day. During Advent we focus on the coming of the Lord. At the beginning we consider his coming at the end of time to bring God's kingdom to its fulfillment. As we get closer to Christmas Day, our attention turns more to Jesus' coming to earth at his birth in Bethlehem. Throughout Advent, we also recall that Jesus comes to us in the Mass.

Christmas Decorations I have thought of myself as a "purist" when it comes to Christmas decorations. My idea has been that Advent isn't the celebration of Christmas. Christmastide runs from Christmas to Epiphany, and that is when we should have our Christmas decorations. At most, perhaps, we might decorate a week before Christmas. I thought of it as an example of an American tendency to celebrate holidays before they arrive rather than waiting for the day itself and then basking in the afterglow.

But my view has been challenged during a recent trip along the Rhine. On Saturday, November 18, workers at a site we visited were removing pumpkins and putting up Christmas decorations. The next day in Strasbourg, the booths for the Christmas fair were already filling the square in front of the cathedral. And so it was in every city we visited, large or small. They were preparing for the fair, which would start on December 3



or earlier. So I have to admit that there is at least some justification for decorating before December 18. But I still think that Christmas should bring us to a higher level of festivity. I'll also continue to suggest that Christmas parties should be in the time following Christmas — although that may be a lost cause. At any rate, we should not think that on December 26 Christmas is over. During Advent our idea should be, "Christmas is coming." Then on and after December 25 we say, "Christmas is here!"

This week December 8 is the Solemnity of the **Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.**

In her Immaculate Conception, Mary is the patron saint of the United States, and the day is a holyday of obligation.

Masses in our parish will be at 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Immaculate-Conception-Roman-Catholicism>.

December 7 is the Memorial of **St. Ambrose**, bishop of Milan and one of the great doctors of the Church <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Ambrose/Evaluations-and-interpretations>.

Finally, although it is only an optional memorial, we might note that December 6 is when we commemorate **St. Nicholas**, a bishop whose generosity has caused him the morph into Santa Claus <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Nicholas>.



*Have a good week and a good Advent.
Try to keep warm.*

*~Deacon Joe Whipple
December 3, 2023*

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