# Feast of the Holy Family Christmas 2023 ~ 2024



Bartolomé Esteban Murillo, The Holy Family with a Little Bird Museo del Prado, C. 1650

# OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA PARISH

Marblehead, Massachusetts

December 31, 2023



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

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.

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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 CENTER / RELIGIOUS ED. OFFICE:

(781) 631-8340 ~ 80 Atlantic Ave. Mon-Thu 9:00am-2:00pm sosreligioused@staroftheseamarblehead.org

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.

Catholic Appeal

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!

Family Name:	Would you like to be a Registe Would	Welcome I red Member of Ou d you like our mai	
Husband:		Date of Birth:	
		Date of Birth:	
Children (please	include date of birth):		
Street:		City:	Zip:
Telephone:		Email:	
Please Check:	New RegistrationChange of AddressOffertory Envelopes		To sign up for Electronic Giving, please visit us at www.sosmarblehead.org.
or use this form r	s your information at SOSRector returned to the collection box or the Sea Parish, 85 Atlantic Aver	mailed to:	

# MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday December 30

9:00 AM Rose Marie Sansone 4:00 PM Stephen Papageorge

Sunday December 31

7:30 AM John F. Reiley, 45th Anniversary

9:00 AM *Pro Populo* 11:00 AM William Weese

Monday January 1

9:00 AM Christina Rondinelli

<u>Tuesday</u> <u>January 2</u>

9:00 AM Rev. Cecil J. Donahue, O.S.B.

Wednesday January 3

9:00 AM Jack & Jody Callahan,

Wedding Annivesary Memorial

<u>Thursday</u> <u>January 4</u>

9:00 AM Mary Thaete, For Healing.

9:00 AM Lou Ann Cushman

Saturday January 6

9:00 AM Peter Vesterdorf

4:00 PM Pro Populo
Sunday January 7
7:30 AM Paula Peterson

9:00 AM Eric Ciccone, 2nd Anniversary

11:00 AM Diane Bintner

### 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

Amounts for December 24, 2023 and Christmas Will be in the next *Bulletin* 

With gratitude for your gifts in mission.



THE PREFERRED METHOD OF GIVING Simply visit our parish webpage at www.sosmarblehead.org

and click on the We Share link to get started.



# 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.

## New Year Beginnings

Classes will resume Sunday, January 7th with the regular weekly Religious Education schedule.

### 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!



Thank you for the support you have given to 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! If you still have a gift to share, please direct it to the Rectory this week. 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 31, 2023 Feast of the Holy Family

Dear Parishioner of Our Lady Star of the Sea,

I pray that you and your family and loved ones have been celebrating a happy and holy commemoration of the Lord's Birth. What a joy it is to acknowledge the wonders of God's grace brought to birth in our lives. Your participation for the Fourth Sunday of Advent and for Christmas Eve and Day was a time that saw our Parish Family gathered in good number, with the presence of so many who have been away for school, work or new locations. It is a joy whenever we are back together again! Our celebration of the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph remind us how close the Lord is to us and how closely we should attend to the opportunities to live and share his love each day.

I speak of that closeness of family and parish as one who missed out on both in this past week. On December 22nd, the Friday before Christmas, I decided to do a routine Covid test because I may have had exposure to Covid in three situations that week and, I had realized, my voice was heavier than usual at morning mass. The result was "+." I took notice and repeated the test some hours later with a fresh kit from another producer: same result. Although I did not feel at all sick, I could not but take myself out of all interactions with others in deference to their safety. So, feeling fine physically, I spent Christmas on my own. The principal difficulty: not being part of our prayerful celebrations. I am deeply grateful to Father Stephen Okoli, who has become a part of our Parish Family, for changing his many commitments to carry the main responsibilities for our prayer. I am grateful also for Father Miciej from St. Joseph Parish, Lynn, who together with Fr. Pablo Gomez, rearranged their schedule to help us out. I do hope, however, that each of you were both able and enabled to be strengthened and renewed by your participation in Christmas prayer and celebration!

"For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel" (see Luke 2:22~40). These words of today's Gospel refer, firstly, to Jesus as he was presented in the temple by Mary and Joseph. It refers, then, too, to the three of them together, a family fulfilling the life and love of the Heavenly Father. The Holy Family is a living image of salvation, prepared in the sign of all the peoples; it is a light of revelation, the glory of God's people, Israel. How is it with family life among us? In our Church? The question we must ask is whether the strength, balance and goodness of our families shine as a beacon of hope to the world. Is the state and quality of "Family Life" among us our glory? Is it a light for the world? May we reflect, in ourselves and in our relationships, the life-giving, forgiving love of God, our Father for all.

This Monday, January 1st, is also the World Day of Prayer for Peace. As we conclude the closing year, 2023, we are keenly aware of the challenges that stand before the world and our societies. We know the need for a deeper awareness of what is right, good and just and a better ability to communicate about these important things with brothers and sisters the world over. For, when all is said and done, the quality of our life and who we are as people has to do with the health and balance of our families, not the checking account nor the armaments' stockpile. The question we must ask is whether the strength, balance and goodness of our Catholic families shine as a beacon of hope to our society and to the world. Is the state and quality of "Family Life" among us our glory? Is it a light for the world? Our families can, and should, like the Holy Family, be an image of salvation and a light to guide others. We can do that only to the degree that we reflect, in ourselves and in our relationships, the life-giving, forgiving love of God, our Father. We look to Christ and his Gospel to heal, to strengthen and to give purpose and direction to our families' lives and to our world.

We join as a Parish Family in acknowledging and thanking all those who, at a cost to their own schedules and their own families' plans, help our Parish family prepare and celebrate the liturgical feasts of Christmas Time. Their love of the Lord and his graces to our human family are evident and, I trust, grow in their service to our worship, music and praise of God. Thanks!

Asking God's blessing on you, your family, loved ones and friends, I am

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.

### FAITH AND PLAY

Faith and Paly 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 monthfor a time to play and to learn about our faith. Easch session will include time for a story, activity, snack and play on Mondays 3:30 - 4:15 p.m. In nice weather we will meet in the garden next to the Church and then we will move indoors into the Parish Center. The dates this New Year will be:



Mondays: January 8 February 12 March 11 April 15 May 13.



For questions about this group and to RSVP, please

### 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 plas-



tic 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 Vizy for taking the bags of compostable materials to the transfer station and to team members Dylan Vizy, 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

# 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 Ephipany Saturday, January 6, 2024 4:00 p.m. Sunday, January 7, 2024

## Sacrament of Penance

7:30, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

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

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.

<u>December ~ For Persons with Disabilities</u>

January - For the Gift of Diversity on the Church

For further information please consult:



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.

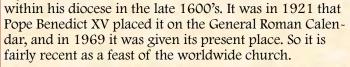


Thank you so much for remembering those in need this Christmas Season and New Year.

### Comments from Deacon Joe

### Holy Family

The Sunday after Christmas is the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Artists in Europe began to depict the Holy Family about 500 years ago, and Bishop Laval of New France (Quebec) established the devotion



We see the Holy Family as a model of love and harmony for all families to imitate. Even when Jesus stayed in Jerusalem at the age of 12 to the consternation of Mary and Joseph, the situation was readily settled, with Jesus being obedient to them. (Luke 2:41-52) The feast os also an example which encourages marriage and childbearing—particularly timely nowadays when many couples avoid marriage and many married couples are simply unwilling to have children. This is, of course, no criticism of couples who are unable to have children for whatever reason.

Fast away the old year passes. This is the last day of 2023, and we're entering the second week of Christmastide. Let's pray for God's blessings throughout 2024. We may make formal new year's resolutions. Even if we don't, it's a good idea to take stock of our lives during the past year and ask the Holy Spirit to show us what God is calling us to in 2024. Many people like to keep a journal, so they can see how they are doing, how well they are responding to God's promptings.

This week Monday, January 1, is the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God. It is usually a Holyday of Obligation, but when it falls on a Monday, it is not "of obligation." This solemnity celebrates our faith which recognizes Mary as Mother of God. The Council of Ephesus proclaimed this as a dogma in 431. It does not mean that Mary existed before God. It means that Jesus is one person, both God

and man, and since Mary is the Mother of Jesus, she is mother of God <a href="https://stpaulcenter.com/why-do-we-call-mary-the-mother-of-god-2/">https://stpaulcenter.com/why-do-we-call-mary-the-mother-of-god-2/</a>.

The week also has three obligatory memorials. First, on



January 2, we celebrate the Memorial of Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen. Born around 425, they became friends while studying in Athens. They wished to be monks, but eventually both became

bishops. They were zealous defenders of the true faith in the divinity of Christ against the widespread heresy of Arianism, which brought them into conflict with the emperors, who were Arian at the time. They are among the greatest Doctors of the Church <a href="https://mycatholic.life/saints/saints-of-the-liturgical-year/2-january-saints-basil-the-great-and-gregory-nazianzen-bishops-and-doctors-memorial/">https://mycatholic.life/saints/saints-of-the-liturgical-year/2-january-saints-basil-the-great-and-gregory-nazianzen-bishops-and-doctors-memorial/</a>.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was born in 1774. After her husband's death she converted to Catholicism and devoted herself to the education of girls, especially the poor, and founded the Sisters of Charity. She died in 1821 and was canonized in 1975. She is the first native born American saint. Her Memorial is January 4th <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elizabeth Ann Seton">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elizabeth Ann Seton</a>.

On January 5 we celebrate another American saint, this one an immigrant, **St. John Neumann**, **CSSR.** He was born in Bohemia in 1811 and came to tthe United States in 1836 and joined the Redemptorist order. In 1852 he was appointed bishop of Philadelphia, where he worked tirelessly, especially to promote parish life and Catholic education of children. He died in 1860 and was canonized in 1977.https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\_Neumann

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.!

~Deacon Joe Whipple December 31, 2023





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