

1866

150th Anniversary

2016

# St. John the Evangelist



Established 1866

20 Church Street  
Hopkinton, MA 01748

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[www.stjohnhopkinton.com](http://www.stjohnhopkinton.com)

## WELCOME TO NEW PARISHIONERS

Please introduce yourselves. We hope to know and serve you. We hope you become an active part of our Parish Community.

## PASTOR

Rev. Richard E. Cannon

E-Mail: [rec55xp@outlook.com](mailto:rec55xp@outlook.com)

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Carol Zani, 1-6  
Debbie Lysik, 7 & 8  
Ken Lysik, 9 & 10

## PARISH CENTER

Maureen Belger, Manager

## ST. JOHN'S ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

For those that need a little help,  
please call: 508-435-3313x207

## SUNDAY MASSES:

Saturday 5:00 PM  
8:00 and 10:00 AM and 6:30 PM

## WEEKDAY MASSES:

Monday - Wednesday & Friday 9:00 AM  
No Mass on Thursday  
Saturday 8:00 AM

## HOLY DAY MASSES:

See inside bulletin for Holy Day Mass schedule

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

Second and fourth Sundays of the month at 12 Noon  
Please call for information.

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturday 8:30-9:15 AM in the lower church

## SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:

Arranged at least 6 months in advance.

## ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR

Brendan Kenney

## PARISH "NEWS" DEADLINE

All copy must be submitted in writing no later than  
Monday noon. (Holiday weeks may require a longer  
lead time.)



When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." - Lk 1:41-42

Readings for **NEXT Sunday, December 27, 2015:**  
Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/ Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10/ 1Jn 3:1-2, 21-24



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19**

5:00 PM Kathleen Knight

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20**

8:00 AM Parishioners of St. John  
10:00 AM Justine & Edward Murray  
6:30 PM Florence Dolan

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22**

9:00 AM Special Intention

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26**

8:00 AM All the Holy Souls in Purgatory  
5:00 PM Rev. Thomas F. Barry

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27**

8:00 AM Joseph Kulesza and Betty Ann Wales  
10:00 AM Parishioners of St. John  
6:30 PM Rev. Thomas F. Barry



**MONDAY, DECEMBER 21**

2:15 PM Grade 6  
4:15 PM Grades 3, 4 and 5

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22**

4:15 PM Grades 3, 4 and 5

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23—NO CLASSES**

**CHRISTMAS VACATION BEGINS DECEMBER 23**

**CLASSES WILL RESUME MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2016**

*Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament follows the 9AM Mass in the lower church every Friday, beginning with the Litany to our Blessed Mother. The **Chaplet of Divine Mercy** is recited at 11:45AM followed by **Benediction**. Please feel free to drop in for a visit.*

Please note: There will be **NO 9AM Mass THIS Wednesday, December 23.**

**Divine Mercy Prayer Group**

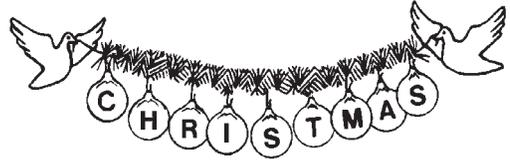
There will be a holy hour of Divine Mercy **every Monday from 6:30-7:30PM in the lower church**. All are welcomed.



Elizabeth Lawler  
June Ann White

**NO COFFEE HOUR THIS WEEKEND**

2nd collection **THIS** weekend  
Parish Upkeep and Debt Reduction



**HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE**

**CHRISTMAS EVE (Thurs. 12/24) 4PM (x2\*), 6PM & Midnight**

**CHRISTMAS DAY (Fri. 12/25) 8 & 10AM**

**MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (Thurs. 12/31) 5PM**

**MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (Fri. 1/1) 9AM**

*\*There will be 2 Masses offered at 4PM on Christmas Eve. One will be in the upper church and the other will be in the Parish Center.*



The Christmas collection supports the retirement, medical and financial needs of the priests of the Archdiocese of Boston.

**WEDNESDAY EVENING ROSARY**

On Wednesday evenings at **6PM in the lower chapel**, the rosary will be offered. This will be held every Wednesday evening throughout the year. Please feel free to come on down, and don't be afraid to let your children join in. Rosary booklets will be made available for those who need a refresher in this beautiful Marian devotion.

**Oops!**

Please excuse our database problems with the recent RENEW, RESTORE, REJOICE Campaign. Many of the letters included only the husband's name or only the wife's name. We are working to correct this issue with our database and update our records. Thank you for your understanding.

**FEAST OF ST. JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST**

During this, our celebration of our 150th year as a Parish, our Patronal Feast falls on a Sunday! On December 27, our Parish will celebrate the Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist. Typically, the Sunday following Christmas is the Feast of the Holy Family; however, because St. John is our patron, our Parish is able to elevate his feast to a Solemnity which outranks the Feast of the Holy Family. Look for more details in next week's bulletin.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated **THIS Monday, December 21, 6:30-7:30PM and NEXT Saturday, December 26, 8:30-9:15AM in the lower church**

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



### WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS

If you are new to the Parish, please introduce yourself. We want to know and serve you. We hope you will support your parish with your prayers, your presence and your talents. **Please call the Parish Office (435-3313x203) to register.**

### 150th Ornaments/Paper Weights

We will be selling 150th Anniversary paper weights and ornaments after Masses this weekend. The cost is \$20 for each. If you previously ordered an ornament, they are now available for pick up.

### Celebrating 150 Years as a Parish: Stories from Our Past

With the local invention of shoe pegs, followed by the steam-powered pegging machine, Hopkinton became a center of the boot and shoe industry. By 1850 Hopkinton could boast of eleven factories, grossing over a million dollars annually. Around the same time, the Irish, fleeing famine, arrived in thousands on our coast. Many were offered jobs in Hopkinton's factories. The town more than doubled in population, from 2,145 to 4,340, between 1840 and 1860. By 1872, around 2,000 Catholics were living in Hopkinton according to "The History of Middlesex County."



### The Giving Tree Global Mission Apostolate

The Giving Tree is a wonderful Advent tradition here at St. John's. This year's gifts will support the poor in Africa, Haiti, the Philippines, as well as the homeless here in Worcester. A document describing all the missions and gift designations is located on the table with the Giving Tree at the back of the church. Gifts may be brought through January 3rd. Gifts for The Mustard Seed are preferred by Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup> to allow for delivery before Christmas, although donations will still be happily accepted after that time.

### A BRAND NEW JESSE TREE

*"...a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse,  
and from its roots a bud shall blossom." Isaiah 11:1*

Thank you so much to Chris Taylor, who handcrafted a wooden tree, and the sixth grade students and their teachers who researched scripture passages from the bible to make ornaments that decorated the bare branches in order to create the "family tree of Jesus." Be sure to take notice of it when you're in the Parish Center.



### Middle School Youth Group (Gr. 6-8)

Watch the bulletin for upcoming events.

### High School Youth Group (Gr. 9-12)

**Thursday, Jan. 14, Sign-up Night for Mission Trip to Appalachia, West Virginia, 7PM in the Parish Center**  
Bring completed paperwork and deposit of \$200. Contact Jen Fairbanks (kenzkyle@verizon.net) if you have any questions.

**Save the date: Sat., Jan 9:** Skating at Frog Pond in Boston and sock drive for the homeless. More info to come.



### FIRST RECONCILIATION

Please pray for the children, their families and their catechists who are preparing for their first confession in January.



### Our Three Kings Celebration

You are all invited to come and join us during the **10AM Mass on Sunday, January 3, 2016**, as we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. Our religious education students, Quinn, Joey, Jack, and Danny have been preparing for their roles as either kings, shepherd or understudy. We want to thank them and their parents for their time and effort.

### Child Advocacy (CAP) Training Date

A one-time child advocacy and protection training by Virtus is mandatory for all parish paid staff and volunteers that work with children and/or visit the sick. If you need, or are interested in attending a CAP training, please register for one of the following: **Saturday, January 9, 9AM-12Noon or Thursday, January 14, 6-9PM.** All trainings will be held in the Parish Center, Room 3. To register, please contact Tom Hermanowski at 508-435-0578 or email [thermanowski@comcast.net](mailto:thermanowski@comcast.net).

### FREE COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

**THIS Sunday, December 20, at 3PM**

Featuring Southeastern Massachusetts Community Concert Band and St. John's Children's Choir at St. John's Parish Center. You may bring a donation of hats and mittens for toddlers or new in-package underwear for all children's ages to benefit Project Just Because. Everyone is welcome, especially families and little ones.

2016 Calendars are available at the back of the church

**DECEMBER 20, 2015**

Today we have two mothers meeting; they are related, and one carries in her womb John the Baptist and the other woman, Mary, carries in her womb Jesus. The Gospel account says that John, who would cry out in the desert the message that everyone needs to "prepare the way of the Lord," leapt with joy in the womb of his mother upon hearing Mary's greeting. John's message in the desert is the message that we all need to heed as we get closer to the Christmas celebration. May our faith leap with joy at the chance to proclaim our Lord and to prepare the way!

### **CHRISTMAS FLOWERS**

For those parishioners on our offertory envelope system, you will notice a Flower Offering envelope in your packet. (Flower envelopes are also available at the rear of the church.) These envelopes provide an opportunity to donate to the flower costs and other altar supplies during the upcoming Advent and Christmas Seasons. These donations can be made in memory of loved ones. They can be put in the regular collection or sent in to the office anytime between now and Christmas. Thank you.



### **Nativity of the Lord**

"And we saw his glory." Never before or since, in the entire course of human history, have men and women been able to gaze upon the face of God. But for a brief moment in time, God "became flesh and made his dwelling among us." This is the remarkable event we celebrate today. At that first Christmas some two thousand years ago, the glory of God was revealed through the face of a child. As a tiny, helpless creature, completely dependent upon his mother to sustain him, this humble little baby came into the world. Yet this infant was "the only Son, God, who is at the Father's side." Why is it that the eternal majesty of the triune God should choose to appear in such a simple way? How does this humility reveal what St. Paul calls today, "the refulgence of [God's] glory, the very imprint of his being"? Today we celebrate a holy day that is unlike any other. Indeed we celebrate a BELIEF that is unlike any other when we proclaim, as Christians, that God became man and walked in our midst. No other major world religion makes such an astonishing claim. And with this comes our unique understanding of the humble nature of God. We believe in a God whose glory is not the glory of the world. His majesty is not like that of earthly kings and rulers. Rather, we believe in a Heavenly Father who loves his little children enough to live among them. This Father takes joy in the joy of his children. Jesus once remarked that just as we desire to give good gifts to our children, "how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask him" (Mt 7:11). This Christmas, may we remember that the greatest gift is Christ himself.