

St. John the Evangelist



Established 1866

**20 Church Street
Hopkinton, MA 01748**

**Telephone: 508-435-3313
for all parish offices**

Fax: 508-435-5651

E-Mail: stjohnshopkinton@verizon.net

Web Page:

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
508-435-3313x201
rec55xp@outlook.com

DEACON

Deacon Anthony C. Sicuso
508-435-3313x206

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

PARISH CENTER

Maureen Belger, Manager
508-435-3313x210
parishhallstjn@gmail.com

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
bkenney@stjohnhopkinton.com
508-435-3313x214

PARISH "NEWS" DEADLINE

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

ST. JOHN'S ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

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



NO COFFEE HOUR TODAY



Every Christmas, we join with family and friends to honor and thank our priests. Our priests share Christ's good news, joyfully perform good works, and build strong communities of good faith. Remember priests who have made a meaningful difference in your life and consider honoring them with a gift to the Christmas collection. Thank you for your prayerful and generous support of our priests.

The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, 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. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." - Lk 2:10-12

Grand Annual Update

Thank you to the 125 families who have already made contributions totaling over \$35,000. Your continued support of St. John's is greatly appreciated!

Readings for **NEXT Sunday, January 1, 2016:**
Nm 6:22-27/ Ps 67/ Gal 4:4-7/ Lk 2:16-21

150th Anniversary Commemorative Book

The long-awaited books have arrived. They are available at the rear of the church or at the Parish Office. There is no charge. We ask that only one book be taken by each family. Thank you and enjoy.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

12:00 AM Parishioners of St. John

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26

9:00 AM All the Holy Souls in Purgatory

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27

9:00 AM All the Holy Souls in Purgatory

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28

9:00 AM Special Intention

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30

9:00 AM Todd Carey

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

5:00 PM Clarence MacLaine

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

8:00 AM Parishioners of St. John



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES WILL RESUME ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2017.

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.

Winter Weather Notice: Please note that if Hopkinton schools are canceled or delayed due to the weather, there will be no morning daily Mass.

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.

YEAR OUT...YEAR IN

Come join us here at St. John's in the lower church on Saturday, **December 31st, from 11PM to Sunday, January 1st, at 1AM** to thank our Father for His many graces, blessings and constant love on us throughout 2016, and for our Father's continued love, strength and nearness to us in 2017. *Most blessed Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we the people of Saint John the Evangelist Church, entrust our families, our young and old, our needs and concerns, our sick and dying, and all our brothers and sisters in Purgatory to Your Divine Will. With great confidence we give ourselves to Your most Holy Will which is Love and Mercy Itself. Amen.* Sponsored by the Divine Mercy Prayer Group.

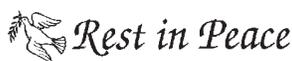
Divine Mercy Prayer Group

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

150th Anniversary Ornaments

There are still a few of St. John's 150th Anniversary Christmas ornaments left for sale. The cost is \$20 and they are available from the parish office or the religious education office.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated 8:30-9:15AM in the lower church NEXT Saturday, December 31.



Paul J. DeMarco

NATIVITY OF THE LORD



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.**



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 1st.

Archdiocesan Pastoral Planning

You may be wondering about the Archdiocesan pastoral planning process and how it involves St. John's. The Archdiocese, in an effort to maximize the effectiveness of a limited number of priests, has developed a pastoral planning effort titled "Disciples in Mission" which it began to implement in 2012. **This plan is not about closing parishes**, it is about clergy staffing issues and evangelization. Most parishes will team with one or two other parishes to form an administrative group called a collaborative. Each parish in the collaborative will remain a parish and so retain its own canonical status and financial assets. Each parish will remain its own independent financial unit. One pastor will be assigned to each collaborative. The planning efforts will be spread out over seven phases, with each phase taking about a year to implement. This year has seen the implementation of the third phase of "Disciples in Mission." To date of about 300 parishes or so in the Archdiocese, the planning effort has involved 33 collaboratives and 72 parishes. St. John's will eventually become a collaborative with St. Cecilia's in Ashland. At this time St. John's and St. Cecilia's have not been assigned to a particular phase, but the implementation of our collaborative should be sometime within the next five years. **Neither St. John's nor St. Cecilia's will be closing.** "Disciples in Mission" has its own website: disciplesinmission.com for those who would like further information. We will keep you posted on any updates from the Archdiocese in regards to their planning efforts.

PARISH NEED

Do you have a gently used or know of a gently used truck for sale or donation? It is time to retire our parish truck as it has more than 140,000 miles, is over 16 years old and will not pass its upcoming inspection. Please contact the parish office with any information (508-435-3313x203).

2017 Calendars are available at the back of the church



Middle School Youth Group

Stay tuned for upcoming events.

High School Youth Group

Service & Skating, Saturday, January 7, 12:30-7PM

Join the High School Youth Group as we travel to Boston Common to hand out "blessing bags" to the homeless, followed by skating at City Plaza and dinner at Faneuil Hall. See St. John's website to sign up by January 4. (stjohnshopkinton@verizon.net) click on Youth Ministry. Adult drivers needed. (stjohnnythmin@gmail.com)

Thursday, January 12, Sign-up Night for Mission Trip to the Adirondacks in Warrensburg, N.Y.

7PM in the Parish Center. Bring completed paperwork and deposit of \$200. If you have any questions, feel free to email stjohnnythmin@gmail.com.

Donations Needed!!!

For the month of December a box for donations of adult new socks and gloves will be in the Parish Center. The high school youth group will travel to Boston Common to hand out blessing bags to Boston's homeless on Saturday, January 7. If you can help please leave your items in the box in the Parish Center. Thank you for your generosity.



PARENTS!

If your child(ren) attends class Sunday mornings, you may want to stay for our parent session on the history of the Catholic Faithful In America with a focus on the history of our own St. John's Parish. The sessions are only 20 minutes, 9:10-9:30 AM, and will be offered until March. Even if you don't have anyone attending class at that time you are most welcome to join us in the Parish Hall. The next session is January 22.

An Invitation

Sunday, January 8, at the 10AM Mass, students in grade 4 and their catechists will be at Mass to greet you, offer the gifts, join the choir in a song and wish you farewell. We hope fourth grade students and their families will attend this Mass to participate.



Christmas Lights 2016

Our Lady of Fatima Shrine in Holliston

This year's lighting display includes some 100 elegantly decorated devotional and seasonal fixtures over a compact parcel of the Shrine's grounds. This year's lighting display will be particularly appealing to families. Admission to the Shrine is free and the lighting display will continue every day **through December 29**. Open daily from 5-9PM. Cookies and hot chocolate are served in the Shrine Hall.

DECEMBER 25, 2016

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

"She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Today we celebrate that the prophetic dream of St. Joseph was fulfilled! Jesus is born! A Savior has come to deliver us-- Emmanuel, "God is with us." Christmas is a feast of fulfillment, a holiday of deep and enduring happiness not only because God became man and was born of a woman, but because along with his Incarnation, God brought us freedom. Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah who sets us free from the misery of our own sins. This is the ultimate gift of Christmas Day. We exchange gifts today as a sign of our love for one another to be sure, but also as a concrete, visible way to celebrate the gift that we have first received from God. We are free people! We are not slaves but rather the children of God whose priceless inheritance is to dwell in his kingdom for all eternity. On this most festive day of the year, we are invited to exult in this fact and spare little effort or expense to show our gratitude and joy. We only must be careful not to reduce our celebrating today to something less glorious, something less meaningful, or less profound. This is no mere secular holiday. This is not just a ritual of family gatherings, elaborate evergreen trees and sumptuous meals. Christmas is a holy day and as Christians it is our day in a most definite and undeniable way. The treats and trimmings are all signs that remind us of what lies ahead for those who accept the real gift of Jesus Christ: an unending banquet of eternal delights and divine gifts that will never fail to satisfy. Yes, Christmas is a little taste of heaven, the perfect gift that lies in wait for those who love the Lord.

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 parish office anytime between now and Christmas. Thank you.



***Fr. Cannon and the entire staff
here at St. John's
wish you all
a very Merry Christmas!***