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Mary Immaculate of Lourdes Parish

270 Elliot Street

Newton, MA 02464

Parish Staff

TO CONTACT THE PARISH BY E-MAIL:

miolpastor@gmail.com

PASTOR: FATHER CHARLES JEREMIAH HIGGINS

PAROCHIAL VICAR: FATHER STEPHEN LEBLANC

VISITING ASSISTANT PRIESTS: FR. JUAN CARLOS RIVERA

CASTRO, S.J., FR. DESIRE SALAKO, S.M.A.

BUSINESS MANAGER: SHARON HOGAN

PARISH & CEMETERY SECRETARY: MARGIE BIBBO

SUNDAY SACRISTAN: FRANCIS GALLAGHER

WEEKDAY SACRISTAN: JACK MONBOUQUETTE

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: JEAN JOHNSON (DIRECTOR)

PATTI STROM (LATIN MASS CHILDREN'S CATECHISM)

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: MRS. BOBBIE HOFFMANN

Telephones

Parish Office: 617-244-0558 / FAX 617-965-4815

WEBSITE ADDRESS:

www.maryimmaculateoflourdesnewtonma.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/miolnewton



Parish Cemetery of Saint Mary's, Needham GUARDIAN ESTATE MANAGEMENT INC.

Mr. Ron Goguen,

Superintendent .

Guardian Staff on-site for service hours Mon.-Fri.,
9 AM—3 PM, April through November.

The Cemetery Office is located at the parish
rectory on 270 Elliot St, Newton Upper Falls and is
open Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Telephone: 781-235-1841

saintmaryscemetery.org

Mass Schedule

Sunday:

Novus Ordo

4:00 P. M. (*Saturday Vigil*), 7:30 & 9:00 A. M.

Traditional Latin

11:00 A.M. & 5:30 P.M.

Weekdays:

Novus Ordo

Mon-Tue-Thu-Fri 7:30 A. M.

Traditional Latin

Mon-Wed-Fri 12:30 PM; Thu 5:30 P. M.

Sat 9:00 A. M.

Holy Days

*Ascension Thursday (40 days after Easter);
Assumption of Our Lady (August 15th); All
Saints Day (November 1st); December 8th
(Immaculate Conception of Our Lady)*

If falling on Mon-Fri—

Novus Ordo, 7:30 A. M. & 5:30 P. M.

Traditional Latin, 12:30 & 7:30 P. M.

If falling on Saturday—

Novus Ordo, 7:30 A.M.

Traditional Latin, 9:00 & 11:00 A. M.

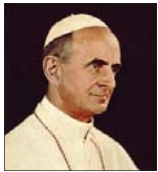
(Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and
January 1st, as announced)

ABOUT OUR PARISH

Welcome, New Parishioners and Sunday Visitors:

Mary Immaculate of Lourdes Parish is a canonically open parish of the Archdiocese of Boston, which has a Traditional Latin Mass apostolate. Both the ordinary form of the Roman Rite (1970 Missal) and the extraordinary form (1962 Missal) are celebrated here with the blessing of His Eminence Sean Cardinal O'Malley, Archbishop of Boston. We encourage new parishioners to please register in the parish and to introduce yourselves to the Pastor. We are always glad to welcome Sunday visitors here to our beautiful, historic church. We look forward to your coming again.

**PLEASE TAKE THE TIME
TO FILL OUT A PARISH
REGISTRATION FORM.**



Parish Mission Statement

“What then is a parish? It is the smallest section of the one universal flock which has been entrusted to Peter by the Lord.

Under the authority of a responsible priest who has received the care of souls from his bishop, the parish is, within the Church of Jesus Christ, the first community of Christian life; it is a community cut to human dimensions, in which the shepherd can know his flock and the flock can know their shepherd ... At the heart of this area, we find the parish church with its bell-tower, its baptistery, its confessional, its altar and tabernacle, a symbol of unity and the centre of community life.”

**(Pope Saint Paul VI, reigned 1964-1978)
Raised to the Altars October 14th, 2018**

Mary Immaculate of Lourdes (Formerly St. Mary's Parish, 1870-1910) Newton/Needham, Massachusetts Newton & Needham's Oldest Roman Catholic Parish

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM: The Sacrament of Baptism for infants and children under 7 years of age is scheduled upon request. Please contact the Parish Office (617-244-0558) to request a date.

PENANCE: Confessions regularly heard—
SUNDAY, 10:00-11:00 A.M., 5:00-5:30 P. M.
MONDAY-WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY, before and after the 12:30 P. M. Mass.
THURSDAY, before and after the 5:30 P.M. Mass.
SATURDAY, 8:00-9:00 A. M./ 3:30-4:00 P. M.

MATRIMONY: Engaged couples should make arrangements with the parish church so as to allow for adequate sacramental preparation (six months), including a Pre-Cana program.

Pastoral Care of the Sick

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK, also known as
EXTREME UNCTION

Communion of the Sick for the Homebound

Please contact Father Higgins at the Parish Office (617-244-0558)



**“GRATITUDE IS THE THING
THAT BRINGS US THE MOST
GRACE...I HAVE LEARNT THIS
FROM EXPERIENCE; TRY IT
AND YOU WILL SEE. I AM
CONTENT WITH WHATEVER
GOD GIVES ME, AND I SHOW HIM THIS
IN A THOUSAND LITTLE WAYS.”—ST.
THERESE OF LISIEUX (+1897)**

Pastor's Note



Fr. Higgins

THE HERBS OF THE MANGER

Recently a friend of mine shared with me this beautiful *Legend* she had read regarding the herbs and plants of Christ's Nativity. I hope that you find it interesting too.

LEGEND OF MANGER HERB PLANTS

(Several Christmases ago, I wrote an article about the plants of the manger. I still get asked about it, so here it is again. Hope you enjoy it.)

Herb plants of the manger, or Nativity, are not often written about or talked about, even though there was vegetation all around the Bethlehem area, including in Jesus' birth stable.

*My favorite legends tell of lady's bedstraw (*gallium verum*), pennyroyal (*mentha pulegium*), horehound (*marrubium vulgare*), thyme (*thymus vulgaris*), rosemary (*rosmarinus officinalis*) and lavender (*lavendulan agustifolia*) as the herbs of the manger.*

Legend tells us that while Mary rested, Joseph gathered herbs and grasses to line the manger. Among his gatherings was bedstraw, a common stable plant easily found in fields and along roadsides. Farmers fed it to their milk cows to sweeten the milk. It was also used to stuff mattresses and pillows.

Legend points out that it was nothing more than a common weed with white flowers that had no fragrance. However, when the baby Jesus' head touched the lowly weed it was forever changed. The flowers turned to a golden yellow color, and instantly the foliage had a sweet fresh scent.

Pennyroyal is another plant that Joseph is thought to have gathered for the manger bed. It was considered a weed that was

low-growing and did not bloom.

According to legend, Joseph picked it to line the manger because of its minty smell. The little herb burst into bloom at the moment of Jesus' birth and since then, has bloomed a bright purple flower—the color of royalty. It's believed that the scents of these flowering herbs were pleasing to Mary, Joseph and Jesus.

Among the herbs Joseph gathered was horehound, with its soft and velvety leaves. It was believed to have healing powers, but also meant sorrows were to come. It was one of the bitter herbs placed on the Passover tables to commemorate the Jewish exodus from Egypt. Horehound is thought to have symbolized Jesus' roots and foreshadowed a future betrayal.

It's said that Mary wept when she found the horehound among the manger plants. Supposedly, she tried to remove the herbs, but it was too tightly woven among the other plants and her efforts were unsuccessful. As she picked through the plants, she also found thyme, a symbol of courage and endurance.

Two other herbs of the manger that were to later have a role in this story were lavender and rosemary. When Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus fled Bethlehem to escape King Herod's orders, they ran through a thick field with rosemary to escape the murderous soldiers.

As they made their way through the dense vegetation, legend says that other shrubs crackled and whispered as the family ran through them and tangled their feet. But rosemary shrubs silently parted, then closed the path behind them, preventing soldiers from seeing them.

Being a grateful mother, Mary offered a blessing and spread her cloak over a rosemary shrub. Instantly, the pale flowers were turned to a heavenly blue color.

Once the family was safely beyond Herod's reach, Joseph and Mary stopped to rest beside a stream. While the baby Jesus slept, Mary

rinsed her cloak and Jesus' clothing in the stream. She then laid the laundry on two shrubs to dry. Both shrubs, lavender and rosemary, were so honored to serve the family that they both stood tall and gave off a fragrance that penetrated and remained in the fabrics the family wore. Again, Mary blessed them, and to this day the plants have a sweet fragrance.

Even today, rosemary is used indoors to freshen the air and to add a holiday scent to rooms. Some families add it to their Advent wreaths as it is still thought to bring good luck throughout the year.

For all you herb gardeners, take a walk through your herb garden this Christmas Eve. Listen closely, and maybe you'll hear the plants whispering a Christmas blessing to you and your loved ones.

Until next time, let's try to garden with nature, not against it, and maybe all our weeds will become wildflowers.

(by Laurie Garretson, a Victoria, Texas, gardener and nursery owner)



+Angelo Christopher
Edward Nicoloro

Born, December 12th, 2019
Our Lady of Guadalupe
Born again in Baptism in the Octave
of Christmas, 2019.
Born to Eternal Life,
June 19th, 2021



“IF YOU ARE WILLING TO SERENELY BEAR THE TRIAL OF BEING DISPLEASING TO YOURSELF, THEN YOU WILL BE FOR JESUS A PLEASANT PLACE OF SHELTER.”—ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX (+1897)



SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS FOR THE SUPPORT
OF OUR PARISH AND THE WIDER CHURCH MISSION
*“What return can I make to the Lord for all His
kindness to Me?”*

**SUNDAY OFFERTORY FOR SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 29th, 2021: \$6,302.00 + OTHER
OFFERINGS: \$1,565.00 = \$7,867.00**

**CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY
COLLECTION: “CLERGY FUNDS” FOR THE
SUPPORT OF THE SICK AND RETIRED
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BOSTON**



“Glorify the Lord generously, and do not stint the first fruits of your hands. With every gift show a cheerful face, and dedicate your tithe with gladness. Give to the Most High as He has given, and as generously as your hand has found. For the LORD is the One who repays, and He will repay you sevenfold.”—Sirach 35

Christmas & Epiphany at
Mary Immaculate of Lourdes
2021-2022

SCHEDULE OF MASSES for
CHRISTMAS EVE/CHRISTMAS DAY
(December 24th-25th)

THERE WILL BE NO MASS ON DECEMBER
24th until the CHRISTMAS EVE MASS at 4 PM.

CHRISTMAS EVE, FRIDAY,
DECEMBER 24th, 2021:
4:00 PM (Novus Ordo)

12 Midnight (Traditional Latin)
MIDNIGHT MASS

CHRISTMAS DAY, SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 25th, 2021:

7:30 & 9:00 AM (Novus Ordo)
11:00 AM (Traditional Latin)

NO 4 PM or 5:30 PM Mass on Christmas Day

SECOND DAY OF CHRISTMAS
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26th, 2021:

7:30 & 9:00 AM (Novus Ordo)
11:00 AM (Traditional Latin)
5:30 pm (Traditional Latin)

OCTAVE DAY OF CHRISTMAS
SATURDAY, JANUARY 1st, 2022:

7:30 & 9:00 AM (Novus Ordo)
11:00 AM (Traditional Latin)

NINTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS
SUNDAY, JANUARY 2nd, 2022:

EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD
(transferred)

4:00 PM (Saturday Vigil), 7:30 & 9:00 AM
(Novus Ordo)

*FEAST OF THE HOLY NAME OF
JESUS*

11:00 AM & 5:30 PM (Traditional Latin)
THURSDAY, JANUARY 6th, 2022
EPIPHANY MASS, 7:30 PM

Saints' Feasts this Week

St. Lucy's Day, December 13th
(In Nordic countries, there is the
traditional custom of a young girl in
the family wearing a "St. Lucy's Crown"
of lighted candles as she serves
breakfast.)



ROMAN STATIONAL
CHURCH

*THIRD SUNDAY IN
THE ADVENT OF THE
LORD: ST. PETER'S
BASILICA*

"Today's stational church is
the burial place of the Prince
of the Apostles,
St. Peter...The

Introit ["Gaudete"] fulfills its
purpose perfectly, i.e., it sets
the tone for the Mass and for the day: *'Rejoice in
the Lord; again I say, rejoice. For the Lord is near!'*
With these words the Church greets us as we
enter. Again, it is a double-coming that we
joyfully await—Christ's coming in the flesh
and His coming in glory, both of which are
fulfilled at Mass. In response to these glad
tidings, we sing Psalm 84, the 'Psalm of
Redemption' (used three times
today—at the Introit, Offertory, Communion—
the three processions.)

—Dr. Pius Parsch, *The Church's Year of Grace,*
Volume I, "First Sunday of Advent" (A.D. 1957)

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For information, call the cemetery staff at Mary Immaculate of Lourdes Church at 781-235-1841.

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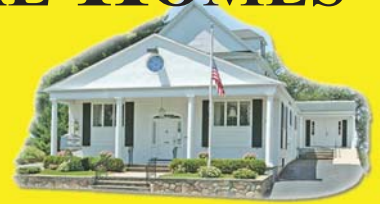
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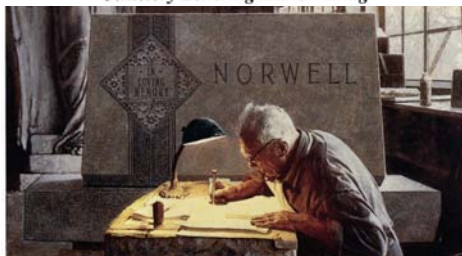
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