

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

LET THE
PEACE OF CHRIST
CONTROL YOUR HEARTS

— COLOSSIANS 3:15 —



**Veronica Parish, a publication of
St. Malachy
& St. Margaret Churches
December 28, 2025**

The *Spirit* of Christmas

Christmas is upon us once again. One of my favorite stories happens to be a Christmas tale. It's one that most of you are probably familiar with - it's "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens. I like the story because it captures very well the essence of what Christmas is supposed to be about and, in many ways, expresses the true meaning of Christmas.

The main character, Ebenezer Scrooge, begins the story as an embittered and lonely old man who has no use for other people. He has accumulated a lot of wealth, but he doesn't do anything with it. All the money he has brings him no joy in life. Then, on Christmas Eve, through the intervention of three spirits, Scrooge becomes a changed man.

The Ghost of Christmas Past takes Scrooge back to a time when he was a vital and idealistic young man. He puts Scrooge in touch, once again, with the person he used to be and with some people, now gone, who made him happy.

The Ghost of Christmas Present puts him in touch with the poverty and suffering of his fellow man. But, it also shows him that material poverty does not necessarily result in spiritual poverty. Scrooge is taken to the home of his employee, Bob Cratchit, with his large family. He sees that, in spite of the fact that they have very little in the way of material wealth, they are a loving family filled with the hope and joy of Christmas.



The Ghost of Christmas Yet To Come shows Scrooge what people really think of him and what will happen if he does not change his ways.

As a result of all this, Scrooge experiences a true conversion – a true change of heart. He lives the rest of his days reaching out to others and ends them as one who is well loved by those who knew him.

It's a very heart-warming story. But, more than that – it's a great metaphor for the true meaning of Christmas; a great example of the reason why God became a human being, came to Earth, and walked among us.

The real spirit of Christmas involves primarily two things. First, there is the gift – the great gift that God gave us on that first Christmas Day – the gift of himself. St. John says this in the opening to his Gospel: "*And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.*" The Creator becoming one of His creations; humbling himself, making himself subject to His creation. Why? Because He loves us; because He wanted to give us hope for our own future by telling us of His plans for us and because He wanted to personally show us the way to that future.

The second aspect of the spirit of Christmas is the idea of transformation and conversion of heart. God does not simply seek to dwell with us; He wants to dwell within us. He has offered Himself to us as a gift. He wants us to accept that gift by receiving Him within our hearts. And, in doing so, to experience true conversion. That means seeking a relationship with him and making that relationship the number one priority in our lives; living our lives as true disciples of Jesus Christ.

That's not an easy thing to do. It means opening ourselves to God's word through prayer, self-examination and meditation. And, once having heard that word, it takes trust, humility, and self-discipline to live our lives in obedience to it.

But, for those who do, he holds out another great gift – the hope of eternal life and happiness with him.



That's why I like Charles Dickens' tale – because that's what happened to Scrooge. The three spirits offered him a gift. He accepted that gift, and in doing so, experienced a conversion of heart that made him a changed man. He was renewed. That renewal brought great joy to him and those around him.

That's what the coming of Jesus Christ should mean to us, as well. If we would only take him to heart, then we, too, will be converted; we, too, will be renewed. We, too, will experience the great joy, both in this life and the next, that renewal will bring.

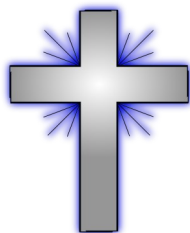
And, so, this Christmas, I encourage you to reflect on that as you go forward and especially in the new year. Consider -- Have you really accepted the gift that God has offered you? Have you truly received Jesus to dwell in your heart? Are you genuinely open to living your life as his disciple? Are you ready to join him in living the great mystery of our Catholic faith?

It's why he came to us. The Word of God has been borne as human flesh and blood. A wise man once said: "What use is it to us if Christ be borne in Bethlehem, but not in our own hearts?"

Christ came to transform the world. That was the reason for the first Christmas. I encourage you to receive him into your heart this Christmas and let him transform you and experience the real joy of Christmas, as it was meant to be experienced, all year long.

Merry Christmas!

Deacon Dick



THE PRAYER HOPE LINE: 781-273-HOPE (4673)

Are you or someone you know in need of a prayer? Do you know someone who is ill or perhaps suffering with an emotional problem? Give a call to the **Prayer Hope Line at 781-273-4673**. When you call, listen to the prayer and then state your personal request, for example: 'Kindly pray for John who has cancer' or 'Pray for Mary who is having surgery', etc. Please do not leave full names or phone numbers on the Prayer Hope Line. Members of the Catholic parish communities in Burlington will be honored to include your intentions in their prayers.

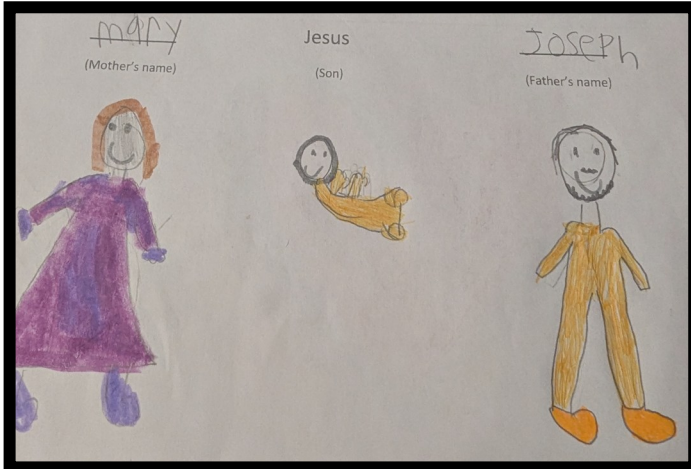
Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. (Colossians 4:2)

READINGS, SAINTS, OBSERVANCES 2025

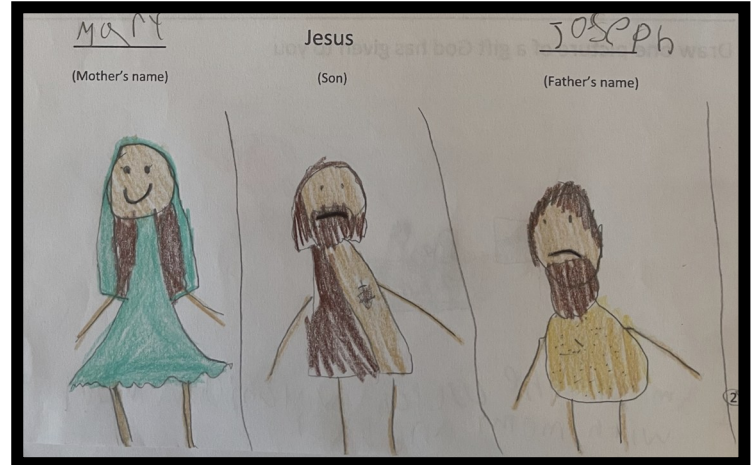
SUNDAY Dec 28	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23
MONDAY Dec 29	Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35
TUESDAY Dec 30	Sixth Day in the Octave of Christmas 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40
WEDNESDAY Dec 31	Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas Saint Sylvester I, Pope 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18
THURSDAY Jan 1, 2026	Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord Num 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6+8/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
FRIDAY Jan 2	Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28
SATURDAY Jan 3	Most Holy Name of Jesus 1 Jn 2:29-3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34
SUNDAY Jan 4	Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/Eph 3:2-3, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

"As a Roman Catholic faith community, we seek to follow the example of St. Veronica who carried the image of Christ always with her. Through fellowship, service and acts of mercy we walk as disciples in Christ's mission together seeking an ever-deeper relationship with God through prayer, education, sacraments, and the celebration of the Eucharist."

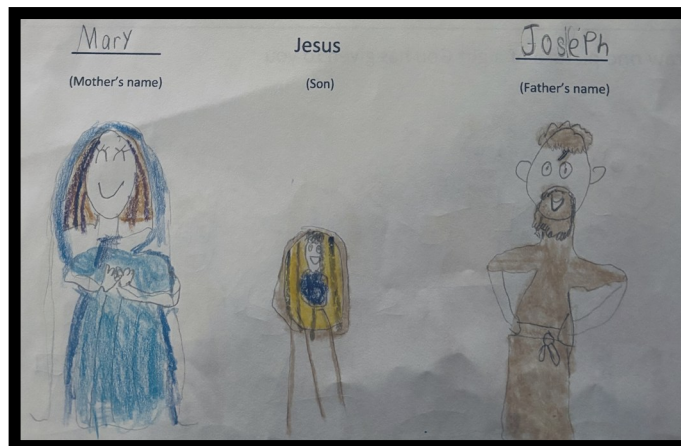
Here is some more art work created by our 2nd Grade students.



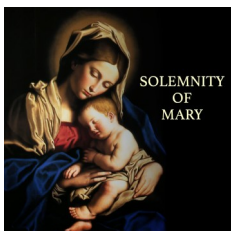
By: Isabelle



By: Nora



By: Abigail



**SOLEMNITY OF MARY
JANUARY 1
(HOLY DAY OF
OBLIGATION)**

**9:00 am St. Margaret Church
7:00pm St. Malachy Church**



"Welcome to St Veronica Parish. Here we are all invited to grow in our relationship with God and to know God's presence through faith, hope, love and ministry."

MASS Intentions

Saturday, December 27

9:00 am **St Margaret, (Communion Service)**
John Clemens 4th Anniversary

4:00 pm **St. Malachy**
Anna Vahey Memorial

4:30 pm **St. Margaret**
Anna, Peter, Don & Joan DiRienzo Memorial

Sunday, December 28

8:00 am **St. Margaret**
Natalina Presti Birthday Memorial

10:00 am **St. Malachy**
Francis Smith Memorial

12:00 pm **St. Margaret**
Anibal Castro Memorial

Monday, December 29

9:00 am **St. Malachy**
Dave Fitzgerald 1st Anniversary

Tuesday, December 30, (Communion Service)

9:00 am **St. Margaret**
Patrick & Mary Sullivan
and Michael & Mary Reilly Memorial

Wednesday, December 31, (Communion Service)

9:00 am **St Malachy Church**

Thursday, January 1

SOLEMNITY OF MARY
St Margaret Church
9:00am
St Malachy Church
7:00pm

Friday, January 2

9:00 am **St. Malachy**
For All of The Souls in Purgatory

Saturday, January 3

9:00 am **St Margaret, (Communion Service)**
Don & Derek Dignan Memorial

4:00 pm **St. Malachy**
Bill Lanagan Birthday Memorial


4:30 pm **St. Margaret**
Sophie Zullo Memorial
Harvey Goodwin 13th Anniversary
Special Intention

Sunday, January 4

8:00 am **St. Margaret**
Al Fay 2nd Anniversary

10:00 am **St. Malachy**
Giuseppe Albanese Birthday Memorial

12:00 pm **St. Margaret**
The Kelley, Queenan, Soule
& Maguire Families Memorial



FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

We celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph on the first Sunday after Christmas! This feast day is a reminder to us of the example Mary and Joseph set for all of us in welcoming Jesus into their lives. The Holy Family serves as a model for us all in which to live in faith and simplicity.

Our offices will be closed Wednesday December 31 and Thursday, January 1. The Staff and Clergy of St. Veronica Parish wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year!!

2026

ST VERONICA PARISH FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Due to an early submission deadline, no financial amounts are available for the following dates: December 20th, 21st, 24th and 25th. They will be printed in a future bulletin.



Mark your calendars for our January gathering (weather permitting): **Thursday, January 15, 2026 at 6:30pm at St. Malachy's Parish Hall.** If you joined us for the December gathering, it was a really great turnout and time, celebrating the Christmas season together! Thanks to David Hanafin for his wisdom and wit. Merry Christmas, and see you in the new year!

For those wishing to send **Fr. Mahoney** a card, the address is:

Rev. James Mahoney
Guest House
1601 Jocelyn Rd.
Lake Orion, MI. 48360

Cards for **Fr. Conroy** can be sent to:

Rev. Francis Conroy
Regina Cleri
60 William Cardinal O'Connell Way

PROCEDURE FOR RECEIVING LOW GLUTEN EUCHARIST

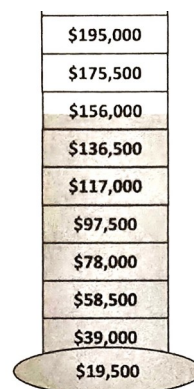
Congregants requesting low gluten hosts are NO LONGER required to stop into the Sacristy before Mass. Instead, you are invited to come to the altar during the Lamb of God and are asked to stand on the opposite side of the altar from the Eucharistic Ministers to receive the low gluten eucharist before common distribution begins.

GRAND ANNUAL COLLECTION

If you have not contributed to our Grand Annual collection there is still time. Please make your checks out to St. Veronica Parish or go on our website to donate online. www.stveronicama.org

Campaign Statistics as of 12/9/2025

Total # of Households:	2,658
Total # Pledged:	394
Total Amount Pledged	\$154,992.00
Total Amount Paid:	\$150,507.00
Average Pledge:	\$393.38
% of Pledges Collected:	97.11%
% of Participation:	14.82%



← To date 394 of our 2,658 families
(14.82%) have pledged
\$154,992.00
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

IT'S TIME FOR BINGO!!

On January 4th & 18th St. Vincent de Paul of Woburn is hosting BINGO at The Moose Lodge, 4 Federal Street, Woburn. Doors open at 12:30pm.

PRAYER SHAWLS AVAILABLE

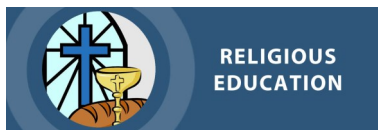
Is there someone special you've been holding in prayer? Perhaps a friend facing illness or surgery, a parishioner who has lost a loved one, or a neighbor who is going through a difficult time or is home bound?

Our ministry knits and crochets beautiful shawls to be given to *anyone* who could use a special reminder of the warmth and comfort of God's love. Every shawl is unique and colorful, stitched with prayers and blessings for the future recipient with following prayer enclosed.

*"May the one who receives this shawl be
cradled in hope, kept in joy,
graced with peace, and wrapped in love."*

Please call either rectory if you have someone you would like to receive this beautiful gift.

(Donations appreciated.)



GRADES 1, 3-5 SCHEDULE

Family of Faith Gatherings.

3/22 - Penance Service at 6:00pm at St. Malachy Church

4/3 - Live Stations of The Cross at 3:30pm at St. Malachy

GRADE 2

First Reconciliation Retreat: 1/25 1:30pm - 4:00pm at St. Margaret School Building

First Reconciliation Ceremonies:

1/31 - at 12:00 at St. Margaret Church

2/7 - at 12:00pm at St. Malachy Church

First Communion Retreat: 4/12 - 1:30pm - 4:00pm at St. Margaret School Building

First Holy Communion Rehearsal: 5/1 - 7:00pm at St. Margaret Church

First Holy Communion Mass: 5/2 - 12:00pm at St. Margaret Church

First Holy Communion Rehearsal: 5/15 - 7:00pm at St. Malachy Church

First Holy Communion Mass: 5/16 - 12:00pm at St. Malachy Church

GRADES 6 & 7

MONDAY

7:00pm – 8:00pm

1/26

2/2 & 9

3/2

WEDNESDAY

2:00pm - 3:30pm

1/28

2/4 & 11

3/4

Lenten Penance Service: 3/22 at 6:00pm at St. Malachy Church

Live Stations of The Cross: Good Friday, 4/3 at 3:30pm at St. Malachy Church

CONFIRMATION: GRADES 8 & 9

MONDAY

7:00pm – 8:00pm

1/26

2/2 & 9

3/2

WEDNESDAY

2:00pm - 3:30pm

1/28

2/4 & 11

3/4

**CONFIRMATION WILL BE MAY 19, 2026
AT ST. MARGARET CHURCH**

GRADE 8 AT 5:00PM

GRADE 9 AT 7:00PM

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM FOR GRADES 10-12

1/11/2026 Our Father/Nicene Creed

2/1/2026 Mary, Blessed Mother

3/8/2026 Lenten Mission - St. Malachy Church 7PM

4/12/2026 Marian Apparitions

Topics may change, but class dates won't. Class runs from 5-6 PM.



FAMILY LOVE: VOCATION AND PATH TO HOLINESS PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

We come before You to praise You and to thank You for the great gift of the family.

We pray to You for all families consecrated by the Sacrament of Matrimony. May they rediscover each day the graces they have received, and as small domestic churches, may they know how to witness to Your presence and to the love with which Christ loves the Church.

We pray to You for all families faced with difficulty and suffering caused by illness or circumstances of which only You know. Sustain them and make them aware of the path to holiness upon which You call them, so that they might experience Your infinite mercy and find new ways to grow in love.

We pray to You for children and young people. May they encounter You and respond joyfully to the vocation You have in mind for them. We pray for their parents and grandparents. May they be aware that they are signs of the fatherhood and motherhood of God in caring for the children who, in body and spirit, You entrust to them, as well as in the experience of fraternity that the family can give to the world.

Lord, grant that each family might live their specific vocation to holiness in the Church as a call to become missionary disciples, in the service of life and peace, in communion with our priests, religious, and all vocations in the Church.

Amen.

Prayer for the X World Meeting of Families ROME, 22-26 June 2022

PARISH CLERGY

Rev. James M Mahoney Pastor
(Guest House, 1601 Jocelyn Rd., Lake Orion, MI. 48360)
Rev Thomas J. Stanton Pastoral Administrator
Deacon Dick Bilotta Senior Deacon
Deacon Jack Minch Deacon
Deacon John Ippolito Transitional Deacon
 (from Pope St. John XXIII Seminary)
Fr. Jiwon Yoon Lahey Chaplain
 (in residence only)

PARISH COUNCIL

Bernard Arokiaraj
Peter Dutton
Rose Hackett
Diane Reale
Helen Lanagan
Andrea Lamb
Cynthia McNamara
Jim Shannon

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William Corrigan
Joanne Mackey
Scott Morency

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 (St. Malachy Church)
dmainardi@stveronicaparish.org

Gary Dew Facilities Manager
 781-221-0335

OCIA CLASSES contact Deacon Dick Bilotta at:
deaconbilotta@stveronicaparish.org

Saint Malachy Church

99 Bedford Street, Burlington, MA 01803

Tel: 781-272-5111

Fax: 781-270-9407

www.stveronicama.org

stveronica@stveronicaparish.org

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9:30 am - 2:30 pm

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 pm

Sunday 10:00 am

Monday, Wednesday & Friday: 9:00 am

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
(CONFESSIONS)**

Friday: 6:00 - 7:00 pm (chapel)

Saint Margaret Church

111 Winn Street, Burlington, MA 01803

Tel: 781-272-3111

www.stveronicama.org

stveronica@stveronicaparish.org

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am; and 12:00 pm

Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday: 9:00 am

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
(CONFESSIONS)**

Saturday: 2:30 - 3:30 pm (lower church)

**THE PRAYER HOPE LINE:
781-273-HOPE (4673)**



Like us on Facebook @
St. Veronica Parish!

EMAIL LIST

If would like to receive St. Veronica emails please
send your name and email address to:

stveronica@stveronicaparish.org