

ENCOUNTERING THE HEART OF CHRIST IN THE HEART OF BOSTON

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: DECEMBER 8, 2019

CHAPEL STAFF:

Fr. James Doran, OMV
(director@stfrancischapel.org)

Fr. Isaac Abu, OMV
Fr. Michael Warren, OMV
Fr. James Walther, OMV
Br. Joseph O' Connor, OMV

Pastoral Associate: Isabelle Maria

Music Director: Rebecca Martin
Music: Kim Araiza,
Michael Enwright, Saul Garcia,
Christina Roberts

Cleaning of Chapel Environment:
Nubia Viasus

If you are interested in joining our choir for the 5:30 PM Vigil Mass on Saturdays, please email Kim at kim.araza@gmail.com. Rehearsals are at 4:45 PM every Saturday.



If you are interested in joining our choir for the 10:30 AM Mass on Sundays, please email Michael at michaelenwright@me.com.

GIVING TREE 2019

To benefit
Friends of the Unborn
and
Back Bay Mobile Soup Kitchen



Please take an ornament from the tree in the chapel entrance, buy the gift requested and drop off the unwrapped gift at the Gift Shop.

God bless you!

Cover Art:: *Mary Sprouting from the Tree of Jesse as the Mother of God*, altarpiece, St. Lambrecht's Abbey

SCHEDULE

Sunday Masses:

Saturday Vigil 4:00 PM, 5:30 PM,
7:00 PM en español

Sun. 8 AM, 9:15 AM, 10:30 AM, 11:45 AM,
1:15 PM en español,
4:00 PM, 5:30 PM

Weekday Masses:

Mon.—Fri. 8:00 AM, 12:05 PM, 4:45 PM
Saturday 9:00 AM, 12 PM

Confessions:

Mon.—Fri. 11:15 - 11:50 AM, 12:45 - 4:15 PM
Saturday 9:45 - 11:45 AM, 12:45 - 3:30 PM

Devotions:

Tuesday after Mass: Memorare,
5:30 PM Vespers;

Thursday after Mass: St. Jude;
Mon.—Fri. after 4:45 PM Mass: Rosary

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Mon.—Fri. 8:30 - 11:45 AM, 1:00 - 4:30 PM;
Sat. 9:30 - 11:30 AM, 12:30 - 3:30 PM;
Sunday 2:30 - 3:30 PM

Gift Shop Hours:

Monday—Friday 10:00 AM - 5:30 PM;
Saturday 9:30 AM - 6:45 PM*;
Sunday 8:45 AM - 5:30 PM*

(*Closed during Sun. and Sat. Vigil Masses)

CONTACT US

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SFChapel



stfrancischapel

ST. FRANCIS CHAPEL PRAYER LIST

Send the names of loved ones for whom you would like us to pray to stfrancis@omvusa.org or by mail to St. Francis Chapel, 800 Boylston St., Boston, MA 02199 and we will print them in the Lanterian.

A Reflection for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception by Fr. James Doran, OMV

Many years ago, I read an article in the Catholic Digest about a priest who was sunk in despair and total spiritual desolation. He could experience no joy in prayer. He felt that no one was listening like there was no one there to care. He lay awake one long night feeling the horror of meaninglessness. All of a sudden, came to him the words "*O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.*" He felt warmth and joy. He prayed those words as if she were listening to him and he felt that she *was* listening. He continued to pray those words throughout the night and in the morning, he got up refreshed. This priest never again experienced that despair.

Immaculate Conception means that, unlike the rest of us, Mary was conceived without original sin. The sin of Adam and Eve was passed on to the rest of mankind like a hereditary disease but when the Joaquim and Ann conceived, God preserved their child from the contamination of that original sin through the merits of Christ's future sacrifice. From the Catechism of the Catholic Church: *To become the mother of the Savior, Mary "was enriched by God with gifts appropriate to such a role." The angel Gabriel at the moment of the annunciation salutes her as "full of grace." In fact, in order for Mary to be able to accept the announcement of her vocation, it was necessary that she be full of God's grace.*

The dogma of the Immaculate Conception states: *The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin.*

By the grace of God, Mary remained free of every personal sin her whole life long.

December 8 is the feast day of the Immaculate Conception and is a holy day of obligation except when the date falls on a Sunday, as it does this year, in which case we celebrate the feast on Monday, December 9, and it is not a holy day of obligation.

Why do we have these holy days of obligation? Three reasons: 1. to recall the mystery, 2. to thank God for the mystery, and 3. so that it will bear fruit in our lives. The fruit of this solemnity is that we grow in Faith by believing that God created Mary full of Grace so that she would be a most fitting mother of the Divine Son. Another fruit is an increase of charity. As we consider and celebrate what God has done for us, we experience His love for us, and we love Him in return. Hope is another fruit bearing virtue since we grow in conviction that Mary intercedes for us and that Our Lord purifies us so that we may enjoy eternal life with Him in Heaven.



The Miraculous Medal

O MARY CONCEIVED WITHOUT SIN, PRAY FOR US WHO HAVE RECOURSE TO THEE.

The Catholic Way: *Tradition of St. Lucy*

St. Lucy is celebrated on December 13. It is known that Lucy was a young woman from Syracuse in Italy and was martyred in the 4th century. The story is that Lucy refused marriage to a pagan man so he betrayed Lucy to the Roman authorities. Eventually Lucy's eyes were gauged out as a form of torture. Most images of St. Lucy appear with her holding her eyes on a tray.

Lucy means "light." One very pious family custom has the oldest daughter in a family wear a white dress and a wreath crown on her head. She walks through the house on St. Lucy's Day with a candle waking the other members of the family and inviting them to breakfast with St. Lucy sweet rolls.

Recipe for St. Lucy Sweet Rolls

Ingredients:

7 oz (or 1 3/4 stick) butter
2 cups whole milk
1 tsp saffron threads, crushed
2 packages dry active yeast
1 pinch salt
3/4 cup sugar
2 eggs, well-beaten
8 cups flour (approximately)
raisins and egg white to decorate

Directions:

1. Have flour, yeast, salt and sugar in a big bowl.
2. Melt butter. Add milk and let it get finger warm. Add saffron to the warm milk for beautiful color!
3. Mix it into to flour and add the eggs, mix well with wooden spoon, cover, let stay for 1 - 1.5 hours.
4. Heat oven to 475 degrees F and cover the baking sheet with nonstick spray.
5. Take dough from bowl to lightly flour dusted table, knead some. Do not use too much flour! Cut dough in 2, then each half in 4, then 4 again.
6. Work with the dough bits, shape each roll to an S shape [to look like a pair of eyeballs] and put on

baking sheet. Decorate with raisins. Let them rest under towel for about 15 minutes.

7. Use baking brush to put egg on the rolls.

8. Bake high in oven for about 8 minutes. Be careful, they should be golden but not brown. Sweet smell!

9. Remove the rolls and let them cool under a towel, keep them in plastic bag or freeze as soon as possible as they dry out sooner than ordinary rolls.

Yields: 32 wonderful rolls.



— Recipe from Catholic Cuisine Blog

NEWS

Advent Series: BIBLICAL PRAYER

December 10: *Prayer in the Gospel of Luke*

Instructor: Fr. Peter Grover, OMV
7:00 p.m., Tuesdays during Advent
Front Parlor, St. Clement Shrine,
1105 Boylston Street, Boston
stelementshrine.org

Biblical prayer is unique because the words we speak are not ours but God's own inspired words in Scripture. This is our opportunity to pray in God's language.



MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sunday, Dec. 8

8:00 AM Norman C. Mendes, Sr.

9:15 AM + Krueckeberg Family

10:30 AM Lucia Saavedra

11:45 AM + Effie A. Sidiropoulou

1:15 PM (esp.) + Ana Bertilda Mendosa

4:00 PM John Valleli

5:30 PM + Cathleen Darby

Monday, Dec. 9 *Immaculate Conception*

8:00 AM + Jack Hannon

12:05 PM Donna Roche & Julie Cheek — health

4:45 PM + Maria Heredia

Tuesday, Dec. 10

8:00 AM + Robert Walsh

12:05 PM + Thomas Owens

4:45 PM + Teofilo Salema

Wednesday, Dec. 11 *St. Damasus I*

8:00 AM + Jorge Maravi & + Julia Bustos

12:05 PM Milagros Perez — health

4:45 PM + Ann Marie McDonald

Thursday, Dec. 12 *Our Lady of Guadalupe*

8:00 AM Guadalupe Torres

12:05 PM + Joseph Flannery

4:45 PM Bennett R. Osterman — health

Friday, Dec. 13 *St. Lucy*

8:00 AM Sarah Thomas

12:05 PM + Eileen Moynahan

4:45 PM + Arnoldo Flores

Saturday, Dec. 14 *St. John of the Cross*

9:00 AM + Maria Vieira

12:00 PM + Angelina Gutierrez

4:00 PM Souls of Purgatory

5:30 PM + Margaret E. Greenwood —
111th birth anniversary

7:00 PM (esp.) + Amanda Restrepo

Prayer Before Mass



by Ven. Bruno Lanteri
*Founder of the Oblates
of the Virgin Mary*

My God, I offer you this holy sacrifice to recognize, honor and glorify your infinite greatness and the supreme dominion which, as the first principle and last end, you have above all created things. I give you this homage for all those who still do not know you or do not want to recognize you.

I offer this too in thanksgiving for the benefits that I and all the world have received and will receive from your infinite goodness; in satisfaction for my sins and those of the whole world; to implore the graces that are necessary for my eternal salvation and for all mankind. Oh, my God, I offer to you the merits of Jesus Christ; grant me at this Holy Mass a profound adoration.

My God, my Creator, I implore you to grant me the grace of final perseverance, I know by faith that I do not deserve it, nor can I deserve it, but your Divine Son deserves it for me with so many praises, with so many wounds he shows you in his Most Holy Body, on behalf of my wounded love. Amen.

Catechesis: *Dryness in Prayer (Part I)*

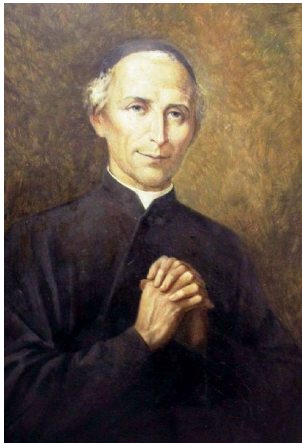
The expectation and the desire for spiritual highs or consolations in prayer is fairly normal. We naturally tend to move toward pleasure and away from pain or lack of pleasure. The great masters of prayer warn about becoming attached to consolations. We are to seek and love the God of consolations, not the consolations of God.

When we find ourselves in dry periods of prayer there are several spiritual tactics we can use to persevere through those times and deepen our love of God.

1. Dryness affords us the chance to call upon God for help. It is a reminder that we are totally dependent upon him for spiritual growth and that all is a gift.
2. Perhaps we are called to change our type of prayer. Dependency on the same method for long periods could lead to stale prayer.
3. Examine whether your prayer is connected to your real life, what you think and feel, what is really happening with you. Sometimes we make our prayer entirely abstract.
4. Purification from attachments often comes in the form of dryness. These dry periods are opportunities for growth in honest love.

Desert Prayer

By Ven. Bruno Lanteri, Founder of the Oblates of the Virgin Mary



Enter into the way of prayer completely selfless with respect to God, without demanding graces, special illuminations, peaceful repose, revelations, etc. God's way of proceeding with us is to pour out consolations and graces on the one who does not demand them of him; in this way we profit much, and we have always, in all our exercises, a pure and correct intention of pleasing God in them, whether in time of aridity or in time of consolation.

When confronted with a variety of temptations, make use of the various passages of sacred scripture to fortify you. Make an express act of faith in the scripture passages, and have a complete trust in the holy, efficacious, omnipotent word of God, following the example of Jesus Christ tempted in the desert.

Lectio Divina

"Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God."
— Romans 15

Ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart and mind to receive the word of God with reverence and joy. Notice the thoughts and emotions within you. As you prayerfully consider this passage, are you able to identify what thoughts and feelings are generated?

This is the word of God. Take time to consider it carefully. Clear from your mind all distractions. Does it bring you hope or frustration? Is there someone in particular you need to welcome this Advent season? Have you felt welcomed by others lately? Why would St. Paul insist on welcoming one another? How does welcoming one another glorify God? Take time right now to let these words touch your heart. Might you ask Mary to help you listen with confidence to the Lord?

Ask the Holy Spirit, in your heart, to help you to apply this to your life.

The Friends of God: *St. John of the Cross*

Feast Day: December 14

Patron of: Contemplative Prayer

John is considered one of the greatest poets in Spanish history. His poetry expresses his mystical experience of intimate love of God. He is a Doctor of the Church, meaning that his teaching on the life of prayer and spiritual growth was unique in the history of the Church. John joined with St. Teresa of Avila to reform the Carmelite Order and initiate the Discalced branch, which continues to this day.

For his efforts he was persecuted by his own community and often held isolated in prison. It was during his imprisonment and vast suffering that he experienced his greatest mystical prayer and composed his best poetry. John is best known for his poem and teaching on the Dark Night of the Soul. This is a time of intense intimacy with God, when all things of the world are purged from the soul and the reward of God's love is all that remains.

