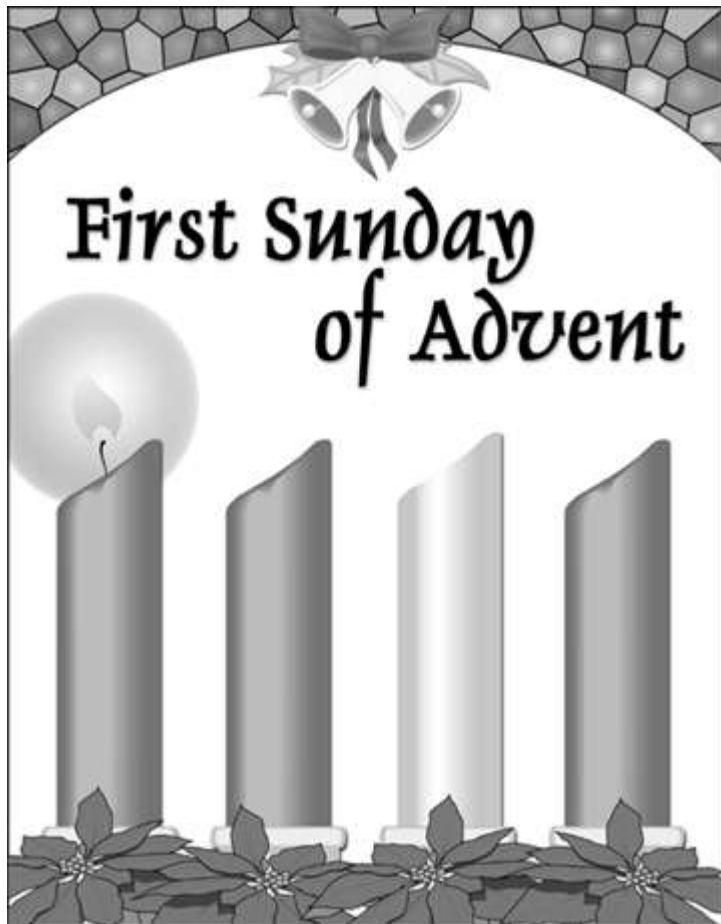


# Blessed Sacrament Church

*"I am the Living Bread come down from Heaven. If any man eats of this Bread, he shall live forever; and the Bread I will give, is My Flesh." John 6:51-52*



## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*"There shall come forth a shoot  
from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall  
grow out of his roots.*

*And the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of  
knowledge and the fear of the Lord."*

Isaiah 11:1-2

Perpetual Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament takes place in the side chapel twenty-four hours a day, every day. All are welcome to come and worship and adore our Eucharistic Lord.

*"Could you not watch one hour with Me?" Matthew 26:40*

### SCHEDULE OF MASSES

**LORD'S DAY:** Saturday: 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday: 10:30 a.m.  
**HOLIDAYS:** Vigil: 6:00 p.m.  
Holyday: 9:00 a.m.  
**WEEKDAYS:** 9:00 a.m.  
**SATURDAYS:** First Saturdays only: 8:00 a.m.

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturday 2:45 to 3:30 p.m. and by appointment

**BAPTISM:** As part of the preparation process an interview with the Pastor and two instructional sessions are required. Please contact Laurie at 774-2918.

**ENGAGED COUPLES:** Arrangements for your marriage must be made at least nine months in advance of the marriage date.

**NEW PARISHIONERS:** We welcome you and ask that you register at the Rectory. We want to know and serve you! We hope that you will favor your parish with your prayers, your presence and your talents.

### Pastor

Rev. Timothy J. Campoli

### Church

221 Federal Street  
Greenfield, MA 01301  
blessedsacramentgreenfieldma.org

### Rectory

182 High Street  
Greenfield, MA 01301  
(413) 773-3311

### Deacons

Deacon John Leary  
(413) 219-2734 (C)  
deaconjohnleary@gmail.com

Deacon George Nolan  
(413) 523-3394  
gnolan5366@gmail.com

### Director of Religious Education

Laurie Tilton  
774-2918  
ltilton2@gmail.com

### Organist

Choir Director  
Stephen Glover  
772-0532

### Alternatives Pregnancy Ctr.

Pregnancy Tests, Counseling, Support  
Post Abortion Support  
(413) 774-6010

### Calvary Cemetery

Wisdom Way  
Greenfield  
773-3311

### Hispanic Ministry

Sr. Caritina Olmos, M.P.S.  
413-777-5115  
Sr. Rosa Torres, M.P.S.  
413-459-7052

### Natural Family Planning

Ed & Suzi Cottrill  
413-772-6062



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> (Fr. Di Mascola)  
 4:00 Janet Zilch – by John Zilch  
SUNDAY, DEC. 2<sup>ND</sup> – First Sunday of Advent (Fr. Campoli)  
 10:30 Theresa L. Letourneau (19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) – by Family  
MONDAY, DEC. 3<sup>RD</sup> – St. Francis Xavier (Deacon Nolan)  
 9:00 Living Bishops, Priests and Deacons of the Diocese  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> – St. John Damascene (Fr. Reardon)  
 9:00 Paul & Ann LaFleur – by Family  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> (Deacon Patten)  
 9:00 Lillian Zak, Doris Boulanger & Raymond Leveille –  
 by Jane Fay  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> – St. Nicholas (Fr. Lunney)  
 9:00 Laura Oehme Albion – by the Pierce Family  
FIRST FRIDAY, DEC. 7<sup>TH</sup> – St. Ambrose (Deacon Rabbitt)  
 9:00 Charles Keller – by wife, Vesta  
 \*6:00 Beverly Small – by David & Helen Shea Murphy  
 \**Holy Day of Obligation\**  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> – The Immaculate Conception of  
 the Blessed Virgin Mary (Deacon Leary)  
 \*9:00 At Holy Trinity Church  
 4:00 Annie & Andrew Dedinas – by Birute Hanley  
SUNDAY, DEC. 9<sup>TH</sup> – Second Sunday of Advent (Vocations)  
 10:30 George F. Nolan – by Family

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 REMINDER: ♦ Please join with us in praying the **Rosary**  
 before each daily Mass at 8:15 a.m., before the 4:00 p.m.  
 Saturday Mass and 8:00 a.m. Sunday Mass.

♦ **Confessions** after each weekend Mass.  
 ♦ The **Chaplet of Divine Mercy** will be recited Fridays at 3:00  
 p.m. in the Adoration Chapel. All are invited to come and pray  
 with us.

♦ Blessed Sacrament has a **Prayer Chain** which is available for  
 anyone. Simply contact Marie Boynton at 413-772-5858 or  
[memeboynton@comcast.net](mailto:memeboynton@comcast.net) with your petition.

♦ **Sponsor Certificates** - Many parishes require certificates of  
 sponsorship for Godparents and Confirmation Sponsors. These  
 will be issued only to those who are confirmed adult Catholics,  
 registered in the parish, regular participants at Mass, validly  
 married in the Church (*if applicable*) and providing for the  
 religious education of their own children (*if applicable*).



**Weekend of December 8 & 9**

**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:**

Saturday, December 8

4:00	Winston LaBelle	Brian Luippold
	Jason Semaski	Kathy Burrows
	Kerry Semaski	Cynn timer Erho
	Bill Randall	Francis Campbell
	Hannah Lively	

Sunday, December 9

10:30	Joyce Thibodo	Suzanne Hunter
	Bob Page	Mary Jane Bardwell
	Judy Lapointe	Lionel Martin
	Bob O'Connor	

Holy Trinity Church Weekend Mass Schedule Sunday: 8:00 a.m and 10:30 a.m.
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**Poet's Seat Nursing Home:**

Sunday, December 9 Deacon George & Lisa Nolan

**Lectors / Cantors:**

Sat., Dec. 8	4:00	Monica McCarthy / Jackie Jurewicz
Sun., Dec. 9	10:30	Marie Boynton / Jane Winchester

**Greeters:**

4:00	Joanne Yestramski, Monica McCarthy
10:30	Prima Chadwick, Mark Penfield



Saturday, December 8

4:00 John Semaski, Joshua Semaski

Sunday, December 9

10:30 Casey Christi, Michael Motisi

The **Sanctuary Candle** will burn this week in memory/honor:  
**For a special intention** - from Anonymous

The **Adoration Chapel Candles** will burn this week in memory/honor of:

- 1.) **Joseph & Yvonne Togneri** – from Eva & Phil Babits
- 2.) **Frank & Marguerite Yestramski** - from Suzanne
- 3.) **Francis & Edith Howard** - from the Lepore Family
- 4.) **Gert Scott** - from Nancy Willis

**Holy Hour for Nonbelievers**

We will have a Holy Hour on Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6:00-7:00 a.m. and again in the evening from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the Adoration Chapel to pray for nonbelievers. We encourage and invite everyone to come.

**First Friday Mass**

Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup> is the First Friday of the month in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Mass will be at 9:00 a.m.

**Holy Day of Obligation**

Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> is the Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary and a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass times are: **Blessed Sacrament** - Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. **Holy Trinity** - Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

**Food Pantry**

Please remember to leave your non-perishable food donations at the doors of the church for our Food Pantry. At this time we especially need tuna fish, peanut butter, soups, spaghetti sauce, canned fruit and desserts. Thank you!

**Large Paper Grocery Bags Needed for Food Pantry**

We are in need of LARGE paper grocery bags for our Food Pantry. If you can help, please drop the bags off by the back door of the church by the parking lot. Thank you!

**A Pilgrimage to Greece, Patmos, Ephesus Oct. 11-21, 2019**

Join us on a spiritual journey to many towns of the New Testament where St. Paul first spread the Good News. Also visit Patmos where St. John wrote Revelations and Mary’s House in Ephesus. Included is a three-day cruise to the Greek Isles. Fr. Timothy Campoli and Msgr. Ronald Yargeau are our Spiritual Directors. Daily Mass will take place. The cost is \$4199 but if you register before January 31, 2019 you will receive a \$200 Early Bird Discount. A bus to Logan will be arranged if there is interest. For a flyer and more info., please contact Helen Shea Murphy at 413-824-8733 or [helensheamurphy@verizon.net](mailto:helensheamurphy@verizon.net). View the website at [www.pilgrimages.com/helensheamurphy](http://www.pilgrimages.com/helensheamurphy).

**Lessons and Carols**

The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of Lessons & Carols will be celebrated on Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM, at the Cathedral of St. Michael the Archangel, 260 State Street in Springfield. Join the Cathedral Choir of Boys & Adults for this annual service that has become a central part of Christmas preparation for many. The Cathedral Choir will be accompanied by strings, hand bells and the mighty cathedral organ. Highlights of the service will include the Gloria and Et In Terra Pax from a rarely heard Gloria by Vivaldi and the original version of Rejoice in the Lord Always by Henry Purcell. The service consists of seven scripture readings of the season paired with congregational carols and choral anthems. The service begins in darkness and as the story of the nativity progresses the candles and lights of the cathedral are lit. For further information contact the Office of worship at [worship@diospringfield.org](mailto:worship@diospringfield.org), or by calling (413) 452-0839

**Spiritual Food for Thought**

"Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth; and God has placed in the human heart a desire to know the truth—in a word, to know himself—so that, by knowing and loving God, men and women may also come to the fullness of truth about themselves."

— Pope St. John Paul II

**ALTERNATIVES Gifts for the Manger**

As we remember the Infant Jesus in the Manger, please remember the women in unplanned pregnancies and their babies who are made in the image of Jesus. The generous parishioners of Blessed Sacrament are again sponsoring “Gifts for the Manger” to support the work of ALTERNATIVES Pregnancy Center. A list of items needed by the mothers, babies, or by the office staff to do their work is next to the manger. Choose a gift from the list, wrap it up in any kind of pretty paper, and place it in the manger. These gifts will help ALTERNATIVES continue to be a presence in Franklin and Hampshire Counties, reaching out to women who are lonely, afraid, desperate, and in need of emotional and material support. Please pray every day for these mothers, babies and staff of ALTERNATIVES. Thank you!

**Candles for Intentions**

The four candles that burn around the Blessed Sacrament in the Adoration Chapel as well as the one Sanctuary Candle next to the Tabernacle in the main church are available as votive candles. Each candle will burn for two weeks for your petitions or in memory of a loved one. The donation for each candle is \$10. The intentions for which the candles are burning are listed in the bulletin each week. Envelopes are available on the desk at the entrance to the chapel and at the rectory.

**Saint Michael Catholic School**

**Enrolling now for 2018-2019 School Year!**

This Christmas, we want you to give The Gift of Catholic Education. We invite your family to experience Saint Michael Catholic School. Students in grades K-12 are invited to enroll for the remainder of the 2018-2019 school year. Tuition is \$2,000 for one student, and \$2,500 for a family of two or more. For information, please visit [www.saintmichaelschoolvt.org](http://www.saintmichaelschoolvt.org) or call to speak with the Director of Admissions, Lindsay O’Neil, at (802)254-6320.

**A GoFundMe Campaign for the Dominican Nuns!**

The Lay Dominicans of the Mother of God Chapter in West Springfield are sponsoring a **GoFundMe** campaign for the Dominican Nuns of the Mother of God Monastery in West Springfield. Your donations would help defer the huge costs of repairs and renovations to the lower level of one section of the Monastery. Structural damage to the foundation, water, mold and asbestos issues need to be repaired and replaced (concrete floors and walls, excavation, water drainage) and other issues including repairs to the steeple and possibly a wheelchair ramp. Know that the Lay Dominicans would be so grateful to everyone for any donations to help the Nuns. As, in their cloistered vocation, the Nuns intercede with the Father of Mercies for the universal Church, as well as for the needs and salvation of the whole world, we, in turn, want to support them in any way that we are able. Again, thank you! See the link: <https://www.gofundme.com/dominican-nuns-ws-renovation>.

**News of Our Shut-Ins**

If you know of anyone who is a shut-in and unable to attend Mass, or if you know of any parishioner who is in the hospital or nursing home, please notify the rectory at 773-3311.



# Blessed Virgin Mary — Immune from All Sin

Mark Shea

A lot of people confuse the Immaculate Conception with the Virgin Birth. The Virgin Birth refers to the birth of Jesus Christ. The Immaculate Conception refers to the conception of Mary, not Jesus. It is the dogma defined by the Catholic Church in 1854 that:

“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.”

The Church not only teaches Mary never sinned in thought, word or deed, it teaches Mary never even suffered from “original sin,” that hole in our souls where the life of God was originally intended to be.

It is common in our Protestant and post-Protestant culture to somehow imagine that the sinlessness of Mary is a “late corruption” on “simple Bible teaching” — one of those things that “arose in the Dark Ages.”

But, in fact, the seeds of the teaching are already present in Luke 1:28, which records the greeting of the angel Gabriel to our Lady: “*Kaire, Kecharitomene!*” (“Hail, Grace-Filled One!”). Essentially, what Catholic (and all) apostolic Christianity has done over the centuries is plumb the depths and measure the heights of that astonishing title.

## A sinless Mary?

The problem that title poses, of course, is that it creates a taut line of tension with another immutable rock of Catholic teaching: the doctrine of original sin. As St. Paul clearly teaches, “all have sinned and are deprived of the glory of God” (Rom 3:23). This is due to the fact that fallen man has contracted original sin from our first parents. So how can it be that Mary is without sin? Doesn’t this suggest that she doesn’t need Jesus’ salvation? Doesn’t it mean that she is not truly human?

These and similar questions vex, not merely Protestants, but many modern Catholics as well. However, the reality is that the Church has long been accustomed to carrying seemingly opposing ideas in tension, for the very good reason that God (who is both one and three, as well as Man and God in Christ Jesus) is a God of paradox. So we also affirm, for instance, that God is sovereign and that we have free will. We believe that good works cannot save us and that faith without good works is dead. And so on. Catholic faith tends toward both/and rather than either/or thinking.

And so, the very same Fathers of the Church who insist most strongly that we are afflicted with original



sin likewise take it for granted that Mary is without sin, that she is “immaculate,” “all holy,” “spotless” and without any minutest stain.

How this could be was not worked out in detail for about 14 centuries. Essentially, what the Church arrived at was the understanding that Jesus saves from sin in two ways just as a doctor saves from sickness in two ways: cure and prevention.

Mary was prevented from contracting original sin in the moment of her conception by a singular act of grace through Christ. In her, we see, not the absence of Christ’s saving grace, but its fullest expression. Hence, she is “full of grace” and praises “God my savior” (Lk 1:47).

## ‘Sin is normal’

How then is this squared with Romans 3:23? By recognizing that St. Paul is not making a declaration of minute mathematical accuracy, but a statement of general fact, as we do when we say, “Everybody knows the world is round.” In technical fact, not everybody knows this, just as in technical fact, not every last human being is a sinner or else not just Mary, but Jesus is sinful.

“But Mary has to be a sinner or she’s not human!” cries the Protestant. This leads to the point of the dogma. For, as ever, the truth of Marian teaching is that the thing about Mary is that the thing is not about Mary. What the dogma is meant to do is show the scope of Christ’s power to save, and to reveal the truth of the dignity of our origins in Christ. When we pass from saying “Sin is normal” (which is what the doctrine of original sin teaches) to saying “Sin is natural” or “Sin is

what makes us human” we make a deep and fundamental error about the human person. For of course, God is the author of nature and he does not create sin (see Jas 1:13-14). So original sin, while normal, does not constitute our nature, but instead destroys it.

The whole point of Christ’s salvation is to repair and glorify our damaged human nature. Earthly ideologies, philosophies, religions and political systems understand that something is wrong with us. That is why they exist: as attempts to cope with that fact. But earthly ideologies (particularly beginning in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries) having jettisoned the Christian vision of our place in the universe increasingly have propagated sundry Philosophies of Pride (via such voices as Schopenhauer, Feuerbach, Comte, Darwin, Marx, Nietzsche, Spencer, Galton, and Freud and their heirs), which teach that there is no God, that we are products of chaos, that we live by enmity, and that our destiny is oblivion. In short, they lose the apprehension of God as Father and come to relate to him as Master.

### Preserving truth

It is right in the middle of this greatest intellectual assault on the dignity of human origins in the history of the world that the Holy Spirit prompted the Church to define as dogma what it had already settled as doctrine nearly four centuries earlier when the feast of the Immaculate Conception was first celebrated in 1476. And so, Pope Pius IX promulgated the dogma of the Immaculate Conception in 1854.

In that dogma, we see once again that Mary protects the truth about Jesus — and therefore about us. What the dogma teaches us, contrary to the Philosophies of Pride, is that we come from God, that we live by love, and that our destiny is eternal union with God and one another in love through Christ.

In preserving Mary from all sin, both original and actual, God has given us, yet again, a sort of miniature figurine of the Church and, in turn, of the completely saved human person. In this we see, as well, a foretaste of our destiny since, of course, all the saints in Heaven are likewise without any sin whatsoever.

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## Advent Wreath Prayers for Home

### Prayer for the First Sunday of Advent

The first day the wreath is in the home, the leader may say:

**Leader:** As our nights grow longer and our days grow short, we look on these earthly signs-light and green branches-and remember God’s promise to our world: Christ, our Light and our Hope, will come. Listen to the words of Isaiah the prophet: “The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those who lived in a land as dark as death a light has dawned. You have increased their joy and given them gladness; They rejoice in your presence as those who rejoice at harvest, as warriors exult when dividing spoil.” Is. 9:1-2

Then all pray:

O God we rejoice as we remember the promise of your Son. As the light from this candle, may the blessing of Christ come upon us, brightening our way and guiding us by his truth. May Christ our Savior bring light into the darkness of our world, and to us, as we wait for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

### THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT: HOPE

**Leader:** Today is the first Sunday of Advent, the Sunday in which we recall the hope we have in Christ. The prophets of Israel all spoke of the coming of Christ, of how a savior would be born, a king in the line of David. They spoke of how he would rule the world wisely and bless all nations.

**VOICE:** As followers of Christ, we await his return. We light this candle to remember that as he came to us as humbly in the manger at Bethlehem and gave light to the world, so he is coming again in power to deliver his people. We light this candle to remind us to be alert and to watch for His return.

*(Light Advent Candle One - Purple)*

**Leader:** Let us pray - Loving God, we thank you for the hope you give us. Help us prepare our hearts for the Lord’s coming. Bless our worship. Help us live holy and righteous lives. We ask it in the name of the one born in Bethlehem, Jesus our Lord. Amen.

