The Oblates of the Virgin Mary at
SAINT FRANCIS CHAPEL
Encountering the Heart of Christ in the Heart of Boston
First Sunday of Advent — December 2, 2018

Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Saturday, December 8
Holy Day of Obligation (Patronal Feastday of the United States of America)
Mass Schedule: 9 AM and 12 PM
Vigil Mass: Friday, December 7
5:10 PM
I do not doubt that this Queen will crush again the head of the serpent which makes all its efforts to impede the good of souls.

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

Rehearsals - Saturdays, 4:45 PM

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

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE
Is now up at the entrance of the Chapel!
This year, your gifts will benefit the Back Bay Mobile Soup Kitchen and The Friends of the Unborn.
Please take an ornament, purchase the gift requested, and return the unwrapped gift to the Gift Shop. Thank you for your generosity!

THE CHAPEL GIFT SHOP
Item of the Week...

The Word Among Us / La Palabra Entre Nosotros
Advent Edition

Daily Readings and Gospels and commentary to help you prepare for Christmas.

Advent Special
$2.50

ENCOUNTERING THE POWERFUL LOVE OF JESUS IN YOUR LIFE
A talk by Fr. Shawn Monahan, OMV

December 17
6 PM
at St. Francis Chapel

CAROLING AT ST. FRANCIS CHAPEL
December 15
After the 4 pm Mass & before the 5:30 pm Mass

ST. FRANCIS CHAPEL
800 Boylston St.,
Boston MA 02199
617-437-7117
stfrancischapel.org

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SFChapel

CHAPEL SCHEDULE
Sunday Masses:
Sat. Vigil 4:00 PM, 5:30 PM, 7:00 PM en español;
Sunday 8:00 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 p.m. Vespers;
Thursday after Mass: St. Jude;
Monday - Friday after 4:45 p.m. Mass: Rosary

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:
Mon. - Fri. 8:30-11:45 AM, 1:00-4:30 PM;
Saturday 9:30 - 11:30 AM, 12:30 - 3:30 PM;
Sunday 2:30-3:30 PM

Gift Shop Hours:
Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri. 10:00 AM - 5:30 PM;
Tuesday - closed;
Sat. 9:30 AM - 6:45 PM*;
Sun. 8:45 AM - 5:30 PM* 
(*Closed during Sunday Masses and Saturday Vigil Masses)
FROM THE HOMILY OF ST. JOHN PAUL II
ON THE OCCASION OF THE 150th ANNIVERSARY
OF THE DOGMA OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Wednesday, 8 December 2004

How great is the mystery of the Immaculate Conception that the Liturgy presents to us today! A mystery that never ceases to invite the contemplation of believers and inspires the reflection of theologians. The theme of the Congress that has just been mentioned: "Mary of Nazareth welcomes the Son of God into history", has fostered a deep examination of the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception of Mary as a presupposition for receiving in her virginal womb the Word of God Incarnate, the Saviour of the human race.

"Full of grace", "κεχαριτωμένη": in the original Greek of Luke's Gospel, the Angel greets Mary with this title. It is the name that God, through his messenger, chose to use to describe the Virgin. This is how he has always been seen and thought of her, ab aeterno (from all eternity).

In the hymn of the Letter to the Ephesians just now proclaimed, the Apostle praises God the Father "who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places" (1: 3). What a special blessing God addressed to Mary from the beginning of time! Mary was truly blessed among women (cf. Lk 1: 42)!

The Father chose her in Christ before the creation of the world, so that she might be holy and immaculate before him in love, preordaining her as the first fruits of filial adoption through the work of Jesus Christ (cf. Eph 1: 4-5).

The predestination of Mary, like that of each one of us, is linked to the predestination of the Son. Christ is that "seed" that was "to bruise the head" of the ancient serpent, according to the Book of Genesis (cf. Gn 3: 15); he is the Lamb "without blemish" (cf. Ex 12: 5; I Pt 1: 19), immolated to redeem humanity from sin.

With a view to the saving death of the Son, Mary, his Mother, was preserved free from original sin and from every other sin. The victory of the new Adam also includes that of the new Eve, Mother of the redeemed. The Immaculate Virgin is thus a sign of hope for all the living who have triumphed over Satan by the blood of the Lamb (cf. Rv 12: 11).

Today let us contemplate the humble young girl of Nazareth, holy and blameless before God in love (cf. Eph 1: 4), in that "love" whose original source is God himself, one and triune.

How sublime an act of the Most Holy Trinity is the Immaculate Conception of the Mother of the Redeemer! Pius IX, in the Bull Ineffabilis Deus, recalls that the Almighty "by one and the same decree had established the origin of Mary and the Incarnation of divine Wisdom" (Pii IX Pontificis Maximi Acta, Pars prima, p. 559).

The Virgin's "yes" to the announcement of the Angel fits into the reality of our earthly condition, with humble respect for the divine will to save humanity not from history but in history. Indeed, ever preserved free from all taint of original sin, the "new Eve" benefited uniquely from the work of Christ as the most perfect Mediator and Redeemer. The first to be redeemed by her Son, she shares to the full in his holiness; she is already what the entire Church desires and hopes to be. She is the eschatological icon of the Church.

Mass Intentions This Week

Sunday, December 2
8:00 AM Health & Welfare of Richard & Carol McCulloch
9:15 AM + Joan Devin
10:30 AM + Robert Malloy
11:45 AM Widows & Widowers
1:15 PM (esp) Margarita Gavidia—acción de gracias
4:00 PM Holy Souls in Purgatory
5:30 PM + Kamal Abu - Hussein

Monday, December 3
8:00 AM Margaret Doherty
12:05 PM + Frances Verette
4:45 PM + Hortense L. Chagnon

Tuesday, December 4
8:00 AM Michael Diamond
12:05 PM Health & Welfare of Richard & Carol McCulloch
4:45 PM Beatrice Mazzary

Wednesday, December 5
8:00 AM George Rothenberger
12:05 PM + Nguyen Thi Su & Family — thanksgiving
4:45 PM Bridget Kissane

Thursday, December 6
8:00 AM Michael Malone
12:05 PM Helen Kushmerek
4:45 PM Health & Welfare of Richard & Carol McCulloch

Friday, December 7
8:00 AM Holy Souls in Purgatory
12:05 PM Consuelo Monzon
5:10 PM Mary Louise Florentine

Saturday, December 8
9:00 AM Yukie Kubo
12:00 PM Silvia Ooi & Family
4:00 PM William Bulens
5:30 PM Health & Welfare of Richard & Carol McCulloch

7:00 PM (esp) Leticia Giraldo — birthday

Feast Days This Week

December 3: St. Francis Xavier
Priest, Patron of Catholic missions

December 4: St. John Damascene
 Priest and Doctor of the Church

December 6: St. Nicholas
Bishop, Patron of bakers and pawnbrokers

December 7: St. Ambrose
Bishop and Doctor of the Church

December 8: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Oblates of the Virgin Mary—USA

Fr. Bruno Lanteri (1759-1830)
The Founder of the Oblates of the Virgin Mary.
Declared “Venerable” - the first step to Sainthood.

The Oblates of the Virgin Mary is an international religious community of priests and brothers serving in Italy, France, Austria, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Nigeria, the United States and the Philippines. The Oblates are involved in retreat and parish missions, spiritual direction, parish work, the mass media, clergy formation, and the foreign missions.

The US Province of the Oblates of the Virgin Mary is dedicated to St. Ignatius of Loyola, and includes communities in Massachusetts, Illinois, Colorado, California and the Philippines.

The OMV US Province House is at St. Clement’s in Boston.

The OMV motto, "Mariam cogita, Mariam invoca" "Think of Mary, Call on Mary" is taken from a homily by St. Bernard.