



The Blessed Father Michael J. McGivney Honoris

Saint Patrick Basilica
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CHRISTMAS BULLETIN 2025

December Grace and Grief

In his 13 years of priesthood, Father McGivney had many joyful December days, and some sad ones as well.

On the happy side was his priestly ordination, Dec. 22, 1877, in America's first Catholic cathedral, now known as the Basilica of the Assumption in Baltimore. After four years of preparation at the nation's first Catholic seminary, he was ordained by Archbishop James Gibbons, who later became a cardinal and the leading American church figure of his time. After ordination, Father McGivney took a train to his hometown of Waterbury, Connecticut, to offer his first solemn Mass for Christmas, with his widowed mother and some siblings attending. Imagine the joy yet gentle pressure on the new priest as he went through the elaborate rituals of the Christmas Mass before a hometown crowd!

Years later, grief tempered the joy of Christmas preparations when his mother died on Dec. 8, 1888, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Now a seasoned pastor in Thomaston, Father McGivney traveled back to Waterbury to offer the Requiem Mass – a grateful and dutiful son to his earthly mother, Mary Lynch McGivney, and his spiritual mother, the Church.

As we make our own pilgrimage through this month that culminates in the Christmas Octave, let us ask Blessed Michael McGivney for guidance amid our joys and sorrows and prepare for the true focus of Advent, the Second Coming of Jesus.

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Season's Greetings!

I wish you and your families a Blessed, Holy, and Safe Christmas and New Year.

Blessed Michael J. McGivney, pray for us.

Michael J. O'Neill, Chair

For prayers to Blessed Michael McGivney and other prayers visit "The Blessed Michael J. McGivney Honoris", Ottawa, Ontario website <http://www.michaeljmcgivneyhonoris.ca>.