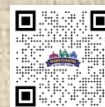
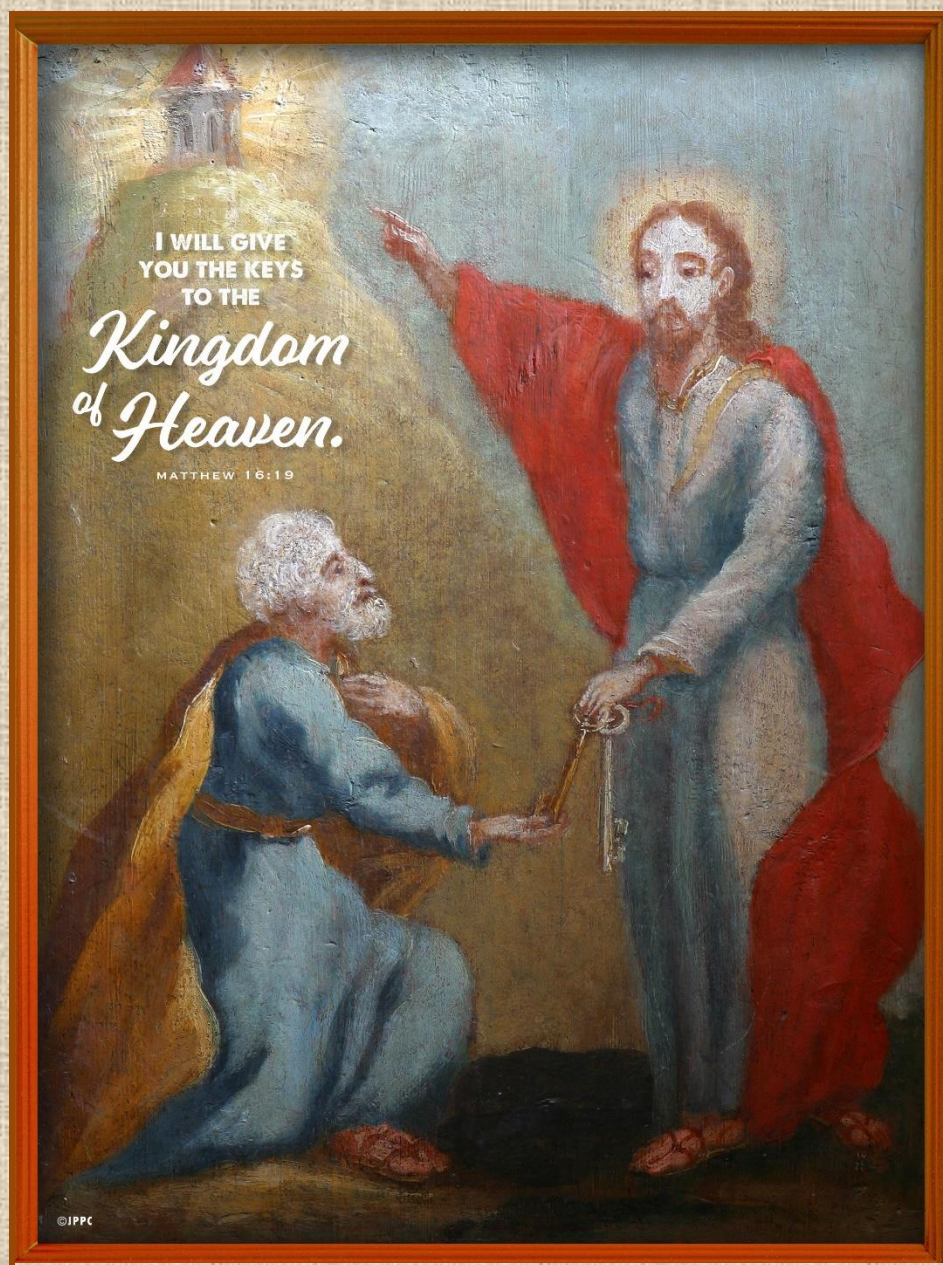


Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 27, 2023



Saint Mary 14 Park Street + Sacred Heart 58 Church Street + Saint Mark 105 Stanley Street
North Attleborough, Massachusetts

Transfiguration of the Lord Parish

Rev. David A. Costa, Pastor
Rev. Deacon Joseph E. Regali, Parish Deacon
Sister Kathleen A. Corrigan, S.U.S.C., Pastoral Associate
Rev. Kenneth R. Sicard, O.P. & Rev. R. Gabriel Pivarnik, O.P., Weekend Assistants
Mrs. Jean Howard, Business Manager
Mrs. Elaine Corvese, Director of Religious Education
Mrs. Lisa Serak, Principal, Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School
Mr. Miguel Peixoto, Buildings Supervisor
Mr. James Kitsock, Building Maintenance

Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School

Mrs. Lisa Serak, Principal
57 Richards Avenue,
North Attleborough, Massachusetts 02760
(508) 695-3072 FAX (508) 695-9074
smsh@smsh.dfrcs.org www.smshschool.com

Saint Mary Cemetery

Mr. Jarrod Ward, Superintendent
Towne Street
North Attleborough, Massachusetts 02760
(508) 695-1173 or email ripco@comcast.net

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Summer)

Saint Mark Church • Saturday 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Sacrament of Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated on designated Sunday afternoons at 12:30 pm, with a limit of four families at each baptism. Please contact the office at stmaryna@noozi.com for more information and available dates/locations.

Sacrament of Marriage

Marriage is usually celebrated on Saturday morning and afternoon. Please contact the Parish Office at least nine months in advance to begin preparation.

Sacrament of the Sick

Pastoral care to those in need of the sacrament of the sick is arranged through the parish office. Please call to arrange a visit.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is offered on the first Friday of each month in **Saint Mark Church** beginning at 9:00 am and ending at 6:00 pm with Benediction.

Parish Offering

If you are attending in person, you may drop your contribution in the collection basket. You are welcome to mail your budget envelope to the parish office, at 14 Park Street, North Attleborough, MA 02760. You may also leave your envelope in the drop box located outside the parish office door, to the right on the landing. Or you can use this link for online giving:

<https://app.gabrielsoft.com/guest/mafrdiocese/31>

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Weekend Masses

Saturday 4:00 pm **Saint Mark Church (Summer)**
Sunday 8:00 am **Saint Mark Church**
Sunday 9:30 am **Saint Mark Church (Summer)**
Sunday 11:00 am **Saint Mark Church (Summer)**

Weekday Masses

Monday 4:30 pm **Saint Mark Church**
Rosary for Life 4:00 pm each Monday prior to 4:30 pm Mass
Tuesday 8:00 am **Saint Mark Church**
Wednesday 4:30 pm **Saint Mark Church**
Thursday 8:00 am Communion Service
Saint Mark Church

Links to: Transfiguration of the Lord Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/Transfiguration-of-the-Lord-Parish-North-Attleborough-106529317647894/>

YouTube at <https://tinyurl.com/ysfaxaty>

Parish Office

14 Park Street, North Attleborough,
Massachusetts 02760
Parish e-mail • stmaryna@noozi.com
Parish website • www.saintmaryna.com
Phone 508-695-6161 Fax 508-695-5248
Faith Formation • TransfigurationRelEd@gmail.com
Faith Formation • 508-695-3823

MASS Intentions

August 26/27 - 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	August 26 – Vigil (St. Mark)
4:00 pm	Joseph Schultz Grace Schultz
Sunday	August 27 (St. Mark)
8:00 am	Leo Dery Camilla Dery
Sunday	August 27 (St. Mark)
9:30 am	Dr. Domenic E. Leco
Sunday	August 27 (St. Mark)
11:00 am	Robert J. Healey, Sr.

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Monday	August 28 (St. Mark)
4:30 pm	People of the Parish
Tuesday	August 29 (St. Mark)
8:00 am	People of the Parish
Wednesday	August 30 (St. Mark)
4:30 pm	People of the Parish
Thursday	August 31 (St. Mark)
8:00 am	People of the Parish

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September 2/3 – 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	September 2 – Vigil (St. Mark)
4:00 pm	Barbara Palazzi
Sunday	September 3 (St. Mark)
8:00 am	Fr. George Marcil, OFM
Sunday	September 3 (St. Mark)
9:30 am	Daniel Coyle
Sunday	September 3 (St. Mark)
11:00 am	Dennis R. Armstrong

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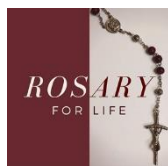
Parish Contributions

Collection for August 19/20: \$11,243.13
Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary: \$3,497.00

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Rosary for Life

The Respect Life Committee of Transfiguration of the Lord Parish is pleased to announce that every Monday we will lead a Rosary for Life at 4:00 pm, prior to the 4:30 pm daily Mass in **Saint Mark Church**. The communal Rosary is also livestreamed each week for any participants who wish to join us remotely.



Mass Schedule Updates

Beginning the weekend of **September 9 and 10**, we will return to using our three churches for the weekend Mass schedule. The schedule and locations will be as follows:

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 pm at Saint Mary Church

Sunday morning Mass: 8:00 am at Saint Mark Church

Sunday morning Mass: 9:30 am at Saint Mary Church

Sunday morning Mass: 11:00 am at Sacred Heart Church

The weekday Masses, Communion Service, and First Friday Adoration will remain at Saint Mark Church.

Prayer Chain

We all know, that intercessory prayer can be very powerful. Recently a few people approached me about reforming the “Prayer Chain” that was in place for a good number of years. The “Prayer Chain” is made up of individuals from our parish who offer prayer for particular intentions from the quiet of their homes, and at their own schedule. This prayer could include the Rosary, certain devotional prayers, and/or eucharistic adoration. “Captains” are assigned to groups of people. These individuals share particular intentions that are sent in (email, phone call, word of mouth) to either the parish office or to the captains. This is a wonderful ministry for all of our parishioners, and most especially our older folks and our shut-ins. If you would like to be a part of this prayer ministry, please call the parish office.



Eucharistic ADORATION

Archbishop Fulton Sheen once said:
“A Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration is a sharing in the work of Redemption.”

Please join us at **Saint Mark Church**, Friday, **September 1st**, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 6:00 p.m. with Benediction. Remember, as we share in the work of Redemption, so will we be rewarded with our own redemption.

For more information call Joanne Regali (508-643-3821) or Arlene Hall (508-801-2243). Please leave a message if the call is not answered immediately.

From Fr. Costa:

This past week, families currently enrolled in our Faith Formation program received a letter detailing the basis for our program and offering an overview of our schedule. Class calendars are being finalized and will be sent to our families and posted on our website and in our church buildings. I share excerpts of this letter with our entire parish so we can all “be on the same page,” and hopefully encourage you to serve as catechists, classroom aides or group leaders with our children and youth.

From the family letter:

Families today are stretched in so many directions. I marvel at the many ways you as parents balance all of these various activities. It is my firm belief that we as a parish must work with our families in all this busyness, not being a burden, but working together for the good of our children. With that in mind, Elaine Corvese, our dedicated Faith Formation Coordinator, and I have designed a program and calendar that hopefully offers some flexibility and the busyness of family life.

*Our Faith Formation program is a three-pronged approach: (1) **We celebrate our Faith.** As Catholics, the central and most important way we do this is Sunday Mass. Here we are nourished with God’s Word in the Sacred Scriptures and receive the Body and Blood of Jesus in the Eucharist. To be very blunt: you can’t call yourself a Catholic and not go to Mass. Our children are formed in Faith as they participate in Mass on a regular basis. (2) **We learn about our Faith.** Yes, there are specific facts, traditions, and teachings that must be learned. Ours is a progressive unfolding of the richness of our Faith. Each year of our program builds on the other. (3) **We live our Faith.** The Gospel message we hear at Mass, strengthened by the Eucharist, and the teachings we learn in class, must be put into practice in our daily lives. This is where it all comes together. We are formed in Faith, continually becoming the people God desires us to be.*

*Recognizing constraints of time and space, we have designed a calendar that allows for class and Mass participation. Classes for Grades 1 through 4 will be held on **Sunday mornings**, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. These classes will alternate on Sundays: Grades 1 and 2 one week, Grades 3 and 4, the other week. Mass participation is expected on all Sundays, but especially on those weekends where there is no class. Classes for Grades 5 through 8 will be held monthly on **Monday evenings**, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Confirmation Formation (Grade 9) will be held on **Sunday evenings**, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. We do expect our older students to regularly participate in the weekend Mass (in any of our three churches) that best fits your family schedule. All classes will be held in the Faith Formation Center which is located on the lower level of Saint Mark Church on Stanley Street in Attleboro Falls. Calendars for the various grade levels will be sent to you, and will be posted on the parish website, in the parish bulletin, and in each of our church buildings.*

Faith Formation Program 2023-2024

Director of Religious Education ~ Mrs. Elaine Corvese
508-695-3823; transfigurationreled@gmail.com

Faith Formation Office hours:

Monday – Thursday: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Grades 1, 2, 3, and 4 classes are held every other Sunday from 9:00 – 10:15 a.m. following the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

Grades 5, 6, 7, and 8 are held once a month on Monday evenings from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Grade 9 is held every other Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Please see website: saintmaryna.com for the 2023-2024 calendar for all grades. Faith Formation classes are held at Saint Mark Church hall in Attleboro Falls.

PARENTS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOL CHILDREN:

If your child attends Catholic School and is a candidate for Confirmation (Grade 9) you need to register your son/daughter into the parish sacramental program. For more information, contact the Faith Formation office.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Are you or someone you know interested in becoming Catholic? The RCIA program will begin in early October. For more information, please see Father Costa after Mass, or call Arlene Hall at (508) 801-2243.

SAINT MARY-SACRED HEART SCHOOL - JOIN NOW!

Do you want an authentic community of faith, joy, and optimism for your middle school student?



Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School provides age-appropriate opportunities to discover and expand on areas of interest while fostering a culture of virtue as taught by Jesus Christ. The goal of our middle school programs is to reinforce responsible behavior and form independent learners who are leaders for life. Contact us at www.smschool.com, and enroll your student today!

Catechists Needed

As mentioned at Mass last weekend, children and youth enrolled in our Faith Formation program for the upcoming school year, will participate in some form of in-person classes. To make this work, we are in need of catechists for every grade level (Grades 1 through 9). Classes will be held as follows:

Grades 1 through 4 – Sunday mornings, on alternating weekends: 9:00 am - 10:15 am

Grades 5 through 8 – Monday evenings, monthly, according to a calendar: 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Confirmation Formation – Sunday evening, approximately, bi-monthly: 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

We are seeking adults, young adults, and high school students to serve as classroom catechists, table leaders, classroom and office aides, and substitute catechists. If you can share your Faith, your time, and your love of the Lord, please contact Elaine at the Faith Formation Office: (508) 695-3823.

Memorial Prayer Service for Aborted Children

On Saturday, September 9th, pro-life Americans throughout the country will gather at memorial sites for the 11th annual National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children. Prayers services will be held at these sites to commemorate the more than 60 million children who have lost their lives to abortion since 1973. Even though Roe v. Wade has been overturned, we still need to mourn those precious babies who have been lost and remind our society of the humanity of the unborn. Please join us for this sweet memorial service in our local community!

When: Saturday, September 9th, 9:00-10:00 am

Where: St. Mary's Cemetery, Towne St., North Attleboro, MA

For more information, please contact **Kathy Hill** at:
Kathyfinnhill@yahoo.com

Transfiguration of the Lord Respect Life Group

The next meeting of the Respect Life Group will take place on Monday, **September 11, 2023 at 6:30 pm in Saint Mary Church Hall**. In the meantime, please mark your calendars: the Secretariat of the New Evangelization's Family and Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Fall River will be hosting two Respect Life events on Sunday October 22, 2023 to mark Respect Life Month. The Annual Respect Life Mass with Bishop da Cunha will be held at Cathedral of St Mary of the Assumption in Fall River at 10:30 AM. Following this Mass, there will be a Respect Life Conference at White's of Westport for \$35 (lunch and speakers). It is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Tickets can be purchased by contacting Joanna Wissler: 508-243-5307 or wissler5@verizon.net.

Transfiguration of the Lord Parish Women's Guild Opening Banquet

We are excited to kick off our 2023-2024 Women's Guild Program starting with our Opening Banquet scheduled for Monday, September 11, 2023. The Women's Guild Program at Transfiguration of Lord Parish is a fantastic opportunity for our women to come together, strengthen our faith, build connections and friendships, and enjoy social, spiritual, and educational activities. Details of our opening Banquet are as follows:



Date: September 11, 2023

Time: 6:00 p.m.

**Place: Vilorio's Italian Bistro, 6 N. Washington St,
North Attleboro**

Cost: \$38.00 per person

All women of the parish are welcome. Please contact Karen Smith at (508) 212-7377 or Diana Gray at (508) 695-1143 **no later than September 1st**.

You can always find complete information on our website at: <https://nawomensguild.weebly.com/>

WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BIBLE AND YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH?

An invitation to join one of these Women's Spirituality Groups:

- *Tuesday night via Zoom weekly (6:15pm to 7:30pm)
- *Wednesday morning in person weekly (9am to 10:30am)
- *Wednesday nights via Zoom twice a month (6:45pm to 8:30pm)

Meet like-minded women to help you live your faith. Increase your knowledge about Catholicism and the Bible (No experience necessary!) Make new friends. The groups will be starting after Labor Day. We don't meet between Thanksgiving and Christmas, during Holy Week, or over the summer. No need to attend every session (but you'll want to!) Come join us! Try us out and see if it's a good fit. The groups are open to women outside of our parish, so please invite your friends and relatives--all are welcome!

For more information and to get on our email list:

- *For the twice a month Wednesday night group contact Colleen Ford at: Colleenjuliaford@gmail.com
- *For the Tuesday night group contact Kim Simmons at: simmonskima@gmail.com
- *For the Wednesday morning group contact Diane Garrow at: dianegarrow@comcast.net
- *If you aren't sure which group fits you best, or just want more information contact Colleen Ford at: Colleenjuliaford@gmail.com

Hoping you will join us! These sessions really helped our knowledge and our faith to grow, and will help yours. No preparation is required.

Saint of the Week: Saint Monica

August 27th

The circumstances of St. Monica's life could have made her a nagging wife, a bitter daughter-in-law, and a despairing parent, yet she did not give way to any of these temptations. Although she was a Christian, her parents gave her in marriage to a pagan, Patricius, who lived in her hometown of Tagaste in North Africa. Patricius had some redeeming features, but he had a violent temper and was licentious. Monica also had to bear with a cantankerous mother-in-law who lived in her home. Patricius criticized his wife because of her charity and piety, but always respected her. Monica's prayers and example finally won her husband and mother-in-law to Christianity. Her husband died in 371, one year after his baptism.

Monica had at least three children who survived infancy. The oldest, Augustine, is the most famous. At the time of his father's death, Augustine was 17 and a rhetoric student in Carthage. Monica was distressed to learn that her son had accepted the Manichean heresy—"all flesh is evil"—and was living an immoral life. For a while, she refused to let him eat or sleep in her house. Then one night she had a vision that assured her Augustine would return to the faith. From that time on, she stayed close to her son, praying and fasting for him. In fact, she often stayed much closer than Augustine wanted.

When he was 29, Augustine decided to go to Rome to teach rhetoric. Monica was determined to go along. One night he told his mother that he was going to the dock to say goodbye to a friend. Instead, he set sail for Rome. Monica was heartbroken when she learned of Augustine's trick, but she still followed him. She arrived in Rome only to find that he had left for Milan. Although travel was difficult, Monica pursued him to Milan.

In Milan, Augustine came under the influence of the bishop, St. Ambrose, who also became Monica's spiritual director. She accepted his advice in everything and had the humility to give up some practices that had become second nature to her. Monica became a leader of the devout women in Milan as she had been in Tagaste.

She continued her prayers for Augustine during his years of instruction. At Easter 387, St. Ambrose baptized Augustine and several of his friends. Soon after, his party left for Africa. Although no one else was aware of it, Monica knew her life was near the end. She told Augustine, "Son, nothing in this world now affords me delight. I do not know what there is now left for me to do or why I am still here, all my hopes in this world being now fulfilled." She became ill shortly after and suffered severely for nine days before her death.

Today, with Google searches, online shopping, text messages, tweets, and instant credit, we have little patience for things that take time. Likewise, we want instant answers to our prayers. Monica is a model of patience. Her long years of prayer, coupled with a strong, well-disciplined character, finally led to the conversion of her hot-tempered husband, her cantankerous mother-in-law and her brilliant but wayward son, Augustine.

Saint Monica



"Nothing is far from God."
-St. Monica (August 27th)

Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School

For the past 100 years, the Catholic community of North Attleborough has supported Catholic elementary education, first at Sacred Heart School (1923), and Saint Mary School (1924). In 1972, the two parish schools merged to form Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School. This Tuesday, August 29, the doors of our school building on Richards Avenue will open to welcome 184 students in Grades pre-K through 8. There is still room and still time to join our Saints community! For more information contact Mrs. Lisa Serak, our principal, at (508) 695-3072.



It was the custom, during the 1950's and 60's, for Fr. Dickinson to publish the faculty list at the opening of a new school year. As we begin the 100th anniversary celebrations of our parish school, we are pleased to announce the faculty of Saint Mary-Sacred School for the 2023-2024 school year:

Lisa Serak, *Principal*
Jean Howard, *Business Manager*
Kristin O'Heir, *Secretary*
Dawn Finucane & Jeannine Souza, *Nurses*
Tamie Ahearn, *Pre-K*
Elizabeth Moura, *Kindergarten*
Jennine Cassidy, *Grade 1*
Rebecca Daniels, *Grade 2*
Lisa Wojes, *Grade 3*
Sharon Paulhus, *Grade 4*
Sarah Merigold, *Grade 5*
Toni Scaramuzzo, AnnMarie Burns,
Madison Partington, Susan Massoud
Middle School Team
Shawn Sweet, *Creative Arts*
Joan Dangelo, *Computer*
Deidre Augusto, *Spanish*
Livia Serak, *Physical Education*
Michelle Carroll, *Counselor*
Katelyn Kane, Tiffany Morse, *Resource*
Allison Bennett, Morgan Gartman,
Shannon Gartman, Kerry Murphy, Karen Ryan
Classroom Aides
Ashley Hanson, *Sports Coordinator*

Reflections for the Week beginning Sunday, August 27, 2023

Sunday, Aug 27, 2023

The value in variety

A founder of the NAACP, W.E.B. Du Bois knew the cure for racism wasn't simply telling the truth. It was inducing people to act on it. The first African American to receive a Ph.D. from Harvard in 1895, Du Bois dreamed broadly of a world of "valuable variety ... in height and weight, color and skin, hair and nose and lip.... Each effort to stop this freedom of being," he argued, "is a blow at democracy—that real democracy which is reservoir and opportunity.... There can be no perfect democracy curtailed by color, race, or poverty." Let us act on this truth.

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 22:19-23; Romans 11:33-36; Matthew 16:13-20 (121). *"I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven."*

Monday, Aug 28, 2023

The great romance

Saint Augustine is known as a great thinker—arguably the most significant Christian theologian after Saint Paul. But his writing is as much heart as head. He is also known for leaving behind a life of hedonism. But he remained a passionate man—only, after his conversion, passion for God alone. "Late have I loved you, O Beauty, ever ancient, ever new, late have I loved you!" he lamented. It's never too late to be swept away by what Augustine has to say: "To fall in love with God is the greatest romance; to seek him the greatest adventure; to find him, the greatest human achievement."

MEMORIAL OF AUGUSTINE, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 8b-10; Matthew 23:13-22 (425). *"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You lock the kingdom of heaven before men."*

Tuesday, Aug 29, 2023

Prepare the way

Painting after painting shows John the Baptist pointing to Jesus. John knows it's not about him: "He who is coming after me is mightier than I" (Matthew 3:11) and "I am not the Christ, but I have been sent ahead of Him.... He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 2:28-30). Christian tradition also calls him John the Precursor and John the Forerunner, prepping us for the Messiah by being something of a prototype. Like Jesus, he's conceived miraculously. Both preach repentance, have disciples, and suffer in death. But as Saint Peter Julian Eymard knew, "The true secret of love consists in this—we must forget self like Saint John the Baptist and exalt and glorify the Lord."

MEMORIAL OF THE PASSION OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 (426); Mark 6:17-29 (634). *"We drew courage through our God to speak to you the Gospel of God."*

Wednesday, Aug 30, 2023

Make a better choice

A mother of 11 foster children always had a gaggle of kids buzzing around her. They were happy and well cared for. When there was even a hint of one crossing the line from lively to obnoxious, she simply said, "Make a better choice." Amazingly, they did. Those are powerful words. How can you make a better choice today?

What will help you walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into his Kingdom and glory? This advice from Saint Francis de Sales might prove useful: "Never miss an opportunity to do good."

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13, Matthew 23:27-32 (427). *"We treated each one of you as a father treats his children, exhorting and encouraging you and insisting that you walk in a manner worthy of ... God."*

Thursday, Aug 31, 2023

Education for the whole person

As a school year begins anew, it's worth taking a moment to appreciate the proud tradition of Catholic education. In the United States, Catholic religious orders have built an extensive network of primary, secondary, and college-level institutions whose shared mission has been education of the whole person: spiritual, intellectual, and human development. Millions have been positively impacted by these schools, including many poor people who have improved their quality of life. Offer a prayer of thanks for the educators and others who pour their energies into this holy and wholistic education.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Thessalonians 3:7-13; Matthew 24:42-51 (428). *"Stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come."*

Friday, Sep 01, 2023

Celebrate the season of creation

In Catholic culture we use the phrase "care of creation" in our work to protect the Earth and develop sustainable ways to live. This phrase is deliberate because it underscores the inherent connection between God and all that is. Pope Francis writes in *Laudato Si'*, "The ultimate destiny of the universe is in the fullness of God, which has already been attained by the risen Christ." On this World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, let us renew our commitment to care for one another, land and sea, all creatures great and small, as together we move into the fullness of God to which all are called.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Matthew 25:1-13 (429). *"Therefore, whoever disregards this, disregards not a human being but God, who also gives the Holy Spirit to you."*

Saturday, Sep 02, 2023

Talent contest

The parable of the Talents is about much more than money. It speaks of the gifts that God has given to each of us and how we choose to "invest" those gifts in the community. Are we seeking only the most limited return, for ourselves? Or are we sharing our gifts, doing our part to help build up the community? The questions are more than hypothetical, for one day, at an unexpected hour, we will be called to account. Invest wisely for a generous return!

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Thessalonians 4:9-11; Matthew 25:14-30 (430). *"Should you not then have put my money in the bank so that I could have got it back with interest on my return?"*

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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21st Sunday in Ordinary Time - August 27, 2023

READINGS FOR THE WEEK



First Reading

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Thus says the LORD to Shebna, master of the palace:
"I will thrust you from your office
and pull you down from your station.
On that day I will summon my servant
Eliakim, son of Hilkiah;
I will clothe him with your robe,
and gird him with your sash,
and give over to him your authority.
He shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem,
and to the house of Judah.
I will place the key of the House of David on Eliakim's
shoulder;
when he opens, no one shall shut,
when he shuts, no one shall open.
I will fix him like a peg in a sure spot,
to be a place of honor for his family."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

**R. Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the
work of your hands.**

I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with all
my heart, for you have heard the words of my
mouth; in the presence of the angels I will sing
your praise; I will worship at your holy temple.

**R. Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the
work of your hands.**

I will give thanks to your name,
because of your kindness and your truth:
When I called, you answered me;
you built up strength within me.

**R. Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the
work of your hands.**

The LORD is exalted, yet the lowly he sees,
and the proud he knows from afar.
Your kindness, O LORD, endures forever;
forsake not the work of your hands.

**R. Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the
work of your hands.**

Second Reading

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge
of God! How inscrutable are his judgments and how
unsearchable his ways!

*For who has known the mind of the Lord
or who has been his counselor?
Or who has given the Lord anything
that he may be repaid?*

For from him and through him and for him are all
things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Gospel Acclamation

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

*You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my Church
and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.*

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi and
he asked his disciples,

"Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

They replied,

*"Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still
others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."*

He said to them,

"But who do you say that I am?"

Simon Peter said in reply,

"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Jesus said to him in reply,

*"Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and
blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly
Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon
this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the
netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give
you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever
you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and
whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in
heaven."*

Then he strictly ordered his disciples to tell no one that
he was the Christ.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Gospel of our



Society of St. Vincent de Paul
District Council of Attleboro

Serving Attleboro, North Attleboro, Seekonk,
Rehoboth, Norton & Mansfield



Join Us

Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023

A trail walk to help
individuals and families in need

Friends
OF THE POOR®
WALK

Rain or Shine

All fundraising walkers
will receive a
free event t-shirt.

BASKET RAFFLES
Raffle Drawing @ 11:30

Attleboro Springs Wildlife
Sanctuary at LaSalette

Route 118 • Attleboro, MA 02703

8:30 AM • Registration & Kickoff

12 Noon • Walk Ends

Register online: www.fopwalk.org/event/2482

Be a Business Sponsor
Walk & Solicit Pledges
Donate to a Walker

100% of donations will be used for families needing
rent, utilities or emergency assistance.



REGISTER ONLINE



CONTACT US

Transfiguration of the Lord Parish Saint Vincent de Paul Society

Inspired by Gospel values, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a Catholic lay organization, leads women and men to join to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to those who are in need or are suffering, in the tradition of its founder, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, and patron, St. Vincent de Paul. The Society meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month in the parish hall in Saint Mary Church. Please join us!

Call for Assistance If you need assistance, please call the help line for our parish Saint Vincent de Paul Society. They can offer information about the types of assistance available. Please call 508-212-4755 for help or more information.

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Keys:

The holder of the keys to a palace or to the city portals holds great power. One did not lightly hand over the keys to one's domain. The old skeleton key has been retired or reduced to ornament. Now we have access codes and combinations. But they all do what the clunky keys once did. They control access. How are the keys to be used? What are they to protect? What to unlock? Who gains admittance? And to what?

Comment:

The first reading and the Gospel for today both speak of the role of one who holds the keys. In the first reading, it goes poorly for Shebna, the holder of the palace keys at the capital. Isaiah has to deliver the bad news that Shebna is not a trustworthy holder of the keys. Isaiah informs him that he will be thrust down and a new one will replace him. Shebna's error was that he went along with the king's decision to form military alliances with other nations. This military policy was expressly counter to the will of the Lord. The merging of nations meant the dilution of the religion of Israel, the introduction of other gods, the betrayal of the covenant established on Mount Sinai and renewed with David. No ambassadorial niceties here: The symbols of the office—the robe and sash and key—would be placed on another's shoulders.

The key of the House of David recalls the Davidic covenant, which would last forever. The words of this oracle, "when he opens, no one shall shut, when he shuts, no one shall open" (Isaiah 22:22), remind us of the "O" Antiphon on December 20: "O Key of David, O royal Power of Israel controlling at your will the gate of heaven: come break down the walls of death." This antiphon looks forward to the Messiah, the fulfillment of God's promise.

In today's Gospel, we see a small gathering in a kind of quiet, reflective time. Jesus and his disciples are on the road again, but they are not among the crowds, for a change. They seem at ease. There is interior work to be done.

With no introduction, Jesus turns to these men and asks what others say of him. The disciples report that Jesus seems to be a continuation of the Jewish tradition and Scriptures—he is a prophet, perhaps. It's hard telling. When Jesus pointedly asks what they think, it is Peter who speaks for himself and for the rest. He seems to have the undisputed role as leader, as Jesus' right-hand man. Peter does not merely say what they had said only recently, in the becalmed boat after the storm at sea had subsided: "Truly you are the Son of God" (Matthew 14:33). Peter's confession is broader in its reach, deeper in its expression: "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). The other evangelists also wrote of this incident, but Matthew alone gives us the story of Peter's commissioning. His given name, Simon, is formally changed. This renaming is charged with meaning. Simon is called Peter, a word that means "rock" in Greek and in Latin. Then he is given the keys; he is given the authority to loose and to bind.

Reflection:

Before Jesus hands over his authority to Peter, he makes it clear that Peter is chosen because he is obedient to God's revelation. He is not the recipient because he is cool and clever or tough. For he is none of these. Indeed, he seems to stumble, and frequently.

Jesus has taken the measure of this man. He has seen his stride while taking into account his stumble. The Gospel reading only two Sundays ago told us of Peter's doubt about his vision of Jesus on the waters, of Peter's own faltering steps, of his reaching out to be saved by Jesus. He was drawn up out of the waters then. Now Jesus reminds him, the Church he leads will face troubled waters—the very gates of the nether world—in case one would doubt the forces of opposition he and his small assembly would have to face. It is to faithful, fallible Peter that the leadership goes.

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