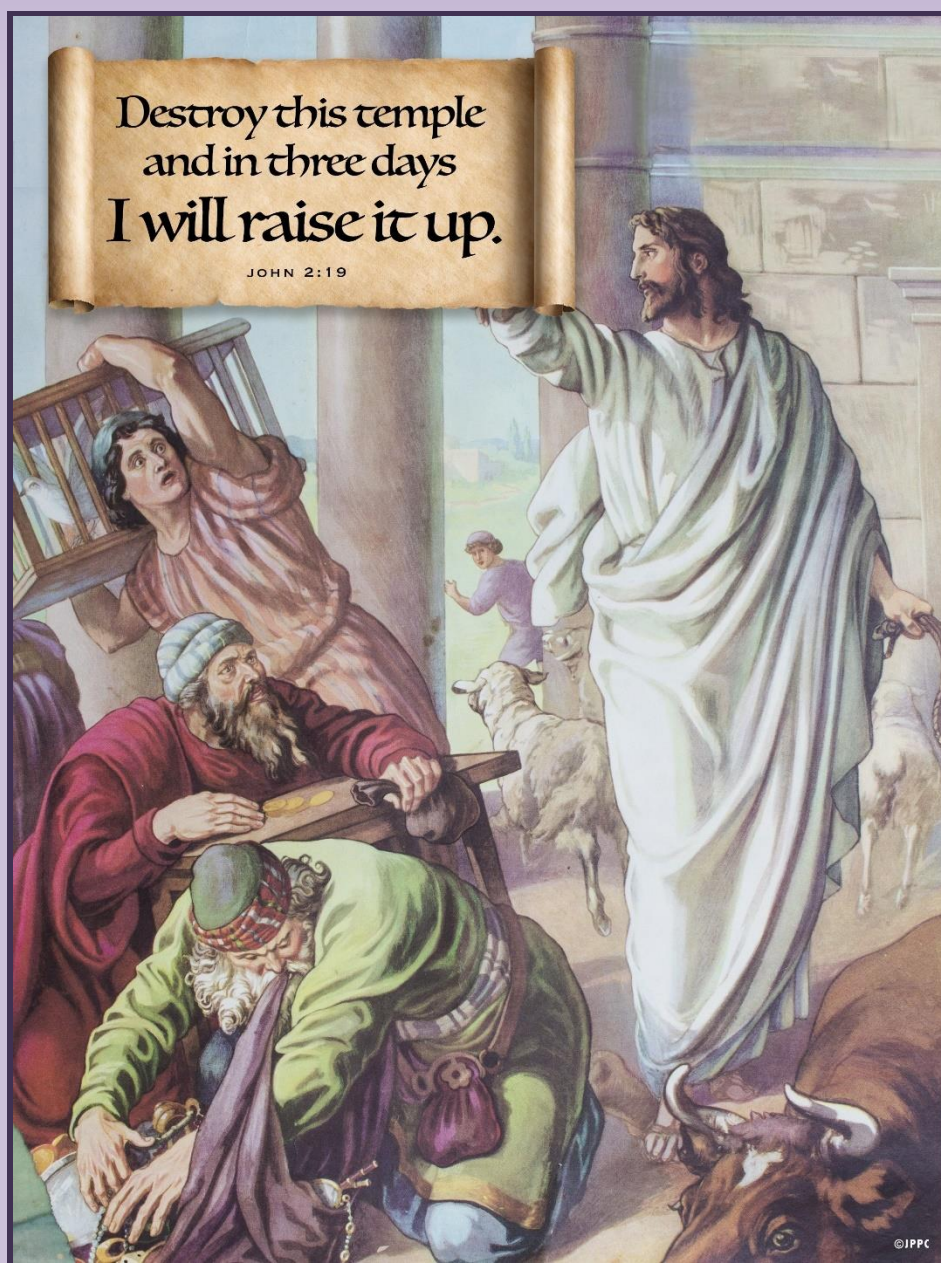


# The Third Sunday of Lent

## March 3, 2024



## Transfiguration of the Lord Parish

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. Martha O'Neill, Administrative Assistant  
Mrs. Jean Howard, Business Manager  
Mrs. Elaine Corvese, Director of Religious Education  
Mrs. Lisa Serak, Principal, Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School  
Mr. Adam Turcotte, Director of Music  
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](mailto:smsh@smsh.dfrcs.org) [www.smshschool.com](http://www.smshschool.com)

### Saint Mary Cemetery

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

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saint Mary 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](mailto: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://chms.ecatholic.com/guest/mafrdiocese/31>  
Thank you for your ongoing support!

### Weekend Masses

Saturday 4:00 pm **Saint Mary Church**  
Sunday 8:00 am **Saint Mark Church**  
Sunday 9:30 am **Saint Mary Church**  
Sunday 11:00 am **Sacred Heart Church**

### Weekday Masses

Monday 8:00 am **Saint Mark Church**  
Tuesday 4:30 pm **Saint Mark Church**  
Wednesday 6:30 pm **Saint Mark Church (Lent)**  
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](mailto:stmaryna@noozi.com)  
Parish website • [www.saintmaryna.com](http://www.saintmaryna.com)  
Phone 508-695-6161 Fax 508-695-5248  
Faith Formation • [TransfigurationRelEd@gmail.com](mailto:TransfigurationRelEd@gmail.com)  
Faith Formation • 508-695-3823  
Music Ministry • [transfiguration.na.music@gmail.com](mailto:transfiguration.na.music@gmail.com)





## Lent 2024

**Lenten Bible Study:** This Wednesday evening, **March 6**, Fr. Costa will present part 1 of a two part study of Saint Mark's gospel and in particular, the Passion account found therein. The Passion of Saint Mark's gospel is the gospel we will participate in at our Palm Sunday Masses this year. Having a knowledge and understanding of this Marcan text can greatly assist as we enter into the most holy days of our Church year.

Fr. Dave's presentation will be held upstairs at Saint Mark Church beginning at 7:00 p.m. this Wednesday. Reminder: Mass will be celebrated at 6:30 p.m. The presentation should last approximately one hour. The text of the gospel will be provided, so you need not bring your Bible.

**Our Lenten Charity: The Holy Union Sisters in Tanzania, Africa:** In 2009, Sister Adriana, one of the first Holy Union missionaries in Tanzania, received a request from a group of women with children who had severe disabilities to provide them a Centre where these children could be helped and their families find resources and support. Since its founding, the Centre has seen remarkable success and growth, serving well over 200 children/families this year with a staff of 21 lay workers and Sisters.

The Matumaini Centre provides physiotherapy four days a week. In addition, the children receive nutritional support and fresh milk daily. The Centre also provides help and support with hard to acquire equipment such as splints, wheelchairs, special chairs, corner chairs, walking frames, and yes, even toys! A workshop sponsored by the Centre provides equipment at a more affordable cost than elsewhere.

When the children first arrive at the Centre, the children cannot do much. Little by little, they learn life skills: how to brush their teeth, go to the toilet independently, walk, socialize, and play. Eventually, many join a classroom group. In addition to working directly with the children, the staff provides help and guidance to parents and family members, teaching various skills so as to generate some income to help their families as well as offering instruction in physiotherapy and care to be given at home.

Over the years, the Matumaini Centre has been helping to reduce the stigma around physical handicap and is fighting against superstition and witchcraft in the Tanzanian society. All of this wonderful work is done with no financial help from any government agency!

One of the jubilee projects of the Sister's is the addition of an Autism Unit at the Centre. A half -built house on the property will be completed and converted to classrooms and offices. The staff will study the autism spectrum and learn how to support parents whose children exhibit ASD symptoms in early childhood. Our generous donations will assist with this project and the good work of the Matumaini Centre.

*Lenten Season*

### March 2/3 – The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>March 2 – Vigil (St. Mary)</b>
4:00 pm	Thomas Isherwood
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>March 3 (St. Mark)</b>
8:00 am	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>March 3 (St. Mary)</b>
9:30 am	Louis & Rose Shepard
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>March 3 (Sacred Heart)</b>
11:00 am	Erin (Carroll) Capotosto

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<b>Monday</b>	<b>March 4 (St. Mark)</b>
8:00 am	Rev. Michael W. MacEwen
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>March 5 (St. Mark)</b>
4:30 pm	People of the Parish
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>March 6 (St. Mark)</b>
6:30 pm	Mike Bruno
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>March 7 (St. Mark)</b>
8:00 am	Elizabeth Morrissey

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### March 9/10 – The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>March 9 – Vigil (St. Mary)</b>
4:00 pm	Deceased Members of the Hastings Family
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>March 10 (St. Mark)</b>
8:00 am	Paul Charpentier
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>March 10 (St. Mary)</b>
9:30 am	Rita DiRenzo
	Bobby Delaney, Jr.
	Americo "Rico" Sbardella
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>March 10 (Sacred Heart)</b>
11:00 am	People of the Parish

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### Parish Contributions

Collection for February 24/25: \$13,078.95

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### Stations of the Cross



Join us this Friday evening, **March 8**, for our Lenten devotion, Stations of the Cross. This week, Deacon Joe and his wife, Joanne, will lead the Stations using a new reflection entitled: **Stations of the Cross with Saint Joseph**. The Stations are prayed at 7:00 p.m. in Saint Mary Church. All are invited to join us!

## Winter What-Not Shoppe Sale: Thank You!

Many thanks to all those who participated in the What-Not Shoppe's season-ending sale on February 17<sup>th</sup>. A team of dedicated parishioners worked diligently behind the scenes to prepare in the weeks leading up to the event, and we are pleased to report that a total of **\$572.60** was raised. To all who participated in any way...whether you donated items, organized, set up, or purchased some of our "what-nots" ... thank you!

~Dana Frederick, Marietta Karpinski, & Rita Copley~

# THANK YOU!

I echo the words of thanks offered above by Dana, Marietta, and Rita. Please join me in recognizing and thanking these three women for their dedication and hard work organizing this sale. Projects like this do not happen automatically or overnight. Lots of time and energy is given leading up to the event. Many thanks for your generous sharing!

We also gratefully recognize the matching gift of **\$500** generously donated by our parish council of Catholic Family Life (U.S.J.B. Duvernay Council). Your steadfast financial support is very much appreciated!

~Fr. Costa~

## The Sacred Triduum



The most sacred days of our entire Church year, the Sacred Triduum will soon be upon us. Plan now to join us for these inspiring and beautiful liturgies. The Sacred Triduum will be celebrated on March 28, 29, and 30/31. Thursday, Friday and Saturday liturgies will be held at Saint Mary Church. Easter Sunday Masses will follow our usual Sunday schedule of times and places.

### Holy Thursday, March 28:

Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00 p.m.

Prayer before the Repository, St. Mary Church Hall

Night Prayer will be prayed at 11:00 p.m., St. Mary Church Hall.

### Good Friday, March 29:

Stations of the Cross at 3:00 p.m.

Service of the Lord's Passion at 7:00 p.m.

### Holy Saturday, March 30:

Easter Vigil at 7:00 p.m.

NOTE: there is no 4:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, March 30

### Easter Sunday, March 31:

Masses at 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

## Irish Night: Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>



Get ready to immerse yourself in the spirit of the Emerald Isle at our much-anticipated Irish Night Event! It's time to don your best green attire and embrace the warmth of Irish hospitality, complete with a scrumptious corned beef dinner, live music entertainment, and exciting raffles that could bring a touch of luck your way. The Irish Night event will be held on **Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>** starting at **6:30 p.m.** in **St. Mary Church Hall**. Tickets cost **\$20.00** per person and will be sold at all weekend Masses on the weekends of March 3<sup>rd</sup> and March 9<sup>th</sup>, or by calling Karen Smith at (508) 212-7377. Those of you who have attended this wonderful event in the past can attest to how much was had by all. We hope you can join us!

## 2024 Mass Intention Book



The 2024 Mass Intention Book is open. The current Mass schedule provides for fewer opportunities for parishioners to remember their beloved dead at weekend Masses. For this reason, we will schedule, when necessary, multiple intentions for weekend Masses. There is no limit on the number of daily Mass intentions. Please contact the office via email, phone, or in writing with your requests.

## Tuesday Communal Rosary Schedule



**Tuesday, March 5, 2024: Rosary for Life (4PM)**

Tuesday, March 12, 2024: Rosary for Life (4PM)

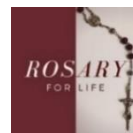
Tuesday, March 19, 2024: Prayer & Pizza (5PM)

Tuesday, March 26, 2024: Rosary for Life (4PM)

Tuesday, April 2, 2024: Rosary for Life (4PM)

## Rosary for Life

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



## Transfiguration of the Lord Respect Life Group

# RESPECT LIFE

### Monthly Meeting:

The next meeting of the Respect Life Group will take place on Thursday, **March 7, 2024 at 6:30 pm in Sacred Heart Church's Library**. We hope to see you there!



### Please Remember our Deceased Parishioners:

*Eleanor S. (Grimaldi) Legere*

*David M. Schofield*

*Joseph F. Paulin, Jr.*

*Julia A. Homer*

*H. William "Bill" Donnelly*

*Eternal rest grant unto our beloved dead, O Lord.*

*Let perpetual light shine upon them.*

### Baptismal Preparation Classes Have Resumed

Parents requesting the baptism of their child should be registered members of the parish who attend weekend Mass here at Transfiguration of the Lord Parish on a weekly basis. Please pick up and complete one of the Parish Census forms if you have not already registered with the parish. If this is your first Baptism here at Transfiguration Parish, parents are asked to attend a brief baptismal preparation session. The next session will be held on Sunday, **March 10 at 12:30 pm** in the Sacred Heart Meeting Room. Advanced registration is required. Please call Martha at the parish office or email at [stmaryna@noozi.com](mailto:stmaryna@noozi.com) for more information.

### 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

### 2023 Donation Statements Are Now Available

The 2023 year-end tax reports will be available, PER YOUR REQUEST, for those parishioners using the budget envelope system. **Loose checks mailed or placed in the collection are not recorded by the budget company.** Please contact Martha in the office at [stmaryna@noozi.com](mailto:stmaryna@noozi.com) or call 508-695-6161 and leave a message with your name and address if you would like your statement. Contribution letters will be mailed. Thank you for your support of our parish community.



### Reminder: Daylight Savings Time Begins

Next weekend, **March 9 – March 10**, marks the beginning of Daylight Savings Time....so remember to move your clocks ahead one hour **next** Saturday night!



Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta once said:

*"Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration with exposition needs a great push. People ask me: 'What will convert America and save the world?' My answer is prayer. What we need is for every parish to come before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament in holy hours of prayer."*

Please join us at **Saint Mark church** on Friday, **April 5<sup>th</sup>**, 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.

### Holy Cross Family Ministries: Upcoming Event

**The Vigil Project: Lenten True Presence Night. Eucharistic Adoration, Music, and Witness.** Join us for a transformative event that will deepen your encounter with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Presented by The Vigil Project and hosted by Holy Cross Family Ministries, this is an experience you will feel and carry with you forever. Held at Holy Cross Church, 225 Purchase St., Easton, MA, on **Saturday, March 9 at 7 pm**, this free program welcomes people of all ages and religious backgrounds. Please use the following link for more information: [www.hcfm.org/truepresencenight](http://www.hcfm.org/truepresencenight).

### Lenten Reconciliation Opportunities

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession) is celebrated every Saturday afternoon from 3:00 to 3:30 p.m. at Saint Mary Church. We will be scheduling an evening later in Lent where a number of priests will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. As soon as this date is set we will post information in the parish bulletin and on our social media sites.

### Knights of Columbus Monthly Meeting

Council #330 of the Knights of Columbus has been serving the Catholic Community of North Attleborough for 125 years. The Knights meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7pm, in the St. Mary Church Hall. Please drop by on meeting nights if you'd like to learn more about the Knights. Council #330 is committed to assisting local charities that align with the values of our Faith such as the Parish, the Parish school, and Abundant Hope. Contact Jim Schromm with any questions: [jim.schromm@verizon.net](mailto:jim.schromm@verizon.net).

## Faith Formation Program 2023-2024

Director of Religious Education ~ Mrs. Elaine Corvese  
508-695-3823; [transfigurationreled@gmail.com](mailto:transfigurationreled@gmail.com)

### Faith Formation Office hours:

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

### Class Schedule:

March 3<sup>rd</sup>: **Grades 3 & 4**, 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.  
(following the 8:00 a.m. Mass)

March 4<sup>th</sup>: **Grade 5**, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

March 10<sup>th</sup>: **Grades 1 & 2**, 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.  
(following the 8:00 a.m. Mass)

March 10<sup>th</sup>: **Grade 9**, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

March 11<sup>th</sup>: **Grade 6**, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

March 17<sup>th</sup>: **Grades 3 & 4**, 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.  
(following the 8:00 a.m. Mass)

March 18<sup>th</sup>: **Grade 7**, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

March 25<sup>th</sup>: **Grade 8**, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

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

### Date of Confirmation:



CONFIRMATION

**April 7, 2024: 1:00 p.m. Saint Mary Church**

### Dates of First Communion:



HOLY EUCHARIST

**May 4, 2024: 10:00 a.m. Saint Mary Church**

**May 4, 2024: 1:00 p.m. Saint Mary Church**

**May 11, 2024: 10:00 a.m. Saint Mary Church**

**Cancellation of classes:** In the event of cancellation of classes due to inclement weather, the Faith Formation Office will notify parents/guardians by email and the cancellation notice will also be on the answering machine of the Faith Formation office at 508-695-3823. Please note: if the North Attleboro School Department cancels school, Faith Formation classes are automatically canceled.

## Friends of SSMH Outing

As announced in our parish bulletin a few weeks back, the Friends of SSMH is offering various one day and multi-day outings. Join us on Wednesday, April 24 for *The Beach Boys Ultimate Tribute* show, at Lake Pearl in Wrentham, MA. Price per person is \$89.00 and includes luncheon, tax and gratuity, and show ticket. Information flyers are available at the doors of the church or you may contact Nancy Chapman or May Courbron at 508-243-2904 or by email: [friendsofsmsh@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofsmsh@gmail.com) for more information.

## First Reconciliation 2024



Over the past few weeks, children in our Faith Formation program and parish school have celebrated First Reconciliation. After meeting individually with Fr. Costa, and celebrating the Sacrament, the children placed their heart shaped name tags on the image of Jesus the Good Shepherd, as pictured here. Please remember our children in your prayers as they now prepare for First Holy Communion which they will celebrate in May.

## Join the Saint Mary-Sacred Heart Teaching Team



Join the SSMH teaching team and make a difference! Are you an educator who wants to give back to your community? Do you desire a faith-filled environment where the teachings of Jesus Christ are front and center? We would love to have you join our Saints Family. Currently, both day to day substitute teachers and a physical education teacher for 2024-2025 are needed. Please contact Mrs. Lisa Serak, principal at [lserak@smsh.dfrcs.org](mailto:lserak@smsh.dfrcs.org).

**CATHOLIC**  
*school education*  
**Success - Learn - Serve - Lead**



# SAINTS

## SAINT MARY-SACRED HEART

**Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School:  
Your Story Starts Here!**



*Do you have a child who will be 4 years old by August 2024?*

Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School offers a robust Pre-K program! Our Little Saints love learning in a faith-centered and nurturing environment. Call us at (508) 695-3072 to set up a time to tour our school and meet our amazing Pre-K4 staff!

We invite you to learn more about our Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School students and programs by visiting our website: [www.smshschool.com](http://www.smshschool.com).

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### **SMSH Auction - Friday, March 8, 2024, Luciano's Lake Pearl in Wrentham, MA:**

This year's auction is particularly special as we celebrate the centennial of our school. We are expecting 200 in-person guests and will reach even more through our online auction. We greatly appreciate any donations you can make to support our cause. Whether it's a family vacation getaway or gift baskets filled with items from local businesses, every contribution is valuable. We also offer advertising and sponsorship opportunities for those who prefer to contribute in that way. Please reach out to our Auction Co-Chairs, Lisa Augusto O'Neill or Jillian Figueiredo at the following email address: [SMSHauctioncommittee@gmail.com](mailto:SMSHauctioncommittee@gmail.com). Thank you for considering our request. We truly appreciate your support!

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### **Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School Alumni:**

Did you, your child, grandchild or other relative graduate from St. Mary's School, Sacred Heart School or Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School? If so, please go to the Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School website [www.smshschool.com](http://www.smshschool.com) and under the Alumni tab fill in the form on reconnect with SMSH. We appreciate your support in this important part of our school's history!

### **Saint of the Week: Saint Frances of Rome Feast Day: March 9<sup>th</sup>**



Frances' life combines aspects of secular and religious life. A devoted and loving wife, she longed for a lifestyle of prayer and service, so she organized a group of women to minister to the needs of Rome's poor.

Born of wealthy parents, Frances found herself attracted to the religious life during her youth. But her parents objected and a young nobleman was selected to be her husband. As she became acquainted with her new relatives, Frances soon discovered that the wife of her husband's brother also wished to live a life of service and prayer. So the two, Frances and Vannozza, set out together—with their husbands' blessings—to help the poor.

Frances fell ill for a time, but this apparently only deepened her commitment to the suffering people she met. The years passed, and Frances gave birth to two sons and a daughter. With the new responsibilities of family life, the young mother turned her attention more to the needs of her own household. The family flourished under Frances' care, but within a few years a great plague began to sweep across Italy. It struck Rome with devastating cruelty and left Frances' second son dead. In an effort to help alleviate some of the suffering, Frances used all her money and sold her possessions to buy whatever the sick might possibly need. When all the resources had been exhausted, Frances and Vannozza went door to door begging. Later, Frances' daughter died, and the saint opened a section of her house as a hospital.

Frances became more and more convinced that this way of life was so necessary for the world, and it was not long before she requested and was given permission to found a society of women bound by no vows. They simply offered themselves to God and to the service of the poor. Once the society was established, Frances chose not to live at the community residence, but rather at home with her husband. She did this for seven years, until her husband passed away, and then came to live the remainder of her life with the society—serving the poorest of the poor.

The life of Frances of Rome calls each of us not only to look deeply for God in prayer, but also to carry our devotion to Jesus living in the suffering of our world. Frances shows us that this life need not be restricted to those bound by vows.

# *The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent - March 3, 2024*

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Excerpts from the *Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, second typical edition* © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. Used with permission. All rights reserved. No portion of this text may be reproduced by any means without permission in writing from the copyright owner.

## *First Reading*

### **A reading from the Book of Exodus**

In those days, God delivered all these commandments: "I, the LORD, am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery. You shall not have other gods besides me. You shall not carve idols for yourselves in the shape of anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the waters beneath the earth; you shall not bow down before them or worship them. For I, the LORD, your God, am a jealous God, inflicting punishment for their fathers' wickedness on the children of those who hate me, down to the third and fourth generation; but bestowing mercy down to the thousandth generation on the children of those who love me and keep my commandments.

"You shall not take the name of the LORD, your God, in vain. For the LORD will not leave unpunished the one who takes his name in vain.

"Remember to keep holy the sabbath day. Six days you may labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD, your God. No work may be done then either by you, or your son or daughter, or your male or female slave, or your beast, or by the alien who lives with you. In six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the LORD has blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.

"Honor your father and your mother, that you may have a long life in the land which the LORD, your God, is giving you. You shall not kill. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male or female slave, nor his ox or ass, nor anything else that belongs to him."

The word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

## *Responsorial Psalm*

**R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.**

The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul; The decree of the LORD is trustworthy, giving wisdom to the simple.

**R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.**

The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the command of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eye.

**R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.**

The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true, all of them just.

**R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.**

They are more precious than gold, than a heap of purest gold; sweeter also than syrup or honey from the comb.

**R. I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.**



## *Second Reading*

### **A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians**

Brothers and sisters:

Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

The word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*



## Gospel

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to John  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money changers seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables, and to those who sold doves he said, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace." His disciples recalled the words of Scripture, Zeal for your house will consume me. At this the Jews answered and said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his body. Therefore, when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they came to believe the Scripture and the word Jesus had spoken.

While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, many began to believe in his name when they saw the signs he was doing. But Jesus would not trust himself to them because he knew them all, and did not need anyone to testify about human nature. He himself understood it well.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

### TURN MY HEART, O GOD

Marty Haugen

#### Refrain



Turn\* my heart, O God. Turn my heart, O God.

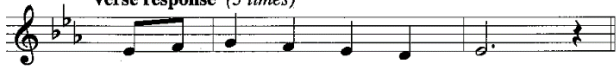


Take my pain and broken-ness; shape my life for



you. Come and turn my heart, O God.

#### Verse response (3 times)



Come and turn my heart, O God.

\* If desired, the first word of this phrase may be changed each time it appears.

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## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

### Revelation:

"Revelation" is a tricky word. It contains the Latin root that means "to veil or cover" something, as well as the modifier that changes the meaning to its opposite. Something veiled is tantalizing. We cannot quite ignore it. We are curious, interested, intrigued, caught. We want to know, because we want closure. We don't want to know, because we like the mystery or because in knowing we might end up having to make a decision that might mean that there will be no going back.

### Comment:

If we could gather all the knowledge and experience in the world, we might come to some glimpse or insight about the ways of God. But we would still be guessing. Personal revelation of the divine is a gift. In the Exodus and forging of a covenant, God is apprehended as one who acts on behalf of an enslaved people. God's deepest will for these people is that they respond to a covenant. The covenant is offered by God to a beloved and bewildered people on a desert mountain. Who would have thought it? Dreamed it? "I, the LORD, am your God who brought you out of ... that place of slavery." God the deliverer. God the covenant-maker. That is the exposed and veiled truth.

It took a long time for an enslaved people to understand that the commandments established the features of a relationship of God to a people and each person to the other. This newly freed people would know that they should keep God firmly in first place and reverently in mind and word. They should take a day a week off! Slaves should rest in the Lord! And then, they should care for one another and the good earth that encircles them. These ten commandments are avenues of expression, ways to let love show, ways to keep the covenant.

Thus we come to Jesus, whose behavior in this Gospel reading is somewhat surprising. Unlike the synoptic accounts of the cleansing of the Temple, which are set at the end of Jesus' public life, John sets Jesus' action near the beginning of his Gospel. Jesus' dramatic cleansing of the Temple occurs long before we are aware of any animosity from the official teachers of Israel. John is not so much concerned about auditing the Temple treasury as declaring clearly who Jesus is—the dwelling of God among us.

Today's Gospel action echoes the words that open John's Gospel: "And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (1:14). The Temple in all its glory is not the dwelling that ultimately and finally counts here. Six and forty years abuilding, the Temple was still no more than a building set aside for holy purposes. John wants us to make no mistake: Jesus is the new dwelling of God, who will not be destroyed and who will be raised up in three days.

### Reflection:

We are told that the "cleansing of the Temple" happened during the Passover festival, when Jesus was in Jerusalem with thousands of others who flocked there to recall the original Exodus and covenant. During that time, many came to believe in Jesus, but many also didn't. Jesus' anger in this story is aimed at those cynical leaders whose self-righteousness demands a clear, unambiguous sign tailor-made to oppose their comfortable expectations. Jesus is not the revelation they wanted.

There was not a way in the world that Jesus could reveal anything about himself or about God to these people in the usual way. For when the heart is closed and cynicism reigns, all signs are scorned and all bets are off. It did not matter what Jesus did in the Temple or what he said; a predisposition against Jesus would inevitably lead to a misreading of him. Even in our own time, the message of Jesus Christ is a challenge to the status quo.

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# Reflections for the Week beginning Sunday, March 3, 2024



Invest time each week to  
expand your vocabulary and  
deepen your faith.

03 March 2024

## WORD OF THE WEEK

### Anointing of the Sick

\ə-ˈnɔɪnt-tɪŋ ˈəv ˈθə  
ˈsɪk\

A sacrament for the recovery and salvation of a critically ill or injured person formerly called Extreme Unction ("last anointing"). No longer reserved for those near death, one may be **anointed** before surgery, in extreme age or illness, after losing consciousness, or when no longer coherent.

Pronunciation: <https://tinyurl.com/Take5-anointing-the-sick>

## CONTEXT

**Anointing of the Sick** permits us to touch with our hands God's compassion for humanity.

—Pope Francis

When the church **anoints** a sick person, it **anoints** a member of its own body.

—Sister Susan Wood, S.C.L.

By the grace of the sacrament of **Anointing of the Sick**, the sick person receives the strength and the gift of uniting more closely to Christ's Passion.

—Catechism of the Catholic Church

## WHY IT MATTERS

The mercy of God extends to the body as well as soul of each person. Jesus ministered to the sick and suffering both physically and spiritually. The church continues this ministry in its care for the whole person.

From *Rites of the Catholic Church as revised by Decree of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council*: The Church obeys Jesus' command to care for the sick by visiting those in poor health but also by raising them up through the **sacrament of Anointing** and by nourishing them with the Eucharist during their illness. The church offers prayers for the sick to commend them to God, especially in the last crisis of life.

## RELATED WORDS

Extreme Unction | Consecration | Holy Oils | Chrism

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

### What is the Anointing of the Sick?

One of the seven sacraments of the church, **Anointing of the Sick** recalls the healing presence and power of Jesus when we touch our mortality most vulnerably. From ancient times oil was valued for its healing and beautifying properties and in preparing bodies for burial.

The ordinary minister of the sacrament is the priest. However, it's presumed that others share the event: family, friends, caregivers. Elements of the ritual include prayers, scripture, laying hands on the recipient, and **anointing** of the head and hands. A water sprinkling rite may be included, and affected areas of the sick person's body may also be **anointed**. When in danger of death, additional sacraments of Reconciliation and Communion (*viaticum*, or "on the way with you") are also administered.

—Alice Camille, from *Questions Catholics Ask* <http://tinyurl.com/QCA-anointing-the-sick>

## REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

MEMORIAL OF SAINT JOHN OF GOD, RELIGIOUS (MARCH 8)

### Power players in prayer

When it comes to your health, you can always turn to the saints for help. Feeling sick? Ask Saint John of God, patron of the sick and hospitals, to intercede on your behalf. Suffering from arthritis? Invoke Saint Alphonsus Ligouri. Have a headache? Entreat Saint Teresa of Ávila. Catholics also have the sacrament of **Anointing of the Sick**, to bring further healing.

READINGS: 1 John 3:14-18; Matthew 25:31-40 (539 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/0308-memorial-john-god.cfm>). "Let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth."

## FAITH IN ACTION

No matter the physical outcome, remember that the primary purpose of our petitionary prayer is to draw us closer to God, which will truly and wholly heal us.



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