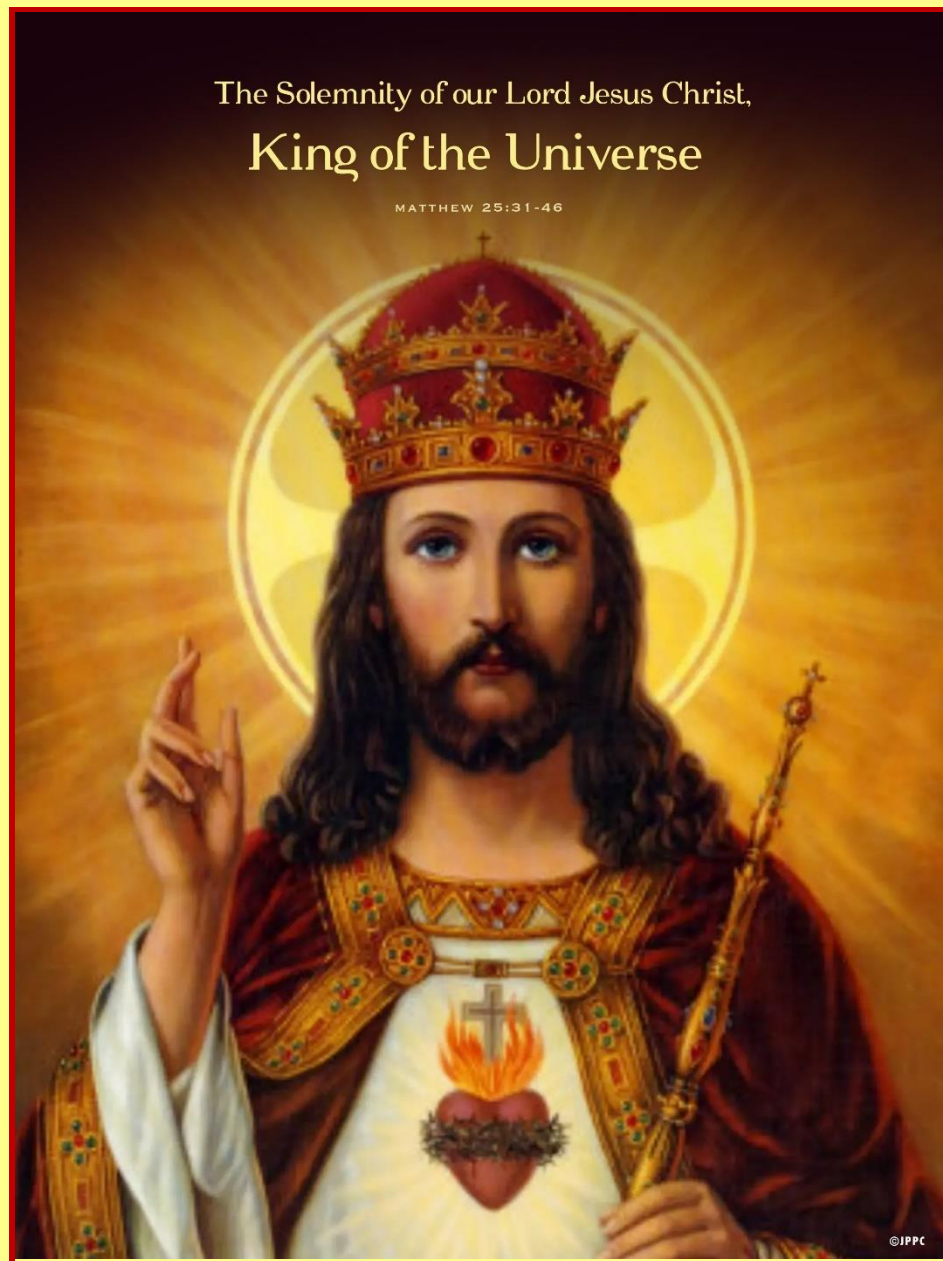


The Solemnity of Christ the King

November 26, 2023



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 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

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 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 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 8:00 am **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
Music Ministry • transfiguration.na.music@gmail.com



November 25/26 – Solemnity of Christ the King

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Saturday | November 25 – Vigil (St. Mary) |
| 4:00 pm | Louise Cote |
| Sunday | November 26 (St. Mark) |
| 8:00 am | Jeffrey S. Kirk, Sr. |
| Sunday | November 26 (St. Mary) |
| 9:30 am | Francine L. Leary |
| Sunday | November 26 (Sacred Heart) |
| 11:00 am | Louis G. Landry |

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| | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Monday | November 27 (St. Mark) |
| 8:00 am | People of the Parish |
| Tuesday | November 28 (St. Mark) |
| 4:30 pm | Rebecca Morrissey |
| Wednesday | November 29 (St. Mark) |
| 8:00 am | People of the Parish |
| Thursday | November 30 (St. Mark) |
| 8:00 am | People of the Parish |

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December 2/3 – The 1st Sunday of Advent

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Saturday | December 2 – Vigil (St. Mary) |
| 4:00 pm | William & Denise Boyland |
| Sunday | December 3 (St. Mark) |
| 8:00 am | Marjorie Morrissey |
| Sunday | December 3 (St. Mary) |
| 9:30 am | Judy Leco |
| | Victoria Ann Leco |
| Sunday | December 3 (Sacred Heart) |
| 11:00 am | Mary J. Wagner |
| | Walter M. Miller |

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Parish Contributions

Collection for November 18/19:

Not available due to early publishing deadline.

The figures will be printed in next weekend's bulletin.

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Tuesday Communal Rosary Schedule

Tuesday, November 28, 2023: Rosary for Life (4PM)
 Tuesday, December 5, 2023: Rosary for Life (4PM)
 Tuesday, December 12, 2023: Rosary for Life (4PM)
 Tuesday, December 19, 2023: Prayer & Pizza (5PM)
 Tuesday, December 26, 2023: *No Mass or devotions today*
 Tuesday, January 2, 2024: Rosary for Life (4PM)
 Tuesday, January 9, 2024: Rosary for Life (4PM)
 Tuesday, January 16, 2024: Prayer & Pizza (5PM)
 Tuesday, January 23, 2024: Rosary for Life (4PM)

From Fr. Costa:

You may have heard Adam, our music director, refer to the Christmas Mass schedule in his “plug” for new choir members. Yes, that schedule has been determined. To assist with your planning, I offer the schedule and some of the rationale behind this time schedule.



As Christmas falls on a Monday this year, we celebrate a very, very brief fourth week of preparation. The **Fourth Sunday of Advent** is Saturday, December 23, and Sunday, December 24. There will be **two** Masses scheduled for this last Sunday of Advent:

Saturday, December 23, Vigil Mass @ 4:00 p.m.
St. Mary Church

Sunday, December 24, Morning Mass @ 9:30 a.m.
St. Mary Church



There will be six (6) Masses celebrated for the **Christmas** holy day in our parish. Each of our churches will have two Masses. As the 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass is the most popular with our parishioners, there will be three 4:00 p.m. celebrations. The solemn Mass for Christmas will be celebrated at 9:00 p.m. in Sacred Heart Church. The Roman Missal (the official prayerbook for Mass) no longer refers to this as Midnight Mass. Now it is called “Mass in the Night.” This Mass will feature our choir and instrumentalists. There will be a concert of Christmas music before the Mass. The full schedule for Christmas Masses is as follows:

Saint Mary Church

Christmas Eve, December 24, Mass @ 4:00 p.m.
Christmas Day, December 25 @ 9:30 a.m.

Sacred Heart Church

Christmas Eve, December 24, Mass @ 4:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve, December 24, Mass @ 9:00 p.m.

Saint Mark Church

Christmas Eve, December 24, Mass @ 4:00 p.m.
Christmas Day, December 25 @ 8:00 a.m.

I hope the early sharing of this information will be helpful for planning your Christmas activities. Because people always ask, I also want you to know that the collection taken on Christmas remains 100% in the parish. Many thanks for your generosity and commitment to Transfiguration Parish.

Parish Grand Annual Appeal

We are approaching the final stretch of our 2023 Grand Annual Appeal, and the office is still in the process of tabulating figures. Many, many thanks for your concern, dedication, trust and generosity! You, our faithful parishioners, have responded most generously to this extra “ask” which will assist our parish in maintaining and growing ministries and services, complete larger renovation and upkeep projects on our properties, allow us to plan for future development and growth, and provide a financial “cushion” for any unexpected needs that may arise. (I’m not saying the “s” word!)

If you have not made your donation to this appeal, you still have time to join your fellow parishioners. Flyers and donation cards may be found at the doors of all three of our church buildings. Any and every donation counts. Please contact the parish office if you have any questions.

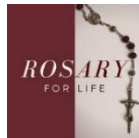
May God bless your generosity and support!

~Fr. Costa

thank you, thank you, thank you!

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.



If you are interested in joining our choir or becoming a cantor, please scan the appropriate QR code(s) and fill out the form.

To join the **choir**:



To become a **cantor**:



If you are unable to complete the form online, please see Adam Turcotte after any Mass to pick up a paper copy.

Lector Workbooks

Lector workbooks for Cycle B which begins on December 2/3 will be available in the sacristy of each church beginning **this** weekend, November 25/26. Please take your book as soon as possible. All books are labeled with the names of those who are currently active in the lector ministry. The books are in the church where you are most often assigned to lector. If you have any questions, please contact Martha in the office. Thank you!



Winter Storm Mass Policy



As we face the unpredictable New England winter season, I share our Winter Storm Mass Policy.

Sunday Mass

Should there be significant snowfall or extreme ice conditions on a weekend, especially if we have been warned or “encouraged” to stay off the roads, weekend Masses will be celebrated **ONLY** at Saint Mark Church. We will follow the usual Mass times, but all Masses will be moved to Stanley Street because (1) I live on that property and the Dominicans would not be driving from Providence to be with us, and (2) only one property will need to be plowed and shoveled in time for Mass. Please note: when we are told to stay off the roads because it is too dangerous to travel due to weather conditions, any Mass obligation does not hold. **STAY HOME** for your safety and the safety of others. The Lord certainly understands!

Daily Mass

When school is canceled or delayed due to winter weather, the daily Mass is also canceled. If the delay is on a Tuesday, we will have Mass on Tuesday afternoon. If there is an early dismissal of school due to winter weather on a Tuesday, the daily Mass on Tuesday afternoon is canceled.

I hope these directives are clear. Thank you for your assistance and cooperation. If you have any questions, please call the parish office.

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.

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!

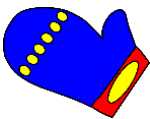
Call for Assistance:

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.

Knights of Columbus – Annual Coat Drive

Knights of Columbus Council #330 will once again be collecting gently-used coats, jackets, hats, and gloves during Advent. Collection boxes will be in all 3 churches **beginning the**

weekend of December 2nd-3rd. The drive will end on the weekend of **December 16th-17th.** The clothing will be donated to local charities and distributed to persons in need. We appreciate the generous donations that our fellow parishioners have provided in the past and hope this year's drive will be as successful as previous ones. Thank you for your generous support!



Madonna Manor Christmas Bazaar



Madonna Manor is very excited to announce the return of their annual Christmas Bazaar, a special holiday tradition, which has been suspended for the past few years due to COVID. The Bazaar will be held on:

Friday, December 1, 2023 (9:00 am – 4:00 pm)

Saturday, December 2, 2023 (9:00 am – 2:00 pm)

Madonna Manor, 85 N. Washington St., N. Attleboro

The Bazaar will feature:

Bakery Items
White Elephant
Raffle Items
Lottery Raffles
50/50 Raffle

Face Painting
Handmade Items
Hot Dogs & Chowder
Photos with Santa
...and more...

All proceeds are to benefit the residents of Madonna Manor.

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.

Class Schedule:

November 27th: **Grade 6**, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

December 3rd: **Grades 1 & 2**, 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.
(following the 8:00 a.m. Mass)

December 3rd: **Grade 9**, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

December 4th: **Grade 8**, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

December 10th: **Grades 3 & 4**, 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.
(following the 8:00 a.m. Mass)

December 11th: **Grade 5**, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

December 17th: **Grades 1 & 2**, 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.
(following the 8:00 a.m. Mass)

December 17th: **Grade 9**, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

December 18th: **Grade 6**, 6:30 - 8:00 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.

PREPARE YOURSELF FOR THE COMING OF OUR

Lord Jesus Christ!

“Adopt-A-Family”



An Advent Project



Transfiguration of the Lord Parish is once again sponsoring “Adopt-A-Family” as an Advent project. Organized by former State Representative Betty Poirier and many faithful assistants from parish organizations, families from North Attleborough are provided with much needed assistance. This project provides warm clothes for all family members and assistance with heat and necessary bills. “Santa” is also given a helping hand with his list for the children. Envelopes will be available beginning **next** weekend, **December 2/3**. We ask that you please make your donations payable directly to **Adopt-A-Family**. Thank you in advance for your generous support of this annual project.

God Bless,

Debbie Fitzgibbons and Betty Poirier,
Adopt-A-Family Committee Members

SAINTS

SAINT MARY-SACRED HEART



Join Our Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School Family!

A Catholic education is one of the best gifts you could ever give your children. From preschool through Grade 8, our SMSH students grow in faith, knowledge, character, and grace, thriving in an atmosphere where they feel respected and loved by their teachers and fellow Saints. We invite you to learn more about our school's strong curriculum by visiting our website: www.smshschool.com.

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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 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!

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Army-Navy Raffle Ticket Campaign: Thank You!

The Army-Navy Raffle Ticket Campaign was a huge success! The participation of our Saints community was overwhelming. We raised over \$16,000 for our Saints Fund.

Due to the amazing response by our Saints, we decided to reward two classes with a whole class No Uniform Day and an Ice Cream Sundae Bar Celebration! The class that had the highest percentage of students participating was Grade 3. The class with the highest ticket sales percentage was Grade 6. And most importantly, the winning ticket pulled by Fr. Dave was sold by Delaney in Grade 7. Congratulations to all the winners!

Again, we thank everyone who supported this fundraising event. A very special thank you to the Monahan family for securing this incredible raffle package for our school. We are so appreciative!



Saint Padre Pio once said:

"A thousand years of enjoying human glory is not worth even an hour spent sweetly communing with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament."

Please join us at **Saint Mark church** on Friday, **December 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.

December Women's Guild Meeting



The Transfiguration of the Lord Parish Women's Guild will be meeting on Tuesday, December 12, 2023. All women of the parish are invited to join us at the St. Mary's Parish Hall starting at 6:00 p.m. We will be having a Potluck Dinner and an Ornament Swap. Please feel free to bring a dish to share and a wrapped ornament for the exchange. RSVP to Cathy LaFratta at 508-612-4748 or catlaf@aol.com. Come join us for an evening of fellowship and fun!

Transfiguration of the Lord Respect Life Group Monthly Meeting:

The next meeting of the Respect Life Group will take place on Thursday, **November 30, 2023 at 6:30 pm in Sacred Heart Church's Library**. We hope to see you there!

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe:

Please join us on **Tuesday, Dec 12, 2023 at the 4:30 PM Mass** at St. Mark church to celebrate the **Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**. This feast commemorates the four apparitions of Mary in 1531 to peasant Juan Diego near Mexico City. Mary told him that a church should be built in that spot. The bishop needed more proof however, and Mary sent Juan to pick roses (rare in December) to present to the bishop. When he opened his cloak (tilma) to show the roses to the bishop, they discovered a painted image of the Blessed Virgin imprinted on the tilma, which is now preserved in the Basilica of Mexico City. Among other titles related to this event, Mary was declared Patroness of the Americas in 1999. We hope you can join us for this tribute to our Blessed Mother. This Mass will be preceded by the Rosary for Life at 4 PM. A collection basket will be available to benefit the charities of the Transfiguration Respect Life Group. Our Lady of Guadalupe, Pray for Us!

Prayer to Christ, Our King

*Lord, Jesus Christ, Our Sovereign King,
the beginning and end of all things,
You have made your Church to be a people that bears witness
to the goodness and beauty of your kingdom.*

*By your Holy Spirit, you have united us as one body, called
to live as one family of God.*

*Fill our hearts with your grace,
that we would be close to you
by being close to the vulnerable and marginalized.*

*Give us the patience to share one another's burdens, and give
us the courage to always be friends of the truth.*

*May we remain with you always.
Amen.*

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, **December 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 for more information.



***Please remember all those who have passed from our
parish in the past year:***

Mary E. Achin, John D. Coyle, Jr., John "Jack" Conlon, Jr., Martha L. Arabian, Louis G. Landry, Robert J. Achin, Helen L. Dumas, Molly Calcagni, Georgette Cloutier, Ronald Vacher, Kathleen H. Fanning, Carol Letendre, Barbara Moitoza-Renner, Dorothy A. Grzywacz, Brian F. Coyle, Richard McLaughlin, Janice T. Kania, John D. Bradley, Cecile R. Cornetta, Roger L. Labonte, Barbara Linfield, Christine M. MacIntosh, Anita L. Coyle, Richard Leydon, Umberto DiTullio, Geraldine McCann, Sister Cecile Mousseau, S.U.S.C., William M. Copley, Sr., Irene T. LaMothe, F. Mark O'Korn, Thomas M. Pastore, Irene "Rita" C. Riel, Eleanor G. Bertino, Joan E. Murphy, John David Menard, Joseph H. A. Veilleux, Barbara A. Burns, Ralph E. Crosta, Don J. Civitarese, Rose M. Shepard, Marilyn H. Redding, Marilyn R. Beard, Nelson R. Chaffee, Jeanne (Ringuette) Kelley, Brittany L. Pilling, Carl Battista, Jr., Pauline C. Elliott, Frances M. (Mikulski) Drzal, David L. Stanley, Charles A. Entwistle, Sr., and Donald Fiola

***Eternal rest grant unto our beloved dead, O Lord.
Let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest always in the loving arms of God.***

Saint of the Week: Saint Andrew November 30th



Andrew was Saint Peter's brother, and was called with him. "As [Jesus] was walking by the sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is now called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, 'Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.' At once they left their nets and followed him" (Matthew 4:18-20).

St. John the Evangelist presents Andrew as a disciple of John the Baptist. "When Jesus walked by one day, John said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God.'" Andrew and another disciple followed Jesus. "Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi (which translated means Teacher), where are you staying?' He said to them, 'Come, and you will see.' So they went and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day" (John 1:38-39a).

Little else is said about Andrew in the Gospels. Before the multiplication of the loaves, it was Andrew who spoke up about the boy who had the barley loaves and fishes. When the Gentiles went to see Jesus, they came to Philip, but Philip then had recourse to Andrew. Legend has it that Andrew preached the Good News in what is now modern Greece and Turkey and was crucified at Patras on an X-shaped cross.

As in the case of all the apostles except Peter and John, the Gospels give us little about the holiness of Andrew. He was an apostle. That is enough. He was called personally by Jesus to proclaim the Good News, to heal with Jesus' power and to share his life and death. Holiness today is no different. It is a gift that includes a call to be concerned about the Kingdom, an outgoing attitude that wants nothing more than to share the riches of Christ with all people.

Saint Andrew is the patron saint of fishermen and the countries of Greece, Russia, and Scotland.

The Solemnity of Christ the King - November 26, 2023



First Reading

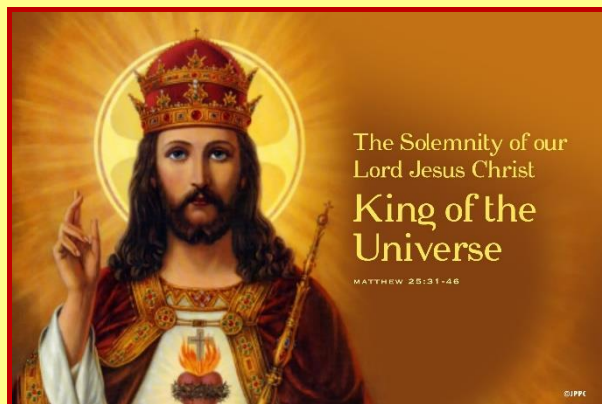
A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel

Thus says the Lord GOD:
I myself will look after and tend my sheep.
As a shepherd tends his flock when he finds himself
among his scattered sheep, so will I tend my sheep.
I will rescue them from every place where they were
scattered when it was cloudy and dark.
I myself will pasture my sheep;
I myself will give them rest, says the Lord GOD.
The lost I will seek out,
the strayed I will bring back,
the injured I will bind up,
the sick I will heal,
but the sleek and the strong I will destroy,
shepherding them rightly.

As for you, my sheep, says the Lord GOD,
I will judge between one sheep and another,
between rams and goats.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Responsorial Psalm

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
In verdant pastures he gives me repose.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Beside restful waters he leads me;
he refreshes my soul.
He guides me in right paths
for his name's sake.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

You spread the table before me
in the sight of my foes;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Only goodness and kindness follow me
all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
for years to come.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading

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

Brothers and sisters:
Christ has been raised from the dead,
the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.
For since death came through man,
the resurrection of the dead came also through man.
For just as in Adam all die,
so too in Christ shall all be brought to life,
but each one in proper order: Christ the firstfruits;
then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ;
then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom
to his God and Father, when he has destroyed every
sovereignty and every authority and power.
For he must reign until he has put all his enemies
under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.
When everything is subjected to him,
then the Son himself will also be subjected
to the one who subjected everything to him,
so that God may be all in all.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come!*

R. Alleluia, 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 said to his disciples:

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me.' Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.' Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?' He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.' And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

THE SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE KING

Power:

The word reminds us of kings, dictators, generals. We speak of the red button that sets off unimaginable destruction. We speak as if the most awesome power is this spectacular, explosive kind. Standing over against this is the power of Christ the King. His is the power that draws us near.

Comment:

The first reading disabuses us of any triumphal thoughts we might have about the role of kings. The image offered to us is God's utterance through the prophet Ezekiel. This prophet was an exile and he felt keenly the scorn heaped upon the once proud people of God.

The reading for today represents Ezekiel's marvelous insight into the compassion of God. We are all familiar with the old idea: one sins, is punished, repents, and gains redemption. Not so, says the God of Ezekiel. We sin and bring on ourselves our own punishment. Then, redemption jumps in—ahead of repentance. Because of God's redemption, we are able to repent. This is the amazing grace. The shepherd seeks us, binds our wounds, shepherds us rightly. The tenderness of this Shepherd-God cannot be missed. The power of God bends down to the little, lost, battered one.

At the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, he described beatitude, or blessedness. At the end, he points out the members of the kingdom—those who help the lowly and needy ones. This is God-like behavior. It is Jesus-like behavior. It defines Christian behavior.

Reflection:

When we act like God, we bend down. Our strength is in our compassion. We see this clearly in the life and ministry of Jesus. We hear it in his words, his parables. Today the story is set squarely on our shoulders. Our work on earth is to bend toward those regarded by others as "the least." There is more: these so-called least are worth the attention we would afford to Jesus himself. For he identifies with them.

The Gospel itself presents a vision of all the people on earth standing before the throne of the Son of God. And he delivers a surprising message. Everyone in the world could understand the irresistible kind of power generated by loving compassion. Active, affective, effective compassion draws us near to its light and warmth. This compassion moves like fire throughout the earth.

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Reflections for the Week beginning Sunday, November 26, 2023

Sunday, Nov 26, 2023

Save the best for last

The film industry has always had a love affair with the afterlife. From *It's a Wonderful Life* to *Heaven Can Wait* to *Ghost* to *Flatliners*, stories remind us that our choices in this world have ramifications in the next. More recent shows—*Dead Like Me*, *The Good Life*, *After Life*, and *Hotel del Luna* among many others—are less traditionally religious but no less curious about what comes next. Every culture and generation seems to sense the need for spirit guides and guardians, as well as justice and an hour of reckoning. As the church year closes, contemplate the ledger of your years. Does it add up to a heavenly ending?

SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17; 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28; Matthew 25:31-46 (160). *"He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.'"*

Monday, Nov 27, 2023

Conversion can be revolutionary

British poet Alice Meynell, who died on this day in 1922, converted to Catholicism while recovering from chronic illness, and her writing thereafter turned to religious subjects. She married a Catholic newspaper publisher and founded a Catholic suffragist organization. When a British priest preached against giving women the right to vote because it would risk "bringing a revolution of the first magnitude," Meynell replied, "...the vaster the magnitude of the revolution, the better." One hundred years after her death, the struggle for equality continues. How do the teachings of Jesus inform your work for justice?

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 1:1-6, 8-20; Luke 21:1-4 (503). *"She, from her poverty, has offered her whole livelihood."*

Tuesday, Nov 28, 2023

Little lamb, who made thee?

Happy birthday to the English poet William Blake, born this day in 1757. Though not Catholic, he's inspired great Catholic poets and many of his poems—like "Jerusalem"—became hymns. Trappist monk Thomas Merton wrote his master's thesis on Blake, emphasizing his spiritual significance in *Seven Storey Mountain*: "His rebellion ... was fundamentally the rebellion of the saints. It was the rebellion of the lover of the living God, the rebellion of the one whose desire of God was so intense and irresistible that it condemned, with all its might, all the hypocrisy and petty sensuality and skepticism and materialism" of organized religion. Pray for all who search for God but find obstacles in religious institutions—and enjoy Blake's "The Lamb."

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 2:31-45; Luke 21:5-11 (504). *"Jesus said, 'All that you see here—the days will come when there will not be left a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down.'"*

Wednesday, Nov 29, 2023

Gracious encounters of the digital kind

Did you buy anything on Cyber Monday? Did you make a charitable donation yesterday, on Giving Tuesday? Whether you did or not, this week's digital focus continues today, which is recognized as Electronic Greetings Day. Pope Francis' 2020

encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* considers how the internet is a powerful tool and how it's our job to use it in a way that makes the world better. "We need constantly to ensure that present-day forms of communication are in fact guiding us to generous encounter with others," he writes. Make time today to send an encouraging email or ecard to someone who needs to hear from you.

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28; Luke 21:12-19 (505). *"The writing I will read for you, O king, and tell you what it means."*

Thursday, Nov 30, 2023

Be a first responder

Is there an Andy, Andre, or Andrea in your life? Whether they know it or not, they bear the name of the Apostle Andrew, one of the fishermen Jesus famously called to be "fishers of men." The Eastern church recognizes Andrew as the first to be called by Jesus. Tradition has it that Andrew was crucified on an X-shaped cross because he felt unworthy to die on a cross identical to Christ's. Andrew led the way in accepting Jesus' invitation to follow him. How will your life today respond to that invitation?

FEAST OF ANDREW, APOSTLE

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 10:9-18; Matthew 4:18-22 (684). *"Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."*

Friday, Dec 01, 2023

Compassionate in the face of controversy

St. Vincent Medical Center in Manhattan, now closed, was in the eye of the AIDS epidemic storm of the 1980s and 1990s. A Catholic hospital run by the Sisters of Charity, St. Vincent opened its doors to care for those who were sick and dying from AIDS. Some staff disagreed with this stance and left. But not the sisters. They stayed true to Jesus' command to care for the suffering, especially those cast aside by society. They entered into dialogue with the gay community, activists, and hospital administrators to better understand their patients and how best to serve them. May we remember their unwavering commitment and compassion—and do likewise.

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 7:2-14; Luke 21:29-33 (507). *"Know that the Kingdom of God is near."*

Saturday, Dec 02, 2023

Be a freedom fighter

The term *modern slavery* covers practices such as forced labor, debt bondage, forced marriage, and human trafficking ... situations of exploitation enforced by violence, coercion, or deception. Here's the shocking news: Modern slavery has increased significantly in the past five years. Ten million more people, largely women and children, were trapped in modern slavery in 2021 compared to 2016, bringing the total estimate to 50 million worldwide. Our God is a God of freedom, who releases us from bondage of all kinds. On this U.N. International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, raise your voice in a phone call, email, or letter to elected officials. Let's put an end to this!

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 7:15-27; Luke 21:34-36 (508). *"Be vigilant at all times."*

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



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