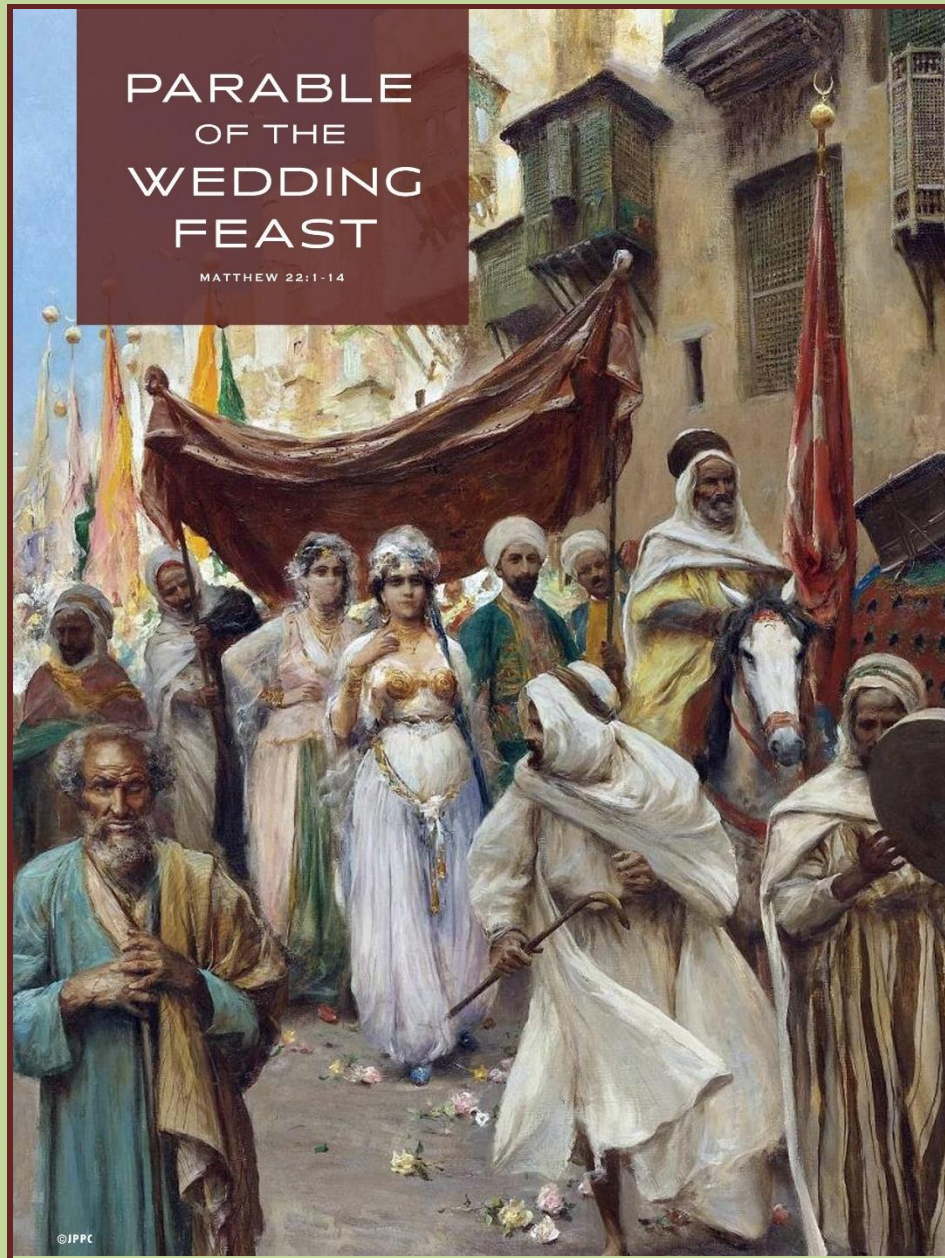


Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 15, 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. 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

MASS Intentions

October 14/15 – 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 4:00 pm	October 14 – Vigil (St. Mary) David Parenteau Nelson Chaffee
Sunday 8:00 am	October 15 (St. Mark) Lillian Seymour
Sunday 9:30 am	October 15 (St. Mary) Deceased Members of the Burtchell & Kavanagh Families
Sunday 11:00 am	October 15 (Sacred Heart) Russell J. Kenney Cheryl Kenney Milone

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Monday 8:00 am	October 16 (St. Mark) Donald Achin Ann Isherwood
Tuesday 4:30 pm	October 17 (St. Mark) Albert Achin
Wednesday 8:00 am	October 18 (St. Mark) Charles Obrist
Thursday 8:00 am	October 19 (St. Mark) People of the Parish

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October 21/22 – 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 4:00 pm	October 21 – Vigil (St. Mary) John & Bernice Prendergast Daniel Nolan
Sunday 8:00 am	October 22 (St. Mark) Edward Rogers
Sunday 9:30 am	October 22 (St. Mary) Muriel & John Fitzgibbons James Taylor
Sunday 11:00 am	October 22 (Sacred Heart) Walter M. Miller Mary J. Wagner

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Parish Contributions

Collection for October 7/8: \$12,730.73

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Communal Rosary Schedule

Tuesday, October 17, 2023: Prayer & Pizza (5PM)
 Tuesday, October 24, 2023: Rosary for Life (4PM)
 Tuesday, October 31, 2023: Rosary for Life (4PM)
 Tuesday, November 7, 2023: Rosary for Life (4PM)
 Tuesday, November 14, 2023: Rosary for Life (4PM)
 Tuesday, November 21, 2023: Prayer & Pizza (5PM)
 Tuesday, November 28, 2023: Rosary for Life (4PM)

Grand Annual Appeal Continues

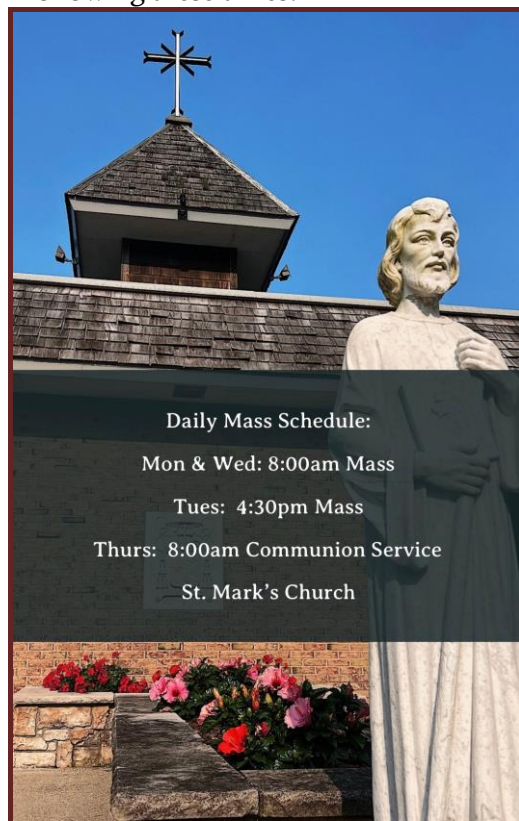
As we move further into the month of October, our Grand Annual Appeal continues with great momentum. Many, many thanks to all who have given most generously to this appeal. The funds collected will allow us to maintain and grow parish ministries, continue upkeep of our parish properties, plan for future projects and allow us a financial cushion for unforeseen emergencies.

An added, nonfinancial benefit to this project is that our parish census can be updated, as a number of former parishioners have moved from the area and their information may be removed from our data base when envelopes are returned as undeliverable.

There is still time for you to participate in this united parish project. Flyers and donation cards are found near the doors of all three of our church buildings. You may also visit our parish website and donate online. A pledge allows you to spread out your donation over a period of time. Please know that 100% of your donation remains here in the parish and all funds collected are not subject to a diocesan tax. The Grand Annual Appeal will continue through the month of October.

Daily Mass Time Change

Beginning this **Monday, October 16**, the daily Mass schedule will change. Daily Mass, devotions, and the weekly Communion Service will remain at Saint Mark Church following these times:



Daily Mass Schedule:

Mon & Wed: 8:00am Mass

Tues: 4:30pm Mass

Thurs: 8:00am Communion Service

St. Mark's Church

Note: The Rosary for Life and Prayer & Pizza will occur before or after the 4:30 pm daily Mass on Tuesdays.

Respect Life Reflection

October is Mental Health Awareness month. The care of those living with mental health conditions falls under the umbrella of respect for life.

Good mental health is vital to our overall health and well-being. Yet one in eight people globally are living with mental health conditions, which can impact their physical health, their overall well-being, how they connect with others, and their livelihoods. Mental health conditions are also affecting an increasing number of adolescents and young people.

- *According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), 21% of adults in our country are experiencing a mental health condition; 15% of adults had a substance use disorder in the past year; 17% of youth (ages 6-17) experience a mental health disorder;*
- *People with mental illness have a biological disorder which can be treated with a combination of medications and counseling just as people with diabetes are treated with insulin and diet;*
- *Mental illness can be isolating for the impacted person and their family;*
- *Early intervention, as with other types of illnesses, leads to better outcomes for the person and their family;*
- *No one should have to wait until they are in crisis or have a diagnosis to get this help. We should be equipping our faith community with the ability to address mental health and substance use in an impactful manner.*
- *People often turn to their faith community seeking help for a mental health or substance use challenge;*
- *In baptism, we become equal in dignity as members of the Body of Christ;*
- *The Church is not called to cure mental illness – that is the task of medical science. We are called to be a healing presence to help the faithful find wholeness and peace in the midst of the illness. Our call is to help people with a mental illness find a healing presence;*
- *Spirituality and faith often provide a sense of security and social structure and those beliefs can be a strong support through trying times.*

In recognition of the impact that mental health challenges can have on individuals, their families and caregivers, Bishop Edgar da Cunha will offer a special Mass on **Sunday, October 29th, 2023**, at **10:30 a.m.** at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption on Second Street in Fall River. This Mass will be offered for those who have lost a loved one to suicide, drug and alcohol use, or mental illness. In addition, it will be offered for those who are currently experiencing mental health challenges. All are welcome! A Book of Remembrance will be offered during the Mass for those who have died. If you would like to submit a name or names of loved ones, please email FR-Reception@ccfrdioc.org, with the subject line: Name for Remembrance Book. You may also call Catholic Charities Diocese of Fall River at 508-674-4681 Ext. 1101.

2024 Mass Intention Book

The 2024 Mass Intention Book is officially 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.

Marriage Preparation Team

Volunteers are needed to assist with the Marriage Preparation Team. We are looking for recently married couples and seasoned couples, as well as any other parish members who would like to join. Sessions are twice a year. This is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen your relationship and to give back to the community. If you would like to learn more about the program, please contact Lori Darragh (508-838-8580).

Prayer and Pizza

Are you looking for another way to deepen your spirituality? Do you have “knots” in your life that you need help undoing? Please join us on the third Tuesday of each month for “Prayer and Pizza.” Following the 4:30 pm Mass this **Tuesday, October 17**, we together will pray the rosary, which will be offered up to Mary, Undoer of Knots (maryundoerofknots.com). Whether you pray the rosary daily or have never prayed it before, please consider joining us for “Prayer and Pizza.” All are welcome! Please contact Rick Leco (508 930 9264) or Vicky Curran (508 930 3306) with any questions.

Army-Navy Game Tickets Raffle



Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School is sponsoring an extra special raffle featuring 4 tickets to the upcoming Army-Navy Football Classic held this year at Gillette Stadium on Saturday, December 9.

Tailgate Party Package includes:

Four (4) 300 Level Sideline Tickets to the Army vs. Navy football game; Four (4) Tailgate Party Passes – tailgate located at the New England Patriots Practice Facility; Access to the climate controlled socios.com Field House at Gillette Stadium for pregame festivities; Hosted entertainment including buffet, hosted bar, tailgate games, DJ, giveaways; Hospitality begins one hour before the March-On.

This package value equals \$3,200! Raffle Tickets are \$25 each or 5 for \$100 (*Must be the same name on all tickets for the 5 for \$100). Tickets will be on sale after all Masses the weekend of October 29/30. Drawing will take place on November 15th.

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.

Brown Bag Project:



In order to stock our food pantry as the busy holiday season approaches, the St. Vincent de Paul Society is asking for your help. "Brown Bags" will be available at all Masses the weekend of October 14-15. Each bag will have 6 non-perishable items listed on them as **suggested** items. Additional items to help restock the pantry will be included such as shampoo, deodorant, and soap, which cannot be bought with food stamps. This is our primary way of keeping our pantry well stocked. Gift cards to Stop & Shop, Shaw's & CVS are always welcome to purchase pantry items. Bags can be returned beginning the weekend of October 21-22. Our pantry is being utilized more than ever by our friends in need and **any** help you can provide is very much appreciated.

A special thank you to Stop & Shop for their continued generosity to our food pantry! We thank our parishioners in advance for your continued support of this project and the works of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society.

Bishop Feehan High School Open House

At Bishop Feehan High School we believe that great things are always within reach. Are you ready to be bold with us, to believe in yourself and to reach higher than you ever thought possible? If so, we can't wait to help you get to know us and get started on an amazing high school journey. Join us at our Open House **this** Sunday, **October 15th at 1pm**. This is a great opportunity to meet the Feehan community, tour campus and learn about academic programs, athletics and club activities.

BishopFeehan.com/getinfo

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:

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

October 15th: **Grade 9**, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

October 16th: **Grade 5**, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

October 22nd: **Grades 3 & 4**, 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.
(following the 8:00 a.m. Mass)

October 23rd: **Grade 6**, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

October 29th: **Grades 1 & 2**, 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.
(following the 8:00 a.m. Mass)

October 29th: **Grade 9**, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

October 30th: **Grade 7**, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

November 5th: **Grades 3 & 4**, 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.
(following the 8:00 a.m. Mass)

November 6th: **Grade 8**, 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.

Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School - JOIN NOW!

*Flourish with FAITH, Family and Fundamentals!
Celebrating 100 Years of Catholic Education in the town
of North Attleboro*



Our Mass of Thanksgiving was such a wonderful way to begin our 100 years jubilee! What an amazing day for our whole SMSH school community celebrating with Bishop da Cunha and Fr. Dave. This truly was a special occasion in our school's history. We are so blessed!

We invite you to make SMSH part of your story. Learn more about our Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 8 Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School students and programs by visiting our website: www.smschool.com.

Transfiguration of the Lord Parish Annual Christmas Fair at Saint Mary Church



Join us as we plan for Transfiguration Parish's Annual Christmas Fair at St. Mary Church. The Festival of Trees opens Friday, November 24th from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. upstairs for exhibit, raffles and silent auction. On Saturday, November 25th the Fair continues from 9 a.m.-4:00 p.m. in the Parish Center (downstairs). If you have never been involved with the Fair, please consider joining us!

SILENT AUCTION

Our fair is just six weeks away and our **Silent Auction** table needs your help! Do you have tickets to a sporting event or theater/concert performance you can't use? Would you like to host a dinner party or donate a restaurant gift certificate? Are you an artist or crafts person who has an item you have created that you would consider donating? In the past we have had donations of sports equipment, computers, and jewelry. If you would like to make a donation, please contact Gerry Brunell at 508-695-1914 or Andrea Pariseau at 774-278-7222.

Theme Raffle Baskets

Your help is needed to fill our raffle baskets for the fair! Poster boards with suggested themes can be found near the entrances of each of our churches: (1) Choose a **"Theme"** and peel it off the board. (2) Take a basket. (3) Fill the basket & bring it back to any of the 3 churches (*with your theme*). Please return baskets by **Sunday, November 11th**. We will arrange the basket and wrap it for you! Thank you for your assistance and support!

*Please clip and drop in collection basket or mail to the office:
14 Park Street, North Attleborough, MA 02760*

Transfiguration Parish Christmas Fair November 25, 2023

We need everyone's help in making our Christmas Fair a big success! Listed below are ways **you** can make a difference. Please circle your choices below!

Yes, I can help with the Christmas Fair this year!

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Please circle what you would like to do:

Help with set-up ~ Help to decorate ~ Bake
Make candy ~ Donate a gift card ~ Donate a bottle of wine
Sponsor a table ~ Help with the Festival of Trees

Work the day of the Fair

Hours available to work: _____

Please contact Karen Smith (508-212-7377) or

Miles Miller (508-369-1349) with any questions.

To volunteer, please contact Colleen Buckley at 508-455-8446.

Festival of Trees

The ever-popular "Festival of Trees" will return to our parish Christmas Fair on Friday evening, November 24, and Saturday, November 25. The center of aisle of Saint Mary Church will becoming a winter wonderland of lights and themed Christmas trees showcasing the talents of our parishioners.

We need your help to make this aspect of our annual Christmas Fair a success. Next weekend, October 21/22, you will be invited to sign-up to decorate a tree. Trees of various sizes will be available for the taking or you can purchase your own. You choose the theme and use your imagination and creativity to fashion a masterpiece! Trees need to be returned to St. Mary Church by Wednesday, November 22.

Use this week to decide upon your theme. Many of the stores in our area have their Christmas decorations available now. We look forward to displaying your creativity and raffling off your masterpiece!

Transfiguration of the Lord Respect Life Group Monthly Meeting:

The next meeting of the Respect Life Group will take place on Thursday, **November 2, 2023 at 6:30 pm in Sacred Heart Church's Library.**

Hospice Talk:

Believing that all life is sacred from conception to natural death, the Respect Life Committee is offering an evening conversation on the topic of hospice. What is hospice? Does hospice accelerate the pace of death? What is the difference between hospice and palliative care? Can Catholics be on hospice? What happens when somebody is on hospice? What are advanced directives and why is it important? These questions and many more will be answered at our gathering. Please join us at Sacred Heart Meeting Room, **October 24, 2023 at 7:00 pm. ALL ARE WELCOME.**

October is Respect Life Month:



"O Blessed Mother, at the angel's word you went in haste to the aid of your cousin Elizabeth. Although pregnant yourself, you placed her needs before your own. By your example of radical solidarity, teach us to reverence and protect those in need, without conditions or expectations."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

"Prayer for Radical Solidarity"

respectlife.org/prayer-for-radical-solidarity

Saint of the Week: St. Margaret Mary Alacoque October 16th

Margaret Mary was chosen by Christ to arouse the Church to a realization of the love of God symbolized by the heart of Jesus. Her early years were marked by sickness and a painful home situation. "The heaviest of my crosses was that I could do nothing to lighten the cross my mother was suffering." After considering marriage for some time, Margaret Mary entered the Order of the Visitation nuns at the age of 24.

A Visitation nun was "not to be extraordinary except by being ordinary," but the young nun was not to enjoy this anonymity. A fellow novice termed Margaret Mary humble, simple, and frank, but above all, kind and patient under sharp criticism and correction. She could not meditate in the formal way expected, though she tried her best to give up her "prayer of simplicity." Slow, quiet, and clumsy, she was assigned to help an infirmarian who was a bundle of energy.

On December 21, 1674, three years a nun, she received the first of her revelations. She felt "invested" with the presence of God, though always afraid of deceiving herself in such matters. The request of Christ was that his love for humankind be made evident through her.

During the next 13 months, Christ appeared to her at intervals. His human heart was to be the symbol of his divine-human love. By her own love Margaret Mary was to make up for the coldness and ingratitude of the world—by frequent and loving Holy Communion, especially on the first Friday of each month, and by an hour's vigil of prayer every Thursday night in memory of his agony and isolation in Gethsemane. He also asked that a feast of reparation be instituted.

Like all saints, Margaret Mary had to pay for her gift of holiness. Some of her own sisters were hostile. Theologians who were called in declared her visions delusions and suggested that she eat more heartily. Later, parents of children she taught called her an impostor, an unorthodox innovator. A new confessor, the Jesuit Claude de la Colombière, recognized her genuineness and supported her. Against her great resistance, Christ called her to be a sacrificial victim for the shortcomings of her own sisters, and to make this known.

After serving as novice mistress and assistant superior, Margaret Mary died at the age of 43, while being anointed. She said: "I need nothing but God, and to lose myself in the heart of Jesus."



St. Margaret Mary Alacoque



"I need nothing but God, and to lose myself in the heart of Jesus. My love reigns in suffering, it triumphs in humility and enjoys itself in unity."

-St. Margaret Mary Alacoque (October 16th)

Adopt-A-Family Bowl-A-Thon

Get your bowling shoes ready! Our Annual Adopt-A-Family Fundraiser bowl-a-thon will be held at North Bowl on **Friday, October 20, 2023**. For so many of you who have experienced this fun-filled event in the past can attest to what a wonderful time they had coming together with our catholic community. It is a great evening of fellowship, laughter, friendship, and many chances to win some awesome raffle items! Also you **DO NOT HAVE TO BOWL** to attend this event. Many just come and take chances and have something to eat and socialize with friends to support this wonderful cause.



SO . . . MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR OUR NEXT FUN-FILLED BOWL-A-THON SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20th! If you are interested in pulling together a team or if you don't have a team, we can put you on a team. Call Deb Fitzgibbons at 978-884-1945 with any questions or to secure a lane! If you are interested in sponsoring a lane, we will develop a "personalized" banner for you! Don't miss out . . . this event has grown every year and there is **SO MUCH FUN** to be had! Cost for bowling is \$20.00 adults/\$11.00 children (under 10). God Bless,

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

Fifth Saturday Rosary

Please join the Knights of Columbus Council #330 for praying a decade of the Rosary on the 5th Saturday of the month, **October 28th**, at **8:30am**, at St. Mary Church, at the statue of the Blessed Virgin. All parishioners are invited to attend.

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time - October 15, 2023



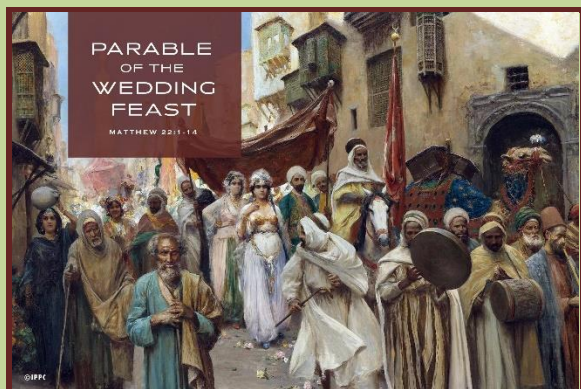
First Reading

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

On this mountain the LORD of hosts
will provide for all peoples
a feast of rich food and choice wines,
juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines.
On this mountain he will destroy
the veil that veils all peoples,
the web that is woven over all nations;
he will destroy death forever.
The Lord GOD will wipe away
the tears from every face;
the reproach of his people he will remove
from the whole earth; for the LORD has spoken.
On that day it will be said:
"Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us!
This is the LORD for whom we looked;
let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!"
For the hand of the LORD will rest on this mountain.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Responsorial Psalm

R. I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. In verdant pastures he gives me repose; beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul.

R. I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

He guides me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side with your rod and your staff that give me courage.

R. I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

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

R. I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

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. I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

Second Reading

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters:

I know how to live in humble circumstances;
I know also how to live with abundance.
In every circumstance and in all things
I have learned the secret of being well fed and of going hungry,
of living in abundance and of being in need.
I can do all things in him who strengthens me.
Still, it was kind of you to share in my distress.

My God will fully supply whatever you need,
in accord with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.
To our God and Father, glory forever and ever.
Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our hearts, so that we may
know what is the hope that belongs to our call.*

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 again in reply spoke to the chief priests and elders
of the people in parables, saying,

"The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. He dispatched his servants to summon the invited guests to the feast, but they refused to come. A second time he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those invited: "Behold, I have prepared my banquet, my calves and fattened cattle are killed, and everything is ready; come to the feast."' Some ignored the invitation and went away, one to his farm, another to his business. The rest laid hold of his servants, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged and sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The feast is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy to come. Go out, therefore, into the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you find.' The servants went out into the streets and gathered all they found, bad and good alike, and the hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to meet the guests, he saw a man there not dressed in a wedding garment. The king said to him, 'My friend, how is it that you came in here without a wedding garment?' But he was reduced to silence. Then the king said to his attendants, 'Bind his hands and feet, and cast him into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.' Many are invited, but few are chosen."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

R.S.V.P:

Most people can't invite the whole class to their child's birthday party, so choices have to be made. Some classmates will receive invitations while others won't. Most parents caution their children not to discuss the plans at school or around those not invited in order to avoid hurt feelings. Word gets out anyway. What do the uninvited do? Sometimes they sulk, sabotage, cry, or complain. Once in awhile they get creative and all the uninvited head to one of their backyards and have a great time of it themselves. Even when we're feeling left out, God always invites us. There's always a "backyard" to go to with God.

Comment:

The theme this Sunday revolves around banquets and celebrations. In Isaiah we learn that all people will be invited to the banquet—not just the chosen ones. The term banquet doesn't do justice to the celebration that is planned. When we think of the joy and merriment found at the best party we've ever been to, we still only have a glimpse of the day God has planned. It will be the end of all the hurt, suffering, and sadness we have known. The celebration is in honor of salvation, the victory over death.

Paul tells the Philippians that he knows suffering and want, but he especially knows the graciousness of their community. He assures them of their place at the banquet where their every need will be satisfied.

Matthew reports one of Jesus' parables about a banquet and continues the theme that we are all invited to God's eternal feast. The first group to be invited, however, is apathetic and shrugs off the invitation. Provoked by their indifference, God will invite a second group—anyone who wants to come!

Reflection:

But if you come, you must follow the rules, including the dress code. In the parable, one person from the second group came to the feast not wearing the traditional wedding garment. He remained silent when questioned, but he could have made any excuse: he didn't have much notice; he came, after all, when the original ones didn't; how important is it, really?

We accepted God's invitation to be part of the family celebration. Perhaps our parents accepted it for us at our baptism, but we have sacramentally or prayerfully confirmed that acceptance. In the garments of our baptism we have R.S.V.P.'d to the conditions of the banquet and want to be a part of this victorious celebration.

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Reflections for the Week beginning Sunday, October 15, 2023

Sunday, Oct 15, 2023

Stretch your spirituality

Your doctor says that even a little exercise is important to keep the body flexible. Joints that move regularly are body parts that can function well a while longer. Walking 20 minutes a day or taking a water aerobics class are easy ways to lubricate the joints we need to perform our daily tasks. Saint Paul reminds us that flexibility is also a significant aspect of the spiritual life. Can we accept good times and bad, seasons of plenty or want, with the same light grip? Moving through circumstances fluidly makes for a freer life, and a gentler death.

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 25:6-10a; Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20; Matthew 22:1-14 (142). *"I have learned the secret of being well fed and of going hungry, of living in abundance and of being in need."*

Monday, Oct 16, 2023

A heart as wide as the world

Depicted as a flaming, shining, bleeding heart, pierced by a lance, encircled by a crown of thorns, and topped with a cross, the Sacred Heart of Jesus symbolizes Christ's boundless, suffering love for humanity. The devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is one of the best known and most practiced of all Catholic devotions, but the 17th-century French Visitation nun who received the revelation of this devotion, Margaret Mary Alacoque, was doubted in her lifetime, and the practice wasn't officially recognized until 75 years after her death. Incorporate an aspiration, or short prayer, to the Sacred Heart each day to remind you that you are unconditionally loved. Examples are "Sacred Heart of Jesus, make my heart like yours," "Sacred Heart of Jesus, I believe in your love for me," or "Sacred Heart of Jesus, may you be known, loved, and imitated!"

MEMORIAL OF MARGARET MARY ALACOQUE, RELIGIOUS

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 1:1-7; Luke 11:29-32 (467). *"At the preaching of Jonah they repented, and there is something greater than Jonah here."*

Tuesday, Oct 17, 2023

Bread of Life, bread for the poor

Saint Ignatius Theophorus wrote seven epistles while trudging from Antioch to Rome. As Roman soldiers pushed him toward martyrdom in a coliseum, Ignatius decried a different enemy of Christian faith: docetism, whose Christian adherents claimed Jesus never existed physically on Earth—that he only appeared to. In denying the Incarnation, Ignatius says, such heretics also fail to see the Lord's presence in the Eucharist and in the poor. "They have no concern for love, none for the widow, none for the orphan, none for the oppressed, none for the prisoner or the one released, none for the hungry or thirsty." And "they abstain from Eucharist" because "they refuse to acknowledge the Eucharist." Ignatius, help us to see Jesus—in all the places he said he'd be.

MEMORIAL OF IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH, BISHOP, MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 1:16-25; Luke 11:37-41 (468). *"As to what is within, give alms, and behold, everything will be clean for you."*

Wednesday, Oct 18, 2023

Pack lightly for the journey of faith

Today we celebrate the feast of the evangelist Luke. Best known for his gospel, Luke was a dedicated disciple of Paul who goes so far as to join Paul in prison—twice. You can read Luke's account

of the early Christians in the Acts of the Apostles. But first, read what Luke says in today's gospel, which gives Jesus' directives to the disciples who are serving as his advance team. These directives are simple but not easy: "Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals"—and they remain amazingly relevant to living a simple life of faith. How can you enact them in your own life?

FEAST OF LUKE, EVANGELIST

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Timothy 4:10-17b; Luke 10:1-9 (661). *"Luke is the only one with me."*

Thursday, Oct 19, 2023

Reconciling our past

Today is the memorial of several men who were killed for evangelizing native people in Quebec. The documentation of these encounters is almost entirely from the perspective of European American Christians, with missionaries as heroic martyrs and natives as murderous heathens. The truth is much more complicated. Pope Francis' 2022 apology to indigenous people in Canada and the U.S. Catholic Indigenous Boarding School Accountability and Healing Project are two efforts to look at the bigger picture of Christian-Indigenous relationships with accountability and reconciliation as goals. Join these efforts by exploring Native American culture and history.

MEMORIAL OF JOHN DE BRÉBEUF AND ISAAC JOGUES, PRIESTS, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 3:21-30; Luke 11:47-54 (470). *"Woe to you, scholars of the law! You have taken away the key of knowledge."*

Friday, Oct 20, 2023

GPS for the soul

Spiritual direction is a great tool for navigating with God the ups and downs of everyday life. The practice involves a one-on-one relationship with a spiritual director who helps us to see how God is moving in our lives. A director listens and offers wisdom such as that of Paul of the Cross: "Let everything in creation draw you to God. Refresh your mind with some innocent recreation and needful rest, if it were only to saunter through the garden or the fields, listening to the sermon preached by the flowers, the trees, the meadows, the sun, the sky, and the whole universe." In honor of Saint Paul cultivate the art of listening wisely.

MEMORIAL OF PAUL OF THE CROSS, PRIEST

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 4:1-8; Luke 12:1-7 (471). *"Are not five sparrows sold for two small coins? Yet not one of them has escaped the notice of God."*

Saturday, Oct 21, 2023

A higher law

All of us run afoul of the law at some point or another, even if it's as minor as a parking ticket. Laws, religious or secular, are there to set standards and impose order. They have their purpose, but if we hope to be released from all that afflicts us in this life, we'll need a different kind of law—the law of love, mercy, compassion, and forgiveness. As 20th-century monk and mystic Thomas Merton explains, "The first obligation of the Christian is to maintain their freedom from all empty forms of legalism" and "live by a higher law—the law of grace and love." Let faith lead you there.

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 4:13, 16-18; Luke 12:8-12 (472).

"Brothers and sisters: It was not through the law that the promise was made to Abraham and his descendants . . . it depends on faith."

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



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