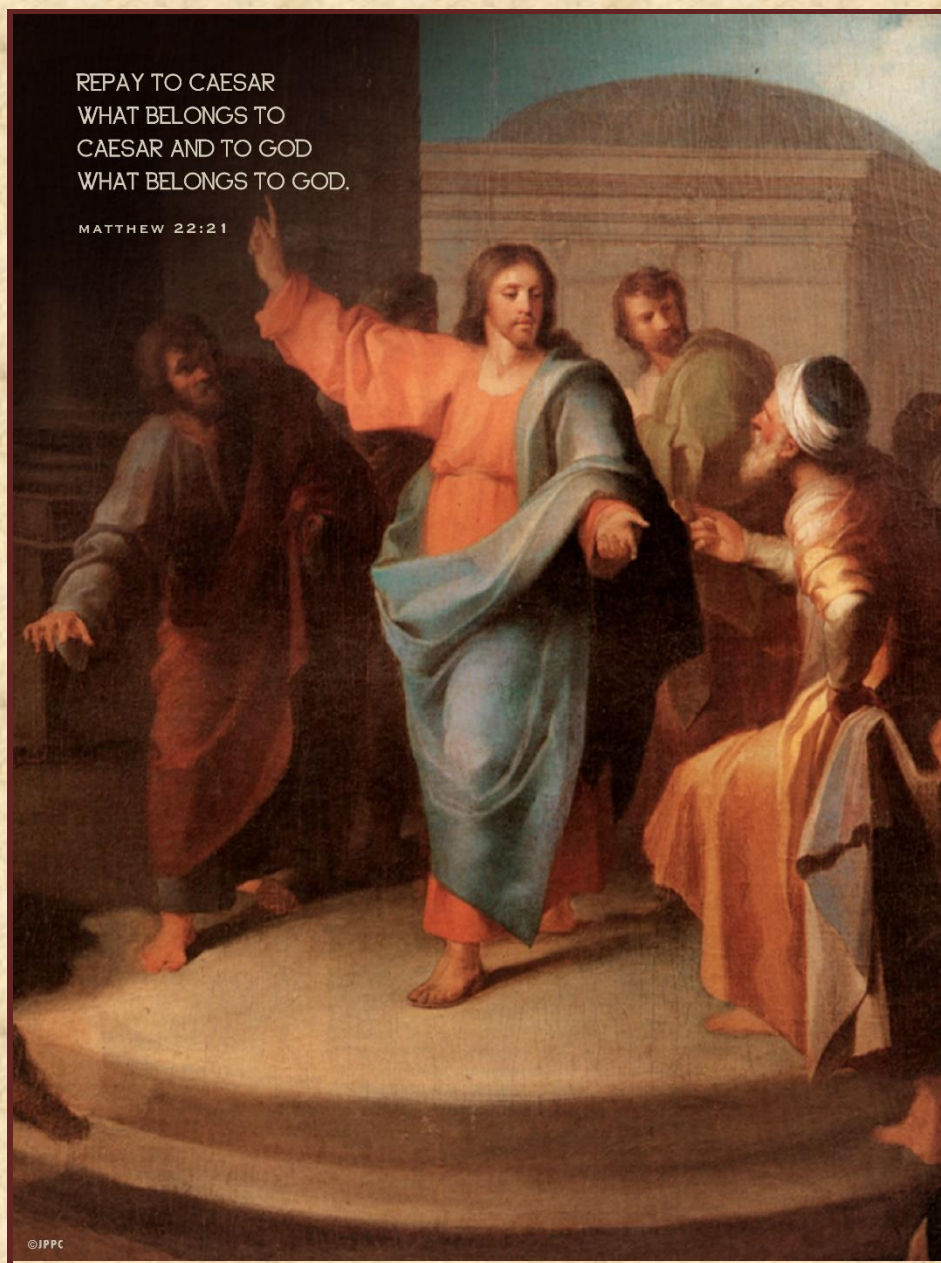


Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 22, 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 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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Monday 8:00 am	October 23 (St. Mark) Henry & Isabelle Achin
Tuesday 4:30 pm	October 24 (St. Mark) People of the Parish
Wednesday 8:00 am	October 25 (St. Mark) Victoria Ann Leco
Thursday 8:00 am	October 26 (St. Mark) John Morrissey

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October 28/29 – 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 4:00 pm	October 28 – Vigil (St. Mary) Rose Shepard
Sunday 8:00 am	October 29 (St. Mark) People of the Parish
Sunday 9:30 am	October 29 (St. Mary) Charles & Charlotte Burke John “Jack” Conlon
Sunday 11:00 am	October 29 (Sacred Heart) Kevin Begley Edward Kent

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Parish Contributions

Collection for October 14/15: \$11,924.14

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Communal Rosary Schedule

Tuesday, October 24, 2023: Rosary for Life (4PM)
 Tuesday, October 31, 2023: *No Mass or devotions today*
 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)
 Tuesday, December 5, 2023: Rosary for Life (4PM)
 Tuesday, December 12, 2023: Rosary for Life (4PM)
 Tuesday, December 19, 2023: Prayer & Pizza (5PM)

Grand Annual Appeal Continues

As we move towards the end 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.

thank you, thank you, thank you!

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.

Reminder: Daily Mass Time Change

Just as a reminder, the daily Mass schedule has now changed. Daily Mass, devotions, and the weekly Communion Service will remain at Saint Mark Church following these times:

Monday: Daily Mass at 8:00 a.m.

Tuesday: Daily Mass at 4:30 p.m.

(Note: the Respect Life rosary and Prayer & Pizza will be before or after daily Mass on Tuesdays.)

Wednesday: Daily Mass at 8:00 a.m.

Thursday: Communion Service at 8:00 a.m.

Thank you for your patient understanding and cooperation as we settle into these changes.

Respect Life Reflection

Say **NO** to Physician Assisted Suicide in Massachusetts
LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD NOW!

The Massachusetts State Legislature is again considering passing into law two deeply troubling bills this session which would legalize Physician Assisted Suicide. The bills, House 2246 and Senate 1331, are identical in text and titled "An Act relative to end of life options".

The Catholic Bishops of Massachusetts stand united in our strong opposition to Physician Assisted Suicide. It is an affront to life and a dangerous precedent for determining end of life issues. Physicians are trained to care for the ill, not to hasten death.

Here are some troubling facts to consider before you act:

1.) The bills would allow a physician to provide a deadly drug mixture to an individual diagnosed with less than 6 months to live that, when consumed, would cause death.

NOTE- The diagnosis could be wrong. Countless individuals have outlived that 6-month diagnosis and enjoyed many more precious months and years with family and friends.

2.) No Real Safeguards - A vulnerable individual who is physically disabled, depressed, or fears being a "burden" may be subject to undue influence by others to take the drug mixture, especially if there is a financial benefit as an incentive.

3.) The primary focus of elected officials should be dedicated to legislation providing quality health care, mental health care and palliative care to the sick and dying – particularly in the underserved, poor and minority communities that suffer the most at the time of need.

How can your voice be heard?

Call or email your legislators, let them know you are a Massachusetts voter, and say NO to Physician Assisted Suicide! Log on to www.macatholic.org and follow the links to find contact information for:

- Members of the legislative Joint Committee on Public Health who will be considering these bills.
- Your individual State Senator and Representative via address and zip code link.

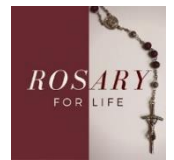
For individuals without internet access, please call the **Massachusetts Catholic Conference** at **617-746-5630** for legislative contact information.

Christmas Fair Organizational Meeting

There will be an organizational meeting for this year's Christmas Fair on Wednesday, **October 25th** at **7:00 pm** in **Saint Mary Church Hall**. Come and be part of the fun – we are always looking for volunteers to join our team! The Transfiguration of the Lord Parish Christmas Fair will begin on Friday, November 24th with the Festival of the Trees, and will continue on Saturday, November 25th with live greens, handmade items, food, raffle baskets, and much more! Our volunteers have been busy for months planning, crafting and creating, and we hope you can come to the meeting to learn more about the fair! Thank you for your generous support!

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.



6th Annual Knights of Columbus 5k Run/Walk

Knights of Columbus Council #330 would like to encourage our fellow Transfiguration of the Lord parishioners to participate in the 6th Annual Wrentham Knights of Columbus 5k Run/Walk, on November 5th, 2023, 9AM. More information is available at <http://wrenthamkofc.racewire.com> or contact the race director at delorenzom@yahoo.com.



Marriage Congratulations!

Our prayerful congratulations are extended to **Brianna Travassos and Craig Soares** who were united in the Sacrament of Marriage, Saturday, September 23rd, and to **Katrina Machado and Kevin Chen** who were united in the Sacrament of Marriage on Sunday, October 1st. *May God's choicest blessings come upon you as you begin to live this sacrament of love.*

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).



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:



We want to thank our parishioners for your continued support of this year's Brown Bag Project, and the works of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society. This is our primary way of keeping our pantry well stocked, and we appreciate all of your help. Gift cards to Stop & Shop, Shaw's & CVS are always welcome to purchase pantry items. Bags can be returned beginning *this* weekend, **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 E. A. Dion for printing our labels for the Brown Bag Project, and to Stop & Shop for their continued generosity to our food pantry!*

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 28/29**. Drawing will take place on November 15th.

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 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.

November 12th: **Grades 1 & 2**, 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.
(following the 8:00 a.m. Mass)

November 12th: **Grade 9**, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

November 13th: **Grade 5**, 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



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.

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.

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



Join us as we plan for Transfiguration Parish's Christmas Fair at St. Mary Church. The Festival of Trees opens Friday, November 24th from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm and Saturday, 9 am - 2:30 pm upstairs for exhibit, raffles and silent auction. On Saturday, November 25th the Fair continues from 9 am-4:00 pm in the Parish Center (downstairs). If you have never been involved with the Fair, please consider joining us! This is a great way to meet parishioners and share your gifts and talents.

Sponsors Needed

We are looking for **Christmas Fair sponsors**. If you or any area businesses would like to sponsor the fair, please contact Karen Smith at 508-212-7377 for more information. All sponsors will be recognized at the fair and in our parish bulletin.

Silent Auction

Our fair is just five 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 12th**. 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 become 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. **This 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! Many of the stores in our area have their Christmas decorations available now. Trees need to be returned to St. Mary Church by Wednesday, November 22. We look forward to displaying your creativity and raffling off your masterpiece!

What-Not Shoppe

Dana Frederick is collecting gently-used household items and new gift items you may have received but cannot use. *Please remember that we cannot accept used electronic items such as TVs, computers, printers, etc.* **You may drop off your donations after any Mass at St. Mary Church, or at the parish office during normal business hours (8am-4pm).** If you need to schedule a different time, or if you have any questions, please contact Dana Frederick at 508-695-3859.

50/50 Raffle

We will be selling tickets for the 50/50 raffle at all Masses starting November 4th through November 19th and at the Fair. Tickets are sold as books of **6 for \$5**. Good luck!

Wine Wheel

Donations are needed for our Wine Wheel. If you have an extra bottle of wine (*or more*) that you would like to donate, we would be most grateful. Donations can be returned after any of the Masses, or by setting up an appointment with a committee member at a convenient time for you. Please contact Kathy Scholtes at 508-930-0119 for more information.

Sewing, Knitting & Crafts

We are looking for any hand-made/sewn items, and any crafts for the fair. Donations can be returned after any of the Masses. Please contact Connie Schnack at 508-695-9774 or Noreen Kiff at 508-310-3570 for more information.

Bakery & Candy Shoppe

Please consider baking some tasty treats for our fair. Our famous meat pies will also be available for sale. Baked goods, candy, and fudge can be dropped off on **Friday, November 24th from 9AM to noon**. Thank you!

Prayer for Israel & Gaza

God of light and salvation, our refuge and our strength, we pray for the people of Israel and Palestine amid the escalating violence.

We pray for those killed and injured by rockets from Gaza in southern Israel. May your rod and staff comfort them. We pray for those who are grieving. May they know your ever-present help.

We pray for the protection of those who have been taken hostage by Hamas. As they walk through this dark valley, may they fear no evil.

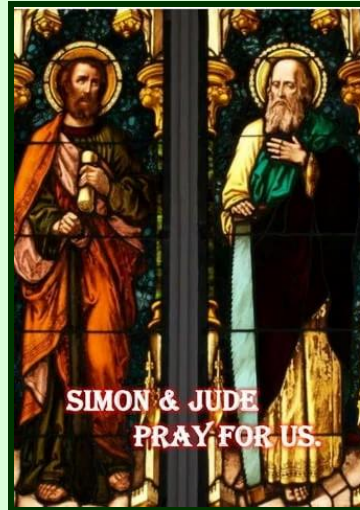
We pray for the civilians of Gaza. May they know that their help comes from the Maker of heaven and earth. We especially remember all of those who have been killed and wounded in Gaza today - may you comfort and heal those who are in pain and those who have lost loved ones.

And we pray for those in leadership in Gaza and Israel. May you guide them along the right paths. We ask all this in union with Christ and trusting in the power of your Holy Spirit.

Amen.



Saints of the Week: Saints Simon & Jude, Apostles October 28th



Saints Simon and Jude were two of the Apostles. In the Gospel of Luke, Simon is called "the Zealot," meaning he may have belonged to a radical anti-Roman group. Jude, the son of James, spoke with Jesus at the Last Supper. According to Passion of Simon and Jude, an apocryphal text, the two saints preached and were martyred together in Persia. These Apostles remind us to execute the will of God with a sense of inquiry and passion.

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:

THE GOSPEL OF LIFE

EVANGELIUM VITAE

"I would now like to say a special word to women who have had an abortion. The Church is aware of the many factors which may have influenced your decision, and she does not doubt that in many cases it was a painful and even shattering decision. The wound in your heart may not yet have healed. ...But do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope. ...The Father of mercies is ready to give you his forgiveness and his peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation."

Pope Saint John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae*, no. 99. © 1995, Libreria Editrice Vaticana.
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29th Sunday in Ordinary Time - October 22, 2023



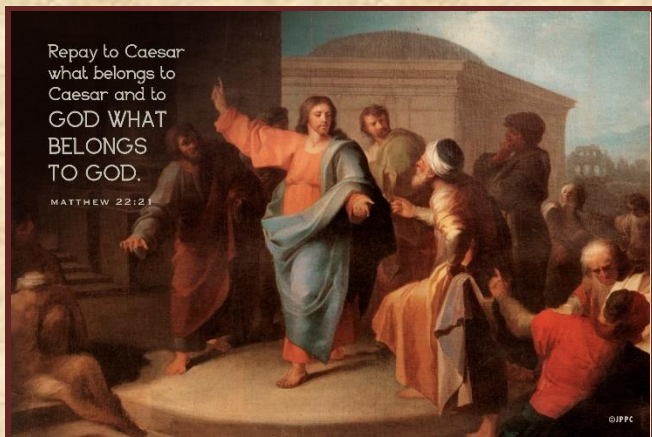
First Reading

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Thus says the LORD to his anointed, Cyrus,
whose right hand I grasp,
subduing nations before him,
and making kings run in his service,
opening doors before him
and leaving the gates unbarred:
For the sake of Jacob, my servant,
of Israel, my chosen one,
I have called you by your name,
giving you a title, though you knew me not.
I am the LORD and there is no other,
there is no God besides me.
It is I who arm you, though you know me not,
so that toward the rising and the setting of the sun
people may know that there is none besides me.
I am the LORD, there is no other.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Responsorial Psalm

R. Give the Lord glory and honor.

Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all you lands. Tell his glory among the nations; among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.

R. Give the Lord glory and honor.

For great is the LORD and highly to be praised; awesome is he, beyond all gods. For all the gods of the nations are things of nought, but the LORD made the heavens.

R. Give the Lord glory and honor.

Give to the LORD, you families of nations, give to the LORD glory and praise; give to the LORD the glory due his name! Bring gifts, and enter his courts.

R. Give the Lord glory and honor.

Worship the LORD, in holy attire; tremble before him, all the earth; say among the nations: The LORD is king, he governs the peoples with equity.

R. Give the Lord glory and honor.

Second Reading

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

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: grace to you and peace.

We give thanks to God always for all of you, remembering you in our prayers, unceasingly calling to mind your work of faith and labor of love and endurance in hope of our Lord Jesus Christ, before our God and Father, knowing, brothers and sisters loved by God, how you were chosen. For our gospel did not come to you in word alone, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with much conviction.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*Shine like lights in the world
as you hold on to the word of life.*

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.

The Pharisees went off and plotted how they might entrap Jesus in speech. They sent their disciples to him, with the Herodians, saying,

"Teacher, we know that you are a truthful man and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. And you are not concerned with anyone's opinion, for you do not regard a person's status. Tell us, then, what is your opinion: Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?"

Knowing their malice, Jesus said,

"Why are you testing me, you hypocrites? Show me the coin that pays the census tax."

Then they handed him the Roman coin.

He said to them,

"Whose image is this and whose inscription?"

They replied,

"Caesar's."

At that he said to them,

"Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Give God Glory:

It's a frustrating feeling I get all too often. I'm in a situation that requires just the right response ... and that response lives somewhere in my brain. Only trouble is, I don't find it until the next day! Have you ever said to yourself, "I should have said ... " or "Why didn't I think of that one yesterday?" Jesus was always quick on his feet and knew the right thing to say. Even when his enemies tried to trick him, the exact right words came out. He left their dignity intact while still making a pivotal point.

Comment:

We learn of God's greatness in Isaiah. Not only did God create us and know us intimately, but God is so awesomely wondrous that God's glory surpasses any treasures we know. All the greatness we know in this world, whether it be wealth, power, or fame, could only be accomplished through God's authority. For this reason, Paul tells the Thessalonians that God has created them for great things and that God has the power to transform their lives. The Thessalonians, at the time of their conversion, worshiped the one God rather than the many idols they had worshiped previously.

Matthew's Gospel distinguishes worship of God from paying homage to anyone else. When Jesus was about to be tricked by the Pharisees, kind but clear words came to him. The Pharisees were able to answer their own questions as Jesus led them through an exercise in logical deduction. He asked to see a coin used for paying taxes. The coin had an impression of Caesar's head and title. The Pharisees understood that taxes were to be paid to Caesar, and Jesus agreed. He added, however, that what belonged to God, namely glory, should be given only to God. The two payments were not to be confused.

Reflection:

Separation of church and state can get messy. The people directly and indirectly responsible for settling our country were Godly men and women. Our coins have imprints of great leaders, but the lettering reminds us that it is "In God we trust." The Pharisees thought singularly about taxes, but when we look at our coin, isn't it evident that we see God in all facets of our lives, especially the governing of God's people? As it was in the days of Caesar, God is the ruler over all people; and if authority were not given by God, rulers of any era would have no power.

Things were not perfect for the settlers of our country; they made mistakes, too; but the basis of any government should be the well-being of the nation's people. God is concerned for our well-being, too. When we see a conflict in what political leaders strive to do and what we know God wants us to do, we must follow the higher power. This creates conflict within and possibly between ourselves and those with whom we associate, but it is the conflict that calls us to action.

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Reflections for the Week beginning Sunday, October 22, 2023

Sunday, Oct 22, 2023

Hearts on fire, feet on the move

Goal-setting is a normal part of life. We set a particular horizon in our education and profession, in domestic budgeting and in relationships. Pope Francis reminds us on this World Mission Sunday that sharing the Good News is the horizon for all church activity. Our aim isn't just to save our souls but to share in the rescue of the world God so loves. "Everyone has the right to receive the gospel. Christians have the duty to announce it without excluding anyone ... as one who shares a joy, signals a beautiful horizon, offers a desirable banquet" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 14). Embrace the mission!

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 45:1, 4-6; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b; Matthew 22:15-21 (145). "I am the LORD, there is no other."

Monday, Oct 23, 2023

Break new ground

When most people think of the Catholic Worker Movement, started by Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin in 1933, its "Houses of Hospitality" that help the urban poor often come to mind. But the movement also started farms that follow a similar model of communal living in voluntary poverty—and they are experiencing a resurgence throughout the country (see if there's one near you). Many Catholics, in parishes and lay or religious communities, make tilling the earth on farms or in community gardens a spiritual practice and are leading the way in sustainable living. Pitch in and help them bring forth bounty!

MEMORIAL OF JOHN OF CAPISTRANO, PRIEST

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 4:20-25; Luke 12:13-21 (473). "Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions."

Tuesday, Oct 24, 2023

Live your vocation inspired by Mary

When Saint Anthony Mary Claret was appointed archbishop to Cuba in 1849, he initiated practical changes to help the working poor: He taught effective farming methods so families could feed themselves while making a living, began credit unions, and set up vocational training for disadvantaged youth. All of this angered wealthy land owners, who expected cheap labor to help them plunder the land for sugar as a lucrative cash crop. Remember Anthony during October's observance of Free Trade Month, supporting supply chains that honor workers instead of corruption and greed. But also remember Anthony this month as we honor Mary. His prayer: "O Heart of Mary, furnace and instrument of love, enkindle me with love of God and my neighbor."

MEMORIAL OF ANTHONY MARY CLARET, BISHOP

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21; Luke 12:35-38 (474). "Be like servants who await their master's return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks."

Wednesday, Oct 25, 2023

Stay a while

Chapter 1 of the Book of Ruth recaps the tragic decade that Naomi endured: A famine chased her from her home; her husband died; her sons died. She was alone—or so it seemed, until her daughter-in-law Ruth promises to stay with her. Little by little, with

Ruth at her side, Naomi can dig out of what must have felt like a living hell. Who has been like Ruth for you? When have you been like Ruth for someone? This week, as we celebrate Pastoral Care Week, we give thanks for the people who provide spiritual care to those struggling with grief, trauma, and other difficult situations. Learn more at the Pastoral Care Week website.

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 6:12-18; Luke 12:39-48 (475). "Much will be required of the person entrusted with much."

Thursday, Oct 26, 2023

All creation divinely sings

We're entering the cold season in the North, and nature's show has become more subtle. But the natural world is an ongoing expression of God that anyone can embrace simply by paying close attention. The work of poet Mary Oliver celebrates this. She writes: "Why do people keep asking to see God's identity papers when the darkness opening into morning is more than enough?" Look around. Listen. How is God showing up in your natural surroundings right now?

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 6:19-23; Luke 12:49-53 (476). "Jesus said to his disciples: 'I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!'"

Friday, Oct 27, 2023

Breathe in the blessing

Being human is a gift, but sometimes it can feel like a curse. As humans, we are *imago dei*, made in the image and likeness of God. This includes having free will, which oddly enough, we can use to hide or deny our *imago dei*. When we struggle, we might pause and pray with Saint Augustine: "Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy. Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy. Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy."

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 7:18-25a; Luke 12:54-59 (477). "For I do not do the good I want, but I do the evil I do not want."

Saturday, Oct 28, 2023

Help is at hand

The gospels do not elaborate on the life of Saint Jude, but he must have had a reputation for a sunny disposition to later come to be known as the saint of hopeless causes and desperate situations. Which, in a sense, makes him the saint of us all. The human condition, prone to illness, aging, and death, would be fairly desperate if it were not for redemption. Saint Jude is worthy of a daily "thank you" for being there when the chips are down.

FEAST OF SIMON AND JUDE, APOSTLES

TODAY'S READINGS: Ephesians 2:19-22; Luke 6:12-16 (666). "He called his disciples to himself, and from them he chose Twelve."

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



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