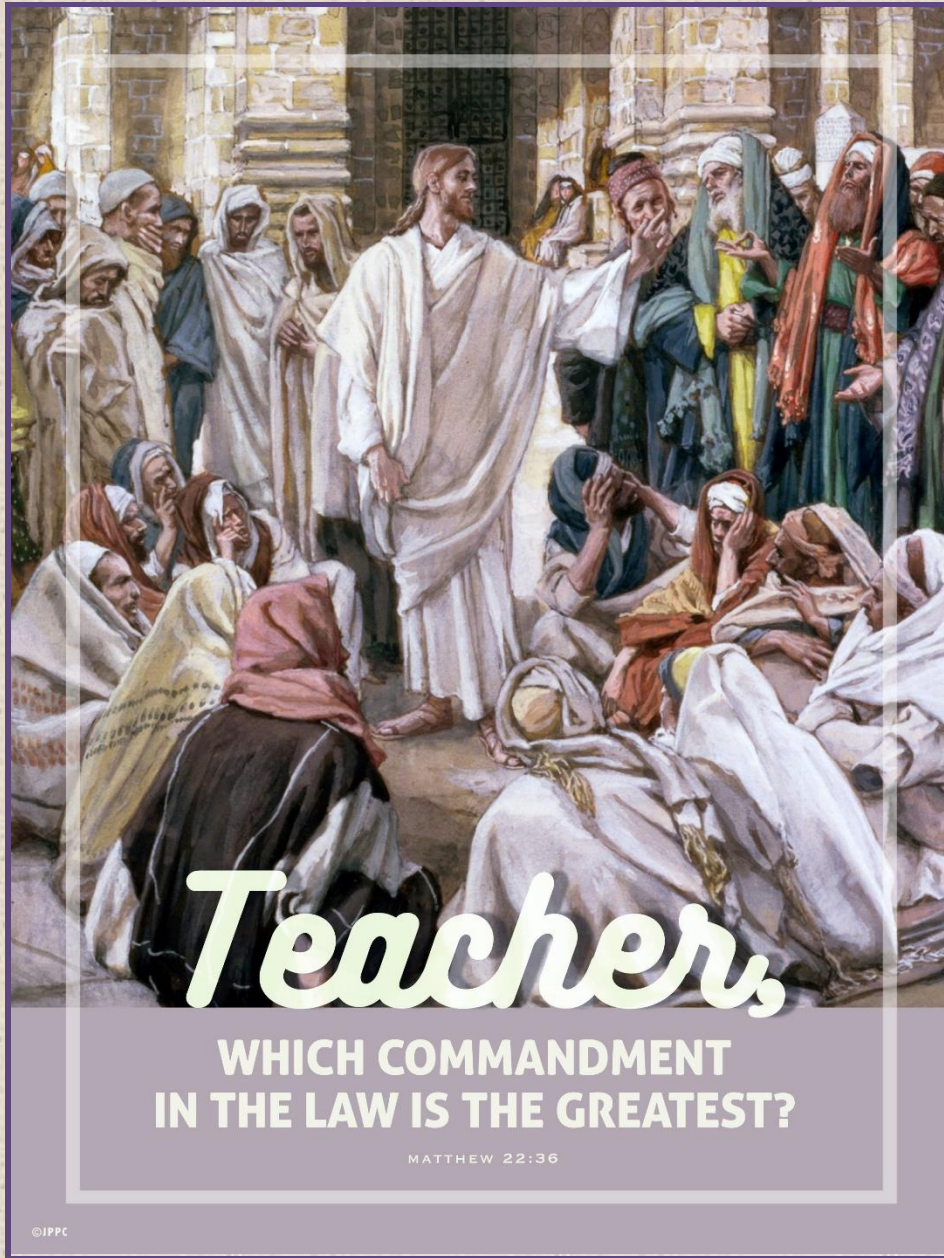


# Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

## October 29, 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](mailto:smsh@smsh.dfrcs.org) [www.smshschool.com](http://www.smshschool.com)

### **Saint Mary Cemetery**

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

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

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

### **Sacrament of Baptism**

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

### **Sacrament of Marriage**

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

### **Sacrament of the Sick**

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

### **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

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

### **Parish Offering**

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

<https://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](mailto:stmaryna@noozi.com)  
Parish website • [www.saintmaryna.com](http://www.saintmaryna.com)  
Phone 508-695-6161 Fax 508-695-5248  
Faith Formation • [TransfigurationRelEd@gmail.com](mailto:TransfigurationRelEd@gmail.com)  
Faith Formation • 508-695-3823

# MASS Intentions

October 28/29 – 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>October 28 – Vigil (St. Mary)</b>
4:00 pm	Rose Shepard
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>October 29 (St. Mark)</b>
8:00 am	Ann Marie (Leco) Musiol
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>October 29 (St. Mary)</b>
9:30 am	Charles & Charlotte Burke
	John “Jack” Conlon
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>October 29 (Sacred Heart)</b>
11:00 am	Kevin Begley
	Edward Kent

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<b>Monday</b>	<b>October 30 (St. Mark)</b>
8:00 am	Joseph Avila
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>October 31</b>
	<i>No Mass or devotions today</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>November 1 (Sacred Heart)</b>
9:30 am	SMSH School Mass
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>November 1 (St. Mary)</b>
12:05 pm	Albert Desilets
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>November 1 (St. Mark)</b>
7:00 pm	People of the Parish
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>November 2 (St. Mark)</b>
8:00 am	All Deceased Family Members & Parishioners

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November 4/5 – 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>November 4 – Vigil (St. Mary)</b>
4:00 pm	Francis J. Leary, Sr.
	Beatrice O. Leary
	Mildred E. Leary
	Francine L. Leary
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>November 5 (St. Mark)</b>
8:00 am	Deceased Members of the Blais Family
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>November 5 (St. Mary)</b>
9:30 am	Larry Flint
	Carl Battista, Jr.
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>November 5 (Sacred Heart)</b>
11:00 am	Scott Temple

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## Parish Contributions

Collection for October 21/22: \$12,781.04  
World Mission Sunday Special Collection: \$1,484.50

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## Tuesday Communal Rosary Schedule

**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)

## The Grand Annual Appeal Continues

Many, many thanks to all who have given so readily and generously to the parish appeal. I am very pleased to announce that as of October 24<sup>th</sup>, the Grand Annual Appeal **total** stands at approximately **\$144,000.00!**

As we have announced, 100% of your donation remains here in North Attleborough for parish use. Your generosity will allow us to complete some larger projects at each of our parish properties, continue to fund and maintain existing parish ministries, plan for future projects, and allow us to have a financial cushion for any unexpected costs (*dare I say, snow removal!*).

There is still time for you to participate in this united parish project. Flyers and donation cards are found on the tables near the doors of all three of our church buildings. You may drop off your donation at the parish office during business hours, return it via mail, place it in the collection basket at any parish Mass, or you may visit our parish website to donate online. Please contact the parish office if you have any questions. May God bless your generosity and support! ~Fr. Costa

## October 31<sup>st</sup> – Halloween

There will be **no** 4:30 pm daily Mass or Tuesday devotions at St. Mark church *this* Tuesday, October 31 (**Halloween**). Thank you for your understanding, and please keep an extra eye out for “trick-or-treaters” on Tuesday afternoon & evening!



## November 1<sup>st</sup> – Solemnity of All Saints



Please note that on **Wednesday, November 1**, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of All Saints, a **Holy Day of Obligation**.

Our Masses are as follows:

**Wednesday + November 1**

**9:30 am** – Sacred Heart

(Mass will be celebrated with the SMSH students)

**12:05 pm** – Saint Mary

**7:00 pm** – Saint Mark

*As always, the collection taken on the holy day will be for the good works of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society.*

## November 2<sup>nd</sup> – All Souls Day

While not a Holy Day of Obligation, please consider remembering your deceased loved ones at this year's

**Mass of the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed.**

Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, November 2 in

**Saint Mark** church at **8:00 am** for all of our deceased family members and parishioners. All are welcome!





## 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](http://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.

## 6<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:delorenzom@yahoo.com).

## SMSH School Wine Dinner Fundraiser

The Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School community invites you to join us at our wine dinner fundraiser.



**November 3, 2023 at 6:00 pm**

**Agawam Hunt, Rumford, Rhode Island**

*Tickets are \$115 per person*



Contact Monica Cox at [allard@uri.edu](mailto:allard@uri.edu).

## 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.

## November Memorial Book

During the month of November, the Church traditionally honors our beloved dead. The month begins with two feasts, All Saints and All Souls, both of which connect us with our ancestors in faith. To honor our dead, we invite you to write their names on the purple insert included in last weekend's bulletin, and return it to the parish office via the collection basket or mail. In addition, you may write the names of your deceased family members and friends on the pages provided in our Memorial Book before or after Mass. *Please note that names which are included on the All Souls envelopes will be included in this Memorial Book as well.* During November the book will be placed in a prominent position in the Church to remind us of our loved ones and our prayer for them.



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** this Friday, **November 3<sup>rd</sup>**, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 6:00 p.m. with Benediction. Remember, as we share in the work of Redemption, so will we be rewarded with our own redemption.

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

## Transfiguration of the Lord Parish Saint Vincent de Paul Society

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

### Call for Assistance:

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

### 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 at all Masses **this weekend, October 28-29.** 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 **this weekend, October 28/29.** Drawing will take place on November 15th. Good luck!

## Reminder: Daylight Savings Time Ends

Next weekend, **November 4 – November 5**, marks the end of Daylight Savings Time....so remember to set your clocks back an hour **next** Saturday night! Thank you!



## Faith Formation Program 2023-2024

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

### Faith Formation Office hours:

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

### Class Schedule:

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

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

October 30<sup>th</sup>: **Grade 7**, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

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

November 6<sup>th</sup>: **Grade 8**, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

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

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

November 13<sup>th</sup>: **Grade 5**, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

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

## Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School - JOIN OUR FAMILY!

**FAITH + Fundamentals = Proven Education!**  
*Give your child the gift of faith along with strong academics at one of our Catholic schools.*



We invite you to learn more about the Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School during our **Fall Open House on Tuesday, November 7 at 6:00 p.m.** This event is open to all current SMSH families as well as new & prospective families. We hope to see you! We invite you to learn more about our school's strong curriculum by visiting our website at: [www.smshschool.com](http://www.smshschool.com).



# 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 24<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm and Saturday, 9 am - 2:30 pm upstairs for exhibit, raffles and silent auction. On Saturday, November 25<sup>th</sup> 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 **four** 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 12<sup>th</sup>**. 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. You are invited to sign-up to decorate a tree after any of our Masses. Trees of various sizes are now 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 4<sup>th</sup> through November 19<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> from 9AM to noon**. Thank you!

## BAPTISM



### We Welcome in Baptism:

On Sunday, October 1, 2023 we welcomed two new members into our Catholic faith at Transfiguration of the Lord Parish. We welcome: **Axel Carlos Lopes Gomes** and **Ashley Victoria Lopes Gomes**, children of Alexandre & Betiliza Gomes. Congratulations to Axel & Ashley, their parents, godparents, family and friends on this joyous celebration of faith and family!

### 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.**

#### Rosary for the Family:

The Respect Life Committee extends a heartfelt invitation to our Parish Family to attend a "**Rosary for the Family**". It will be held on Saturday November 18, 2023 at 9:00 am (*weather permitting*) at Saint Mary Church at the statue of the Blessed Virgin.

*'The Family that prays together stays together'*

-Father Patrick Peyton

#### October is Respect Life Month:

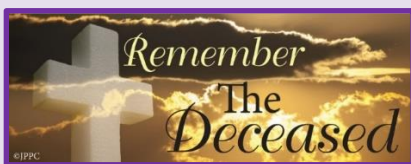


"Hope is always possible. To those who care for the sick, the scene of the Cross provides a way of understanding that even when it seems that there is nothing more to do there remains much to do, because 'remaining' by the side of the sick is a sign of love and of the hope that it contains. Healed by Jesus, we become men and women called to proclaim his healing power and provide care for our neighbors, until the very end."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

"The Witness of the Good Samaritan:  
Palliative Care and Hospice"

*Used with permission. All rights reserved.*



#### Please Pray for our Deceased:

**Pauline C. Elliott**

**Frances M. Drzal**

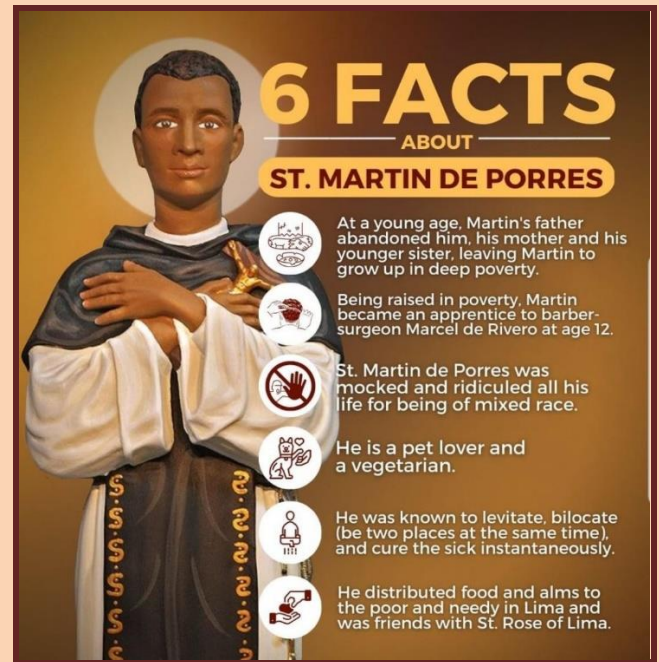
**David L. Stanley**

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

*Let perpetual light shine upon them.*

### Saint of the Week: Saint Martin de Porres

November 3<sup>rd</sup>



*"Everything, even sweeping, scraping vegetables, weeding a garden and waiting on the sick could be a prayer, if it were offered to God"*

-St. Martin de Porres

### 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.*





# *30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - October 29, 2023*

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK



### *First Reading*

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

Thus says the LORD:

"You shall not molest or oppress an alien, for you were once aliens yourselves in the land of Egypt. You shall not wrong any widow or orphan. If ever you wrong them and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry. My wrath will flare up, and I will kill you with the sword; then your own wives will be widows, and your children orphans.

"If you lend money to one of your poor neighbors among my people, you shall not act like an extortioner toward him by demanding interest from him. If you take your neighbor's cloak as a pledge, you shall return it to him before sunset; for this cloak of his is the only covering he has for his body. What else has he to sleep in? If he cries out to me, I will hear him; for I am compassionate."

The word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*



### *Responsorial Psalm*

**R. I love you, Lord, my strength.**

I love you, O LORD, my strength,  
O LORD, my rock, my fortress,  
my deliverer.

**R. I love you, Lord, my strength.**

My God, my rock of refuge, my shield,  
the horn of my salvation, my stronghold!  
Praised be the LORD, I exclaim,  
and I am safe from my enemies.

**R. I love you, Lord, my strength.**

The LORD lives and blessed be my rock!  
Extolled be God my savior. You who gave  
great victories to your king and showed  
kindness to your anointed.

**R. I love you, Lord, my strength.**

### *Second Reading*

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

Brothers and sisters:

You know what sort of people we were among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, receiving the word in great affliction, with joy from the Holy Spirit, so that you became a model for all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth not only in Macedonia and in Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything. For they themselves openly declare about us what sort of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God and to await his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus, who delivers us from the coming wrath.

The word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*



## Gospel Acclamation

**R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

*Whoever loves me will keep my word, says the Lord,  
and my Father will love him and we will come to him.*

**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.**

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the  
Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a  
scholar of the law tested him by asking,

*"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?"*

He said to him,

*"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart,  
with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest  
and the first commandment.*

*The second is like it:*

*You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and  
the prophets depend on these two commandments."*

The Gospel of the Lord.

***Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***



## THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**Been there. Done that.**

At Christmas time our parish distributes food baskets to families who struggle financially. We once took a basket to a family experiencing a temporary hardship. The young mother was touched by her community's generosity, but quickly said, "Oh, no, I don't need this as much as my sister. Her husband was just laid off and they're really struggling. Please take this basket to her." The following year, both sisters volunteered to prepare and distribute baskets.

### Comment:

We often know how someone feels who suffers loss or pain only because we have felt the same way ourselves. God reminds the Israelites in the reading from Exodus today that they were once outsiders. They know how it feels to be foreigners in a strange land, and therefore they should do nothing against the disadvantaged.

The Thessalonians had also suffered persecution, but through their conversion they became model Christians. Paul and Timothy were true to God and modeled fidelity. Through the strength of their example, many Thessalonians turned away from idolatry in order to serve the one, living God.

And what does God ask of those who would be of service? In answer to another trick question from the Pharisees, Jesus gives us God's greatest commandment: To love God with all our heart, soul, and mind and to love one another as we love ourselves ... whether we've been where they are or not.

### Reflection:

Some people serve others as part of their occupation. Educators, those working in the medical field, counselors, priests and ministers, are only a few professions that are service-oriented. Many people in these fields and others volunteer their time and talent to build up the reign of God by helping directly in their church or in their community.

If we consider power and importance to be signs of strength, we miss the greatness of humility. Throughout the Gospels we hear stories of Jesus turning everything upside down with his ideas of the last being first and the humble being blessed. It is that message that he expresses in Matthew's Gospel today. In order to be great in God's eyes, we need to love God and one another with as much love as we have for ourselves.

On a good day, it's easy to love ourselves. But what about the days when we're not so lovable? How do we care for ourselves when we come up short of our expectations and disappointment clouds our vision? These are the times when we need to know God's love for us first and then return that love through prayer, quiet reflection, and outward-directed action. We need to nourish our soul and practice self-care so that we can love ourselves and pass that love on to others. Jesus showed us how to do this. He took time to be alone, to pray and reflect. He then used his recharged strength to reach out to others so that they might love themselves and others. In our humble service, we lift up our neighbors and give them the confidence they need to become humble servants as well.

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# Reflections for the Week beginning Sunday, October 29, 2023

**Sunday, Oct 29, 2023**

## Look beyond our differences

Healing serious division is challenging. The deeper the breach, the tougher the reconciliation. Since 1567, mainline Protestant denominations have celebrated Reformation Day on this Sunday. Yet in 2016, Pope Francis also acknowledged this observance, reaching out to the head of the Lutheran Church to state: "With gratitude we acknowledge that the Reformation helped give a greater centrality to sacred Scripture in the Church's life." Catholic-Lutheran dialogue continues to express the gifts of the Reformation and to seek forgiveness for division perpetuated by Christians from both traditions. Our witness is stronger together. Collaborate across the aisle.

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 22:20-26; 1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10; Matthew 22:34-40 (148). *"For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth.... in every place your faith in God has gone forth."*

**Monday, Oct 30, 2023**

## Healing on tap

When you read the gospels, you can't help but be amazed by how much of Jesus' public ministry was devoted to healing the sick, whether in body, mind, or soul. The church continues Christ's healing ministry as central to its works in myriad ways. Pope Benedict XVI said, "Healing is an essential dimension of the apostolic mission and of Christian faith in general." In fact, he said, Christianity is a "religion of healing." What troubles your body and spirit? Bring it to Jesus to be restored to health and wholeness.

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 8:12-17; Luke 13:10-17 (479). *"He laid his hands on her, and she at once stood up straight and glorified God."*

**Tuesday, Oct 31, 2023**

## Death be not proud

From the Irish we get ancient Celtic elements of Samhain, the idea of a veil separating the living from the dead becoming so thin that it's permeable. From Mexico, we get Día de los Muertos: visiting loved ones' graves, awaiting a festive reunion as the separation between life and death momentarily dissolves. For Halloween, treat-seeking kids dress as devils, vampires, and zombies—traversing yards bedecked with tombstones and skeletons. Or, if we've attended Catholic schools, the focus is more heavenly, with costumes of saints and angels. However we observe this Eve of All Saints, our Catholic belief about the "last things" comes with an assurance that we are meant to return to the one who loved us into existence. "At the evening of life," says Saint John of the Cross, "we shall be judged on our love."

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 8:18-25; Luke 13:18-21 (480). *"I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us."*

**Wednesday, Nov 01, 2023**

## See the saints in living color

Today as the church celebrates All Saints, parishes and websites around the globe will feature an image of 15th-century Dominican Friar Fra Angelico's *The Forerunners of Christ with Saints and Martyrs*. This much-loved painting was originally part of an altarpiece in the Church of San Domenico near Florence. Most of the hallowed figures in the painting look toward Christ. They appear in long rows and represent important male and female

biblical figures, martyrs, and saints, including Saint John the Baptist in the top row, wearing a camel-hair tunic and holding a wooden cross. He looks directly at the viewer and points the way to Christ—exactly his role in salvation history. Christian art is a great tool for learning about the saints, Christian symbolism, and Catholic theology, and the paintings and frescoes of Fra Angelico are a good place to start.

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS (HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION)

TODAY'S READINGS: Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12a (667). *"Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God."*

**Thursday, Nov 02, 2023**

## A work in progress

The notion of "purgatory" is really quite simple and true to human experience. All of life is a process, and our best efforts can lead to progress but never perfection in this lifetime. What makes today special is that we can all participate in that process with our dearly departed, by our prayers, our good and generous deeds, and at Mass. Lend a helping hand today to those who are further along in the process. And may we all meet again one day, and, in the meantime we pray, "May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace."

COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOULS' DAY)

TODAY'S READINGS: Wisdom 3:1-9; Romans 5:5-11 or Romans 6:3-9; John 6:37-40 (668). *"And this is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it on the last day."*

**Friday, Nov 03, 2023**

## The struggle continues

On September 30, 1962 riots broke out at the University of Mississippi as James Meredith, accompanied by U.S. marshals, walked to campus to register for classes. Many fought to keep him out, but justice prevailed. Meredith would become the first black student at Ole Miss. Today, the nearby church of St. John the Evangelist honors this memory with a stained-glass window of Martin de Porres facing the street where Meredith began his walk to the university. De Porres, too, had experienced racism and was barred from becoming a priest in 17th-century Peru because of the color of his skin. Saint Martin de Porres, pray for us on the long march of equality.

MEMORIAL OF MARTIN DE PORRES, RELIGIOUS

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 9:1-5; Luke 14:1-6 (483). *"My conscience joins with the Holy Spirit in bearing me witness."*

**Saturday, Nov 04, 2023**

## Be an instrument of change

During his first homily as pope in 2013, Pope Francis quoted Léon Bloy, a 20th-century French novelist who was known for his passionate defense of the faith. In 1904 he became friends with Raïssa Maritain, a poet, philosopher, and Hasidic Jew. She was so influenced by Bloy that she, along with her well-known husband Jacques, and her sister Vera, converted to Catholicism, with Bloy as sponsor. The "three Maritains" as they were known, took their place at the center of a circle of French Catholic intellectuals. Raïssa died on this day in 1960. What kind of influence might you have on those searching for a faith to believe in?

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 11:1-2a, 11-12, 25-29; Luke 14:1, 7-11 (484). *"The one who humbles himself will be exalted."*

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



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