

# Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

## September 10, 2023



For where  
two or three are  
gathered together  
*in my name,*  
there am I in the  
midst of them.

MATTHEW 18:20

©JPPC



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. 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 4:30 pm **Saint Mark Church**  
*Rosary for Life 4:00 pm each Monday prior to 4:30 pm Mass*  
Tuesday 8:00 am **Saint Mark Church**  
Wednesday 4:30 pm **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

*September 9/10 – 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*

<b>Saturday</b> 4:00 pm	<b>September 9 – Vigil (St. Mary)</b> Patricia Clayton
<b>Sunday</b> 8:00 am	<b>September 10 (St. Mark)</b> Etelvina Peixoto James Curtis, Sr.
<b>Sunday</b> 9:30 am	<b>September 10 (St. Mary)</b> Larry Flint
<b>Sunday</b> 11:00 am	<b>September 10 (Sacred Heart)</b> Lynn C. Goodchild Shawn M. Nassaney

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<b>Monday</b> 4:30 pm	<b>September 11 (St. Mark)</b> Mariano Araujo
<b>Tuesday</b> 8:00 am	<b>September 12 (St. Mark)</b> Teresita Cadena
<b>Wednesday</b> 4:30 pm	<b>September 13 (St. Mark)</b> Diane Szurleys
<b>Thursday</b> 8:00 am	<b>September 14 (St. Mark)</b> David Parenteau

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*September 16/17 – 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*

<b>Saturday</b> 4:00 pm	<b>September 16 – Vigil (St. Mary)</b> Linda McEvoy
<b>Sunday</b> 8:00 am	<b>September 17 (St. Mark)</b> Christina Della Ratta
<b>Sunday</b> 9:30 am	<b>September 17 (St. Mary)</b> Louis “Lou” Abdou
<b>Sunday</b> 11:00 am	<b>September 17 (Sacred Heart)</b> Stephen Hatch Palma Gauron Barbara Costa Catherine Anne McMahon

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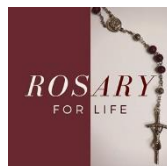
## Parish Contributions

Collection for September 2/3: \$12,940.95

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## Rosary for Life

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



## From Fr. Costa:

This week, all registered households of our parish will receive a letter from me concerning our “Grand Annual Appeal.” This yearly financial appeal is a tradition in many parishes. All funds collected remain in the parish and help supplement the regular weekly offertory. With ever rising costs, this Appeal is very important and will help us meet our current financial obligations and plan for future projects.

Honestly, in my thirty-eight years of priestly ministry, I have never conducted an annual appeal. Before Covid, Fr. Rodney had very successfully conducted such a drive here in North Attleborough. I am hoping to build on his success. To quote my letter: I ask you to please be as generous as your circumstances allow in donating to our Grand Annual Appeal. Please know that no gift is too small and every contribution counts.

I am sincerely appreciative of your continued support and I thank you in advance for your generous response to this annual Appeal!



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SISTER KATHEE!

Please remember Sister Kathee in your prayer as she celebrates her birthday on:

**Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup>!**

*Sister, may you know good health, generous blessings, and much joy!*

## Mass Schedule Updates

Beginning this weekend, *September 9 and 10*, we will return to using our three churches for the weekend Mass schedule. The schedule and locations will be as follows:

*Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 pm at Saint Mary Church*

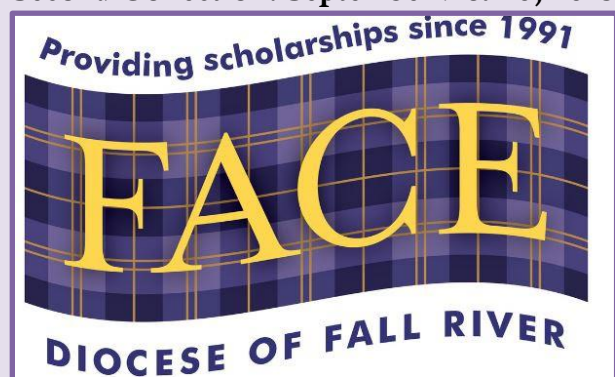
*Sunday morning Mass: 8:00 am at Saint Mark Church*

*Sunday morning Mass: 9:30 am at Saint Mary Church*

*Sunday morning Mass: 11:00 am at Sacred Heart Church*

The weekday Masses, Communion Service, devotions, and First Friday Adoration will remain at Saint Mark Church.

**Foundation to Advance Catholic Education  
Second Collection: September 9 & 10, 2023**



The 2023 Second Collection will raise important scholarship funds for the Diocese of Fall River Catholic school students!

In 1991, the St. Mary's Education Fund was founded to give students with financial need access to a Catholic education in the Diocese of Fall River.

Today, the Foundation to Advance Catholic Education (FACE) carries on this tradition of making Catholic education a reality for all families who desire one for their children.

A donation to the Special Collection taking place the weekend of September 9th and 10th will help continue the proud mission of giving students opportunities to grow in educational environments dedicated to helping them develop their God-given potential.



*You are cordially invited  
to join Bishop Edgar da Cunha  
and the Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School community  
as we begin our 100th anniversary celebrations with a:*

**Mass of Thanksgiving**

**Wednesday, September 27, 2023  
at 9:30 a.m.**

**Sacred Heart Church  
58 Church Street  
North Attleborough, Massachusetts**

**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.**

*Grades 1, 2, 3, and 4 classes are held every other Sunday  
from 9:00 – 10:15 a.m. following the 8:00 a.m. Mass.*

*Grades 5, 6, 7, and 8 are held once a month on Monday  
evenings from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.*

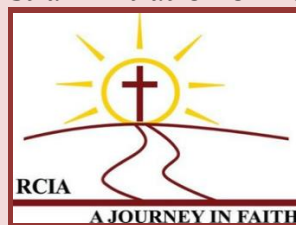
*Grade 9 is held every other Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.*

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.

**PARENTS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOL CHILDREN:**

If your child attends Catholic School and is a candidate for Confirmation (Grade 9) you need to register your son/daughter into the parish sacramental program. For more information, contact the Faith Formation office.

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)**



Are you or someone you know interested in becoming Catholic? The RCIA program will begin in early October. For more information, please see Father Costa after Mass, or call Arlene Hall at (508) 801-2243.

**SAINT MARY-SACRED HEART  
SCHOOL - JOIN NOW!**

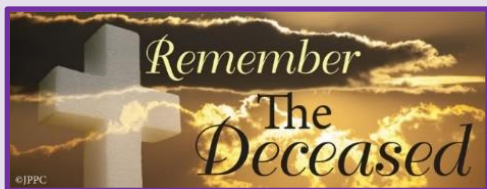
*Flourish with FAITH, Family and Fundamentals!  
Celebrating 100 Years of Catholic Education in the  
town of North Attleboro*



This is the time to give your little one the gift of a faith-based education!

Contact us at [www.smshschool.com](http://www.smshschool.com), and enroll your student today!





*Please Pray for our Deceased:*

*Martin R. Dubuc*

*J. David Menard*

*Marilyn H. Redding*

*Rose M. Shepard*

*Joseph H. A. Veilleux*

*Eternal rest grant unto our beloved dead, O Lord.  
Let perpetual light shine upon them.*

### **Transfiguration of the Lord Parish Women's Guild Opening Banquet**

We are excited to kick off our 2023-2024 Women's Guild Program starting with our Opening Banquet scheduled for Monday, September 11, 2023. The Women's Guild Program at Transfiguration of Lord Parish is a fantastic opportunity for our women to come together, strengthen our faith, build connections and friendships, and enjoy social, spiritual, and educational activities. **Please note: reservations for tickets to the Opening Banquet closed on September 1<sup>st</sup>.** You can always find complete information on our website at: <https://nawomensguild.weebly.com/>

### **Altar Servers**

As we begin another Faith Formation and school year, we are seeking children and youth to serve as Altar Servers. Any boy or girl in Grade 3 and older is most welcome to join our Altar Server team. We will offer training and support. Nervous about serving alone? Join with a friend or a number of friends! Serving at Mass can help you understand our worship a little better and allows you to assist your parish family as we pray together. Please contact the parish office to offer your time and talent.

### **Liturgical Ministers: Lectors & Eucharistic Ministers**

Now that the summer is winding down, we are returning to our "regular" schedules. We will be fashioning the Fall Liturgical Ministry schedule for the weekend Masses. If you took the summer off and would like to return to liturgical ministry, please let us know as soon as possible by calling the parish office.

We are always welcoming new Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers. If you would like to assist your parish community in these important roles, please call the parish office. We will organize training sessions and review our procedures. Your help is very much appreciated.

### **Transfiguration of the Lord Respect Life Group**

The next meeting of the Respect Life Group will take place this Monday, **September 11, 2023 at 6:30 pm in Saint Mary Church Hall.** In addition, please mark your calendars: the Secretariat of the New Evangelization's Family and Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Fall River will be hosting two Respect Life events on Sunday October 22, 2023 to mark Respect Life Month. The Annual Respect Life Mass with Bishop da Cunha will be held at Cathedral of St Mary of the Assumption in Fall River at 10:30 AM. Following this Mass, there will be a Respect Life Conference at White's of Westport for \$35 (lunch and speakers). It is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Tickets can be purchased by contacting Joanna Wissler: 508-243-5307 or [wissler5@verizon.net](mailto:wissler5@verizon.net).

### **WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BIBLE AND YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH?**

An invitation to join one of these Women's Spirituality Groups:

- \*Tuesday night via Zoom weekly (6:15pm to 7:30pm)
- \*Wednesday morning in person weekly (9:30am to 11am)
- \*Wednesday nights via Zoom twice a month (6:45pm to 8:30pm)

Meet like-minded women to help you live your faith. Increase your knowledge about Catholicism and the Bible (No experience necessary!) Make new friends. The groups will be starting after Labor Day. We don't meet between Thanksgiving and Christmas, during Holy Week, or over the summer. No need to attend every session (but you'll want to!) Come join us! Try us out and see if it's a good fit. The groups are open to women outside of our parish, so please invite your friends and relatives--all are welcome!

For more information and to get on our email list:

- \*For the twice a month Wednesday night group contact Colleen Ford at: [Colleenjuliaford@gmail.com](mailto:Colleenjuliaford@gmail.com)
- \*For the Tuesday night group contact Kim Simmons at: [simmonskima@gmail.com](mailto:simmonskima@gmail.com)
- \*For the Wednesday morning group contact Diane Garrow at: [dianegarrow@comcast.net](mailto:dianegarrow@comcast.net)
- \*If you aren't sure which group fits you best, or just want more information contact Colleen Ford at: [Colleenjuliaford@gmail.com](mailto:Colleenjuliaford@gmail.com)

Hoping you will join us! These sessions really helped our knowledge and our faith to grow, and will help yours. No preparation is required.

### **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 Wednesday of each month for "Prayer and Pizza." Following the 4:30 pm Mass on **Wednesday, September 20**, we together will pray the rosary, which will be offered up to Mary, Undoer of Knots ([maryundoerofknots.com](http://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.



**Saint of the Week: St. John Chrysostom**  
**September 13<sup>th</sup>**

The ambiguity and intrigue surrounding John, the great preacher (his name means “golden-mouthed”) from Antioch, are characteristic of the life of any great man in a capital city. Ascetic, unimposing but dignified, and troubled by stomach ailments from his desert days as a monk, John became a bishop under the cloud of imperial politics.

If his body was weak, his tongue was powerful. The content of his sermons, his exegesis of Scripture, were never without a point. Sometimes the point stung the high and mighty. Some sermons lasted up to two hours.

His lifestyle at the imperial court was not appreciated by many courtiers. He offered a modest table to episcopal sycophants hanging around for imperial and ecclesiastical favors. John deplored the court protocol that accorded him precedence before the highest state officials. He would not be a kept man.

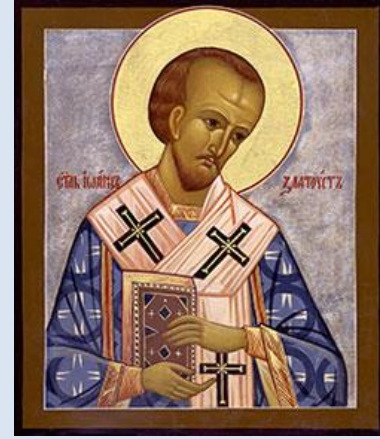
His zeal led him to decisive action. Bishops who bribed their way into office were deposed. Many of his sermons called for concrete steps to share wealth with the poor. The rich did not appreciate hearing from John that private property existed because of Adam’s fall from grace any more than married men liked to hear that they were bound to marital fidelity just as much as their wives were. When it came to justice and charity, John acknowledged no double standards.

Aloof, energetic, outspoken, especially when he became excited in the pulpit, John was a sure target for criticism and personal trouble.

Theophilus, archbishop of Alexandria, and Empress Eudoxia were determined to discredit John. Theophilus feared the growth in importance of the Bishop of Constantinople and took occasion to charge John with fostering heresy. Theophilus and other angered bishops were supported by Eudoxia. The empress resented his sermons contrasting gospel values with the excesses of imperial court life. Whether intended or not, sermons mentioning the lurid Jezebel and impious Herodias were associated with the empress, who finally did manage to have John exiled. He died in exile in 407.

John Chrysostom’s preaching, by word and example, exemplifies the role of the prophet to comfort the afflicted and to afflict the comfortable. For his honesty and courage, he paid the price of a turbulent ministry as bishop, personal vilification, and exile.

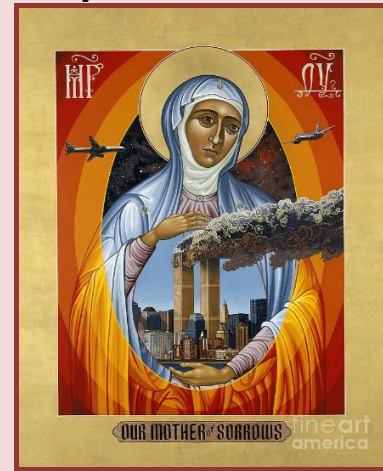
**St. John Chrysostom**



*“God loves us more than a father, mother, friend, or any else could love, and even more than we are able to love ourselves.”*

*-St. John Chrysostom (September 13<sup>th</sup>)*

**The 9/11 Prayer of Remembrance and Hope**



*Dear God, we come before you today remembering all those whose lives were lost in the catastrophic events of September 11, 2001. Hold them always in your loving embrace; wrap them in the mantle of your love.*

*We give thanks to you for the selfless courage of those brave souls who ran into burning buildings and who labored in the rubble; may their courage be to us a witness of what is possible when we are guided by love and dedication to our fellow human beings.*

*We pray today for the continued healing of all those suffering emotional and physical scars. May your spirit breathe new breath into clouded lungs, new life into troubled minds, and new warmth into broken hearts, so that all may feel wrapped in your loving embrace.*

*May we move from suffering to hope, from brokenness to wholeness, from anxiety to courage, from death to life, from fear to love, and from despair to hope.*

*Guide our feet into the way of peace. Inspire us with hope in the gift of shalom and salaam. May we receive this gift, so that we might become instruments of your peace in this world, knowing all people as equally loved, lovingly created, children of God.*

*Amen.*



# Reflections for the Week beginning Sunday, September 10, 2023

**Sunday, Sep 10, 2023**

## **The long loneliness**

"Church" means assembly: It is not good for us to be alone. Today's Suicide Prevention Day reminds us that loneliness is an unhealthy condition. More than 700,000 people die by suicide each year: about 132 a day in the United States. For every suicide, there are more than 20 attempts. Mental illness and substance abuse contribute to the crisis, but marginalized groups are at highest risk: migrants, indigenous people, those who identify as LGBTQ+, and prisoners. The feeling of alienation is real but also preventable. Call or text the crisis hotline at 988 to seek help for yourself or someone you love.

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 33:7-9; Romans 13:8-10; Matthew 18:15-20 (127). *"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."*

**Monday, Sep 11, 2023**

## **A day to remember those who gave everything**

Today, the anniversary of the largest terrorist attack in American history, is a day to call to mind those who rushed in to help, at great cost. The first certified fatality of the attacks was Father Mychal Judge, Franciscan friar and New York City Fire Department chaplain, who rushed to the World Trade Center to help. During his life, he was known for ministering to the marginalized and for the words on a prayer card he often distributed: "Lord, take me where you want me to go. Let me meet who you want me to meet. Tell me what you want me to say. And keep me out of your way." Honor his legacy and make his humble prayer yours today.

TODAY'S READINGS: Colossians 1:24-2:3; Luke 6:6-11 (437). *"Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath rather than to do evil, to save life rather than to destroy it?"*

**Tuesday, Sep 12, 2023**

## **On Earth we your children invoke your sweet name**

Names are a big deal in the Bible. More than a moniker, the names of people—and God—capture, convey, and even conjure a being's very essence. It's why the Hebrews refused, out of respect, to speak God's holiest name and why "taking the Lord's name in vain" is forbidden. We see in biblical history how life-changing experiences prompt a person's change of name, as when Sarai becomes Sarah and Saul becomes Paul. When Jesus talks of acting "in my name," he affirms a power and presence invoked by simply uttering his name. Today, heed Venerable Bruno Lanteri, founder of the Oblates of the Virgin Mary, who instructed: simply "think of Mary, call on Mary."

MEMORIAL OF THE MOST HOLY NAME OF MARY

TODAY'S READINGS: Colossians 2:6-15; Luke 6:12-19 (438). *"He chose Twelve, whom he also named Apostles: Simon, whom he named Peter, ..."*

**Wednesday, Sep 13, 2023**

## **Always speak the words of light**

With seemingly never-ending revelations of ministerial misconduct, today's feast of Saint John Chrysostom is a sight for sore eyes. The eminent fourth-century preacher and teacher—whose name is a transliteration of the Greek for "golden mouth"—was surely a product of his day. But he was also guided by the Holy Spirit, who inspired him to be baptized as an adult and denounce corruption in the church while serving as a priest and

later as archbishop of Constantinople. As we remember his legacy today, let's take courage to also stand for truth and against all that dishonors the call of the gospel.

MEMORIAL OF JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

TODAY'S READINGS: Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 6:20-26 (439). *"Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."*

**Thursday, Sep 14, 2023**

## **By the wood of the cross**

Today's feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross goes back to early days in church history. Saint Helena was the mother of Emperor Constantine (the first Roman emperor to embrace the faith), and Helena is said to have found the actual crucifix of Jesus in Jerusalem in the fourth century, spurring significant devotion to the Holy Cross. This devotion has had staying power perhaps because it helps believers to reflect upon the saving power of Jesus' death. Today when something presents itself as a "cross" to you, take a few moments to contemplate the cross of Christ.

FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

TODAY'S READINGS: Numbers 21:4b-9; Philippians 2:6-11; John 3:13-17 (638). *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish."*

**Friday, Sep 15, 2023**

## **I feel your pain**

Anyone who loves will experience sorrow. It can't be helped. When a loved one suffers, we suffer. The church looks to Our Lady of Sorrows during those difficult times. Mary has been pierced by the sword of sorrow many times, including the seven noted by tradition: The prophecy of Simeon, the Flight into Egypt, the lost child Jesus later found in the Temple, meeting Jesus on the road to Calvary, the Crucifixion, and Jesus' removal from the cross and his burial. Listen to the aching beauty of the Stabat Mater hymn recited each year on this memorial and know that you are not alone in your suffering. Mary's empathy is one of the saving graces of our faith. She knows how we feel, and sometimes that's all it takes to get us past the pain.

MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Timothy 1:1-2, 12-14 (441); John 19:25-27 or Luke 2:33-35 (639). *"And you yourself a sword will pierce so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."*

**Saturday, Sep 16, 2023**

## **Care for the creation God entrusts to us**

High above our heads the ozone layer of the stratosphere absorbs enough of the sun's deadly ultraviolet radiation to make possible life on Earth. But just a few decades ago an alarming depletion of the ozone layer generated worldwide concern over resulting increases in skin cancer, cataracts, and other health issues. These concerns led to the adoption of the Montreal Protocol in 1987, celebrated today, which bans the production of chemicals that cause ozone depletion. In his 2015 encyclical *Laudato si'*, Pope Francis applauds the Protocol for helping to protect the Earth, our common home. What can you do for our Earth today?

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Timothy 1:15-17; Luke 6:43-49 (442). *"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' but not do what I command?"*

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



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# 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary

## Time - September 10, 2023

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK



## First Reading

### A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel

Thus says the LORD:

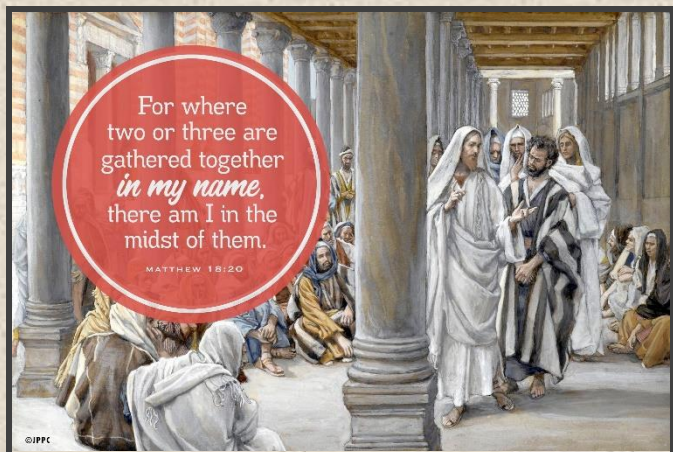
You, son of man, I have appointed watchman for the house of Israel; when you hear me say anything, you shall warn them for me.

If I tell the wicked, "O wicked one, you shall surely die," and you do not speak out to dissuade the wicked from his way, the wicked shall die for his guilt, but I will hold you responsible for his death.

But if you warn the wicked, trying to turn him from his way, and he refuses to turn from his way, he shall die for his guilt, but you shall save yourself.

The word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*



## Responsorial Psalm

**R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD; let us acclaim the rock of our salvation. Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us joyfully sing psalms to him.

**R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Come, let us bow down in worship; let us kneel before the LORD who made us. For he is our God, and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides.

**R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Oh, that today you would hear his voice: "Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as in the day of Massah in the desert, where your fathers tempted me; they tested me though they had seen my works."

**R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

## Second Reading

### A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not kill; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no evil to the neighbor; hence, love is the fulfillment of the law.

The word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*



## Gospel Acclamation

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

*God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ  
and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.*

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

## Gospel

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Matthew

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to his disciples:

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, so that 'every fact may be established on the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If he refuses to listen to them, tell the church. If he refuses to listen even to the church, then treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector. Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again, amen, I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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



**Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
District Council of Attleboro**

Serving Attleboro, North Attleboro, Seekonk,  
Rehoboth, Norton & Mansfield



**Join Us**

**Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023**

*A trail walk to help  
individuals and families in need*

*Friends*  
**OF THE POOR®**  
**WALK**

*Rain or Shine*

*All fundraising walkers  
will receive a  
free event t-shirt.*

*BASKET RAFFLES  
Raffle Drawing @ 11:30*

**Attleboro Springs Wildlife  
Sanctuary at LaSalette**

Route 118 • Attleboro, MA 02703

8:30 AM • Registration & Kickoff

12 Noon • Walk Ends

**Register online: [www.fopwalk.org/event/2482](http://www.fopwalk.org/event/2482)**

**Be a Business Sponsor  
Walk & Solicit Pledges  
Donate to a Walker**

*100% of donations will be used for families needing  
rent, utilities or emergency assistance.*



**REGISTER ONLINE**



**CONTACT US**

### **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.

## TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Loving Confrontations:

We grew up in a tight-knit neighborhood. If one of the neighbors saw us riding our bikes in the street, or throwing matches on a pile of dry leaves and twigs, or fighting, you can be sure they called our mother or marched us home themselves. We listened to those other mothers. They carried the same clout as our own parents. And our parents had no problem correcting neighborhood kids either. Our neighborhoods are not much like that anymore. Many neighborhoods look like ghost towns from nine to five. And even if people are home, they don't know their neighbors all that well and certainly don't get involved in the behavior of neighborhood children. We no longer speak up when we see things going wrong in our neighborhoods.

The readings today urge us to live like we did in the old neighborhoods—not in an arrogant and powerful way, but in a humble and caring way. We need to confront the offenses we see.

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7–9

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 95:1–2, 6–7, 8–9

SECOND READING: Romans 13:8–10

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15–20

### Comment:

The message is clear in Ezekiel and Matthew that we are obligated to speak up when we see something or someone going wrong. In Ezekiel, we are not only told to correct the wrongdoer, but if we don't and the person dies a sinner, his or her blood will be on our hands. That's an enormous responsibility for anyone who doesn't want to get involved! And Matthew's Gospel says the same thing. If something isn't going right, we are told to go directly to the person. Matthew continues with a plan that explains what to do if Plan A doesn't work. "Take one or two others along with you," he says. But in all things, we are bound by love. That is why Paul, in his letter to the Romans, reminds all Christians of the commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves. So while we may need to correct our neighbor, we need to do it in a loving way. And while we notice the sins of our neighbor, we are reminded by Paul to be mindful of our own behavior.

### Reflection:

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that we are committed to one another and that we are responsible for the good of all people. Each of us is responsible for the other's salvation. We sometimes forget these things. All too often, we feel that our hands are full just getting ourselves and our loved ones to heaven. But there is no mistaking the message: Love your neighbor as yourself; and speak up against sin.

How do we do these two things at the same time? We tend toward arrogance when we are the ones who are right and want to correct someone who is wrong. We are challenged to do two things in that situation. First we need to look into our own heart and see our own faults. We need to ask ourselves if it is possible that we are wrong and not the other person. If we are certain that the other person is doing something wrong, then we need to confront him/her in a loving manner. We need to separate the sinfulness but still respect the person as a brother or sister in Christ.

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