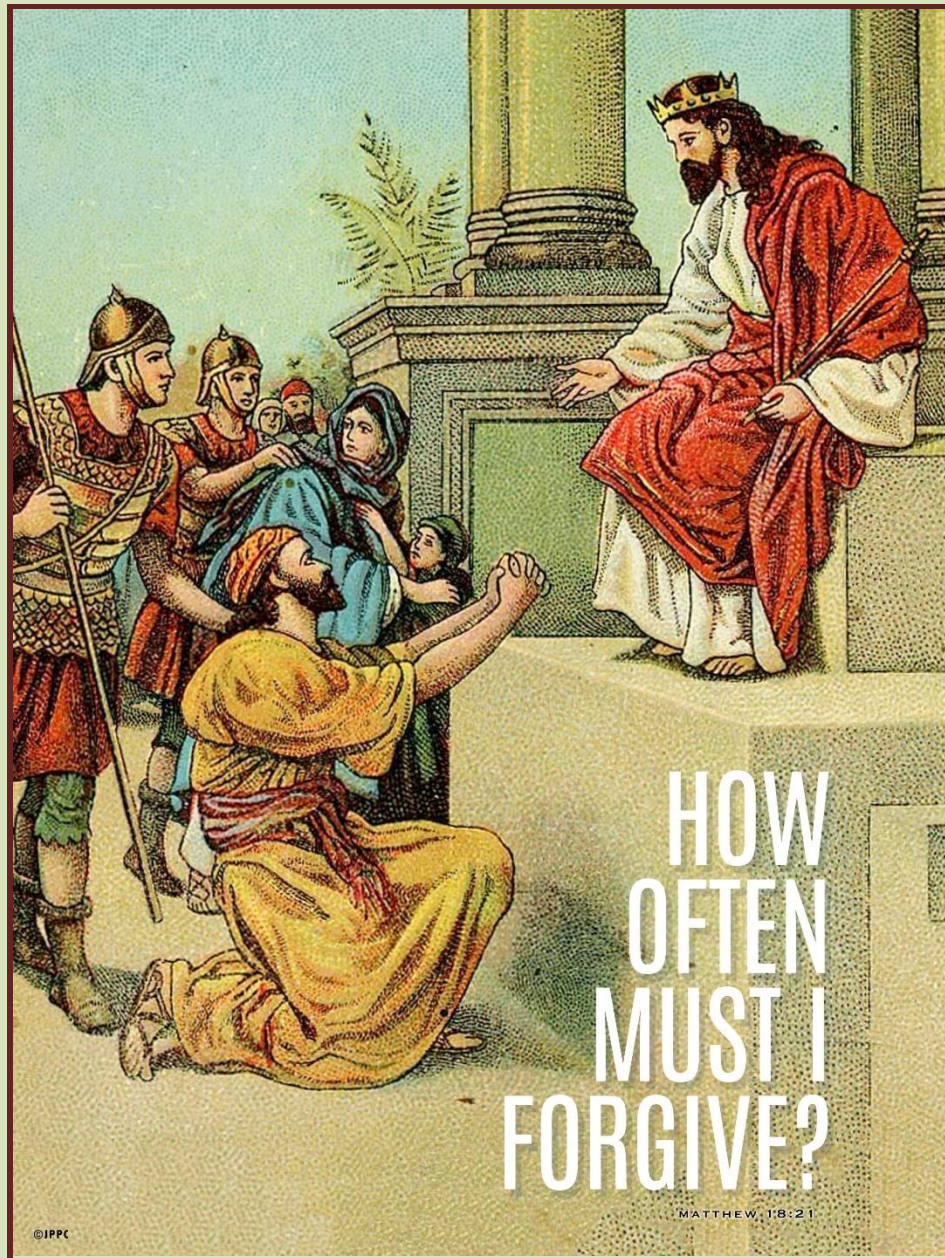


Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 17, 2023



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 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
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

September 16/17 – 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday

4:00 pm

Sunday

8:00 am

Sunday

9:30 am

Sunday

11:00 am

September 16 – Vigil (St. Mary)

Linda McEvoy

September 17 (St. Mark)

Christina Della Ratta

September 17 (St. Mary)

Louis “Lou” Abdou

September 17 (Sacred Heart)

Stephen Hatch

Palma Gauron

Barbara Costa

Catherine Anne McMahon

+++++

Monday

4:30 pm

Tuesday

8:00 am

Wednesday

4:30 pm

Thursday

8:00 am

September 18 (St. Mark)

Claire Poirier

September 19 (St. Mark)

Jane Sellner

September 20 (St. Mark)

Elinor C. Gallagher

September 21 (St. Mark)

Russell Pion

+++++

September 23/24 – 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday

4:00 pm

Sunday

8:00 am

Sunday

9:30 am

Sunday

11:00 am

September 23 – Vigil (St. Mary)

Lee Killingsworth

Alphonse & Victoria Antonitis

September 24 (St. Mark)

Gabriel Petroni

September 24 (St. Mary)

Carole Flynn

September 24 (Sacred Heart)

Ronald Oakley

+++++

Parish Contributions

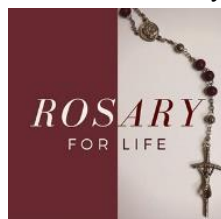
Collection for September 9/10: \$13,397.58

FACE Special Collection: \$2,266.00

+++++

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.



Transfiguration Annual Appeal

All 3,456 registered households of our parish should have received a packet from Fr. Costa this past week detailing the Grand Annual Appeal for Transfiguration of the Lord Parish and seeking your generous participation.

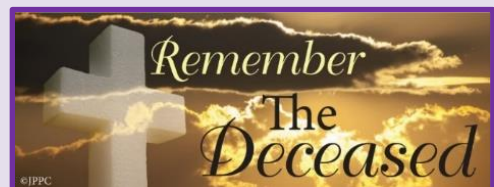
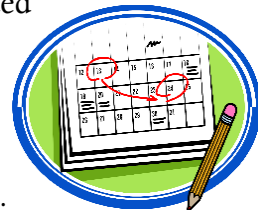
As noted in the pulpit announcement this past weekend, the Grand Annual Appeal supplements the wonderful weekly generosity of our parishioners, allowing us to enhance our parish ministries, maintain our properties, fund any emergency needs that arise, and plan for future growth and needed projects.

A few people rightfully asked, “Do our contributions remain in the parish?” The answer is a resounding “YES!” (apologies for not making that clearer). **Yes, this annual appeal is strictly for use in and by the parish.**

You may send your donation through the mail to the parish office or drop it in the collection basket at Mass. There is also a donation button located on the parish website for online donations. Thank you – in advance – for your generous response!

Parish Calendar & Ministry Groups

As parish ministry groups return to regular meetings and activities, leaders are reminded to please forward any schedule requests and plans for use of parish properties to Martha at the parish office. We need to keep the parish calendar up to date and avoid any scheduling conflicts. Your assistance is very much appreciated!



Please Pray for our Deceased:

Barbara A. Burns

Don J. Civitarese

Ralph E. Crosta

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.

Welcome!

We are very pleased to welcome the newest member of our parish staff, **Martha O'Neill**. Martha is serving as administrative assistant for the parish. A native of Norwood, MA, Martha currently resides in South Attleboro with her husband, John. They have two post-college age daughters, Jenny and Emily. John recently began formation for the permanent diaconate in the Diocese of Fall River and works for the Propagation of the Faith office in the Archdiocese of Boston. Martha is no stranger to our community, having served as a paraprofessional at Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School and as an active member of the parish before moving to Attleboro.

Martha will be working at the parish office, located at 14 Park Street, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The office phone number is (508) 695-6161.

We take this opportunity to recognize and thank Miles Miller who has been covering parish office duties for the past few months following Monica's retirement. In addition to his own full-time responsibilities at U Penn, Miles has superbly kept the office running and even now is assisting Martha as she steps into her new role. Miles, may God bless your generosity of time and talent!



*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

Faith Formation Office hours:
Monday – Thursday: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Class Schedule:

September 17th: **Grades 3 & 4**, 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.
(following the 8:00 a.m. Mass)

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

September 18th: **Grade 6**, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

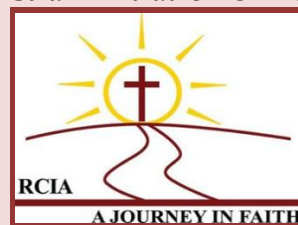
September 24th: **Grades 1 & 2**, 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.
(following the 8:00 a.m. Mass)

September 25th: **Grade 7**, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

October 2nd: **Grade 8**, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

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

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!

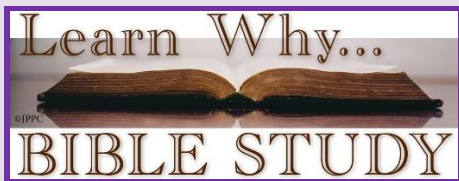
Contact us at www.smshschool.com, and enroll your student today!

Prayer Chain

We all know, that intercessory prayer can be very powerful. Recently a few people approached me about reforming the “Prayer Chain” that was in place for a good number of years. The “Prayer Chain” is made up of individuals from our parish who offer prayer for particular intentions from the quiet of their homes, and at their own schedule. This prayer could include the Rosary, certain devotional prayers, and/or eucharistic adoration. “Captains” are assigned to groups of people. These individuals share particular intentions that are sent in (email, phone call, word of mouth) to either the parish office or to the captains. This is a wonderful ministry for all of our parishioners, and most especially our older folks and our shut-ins. If you would like to be a part of this prayer ministry, please call the parish office.



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
- *For the Tuesday night group contact Kim Simmons at: simmonskima@gmail.com
- *For the Wednesday morning group contact Diane Garrow at: dianegarow@comcast.net
- *If you aren't sure which group fits you best, or just want more information contact Colleen Ford at: 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.

Eucharistic ADORATION

Archbishop Fulton Sheen once said:
"A Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration is a sharing in the work of Redemption."

Please join us at **Saint Mark church**, Friday, **October 6th**, 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.

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). 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.



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.

From Fr. Costa:

This past Friday, our parish marked the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the Holy Union Sisters in North Attleborough. On that Saturday in 1923, the first five Sisters, led by superior and principal, Mother Adrienne Cecile, arrived at the still unfinished convent wing of the new school building on Richards Avenue. One week later, a sixth Sister arrived from Fall River due to the unexpected number of student registrations.

Fr. Louis Dequoy, second pastor of Sacred Heart parish, desiring to share the teachings of the Catholic Faith and to preserve the French-Canadian heritage and language of the parish founders, proposed the building of an elementary school shortly after his arrival in the parish in 1921. A school faculty would be necessary for this new venture. To that end, Fr. Dequoy approached Mother Marie Helena, provincial superior of the Religious of the Holy Union of the Sacred Hearts in Fall River, seeking religious to staff his school.

Mother Adrienne Cecile was selected as the first superior of the community and first principal of the school. Born in Beaudignies, Nord, France, she entered Holy Union in Douai, France, in 1896, and arrived in the United States on December 24, 1919. After serving for two years in North Attleborough, Mother Adrienne Cecile was sent to St. Cecilia School in Pawtucket where she served until 1933. She returned to the motherhouse in Tournai, Belgium, that year and died a year later.

Two of the founding faculty made significant contributions to the North Attleborough community. Sister Louise Rita Bourget was 18 years old and newly professed when she arrived at Sacred Heart. In her thirty-two consecutive years of service on Richards Avenue, Sister taught Grades 1, 2, 3, 6, and 8. After more than 50 years of teaching, Sister retired to Saint Mary Convent in North Attleborough. She died on February 25, 1989, and is buried in Saint Mary Cemetery. Interestingly, Fr. Costa had Sister Louise Rita as a teacher at Taunton Catholic Middle School in 1973, fifty years after her first assignment at Sacred Heart.

Sister Claire Agnes Roy, a native of Lawrence, MA, entered Holy Union at the age of 16, and taught music in Taunton before being assigned to Sacred Heart. While assigned with us, Sister pronounced her perpetual vows in 1925. From 1923 to 1945, Sister Claire Agnes taught grades 1, 2, 5, and 7, and gave music lessons during and after school. Sister returned to using her baptismal name, Estelle, in the early 1970's. After more than 62 years of service at various Holy Union staffed schools in Taunton, North Attleborough, Pawtucket, Lawrence, and Groton, Sister retired. She died on January 4, 2001, and is buried in Concord, MA.

During the past 100 years, *ninety* Holy Union Sisters have served the North Attleborough community. Sister Kathee Corrigan continues this long history of generosity, commitment, and service. In addition to her ministry as pastoral associate in our parish, Sister Kathee is also a member of the leadership team for the United States area of Holy Union. Along with Sister Mary Lou Sullivan, Sister Kathee is responsible for pastoral care, health care, legal and corporation matters for the 49 Sisters of this area. Here in the parish Sister assists with liturgical ministry and pastoral care as her time allows. She resides at the parish house located at 14 Park Street.

As we mark this centennial, please join me in thanking Sister Kathee and all of the Holy Union Sisters who have generously served North Attleborough, faithful to their charism: "at the heart of the world, revealing God's love."



Knights of Columbus®

Council #330 of the Knights of Columbus has been serving the Catholic Community of North Attleborough for 125 years. The Knights meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7pm, in the St. Mary Church Hall. Please drop by on meeting nights if you'd like to learn more about the Knights. Council #330 is committed to assisting local charities that align with the values of our Faith such as the Parish, the Parish school, and Abundant Hope. Contact Jim Schromm with any questions: jim.schromm@verizon.net.

Transfiguration of the Lord Respect Life Group

The next meeting of the Respect Life Group will take place on Thursday, **October 5, 2023 at 6:30 pm in Sacred Heart Church's Library**. 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.

Reflections for the Week beginning Sunday, September 17, 2023

Sunday, Sep 17, 2023

Each one, teach one

Teachers, preachers, and professors have their place. But most of us learn life lessons more broadly. The first school is our home environment. Groups we affiliate with and wider media influences also communicate their values. In 1935, the Vatican called for special acknowledgment of how our parish catechists pass on the faith. While it's right to honor our DRE or religion teachers on this Catechetical Sunday, let's recall too the role of parents and indeed all parishioners in modeling a life rich in love, generosity, compassion, and forgiveness. Catechists literally "echo" the example of Jesus. Deliver your echo boldly!

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 27:30—28:7; Romans 14:7-9; Matthew 18:21-35 (130). *"Peter approached Jesus and asked him, 'Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive?'"*

Monday, Sep 18, 2023

Make of your life a mission of peace

In an address to the World Council of Churches in Evanston, Illinois in 1954, Dag Hammarskjöld, the second United Nations secretary-general (1953-61), referred to churches as the "guardians of ... the deepest beliefs and the loftiest dreams ..." of humanity. He died in a plane crash on this date while on a peace mission in the Congo and is the only person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize posthumously. Pope Francis praised him in 2015 for giving his life for "reconciliation among peoples." May the example and inspiration of Hammarskjöld, and the many who work to end conflict in the world, unite the people of God in their pursuit.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Timothy 2:1-8; Luke 7:1-10 (443). *"I did not consider myself worthy to come to you; but say the word and let my servant be healed."*

Tuesday, Sep 19, 2023

The real magic of relics

The significance of saintly relics is best understood in light of basic Catholic teaching: Relics aren't talismans born of superstition, nor are they magical souvenirs from worship-worthy saints. Moreover, relics deserve the same basic respect as other human remains. This is key because, historically, relics have been the subject of misunderstanding and abuse, everything from pilgrims who would steal bits of saintly bodies to Martin Luther's objection when relics were sold and hoarded like baubles. God alone works miracles and is worthy of worship. Saints merely agree to be the conduit—in obedience to Divine Love—sometimes paying the price with their martyrs' blood. Consider: The real miracle of Januarius' blood might be that he was willing to sacrifice it.

MEMORIAL OF JANUARIUS, BISHOP, MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Luke 7:11-17 (444). *"A great prophet has arisen in our midst and God has visited his people."*

Wednesday, Sep 20, 2023

Be inspired to broaden your concern

On this day in 1918, at the age of 58, Mary Theresa Dudzik entered into eternal life. She accomplished a lot of good in her time on Earth. After immigrating to Chicago from Poland at 21, she would invite poor elderly women and girls to her home. "I felt the misery and suffering of others, and it seemed to me that I could not love Jesus, or even expect Heaven if I were concerned only about myself," she wrote. Dudzik started the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago in 1893, the first order of religious women founded in

Chicago. The community devoted itself to aiding the elderly and those in need. She received the honorary title of "Mother" in 1948 and is now a candidate for sainthood. Learn more about Venerable Mary Theresa Dudzik and her heroic virtue.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Timothy 3:14-16; Luke 7:31-35 (445). *"To what shall I compare the people of this generation?"*

Thursday, Sep 21, 2023

Witness value

When the name Saint Matthew comes up, many people recall him as the tax collector apostle who wrote the Gospel of Matthew. Modern scholarship has challenged the belief that Matthew the apostle wrote the gospel with his name on it, and other details of Saint Matthew's death by martyrdom cannot be definitively proven. Maybe having precision about all aspects of Matthew's life is not the most important factor in this feast, however. The church celebrates Matthew for being a faithful apostle and evangelist, things to which every Christian can aspire. Does your life evangelize, that is, bear witness to your belief?

FEAST OF MATTHEW, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

TODAY'S READINGS: Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13; Matthew 9:9-13 (643). *"Live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience."*

Friday, Sep 22, 2023

Delve into fresh spiritual classics

The Spirit dwells in each of us and is expressed in myriad ways. The church treasures this rich diversity as "refractions of the one pure light of the Holy Spirit," as the Catechism of the Catholic Church puts it. Too often erased historically, the experiences of women haven't always been allowed to shine as brightly, however. And so we lift up writers such as Monica Coleman, Gloria Anzaldúa, Mary Oliver, Jung Eun Sophia Park, and Phyllis Tickle, renowned spirituality author who died on this date in 2015. Read one of these or another author whose particular "refraction" resonates with your own.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Timothy 6:2c-12; Luke 8:1-3 (447). *"Pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness."*

Saturday, Sep 23, 2023

The essentials of sainthood

Controversy shadowed the life of the mystical Padre Pio, as Pius of Pietrelcina was known. He was said to bear the stigmata, or wounds of Christ, though detractors claimed he manufactured the wounds with carbolic acid. However one views such claims and counter claims, the undeniable fact is that he was a compassionate counselor to the thousands who came to see him during his lifetime, a tireless servant who lived a simple life. At Padre Pio's canonization Mass in 2002, Saint John Paul II said: "The life and mission of Padre Pio testify that difficulties and sorrows, if accepted with love, transform themselves into a privileged journey of holiness, which opens the person toward a greater good, known only to the Lord." You don't have to be a mystic or stigmatist to mirror the ministry of Christ in your own life—all you need is a kind heart and generous spirit.

MEMORIAL OF PIUS OF PIETRELcina, PRIEST

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Timothy 6:13-16; Luke 8:4-15 (448). *"And some seed fell on good soil, and when it grew, it produced fruit a hundredfold."*

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



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24th Sunday in Ordinary Time - September 17, 2023

READINGS FOR THE WEEK



First Reading

A reading from the Book of Sirach

Wrath and anger are hateful things,
yet the sinner hugs them tight.
The vengeful will suffer the LORD's vengeance,
for he remembers their sins in detail.
Forgive your neighbor's injustice;
then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven.
Could anyone nourish anger against another
and expect healing from the LORD?
Could anyone refuse mercy to another like himself,
can he seek pardon for his own sins?
If one who is but flesh cherishes wrath,
who will forgive his sins?
Remember your last days, set enmity aside;
remember death and decay, and cease from sin!
Think of the commandments, hate not your neighbor;
remember the Most High's covenant, and overlook faults.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all my being,
bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my
soul, and forget not all his benefits.

R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

He pardons all your iniquities, heals all your
ills. He redeems your life from destruction,
crowns you with kindness and compassion.

R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

He will not always chide, nor does he keep his
wrath forever. Not according to our sins does
he deal with us, nor does he requite us
according to our crimes.

R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so
surpassing is his kindness toward those who
fear him. As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he put our transgressions from us.

R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

Second Reading

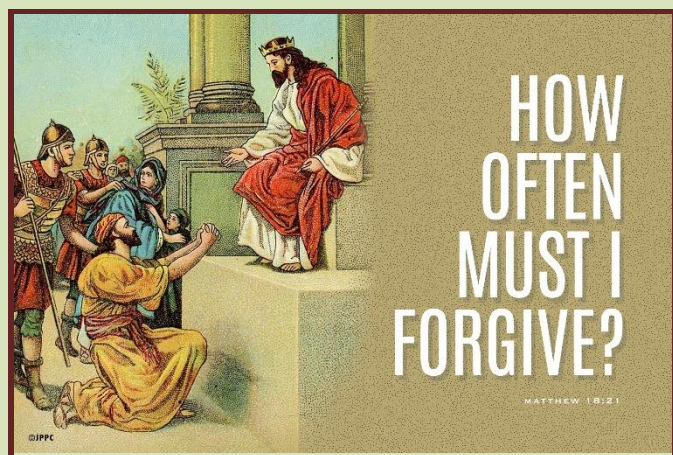
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself.
For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die
for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the
Lord's. For this is why Christ died and came to life,
that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Gospel Acclamation

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*I give you a new commandment, says the Lord;
love one another as I have loved you.*

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.

Peter approached Jesus and asked him,
"Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive?
As many as seven times?"

Jesus answered,

"I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times. That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the accounting, a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount. Since he had no way of paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the debt. At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.' Moved with compassion the master of that servant let him go and forgave him the loan. When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a much smaller amount. He seized him and started to choke him, demanding, 'Pay back what you owe.' Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' But he refused. Instead, he had the fellow servant put in prison until he paid back the debt. Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master and reported the whole affair. His master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?' Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt. So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart."

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
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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

**Be a Business Sponsor
Walk & Solicit Pledges
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100% of donations will be used for families needing
rent, utilities or emergency assistance.



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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.

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Forgiveness:

This year marks the tenth anniversary of a senseless murder in our quiet community. Christie, a teenage girl, was stalked and killed by a man now serving a life sentence in prison. Ten years later, Christie's parents have requested permission to visit their daughter's murderer. It has taken some time, but Christie's parents know that the only way to heal this unthinkable injury is to forgive it.

FIRST READING: Sirach 27:30 — 28:7

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 103:1–2, 3–4, 9–10, 11–12

SECOND READING: Romans 14:7–9

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21–35

Comment:

Sirach provides a perfect foundation for today's Gospel. Nearly two hundred years before Jesus preached the parable of the unforgiving servant, Sirach's son wrote this wisdom book to help the people of his day live in harmony with God's creation. He cautioned people to let go of their anger. You can almost see them clutch it tightly as though it were a priceless gem. Our own sins will be forgiven, he tells us, if we forgive others. We must show mercy if we are to receive it.

Jesus illustrates this wisdom absolutely when Peter asks how often we need to forgive someone who's hurt us. The king forgave the enormous debt of his servant, but the servant demanded payment and punishment when a fellow slave could not pay what he owed.

Have you ever paid off a large debt? Perhaps it was a car, a college loan, or your mortgage? It's a joyful feeling. But imagine one step further (or maybe this has actually happened to you). By some serendipitous event, the money appeared unexpectedly. The weight of the world was lifted as you crawled out from underneath the burden of debt. Isn't it strange that the servant's response to his fellow slave was one of greed and anger just after something so wonderful had happened? We might wonder if more was troubling the servant than just his debt.

Reflection:

We ask God to forgive our sins. We know we are forgiven. Jesus died for just that purpose. God, then, is the great king who forgave his servant (you and me). But what happens when our peers come forward and ask for our forgiveness? Is it possible that our own greatest sin is our inability to forgive one person in our own lives?

Jesus told Peter that we must forgive seventy-seven times. It was never intended that we keep a ledger, but the main idea is that we forgive over and over. This should give us some practice at being humble and gracious. But in the reverse, when we ask someone for forgiveness, we must be willing to try to correct our wrongdoing. We must be willing to change something of ourselves in order not to repeat the hurt.

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