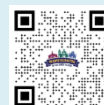
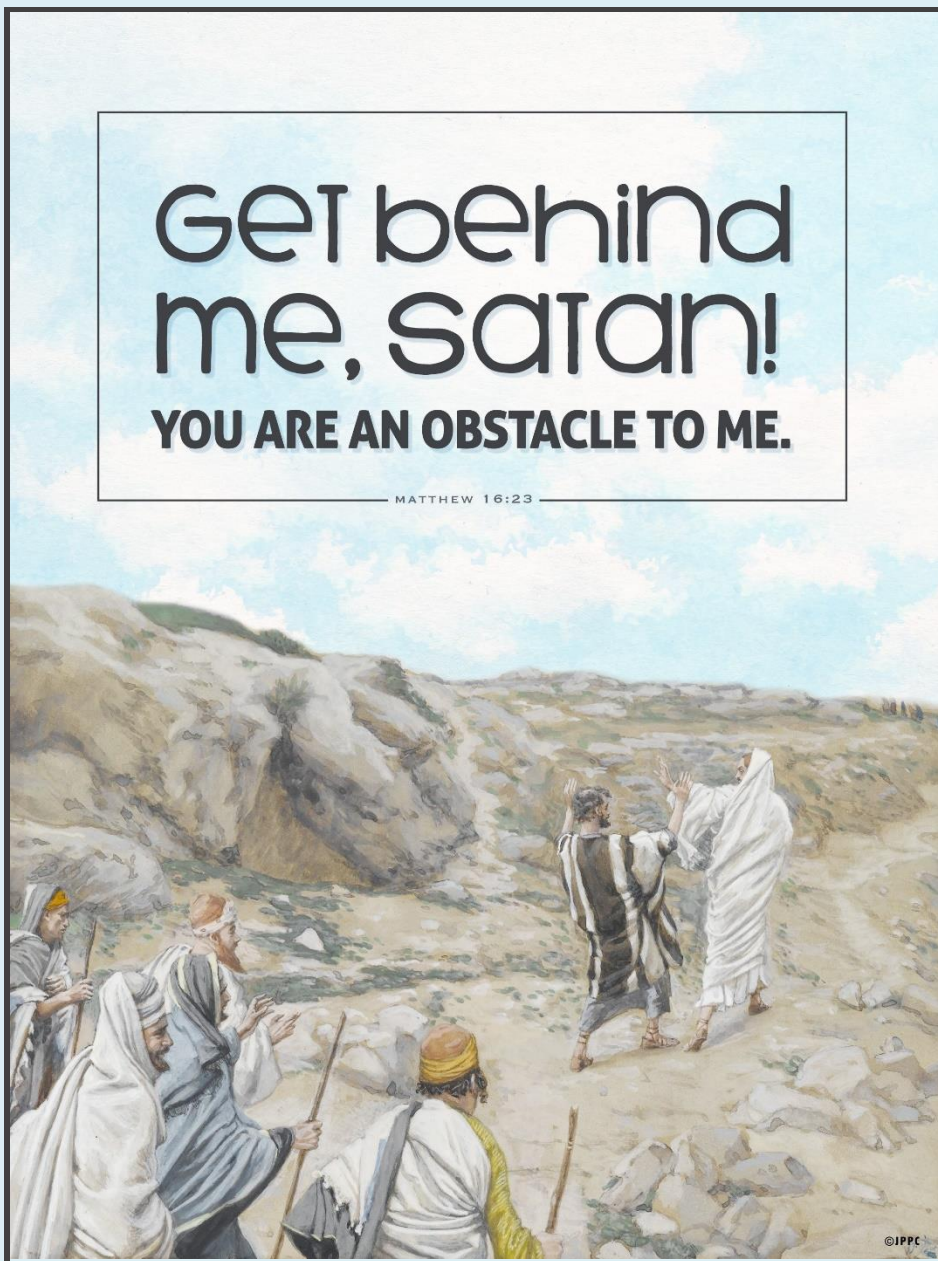


Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 3, 2023

GET behind
me, SATAN!
YOU ARE AN OBSTACLE TO ME.

— MATTHEW 16:23 —



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 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 (Summer)

Saint Mark 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 Mark Church (Summer)**
Sunday 8:00 am **Saint Mark Church**
Sunday 9:30 am **Saint Mark Church (Summer)**
Sunday 11:00 am **Saint Mark Church (Summer)**

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 2/3 – 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	September 2 – Vigil (St. Mark)
4:00 pm	Barbara Palazzi
Sunday	September 3 (St. Mark)
8:00 am	Fr. George Marcil, OFM
Sunday	September 3 (St. Mark)
9:30 am	Daniel Coyle
Sunday	September 3 (St. Mark)
11:00 am	Dennis R. Armstrong

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Monday	September 4 (St. Mark)
9:00 am	People of the Parish
Tuesday	September 5 (St. Mark)
8:00 am	Dan Pion
Wednesday	September 6 (St. Mark)
4:30 pm	Jose Botelho
Thursday	September 7 (St. Mark)
8:00 am	Marcelino Lontok

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September 9/10 – 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

+++++

Parish Contributions

Collection for August 26/27: \$11,373.94

+++++



This **Monday, September 4th**, is a federal holiday (Labor Day). **Daily Mass will be celebrated in Saint Mark church at 9:00 am.** The Rosary for Life will be prayed at 8:30 am prior to the start of Mass. *Please note: there is no 4:30 pm daily Mass on September 4th.*

Mass Schedule Updates

Beginning next 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, Saint Mary Church

Sunday morning Mass: 8:00 am, Saint Mark Church

Sunday morning Mass: 9:30 am, Saint Mary Church

Sunday morning Mass: 11:00 am, Sacred Heart Church

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

From Fr. Costa:

A few weeks ago, when we announced the return to our three worship sites and the Fall Mass schedule, I failed to give a fuller explanation behind the decision. My apologies!

As you all know, our “Team” returned to North Attleborough at the end of June and soon after we began using the air conditioned Saint Mark Church for all of our Masses, devotions, and Adoration. I thank you for your gracious understanding, patience and cooperation in that move.

These summer weeks have not given me a chance to experience the numbers and the needs for each Mass in each of our church buildings. In addition, we know that many people go away for the summer and may not have been worshipping with us. As we approach the start of a new school year, we are already seeing our numbers swell (which is a very good thing!) Before we make any future decisions, I would like to get a handle on the present situation, framing it with some of these questions: Is the present schedule (four Mass times) adequate for the current number of active parishioners? Do we need to change Mass times to accommodate the majority of parishioners? Are we adequately using our three buildings (safety, accessibility, capacity, heating)? These are just some of the questions, not all. As pastor, I have the job of seeing the big picture and planning accordingly. Right now, I need some time and some facts and figures to see and understand that picture.

Once we have gone through the Fall cycle of Masses, we will revisit the Mass schedule question and TOGETHER we will make any necessary changes. In the meantime, I ask for your patience and truly appreciate your openness and trust.

~Fr. Costa

Baptism Congratulations

Our prayerful best wishes are extended to three of our infants and their families who recently celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism. Please welcome and remember in your prayer:

Everett James Luca



Son of David & Jennifer (Ferrarese) Luca
Godchild of John Luca & Anne Walsh

Avery Marie Lucia



Daughter of Thomas & Megan (Dean) Lucia
Godchild of Michael Lucia & Amanda Krafka

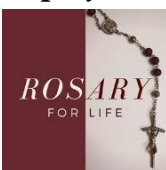
Julianna Belle Schoenewolff



Daughter of Matthew & Kaitlyn (Sawyer) Schoenewolff
Godchild of Andrew Bevilacqua & Amanda Guindon

Rosary for Life

Please note: the Rosary for Life will be prayed at 8:30 am in Saint Mark church on Monday, September 4th on account of the Labor Day holiday. The Respect Life Committee of Transfiguration of the Lord Parish is pleased to announce that the communal Rosary will also be livestreamed for any participants who wish to join us remotely. Happy Labor Day!



Live Stream Mass Broadcasts

Since the pandemic, Transfiguration of the Lord Parish has been blessed with excellent live stream Mass broadcasts. This is primarily due to the dedicated work and service of our own Miles Miller. Many, many thanks to Miles for all that he has done (and continues to do) for this important outreach ministry! Even though we have moved beyond Covid-19 constraints, a good number of people – especially our housebound parishioners – are able to participate in parish Mass through the live stream. This is the primary purpose of this ministry, affording those who are physically unable to be with us in person to be an integral part of our liturgical prayer.

As we move back to using our three worship sites, we are slightly amending our live stream ministry. Instead of all four weekend Masses being broadcast, we will broadcast *only* the **Saturday 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass** and the **9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass** on the weekend. These live stream broadcasts are available at any time on both our parish Facebook page and You Tube site. The links to each are:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Transfiguration-of-the-Lord-Parish-North-Attleborough-106529317647894/>

You Tube: <https://tinyurl.com/ysfaxaty>

We ***WILL*** continue to broadcast daily Mass, the weekly Communion Service, the Rosary for Life, and the Mary, Undoer of Knots prayer service for your live stream participation. Thank you for your patient understanding!

Altar Servers

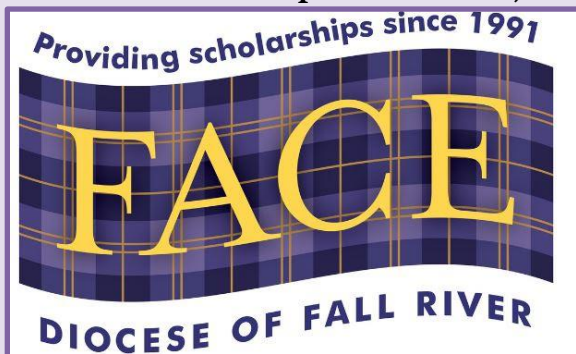
As we begin another Faith Formation and school year, we are seeking children and youth to serve as Altar Servers. Any boy or girl in Grade 3 and older is most welcome to join our Altar Server team. We will offer training and support. Nervous about serving alone? Join with a friend or a number of friends! 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.

**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.



Back to School Prayer

Dear Lord,
As our students and teachers begin a new school year, we pray that you will keep them in your care.

Send your Spirit to open their minds to all that is true and beautiful and good.

Help them to see the gifts and talents you have given them and to use them well. Help them to grow in knowledge and wisdom. Help them to be kind to others and lead others to be kind to them.

Give our teachers patience and understanding and help them teach what is just and true.

Send your angels to guide and guard our children, teachers, and faculty and to keep them from all harm.

Open the hearts of your children to your presence and enfold them in your peace and protection. Hold them in the palm of your hand and bring them home safely at day's end.

Amen.



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.

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 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!

Do you want an authentic community of faith, joy, and optimism for your middle school student?



Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School provides age-appropriate opportunities to discover and expand on areas of interest while fostering a culture of virtue as taught by Jesus Christ. The goal of our middle school programs is to reinforce responsible behavior and form independent learners who are leaders for life. Contact us at www.smshschool.com, and enroll your student today!

Catechists Needed

As mentioned at Mass last weekend, children and youth enrolled in our Faith Formation program for the upcoming school year, will participate in some form of in-person classes. To make this work, we are in need of catechists for every grade level (Grades 1 through 9). Classes will be held as follows:

Grades 1 through 4 – Sunday mornings, on alternating weekends: 9:00 am - 10:15 am

Grades 5 through 8 – Monday evenings, monthly, according to a calendar: 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Confirmation Formation – Sunday evening, approximately, bi-monthly: 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

We are seeking adults, young adults, and high school students to serve as classroom catechists, table leaders, classroom and office aides, and substitute catechists. If you can share your Faith, your time, and your love of the Lord, please contact Elaine at the Faith Formation Office: (508) 695-3823.

Memorial Prayer Service for Aborted Children

On Saturday, September 9th, pro-life Americans throughout the country will gather at memorial sites for the 11th annual National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children. Prayers services will be held at these sites to commemorate the more than 60 million children who have lost their lives to abortion since 1973. Even though Roe v. Wade has been overturned, we still need to mourn those precious babies who have been lost and remind our society of the humanity of the unborn. Please join us for this sweet memorial service in our local community!

When: Saturday, September 9th, 9:00-10:00 am

Where: St. Mary's Cemetery, Towne St., North Attleborough, MA

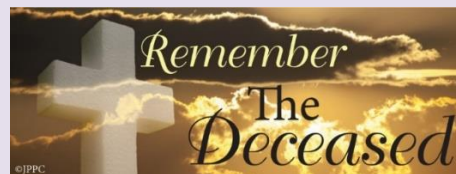
For more information, please contact **Kathy Hill** at:
Kathyfinnhill@yahoo.com

Transfiguration of the Lord Respect Life Group

The next meeting of the Respect Life Group will take place on Monday, **September 11, 2023 at 6:30 pm in Saint Mary Church Hall**. In the meantime, 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.

Please Pray for our Deceased:

*Rose Shepard
Marilyn Redding
Martin R. Dubuc*



*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 1st.** You can always find complete information on our website at: <https://nawomensguild.weebly.com/>

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 (9am to 10:30am)
- *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: 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

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

Reflections for the Week beginning Sunday, September 3, 2023

Sunday, Sep 03, 2023

It's a wonderful life

Our days are engulfed in chaos, conflict, and dispiriting news. Then along comes a director like Frank Capra (1897-1991), churning out what have been called "fantasies of good will," imposing order with his ragged little messiahs who take meaningful stands against king-sized injustices. A self-described "Christmas Catholic," Capra fought his moral battles on the silver screen. He believed each person is "essentially good, a living atom of divinity.... Films must be made to say these things, to counteract the violence and the meanness, to buy time to demobilize the hatreds." Take your stand. Tell a story of hope.

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 20:7-9; Romans 12:1-2; Matthew 16:21-27 (124). *"Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind."*

Monday, Sep 04, 2023

Come aside and rest awhile

In a Prayer for Labor Day, the U.S. bishops invite us to ask God: "Make a place in our hearts for compassion to the men and women who labor tirelessly for basic necessities." Labor has always held a place of dignity within our faith. Scripture tells us that the laborer is worthy of his hire (1 Tim. 5:18), and many a church document, including *Rerum Novarum*, outline the value of workers and their work: "Justice, therefore, demands that the interests of the working classes should be carefully watched over, so that they who contribute so largely to the advantage of the community may themselves share in the benefits which they create." And, today, in honor of our labor, it's time to take a break.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Luke 4:16-30 (431). *"Is this not the son of Joseph?"*

Tuesday, Sep 05, 2023

The first daughter of charity

It's not every day that a Catholic saint is honored with a United Nations resolution. But then, Mother Teresa is hardly an everyday saint. The U.N. honored the famous nun from Kolkata, known the world over for her hands-on care of the poor, with a resolution in 2013. It declared that on the September 5th anniversary of Mother Teresa's death each year, the world would now observe an International Day of Charity. Let's take her at her word: "Love is not patronizing and charity isn't about pity, it is about love. Charity and love are the same—with charity you give love, so don't just give money but reach out your hand instead."

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6, 9-11; Luke 4:31-37 (432). *"All of you are children of the light and children of the day. We are not of the night or of darkness."*

Wednesday, Sep 06, 2023

Pray for the persecuted and forgotten

On this day, many Christians of the Eastern tradition celebrate the feast of Saint Donatian and his companions, a group of lesser-known fifth-century martyrs driven out of North Africa by the Arian King Huneric, who persecuted a great many Trinitarians for their faith. Though we may not today face death for our confession, many of our brothers and sisters around the world do, and it is for them that we must pray with the help of Donatian and all who died

for the name of Christ. Even more, we are tasked to help them materially if we can, since—as the Lord says—whatsoever we do for the least of his siblings, we do for him.

TODAY'S READINGS: Colossians 1:1-8; Luke 4:38-44 (433). *"We have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love that you have for all the holy ones because of the hope reserved for you in heaven."*

Thursday, Sep 07, 2023

School days, Golden Rule days

It's back-to-school season. Learning is foundational to our democracy and also to informed faith. In 2,000 years' time, Christianity has overcome countless heresies (a type of twisting of the belief) and accumulated many saints, martyrs, stories, and traditions. With school back in session, consider sending yourself to "school" to learn more about your own religion. Check out study materials from the U.S. Catholic bishops and formed.org, a program both individuals and parishes can use for faith formation. Make a choice to grow in wisdom and understanding.

TODAY'S READINGS: Colossians 1:9-14; Luke 5:1-11 (434). *"Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch."*

Friday, Sep 08, 2023

A nativity set for the ages

The church officially celebrates three Nativities: the Nativity of Jesus, the Son of God (Christmas); the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist (24 June); and the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (8 September). These events tell us everything we need to know about God, faith, and the path to salvation. Through Jesus' Incarnation, we learn that God is with us—always and everywhere. Through John's witness we come to understand that we are not God—not even close—and we must prepare ourselves to welcome God's great goodness into our lives. And through Mary, we are shown the meaning of true discipleship—how to answer God's call and follow Christ through the joyful, sorrowful, and luminous mysteries of our lives in faith. Celebrate this dynamic trio by living in their light.

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

TODAY'S READINGS: Micah 5:1-4a or Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23 (636). *"They shall name him Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us.'"*

Saturday, Sep 09, 2023

Give us this day some peace

"Racism has been part of the social fabric of America since its European colonization. Whether it be the tragic past of Native Americans, Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, or Blacks, the story is one of slavery, peonage, economic exploitation, brutal repression, and cultural neglect." This observation from the 1979 bishops' pastoral *Brothers and Sisters to Us* is why the church in the United States has established today as a "Day of Prayer for Peace in Our Communities" to promote healing of the racial divides of our nation. Make an honest examination of conscience regarding your thoughts, words, and deeds toward people of other ethnic and racial backgrounds.

MEMORIAL OF PETER CLAVER, PRIEST

TODAY'S READINGS: Colossians 1:21-23; Luke 6:1-5 (436). *"You once were alienated and hostile in mind because of evil deeds."*

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



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22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - September 3, 2023

READINGS FOR THE WEEK



First Reading

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah

You duped me, O LORD, and I let myself be duped;
you were too strong for me, and you triumphed.
All the day I am an object of laughter;
everyone mocks me.

Whenever I speak, I must cry out,
violence and outrage is my message;
the word of the LORD has brought me
derision and reproach all the day.

I say to myself, I will not mention him,
I will speak in his name no more.
But then it becomes like fire burning in my heart,
imprisoned in my bones;
I grow weary holding it in, I cannot endure it.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God whom I seek; for you
my flesh pines and my soul thirsts like the
earth, parched, lifeless and without water.

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Thus have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary
to see your power and your glory, for your
kindness is a greater good than life; my lips
shall glorify you.

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Thus will I bless you while I live; lifting up my
hands, I will call upon your name. As with the
riches of a banquet shall my soul be satisfied,
and with exultant lips my mouth shall praise
you.

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

You are my help, and in the shadow of your
wings I shout for joy. My soul clings fast to
you; your right hand upholds me.

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

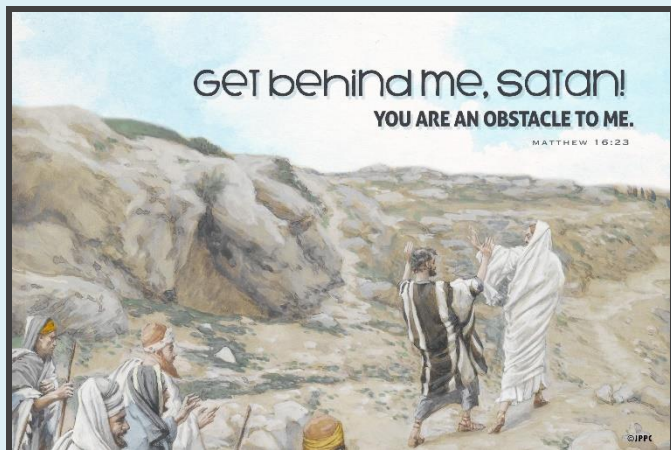
Second Reading

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God,
to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice,
holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship.
Do not conform yourselves to this age
but be transformed by the renewal of your mind,
that you may discern what is the will of God,
what is good and pleasing and perfect.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Gospel Acclamation

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised. Then Peter took Jesus aside and began to rebuke him,

"God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you."

He turned and said to Peter,

"Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do."

Then Jesus said to his disciples,

"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father's glory, and then he will repay all according to his conduct."

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

**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 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-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Worldliness:

One of my jogging routes takes me past a major intersection. One night as I ran, I saw a northbound motorcycle driver approach the intersection. His passenger's long hair flowed carelessly back in the wind. The light changed to yellow. An eastbound car approached the intersection. Neither one took the caution light seriously. Less than a block earlier, the young motorcycle driver and his fiancée had a future filled with wedding plans, jobs, the hope of a family and home. In an instant, their world was gone. The critically injured young woman mourned the death of her husband-to-be. We have all experienced events in our lives that indicate how fleeting this life is. In an instant everything changes. For this reason, we need to put our trust and faith in the next world, where things will be as they have been promised.

Comment:

Jeremiah was more than a little annoyed with God. Jeremiah hated having to tell God's message. He was persecuted and tortured because of it. But, for Jeremiah, torture was better than disobeying God. Paul continued the same plea of Jeremiah in his letter to the Romans. The Romans, too, formed values of worldly and temporal nature. In his writings, Paul urged the Romans to change their values—to make them more in harmony with the directions of God. He asked the people to live in a way contrary to what society dictated—to be hospitable to strangers, to associate with the lowly, to feed their hungry enemies.

Matthew wrote to the Jewish community of his time telling them to take up the cross and follow Jesus. This meant to let go of the ways and values of the world. To follow Jesus, we must give up our lives for Jesus. We will gain the whole world, a world we cannot fully comprehend, if we give up our lives for Jesus.

Reflection:

Have you ever thought about how difficult it would be to be a prophet? George Burns as God in the movie *Oh, God!* was enough for me to know the world is a tough audience! The character played by John Denver was a laughingstock and so was Jeremiah. Both were chosen to convey the message to the world that just because "everyone was doing 'it,'" didn't make "it" right.

Most likely, each of us at some point in our lives has taken a stand that goes against popular opinion. But the cause was something worth risking peer disapproval. Some parents may hold firm to which movies their children can see despite the fact that other parents have relaxed their restrictions. We may march in a pro-life parade even though some people will shout and gesture their criticism. Many advertisers promote self-indulgence telling us we deserve to pamper ourselves and lavish ourselves with luxury. It takes unselfishness to resist those lures and care for someone else before we take care of ourselves.

To carry a cross and deny ourselves the pleasures the world has to offer, often brings about sad emotions and long faces. It sounds hard and harsh, depressing and negative. Perhaps the challenge of "carrying our cross" is more in how we view the obligation rather than the task itself.

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