



23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 5, 2021



Parish Staff

Father Joseph Upton, *Pastor*
Deacon John Pryor, *Deacon Assistant*
Anne-Marie Ring, *Office Manager*
Philip Beaulieu, *Cemeteries Manager*
Carolyn Mello Pryor, *Faith Formation*
Victoria Costa, *Music Minister*
Rob Whitaker, *Facilities & Grounds*

Contact

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Parish Office

645 Main Street
Warren, RI 02885
Mondays-Thursdays 9am-12nn

New Members

If you are new to our parish, please take a moment to register through our parish website or by phone. Welcome!

Mass Schedule

Monday through Friday at 8am
Saturday at 4pm
Sunday at 8am & 10:30am
Sabbath@Sundown Sunday evening
Mass at 6pm

Confessions

Confessions are heard in the Reconciliation Chapel at the rear of the church on Saturdays at 3pm or anytime by appointment. Please note that the chapel accommodates both anonymous and face-to-face confessions.

Baptisms

Baptisms are typically celebrated at one Sunday Mass per month. Please contact Deacon John Pryor at 401.245.7000, extension 14, for more information. Private baptisms may also be arranged.

Weddings

Please call the parish office to discuss wedding preparations at least one year in advance of the intended date.

SMB Mountain Movers

Milly Grieve, *Coordinator of Children's Ministries*
Email: smbmountainmovers@gmail.com

SMB Food Pantry

The Food Pantry operates out of the lower church hall and is open on Tuesdays from 3pm to 5pm and on Wednesdays from 9am to 11am.
Wendy Baker, *Director*
Phone: 401.245.7000, ext. 19
Email: smbfoodpantry@gmail.com

Parish Outreach

Parishioners and members of the local community in need should contact the rectory for assistance.
Phone: 401.245.7000, ext. 13

St. Gabriel's Call

St. Gabriel's Call provides emotional and practical support to families in need, including diapers, baby clothing and much more.
Barbara Fisher, *Coordinator*
Phone: 401.245.7000, ext. 20

Welcome to Saint Mary of the Bay

No matter what your present status is in the Catholic Church, no matter your current family or marital status, no matter your personal history, age, income, background, gender, race, ethnicity or spirituality, no matter your own self-image of holiness or virtue, you are welcome here! You are invited, accepted and respected at Saint Mary of the Bay. We hope to share our Roman Catholic way of faith and life in Christ with you!



Mass Intentions

Twenty-Third Week in Ordinary Time

Saturday, September 4

4pm: Matthew Cholewiak, Jr., Birthday Remem.
Requested by Jo-Anne Cholewiak

Sunday, September 5

10:30am: Pal Socha & Billy Prasser
Requested by the Socha Family
6pm: For all parishioners

Monday, September 6

8am: Donald O'Donnell, 15th anniversary
Requested by Patricia

Tuesday, September 7

8am: Ferdinand J. & Regina G. Thivierge

Wednesday, September 8

8am: Alyce & Brian Lardner
Requested by Barbara Lardner

Thursday, September 9

8am: Robert Hawkinson
Requested by his daughter, Christine Hawkinson

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, September 11

4pm: Belmiro Ferreira Alves
Requested by his sister, Dina Carvalho, & family

Sunday, September 12

8am: For all parishioners
10:30am: Matthew DePasquale
Requested by his family
6pm: Mary Merchant
Requested by Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Hawkins



Stewardship

Weekend of August 28 & 29, 2021

Budget Envelopes: **\$3,380.00** Loose: **\$1,558.00**
Online: **\$1,332.00**
(Average Online Gift: \$39.18 Number of Users: 34)

Total: \$6,270.00

Thank you for your generosity!



Padre's Ponderings

Dear Parishioners,

It has been a difficult few weeks for our nation. We gathered as a community last Sunday on the parish lawn to pray a Rosary for world peace, entrusting the lives of our fallen service men and women to the care of our Blessed Mother, and invoking her intercession as Queen of Peace. As of the writing of this column, countless people in Louisiana are without power after Hurricane Ida. Forest fires are raging again in California. There's no doubt that there is much to be fearful or anxious about in the world today. And yet, as people of faith, we continue to trust that, for those who love God, all things work together for the good.

In parish news, we were delighted to host our first community storytime this past week, "Little Bookworms." I cannot thank Milly Grieve enough for her tireless efforts. Help us spread the word that free, community storytime will be held every Thursday from 10am to 11am in the parish hall. Just follow the signs!

I would be remiss if I did not thank Rob Whitaker, who spent hours upon hours, often in the hot sun, refreshing the property at the rear of the church. As we've settled on using the back door as the entrance for weekly storytime, Rob put up a new fence, painted the railings, repaired the cement on the back patio, and attended to a thousand other details to make the property clean and attractive for our guests. Thanks are also due to Phil Beaulieu for helping keep us all coordinated and to Beth Penkala and Diana Letourneau for filling the new planters at the rear of the church. If you have a minute, stop by and check out the space. I hope other parish groups will be able to take advantage of the space in the Fall and beyond.

This past week, we bid a final farewell to Christine Daneault, who has served as our bookkeeper for the last year. Anne-Marie Ring, who has already been hired as our new Office Manager, has assumed Christine's responsibilities. Christine, even though she already retired, was willing to come back for a brief period while Anne-Marie recovered from surgery. I cannot thank Christine enough for the invaluable contribution she has made to our parish community. She will be missed! May she enjoy her well-deserved retirement! Christine, know you are always welcome at SMB!

In other news, I can't believe I'm typing this, but I hope you have a safe and restful Labor Day. The parish office will be closed on Monday. It's hard to believe that the summer is drawing to a close. Joy Jennings helps us put the changing of seasons in perspective this week in her monthly column, "A Joyful Message." And Wendy Baker continues to enlighten us with stories from the past in her column, "Beginnings." What a rich history our parish boasts!

As I indicated last week, there are lots of great things in store for the Fall, from our new Support Group for the Divorced, Separated and Widowed, to Women's Bible Study, to children's church, "Mountain Movers," beginning on September 19 at the 10:30am Mass. Stay tuned!

Until next week,



A Joyful Message



The seasons of our life pass by so quickly! Once again, we find ourselves celebrating Labor Day weekend. Though there may be several more weeks of fine weather to enjoy, this is the official weekend that marks the end of the summer season, and we make the most of this time with family outings, a day at the beach...or some last-minute shopping for school supplies!

With a nod to history, Labor Day was created by the labor movement in the late 19th century, and was first declared a holiday in 1894, at the height of the Industrial Revolution. The era was often marked with 12-hour days and 7-day workweeks, where working conditions were considered dismal for many adults, as well as children. Labor Day became a workingman's holiday to honor the dignity and the humanity of all peoples who worked so hard to make our country economically stable and strong.

Mark's gospel of today gives a different, yet powerful example of the dignity and humanity involved between Jesus and a deaf man who had a speech impediment. This man was brought to Jesus...he was unable to hear, and had difficulty in speaking. The interaction between Jesus and the man contains elements that are both so human, as well as divine. Jesus put his fingers in the man's ears that he might hear, and Jesus used his own saliva to place on the man's tongue. These are methods we would consider out of place in today's society, but in Biblical times these methods were considered medical treatments that were appropriate to induce healing. Jesus used what was considered ordinary to create an extraordinary moment of healing for this deaf mute. There seems to be some spontaneity in Jesus gazing heavenward and emitting a "deep, interior groan, inviting the man to 'Be opened!' "Ephphatha!" The man's ears were opened, and his speech impediment was removed, and he spoke plainly.

We may all be familiar with this account of Jesus healing someone brought to him, but there's one aspect that really struck me as I pondered the gospel this week. Before any of this could take place, Jesus took the man off by himself, away from the crowd who had presented the deaf mute to him. Jesus took the man away from the crowd, that something extraordinary could occur. For those of us listening to the gospel during the liturgy of this week, we could consider the importance of getting away from the crowd, too, for any personal healing of which we have a need. We could think about getting away from the mainstream of life to hear the voice of Jesus for ourselves, that healing might occur, and that we might "Be opened!" as well.

Getting away from the crowd is not easy, yet we have a sense of how important it can be. We know how draining it can be to get swept along the mainstream of life. In the words of Benedictine nun, Sister Joan Chittister:

"Unfortunately, in a society geared to overdrive, tasting and savoring are not the character of our days. We live in rush-hour traffic, tapping our fingers on the steering wheel. No "little visits" here; no meditation time on the riverbank. No long talks about spiritual problems or philosophical questions with old friends. We're too busy being alive to pause long enough to live well."

Let's take some time away this weekend...this last official weekend of summer. In Sr Joan's words, let's pause long enough to live well. May we find a few moments away from the crowd, in consideration of Labor Day, the workingman's holiday, to honor the dignity and humanity of time for work, and time for rest. May we find some time this Labor Day to restore, to be opened, to be healed, and to hear the voice of God in the daily moments of our lives.

*"Come unto me all who are weary
And find rest for your souls.
Come to me, all who are burdened,
You will learn from me."
--Mark 11:28-29*

Until next month,
-Joy Jennings



Beginnings

In May of 1867, the editors of the *Warren Gazette* wrote, "We have been surprised by the large number who usually attend the Catholic church in this town and it seems almost impossible for them all to gain admittance within the walls of the edifice at present occupied by them as a religious temple. The attendance is very uniform and the devotion to all appearance sincere." The original 36' x 66' rectangular church had long been too small for the increasing numbers of Catholics in Warren and Barrington, and with the end of the Civil War and the expanding mills and new businesses, more were pouring into the area every year. The parish was flourishing, and it was time to enlarge the church building.



The projected expansion would result in a cruciform floor plan, with 34 feet added to the length of the building for a chancel and sanctuary, and two transepts expanding 12 feet from each side. The contractors were Hall and Drown, the same company which (as Hoar and Drown) had built the original structure in 1851. Workmen began removing portions of the church and laying the foundations for the additions in August.

Mass was still celebrated in the church, even as construction continued, and by the end of December the work was finished. On New Year's Day, 1868, Bishop McFarland dedicated the new Gothic-style structure to the service of Almighty God, beginning with the blessing of the church, followed by High Mass and a well-attended discourse. The editors of the *Warren Gazette* praised the building and its congregation, "We can well imagine the hearts of those faithful Catholics must have rejoiced that the sacrifices they have been called upon to make have resulted in a commodious and sightly temple. The musical portions of the service were well rendered and we listened with great pleasure to the exquisite melodies of the *Twelfth Mass* [Mozart]. There was an Ave Maria so sweet that the memory of it will haunt us long."

They then described the interior, "The roof is open, showing rafters; within the transepts are galleries, the whole number of sittings being about eight hundred. The ornamentation of the interior is chaste; there are panels on a groundwork of blue; within the panels are the sacred emblems, the I.H.S., the Sacred Heart, and the Cross. The chancel is more elaborately adorned and presents a rich appearance. Over the altar in pillared recesses are painted the images of the blessed Virgin and St. Joseph, above them is a stained window with the emblems of the four evangelists. The effect of the interior is very fine. Mitchell and Egan of Providence are the artists who had the contract for decorating, and their work has been performed in an excellent manner."

After mentioning that the amount raised by the congregation would perhaps exceed ten thousand dollars, the editors of the *Gazette* continued their commendation of the parish and the pastor, "When the worldly wealth of the members of this church is taken into consideration, we think the offering they have made a very generous one, and it cannot certainly be said of them that they have only given of their abundance. We are quite sure in many cases there must have been such personal sacrifice as will call down the promised blessing... To the watchful care of Father McCallion the congregation of St. Mary's is much indebted; he had the personal supervision of the entire work and we have no doubt he feels devoutly thankful that his labors in his pastoral office have enabled him to provide his flock with so goodly a temple."

With St. Mary's in Warren finished, Fr. McCallion could turn his attention to the mission church in Bristol, which was also in great need of more seating. The same plans were used, so that St. Mary's Church in Warren and the old St. Mary's Church in Bristol were mirror-images of each other. -Wendy Baker

The image above is from an 1877 map of Warren, showing the church from the back. The original rectory is next door to the right.

Please Take Note

The Diocesan Office of Life and Family announces the following upcoming events. Please contact Barbara Fisher at 401-245-7000, ext. 20, for more information about any of these events.

Saturday, September 18—National Day of Remembrance

10 a.m. at Gate of Heaven Cemetery, 550 Wampanoag Trail, East Providence

Saturday, September 25—40 Days for Life Kick Off Rally

10 a.m. at St. Patrick Church, 244 Smith Street, Providence

Together we will peacefully and respectfully walk to the Rhode Island State House, 82 Smith Street and prayerfully walk around the State House three times for Life.

Wednesday, September 22 through Sunday, October 31—40 Days for Life

Visit 40daysforlife.com/Providence and consider signing up yourself, parish, or family for a vigil. If you are unable to attend a gathered prayer vigil, you may choose to pledge a Rosary each day for 40 days to end abortion.

Sunday, October 3—Life Chain Sunday

2 p.m. to 3 p.m. at various locations to be announced
Be a light in a darkened world...help put an end to abortion through prayer...bring your entire family. This schedule is forthcoming from the Office of Life and Family.

Saturday, October 16—Human Life Guild Day

- 9:30 a.m. Mass for Life in the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul, Cathedral Square, Providence with The Most Reverend Bishop Thomas J. Tobin, D.D. main celebrant.
- 11 a.m. Special Event for the 150th Anniversary of the Diocese: Gloria Purvis, national pro-life speaker, at McVinney Auditorium, 43 Dave Gavitt Way, Providence

Gloria Purvis is a radio personality and Catholic commentator. She hosts a podcast from America Media, is the Chairperson for Black Catholics United for Life, serves as a consultant for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Religious Liberty, and was the host of EWTN's international radio show "Morning Glory."

Friday through Sunday, October 29-31—Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

This supportive post-abortion weekend retreat of healing is offered in both English and Spanish. Call for details and/or to register. All inquiries confidential.

Contact Lisa Cooley at lcooley@dioceseofprovidence.org for more information.

SMB Food Pantry



We're looking for volunteers to fill the following positions:

1. **OPERATIONS:** check in our guests, hand out food, interact with people! 2-1/2 hours either Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning.
2. **SUBSTITUTES:** fill in for our regular volunteers when they have someplace else to be.
3. **DELIVER** food to shut-ins. We have a few people who need food delivered to them. Can you help?

We offer free training and equal opportunities for having fun!

Call us at (401) 245-7000 x 19, and let us know, or come by the Pantry during open hours - Tuesday evening from 3 - 5 pm and Wednesday morning from 9 - 11 am.

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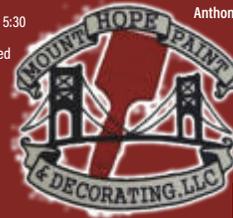
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