



25th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
September 19, 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

Phone: 401.245.7000  
Fax: 401.289.0955  
Email: [stmary02885@gmail.com](mailto:stmary02885@gmail.com)  
Web: [stmaryofthebay.org](http://stmaryofthebay.org)  
Facebook, Twitter and Instagram:  
[@warrencatholic](https://www.facebook.com/warrencatholic)

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### Saturday, September 18

4pm: Rev. Mr. Charles E. Millard MD, 16th Anniversary

*Requested by family*

#### Sunday, September 19

8am: The deceased members of the Letourneau & Lynch Families

*Requested by Diana Letourneau*

10:30am: For all parishioners

6pm: In loving gratitude for Michael & Elizabeth Martinelli (living)

*Requested by their daughter, Samantha Shears*

### Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### Saturday, September 25

4pm: Mildred Millard, Birthday Remembrance  
Charles & Mildred Millard, Wedding Anniversary

*Requested by family*

#### Sunday, September 26

8am: Biagio Deltoro

*Requested by his sister, Julie*

10:30am: Samuel Hackley, 23rd Anniversary

*Requested by family*

6pm: Joao L. DeCamara

*Requested by wife & children*



## Stewardship

### Weekend of September 11 & 12, 2021

Budget Envelopes: **\$3,101.00** Loose: **\$1,693.00**

Online: **\$1,217.00**

(Average Online Gift: \$33.81 Number of Users: 36)

Total: **\$6,011.00**

**Monthly Maintenance: \$1,464.00**

***Thank you for your generosity!***



## Padre's Ponderings

Dear Parishioners,

What a few weeks it has been. Our town rallied in the face of unthinkable and senseless tragedy and commended one of our own to God's loving care. I am continually amazed at how tight-knit and supportive our parish and local communities truly are. And I am grateful to everyone from our parish staff and from among our volunteers, to our town officials and brave first responders for all that they did to honor Brian's memory and to offer consolation and support to his family. If we can learn anything from the last few weeks, it is that life is precious. None of us knows the day nor the hour of our passing from this world to the next. So we strive to live at peace with ourselves, with those we love, and with our merciful God.

Speaking of our town of Warren, I am so grateful to have been invited to participate in a spate of recent civic events. From the Vigil for International Overdose Awareness Day, to the Finish for a Guinness 5K (in which I did not run!), to the Summer Concert at Burr's Hill, to the 9-11 Memorial at the Town Wharf, it has become clearer and clearer to me that our parish is truly an integral part of our town. We have a mission to continue to shine the light of Christ within and onto our local community, reminding everyone of the importance of a relationship with God lived within a community of committed believers. Many thanks to all those who extended these generous invitations, and thanks to our parishioners who remain such active members of our local civic community.

In parish news, I hope you can join us this coming Wednesday at 7pm for Praise & Worship. After the last few weeks, I think all of us could use an evening of peaceful, consoling and uplifting prayer with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Please join us. Little Bookworms continues on Thursdays from 10am to 11am in the church hall. Women's Bible Study is gearing up for an informational session on Wednesday, September 29, at 7pm in the upper church. And our newly-forming support group for the divorced, separated and widowed begins on Monday, October 4, at 7pm in the church hall. There are so many wonderful things happening at SMB and I hope you'll make the effort to get "plugged in"!

Speaking of great things happening, SMB Mountain Movers—church for kids—kicks off this weekend at the 10:30am Mass. I'm so grateful to Milly Grieve and her team for helping to keep church engaging and understandable for the little ones while making worship upstairs a little less stressful for parents! **Everyone who attends the 10:30am this weekend is welcome to join us for Holy Doughnuts downstairs after Mass!**

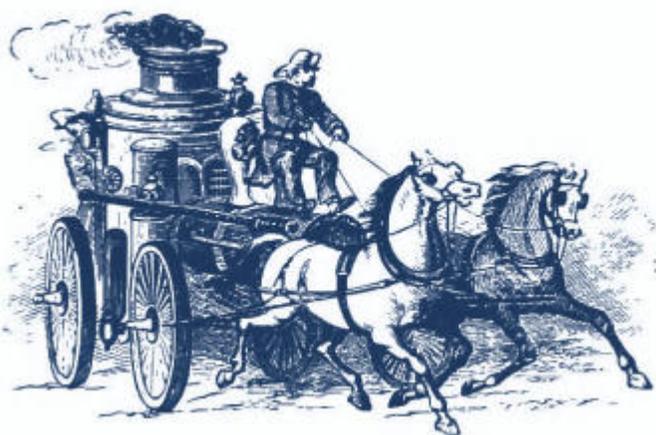
Faith Formation begins this weekend, which is also Catechetical Sunday. Many thanks to Carolyn Mello Pryor and her team of catechists for the hard work they've put in to planning this year's program. Carolyn provides an update in this weekend's bulletin.

All good things indeed! We are blessed!

Until next week,



## Beginnings



**FIRE!** In the early hours of November 16th, 1881, just before 2 am, neighbors saw flames coming from St. Mary's church and raised the alarm.

There were no hydrants in the town, only two underground reservoirs of water for fire-fighting. The closest reservoir was at the corner of Broad and Main Streets, about 400 feet from the church, and it was there that the men of the Narragansett Fire Company stationed their steam-pump fire engine, while the Mechanic Fire Company positioned their engine at a nearby wharf about 1200 feet away. The fire spread to the rectory next door and to another dwelling just to the west of the church, both of which also succumbed, but not before the church records and most of the household furniture in each had been removed by helpful neighbors and taken to a safe distance.

The firemen battled manfully, but the heat was so fierce and the conflagration so great, that they could do nothing to save the church. The water in the reservoir was soon depleted, and the delay while transferring the steamer-engine to a nearby cistern was enough to doom the structure. An hour and a half after the alarm was sounded, the church was a pile of smoldering ashes.

The Warren Gazette attributed the fire to an incendiary, pointing out that there had been no fires in the furnaces of the church since the preceding Sunday, "...and both the hour chosen and the location selected show the deliberate purpose of the fiend, whose motive must have been the wanton destruction of the property."

And it was complete devastation. The organ which had been installed 10 years earlier and had performed many a sacred concert was destroyed, as were all of the interior furnishings, with the exception of some of the sacred vessels which had been rescued by a nearby parishioner at great risk to himself.

The editor of the Warren Gazette, who had been agitating for a central water supply, pointedly wrote: "The sympathies of the entire town are with the Rev. Mr. McCallion and the members of his parish. Had there been a hydrant within 300 feet of the church, the flames could easily have been arrested there, and we should not now be pained by the knowledge of the fact that one who has worked faithfully in our midst for many years is now without a home."

The church was insured for \$12,000 and the organ and furniture for about \$3,000, neither of which amount was sufficient to cover the actual loss. In the time-

honored tradition of insurance companies, the "amicably adjusted" sum was one-third less, with \$10,045 allowed for the building and nothing for the furnishings.

On the following Sunday, the congregation went to the Hall of the St. Mary's Total Abstinence Society on Croade Street, where Fr. McCallion celebrated Mass at 9:00 am and 11:00 am, but this proved to be too small a room for the numbers in attendance. On the subsequent and all succeeding Sundays and Holy Days, until the new church was finished early in 1883, Mass was celebrated at the Warren Armory.

The need for a central water supply - with suggestions for creating a supply reservoir on the Kickemuit River and piping the water to Main Street - had been publicly discussed for the past seven years, but nothing had been done. The destruction of St. Mary's made it obvious that the two reservoirs of water in the town were insufficient for effectual control of large fires, and a special town meeting was called to consider the necessity of a water supply for manufacturing, domestic, fire-fighting, and other uses. The necessity was apparent in the now-empty space at the corner of Main and Luther, and it was voted in January 1882 to accept the proposal to erect a pumping plant for furnishing water from the Kickemuit to the town.

A year later, the pumping engine at the Kickemuit was operational, water was running through the pipes beneath Warren's streets, and the fire hydrants were in place. So also was the new St. Mary's Church.

-Wendy Baker



## SMB Food Pantry



We are starting to collect items for our **holiday bags**. This year, we are looking for donations of **Brownie Mix**. We would like to collect 350 boxes of brownie mix before November 7th. Can you help?

We would like to thank **Debbie Parker** of the Baptist Church in Warren for her help and generosity in donating clothing racks, clothes, and household goods for Mary's Closet. Her kindness to us and our clients is much appreciated.

Thank you to **Susan Roque** for coordinating our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on September 7th. Sue handled everything from food to decor (with a little help from Dee Proulx), and did such an outstanding job that the comment I heard most is, "Great idea! We should do this again." Well done, Susan!

-Wendy Baker



## Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn the week of September 19  
in loving memory of

**Jordan Couitt**

at the request of Jo-Ann Cholewiak.

*If you would like to request that the sanctuary lamp burn in honor of a deceased loved one or for a special intention, please call the parish office.*



# Faith Formation

Many people have asked about our new approach to Faith Formation at SMB. For many decades, Faith Formation (CCD, or Religious Education) has most often been a weekly classroom event for school age children, which culminated and ended with Confirmation. In recent decades, more and more young people have just stopped participating in parish life once they are confirmed – as though Confirmation was a sort of graduation from church. Of course, that was never the intention. The intention was to prepare everyone for a lifetime of faith and involvement in the church. Faith Formation is not something that ends with Confirmation. It is a lifelong journey of continued internal conversion – pointing and repointing ourselves toward Christ. It isn't school where you learn what you need to know, graduate and move on.

We are trying our best to emphasize the importance of families worshipping together at weekly liturgy. Mass, the Eucharist, is the center point of our faith – the reason we are Catholic. So – I'm comfortable saying that I'd rather see a family coming to Mass than coming to weekly classes! That's why, as a staff, we have prioritized making the weekend experience more prayerful, more meaningful and more engaging.

Recent world events have given us a chance to refocus and rethink. Because the most important part of our faith is participation in the Eucharist, we are inviting families to make weekly Mass their primary Faith Formation experience. The Eucharist is what we are all about. So we have decided to make it easier for busy families to participate fully in the life of the church. The fact that we now celebrate four Masses each weekend makes participation even more convenient.

We offer our parish families weekly "packets" and monthly family gatherings designed to supplement the experience of the weekly Mass and support families in their faith development. Our Sacramental Preparation programs remain an important part of the formation process and continue to be a big part of the overall approach. Parents will always be the primary teachers of the faith and we as a parish must support parents in their efforts to raise good and faithful children.

We hope to make a Faith Formation a lifelong pursuit for everyone in our parish community. We invite everyone to become more active in the faith journey by getting involved in our ministries and our existing formation offerings (Men of St. Joseph, Women's Bible Study) and to keep an eye out for new offerings we will be introducing soon!

As always, the programming that we offer is designed to accommodate busy families. We don't believe in red-tape or hoop-jumping, but rather in facilitating a meaningful encounter with Jesus in the community of the Catholic Church. If you have any questions or feedback, or if you need to discuss special accommodations for you or your family, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or to Fr. Joe. We are always here to help.

*-Carolyn Mello Pryor*



## Fall Praise & Worship

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 7PM

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## Support Group

*For the Divorced, Separated & Widowed*



**Mondays at 7pm in the Church Hall**

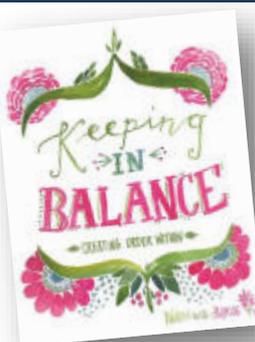
*(use side ramp entrance)*

Begins October 4. Confidentiality assured.

Call the rectory at 401-245-7000 for more info.



## Bible Study



All women—not just parishioners—are welcome to an informational session **Wednesday, September 29, at 7pm** in the upper church to learn more about SMB Women's Bible Study, which will be resuming in the Fall. Expect testimonials, information about the program and refreshments!

TAKING CARE OF EACH OTHER *is what community is all about.*

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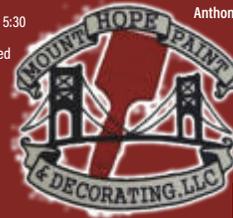
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