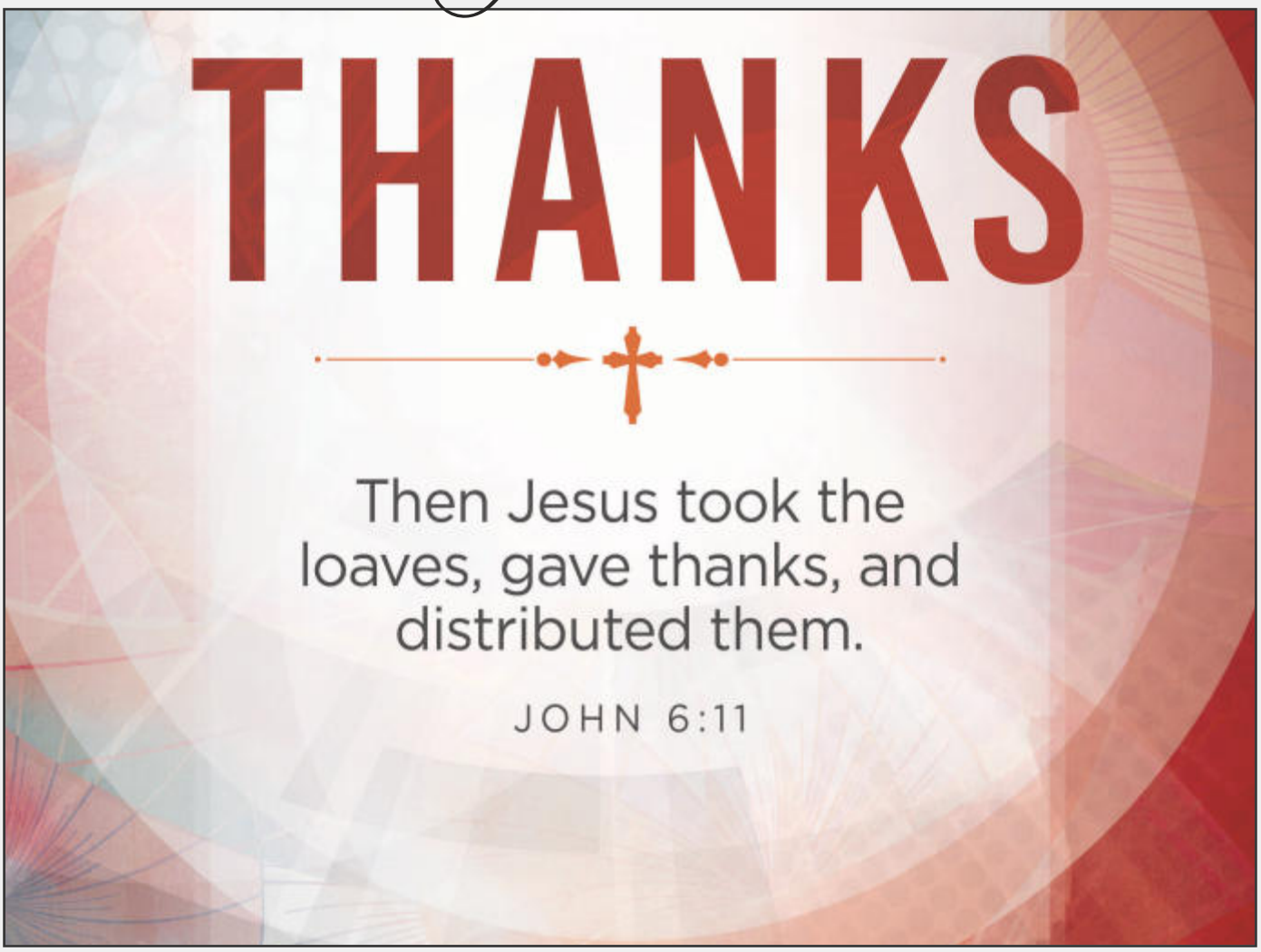
July 25, 2021

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saint Mary Catholic Parish



They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers. Acts 2:42

OUR *Vision*

St. Mary's is a parish that welcomes, lives and inspires faith, and serves others.

ALL ARE *Welcome*

If you are alienated or upset, we welcome you lovingly. If you are in need of forgiveness**, Jesus forgives and loves you unconditionally, and so do we**. If you have been hurt by the Church, **we are truly sorry**. If you are angry, **Jesus offers you peace**. If life has become burdensome, **we are here to support you.** We are happy you are here and want you to stay. **Come visit us each week and worship God with us!**

St. Mary Catholic Parish
Church: 795 Dartmouth Street
Office/Mailing Address: 789 Dartmouth Street
Dartmouth MA 02748
508.992.7505

stmarysdartmouth.org

Liturgies and Sacraments

Mass Schedule
Daily Mass: Monday through Thursday: 8AM, Rosary: 7:30AM
Vigil: Saturday at 4PM
Sunday Masses: 8AM, 10AM, 12PM, 5PM

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Sunday: 3PM-4PM
Wednesday: 6PM-7PM

Adoration
Sunday: 3PM-4PM
Wednesday: 6PM-7PM

First Fridays Devotion
Mass: 8AM
Eucharistic Adoration: 8:30AM to 5PM
Evening Prayer and Benediction: 5PM

Sacrament of Baptism
Baptisms are celebrated on Saturday afternoons. Please visit our website to complete the initial form or contact Deacon Frank.

Sacrament of Marriage
Congratulations! Couples contemplating marriage must contact Fr. David one year in advance for proper preparation.

Communion to the Homebound
Please notify the rectory of any parishioner who is unable to attend Mass due to illness, disability or age.

Stay Connected!

We are not just Sunday Mass! We are pleased to be able to provide ways for you to keep informed and connected, and grow in your faith throughout the week.

Facebook.com/stmarysdartmouth

@stmarysdartmouth

@stmarysdartmou1

flocknote

We love having you as part of our flock! Let's keep in touch! Get important updates via email & text. This new tool let's you choose what info you'd like to receive-via email or text message from various ministries and groups in our parish. You can unsubscribe at any time. There are two ways to connect: text stmarysdartmouth to 84576 or Flocknote.com/stmarysdartmouth

Our St. Mary's app is available to download for iPhone and Android smart phones. Stay connected with our parish throughout the week with instant notifications, an easy to access event calendar, and the ability to quickly reply to or share messages via Facebook or Twitter. Also enjoy a bunch of additional features like prayers, daily readings, helpful reminders to silence your phone before Mass or Confession, and much more. Help foster a stronger parish life at St. Mary's and better engage the New Evangelization. Download our app today at myparishapp.com or search your phone's app store for myparish.

ST. MARY CATHOLIC PARISH

How May We Serve You?

Pastor
Father David C. Frederici
pastor@stmarysdartmouth.org

Pastoral Associate
Deacon Frank Lucca
dcnfrank@stmarysdartmouth.org

Deacon
Rev. Mr. Gregory Quenneville

Director of Parish Faith Formation
Benvinda Costa-Reedy
beni@stmarysdartmouth.org

Youth Minister
Bea Furtado
bea@stmarysdartmouth.org

Director of Music Ministry
David Arruda

Facilities Director
Thomas Bernat

Business Manager
Patricia Charros
patcharros@stmarysdartmouth.org

Administrative Assistant
Gloria Alferes
gloria@stmarysdartmouth.org

Mission Development/Bulletin
Kelley Spodris
kelley@stmarysdartmouth.org

Faith Life Office: FaithLife@stmarysdartmouth.org

Parish Office: info@stmarysdartmouth.org

Office Hours: Monday through Friday 9AM-5PM *(Lunch 12PM-1PM)*

Office/Parish Center: 508.992.7505

Mass Intentions

Saturday, July 24	4PM	Jose & Dina Ventura
Sunday, July 25	8AM	For the People
	10AM	Etelvina & Serafim Espinola
	12PM	Amelia Vieira
	5PM	Peggy Dice
Monday, July 26	8AM	34th Anniversary Joseph Galas, Jr.
Tuesday, July 27	8AM	Maria Rosario Verissimo
Wednesday, July 28	8AM	Mary Katherine Milley
Thursday, July 29	8AM	5th Anniversary Alice Morais
Saturday, July 31	4PM	Margery Matt
Sunday, August 1	8AM	For the People
	10AM Parish Memorial	Maria Amaro Cynthia Louise Karl Donna Rita Mello Frank Shanley
	12PM	20th Anniversary Benjamin Simpkin, Jr.
	5PM	Jose & Maria Correia

Weekly Readings

Readings for the week of July 25, 2021

Sunday: 2 Kgs 4:42-44/Ps 145:10-11, 15-16, 17-18 [cf. 16]/Eph 4:1-6/Jn 6:1-15

Monday: Ex 32:15-24, 30-34/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23 [1a]/Mt 13:31-35

Tuesday: Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28/Ps 103:6-7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13 [8a]/Mt 13:36-43

Wednesday: Ex 34:29-35/Ps 99:5, 6, 7, 9 [cf. 9c]/Mt 13:44-46

Thursday: Ex 40:16-21, 34-38/Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6a and 8a, 11 [2]/Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42

Friday: Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37/Ps 81:3-4, 5-6, 10-11ab [2a]/Mt 13:54-58

Saturday: Lv 25:1, 8-17/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8 [4]/Mt 14:1-12

Next Sunday: Ex 16:2-4, 12-15/Ps 78:3-4, 23-24, 25, 54 [24b]/Eph 4:17, 20-24/Jn 6:24-35

Frank Shanley
Donna Mello
Cynthia Karl
Maria Amaro
Laimis de Sa Pereira
Laurie Ryan

Eugenie Perry
Maria R. Verissimo
Jared F. Campbell
John Santos
Paul St. Germain
Robert W. Fawcett
Roman Noriega
Stephen Almeida
Claire J. Arruda
Roman Miranda

Karen J. Kennedy
Bruce Parsons
Joyce Dias
David Cabral
Louie H. Haskell, Jr.
Gloria M. Vincent

And all our Service Men & Women, as well as those affected by COVID-19.

If you would like to have someone prayed for please call the Parish Office, submit on our website, or email prayer@stmarysdartmouth.org

From the Pastor

Dear Friends:

Based on the feedback I received on the homily I gave last weekend at the 12N and 5PM, I am sharing an edited version here:

"Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest awhile."

We understand the need for vacations and days off: they are meant to be a break from work, from the stresses of day-to-day tasks, work and school. Time off is a chance to recharge the batteries, enjoy life, and be with loved ones.

It is important for us to realize though that Jesus is speaking about more than punching out on the clock. And we need to realize that days off and vacations are also more than just not going to work or school.

This past week I read a couple of news articles (and some social media posts) about restaurants dealing with customers who have been verbally abusive. This isn't anything unique to 2021. During the summers in college, I worked at a grocery store at night. I was amazed by the number of people on vacation who were in a bad mood.

This is not limited to restaurants or grocery stores: try driving through the lights at Faunce Corner at noontime or waiting in line for coffee. Look at social media feeds. There are a lot of people in a bad mood; well more than that, a lot of people who are angry. Sometimes that includes us.

The thing is, the more impatient or angry we become, the less human we are. Our reactions and interactions do not reveal a love of God or a commitment to the Christian life. Not only are we not patient, but we are also not merciful, forgiving, compassionate or loving. We even feel justified in our reactions, but how often do the Scriptures tells us not to think as human beings do, but as God does?

To each of us Jesus says "Come away".

- We need to take a break, relax and recharge (not to catch up on work, but to appreciate truth, beauty and goodness): going to the beach, camping, hiking, bike riding, baseball games, family and neighborhood gatherings, etc.
- We need to refocus on who we are and what we are about. What drives us? What is the focus of our heart? What are our deepest longings?
- We need to take time to worship God at Sunday Mass, to open our hearts and minds so that we may become more and more like Christ, be drawn more and more into the divine life itself.

Anxiety, frustration, fear, impatience, anger are not the fruits of a heart in love with Christ; they are fruits of living for oneself.

The fruits of living the divine life: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Doesn't the world need more from this list?

We can't just *agree* with that. We can't just nod our heads in agreement that there is a lot of anger and anxiety in our world. We need to *change our lives*—not anyone else's. The problem isn't everyone else, we need to start with ourselves. It begins by making time: there will always be something that has to get done; something that needs my attention, something that can't be delayed for whatever reason. Jesus will also teach us: "What profit is there for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?" (Mk 8:39) Jesus himself, the Son of God, took time to be apart from the crowds, to rest and to pray. Not just because he wanted to, but he needed to. If God had to take time away, there is no way we can expect to do differently and live life authentically and joyfully.

Prayer Resources

To sign up for Flocknote notices about our webinars and parish online studies, visit https://stmarysdartmouth.flocknote.com.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops www.usccb.org You can find the readings for Mass, and a digital copy of the Scriptures.

Magis Center www.magiscenter.com Organization headed up by Fr. Robert Spitzer, SJ. Fr. Spitzer is the former President of Gonzaga University. A great resource for the use of science and philosophy in coming to know about God and growing in faith.

St. Paul Center https://stpaulcenter.com A website set up by Scripture Scholar, Dr. Scott Hahn. Great resource with some audio bible studies.

https://stmarysdartmouth.blogspot.com: A blog set up by Fr. David.

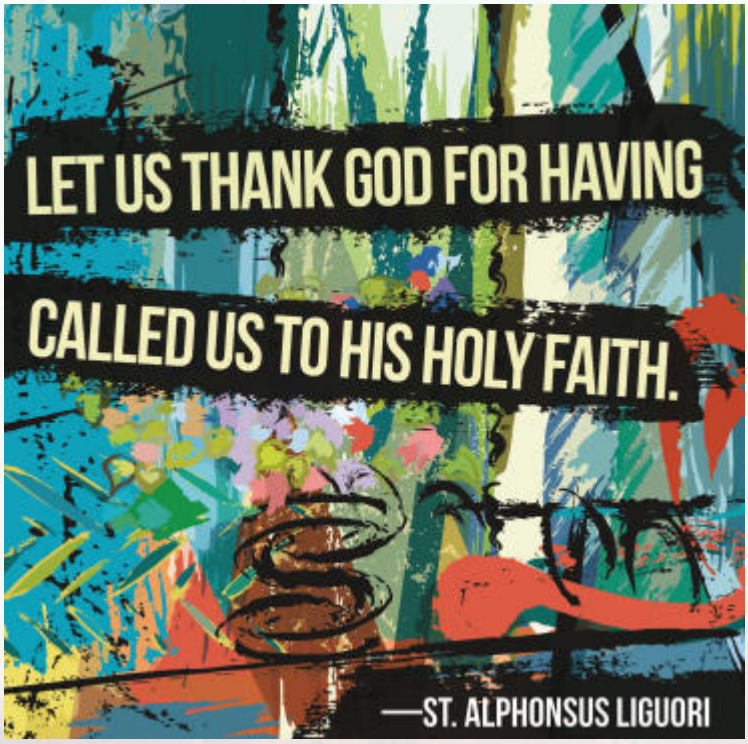
Formed (Can be accessed at stmarysdartmouth.formed.org) Catholic movies, study programs, audio and e-books.

MyParish App. Various resources to help you grow spiritually, as well as news and updates from the Parish. Download the MyParish App from the Apple Store or Google Play.

Catechism References for the Week:

CCC 1335: the miracle of the loaves and fishes prefigures the Eucharist

CCC 814-815, 949-959: sharing of gifts in the communion of the Church



Stewardship of Treasure

We are blessed to have thoughtful, generous parishioners who support the good works of our faith community with time, talent, and treasure.

Weekly Collection July 18: $6,707.00

Egiving July 1-July 17: $4,579.00

Egiving June 1-June 30: $5,363.00

Next weekend 5% of our offertory collection will be allocated to Peter's Pence.

Thank you for your spiritual and financial commitment to our parish!

EGiving

At St. Mary's, we believe financially supporting the parish should be easy. Giving online is simple and secure, and you're able to give a one-time gift or schedule ongoing donations using your checking account, debit or credit card.

Visit our website to enroll, or consider Text Giving. Simply type GIVE to 1 508-257-7449 or scan the QR Code with a QR App or your camera app, to start the registration process. Then simply type GIVE and the amount!

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary: 110

Scan the QR Code with your camera to view the readings at usccb.org

Reading I: 2 Kgs 4:42-44

A man came from Baal-
shalishah bringing to Elisha,
the man of God,
twenty barley loaves made from the firstfruits,
and fresh grain in the ear.
Elisha said, "Give it to the people to eat."
But his servant objected,
"How can I set this before a hundred people?"
Elisha insisted, "Give it to the people to eat."
"For thus says the LORD,
'They shall eat and there shall be some left
over.'" And when they had eaten, there was
some left over, as the LORD had said.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 145:10-11, 15-16, 17-18

R. (cf. 16) The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

Let all your works give you thanks, O LORD,
and let your faithful ones bless you.
Let them discourse of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your might.

R. The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

The eyes of all look hopefully to you,
and you give them their food in due season;
you open your hand
and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

R. The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

The LORD is just in all his ways
and holy in all his works.
The LORD is near to all who call upon him,
to all who call upon him in truth.

R. The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

Reading II: Eph 4:1-6

Brothers and sisters:
I, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live in a
manner worthy of the call you have received,
with all humility and gentleness, with patience,
bearing with one another through love,
striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through
the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit, as
you were also called to the one hope of your call;
one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and
Father of all, who is over all and through all and
in all.

Alleluia: Lk 7:16

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

A great prophet has risen in our midst. God has visited his people. **R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Gospel: Jn 6:1-15

Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee.
A large crowd followed him,
because they saw the signs he was performing on
the sick. Jesus went up on the mountain,
and there he sat down with his disciples.
The Jewish feast of Passover was near.
When Jesus raised his eyes and saw that a large
crowd was coming to him, he said to Philip,
"Where can we buy enough food for them to
eat?" He said this to test him, because he
himself knew what he was going to do. Philip
answered him, "Two hundred days' wages worth
of food would not be enough
for each of them to have a little."
One of his disciples, Andrew, the brother of
Simon Peter, said to him, "There is a boy here
who has five barley loaves and two fish;
but what good are these for so many?"
Jesus said, "Have the people recline."
Now there was a great deal of grass in that
place. So the men reclined, about five thousand
in number. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave
thanks, and distributed them to those who were
reclining, and also as much of the fish as they
wanted. When they had had their fill, he said to
his disciples, "Gather the fragments left over,
so that nothing will be wasted."
So they collected them, and filled twelve wicker
baskets with fragments from the five barley
loaves that had been more than they could eat.
When the people saw the sign he had done, they
said, "This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to
come into the world." Since Jesus knew that they
were going to come and carry him off
to make him king, he withdrew again to the
mountain alone.

Music for the Weekend of July 25

Gathering: A Rightful Place

Let us live our lives so that all might see
That our hearts are restless till they rest in thee.
Let us build your kingdom in truth and grace
So that all might know they have a rightful place.
Beauty ever ancient and new,
Breaking through our deafness so we hear you.
Shattering the darkness of night,
A new dawn is rising to bring your light
To all the world.
Let us live our lives so that all might see
That our hearts are restless till they rest in thee.
Let us build your kingdom in truth and grace
So that all might know they have a rightful place.

Preparation: Because the Lord is my Shepherd

Because the Lord is my shepherd,
I have everything I need.
He lets me rest in the meadow
And leads me to be quiet streams.
He restores my soul
And he leads me in the paths that are right:
Lord, You are my shepherd,
You are my friend.
I want to follow always,
Just to follow my friend.
And when the road leads to darkness,
I shall walk there unafraid.
Even when death is close I have courage,
For your help is there.
You are close beside me with concert,
You are guiding my way.

Eucharist: Take and Eat

I am the Word that spoke and light was made
I am the seed that died to be re-born
I am the bread that comes from heaven above
I am the vine that fills your cup with joy.
Take and eat, take and eat,
This is my body given up for you.
Take and drink, take and drink,
This is my blood given up for you.
I am the way that leads the exile home
I am the truth that sets the captive free
I am the life that raises up the dead
I am your peace, true peace my gift to you.

Sending Forth

Blessed are the poor in spirit, Longing for their Lord
For God's coming kingdom shall be theirs
Blessed are the sorrowing
For they shall be consoled
And the meek shall come to rule the world
Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord
By the light of truth
To seek and to find the narrow way
Be my way, be my truth
Be my life, my Lord
And lead me, Lord, today

Music for the 5PM Mass

Gathering

By Your body and blood,
By Your life and Your love; Renew us.
May Your sacrifice be forgiveness in me; Heal us.
We come to You. We come to You broken, hungry.
We come to You. We come to You.
Make us whole again.
In the body of Christ we are brought to new life;
Restore us. May the flesh that we eat and the blood that we drink save us.
We come to You. We come to You broken, hungry.
We come to You. We come to You. Make us whole again.

Preparation

The splendor of a King, clothed in majesty
Let all the Earth rejoice, All the Earth rejoice
He wraps himself in light
And darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice. Trembles at His voice.
How great is our God, sing with me,
How great is our God, and all will see.
How great, how great is our God.
Age to age He stands, And time is in His hands
Beginning and the end.

Eucharist: Jesus My Everything

I've been looking for a reason
I've been longing for a purpose
Losing all my meaning
Run out of excuses
Lord it's hard to know you, I don't always see your plan
But holiness is calling me, So take me as I am
Cause you are my everything
You are the song I sing
I'll do anything for you
Teach me how to pray, To live a life of grace
I'll go anywhere for you, Jesus be my everything

Sending Forth: Our God is Here

Here in this time, here in this place,
Here we are standing face to face.
Here in our hearts, here in our lives,
Our God is here.
Here for the broken, here for the strong,
Here in this temple we belong.
Here in our hearts, here in our lives,
Our God is here.
And we cry "Holy Holy Holy are you, We cry Holy Holy Holy and true. Amen, we do believe our God is here.

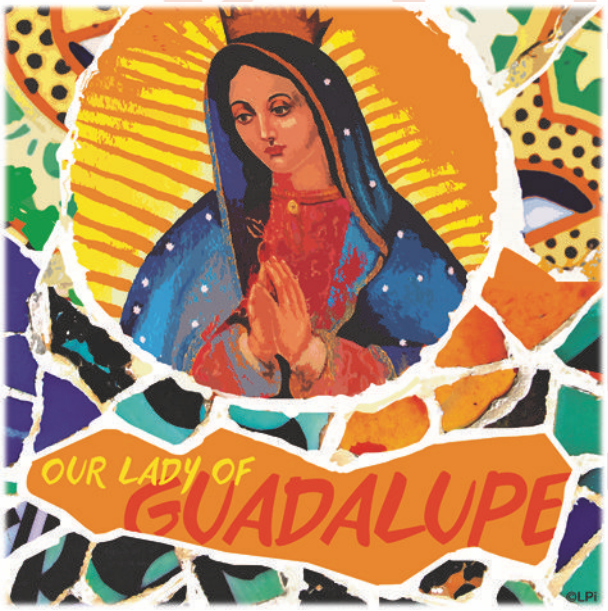
One License, License #: 736343-A
Valid: 8/24/2020-8/23/2021

Glory to God in the Highest

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.



The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father
almighty, maker of heaven
and earth, of all things visible
and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all
ages. God from God, Light
from Light, true God from
true God, begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were
made. For us men and for our
salvation he came down from
heaven, and by the Holy Spirit
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate, he suffered death
and was buried, and rose again
on the third day in accordance
with the Scriptures. He ascended
into heaven and is seated at the
right hand of the Father. He will
come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead and his
kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the
Lord, the giver of life, who
proceeds from the Father and the
Son, who with the Father and the
Son is adored and glorified, who
has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church. I confess one
Baptism for the forgiveness of
sins and I look forward to the
resurrection of the dead and the
life of the world to come. Amen

Around the Parish

80th Annual Catholic Appeal
Diocese of Fall River

We are healing, building, and loving...together! St. Mary's Catholic Parish's total for this year's Catholic Appeal is $160,311.00.

Thanks to the generosity of our faithful parishioners, the 2021 Catholic Appeal surpassed its goal of $4 million in gifts and pledges to sustain its longstanding mission of serving those in greatest need.

We encourage support for the Catholic Appeal at any time. We continue to welcome donations (which will now be counted as "new money" toward the 2022 Appeal) online at www.givefrdiocese.org/2021, by mail to the Catholic Appeal office at 450 Highland Ave., Fall River, MA 02720, or dropped off at the parish.

It is more important than ever that we spread the mission and the message of the Catholic Appeal every day. We can't thank you enough for your loving support.

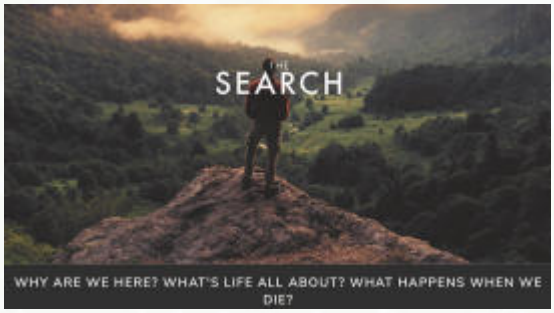
Knights of Columbus

We will be sponsoring our 3rd Annual Golf Tournament on **Sunday August 8, 2021** at the Back Nine Club, 17 Heritage Hill Drive, Lakeville, Ma. Price is $80/golfer and $320/foursome. FMI see our website or contact Grand Knight Tony Rose, 508-840-1186, or grandknightkochogan@gmail.com or Bill Boles at William.boles@comcast.net

And don't miss the Annual Knights of Columbus Hogan Council Clam Boil, **Sunday August 22** at LePage's Seafood, 439 Martine St. Fall River. Tickets are $30/person, contact Grandknight Tony Rose at 508-840-1186 for more details. Please support the Knights as we support several local faith-based charities in the Diocese of Fall River.

Welcome NEW PARISHIONERS

Coming to a new parish can be scary.....we want you to feel welcome, comfortable, and at home. Regardless of which Mass you attend, you'll discover an inviting experience the entire family will enjoy. Please take a look at our website to learn more about our parish family! http://stmarysdartmouth.org/im-new.html



The Search is an innovative video series that tackles the key questions of every human heart. In seven beautifully filmed episodes, Chris Stefanick and experts from multiple fields of science, medicine, psychology, art, and religion examine our place in the larger story of existence. The series began on July 20 but you can still join us! Please click on the SEARCH BEGINS HERE button on the website to register.

The Sanctuary Candle burns the week of
July 25 to July 31
in memory of
Benjamin Simpkin, Jr. (20th Anniversary)
and Loretta Simpkin (19th Anniversary)

Please remember them in your prayers.

CHURCH HOURS

The Church is open for prayer and reflection:

Sunday:	7:30AM to 6:00PM
Mon- Fri:	7:30AM to 3:30PM
Saturday:	12:00PM to 5:00PM

Take Five for Faith
Daily renewal for busy Catholics

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

Sunday, Jul 25, 2021 SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Celebrate mom-and-pop operations However few dollars there are, parents make them stretch until payday. However uncertain the way ahead, they shoulder the decision-making for their brood. However dark the night and scary the storm, parents hug their little ones through it. Today our nation celebrates Parents' Day, honoring the grownups who make children's lives safer, happier, and healthier. While they may not multiply loaves and fishes quite like Jesus, parents do perform minor miracles of sufficiency every day across this country. They take imperfect human love and weave a blanket of protection and possibility for their tribe. Support your local parents! TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Kings 4:42-44; Ephesians 4:1-6; John 6:1-15 (110). "Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted."*

Monday, Jul 26, 2021 MEMORIAL OF JOACHIM AND ANNE, PARENTS OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Family ties Jesus' ancestry through Joseph is extensively traced in two of the gospels, but there's nothing there about his maternal line. The names of his grandparents—Mary's parents—aren't mentioned in scripture, but tradition has dubbed them Joachim and Anne. Whatever their names were, they had to have been remarkable people to have raised the mother of God. The courage and faith they passed on to Mary is a precious gift all parents can pass to their children. Treasure your own intergenerational bonds. TODAY'S READINGS: *Exodus 32:15-24, 30-34; Matthew 13:31-35 (401). "The birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches."*

Tuesday, Jul 27, 2021 Parables of trying and trust Jesus favored parables—short allegories featuring people, places, and things familiar to ordinary listeners—to get his point across. Typically, they were about the kingdom of God, standing in stark contrast to the current world. "The kingdom of God, even if it requires our cooperation, is firstly a gift of the Lord," Pope Benedict XVI reminded pilgrims in 2012. Not that humans shouldn't lift a finger. Such parables, Benedict said, echo a famous saying from Ignatius of Loyola: "Act as if everything depended on you; trust as if everything depended on God." Where do you need to trust God more and where, perhaps, do you need to act? TODAY'S READINGS: *Exodus 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28; Matthew 13:36-43 (402). "Whoever has ears ought to hear."*

Wednesday, Jul 28, 2021 Stay the course Father Stanley Rother is one step away from canonization and being named publicly as a saint of the Catholic Church. Born in Oklahoma in 1935, ordained a priest in 1963, missioned to Guatemala in 1968, Rother immersed himself among the Tz'ufujil Mayan communities. When civil war broke out and his name appeared on a death list, after briefly departing he decided to return, saying, the "shepherd cannot run." On July 28, 1981, three men entered the rectory where he lived and killed him. Now recognized as a martyr for the faith, Rother was beatified by the Vatican in 2016. As we await the canonization of this first American martyr, pray that you, too, might be a sign of Christ's love to the people close to you, even when it comes at a cost. TODAY'S READINGS: *Exodus 34:29-35; Matthew 13:44-46 (403). "When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it."*

Thursday, Jul 29, 2021 MEMORIAL OF MARTHA, MARY, AND LAZARUS Lesson learned Any memorial honoring Saint Martha, along with her sister and brother, includes a well-deserved nod to those who quietly serve. But Martha's role in salvation history goes well beyond her hospitality to Jesus and lies in the example of her maturing faith. When Jesus admonished her about her anxiety, Martha listened. She grew in wisdom and understanding, so much so that when her brother Lazarus dies, she runs to meet Jesus and declares: "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Martha provides an inspiration to all of us to persevere in knowing God, loving Christ, and serving others. TODAY'S READINGS: *Exodus 40:16-21, 34-38 (404); John 11:19-27 or Luke 10:38-42 (607). "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing."*

Friday, Jul 30, 2021 Open the door to your own ministry Do you ever think about your daily activities as a ministry? No activity is outside the realm of a possible ministry. Take Blessed Solanus Casey, for example. One of Solanus' jobs was as a porter, that is, a door keeper. Open/shut case, right? Not at all! Solanus understood his simple job as being a true ministry, service of God through service of others. He did not merely answer the door; he opened his heart to everyone who entered. In doing so, Solanus was able to reflect God's love and healing to others in a way that truly made a difference. How do you open your heart to others during your daily routine? TODAY'S READINGS: *Leviticus 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37; Matthew 13:54-58 (405). "Is he not the carpenter's son?"*

Saturday, Jul 31, 2021 MEMORIAL OF IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA, PRIEST Book your biblical excursion Never underestimate the power of a book to change lives or history. Ignatius of Loyola was a young Spanish soldier from a prominent military family. While recovering from a serious war injury, he came upon *Vita Christi,* a spiritual biography of the life of Christ by 14th-century German Catholic monk Ludolph of Saxony. In the book he found the meditative technique of immersing oneself in a biblical scene from the life of Jesus. The book changed Ignatius' life, and the technique became foundational to the development of Ignatian spirituality and the famed *Spiritual Exercises*. Try the technique: Open a gospel, read a story, and place yourself at the scene. Really be there. See what happens. TODAY'S READINGS: *Leviticus 25:1, 8-17; Matthew 14:1-12 (406). "This fiftieth year you shall make sacred by proclaiming liberty in the land for all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you."*

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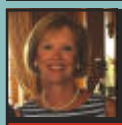
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