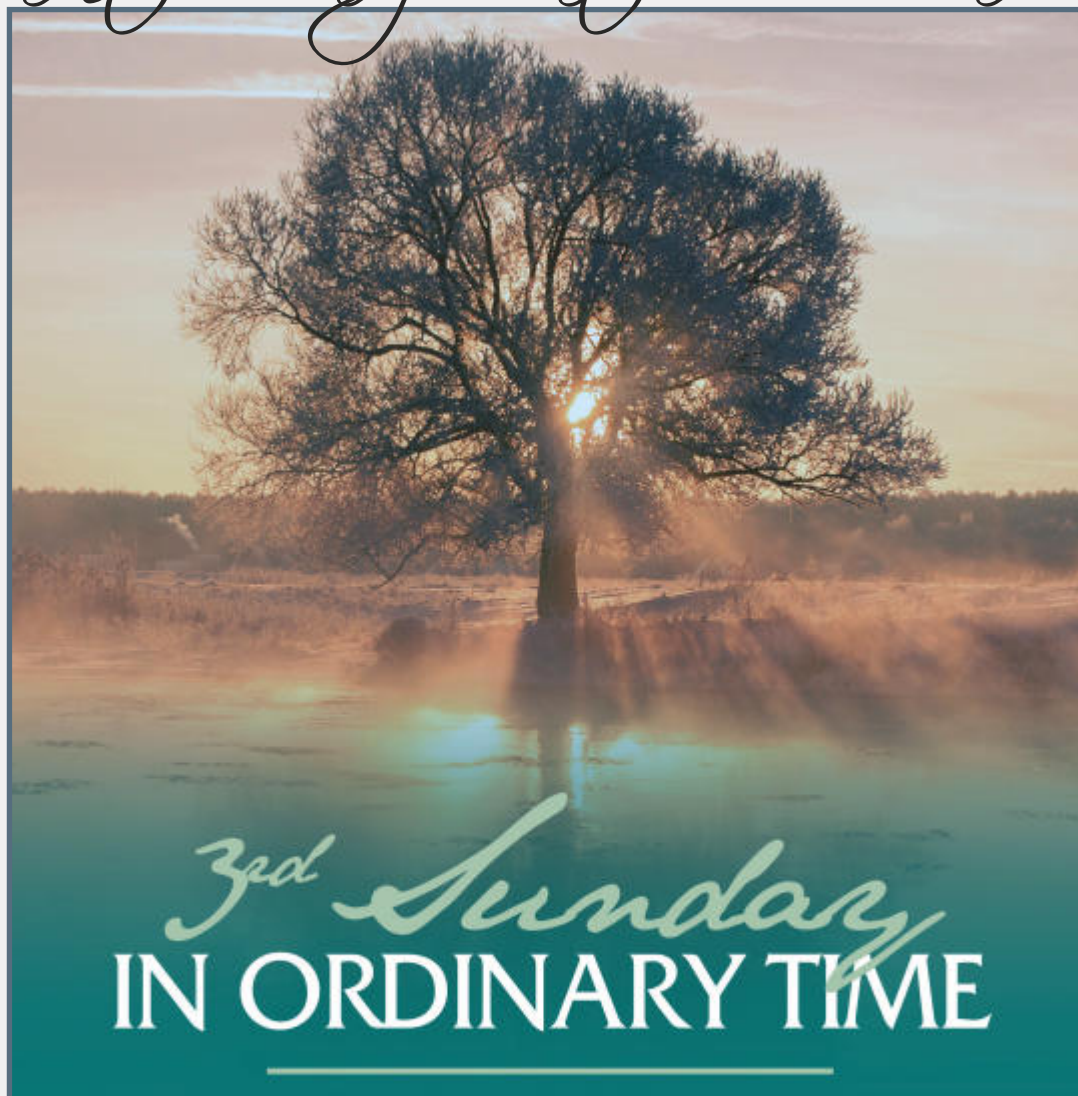


January 23, 2022

Third 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](http://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

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



@stmarysdartmouth1



@stmarysdartmouth



@stmdart



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](http://myparishapp.com) or search your phone's app store for myparish.



We have transitioned from Flocknote to Evangelus. If you had a Flocknote account, you're all set! We transferred your information over. Otherwise please visit [eva.us/Dartmouth](http://eva.us/Dartmouth) to sign up and stay connected!

## ST. MARY CATHOLIC PARISH

How May We Serve You?

### Pastor

Father David C. Frederici  
[pastor@stmarysdartmouth.org](mailto:pastor@stmarysdartmouth.org)

### Pastoral Associate

Deacon Frank Lucca  
[dcnfrank@stmarysdartmouth.org](mailto:dcnfrank@stmarysdartmouth.org)

### Deacon

Rev. Mr. Gregory Quenneville

### Director of Faith Life

Benvinda Costa-Reedy  
[beni@stmarysdartmouth.org](mailto:beni@stmarysdartmouth.org)

### Youth Minister

Jill Fernandes  
[jill@stmarysdartmouth.org](mailto:jill@stmarysdartmouth.org)

### Director of Music Ministry

David Arruda

### Facilities Director

Thomas Bernat

### Business Manager

Patricia Charros  
[patcharros@stmarysdartmouth.org](mailto:patcharros@stmarysdartmouth.org)

### Director of Member Care

Gloria Alferes  
[gloria@stmarysdartmouth.org](mailto:gloria@stmarysdartmouth.org)

### Mission Development/Bulletin

Kelley Spodris  
[kelley@stmarysdartmouth.org](mailto:kelley@stmarysdartmouth.org)



**Faith Life Office:** [FaithLife@stmarysdartmouth.org](mailto:FaithLife@stmarysdartmouth.org)  
508.742.6923

**Parish Office:** [info@stmarysdartmouth.org](mailto:info@stmarysdartmouth.org)  
Office/Parish Center: 508.992.7505

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



# Mass Intentions



Saturday, January 22	4PM	Ernest Sylvia
Sunday, January 23	8AM	Maria Amaro and Jose Medeiros
	10AM	For the People
	12PM	Rosalina and Louis Tavares
	5PM	5th Anniversary Jose de Jesus
Monday, January 24	8AM	Clotilde da Rosa Branco and Jose Pacheco Branco
Tuesday, January 25	8AM	Jose P. and Pauline C. Tavares
Wednesday, January 26	8AM	2nd Anniversary Joseph M. Raposa
Thursday, January 27	8AM	Agostinho Oliveira and Jose Amaral
Saturday, January 29	4PM	John "Sonny" Grippo, Jr.
Sunday, January 30	8AM	11th Anniversary Inez Machado
	10AM	Anniversary Celebration for Maria L. & Jose A. Couto
	12PM	Antonio Silva
	5PM	For the People

# Weekly Readings

## Readings for the week of January 23, 2022

**Sunday:** Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/1 Cor 12:12-30 or 12:12-14, 27/Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

**Monday:** 2 Sm 5:1-7, 10/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 25-26/Mk 3:22-30

**Tuesday:** Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Ps 117: 1bc, 2/Mk 16:15-18

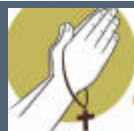
**Wednesday:** 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/ Ps 89:4-5, 27-28, 29-30/Mk 4:1-20

**Thursday:** 2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29/Ps 132:1-2, 3-5, 11, 12, 13-14/Mk 4:21-25

**Friday:** 2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17/ Ps 51:3-4, 5-6a, 6bcd-7, 10-11/Mk 4:26-34

**Saturday:** 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 16-17/Mk 4:35-41

**Next Sunday:** Jer 1:4-5, 17-19/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 15-17 [cf. 15ab]/1 Cor 12:31—13:13 or 13:4-13/ Lk 4:21-30



**REMEMBER**  
*in your prayers*

Donald Theodore  
Isabel Perry  
Serafim Correia  
Aurora Rollins  
Gayle E. Bruce  
Joyce L. Mello

Ralph E. Vierra Tavares  
Barbara DiTata  
Mary Reiniche  
Maria C. Borges  
John R. Ventura  
Dolores Macedo  
Everett Sylvia  
Raymond Oswald  
Charles Jacintho  
Jack Wayne Pereira

Antonio Vassal  
Dr. Antonio Fernandes, Jr.  
Michael Luce  
James Severino  
David Raposo  
Antone Gomes, Jr.  
Leonard Amaral  
Ernest Severino, Jr.  
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](mailto:prayer@stmarysdartmouth.org)

# From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

I have shared here many times before that the most important action of a parish is the celebration of the Eucharist. The Mass is the family of faith gathered for its sacred meal. Christ himself is made present in the elements of bread and wine and we are nourished through God's graces to live as the children of God throughout our week. To ensure a worthy and reverent celebration, the participation of all is necessary. The priest and deacon must prayerfully prepare to preside and preach; substantial time and prayer spent in preparing the homily. The instrumentalists, cantors and lectors must practice throughout the week so that the Proclamation of the Word is clear and helps draw the faithful into the mystery being celebrated. The Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion need to spiritually prepare for their important role in providing the people with the opportunity to encounter the Eucharistic Lord and the servers need to be prepared so that they may know the flow of the Liturgy and help facilitate a smooth celebration. The greeters must take time to prepare so that they will be the models of hospitality that the Scriptures call each of us to be. The entire worshipping assembly has roles to carry out as well: participation in the hymns and prayers, offering of their very lives with the elements of bread and wine in sacrifice to God and extending hospitality to one another and visitors who are joining us at the Table.

Those who are interested in exploring the possibility of serving the community as a lector, altar server (Grade 3 and up), or usher should contact me or Deacon Frank by email or by phone.

I would like to take a moment to focus on preparing for Mass. I am reminded of one of the last sermons St. Charles Borromeo gave. It was addressed to priests, but one can see how the lesson applies to all people, regardless of their vocation in life:

"I admit that we are all weak, but if we want help, the Lord God has given us the means to find it easily. One priest may wish to lead a good, holy life, as he knows he should. He may wish to be chaste and to reflect heavenly virtues in the way he lives. Yet he does not resolve to use suitable means, such as penance, prayer, the avoidance of evil discussions and harmful and dangerous friendships. Another priest complains that as soon as he comes into church to pray the office or to celebrate Mass, a thousand thoughts fill his mind and distract him from God. But what was he doing in the sacristy before he came out for the office or for Mass? How did he prepare? What means did he use to collect his thoughts and to remain recollected?"

How do we each prepare for the celebration of Mass? Do we prepare for the celebration of Mass? Certainly there will be times when we can't get out of our own way, or parents seem to be taking on the role of soccer goalie. Perhaps it is not feasible to everyone to take a few minutes in quiet before Mass to collect one's thoughts, but preparation is still important. Perhaps it is simply taking a line from the scriptures to repeat to yourself as you are gathering the kids for the drive to Church or settling into your seats at Church. Maybe it is asking the family what it is they would like to pray for at Mass on the drive to Church.

There are many ways we can prepare ourselves for an encounter with the Lord at Mass. Taking the time to do so can make the difference of the Mass being a source of spiritual nourishment or just something that is done for an hour on Sunday.

Peace,

Fr. David





# Prayer Resources

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org) You can find the readings for Mass, and a digital copy of the Scriptures.

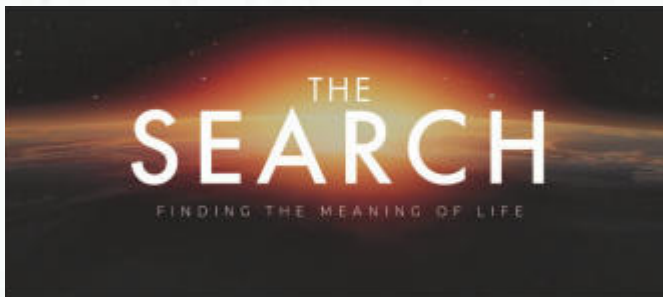
Magis Center [www.magiscenter.com](http://www.magiscenter.com) Organization headed up by Fr. Robert Spitzer, SJ. Fr. Spitzer is the former President of Gonzaga University. A great resource for the use of science and philosophy in coming to know about God and growing in faith.

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](http://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.



## The next Search begins soon!

January 24, 2022 - 10:00 am (Parish Center)

January 26, 2022 - 6:00 pm (Parish Center)

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.

Whether you're a practiced inquirer or a jaded skeptic, The Search will speak to you. You may be reassured by some parts, and challenged by others. Either way, you'll find a lot here to think about. And when all is said and done, life's questions demand to be answered. **See our website FMI or to register.**

## AROUND THE PARISH

### Parish Office Hours

Parish Office Hours are Monday through Thursday, 9AM to 5PM (closed from 12PM-1PM) and after weekend Masses in the Welcome Center.

### Winter Weather

St. Mary's follows the same closures as the school system. When the Dartmouth Schools close for a Snow Day, all activities at St. Mary's that same day will be canceled.

### Away This Winter?

If you are planning on being away during the winter months, please call or email the Parish Office with the dates that you will be away. Thank you!

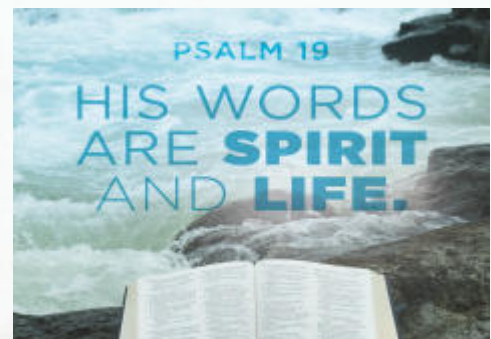
### Catechism References for the Week

CCC 714: Old Testament expectation of the Messiah and the Spirit

CCC 1965-1974: new Law and Gospel

CCC 106, 108, 515: God inspires human authors of Scripture, and readers

CCC 787-795: the Church as the Body of Christ



## 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

### Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### Lectionary: 69

##### Reading I: [Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10](#)

Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly, which consisted of men, women, and those children old enough to understand. Standing at one end of the open place that was before the Water Gate, he read out of the book from daybreak till midday, in the presence of the men, the women, and those children old enough to understand; and all the people listened attentively to the book of the law. Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the occasion. He opened the scroll so that all the people might see it — for he was standing higher up than any of the people —; and, as he opened it, all the people rose. Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people, their hands raised high, answered, “Amen, amen!” Then they bowed down and prostrated themselves before the LORD, their faces to the ground. Ezra read plainly from the book of the law of God, interpreting it so that all could understand what was read. Then Nehemiah, that is, His Excellency, and Ezra the priest-scribe and the Levites who were instructing the people said to all the people: “Today is holy to the LORD your God. Do not be sad, and do not weep” — for all the people were weeping as they heard the words of the law. He said further: “Go, eat rich foods and drink sweet drinks, and allot portions to those who had nothing prepared; for today is holy to our LORD. Do not be saddened this day, for rejoicing in the LORD must be your strength!”

##### Responsorial Psalm: [Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15](#)

**R. (cf John 6:63c) Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life.**

The law of the LORD is perfect,  
refreshing the soul;  
The decree of the LORD is trustworthy,  
giving wisdom to the simple.

**R. Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life.**

The precepts of the LORD are right,  
rejoicing the heart;  
The command of the LORD is clear,  
enlightening the eye.

**R. Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life.**

The fear of the LORD is pure,  
enduring forever;  
The ordinances of the LORD are true,  
all of them just.

**R. Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life.**

Let the words of my mouth and the thought of my heart  
find favor before you,

O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

**R. Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life.**

##### Reading II: [1 Cor 12:12-30](#)

Brothers and sisters:

As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.

Now the body is not a single part, but many.

If a foot should say, “Because I am not a hand I do not belong to the body,” it does not for this reason belong any less to the body. Or if an ear should say, “Because I am not an eye I do not belong to the body,”

it does not for this reason belong any less to the body.

If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be?

If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of

smell be? But as it is, God placed the parts,

each one of them, in the body as he intended.

If they were all one part, where would the body be?

But as it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

The eye cannot say to the hand, “I do not need you,”

nor again the head to the feet, “I do not need you.”

Indeed, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are all the more necessary, and those parts of the body that we consider less honorable we surround with greater honor, and our less presentable parts are treated with greater propriety, whereas our more presentable parts do not need this.

But God has so constructed the body

as to give greater honor to a part that is without it,

so that there may be no division in the body,

but that the parts may have the same concern for one another. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it;

if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy.

Now you are Christ’s body, and individually parts of it.

Some people God has designated in the church

to be, first, apostles; second, prophets; third, teachers;

then, mighty deeds; then gifts of healing, assistance,

administration, and varieties of tongues.

Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers?

Do all work mighty deeds? Do all have gifts of healing?

Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?

##### Alleluia: [Cf. Lk 4:18](#)

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

The Lord sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, and to proclaim liberty to captives. **R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

##### Gospel: [Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21](#)

Since many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the events that have been fulfilled among us,

just as those who were eyewitnesses from the beginning

and ministers of the word have handed them down to us,

I too have decided after investigating everything accurately

anew, to write it down in an orderly sequence for you,

most excellent Theophilus, so that you may realize the

certainty of the teachings you have received. *(Continued)*



### Third Sunday in Ordinary Time *(Continued)*

#### **Gospel: Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21 *(Continued)***

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news of him spread throughout the whole region. He taught in their synagogues and was praised by all.

He came to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and went according to his custom into the synagogue on the sabbath day.

He stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah.

He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written:

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring glad tidings to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to proclaim a year acceptable  
to the Lord.*

Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him. He said to them, "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."

### Music for the Weekend of January 23

#### **Gathering**

Sing a new song unto the Lord  
Let your song be sung from mountains high  
Sing a new song unto the Lord  
Singing alleluia

Yahweh's people dance for joy  
O come before the Lord  
And play for him on glad tambourines  
And let your trumpet sound  
Rise, O children, from your sleep;  
Your Savior now has come  
He has turned your sorrow to joy  
And filled your soul with song

#### **Preparation**

Ubi caritas est vera, est vera  
Deus ibi est  
Deus ibi est

The love of Christ joins us together  
Let us rejoice in him  
And in our love and care for all

now love God in return  
In true communion let us gather  
May all division cease  
and in their place be Christ the Lord  
Our risen Prince of Peace

#### **Eucharist**

Lord, you have come to the seashore,  
neither searching for the rich nor the wise,  
desiring only that I should follow.

O, Lord, with your eyes set upon me,  
gently smiling, you have spoken my name;  
all I longed for I have found by the water,  
at your side, I will seek other shores.

Lord, see my goods, my possessions;  
in my boat you find no power, no wealth.  
Will you accept, then, my nets and labour?

#### **Sending Forth**

Sing of the Lord's goodness, Father of all wisdom,  
come to him and bless his name.  
Mercy he has shown us, his love is for ever, faithful to  
the end of days.

Come, then, all you nations, sing of your Lord's  
goodness, melodies of praise and thanks to God.  
Ring out the Lord's glory, praise him with your music,  
worship him and bless his name.

Power he has wielded, honour is his garment, risen  
from the snares of death.  
His word he has spoken, one bread he has broken, new  
life he now gives to all.

### 5pm Praise and Worship

#### **Gathering**

We will stand for you  
With hearts restored and new.  
Now's the time to raise  
Our hands outstretched in praise.

Jesus, Jesus, at the sound of your name  
Every knee will bow down,  
We will shout your praise.

#### **Preparation**

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord  
Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You  
I want to see You *(Continued)*



## 5PM Praise and Worship (Continued)

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### Preparation (Continued)

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord  
Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You  
I want to see You  
To see You high and lifted up  
Shining in the light of Your glory  
Pour out Your power and love  
As we sing holy, holy, holy

### Eucharist

Oh, how could it be  
That my God would welcome me into this mystery  
Say take this bread, take this wine  
Now the simple made divine for any to receive

By Your mercy, we come to Your table  
By Your grace, You are making us faithful

Lord, we remember You  
And remembrance leads us to worship  
And as we worship You  
Our worship leads to communion  
We respond to Your invitation, we remember You

### Sending Forth

Bless the Lord oh my soul  
Oh my soul  
Worship His Holy name  
Sing like never before  
Oh my soul  
I'll worship Your Holy name  
The sun comes up  
It's a new day dawning  
It's time to sing Your song again  
Whatever may pass  
And whatever lies before me  
Let me be singing  
When the evening comes  
Bless the Lord oh my soul  
Oh my soul  
Worship His Holy name  
Sing like never before  
Oh my soul  
I'll worship Your Holy name

# 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.

Because of the early publication date, offering totals will be included in next week's bulletin.

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

### EGiving

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!



The Sanctuary Candle  
burns the week of  
January 23—January 29  
in memory of  
**Ernest Sylvia**  
Please remember  
Ernest in your prayers.



### **SYNOD NOTEBOOK:**

“The journey of synodality is the journey that God wants from his church in the third millennium. A synodal church is a listening church, aware that listening is more than hearing. It is a reciprocal listening in which each one has something to learn.”

*Pope Francis*



**Sunday, Jan 23, 2022 THIRD SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME / WORD OF GOD  
SUNDAY Those aren't fighting words**

Most fights don't start with a punch, but with a word. That's because words are among the most powerful forces on the planet. Ideas divide or unite a society. Insults scar, just as kind words can heal. Our sacred story contained in scripture is a word meant to make the world whole. Pope Francis asks us to honor the word of God this Sunday. We begin by symbolically enthroning the Bible in our homes today: putting it in a place of honor. This reminds us of the deeper enthronement of God's word in our hearts. Make room for one Bible verse every day. TODAY'S READINGS: *Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Corinthians 12:12-30; Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21 (69). "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."*

**Monday, Jan 24, 2022 MEMORIAL OF FRANCIS DE SALES, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH** **God, our shield and our strength** We live in tumultuous times for sure. But the world has been topsy-turvy before. Saint Francis de Sales lived during the religious, political, and social upheaval of the Protestant Reformation. And he became known for his gentleness and patience in the face of it. Leave it to him, the patron saint of writers, to pen a prayer that is timeless balm for troubled souls: "Do not look forward to what may happen tomorrow; the same everlasting Father who cares for you today will take care of you tomorrow and every day. Either he will shield you from suffering, or he will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace, then, put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations . . ." A balm for these troubled times. TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Samuel 5:1-7, 10; Mark 3:22-30 (317). "If a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand."*

**Tuesday, Jan 25, 2022 FEAST OF THE CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL, APOSTLE** **Harden not your heart** Paul has always been a controversial figure. Before becoming a Christian, he was a persecutor of Jesus' followers. Paul's biblical words advising women to be submissive to their husbands have been alternately obeyed, rejected, and reinterpreted. But the word "conversion" on this feast reminds us what Christian life is about. The Catechism of the Catholic Church quotes Saint Ambrose on the "two conversions" in Christian life—one of them a one-time event and the other ongoing. "There are water and tears, the water of Baptism and the tears of repentance." What parts of your life still require repentance? TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22; Mark 16:15-18 (519). "Jesus . . . appeared to you on the way by which you came, that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."*

**Wednesday, Jan 26, 2022 MEMORIAL OF TIMOTHY AND TITUS, BISHOPS** **Stay the course** Evangelizing and living the gospel demands much of us. Saints Timothy and Titus serve as examples to us of holding fast to the faith among difficult circumstances. Friends and companions of Saint Paul, they ended up becoming bishops and leaders of the early church.

They helped Paul to spread the gospel during those difficult early years. Timothy paid the ultimate price for encouraging others to embrace the emerging Christian faith. Reflect on the ways you choose to follow Jesus Christ and embrace his mission despite the challenges and difficulties it presents. TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Timothy 1:1-8 or Titus 1:1-5; Mark 4:1-20 (520; Gospel 319). "[T]hose sown on rich soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit thirty and sixty and a hundredfold."*

**Thursday, Jan 27, 2022 MEMORIAL OF ANGELA MERICI, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER** **Wise counsel for the overwhelmed**

On this memorial of Saint Angela Merici, 16th-century founder of the Ursuline Sisters, it makes sense to recall one of her many insights into faith-filled living. She advised the overwhelmed thus: "Do not lose heart, even if you should discover that you lack qualities necessary for the work to which you are called. He who called you will not desert you, but the moment you are in need he will stretch out his saving hand." May you find that saving hand when you reach the end of your rope. TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Samuel 7:18-19, 24-29; Mark 4:21-25 (320). "Is a lamp brought in to be placed under a bushel basket or under a bed, and not to be placed on a lampstand?"*

**Friday, Jan 28, 2022 MEMORIAL OF THOMAS AQUINAS, PRIEST, RELIGIOUS, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH** **Root yourself in honesty**

G.K. Chesterton once said of philosopher and theologian Thomas Aquinas, "Being himself resolved to argue, to argue honestly, to answer everybody, to deal with everything, he produced books enough to sink a ship or stock a library." We could use a little more Thomas in our media, especially social media, because today we're not always sure if things are actually true or merely "internet true." For Thomas, honesty was key to communication. He considered it beautiful, honorable, and a reflection of moral goodness itself. May we take to heart his commitment to honesty in all of our communication. TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Samuel 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17; Mark 4:26-34 (321). "Once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade."*

**Saturday, Jan 29, 2022 Sea of hope** Alonzo Ketcham Parker, a 19th-century travel writer, called the Sea of Galilee "a fifth gospel" due to the amount of biblical history that occurred on its shores. It is the site where Jesus performed many of his most renowned miracles, such as walking on water, calming the storm, and feeding the multitude. Villages and settlements dotted the shore in Jesus' day, and most of Jesus' followers probably gained their livelihood and nourished their families from its bounty. The nourishment continues every time we read the vivid accounts of biblical drama that occur on the holiest of seas. Dive in! TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Samuel 12:1-7a, 10-17; Mark 4:35-41 (322). "He woke up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Quiet! Be still!' The wind ceased and there was great calm." ©2022 TrueQuest Communications. TakeFiveForFaith.com; mail@takefiveforfaith.com. All rights reserved.*



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