



THE MOST HOLY BODY & BLOOD OF CHRIST

St. Rose / St. Agnes
12 Park St. Topsfield / 22 Boston St. Middleton
978-774-1958
TCI.church

Dear Parishioners,

I hope all is well, and you and your family are safe and healthy these days. For many people these days are still filled with a real level of anxiety about the COVID-19 Virus, and staying healthy. Please know that I am continuing to pray for you all at this time. We can pray together: "Jesus I Trust in You!"

Yesterday was the third weekend that we were able to have Public Sunday Mass at both St. Agnes in Middleton and St. Rose in Topsfield. Mass attendance has increased each week, and we are utilizing as much space in the churches, and parish halls as possible, keeping to the social distancing, maximum capacity, and disinfecting/cleaning rules. We will add more Masses in the coming weeks, I am sure, depending upon attendance and need.

At St. Agnes and at St. Rose, if people feel more comfortable, they have the opportunity to listen to Mass while remaining outside in the parking lot or on the grass, because of the speakers we set up outside each Sunday. For those who choose this option, you can enter the church building to receive Holy Communion, or I will bring Our Lord Truly Present in the Eucharist to you outside, if you prefer.

While Sunday Mass is an essential part of our Faith, during these extreme times of a pandemic, Cardinal O'Malley has suspended the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. I encourage people in vulnerable populations, especially the elderly and those with complicated physical conditions, and those who may not feel comfortable to attend at this time for whatever reason, and anyone who is sick or has any symptoms, to continue to watch Mass from their homes via live stream for now. If for any reason you feel nervous about attending Mass at this time, please enjoy the Mass from home on TV or live streamed. We will miss you in person and will look forward to the day we can be together.

I ask you to join me in welcoming our two seminarians to our parishes for the Summer. Maxwell Chukwudiebere began his assignment with us a few weeks ago. He is in his second to last year of seminary formation, and will be with us for the next two years full time in the summers and part time in the academic year. Seminarian Christopher Letizia began his assignment this week and will be with us for his 8-week summer assignment. Chris just finished his third of 7 years of seminary formation (He just graduated from Providence College last month!), and will begin a new formation experience at St. John's Seminary in Brighton, MA in September. It is great to have them in the rectory and assisting at Mass and with a whole host of other activities.

Here are some schedules as they stand right now:

The temporary Sunday Public Mass schedule is:

- * 10:00 am live-streamed at St. Rose in Topsfield
- * 11:30 am at St. Agnes in Middleton

The temporary Weekday Public Mass schedule is:

- * 9:00 am live-streamed at St. Rose in Topsfield

The temporary Confession schedule is:

- * 5:00 - 7:00 pm Monday, at St. Rose Church Hall
- * 5:00 - 6:30 pm Friday, at St. Agnes Church

- * 9:50 - 10:30 am Saturday, at St. Rose Church Hall

- * 12:35 - 1:15 pm Sunday, at St. Agnes Church

The temporary Eucharistic Adoration schedule is:

- * 3:30 - 7:30 pm Saturday, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Agnes
- * 4:00 - 8:00 pm Saturday, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Rose

The Good Book Club (Reflections and discussion on the Gospel according to St. Mark) is each Friday from 7:15 - 8:15 pm by zoom meeting. For more info email: stagnesrosebookclub@gmail.com

This coming weekend we celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi, the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. I had organized a display of the (Vatican's International Exhibit of the Eucharistic Miracles of the World) for this Feast, but had to cancel due to the Pandemic. We can try to do it for next year. This week, I invite you to consider how you can set extra time aside to honor Our Lord, Truly Present in the Eucharist. One way I have been trying to do this is by being very intentional about how I walk around inside the Church, by being sure to always genuflect when I pass in front of the tabernacle, because inside the tabernacle is the Eucharist. The Eucharist, or Blessed Sacrament, or Holy Communion (three terms for the same Reality), is the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity, of Jesus Christ, Our Lord and God. The Eucharist is not a symbol of Jesus. The Eucharist **IS** Jesus.

I hope you have a very blessed week and may Our Lord continue to bless and guide each one of us, and may St. Agnes of Rome and St. Rose of Lima continue to intercede for us each day.

God Bless, Father Dan

The Year of the Eucharist



The bread that we break, and cup of blessing that we bless enables us to participate and share in the Body and Blood of Christ (cf. 1 Cor. 10:16-17). He is the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever. The bread is Christ's flesh for the life of the world, and whoever eats His Flesh and drinks His Blood has eternal life. (cf. Jon. 6:51 ff.)

Today, our Lord Jesus Christ has given us two special gifts: His Body and His Blood. The Body and Blood of Christ in form of bread and wine gives us not just food for the body but food for our soul that brings everlasting life. It is the gift of Christ's very self. He comes to us and will never leave us. He will be with us always. At the Last Supper, Christ took bread and after he had given thanks, broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me..." (cf. 1 Cor. 11:23-26). Here, Christ is telling us that he will lay down his life for us. These are the same words that the priest uses whenever we gather together in every Mass. Jesus also reminds us that those who eat his flesh and drink his Blood have eternal life, they will remain in him and him in them, and he will raise them up on the last day. To take this bread and wine then, is to receive Jesus's Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity into our hearts and into our lives where He becomes one with us and makes us one with himself, uniting us all with His Father in the Holy Spirit. This is why we call the Eucharist a Holy Communion.

When we come to receive Holy Communion, the priest or lay Eucharistic minister says, "the Body of Christ" and we answer "Amen." This is a strong affirmation that we believe that contained within the sacred Host is Jesus Himself. It also means that we believe that we have become part of Christ's Body here and now and accept to live in conformity with it. We also affirm and believe that all Christians gathered around the table of the Lord are the Body of Christ. Thus, we come to Mass to be united to Body of Christ. So, as Christian believers, we are to spread the Good News that we are the Body of Christ because He is in us and we are in Him. We do this by living the way Jesus taught us both in word and in deed: to keep God as the center of our life, and by loving and serving one another. Therefore, when we live out the Body and Blood of Christ we receive, we celebrate God's graces and blessings and the feast of Corpus Christi.

Dear Parishioners,

It is with great sadness that I announce to you that I am being transferred to a new assignment. For many years I have enjoyed celebrating Mass with you. Your faithful devotion to God has always inspired me. Although it is time for me to leave, I will keep the fond memories that we shared together alive in my heart. My new ministry will be at an Augustinian prep school in New Jersey. Please be assured of my prayers for you and pray for me too.

God bless you,

Fr. Steve Curry,

St. Ambrose Friary, 196 Elm St., Andover, MA 01810.

Pastor: Reverend Daniel F. Hennessey

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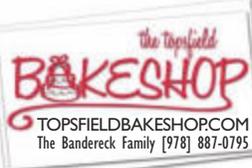
Parish Office: 22 Boston Street, Middleton, MA

Parish Office Phone Number: 978-774-1958

Prayers for Our Sick: Please join us in praying for the sick members of our parish community:

Amy, Angelea, Megan Bytof, Catherine, Arthur Carolan, Charles, Dave, David, David, Frances, Margaret Jacques, Jonathan, Joseph, Kevin, Maryann, Marie, Matthew, Thaddeus Dubiel, Elizabeth, Mary Keohan, Laura Lindsay, Walter Rehak, Dr. Larry Rusin, Leslie Storey, Tara, Thomas, Ann Turner, Tyler & Sylvia Vacca.

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