

A large American flag is shown waving against a clear blue sky. The flag is positioned on the left side of the frame, with its top edge near the top of the image. The stars and stripes are clearly visible, and the flag appears to be in motion, creating a sense of patriotism and celebration.

Happy Fourth of July

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

St. Rose of Lima / St. Agnes of Rome

978-887-5505 / 978-774-1958

Parish Office:

22 Boston St. Middleton

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This is OUR CHURCH

While many aspects of our life have come to a standstill, the work of our ministries continues as we strive to meet the needs of those who are relying on our guidance and assistance. The sick and homebound continue to receive spiritual support and information over the phone from the Archdiocese's Faith Community Nurses and Chaplains program. Our Pregnancy Help Centers continue to provide resources for women facing crisis pregnancies. Those suffering from addiction still need support and guidance and many have greater need for counseling and spiritual support during this time of heightened anxiety.

Your support of the Catholic Appeal ensures that these programs and services continue. With the knowledge that many of you are also facing challenging financial realities, and with concern for the people we serve, your prayerful consideration is greatly appreciated. Your donation will make a significant difference as we continue serving the Catholic faithful and all our brothers and sisters in need. To learn more about Your Church at Work or to make a donation, visit www.bostoncatholicappeal.org

Thank you!

GOSPEL MEDITATION

July 5, 2020

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

We are all familiar with the refrain, "You have put on Christ. In him you have been baptized. Alleluia, alleluia!" In Baptism, we "put on" Christ. In putting on Christ, we put on all that Christ is and represents: hope, faith, and love. We are no longer bound to the sins and failures of the flesh, that part of us that resists God and relies exclusively on human means. It also means that we are not in debt to our past, complete with its sins, failures, regrets, fears, and unfulfilled dreams. There is always hope. In putting on Christ, we put on God's vision for the world, for all of His children and for us. We have been given a road map to guide our paths and a blueprint to follow for our life's journey.

There is no need for regret, and we are not tethered to our past. Is there anything in your past that you regret? Any decision or memory that continues to haunt you? We have all made mistakes, and we have this uncanny ability to continue beating ourselves up over things we can no longer do anything about, except learn from them. To put on Christ means that I can now bring God's unconditional love to my hurtful memories and sinful choices. With each new moment and every new choice, I can start clean and live in freedom.

Imagine adults when the disciples were preaching and baptizing. They came to baptism not really knowing who they were, with pasts that were broken, seeking to live the joy of the Gospel they heard spoken to them and wanting the love they saw witnessed in the lives of those who believed. What tremendous celebrations their baptisms must have been! They could now have the support of a community, full participation in the sacraments of the church, focus for their disordered lives, consolation, healing, and an understanding of what life is really all about.

Our lives are meant to be celebrations of the Spirit we have received in Baptism. How does that joy get expressed in and through you? When we truly understand that we have put on Christ, our burdens can become much lighter. It is odd that so many Christians look like they are carrying the weight of the world on their shoulders. Wouldn't it be wonderful if those weights could be lifted and joy experienced!

HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY

May God always bless our country and protect us from all harm!

“God bless America, land that I love
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with the light from above

From the mountains to the prairies
To the oceans white with foam
God bless America, my home sweet home

God bless America, land that I love
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God bless America, my home sweet home
God bless America, my home sweet home”



THE TRADITION OF GENUFLECTION

“God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the Glory of God the Father.” Paul’s Letter to the Philippians 2:10

Question:

Why do Catholics genuflect?

Answer:

We genuflect as a physical manifestation of our Eucharistic belief that Jesus is really and truly present in the Blessed Sacrament, the Eucharist. This is why we genuflect in the direction of the Tabernacle: because in the tabernacle is the Eucharist.

Genuflection is an act of devotion that literally means “to bend the knee.” For many Catholics, it’s an almost automatic gesture that we perform before entering our pew or row of seats at Mass. But, like many of the symbols and gestures of our faith tradition, genuflecting can also be an invitation for deeper reflection.

The practice of “bending the knee” is an ancient way of recognizing the presence of someone greater than we are. It has been said that the practice dates back to the time of Alexander the Great, but it became a common part of etiquette in the royal courts of the Middle Ages. From throne rooms and palaces, it was a small step to genuflecting becoming part of the devotional lives of Christians, who used this secular gesture as a way of recognizing the presence of the One who is King of Kings, especially in the Eucharist.

Today, Catholics are asked to genuflect in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament (whether in the tabernacle or exposed on the altar during Eucharistic adoration). So, while it has become second nature to genuflect before entering your seat in church, we should pay attention to where the Blessed Sacrament is kept in each church or chapel that we visit, and genuflect in the direction of the tabernacle where the Blessed Sacrament is kept. In churches or chapels in which the tabernacle is in a separate space, we are invited to simply bow toward the altar.

In addition to genuflecting before the Blessed Sacrament, we are also instructed to genuflect before the cross used for veneration on Good Friday (during the solemn celebrations of the Lord’s Passion) and any time a relic of the True Cross is displayed for veneration. This long-standing tradition is a way of honoring the cross as the great sign of our salvation and of showing devotion to the passion of Jesus.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, July 5 2020

10:00 am @ St. Rose
Parishioners of our Parishes
11:30 am @ St. Agnes
John & Nicholas Spirito by their Mother

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, and the desire to livestream daily Mass, all daily Masses are being temporarily celebrated at St Rose Church.

Daily Mass - 9:00 am

Monday, July 6th
Marlene McGinnity by the Prayer Shawl Ministry
Tuesday, July 7th
Daniel B. (living Intention) the Hatfield Family
Wednesday, July 8th
John Silvaggi by His Family
Thursday, July 9th
JoAnn Lund by Sharon & Bob Lemoine
Friday, July 10th
Helen Pilla by Jim & Nicole DeVita
Saturday, July 11th
Adolfo (Rudy) Gallucio by Dolores, Camille, Dominic & the Deletesky Family

Sunday, July 12 2020

10:00 am @ St. Rose
Joan Lewis by Martha & Paul Gillespie
11:30 am @ St. Agnes
Julio Suke by his Mother

Daily Mass - 9:00 am

Monday, July 13th
Marlene McGinnity by Dona Bacco
Tuesday, July 14th
Farid Sfeir by his Family
Wednesday, July 15th
Shirley Sciora by Sarah Sorenson
Thursday, July 16th
Carolyn Bresnahan by Bob & Sharon Lemoine
Friday, July 17th
Helen Mignault by Dona Bacco
Saturday, July 18th

CONTACT US

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djones@theci.me ext. 101

First Communion Coordinator: Eileen Klapprodt
Cell Phone 978-500-1282

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, 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.

THANK YOU

We are thankful for all of those who have been able to continue making your weekly offering by dropping it off or mailing it, either to St. Rose of Lima rectory or the St. Agnes/St. Rose parish offices, 22 Boston Street, Middleton. We encourage everyone to consider on line giving on our website by clicking tci.church/give.

LIVE STREAM MASSES

Mass is celebrated and can be watched on live stream Monday - Saturday, at 9:00am and Sunday at 10:00am. To access the live stream tci.church/live.

PRAYER REQUESTS

To send Father Dan Hennessey a personal and confidential prayer request, please see our website to fill out prayer request form or go to tci.church/prayers.

SUMMER SCHEDULE

Please mark your calendars for the new summer schedule for Confessions. Starting on July 6th Confessions will be on Monday evenings from 6:00 pm -7:00 pm, starting at St. Agnes. Confessions at St Rose will begin July 13th alternating Mondays.

July 6: St. Agnes

July 13: St Rose

July 20: St Agnes

July 27: St Rose

August 3: St Agnes

August 10: St Rose

August 17: St Agnes

August 24: St Rose

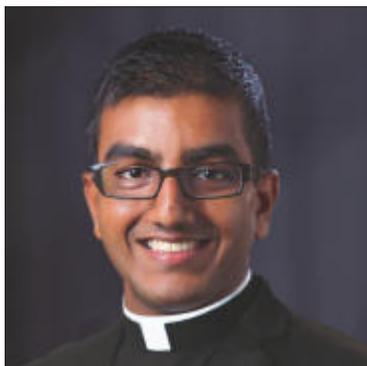
Confession's will be held every Friday after daily Mass from 10:00am -10:30am at St Rose.

BOOK CLUB

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



MEET OUR SEMINARIANS
FUTURE PRIEST OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON
DEACON DENIS WILL BE ORDAINED INTO THE PRIESTHOOD ON AUGUST 1ST



REV. MR. DENIS NAKKEERAN

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COLLEGE: BOSTON UNIVERSITY

SEMINARY ATTENDING: PONTIFICAL NORTH AMERICAN COLLEGE

CLASS YEAR: FOURTH THEOLOGY

What are some of the factors that led to your decision to enter the seminary and discern the question of a vocation to the priesthood?

My involvement with the BU Catholic Center was probably the biggest overarching factor. It was an amazing and vibrant community which helped foster a renewed spirit of faith in me and a desire to seek God's will. Many events that I experienced throughout my time there led me to vocational discernment. After attending a couple of discernment retreats and a FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) conference, along with consistent prayer, I eventually heard the call to enter seminary and pursue the priesthood.

Who are some of the people who influenced your decision to enter the seminary?

What is it about them that assisted you?

My two largest influences were my FOCUS Missionary disciple and my Spiritual Director. They said they saw many good qualities in me and encouraged me to discern the priesthood. They consistently met with me and helped build up my spiritual life in general, which firstly helped put my life in order and secondly helped in my vocational discernment process. They were amazing examples of holy Catholic men who were devoting their lives in service to the Lord and encouraged me to do the same in my vocation.

What advice would you give to a man who thinking about his vocation and is considering that God may be calling him to be a priest?

Talk to a priest you trust and you feel is a good example. They can be your best initial point of reference. Get a Spiritual Director if you don't have one already. They can help in developing your spiritual life and help you along the way as you discern your vocation. Also, I would encourage you to attend a discernment retreat. It is a great way to meet seminarians who are in formation and learn about the seminary life.

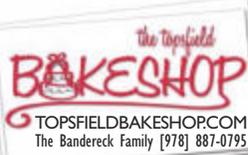
What do you like most about being a seminarian?

The thing I like most is having a whole daily structure revolving around prayer and being challenged to grow in the spiritual life. Prayer should be the central pillar of a priest's day. Having the opportunity to develop a habit of prayer and organizing the rest of your day around it will really pay off in the life of a priest. Also, the more I learn about the spiritual life and God, the more I grow in my love for Him, so challenging me to grow in this regard will also be very beneficial.

What do you think is the best way to encourage vocations to the priesthood in the Archdiocese of Boston?

Probably the most important thing is having good examples of priests. If there are good, holy priests that are exemplars of Catholic manhood, then it will definitely encourage more men to pursue the priesthood. Also, I know that for myself and many others, authentic Christ-centered friendships are what help lead others to conversion and to deeper faith. Having friends who will encourage you to pursue a vocation and give yourself to Christ in whatever way He may be calling you can help significantly.

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