

Our Lady of Peace Church

*"Let the Church always be a place of MERCY and HOPE,
where EVERYONE is WELCOMED, LOVED and FORGIVEN." ~Pope Francis*



Parish Staff

Rev. Stanley Aksamit **Pastor**
Rev. Galadima Goni **In residence**
Joseph Bucci **Deacon**
Marguerite Noga **Pastoral Minister**
Carol Holubecki **Religious Education**
Marcia Caloon **Office Manager**
Dottie Pelis **Financial Manager**
Elizabeth Hallett **Cemeteries**
Marie Putala **Hall Manager**
Bernie Chartier **Custodian**
Sharon Broughan **Senior Choir**
Joseph Zadroga **Modern Ensemble**

Lord's Day Masses

Saturday 4:00P

Rosary at 3:15P

Sunday 8:00A & 10:00A

Daily Mass 8:00A

Monday-Thursday

Rosary at 7:30A

Holy Communion Service

Friday 8:00A

Holy Days Vigil 6:00P

Holy Day 8:00A

Confession

Every Saturday 3:15P

or by appointment

Rectory Office Information

Office hours: Monday-Thursday

8:30A-12:00P

Closed on Friday

Phone: 413 863.2585

Website: www.ourladyofpeacetf.org

Email: church@ourladyofpeacetf.com

90 Seventh Street

Turners Falls, MA 01376

Organizations

Community Meals Program

Our Lady of Peace Women's Group

Altar Society

Montague Catholic Social Ministries

Parish Mission Statement

We, the parish of Our Lady of Peace, are descendants of various ethnic orientations and proud traditions. We are a Catholic community united in keeping our faith alive and growing. We nurture this faith by being committed to the Eucharist, prayer, family, social justice, education and service. We hope enthusiastically to reflect the life of Jesus by following His teachings of love and peace, by living the gospel values.

May we seek always to be inclusive of all, and strive to become
a community of diminishing strangers.



My dear friends,

He revealed his glory, and the disciples began to believe in him

In last week's column, I pointed out that we were making a major transition in our liturgical calendar, from the Christmas Season to Ordinary Time. The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord served as the pivot point, standing in, as it were, for the First Sunday in Ordinary Time. Which brings us now to the Second Sunday. Also, the Lectionary for Sundays is divided into three years, so that during that three-year period the most important passages of Scripture will be covered. We are currently in Year C. "Ordinary" simply means that we are not focusing on specific feasts, such as Christmas or Easter, but rather taking a more general approach to the Bible and its message.

Our first reading, Isaiah 62:1-5, is a joyous passage that celebrates the special, caring relationship between God and Israel. There were times in biblical history when that relationship was strained, especially when the people doubted the presence or the goodness of God, or when they had been lured away to worship idols and lesser gods. It was then the task of the prophets to bring the message of God's displeasure and judgment to the people. But our passage comes from a happier time.

The author of our first reading looks forward to a time when Israel will once again have a world-wide importance: "Nations shall behold your vindication, and all the kings your glory; you shall be called by a new name pronounced by the mouth of the Lord. You shall be a glorious crown in the hand of the Lord, a royal diadem held by your God. No more shall people call you 'Forsaken,' or your land 'Desolate,' but you shall be called 'My Delight,' and your land 'Espoused.' For the Lord delights in you and makes your land his spouse. As a young man marries a virgin, your Builder shall marry you; and as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride so shall your God rejoice in you."

Biblical scholars describe the basic relationship between God and the people as a "Covenant" in which there is an exclusive, binding affiliation ("I will be your God, and you shall be my people"). That unique bond began with the Exodus from Egypt and the reception of the Ten Commandments in the desert. The commandments were meant to protect that relationship with God and among the people. Our passage from Isaiah is a celebration of the covenant seen as a marriage of bridegroom (God) and bride (Israel).

The wedding banquet at which God would provide lavish portions of food and wine came to be associated with the coming of the Messiah—which serves as a powerful background for understanding today's gospel, the story of the miracle at the wedding at Cana, John 2:1-11. Jesus' mother, Jesus and his disciples were all invited to this wedding. Mary learns that a situation of tremendous social embarrassment has arisen: they've run out of wine—a sign of poor planning and lack of hospitality. So Mary brings the concern to Jesus, who is reluctant to help because he is not yet ready to begin his public ministry. Jesus asks her, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." We find here a powerful indicator of the trust that Mary has in her Son to do the right thing. She basically ignores Jesus' protest, and tells the waiters, "Do whatever he tells you."

We then get an indication of precisely how big a celebration this wedding was. "Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus told them, 'Fill the jars with water.' So they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, 'Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter.' So they took it. And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from—although the servers who had drawn the water knew—the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now.'"

In the gospel of John a special word is used to describe the miraculous actions of Jesus: "sign". These were not cheap magical tricks. Rather they were indicators of divine power, calling forth faith in Jesus, precisely as the long-awaited Messiah. John concludes, "Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs at Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him."

Thus, we have had a number of instances at our recent celebrations that show precisely who Jesus is: at the Epiphany (Savior of all the nations); at the Lord's baptism (God's beloved Son); and now at the wedding in Cana (the Messiah who brings the joy of salvation). In all these ways, Jesus' glory is revealed, and we are invited to believe in him.



Saturday, January 15-Rosary at 3:15P

4:00P *David Routhier*
by Mary Routhier & family

Sunday, January 16

8:00A *Francis & Lonnie Togneri*
by their family

10:00A *Phyllis Choleva*
by her family

Saturday, January 22-Rosary at 3:15P

4:00P *Henry Deso*
by his family

Sunday, January 23

8:00A *Alberta Riel*
by the Lapointe family

10:00A *Henry Deso*
by Our Lady of Peace Women's Group

DAILY MASS

Monday, January 17

8:00A *Stanley Choleva*
by Jackie & Mark

Tuesday, January 18

8:00A *No Intention*

Wednesday, January 19

8:00A *No Intention*

Thursday, January 20

8:00A *James Cade*
by Joe & Lynn Cade & family

Friday, January 21

8:00A *Holy Communion Service*

Our Lady's Window

January 13

Gladys O'Shea 21st anniversary
by Gladys Lapinski

January 15

Grace Wikowski 22nd anniversary
by Gladys Lapinski

MEMORIAL DONATIONS to the Justice & Peace Commission in memory of *Alberta Riel* by Ruth Viens, Marilyn Pelis & family, Merrill & Frances Davis, Turners Falls Fire Fighters Local 2452, Shereilyn Kaufman, Mark & Catherine Mathers, and Mike & Sue Hastings.

RECTORY OFFICES will be closed Monday, **January 17** in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

PARISH COLLECTIONS

For the weekend of **January 9**

Weekly \$2,659.00

On-line \$1,118.00

Thank you for you continuing generous support.



AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM at MCSM is in need of snacks over the winter months. Kids appreciate a snack after a long school day and they rely on your generosity!



Classes will not meet on Sunday, **January 16** due to the uptick in Covid cases. We hope to resume on **January 23**.



Growing in their faith by serving



RCIA
A JOURNEY IN FAITH

RCIA will meet Sunday, **January 23 & 30** at 9:00A in the rectory.





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