

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**
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,

A listening Church: discernment through hearing

As we enter the process of listening to one another called for by Pope Francis, I found the following essay by Brett Salkeld (Our Sunday Visitor, March 20-26, 2022, p. 6) helpful.

“The Synod of Bishops on the theme of synodality has raised many questions, one of the most important of which is simply: What can be meant by a listening Church? Concerns come from different angles. While one group fears that the Church might be too inclined to listen to the ideas coming from contemporary culture that are incompatible with the Gospel, another group feels that they may well be invited to talk but that their contributions are likely to be ignored. Now, let us note that many in both of these groups are inclined to imagine themselves as powerless, maybe even persecuted, and to view the other group as a threat. The Church, each side hopes, had better not listen to those people.

“It seems to me that a fundamental problem here is our proclivity for viewing life in the Church as basically analogous to political life. In politics, we try to secure power and then to use that power to impose our view through the implementation of policy. That this might be done through peaceful means does not change the basic dynamic. When we citizens of Western democracies are presented with a synod like this one, the most intuitive categories available to most of us for understanding notions like ‘A listening Church’ are drawn from this political experience.

“This means, for instance, that many of us unwittingly interpret a ‘listening Church’ to mean a Church that listens to me, that is responsible to me and my views in a way analogous to the way a political representative is responsible to me as a constituent. The problem that immediately presents itself, however, is that my neighbor who disagrees with me on a whole range of matters of importance in the Church, thinks the same thing! And so, it becomes very easy to imagine that my role in the synod is to make my voice heard over that of my neighbor

“Notice that, in this construction, ‘the Church’ means essentially the hierarchy. And the question becomes, ‘Which group of the faithful will have the most influence over the decisions of those in power?’ The synod can take on the feel of an election. And elections have winners and losers....

“Pope Francis has said that a synod is not democracy but discernment. This is often met with incomprehension. We imagine that the questions and their potential answers are already set, like party platforms, and that the task before us is to choose between them. And there is no shortage of lobbyists on both sides of a controversial question to reinforce such a notion. Such choosing would ensure, however, that those whose preferred platforms are rejected feel marginalized by the whole process, and the divisions in the Church would only deepen. It would also mean that we have subjected the truth of the Gospel to something like a popular vote. And that is bad news even for the winners. Because what can be voted true today can be voted false tomorrow. So, what does Pope Francis mean by calling this process a discernment?

“Can I suggest that the primary referent for ‘Church’ in the phrase ‘a listening Church’ is not the hierarchy, not those with access to the levers of power, but all of the baptized? And the real question is not which group of the baptized (or even the unbaptized!) will have the most influence on the hierarchy, but whether or not the baptized can learn to listen to one another.

“Francis does indeed want to transform the Church. But not in the way that one group fears and another cheers...Rather, Francis wants to change the Church by equipping all the baptized to engage in the mission of the Church. And there are few skills more essential to this mission than listening. The reason for this is simple: No one is willing to listen to anyone if they do not first feel heard and understood. We know this is true if we are at all attentive to the relationships in our own lives. If the Church wants to be able to speak and be heard, it must listen....

“In the Gospel of John, Chapter 17, Jesus explicitly links the unity of the Church with its mission. He prays that his followers might be one, that the world may believe. This mean, it seems to me, that listening to one another in the Church needs to be our first priority. Only genuinely listening to one another will begin to heal the divisions plaguing the Church today. Listening is always hard work because listening is the practice of getting your own ego to shut up long enough to hear what is in the heart of another person. Sound-bite politics and social media silos have made this kind of work much harder. ...In such a context, I suspect that one of the most important things that the Church can offer to the world is a community where people actually know how to hear one another. And when we really hear one another, we also hear the Holy Spirit—the spirit both of unity and of truth—creatively reframing problems that seemed intractable within our own limited categories.”



Saturday, March 26

4:00P *Paul Socquet, Sr.*
by Paul & Carol Campbell

Sunday, March 27-Fourth Sunday of Lent

8:00A *Walter, Mildred & Ronald Traceski*
by the Creek family

10:00A *Fr. Michael Devlin*
by the Devlin family

Saturday, April 2

4:00P *Lorraine Coyle 4th anniversary*
by Joyce Phillips

Sunday, April 3-Fifth Sunday of Lent

8:00A *Elaine Godin*
by Ed & Robin Sargent

10:00A *Kristen Kaczenski*
by her family

STATIONS OF THE CROSS & EUCHARISTIC ADORATION Saturdays during Lent at 3:00P.

DAILY MASS

Monday, March 28

8:00A *Birthday blessings for Fr. Goni*
by the Morning Prayer Group

Tuesday, March 29

8:00A *No intention*

Wednesday, March 30

8:00A *John Kiley family*

Thursday, March 31

8:00A *DeeDee Bergeron*
by Paul

Friday, April 1

8:00A *Holy Communion Service*

ST. JOSEPH'S BREAD



Sometimes as many as **140 people** come in need to our Community Meals on Mondays

We are collecting **FRESH LOAVES OF WRAPPED BREAD** to give out to these families.

Please add 1 or more loaves of bread to your weekly shopping list!

March 20 total donations= 39

Total to date=163



Doing a parish-wide mailing for Easter

OUR LADY'S WINDOW

March 27

Marion Bak 1st anniversary
by Paul & Emily
Bob Lapinski 2nd anniversary
by Gladys Lapinski

March 30

Lynette Saulnier
by Nancy



Don't miss it! Saturday, April 23

9:00A-1:00P in the parish hall

6th Annual "STASH BASH"

Vendor tables are **SOLD OUT!** It will be a great place to buy craft supplies. We hope to see you at this fundraising event sponsored by the Our Lady of Peace Women's Group.



Annual Women's Group Scholarship applications are now available for 2022 graduating parishioners at the rectory and in the sacristy at Mass. Seniors may call Cathy Marcum 413 522.4292.

PARISH COLLECTIONS

For the weekend of **March 20**

Weekly \$2,383.00 On-line \$1,139.00

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