



Parish of St. Mary



Worship Schedule

Lord's Day Mass:

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 PM (Lee) 5:30 PM (Otis)

Sunday: 8 & 11 AM (Lee) & 9:30 AM (Stockbridge)

Weekday Mass: (Lee) - 7:00 AM

Holy Days of Obligation (please see inside)

Parish Offices

40 Academy Street / Lee, MA 01238

Hours: Tues, Wed, Thurs 9am-12pm or by appt

Telephone (413)243-0275

Fax: (413)243-1926

Faith Formation Office (413)243-1079, Ext. 8

Email: icsmchurch@gmail.com

Website: www.stmarylos.com

Prayer Line (413)243-1523 (Vicki)

Parish Pastoral Staff

Fr. Brian F. McGrath - *Pastor*

Fr. Matt Barone - *Parochial Vicar*

Deacon Jim McElroy - *Permanent Deacon*

Deacon Bob Digan - *Deacon Emeritus*

Mrs. Karen T. Vidoli - *Office Manager*

Mrs. Katherine Murray - *Faith Formation Coordinator*

Mrs. Holly Cusack - *Bookkeeper*

Ms. Sandy Cummings - *Music Director (Lee)*

Ms. Susan Aery - *Music Director (Otis)*

Mr. Art DeVlyder - *Music Director (Stockbridge)*

Mrs. Colleen Free - *Youth Ministry*

Mr. Charles Houff - *Pastoral Council*

Mr. Richard Brittain - *Administration & Finance*

Mrs. Brenda Bianco - *Child Advocate*

Mr. Jeffrey Simmons - *Maintenance*

Mr. Tim Holian - *Maintenance*

Pastoral Council

Charles Houff,
chair

Laura Sexton

Lewis Brooks

Chad Klapes

Lori Koperek

Richard Lacey

Carol Lombardo

Kate Murray

Lynda Newton

Erin Pollard

Trish Santos

Finance Council

Richard Brittain,
chair

Bob Gutmann

Bob Kelly

Richard Lacey

John Masten

Cathie Sparks

Thom Swift

Holly Cusack

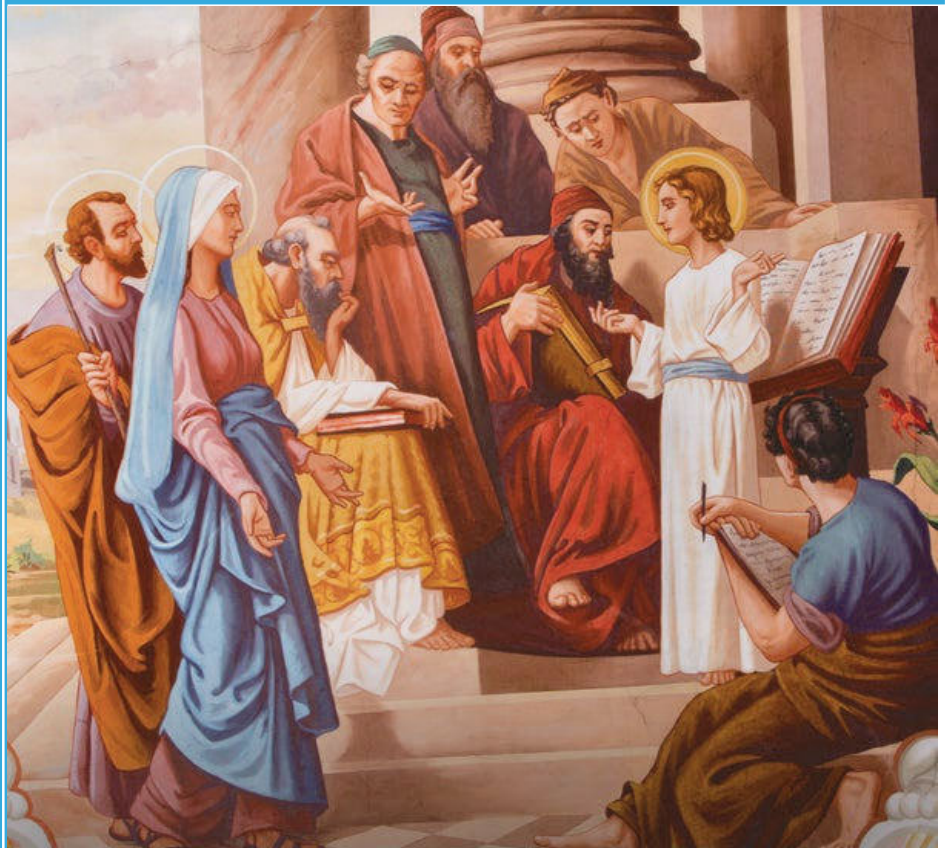


St. Mary, Mother of the Church
140 Main Street
Lee

St. Mary of the Lakes
72 North Main Road
Otis

St. Joseph Church
11 Elm Street
Stockbridge

One parish serving God and Neighbor in three worship sites.



3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me...
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free.*

- Lk 4:18

St. Mary's School Est. 1885

Celebrating 136 years of Catholic education!

115 Orchard Street — Lee, MA 01238

Telephone (413) 243-1079 | Fax 243-1022

www.StMarysLee.org

Miss. Cara Maiorano | *Interim-Principal*

Mrs. Linda Winters | *School Secretary*

Mrs. Gina Reiners | *School Board Chair*

Parish of St Mary

Please pray for the men and women who have been activated to serve our nation, all our police officers, firefighters, first responders, health care workers, research scientists and essential services workers.

Let us also pray for our departed brothers and sisters, especially those who have died due to the pandemic, anyone who has passed away recently, for those we miss so much.

**Fr. James Joyce, Steve Brouker
Daniel McDonald, Shirley Tyer,
Alexander Hutton**

May they rest in the loving arms of God in heaven. AMEN.

If you would like to add a name of a deceased loved one, please call the rectory.



The Candles this Week

Sanctuary: Alvera Salice

Grotto Lamps: Bill Laudon

Oratory Lamp: William H. O'Brien

Candles may be reserved by calling the rectory at 243-0275

Weekly Parishioner Contributions Jan 18-24

Mail: \$5,878

Online: \$717

Lee: \$3,564

Otis: \$179

Stockbridge: \$597

Consider Online giving.

Set up your gift today.

Visit our Website or

call Karen at the

rectory (243-0275)

Thanks! You make all our ministries possible.

Mass Intentions for This Week

Sat. 1/29	10:00 am	† Funeral for Daniel McDonald - SMC
	4:00 pm	† Elvin Bartini, by Jane Membrino
<i>Otis</i>	5:30 pm	† Mazie Schoonmazer, by Pat & Joe
Sun. 1/30	8:00 am	† Deceased Members of our Parish Family
<i>Stockbridge</i>	9:30 am	† Winifred Johnson, by her sister, Elizabeth Thompson
	11:00 am	† Alexandra Puntin Pilsbury, by Laurie Puntin
Mon. 1/31	7:00 am	† Barbara Denley, by Bill and Becky Brunell
Tue. 2/1	7:00 am	† Edwin Fein, by the Sparks Family
Wed. 2/2	7:00 am	†
Thu. 2/3	7:00 am	† Dayton Delorme, by Bill and Becky Brunell
Fri. 2/4	7:00 am	† Deceased Members of our Parish Family
<i>Laurel Lake</i>	10:30 am	† Sr. Gemma Parisi, by the parish
<i>Sandisfield</i>	1:30 pm	† Fr. James Joyce, by the parish
Sat. 2/5	4:00 pm	† Richard Ford & Charles Bragdon, by Jacob Brunell
<i>Otis</i>	5:30 pm	† Christy Fedor, by her Husband and Family
Sun. 2/6	8:00 am	† Barbara Puleri, by her husband, Monk
<i>Stockbridge</i>	9:30 am	† Robert Ferro, by the Chichester family
	11:00 am	† Deceased of the George W. Bartini Family, by Jane Membrino

MASS INTENTIONS: Contact the rectory (243-0275) if you want to book a Mass. It is a holy action to offer your prayers and the prayers of the Church in the sacrifice of the Mass.



Ministers on the Altar Next Week

Sat. 2/5	3:00 pm (Confessions):	Fr. Brian	
	4:00 pm (Lee):	Fr. Brian w/Dec. Jim	A.S.: Austin Griffin & Sophie Sparks
		E.M.: Mary Ann Simmons & Maureen Wellspeak	Lector: Barb Scolforo
	5:30 pm (Otis):	Fr. Matt	A.S.: Logan and Dylan Fedor
		E.M.: Carol Lombardo	Lector: Tom Burke
Sun. 2/6	8:00 am (Lee):	Fr. Brian w/Dec. Jim	Lector: Richard Lindsay
		E.M.: Bill Ingegna & Roger Scheurer	A.S.: Lauren Scheurer & Adam Lrhazi
	9:30 am (Stockbridge):	Fr. Matt	Lector: Richard Lacey
	11:00 am (Lee):	Fr. Brian	
		E.M.: Julie Choi & Sue Scarpa	Lector: Malcolm Chisholm

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 30TH, 2022

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Celebrate Catholic Schools Week: Jer 1:4-5, 17-19/
Ps 71/1 Cor 12:31-13:13 or 13:4-13/Lk 4:21-30

Mon., *St. John Bosco:* 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13/Ps 3/Mk 5:1-20

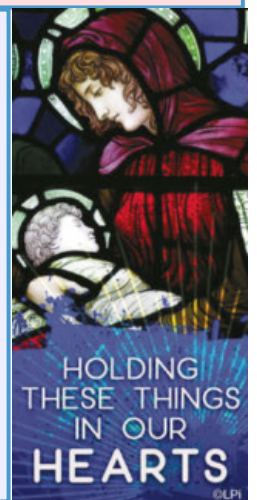
Tue.: 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3/Ps 86/Mk 5:21-43

Wed., *The Presentation of the Lord; World Day for Consecrated Life:* Mal 3:1-4/
Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Heb 2/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

Thu., *St. Blaise and St. Ansgar:* 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/1 Chr 29/Mk 6:7-13

Fri.: Sir 47:2-11/Ps 18/Mk 6:14-29

Sat., *St. Agatha:* 1 Kgs 3:4-13/Ps 119/Mk 6:30-34



FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Well, we have made it to the end of January! I have always found January and February to be the most challenging months of the year. I felt that way when I was in school, and I still find it to be true today. We are in a period of waiting; waiting for Winter to be over and Spring to come. Waiting until it warms up and we can resume our outdoor activities. Or maybe we are waiting for pitchers and catchers to report to Spring Training!

In the Liturgical Year of the Church, we are in a waiting period too. Christmas is over and we find ourselves in Ordinary Time as we wait for Lent to begin. This “down time” can be uncomfortable, and we can find ourselves looking for “what’s next.”

As we anticipate “what’s next,” we can use this time to prepare for the season of Lent, which in turn prepares us for Easter. In this time of readying ourselves for Lent to begin, we can begin to decide how we will live out Lent, once it’s here. Some helpful considerations may include these questions: how will I be a better Catholic this Lent and how will I grow closer to Christ as I prepare for his Resurrection?

So, let’s try and use this “waiting time” the best we can and not let it get us down or pass by without hope; the hope that comes to us through the Resurrection of Christ.

Fr. Matt

Answer to Catholic Trivia from p. 8: **Michael, Raphael, and Gabriel**

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

SMC = St. Mary, Mother of the Church, Lee

STJ = St. Joseph's, Stockbridge

SML = St. Mary of the Lakes, Otis | SMS = St. Mary's School, Lee

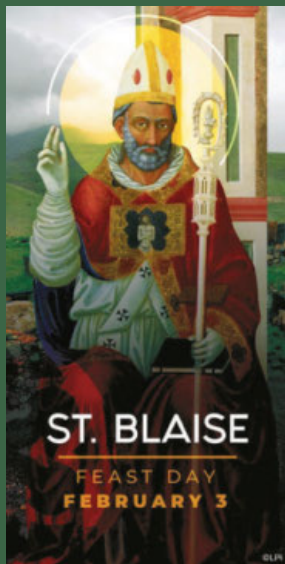
We are live-streaming the Weekend Masses from St. Mary's Church on our Facebook page
(St Mary Lee, Otis, Stockbridge).

You can keep updated on the diocesan (diospringfield.org) parish (stmarylos.com) and school websites (stmaryslee.org) as well on Facebook & MyParish App.

- Sun 1/30 CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK BEGINS**
6:00 pm **Confirmation Class - SMS**
- Mon 1/31**
- Tue 2/1 1:00 pm Presbyteral Council - Springfield**
- Wed 2/2 6:00 pm Knights of Columbus - SMS**
- Thu 2/3 6:30 pm Sons & Daughters of Italy - SMS**
- Fri. 2/4 10:30 am Laurel Landing Mass**
1:30 pm **Sandisfield Nursing Home Mass**
- Sat. 2/5 BLESSING OF THROATS AT MASSES**
- Sun 2/6 9:00 am Faith Formation - SMS**
11:00 am **Catechetical Mass - SMC**
12:00-2:00 pm **St. Mary's School Open House**
6:00 pm **Confirmation Class - SMS**

Upcoming: 3/1 Shrove Tuesday Dinner & Burning of the Palms; 3/2 Ash Wednesday; 3/4 Stations of the Cross and Simple Suppers begin; 3/12 SMS Bingo; 4/10 Palm Sunday - Holy Week Begins; 4/14 Holy Thursday; 4/15 Good Friday; 4/16 Holy Saturday; 4/17 EASTER

www.stmarylos.com



ST. BLAISE | FEBRUARY 3

You may be familiar with the annual “blessing of throats” that many parishes in the United States use to commemorate the beloved bishop and martyr. St. Blaise lived in the fourth century in Turkey and Armenia. Due to religious persecution, he was forced to flee and hide in a cave in the back country in order to save his life.

History has it that one day a group of hunters stumbled upon where St. Blaise was living. They found the bishop kneeling in prayer, surrounded by wolves, lions and bears that he had tamed. The legend has it that as the hunters dragged Blaise off to prison, a mother came with her young son who had a fish bone lodged in his throat. At Blaise’s command, the child was able to cough up the bone and thus lived.

Today we remember the saint on his feast day by taking two candles, crossing them against the throat, and saying the following prayer:

Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from ailments of the throat and from every other evil. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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NOTE: Next weekend we will be blessing throats at the end of all the Masses. St. Blaise, pray for us!

4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



January 30th, 2022 - Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

We are a Eucharistic community, finding strength in Jesus and His Church by living both Word and Sacrament. We minister to the needs of the People of God through Worship and living out the Gospel and the Teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

Rectory Office Hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 am to Noon.

Registration: We welcome all new members to our parish family. To formally join the parish, please fill in the Parish Census form. Our parish census helps us keep track of who is a member of the parish. It is how we send parishioners the Catholic Mirror and parish mailings. If you want to be registered with us, simply fill in the Census Form (*found at the entrances of the church or on our website*) or stop by the rectory.

Baptisms take place at the request of the family. In preparation, parents are asked to complete one class. Contact the rectory for additional information

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place in the Oratory
Mon. - Fri. 8 am - 11 pm
Sat. & Sun. 9 am - 11 pm

The Sacrament of Reconciliation & The Anointing of the Sick is offered every Saturday from 3:00-3:30 in **St. Mary's Church, Lee**. These sacraments may be received any time by appointment.

Sick or Homebound: Kindly inform the Rectory if you or someone you know would like a visit at home, hospital or nursing home. You've come to church for all those years, now let us bring church to you.

Marriage: Congratulations to our newly engaged. Please contact the rectory to begin the process of preparation. The preparation can take up to a year. God's grace lasts all the days of your life.

Holy Orders: If you feel the call to religious life or a vocation to the diaconate or priesthood; contact Fr. Brian or Fr. Matt at the rectory or the diocesan Vocations Director, Fr. Jon Reardon: 413-739-0456, ext. 4

email: vocations@diospringfield.org

New Direction Crisis Pregnancy Center: Has a help line available 24/7.
Call: **413-347-8005**



ADORATION NEWS: OUR LADY'S ORATORY could use you! As the Year of the Eucharist begins, please consider spending an hour a week with Jesus in our Adoration Chapel. **WE CURRENTLY HAVE 20 OPEN HOURS.** Available hours are posted in the Oratory. More info can be had by calling Laurie Forfa at 413-464-8143 or Lisa Thorne at 298-3261

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS meet on Wednesday, 2/2, 6:00 pm at St. Mary's School. Hopefully Punxsutawny Phil will not see his shadow and we will have a productive and uplifting meeting.

SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ITALY meet on Thursday, 2/3, 6:30 pm at St. Mary's School. Hope to see you there!

FIRST FRIDAY DEVOTIONS take place on Friday morning following the 7:00 am Morning Mass. We also have Masses at the local nursing homes at 10:30 am (Laurel Landing Nursing Home) and 1:30 pm (Sandisfield Nursing Home). May the Sacred Heart of Jesus speak a word of love and mercy to each of our hearts!

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK: As a parish we are blessed with the ministry of running a Catholic School. Started in 1885 by Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambery, France and supported by faithful pastors and parishioners ever since, it is an amazing place of excellent academics, formative service outreach and vibrant faith formation. We are welcoming speakers at the Masses this weekend January 29 & 30 as Catholic Schools Week begins. Plan ahead for **Open House on Sunday, 2/6, from Noon until 2 pm** up at the school. Alumni and friends of the school, this is a great chance to visit. Parents with children of school age this a great time to check out our school and register you child for next year.

IMPORTANT NEWS FROM ST. MARY'S SCHOOL DATE CHANGES. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

BINGO: St. Mary's School in Lee is postponing bingo (*from 2/5/22*) to **3/12/22**. We hope to host bingo on Saturdays: 3/12, 4/2, and 6/25, unless the pandemic causes us to postpone again. Doors open at 1:00 pm; games begin at 2:30 pm. Face masks are required. Call 413-243-1079 with questions or to pre-register. \$10 entrance (additional lottery games and 50/50 raffle!)

FATHER/DAUGHTER DANCE: St. Mary's School in Lee is postponing our father/daughter dance (*from 2/12/2022*) to **5/7/2022**. Details will be available in



FAITH FORMATION

UPCOMING FAITH FORMATION: This weekend, January 30th we have Confirmation Class at 6:00 pm. Next weekend, February 6th we have classes for Grades K-6 at 9:00 am, a Catechetical Mass for Grades 7-10 & Confirmation Students. Thanks to all our teachers, parents and students for your efforts as we grow in faith.

CATECHETICAL MASS is a full Mass (fulfilling our Sunday Obligation) that incorporates teaching about the Mass while preserving the prayer and worship within our celebration. It is a great way to learn more about the source and summit of our faith life ... the Eucharist. All are welcome to attend!

If you have any questions, please email our Faith Formation Coordinator, Kate Murry. Let's keep each other in prayer!

stmaryleccd@gmail.com

One Parish Serving through Three Churches, Two Cemeteries and Our School

WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS LABOR ACTION

(WMLA) needs you to join our *Winter Survival Campaign* for the lowest-income working families in Berkshire County.

As another Berkshire winter sets in and the COVID-19 pandemic continues to barrage the economy, more than one out of every eight W Mass residents struggles with hunger daily. For children it's one of six. 120,000 households in Massachusetts are in danger of eviction. The government of the Commonwealth did not extend the eviction moratorium, which means that over 1000 households in Berkshire County are facing homelessness due to enormous back-rent bills accrued during the economic collapse. Average utility debt is \$1,600 on electricity, and \$1,200 on gas.

The WMLA *Winter Survival Campaign* involves self-help benefit programs for members such as housing and heat advocacy, winter clothing, blankets and space heaters, a Winter Watch for the elderly and shut-ins, and emergency and supplemental food. WMLA is 100% volunteer and takes no government funds.

Here's how St. Mary's congregants can help: **(1) You can volunteer!** Call us at (413) 443-9862 any day of the week between 9:00am and 9:00pm and schedule to help out on outreach, advocacy, office work or food deliveries. **(2) You can support the Winter Survival Campaign by ordering TAMALES FOR SUPER BOWL SUNDAY**, February 13th. WMLA volunteers will be cooking one hundred dozen tamales, and WMLA is taking orders for either pork or vegan tamales during the month of January. They're delicious! A dozen tamales are a \$20 donation, and half a dozen are a \$10 donation. Call to order: (413) 443-9862! They will be delivered on February 13th. **(3) Donate warm winter clothing and blankets:** Leave them with St. Mary's or drop them off at our office in Pittsfield: 298 Columbus Ave (down the street from the bus station).

Dreams of Joy

In Memory of Joy Carty

Dreams of Joy would like to thank the following people, businesses and their employees for a wonderful 2021 holiday season. Your continued generosity and support are a blessing to our community. This year with your support we were able to sponsor 43 families, including 82 children.

Special thanks to

The Eisenberg Family, Karen Vidoli, St. Mary's Church
Berkshire Bank of Lee Lee Bank of Lee
Lee Sons & Daughters of Italy Edwards, Krol & Nazarov
Casella's (formerly Daley and Sons Trucking) Cintas of Lee
Norman Rockwell Museum Kiwanis Club of Lee
Lee Youth Bowling Peter & Robin Burratto
St. Mary's Parishioners Crown Jewelers
Banana Republic Pat and Joe Eisenberg & Family
Dan & Stephanie Cohen The Terry & Hopkins Families
Lee Middle & High School Faculty Toole Agency
Abbotts Limousine Service Open Door Church
Fairview Physical & Sports Therapy Rachel Welch
St. Paul's Church, Stockbridge Norma Kelly
Daniel Decker and Members of Mass Pike Maintenance
Janet McKinstry & Tyringham Union Church

If we have omitted anyone, please forgive us and know that you are appreciated for everything you've done.

From the Area and the Diocese

YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST: "Why does Jesus come to us as the Eucharist? That He may kiss us with kisses from His Eucharistic mouth and lead us into the chambers of His wounds, where He speaks to our hearts of how much He loves us."

- St. Alphonsus Liguori, *Mensis Eucharisticus: Dies Duodecimus*, 3.

www.yearoftheeucharist.net

3 DAY TRIP TO OGUNQUIT, MAINE! Presented by the St. Peter Women's Guild Journey to the southern coast of Maine on June 7-9, 2022. Package includes: Roundtrip Deluxe Motor Coach, 2 nights at the lovely Meadowmere Resort in Ogunquit, ME, Wine and Cheese Welcome Greeting, 4 meals (2 Breakfasts & 2 Dinners), Kennebunkport Village Shops, Dinner at Jonathan's Restaurant, Lobster Clambake Dinner at Foster's, Ogunquit Playhouse, Guided Tour of Portland, Portland Head Lighthouse, Portland Discovery Cruise, Len Libby's Chocolate's, when Pigs Fly at the Kittery Shops, tips, taxes & gratuities. Costs are \$495 for a double occupancy, \$475 for a triple or \$675 for a single. Deposit of \$75 is due at sign up, and balance is due by May 5. For more information, please call Bobbie Kozlowski at 413-528-4961.

PRO-LIFE

*The radical
idea that
babies are
people too.*



In 2009, Terry Beatley sat down to interview 83 yr. old Dr. Bernard Nathanson--cofounder of NARAL (National Abortion Rights Action League) and a convert to Catholicism. The terminally-ill doctor admitted that he deceived the public, politicians & judges. He provides a pathway to healing for those exploited by abortion, exposes a racist population-control plan, explains the deadly "*Catholic Strategy*" and reveals the loss of parental rights over reproductive rights. All this is in *What If We Were Wrong: Keeping My Promise to America's Abortion King*--a must read for those who value life!



**PRAYER HELPERS OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD MONTHLY PRAYER FOR PRIESTS
IN THE DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD, MA**

Lord Jesus Christ, by the power of Your Cross and Resurrection, I beg You to send Your angels to defend priests as they fight a daily battle with Satan and his evil forces. May they always turn to You in trust and fidelity so that You can give them the graces they need to persevere in their difficult mission. Let clergy be ever mindful that they are Your humble servants and the stewards of the great mysteries of God. Strengthen [Name] and magnify his love of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass; never allow the temptations of the devil to blind him from seeing Your True Presence in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. Amen.

St. Peter Damien, ask God to renew priests and bishops with a deeper faith in the Holy Eucharist and a greater reliance on Mother Mary. Amen.


February 2022

“Who then is the priest?
He is the defender of truth,
who stands with angels,
gives glory with archangels,
causes sacrifices to rise
to the altar on high,
and shares Christ's
priesthood.”

—St. Gregory Nazianzen

To be added to the mailing list,
please contact:

Mrs. Anna Maria Dias, O.P.B.
P.O. Box 346, Ludlow, MA 01056
(413) 530-3198; faithfirst@1791.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Rev. Jeffrey Ballou	2 Rev. Anthony J. Creane	3 Rev. Wayne Biernat	4 Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI	5 Rev. Robert Coonan
6 Rev. Michael Bernier (Healing)	7 Rev. Barrent Pease	8 Rev. Daniel Cambra, MIC	9 Rev. C. Lee Gilbertson	10 Bishop Emeritus Timothy McDonnell	11 Fr. Jude Surowiec, OFM Conv. (Healing)	12 Rev. Lionel Bonneville
13 Fr. Benedict Fagone, OFM Conv.	14 Rev. Donatus Ironuma	15 Rev. John Larson, MIC	16 Rev. Norman Bolton	17 Rev. William Hamilton	18 Rev. Dariusz Wudarski	19 Pope Francis
20 Most Rev. William Byrne	21 Rev. Henry Dorsch	22 Very Rev. James McCurry, OFM Conv.	23 Rev. Charles DiMascola	24 Very Rev. John Lessard (Healing)	25 Rev. Paul Bombadier	26 Rev. John McDonagh
27 Rev. William Pomerleau	28 Rev. Daniel Pacholec	<i>Our Lady, Mother of the Word made flesh, intercede for our diocese and its priests. Through their love for the priesthood and the Eucharist, may they inspire more men to consider a priestly vocation. Amen.</i>				

www.prayerhelpersofthepreciousblood.org

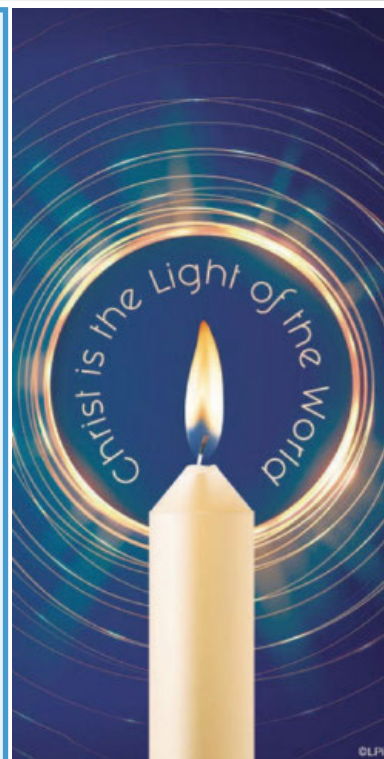
GOSPEL MEDITATION | JANUARY 30, 2022 | 4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

St. Oscar Romero (1917-1980) was a “Salvadoran Roman Catholic archbishop who was a vocal critic of the violent activities of government armed forces, right-wing groups, and leftist guerrillas involved in El Salvador’s civil conflict (Encyclopedia Britannica).” As a voice of the voiceless, he was an outspoken champion of the poor who were the ones most affected by the civil unrest and violence. His advocacy provoked several attempts on his life. Nonetheless, St. Oscar Romero was convinced that before all else his faith in the resurrected Christ and the values of the Gospel trumped any earthly concern or worry. He walked with complete confidence and trust. On March 24, 1980, St. Oscar Romero was assassinated while celebrating Mass. Such is often the fate of those who challenge the socio-political agendas of the day.

We may look at the example of witness of St. Oscar Romero as something extraordinary. In one sense it is. Through the power of God, an ordinary human being did extraordinary things. But, in and of himself, St. Oscar Romero was simply a humble, loving servant of God. Oscar knew not only the power of love but the risk that comes when loving unconditionally. The beauty of God’s message was able to shine in and through him because he was able to step out of the way and be a vessel. One can assume that for St. Oscar Romero, one’s earthly life has no merit when faith, integrity, conviction, zeal and love are jettisoned. Fear and apprehension had no grip on this man who not only saw but spoke the truth.

Do we speak the truth? It makes us feel good to speak of God as love. But have we ever considered the ramifications of this radical message? There are assaults on human life occurring daily. More and more the value and worth of a human being is being reduced and minimized. We are becoming widgets in the production of life. In our whole simple humble ways, we too are called to be prophets. Knowing who you are and what is within your means to do, how can you make God’s love real, stand up for what is right, and give witness to the sacredness of all that is around you?

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January 30th, 2022



St. Mary's School
... where every child shines!

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL'S ANNUAL PARISH APPEAL

Over the past three weeks, you have read in these columns some testimonials that give witness to how important our parochial school is to our parish, and, likewise, how important our parish is to our school. We believe that St. Mary's School plays a crucial role in developing our youth, both academically, and more importantly, spiritually and morally. Our world needs people to put into action the Gospel values; our school strives to teach these values by example and action, as well as in the lessons.

Learn. Pray. Serve.

Perhaps your family is considering sending your children to St. Mary's School? Or perhaps you know other families in the area who are looking for an elementary school that teaches with a moral compass, and also celebrates the Catholic faith as we study throughout the year. Please encourage families to come look at our school! Catholic Schools Week is a national week-long celebration from January 30 - February 5, 2022. We are hosting an **Open House from 12 noon - 2 pm on Sunday, February 6th**. Those interested are encouraged to call Miss Maiorano, our Interim Principal, at 413-243-1079 for more information.

The reality is, it does cost money to run the school and our fundraising events have been challenged because of the pandemic. We are now reaching out to all parishioners with an intentional ask: **"The gift you have received, give as a gift."** ~ Matthew 10:8

Would you consider giving a gift to St. Mary's School, if you have not already done so this year?

We encourage you to participate in this year's SMS Parish Appeal by contributing a financial gift *that is meaningful to you* in 2022. No gift is too big; no gift is too small. You can either use the school envelopes to donate, or you can donate online for your convenience:

<https://www.stmaryslee.org/donate.html>

The students, families, teachers, staff, and school board wish to sincerely thank you for your generosity, as well as your prayers, which sustain us throughout the year.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: Who are the three Biblical archangels?

(answer on page 3)

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