

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish

545 Stratfield Road

Fairfield, CT 06825-1872

Tel. (203) 333-9065

Fax: (203) 333-2562

Email: info@olaffld.org

Website: <https://www.olaffld.org>

*“Ad Jesum per Mariam”
To Jesus through Mary.*

Clergy/Lay Leadership

Rev. Peter A. Cipriani, Pastor

Rev. Michael Flynn, Parochial Vicar

Rev. Marcel Saint Jean, In Residence

Deacon Raymond John Chervenak

Deacon Robert McLaughlin

Michael Cooney, Director of Music

Masses (Schedules subject to change)

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4 PM

Sunday Masses: 7:30 AM, 9 AM 10:30 AM
and 12:00 PM (Subject to change)

Morning Daily Mass: (Mon.-Sat.) 7:30 AM

Evening Daily Mass: (Mon.-Fri.) 5:30 PM

Holy Days: See Bulletin for schedule

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 3:00-3:45 PM or by appointment.

Every Thursday: 7-8:00 PM

Rosary/Divine Mercy Chaplet

7 AM Monday-Saturday, Rosary

8 AM First Saturday of each month, Rosary

3 PM Monday-Friday, Divine Mercy
Chaplet and Rosary

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

First Friday of each month from 8 AM

Friday to 7:15 AM Saturday. To volunteer

contact Grand Knight, Michael Lauzon at
(203) 817-7528.

Novenas

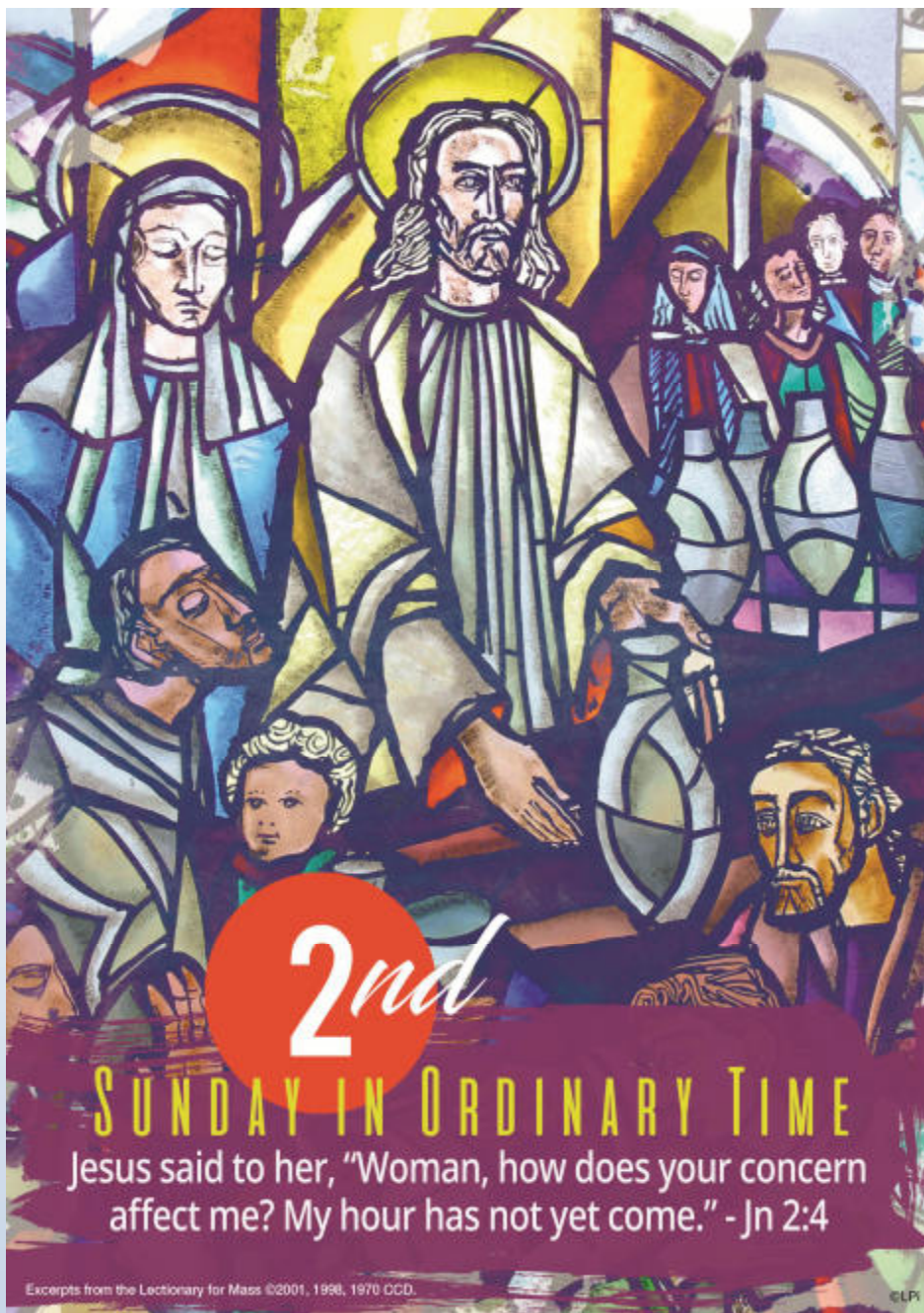
Miraculous Medal-8 AM. Monday

Saint Joseph-8 AM. Wednesday

Divine Mercy-8 AM. Friday

Parish Membership

Our parish family invites all of its members to participate fully in our spiritual and social life. Every family moving into the parish is requested to register at the Rectory or go to our website for a registration form. If you move to another parish, or change your address, notify the Rectory.



Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

Anyone interested in becoming a Roman Catholic becomes a part of this process, as can any adult Catholic who has not received all the Sacraments of initiation. For further information contact the Faith Formation office.

Sacrament of Baptism

This Sacrament is celebrated on Sundays at 1:00 PM. It is required that parents participate in a Pre-Baptismal class. Classes are held on the third Saturday of the month. Registration is required by calling the parish office.

Sacrament of Marriage

Please contact the parish office as soon as possible so as to ensure a proper time and adequate preparation for this Sacrament. Pre-Cana or Engaged Encounters are required.

Anointing of the Sick Ministry to the Sick and Elderly

This Sacrament of healing expresses the love of God and our Church for our sick, our shut-ins and the elderly, unable to come to Church. For the dying, please contact the Rectory immediately. For the confined, the elderly and our shut-ins, whether at home, or in the hospital, please inform the Rectory.



- Wedding Feast in Fairfield -

When a couple profess their love for each other, they promise to build a life together.

In today's first reading we hear the prophet announce: 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.

The prophet is highlighting the importance and necessity of having God as the fundamental and foundational part of one's life and one's hope of building a family. In Psalm 127, we hear the Psalmist say "unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build." Very similar to the story of the three pigs. How many of us who when constructing our dream home would build it out of straw? That kind of material invites failure and disaster.

In the Gospel of Matthew, when Peter professes that Jesus is the Christ, Jesus responds by saying: "You are Peter, and upon this Rock, I shall build my Church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

The powers of Hell seek only to destroy and tear down. Where there is joy they hope to supplant it with misery, where there is love, hatred, where there is harmony and peace discord and division. In order to resist such storms of evil, we must build our lives and families upon the foundation of Jesus Christ. Our lives of prayer will then become the re-enforced steel supports that will guarantee that everything stays firmly in place.

This is why so often in Scripture God's relationship with His people is spoken of in terms of a Wedding ceremony and Marital relationship.

We cannot imagine a more festive, more joy and fulfilled day than when attending a Wedding ceremony and reception. As the song goes, "love is in the air" and that love is everywhere especially in the hearts of those joining in the wonderfully exciting festivities. And so today it is appropriate that when trying to describe how it is that God feels about us, the prophet does so in terms of marriage imagery.

Like a couple newly married, God's love for us is always fresh, exciting, and new. God is literally head over heels in love with each of us. And there is nothing that God wants more than to celebrate His love for us and do so in a most festive and joy-packed way. And this is precisely the nature of the Sacraments. They are a celebration of God's love for us, a celebration of His commitment to us. And not just any commitment, much more than until death do us part, but one that is to last forever.

We are brought into existence by infinite, eternal and

all powerful love...we are living products of this incredible love which is meant to last us an everlasting life of love, peace and joy in Heaven: the never-ending wedding reception.

Typically at a wedding it is the Father who gives the Bride away to the Bridegroom. There is no greater or more precious gift that God the Father gives to His Son Jesus Christ than us.

This is why of all places and events, Jesus chooses a Wedding Feast to perform His first miracle and in doing so put all people on alert that the Messiah has come.

It is not a miracle where Jesus raises someone from the dead, cures a terrible disease or forgives some awful sin, it is a miracle of joy because when you truly and deeply love someone, you want them to be happy.

And one's condition of joy will be determined by the strength of love in one's life. And if in one's life, one has the love of God, then one has an infinite source of love to draw from in which to love other people, beginning with one's family.

Today's celebration of the Wedding Feast of Cana should remind us of the beauty, majesty and joy of the Mass. Jesus turns water into wine. During Mass through the words of Consecration the Holy Spirit descends from Heaven as once He did upon the Blessed Virgin Mary, and descending upon the gifts of bread and wine is able as once He did in Mary, transform these gifts into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

And in so doing we are now given the awesome and most privileged opportunity to receive Jesus Christ in Holy Communion. Emphasis on the word "Communion." This is the ultimate building a life together.

As a husband and wife receive each other heart, mind, soul and body and together build a life of love and devotion with each other and for their children, we receive Christ so that together we might build lives of love and help build a world filled with more goodness, peace, mercy and joy.

At Cana, everyone is enthralled that the host saved the best wine for last so to speak. In our love for Christ and His Church there will be a constant progression of grace, that always saving the best for last...except there is no last...there is only that providing the best upon best...each grace and blessing its own stepping stone that builds that road of hope and joy that will lead us to the ultimate wedding reception in Heaven, where with God and our loved ones we shall celebrate forever.

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time January 16, 2022

Parish Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday, 9 AM to 4 PM
Friday, 9 AM to 12 PM

Assumption Catholic School

Mrs. Stacy Clements, Principal - (203) 334-6271
Grades: Pre-K 3 through 8 Hours: 8:40 AM - 3 PM
Before and After School Programs Available
(Before School program begins at 7:00 AM and After School program ends 5:30 PM)

Faith Formation

Mr. Frank Macari, Director - (203) 367-1108
Email address: Our.lady.assumption@snet.net
Tuesday Classes For Grades 1-5 from 4:15-5 PM
For Grades 6-8 from 7-7:45 PM
Office of Faith Formation Hours: Weekdays 10 AM - 3 PM
and Tuesdays 10 AM-5:30 PM (during school year)

Parish Finance Council

Our parish Finance Council is a consultative body of lay persons established to advise the pastor in matters pertaining to the financial affairs of the church. The chairman is Ron Fiske, (203) 330-0375.

Parish Activities

American Heritage Girls Troop #4862: Monthly (except summer), 3rd Saturdays, 2:30 PM, parish center. For girls ages 5-18. Jillian Plomin at jplomin@gmail.com.

Altar Society of St. Joseph the Worker: Monthly, 1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month following 7:30 AM Mass. Cleans and beautifies the Sanctuary and chapels in the church.

Alcoholics Anonymous Friday, 8:00 PM, parish hall.
Narcotics Anonymous Wednesday 7:30 PM, parish hall.

Bible Study: Thursdays, 9:15 AM and 7 PM, parish center. Study sessions will be posted in our bulletin. Currently suspended.

Choir: Adults: Wednesday, 7 PM in the church.
Resurrection Choir: Sings at funeral Masses.
Contact Michael Cooney, Director of Music, at (203) 572-2213 or email music@olaffld.org for details.
Currently suspended

Knights of Columbus: Monthly, 2nd & 4th Tuesday, 7 PM parish hall. Grand Knight Michael Lauzon at (203) 817-7528 or email mplauzon@aol.com.

Parish Nurses: Monthly, 2nd Wednesday, Sept. to June, at 7 PM St. Vincent Medical Center

Blood pressure screening: Currently suspended

Sisters in Faith: Monthly, 2nd Monday, 7 - 9 PM, parish hall, except July & August. Ministry for women of Assumption Church. Mary Garbe at marygarbe@gmail.com.

Mass Intentions



Saturday, January 15th

4:00 p.m. Rev. Msgr Ernest T. Esposito
(3rd Year Anniversary)

Sunday, January 16th

7:30 a.m. Lachance & Grondin Families
9:00 a.m. Mary Iassogna
10:30 a.m. Dr. Edward McPadden
12:00 p.m. Solange Anziano

Weekday Masses

Mon. 1/17 7:30 a.m. Special Intention of Lori Bowman
5:30 p.m. Nandor Merfalvi
Tues. 1/18 7:30 a.m. Lachance & Grondin Families
5:30 p.m. J.B. Parke
Wed. 1/19 7:30 a.m. Rosemary D'Alisera Bruno
5:30 p.m. Alexander & Beatrice Gaydos
Thurs. 1/20 7:30 a.m. Raymond Petrucciano
5:30 p.m. Mario DiNatale
Fri. 1/21 7:30 a.m. Lachance & Grondin Families
5:30 p.m. Special Intention of Barbara Bologna
Sat. 1/22 7:30 a.m. Walter James Donne

Saturday, January 22nd

4:00 p.m. Madelyn & Raymond Foley

Sunday, January 23rd

7:30 a.m. Linda Pucci
9:00 a.m. Alfred Pagliuco & Raymond Wojna, Sr.
10:30 a.m. Dr. Aldlfo Luciano
12:00 p.m. Dale Reed (20th Year Anniversary)



*Our Sanctuary Light
Will burn this week in
Loving Memory of Edward & Kay Eustace*

*Our Devotional Light
Will burn this week for in
Loving Memory of Rick D'Amico*



PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Mary Alberico	Fran Daly	Noah Martinez
Paul Alvarez	Michael Devaney	Robyn McDaniel
Fr. Ronald Amiot	Larry DiPalma	Allison McGrath
Josephine Amiot	Tricia Duffy	Norma Mc Nerney
Christopher Amiot	Sandy Erickson	Rita Meyers
Ellie Art	Dolores Kuczo	Frank Minardi
Rita Bellavance	Diane & Anthony	Meghan Moore
Michael Black	Gilbertie	Leroy Moyer
Eleanor Bruckmann	Holly Graham	Al Panico
Ken Burns	Leanne Gransden	Craig Renzulli
Bella Burns	Amy Hanson	Gerry Ressigue
Francisca Campos	John Howley	John Salgado
Letitia Ciccio	Dragen Lesko	David Van Vlack
Lucille Costello	Harold Liskov	Patty Vitola
Marilyn Croce	Jamie Mack	K.J. Webb
Jayne D'Amico	Fr. George Mansour	

January 8/9

2022

Weekend Offertory:	\$6,085.00
Online Giving:	\$3,255.00
2nd Collection (Capital Improvements)	\$1,162.00

Our second collection for next weekend is for the Church in Latin America & the Caribbean.

Thank You



DONATE Online

We realize many of our parishioners are still not be able to attend Mass regularly, please consider making your offertory through Online Giving. Please visit our website and click on the Tab "Donate" and create an account.

Statements for 2021

Contribution Statements will be going out at the end of January to all households whose annual contributions totaled **\$250.00 and above**. If you are not expecting to receive a statement, but would like one for your records, please call Janet at the parish office.

Church in Latin America and the Caribbean

Our second collection next weekend, January 22/23 encourages us to "**Share Our Faith**". Bishop Caggiano reminds us we are called to be in solidarity through prayer and action with our brothers and sisters in those countries. Strategies to train and support evangelization leaders are vital to reach those who are disconnected from the life and mission of the Church in these parts of our world by developing catechetical classes, youth programs and young adult ministries; as well as training lay leaders and catechists and expanding religious and seminary formation. Supporting this collection makes a difference in the lives of the Catholic Faithful in Latin America and the Caribbean. Please take this opportunity to "**Share Our Faith**" with them through your financial generosity.

The Use of Parish Support Envelopes

Our parish mails collection envelopes to households who members are registered in our parish. Using the envelope system is one way that a parish can verify your participation in weekly Masses should you request a sponsor certificate, signed parish affiliation form, sacraments for your child, and the Sacrament of Marriage for adults. When you use the envelopes provided for the parish collections, all your contributions are recorded so that an end-of-year summary may be sent to you for income tax preparation. If you are not sure of your registration status or you currently do not receive weekly collection envelopes, **please contact the parish office**.

Pray to Protect Human Life!
January 19-27, 2022

Join thousands of Catholics nationwide in the annual Respect Life novena, 9 Days for Life, which begins Wednesday, January 19 through Thursday, January 27. Get daily intentions, brief reflections, and suggested actions to help build a culture of life directly via email by signing up at:

<https://www.respectlife.org/9-days-signup>

You may also visit our website for the daily novena or we have made available a limited supply of printed copies in the hall entry way.

Respect Life Adoration

Anticipating the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children on Saturday January 22nd, **on Friday January 21st, following the 7:30 AM Mass we will have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament available until 5:00 PM.** The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be prayed as well that day at 3:00 PM followed by the Holy Rosary. Please set aside some prayer time and before our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament pray for the sanctity of ALL Human Life beginning in the womb. Without this most fundamental right to life...to be born...there are no other rights one can share and enjoy. And how fortunate and blessed we are to be able to do this, because it is a reminder that we continue to enjoy the great blessing of life.

Special Family Mass

Fr. Peter invites families with young children to attend a special celebration on **Sunday, January 23rd at our 9:00 AM Mass**. What better way for your children to celebrate Mass by participating in the Homily. Being involved at Mass, your children will be reminded of the **REAL** meaning of Jesus' life and teachings!

House Blessing



Blessing.

As we continue to navigate through a very rough and challenging and in many instances heart-breaking and heart-aching year, the need to draw strength from God's blessings seems more necessary than ever. And what better way to receive those abundant blessings of peace, comfort, strength, healing and protection than with a thorough House

If interested, **please call the Rectory to set up an appointment**. Myself, Father Flynn, and Deacons Ray and Rob will be sharing in the distribution of these abundant graces. May this continued New Year be one for all of you of great happiness, health and holiness!

Candlemas Blessing

The Presentation of the Lord is celebrated on **Wednesday, February 2nd**. During our **daily Masses at 7:30 AM**, a Candlemas Blessing of Candles will be incorporated into the Masses. These blessed Candles will be available for parishioners to take home immediately following the Mass. Remaining blessed candles will be available in the hall during the day and at the 5:30 PM Mass. You can never have enough blessings and blessed items in your possession.

Saint Blaise Throat Blessing

In honor of Saint Blaise Feast Day, we will offer blessing of the throats on **Thursday, February 3rd following the 7:30 AM and 5:30 PM Daily Masses**. In addition, a **lunch time throat blessing will be offered from 12:00 to 1:00 PM in the parish hall**. We remember the faith of Saint Blaise each year and pray for blessings upon those who suffer from throat ailments. Moreover, always remember this blessing is a sign of our faith in God's protection and love for us and for the sick, and for those who need our prayers.

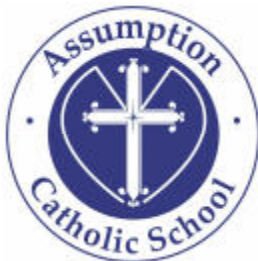
Parishioner's Corner

Looking for some further outstanding reflections on the Sunday Mass Reading? Please visit Assumption's own Dr. Frank DeStefano's wonderful "*Sunday Sunday*" blogs at <https://doctorfrank.blogspot.com/>.

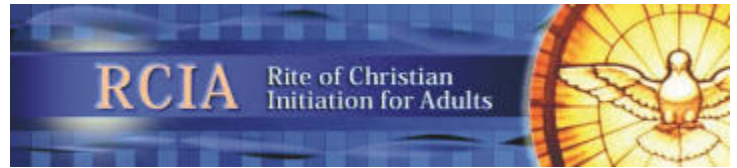
Center of Mercy Reconciliation

As a Center of Mercy parish in the Diocese of Bridgeport, we offer the **Sacrament of Reconciliation each week on Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:00 PM**. As Catholics we have the gift of Confession to restore our relationship with God and share in His glory. This is a wonderful opportunity to set aside our sinful ways and to draw nearer to the Lord. **In addition, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** will be offered during this time as well, as long as there will be people present during this time to adore our Lord.

Assumption Catholic School Open House



Assumption Catholic School invites you to their 2022-23 Pre-K - 8th Grade **Registration Open House on Saturday, February 5th at 11:00am**. Kindly **RSVP by calling 203-334-6271 or emailing to admissions@oloaffld.org**. Assumption is a vibrant and diverse community of students from Pre-K to 8th grade that reside in Fairfield, Easton, Bridgeport, Trumbull, Stratford and other surrounding towns. Assumption offers a faith-filled environment that provides an opportunity for all students to grow and learn and become the best version of themselves. Assumption is more than just a school community, it is a family! To learn more, visit the website: www.assumptionfairfield.org.



R.C.I.A. Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults *Who is it for?*

It is for you:

- If you have not been Baptized or received First Communion/Confirmation
- If you as an adult want to know more about your faith
- If you feel your faith is just a habit and you want to know more

It could be for:

- Someone interested in knowing about the Catholic faith
- Someone who might consider becoming a member of the Catholic Church
- Someone who has no church to call their own
- Someone who is a member of another faith community and has expressed an interest in the Catholic faith

Please contact the Faith Formation office at **203-367-1108** or by email at our.lady.assumption@snet.net for more information.

Convalidation of Marriage

Like other couples in your parish or family, you may be wondering if your marriage is fully recognized by the Catholic Church. Catholic Church law ordinarily requires baptized Roman Catholics to marry before a priest or deacon.

Catholics who exchange marriage vows in the presence of only ministers from other religious traditions or authorized civic officials (i.e., Justice of the Peace) are not considered validly married in the eyes of the Catholic Church, which offers Marriage in the unique form of a Sacrament called Holy Matrimony: a sacrament similar in scope and power to that of Holy Communion/Eucharist. In fact, Holy Matrimony is meant to signify (a sacrament is a visible sign indicating a greater invisible and/or supernatural reality) the enduring and unbreakable love for Jesus Christ the Bridegroom for His Bride the Church.

If you feel as though you are in a position where Convalidation is possible, please call the Rectory to discuss the process involved. Couples who are not in a recognized Catholic Marriage should not receive Holy Communion and are not qualified to be Catholic godparent until the Convalidation process is complete.

Regardless of what happened in the past, the Catholic Church invites you to bring new meaning to your lives by embracing the vocation of marriage and dedicating your family's mission to sharing God's love.

JANUARY 22, 2022

DAY OF PRAYER

for the Legal Protection
of Unborn Children

Celebrating the Life of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Sacred Heart University Multicultural Affairs, the Office for Diversity & Inclusion, the Welch College of Business & Technology, the Davis & Henley College of Nursing, College of Arts & Sciences, College of Health Professions and the Farrington College of Education present: **Celebrating the Life of Martin Luther King Jr. on Tuesday, January 18th at 1:30 PM in the Edgerton Theater (5151 Park Avenue, Fairfield).** The guest speaker for the event will be Father Reggie Norman. Father Reggie Norman is the vicar of the African American Apostolate of Catholics for the Diocese of Bridgeport and the pastor for Our Lady of Fatima Roman Catholic Church in Wilton. He will be discussing Dr. King's legacy and memory, as well as how Dr. King's work and the work of so many others during the Civil Rights Movement should be continued not just by African Americans but all of us in society. All are welcome.



Seek22 Conference

This February 4 – 6, gather with others at St. Pius X in Fairfield, CT for SEEK22. This conference draws in 25,000+ attendees and this year it can be attended locally! Encounter the Source of all your heart's desires and find the true place of the Gospel in your everyday life. You will be empowered, encouraged, and equipped to experience the hope of Jesus Christ. Dive deep into the heart of the Gospel message with some of the world's best speakers!

Pray, share meals, hear inspiring talks, partake in relevant discussions, and enjoy holy leisure together. **What if you said yes?** For details, schedule, and registration please visit: www.bit.ly/spx-seek2022. Contact Paola Peña by email at ppena@st-pius.org if you have any questions.

St. Sebastian | January 20th

Not much is known about the life of St. Sebastian (256 – 287), except that he was a Roman martyr whose name has been mentioned throughout history since early 350.

We see St. Sebastian many times in art, especially from iconic paintings from Guido Reni, Andrea Mantegna and Hendrick ter Brugghen. Historical scholars now agree that a spiritual story has the beloved saint entering the Roman army because only there could he assist Christian martyrs without arousing suspicion on himself. Eventually he was found out, brought before Emperor Diocletian and delivered to Mauritanian archers to be shot to death. Pierced with arrows, he was left for dead, but managed to survive. He recovered from his wounds but still refused to leave.

One day, St. Sebastian took up a position near where the emperor was to pass. He confronted the emperor, condemning him for his cruelty to Christians. This time the sentence of death was carried out, and St. Sebastian was beaten to death with clubs. Today he is the patron saint of athletes.

©LPi

Readings for the Week

Sunday:	Isaiah 62:1-5/Psalm 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 [3]/ 1 Corinthians 12:4-11/John 2:1-11
Monday:	1 Samuel 15:16-23/Psalm 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mark 2:18-22
Tuesday:	1 Samuel 16:1-13/Psalm 89:20, 21-22, 27-28/ Mark 2:23-28
Wednesday:	1 Samuel 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Psalm 144:1b, 2, 9-10/Mark 3:1-6
Thursday:	1 Samuel 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Psalm 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-11, 12-13/Mark 3:7-12
Friday:	1 Samuel 24:3-21/Psalm 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11/ Mark 3:13-19
Saturday:	2 Samuel 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27/Psalm 80:2-3, 5-7/Mark 3:20-21
Next Sunday:	Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 15/1 Corinthians 12:12-30 or 12:12-14, 27/ Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Communion Antiphon

“You have saved the best wine until now.” - Psalm 65:1

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments It Takes All Kinds

“If every flower wanted to be a rose,” wrote St. Therese of Lisieux, “spring would lose its loveliness.”

Who is God asking you to be today? There is an obvious answer that springs to mind right out of the gate. God wants me to be a good person (a good father, a good husband) today; today, God wants me to be a saint.

But this answer fails to get to the heart of the question. We are all striving today to serve the same Spirit, but we are given different gifts to do so. The one who has the gift of knowledge may fail if today he decides he wants to be a healer. The one who has the gift of “varieties of tongues” might falter in the expression of wisdom.

Think about the wedding at Cana and the players in the scene: the servers, the guests, the bride and groom. They all have a unique role to play, and though it is to the servers that Mary gives the instruction, “Do whatever he tells you,” her words apply to all.

Today, are we called to be the servers — do we wait on God's instruction and carry it out, no matter how foolish or impossible it may seem to our human ears? Are we asked to be the disciples, to bear witness to a miracle and to give our testimony? Are we called to imitate the Blessed Mother herself and give encouragement to follow God's word?

Let us examine our gifts and listen in the silence of our hearts to the direction of the Spirit. Then and only then, let us do whatever He tells us.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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