

# Our Lady of the Assumption Church

## Osterville, Massachusetts

76 Wianno Avenue  
Osterville, MA 02655

Telephone 508-428-2011  
Fax 508-428-0154  
www.assumption-capecod.org

### Parish Office Hours

Monday - Friday  
8:30 am - 3:00 pm  
Closed 12:30pm-1:30pm

**Administrator** Rev. Msgr. John A. Perry

**Parochial Vicars** Rev. Matthew Gill  
Rev. Sudhir Nayak

**Deacons** Deacon James M. Barrett  
Deacon Keith R. Caldwell  
Deacon Theodore E. Lukac

### Director of Music

Dot Lortie, 508-771-1029; lortie@comcast.net

**Director of Altar Guild** Linda M. Gademan

### Director of Faith Formation—GIFT

Bill Bussiere, 508-775-5744,x119;  
Billb@olvparish.org

### St. Vincent de Paul Society

Jim Hines, President; Meets the first Tuesday of the month in the Church basement at 5:00pm

### Our Lady's Guild

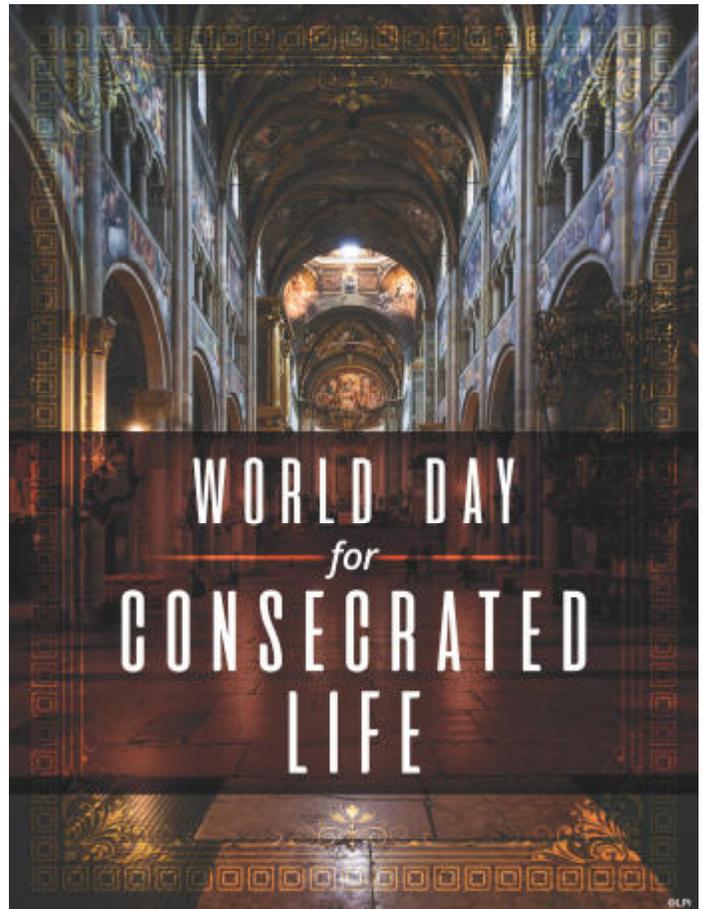
Rosalyn Doran and Nuala Quinn, Co-Presidents  
76 Wianno Avenue, Osterville, MA 02655

### Knights of Columbus

Bill Shinnick, 901-299-2024

### Bulletin Submissions

Notices must be received two Thursdays (nine days) prior to publication date. Listings subject to editing. Send to: kim@olvparish.org



### Celebration of the Eucharist

*\*See pre-registration details in the bulletin\**

**Saturday**, Vigil, 4pm

**Sunday**, 9am and 11am

**Daily Mass:** Monday-Friday at 8am

Masses will continue to be Livestreamed on  
olvparish.org

**Confessions:** Saturdays from 3pm to 3:40pm in the Parish Annex building. Please enter through the Annex and be seated at an appropriate distance from others as you wait for the Sacrament.



**OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION**

*January 30 and 31*

Sat 4pm Anita Louise Fitzgerald  
Sun 9am Michael Herrity  
11am Lucas Warner

*February 1-5*

Mon 8am For the Parish  
Tues 8am Rita and John Kusek  
Wed 8am Ted O'Rourke  
Thurs 8am Dr. Joseph Coyle  
Fri 8am Celeste "Elizabeth" O'Keeffe

*February 6 and 7*

Sat 4pm Terese A. Burik  
Sun 9am Joseph Ryan  
11am Edmund Murphy

**OUR LADY OF VICTORY**

*January 30 and 31*

Sat 4:30pm  
  
Sun 9am Deceased Members of the DeMelo Family  
11am Barbara Murphy  
5:30pm

*February 1-6*

Mon 9am Gathering Grandmothers  
Tues 9am Dr. James Fanning  
Wed 9am Joan Gould  
Thurs 9am John Hoy  
Fri 9am Michael Donohoe  
Sat 9am Community Mass  
Louise Sawaya

*February 6 and 7*

Sat 4:30pm Dorothy Walker  
  
Sun 9am Jeffrey Hall II  
11am Walter N. Allegro  
5:30pm

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

*No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church, no matter what your current family and marital situation, no matter what your personal history, age, background, race, etc., no matter what your own self image; you are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved and respected here.*

**STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE**

We are blessed at Our Lady of the Assumption, Our Lady of Victory and at Our Lady of Hope to have thoughtful, generous parishioners who support the good works of our faith community with their time, talent and treasure. Thank you for your spiritual and financial commitment to our Parishes.

**SECOND COLLECTIONS**

**January 31:** It is **Harvest Sunday Weekend**. Money collected is forwarded to the Parish's St. Vincent de Paul Society to aid our brothers and sisters in the community.

**February 7: Catholic Home Mission Appeal**

**February 14: No second collection**

**Electronic Giving**

We understand this is a challenging time. If your means allow and you would like to mail your offering to the parish office, we are still checking our mail each day. We are also pleased to offer WeShare as a method to contribute electronically.

Visit our website:

<https://www.assumption-capecod.org/>  
and see link to the We Share at the bottom of the homepage. *Thank you.*



Kindly remember in your prayers the recently deceased and all those who have asked for our prayers.

**Larry Burke**  
**Danny Sullivan**

*Those we love don't go away,  
They walk beside us every day;  
Unseen, unheard, but always near,  
They are always in our hearts, so dear.*

**World Day for Consecrated Life**

*“Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you.”*

—Saint Augustine

Throughout the centuries, men and women who have dedicated themselves to the consecrated life in the Church have had a profound effect on civilization through the founding of religious orders, monasteries, convents, hospitals, schools, orphanages, and missions. Most importantly, so many of these consecrated men and women have devoted their lives to prayer and meditation, making remarkable sacrifices of worship and prayer for the benefit of souls, often taking vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. Some, of course, are well-known saints; many, however, live their consecrated lives humbly and quietly in obscurity. Today the Church remembers those who have dedicated their vocation to the consecrated life, both living and deceased, and asks for prayers for these men and women as well as for increased vocations to the consecrated life.

Pope Francis refers to the consecrated life as an encounter with God "born of the call." The Pope says, "This then is the consecrated life: praise which gives joy to God's people, prophetic vision that reveals what counts. It is a living *encounter* with the Lord in His people. It is a *call* to the faithful obedience of daily life and to the unexpected surprises from the Spirit. It is a *vision* of what we need to embrace in order to experience joy: Jesus."

Pope Benedict the XVI in offered this reflection in his homily On the World Day of Consecrated life in 2007:

“When one renounces everything to follow Christ, when one gives to him all that one holds most dear, braving every sacrifice as did the divine Teacher, the consecrated person who follows in Christ’s footsteps necessarily also becomes ‘a sign of contradiction’ because his/her way of thinking and living is often in opposition to the logic of the world.”

***A Prayer for Consecrated Persons***

God Our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as sisters, brothers, religious priests, consecrated virgins, and hermits, as well as members of Secular Institutes. Renew their knowledge and love for you, and send your Holy Spirit to help them respond generously and courageously to your will. Amen. (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)

Deacon Keith

**First Reading**     **Dt 18:15-20**

Moses spoke to all the people, saying:  
“A prophet like me will the LORD, your God, raise up for you from among your own kin; to him you shall listen.  
This is exactly what you requested of the LORD, your God, at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let us not again hear the voice of the LORD, our God, nor see this great fire any more, lest we die.’  
And the LORD said to me, ‘This was well said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their kin, and will put my words into his mouth; he shall tell them all that I command him.  
Whoever will not listen to my words which he speaks in my name, I myself will make him answer for it. But if a prophet presumes to speak in my name an oracle that I have not commanded him to speak, or speaks in the name of other gods, he shall die.’”

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Refrain: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

**Second Reading**     **1 Cor 7:32-35**

Brothers and sisters:  
I should like you to be free of anxieties.  
An unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord,  
how he may please the Lord.  
But a married man is anxious about the things of the world,  
how he may please his wife, and he is divided.  
An unmarried woman or a virgin is anxious about the things of the Lord,  
so that she may be holy in both body and spirit.  
A married woman, on the other hand,  
is anxious about the things of the world,  
how she may please her husband.  
I am telling you this for your own benefit,  
not to impose a restraint upon you,  
but for the sake of propriety  
and adherence to the Lord without distraction.

**Alleluia**

R. *Alleluia, alleluia.*  
The people who sit in darkness have seen a great light;  
on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death,  
light has arisen.  
R. *Alleluia, alleluia.*

**Gospel**     **Mk 1:21-28**

Then they came to Capernaum,  
and on the sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and taught.  
The people were astonished at his teaching,  
for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes.  
In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit;  
he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?  
Have you come to destroy us?  
I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”  
Jesus rebuked him and said,  
“Quiet! Come out of him!”  
The unclean spirit convulsed him and with a loud cry came out of him.  
All were amazed and asked one another,  
“What is this?  
A new teaching with authority.  
He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him.”  
His fame spread everywhere throughout the whole region of Galilee.

**St. Thomas Aquinas Prayer After Communion**

I thank You, Lord, Almighty Father, Everlasting God, for having been pleased, through no merit of mine, but of Your great mercy alone, to feed me, a sinner, and Your unworthy servant, with the precious Body and Blood of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. I pray that this Holy Communion may not be for my judgment and condemnation, but for my pardon and salvation.  
Let this Holy Communion be to me an armor of faith and a shield of good will, a cleansing of all vices, and a rooting out of all evil desires. May it increase love and patience, humility and obedience, and all virtues. May it be a firm defense against the evil designs of all my visible and invisible enemies, a perfect quieting of all the desires of soul and body. May this Holy Communion bring about a perfect union with You, the one true God, and at last enable me to reach eternal bliss when You will call me. I pray that You bring me, a sinner, to the indescribable Feast where You, with Your Son and the Holy Spirit, are to Your saints true light, full blessedness, everlasting joy, and perfect happiness. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Masses at Our Lady of the Assumption and Our Lady of Victory parishes.** The temporary schedule for each parish continues as follows with pre-registration for Sunday Mass required.

**Sunday Mass**

**Our Lady of the Assumption:**

Saturday, 4pm

Sunday, 9am and 11am

**Our Lady of Victory:**

Saturday, 4:30pm

Sunday, 9am, 11am and 5:30pm

\*All Masses at Our Lady of Victory will continue to be Livestreamed on olvparish.org

**Daily Mass Schedule**

**Our Lady of Victory:** Monday through Saturday at 9am.

**Our Lady of the Assumption:** Monday through Friday at 8am.

**Registration for daily Mass is not required at this time.**

The Rosary will take place as normal before Mass and we ask that people arrive 10-15 minutes early for daily Mass.

**Registration for weekend Masses begins on Sunday at noon and ends at 6pm on Friday, and at this time you must register each week.**

*Please note that the Mass registration email and phone lines are not checked after the 6 pm Friday deadline. Sending an email or leaving a message after that time does not constitute a registration*

**For OLA Masses:**

Please call 508.428.2011 x201 or email [massregistration@assumption-capecod.org](mailto:massregistration@assumption-capecod.org)

**For OLV Masses:**

508.775.5744 x107 or email [massregistration@olvparish.org](mailto:massregistration@olvparish.org) for OLV Masses.

**PLEASE BE SURE TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WITH EACH REGISTRATION:**

- Names of all attendees
- A Phone number
- And Date, time and church of the Mass you wish to attend

**Please wear a face covering into church, bring hand sanitizer, and arrive 20 minutes early.**

**What do I need to do for Mass?**

- **Please bring and wear a face covering into church.** A face covering is not primarily for yourself but for those around you.
- **Please bring hand sanitizer.** We will have sanitizer at the doors of the church, however this supply must be used prudently and carefully for all parishioners for several weeks.
- **You MUST come 20 minutes early.** This is crucial. We will not be able to keep social distancing if everyone shows up exactly at the time of the Mass.
- **Please follow the instructions of the staff/volunteers/signs.**

**Confessions**

Regularly scheduled confessions are available. Parishioners will have the opportunity to speak face to face or use a screen and social distance will be maintained.

**OLA Confessions: Saturdays from 3pm to 3:40pm** in the Parish Annex building. Please enter through the Annex and be seated at an appropriate distance from others as you wait for the Sacrament.

**OLV Confessions: Saturdays after the 9am Mass and from 3:30pm to 4:15pm** in the Parish Center. Please enter through the Parish Center door (*not the main office door*) and be seated at an appropriate distance from others as you wait for the Sacrament.

**TAKE FIVE FOR FAITH!**

*Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.*



**Sunday, Jan 31, 2021**

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

*Strengthen the partnership*

The relationship between parishes and schools is long and intimate—important to note at the start of Catholic Schools Week. After the first Catholic diocese was established in the United States in Baltimore, pastors lobbied at once for schools and religious to staff them. Frontier pastors vowed to build the school first and the church later. They understood that without proper religious education, the parish venture would certainly fail. Today, celebrate this essential partnership with a holy hour, candlelight prayer vigil, or special project in the parish for young people and their supporters. “What is this? A new teaching with authority.”

**Monday, Feb 01, 2021**

*Example is the best education*

Each day of Catholic Schools Week is the celebration of a component of Catholic education. Today we look at the experience of community. Through the relationships and interactions of service activities in the community and class trips to other environs, students get to practice the values they learn in their Catholic education and experience what it feels like to be making the world a better place. Plus they get a chance to observe others in community service and come to appreciate how they can continue caring for others their entire lives. Today, be an example of service to others. “[A]nnounce to them all that the Lord in his pity has done for you.”

**Tuesday, Feb 02, 2021**

**FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD**

*Teach a faith that grows on you*

Mary and Joseph bring their beloved firstborn to the temple at the appointed time, so Jesus can enter into the covenant with Yahweh that Jews have revered since Abraham. Not unlike infant Baptism today, it was—among other things—a powerful ritual of belonging that put the child on the right path to growing in faith. As we celebrate Catholic Schools Week—with the focus today being squarely on “the student”—may we never forget or neglect the promise of every young soul, so receptive to our efforts to plant the seeds of faith. “The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom.”

**Wednesday, Feb 03, 2021**

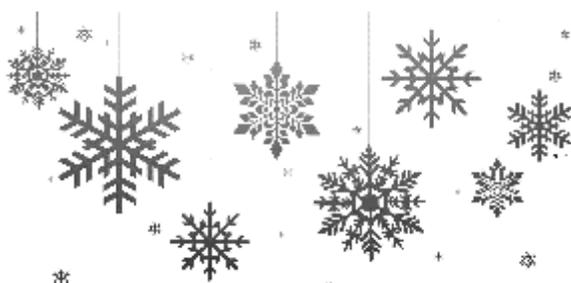
*One nation, under God*

Catholic schools have made a unique contribution to the nation, and today we can recognize and celebrate that contribution. At their very best, Catholic schools train students to grow both as members of the Catholic church and as productive citizens of the nation. By “rendering to Caesar and to God,” Catholic schools in the United States have managed to achieve that rare combination in world history, the development of a relatively harmonious church-state relationship that has endured for centuries. The NCEA website for suggestions on how to celebrate the nation during Catholic Schools Week.

“Many who heard him were astonished. They said, ‘Where did this man get all this? What kind of wisdom has been given him?’ ”

**Readings for the Week of January 31, 2021**

Sunday: Dt 18:15-20/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9 [8]/1 Cor 7:32-35/Mk 1:21-28  
Monday: Heb 11:32-40/Ps 31:20, 21, 22, 23, 24 [25]/Mk 5:1-20  
Tuesday: Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10 [8]/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32  
Wednesday: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a [cf. 17]/Mk 6:1-6  
Thursday: Heb 12:18-19, 21-24/Ps 48:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 9, 10-11 [cf. 10]/Mk 6:7-13  
Friday: Heb 13:1-8/Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9abc [1a]/Mk 6:14-29  
Saturday: Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [1]/Mk 6:30-34



**Thursday, Feb 04, 2021**

*Line things up*

Catholic schools prepare students to discover their vocation, so they can grow to use their gifts in service of church and world. Over the years, our notion of “vocation” has broadened significantly. A word that once designated those who take religious vows or are ordained into ministry is now used more broadly. No one defined vocation better than essayist and theologian Carl Frederick Buechner: “The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.” Are the two aligned in your life? And if not, how can you bring them into alignment?

“Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two.”

**Friday, Feb 05, 2021**

*Thank those who opened your mind*

Where would any of us be without our teachers? They did everything from helping us with our “three R’s” to opening our minds to new ways of seeing the world. The really great teachers taught us how to learn for ourselves and thus set us up for a lifetime of discovery and fulfillment. When was the last time you thanked a teacher? Today is the day Catholic Schools Week pays special attention to the faculty, staff, and volunteers that make it possible for these great schools to function. See NCEA website for suggestions on how to give thanks and recognition.

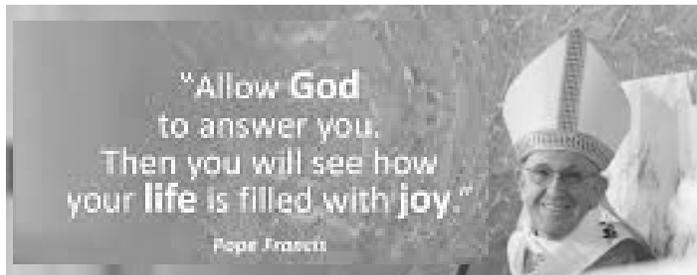
“The Lord is my helper, and I will not be afraid.”

**Saturday, Feb 06, 2021**

*Make faith a family affair*

We close Catholic Schools Week by recognizing the central role in Catholic education played by the family. The Second Vatican Council called the family “the domestic church” because it is in the home that faith is first formed and nurtured. Whether you live alone or with others, your home can be a sacred space of prayer and spirituality. Creating sacred space in your home includes prayer and scripture readings at meal times and before bed; praying the Rosary; placing a crucifix in a prominent place; and family traditions based on the liturgical seasons. for ways to recognize the family’s role in Catholic education and also to make your home a domestic church. Have at it!

“The Apostles gathered together with Jesus and reported all they had done and taught.”



**The Green Team**

It’s tempting to start the new year with lists and lists of what we want to accomplish. But Pope Francis has only one goal for us this year: create a culture of care.

Such a culture would overcome “indifference, waste and confrontation,” and help all of us deepen our ecological conversion. Source: Global Catholic Climate Movement



**Please Pray For A Priest Each Day**

Lord God, Let us pray that our gratitude for those in ordained life may inspire us to serve with open hearts.



- January 31: All Salesian Priests
- February 1: Rev. Brian Harrington
- February 2: Pope Francis
- February 3: Bishop Edgar da Cunha, SDV
- February 4: rev. Jason Brillhante
- February 5: Rev. Ted Brown
- February 6: Rev. Martin Buote





**Our Men and Women  
in the Service**

Our parishes pray for those currently serving, at home and abroad, in the military.

Pvt . 1st Class Michael Bilodeau, USM  
 LT Marius Bernotas, USN  
 ENS Andrius Bernotas, USN  
 Capt. Tyler Jean Nauss, USA  
 Capt. Sean Villano, USAF  
 Capt. Jonathan S. DeMille, USA  
 Sgt. Evan Salvaggio USA  
 2nd Lt. Liam G. Furey, USA  
 Spec 4 Charles Furey, National Guard, USA  
 Capt. Matthew Cavanaugh, USA  
 Maj. Dennis Williams, USA  
 1st Lt. Ian Horkan, USA  
 Colonel Paul J. Nugent, USMC  
 Capt. Justin M. D'Olimpio USAF  
 Maj. Andrew Ryan Wing, USMC  
 Sgt. Andrew Bowman USMC  
 Cpl. Brian J. Sullivan, USMC  
 Pvt. Jack DeLorey; RCT Patrick MacNeely  
 Warrant Officer Matthew Plicque, USA  
 2nd Lt Peter Murphy, Airborne  
 Chaplain Bob Monagle  
 Capt. Billy Murphy, USN  
 Cpl. Patrick J. Kelley  
 LCpl Andrew J. Kelley  
 LCPL Robert Connolly IV  
 Captain Sean P. Kelley, USN  
 PFC William Russell Perry  
 Sgt. Jacob W. Morash  
 Capt. Jared A. Ripperger  
 PFC Cory Briggs  
 Lt. Kalen Kropa  
 Capt. Michael Mayo Taylor, USA  
 Brig. General Benjamin T. Watson, USMC

Major John B. VanderVoort  
 PFC Tim Strong, USN  
 LCDR Conor O'Neil  
 1st Lt. Hannah E. MacLeod-Pryg USA  
 1st Lt. Lucas Pryg, USA  
 Warrant Officer Steve Capt. Matthew Antil Goodwin, USMC  
 2nd Lt Thomas O. Mullen, USAF  
 Staff Sgt. Joseph Moore  
 Pvt. Jake Bryan, USA  
 SO1 Michael Reeves USN  
 CO Rusty Williamson, USN  
 Spc. Alexander Kelsall, USA Surgeon  
 Capt. Michael D. Crowley, USMC  
 Capt. Christopher Roy  
 SPC Tucker McLoughlin, USA  
 Lt. Robert Havens, USAF  
 Lt. Cmdr. Andrew Noddin Poulin, USN  
 Lt. Kalen Kropa, USN  
 Lt. Katherine Noddin Poulin, USN  
 Lt. Stephen Noddin Poulin, USA  
 Spc. Brooks Noddin Poulin, USA  
 Lt. Cmdr. Catherine Long, USN  
 Matthew Tutunjian, CG;  
 QM2 Daniel-Lee Searfoss, USN.  
 To add a loved one or to let us know when they are no longer serving:  
 kim@olvparish.org



**Please Pray for the Sick of Our Parishes**



Mary Ann Barbara  
 John W. Best  
 Betty Brady  
 Peter F. Brady  
 Emily Calamari  
 Donald Capobianco  
 Joe Carpentieri  
 Stephen DeVeer  
 Irene Farrell  
 Barbara Korkuch  
 Jennifer Kuehne  
 Shaun Laughlan  
 Brenda Liakos  
 Barbara MacLean  
 Brad Martin  
 Patricia O'Connell  
 Elizabeth Garvey Olsen  
 Victoria Whalen  
 Eileen Reardon  
 Beatrice Savio  
 Richard Shea  
 Fred B. Williams

All Members of the Cancer Support Group  
 All those affected by COVID-19

If you or your immediate family member need to be added to the list or removed, please contact, kim@olvparish.org. Additions to "Our Sick" list will be printed for three months.

*Almighty and Eternal God,  
 You are the everlasting health of those  
 who believe in You.*

*Hear us for Your sick servants for who we implore the  
 aid of Your tender mercy, that being restored to bodily  
 health, they may give thanks to You in Your Church.  
 Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**PRAYER SHAWL REQUEST**

If you wish to request a prayer shawl, please fill out this form and place it in the collection basket. You may also contact Priscilla DeLeon-Vinson at 774-836-8030 or pdv@comcast.net



**Name of recipient:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

***Phone number needed for delivery of Prayer Shawl.***

**Please Read... Important Information**

Please note that the Mass registration email and phone lines *are not checked after the 6 pm Friday* deadline. **Sending an email or leaving a message after that time does not constitute a registration.** It takes time to respond to emails and phone calls, type the lists, sort them alphabetically and by family, print, and get the lists for seven Masses to the two churches. All this is done between 6 pm Friday and 10 am Saturday. These lists are being created for your safety, to ensure we are complying with state, local, and diocesan guidelines, and will be used in the event we need to alert attendees to a possible exposure. By your attendance at Mass, you are agreeing that neither you nor anyone you have come into contact with has any symptoms of illness, and you will alert either your physician, the local board of health, or OLV or OLA mass registration line (can be anonymous) with the date, time and church of the mass you attended if you test positive for COVID-19.

**Parish Offices Are Closed**

The OLV and OLA Parish Offices are closed for in-person business at this time. You can reach us via email or by leaving a phone message (contact information listed on front of bulletin) and we will be happy to assist you.

**Tax Donation Letter**

If anyone would like to request their tax donation letter for OLV, they can do so by calling the parish office, 508-775-5744 or emailing Kelley at [kjs@olvparish.org](mailto:kjs@olvparish.org). Those that need a letter from OLA, contact Gillie at 508-428-2011.



**Weather Cancellations**

During the week, if Barnstable schools are cancelled, Masses are cancelled as well.

If schools are delayed, morning Mass is cancelled. On the weekends, we will make the decision as early as possible.

In any case, please use your best judgment on travel, since conditions can change rapidly. We will post closings on the TV on WCVB, and on the radio stations WXTK, WCOD and Cool-102, as well as WQRC, WOCN, WKPE, and capecod.com. If we are able, we will also post on Facebook as well as our websites.



**FAITH in ACTION: Prepare A Meal for the Guests of St. Joseph's Home for the Homeless.**

Our Parishes have, for many years, taken in charge to prepare and serve meals for the 50 women and men who come there to find a night shelter. Our eight teams have covered every Wednesday night of the year. We are in great need of new volunteers: you will discover, as we did, that it is light work and wonderful rewards!

**FMI: call Francoise Rocher 508 771 6737 (5 to 7pm, and leave a message). Thank you.**

**Saint Blaise**

**Feast Day: February 3**

Blaise was a both a doctor and a bishop in the area that is today either Armenia or Turkey. In the beginning of the fourth century, Christians were being persecuted by the Romans. The Roman Emperor believed that arresting and punishing important leaders like Blaise would prevent other people from becoming followers of Christ.



While Blaise was being taken into custody, a distraught mother, whose only child was choking on a fishbone, threw herself at his feet and implored his intercession. Touched at her grief, he offered up his prayers, and the child was cured. Consequently, Saint Blaise is invoked for protection against injuries and illnesses of the throat.

As Blaise was led to Sebastea, the story goes, they met a poor woman whose pig had been seized by a wolf. At the command of Blaise, the wolf restored the pig to its owner, alive and unhurt. When he had reached the capital and was in prison awaiting execution, the old woman whose pig he had saved came to see him, bringing two fine wax candles to dispel the gloom of his dark cell.

St. Blaise is the patron saint of people with diseases of the throat. Traditionally, on St. Blaise's feast day there is a Blessing of the Throats. Two unlit candles are held next to each person's throat as the priest or deacon says, "Through the intercession of Saint Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

***This blessing will not take place this year.***

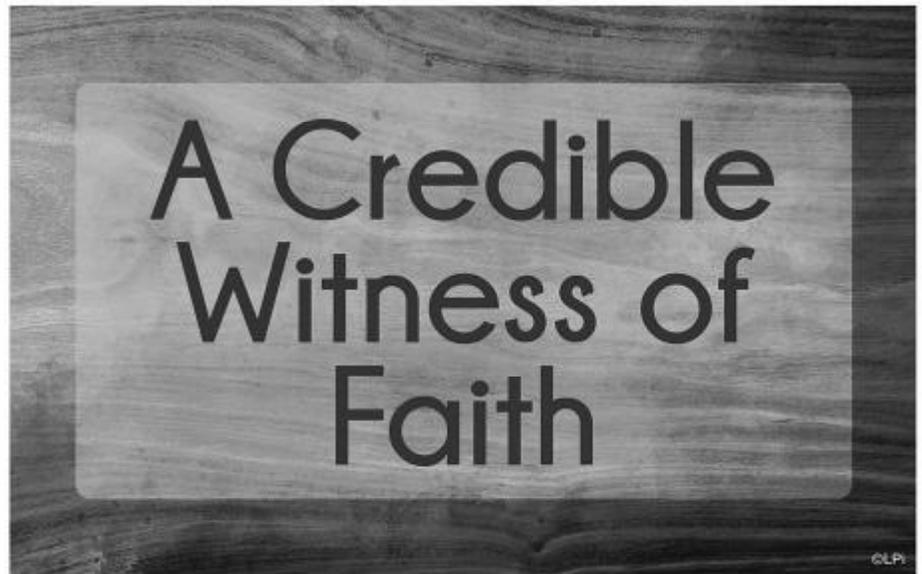
St. Blaise reminds us of the importance of taking care of our health and also to thank God for doctors and medicines that can help us to recover from illnesses. We honor St. Blaise for his faith and care for his people.

## GOSPEL MEDITATION

### ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Most of us are quiet people who desire to live a good and holy life, promote the values and mission of the Gospel as best we can and desire to one day inherit the surprise of life eternal God promises to us. We are not trail blazers. We are simple people who want to do the simple things of life well. But there are others who left a more profound impact along the way of the paths they walked. Folks like Dorothy Day, Martin Luther King, Thomas Merton, Gandhi, St. Teresa of Calcutta, and many others left lasting impacts and legacies. Like Moses, they show us by word and deed who God is and what integrity and a purpose driven life look like. They show us how to be holy. We need Moses people like these to give us inspiration, hope and an example of holy living.

We do not need to do what they did or even mirror their relationship with God. Each one of us is God's special creation, with a purpose and soul known only to us. We need to learn how to open up and bring, without compromise, our soul-ness to life. We know when someone is authentic and centered because they always point to truth, even though they struggle and sin themselves, and they embody an unspoken timeless wisdom that



just sounds and feels right. Jesus taught with this same type of authority and it astonished many who listened. We do not need to move mountains, advance a cause, write books or become notable. All we have to do is become credible witnesses of the faith we profess. Moses people can teach us how to do this.

St. Oscar Romero was an amazing man and a Moses figure for sure. He saw God in the burning bush and brought the flame of Gospel faith to the poorest of the poor, challenging the evils of the society in which he lived. He was tireless and persistent. He must have gotten very close to

the problem because it cost him his life. He suspected it would. St. Romero said, "When we leave Mass, we ought to go out the way Moses descended Mt Sinai: with his face shining, with his heart brave and strong to face the world's difficulties." We can learn from this wisdom. If we allow the power of the Mass to truly transform us, we will leave that holy encounter changed. Our face will shine, and we will have courage. We can then bring what we have received to life's challenges. That sounds doable, doesn't it? Because of the example of our simple holiness, people will be amazed.

*All were amazed and asked one another, "What is this? A new teaching with authority. He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him." His fame spread everywhere throughout the whole region of Galilee. - Mk 1:27-28*

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