

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

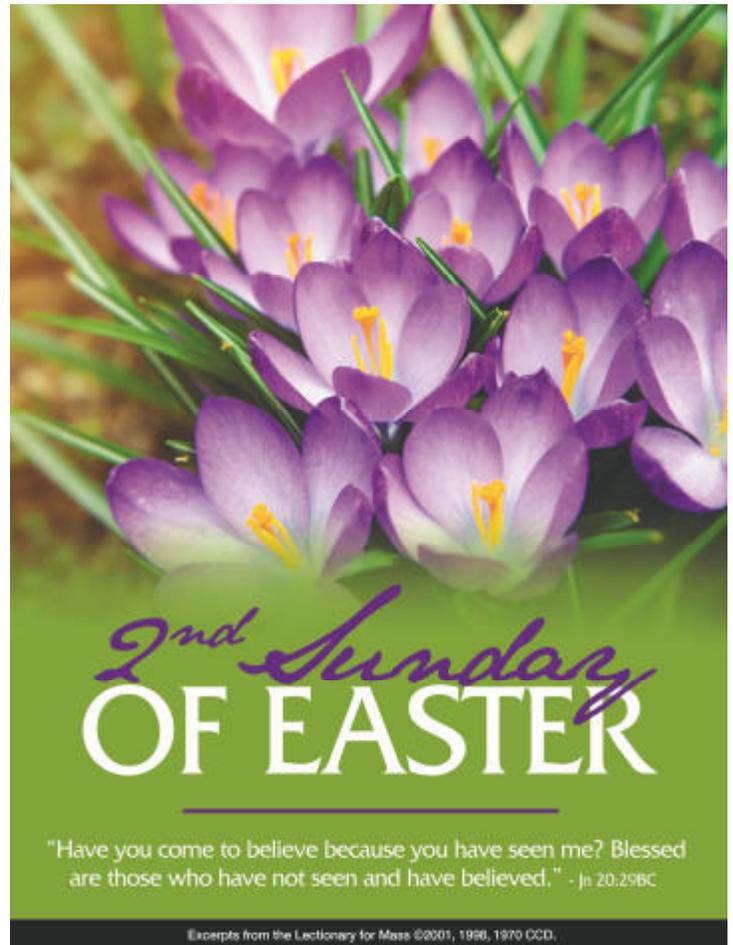
Rosalyn Doran and Nuala Quinn, Co-Presidents
76 Wianno Avenue, Osterville, MA 02655

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

April 10-11

Sat 4pm Virginia “Ginger” Stimets

Sun 9am Edmund Connolly, Jr.
11am Rosemary MacKinnon

April 12-16

Mon 8am Special Intention
Tues 8am Dorothy Carroll
Wed 8am Virginia “Ginger” Stimets
Thurs 8am Caroline Kenney Mc Kellar
Fri 8am For the Parish

April 17-18

Sat 4pm Ann Donaruma

Sun 9am Ermelinda and Manuel Couto
11am Thomas M. Barone

OUR LADY OF VICTORY

April 10-11

Sat 4:30pm Maura Hitzenbuhler

Sun 9am People of the Parish
11am Paul and Barbara Dias
5:30pm Anne Miano

April 12-17

Mon 9am L. B. Loudermilk
Tues 9am Albert Makkay
Wed 9am Theresa Zeglen
Thurs 9am Larry Peterson
Fri 9am David Nugent
Sat 9am Community Mass
Jennifer Vellone

April 17-18

Sat 4:30pm Diane Marie St. Thomas

Sun 9am David W. Burke
11am People of the Parish
5:30pm Janice Harvey

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

April 11: At OLV, the funds collected at the second collection this week will be used towards the **Diocesan Assessment**. The monthly Assessment for OLV is \$9498; OLH: \$526 and OLA: \$4288. No second collection at OLA. No second collection at OLA.

April 18: No second collection

April 25: Parish Mission and Development.

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.*



Easter Hope

Hope is all around us these 50 days of the Easter season. The Risen Christ and the promise of eternal life bring us great joy.

This past week and the future bring us many other signs of joy and hope.

We were delighted to have so many people able to join us for the celebration of the Triduum and Easter Sunday Masses. We saw people who had not been in the church for over a year since Covid. There were tears of joy shed for the chance to once again to be able to partake in the Eucharist.

There is hope with many more vaccines being available and many of us being able to be vaccinated.

Seeing pictures across social media this week of grandparents being able to hug their kids and grandkids for the first time in over a year brought great joy and hope for the future.

We have many of our First Communion and Confirmation students preparing to receive their sacraments in May and June.

Having the students getting ready to go back to school full time will bring hope and normalcy to many families who desperately need it.

The sun is brighter and the days are longer. Spring flowers are starting to peek through the soil and the daffodils are starting to bloom.

Three powerful words during this season are **Jesus, Remember Me**. Here is a beautiful prayer I found that sums it up beautifully:

Jesus, remember me. You know the desires of my heart, You love me perfectly, and You have the power to meet all my needs. Help me to trust you even when I cannot see you working as I'd like. I lift my mustard seed faith up to you. Make it grow, and renew my hope. In your name I pray, Amen."

Happy Easter!

Thanks for joining me on my faith journey,

Bill Bussiere

Coordinator of Lifelong Faith Formation



hope

First Reading **Acts 4:32-35**

The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common. With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great favor was accorded them all. There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale, and put them at the feet of the apostles, and they were distributed to each according to need.

Responsorial Psalm

Refrain: *Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.*

Second Reading **Col 3:1-4**

Beloved:
Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is begotten by God,
and everyone who loves the Father loves also the one begotten by him.
In this way we know that we love the children of God when we love God and obey his commandments.
For the love of God is this,
that we keep his commandments.
And his commandments are not burdensome,
for whoever is begotten by God conquers the world.
And the victory that conquers the world is our faith.
Who indeed is the victor over the world
but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?
This is the one who came through water and blood,
Jesus Christ,
not by water alone, but by water and blood.
The Spirit is the one that testifies,
and the Spirit is truth.



Verse

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord; Blessed are those who have not seen me, but still believe!

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel **Jn 20:19-31**

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

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

For OLV Masses:

508.775.5744 x107 or email 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, Apr 11, 2021
SOLEMNITY OF THE SECOND
SUNDAY OF EASTER; DIVINE
MERCY SUNDAY**

Hold onto the holy memories

It's unlikely that those who survive the pandemic will look back on these days with much nostalgia. Sickness and loss, fear and division, stress and isolation: The consequences will be with us for a generation. Yet emerging from the tragedy were also instances of humanity, decency, and heroism that echoed the time of the first apostles. We've shared food, masks, information, errands, toilet paper, songs. We've gathered on balconies and in virtual rooms. We've found ways to pray and to encourage. This Divine Mercy Sunday, give thanks for those who have helped you through this and every crisis.

"No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common."

Reading for the Week of April 11, 2021

Sunday: Acts 4:32-35/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 [1]/1 Jn 5:1-6/Jn 20:19-3
Monday: Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9 [cf. 11d]/Jn 3:1-8
Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5 [1a]/Jn 3:7b-15
Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [7a]/Jn 3:16-21
Thursday: Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20 [7a]/Jn 3:31-36
Friday: Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [cf. 4abc]/Jn 6:1-15
Saturday: Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 [22]/Jn 6:16-21

Monday, Apr 12, 2021

Stand with those who stood for you

Though you may not remember it, your Baptism was an extremely important day in your life—the beginning of your life in Christ. Your godparents represented you that day, speaking on your behalf if you were a baby. Perhaps later you became a godparent to others. Whether you're still close or have drifted apart over time, reach out to your godparents or godchildren and reminisce about that day. Talk about the role you have played in each other's spiritual life and pray together for deepening conversion. Promise to keep on praying for each other in our ever-growing identity as children of God.

"Amen, amen, I say to you, unless one is born of water and Spirit he cannot enter the Kingdom of God."

Tuesday, Apr 13, 2021

MEMORIAL OF MARTIN I, POPE, MARTYR

The dilemma of indifference

The Eastern Church began exploring monotheletism, the notion that Jesus had only a divine will, despite being both human and divine, in the 600s. Pope Martin I issued a reprimand, opposing this heresy. This angered the Eastern emperor, who had the sickly Martin dragged to Constantinople for trial. The pontiff was beaten, starved, and exiled, leading to his death. But Martin also blamed a Western Church that never came to his rescue. "I am surprised at the indifference," he wrote, of "those who belong to the church of Saint Peter." Ask for Martin's intercession today, for all who suffer indifference.

"The community of believers was of one heart and mind."

Wednesday, Apr 14, 2021

Let your life be your witness

How do you live your faith? Some days may be harder than others, but rarely, if ever nowadays, will the effort to be a faithful follower of Jesus land someone in jail or cost them their life. Yet that was the fate of the early disciples who insisted on proclaiming the stories of Jesus' life, death, and rising. There are 20th-century martyrs as well (Blessed Stanley Rother, Sister Dorothy Stang, SNDdeN, the martyrs of El Salvador among others), but faith calls all of us to kindness to all people, fairness in the face of injustice, trust in God's promised Spirit, and a constant willingness to see the face of God in our neighbors. Do people recognize you as a follower of Jesus by the way you live?

"The men whom you put in prison are in the temple area and are teaching the people."



Thursday, Apr 15, 2021

Be up to the tax at hand

Taxes are due today, an obligation that few people savor and yet all of us rely on. Catholics can feel proud to promote the common good by paying taxes for schools, roads, parks, healthcare, and other social benefits. In their pastoral letter, *Economic Justice for All*, the U.S. bishops go even further, saying: “The tax system should be continually evaluated in terms of its impact on the poor.” If you feel disheartened by the paperwork or the cost of taxes, take heart that despite any flaws in the system, taxes help build the commonwealth.

“The Father loves the Son and has given everything over to him.”

Friday, Apr 16, 2021

A God of his word

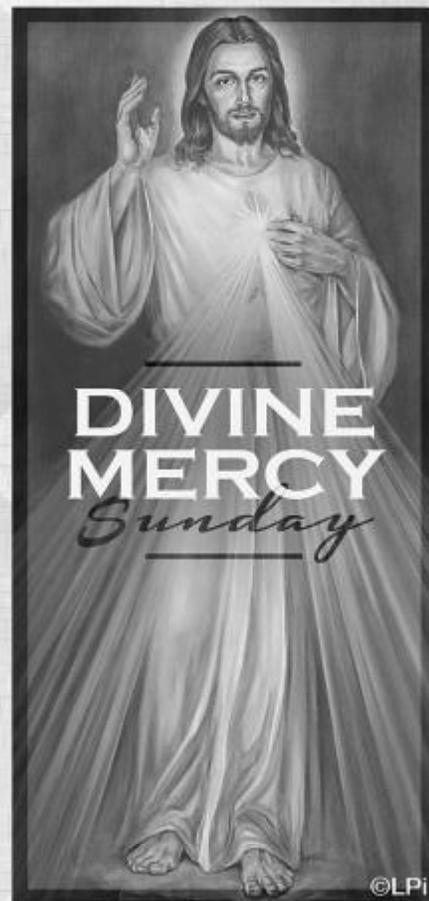
Poor communication is the main reason relationships fail. If it isn't clear what is being promised, then it is easy to become disillusioned when expectations aren't met. People who lose faith in God often point to God's untrustworthiness: They asked for something and didn't receive it. Hence, they conclude that God is not to be trusted. But remember the promise of God is love. Look around; wherever you see love—even a love lost—you see God's promise fulfilled. As Saint Augustine put it: “What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of others.” Help embody God's love today.

“This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world.”

Saturday, Apr 17, 2021

Call a deacon

The word “deacon” is derived from the Greek word *diákonos*, meaning “one who serves at table,” found in today's first reading. The office of deacon endured for several centuries after its origin in Acts. But eventually the diaconate was reduced to a temporary stage of ordination to the priesthood. After Vatican II the permanent diaconate was revived. Today many men, most married although some single, enter the diaconate through the sacrament of Holy Orders. They serve their parishes and assist their pastors in many ways both social and liturgical. Perhaps you know someone who would make a good deacon. Give him a call. “It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table.”



REFLECT

FIRST READING

Luke gives us a glimpse into the solidarity of heart and mind with the original community of believers in Jerusalem. How does your current community of faith compare to this first-generation Jerusalem church?

SECOND READING

John speaks of the power of faith and love for believers in conquering evil in the world. How does the faith and love in your life sustain you?

GOSPEL READING

The story of Thomas' doubt in the resurrected Jesus is one of the most well-known resurrection narratives. Why do you think Christians throughout the ages are drawn to this story?



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
 Peter F. Brady
 Emily Calamari
 Donald Capobianco
 Joe Carpentieri
 Irene Farrell
 Nancyjane Fox
 Lorraine Gregoire
 Robert Gregoire
 Barbara Korkuch
 Jennifer Kuehne
 Shaun Laughlan
 Brenda Liakos
 Barbara MacLean
 Brad Martin
 Patricia O'Connell
 Victoria Whalen
 Eileen Reardon
 Anele Rucker
 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.

Seat Ambassadors

Due to COVID, we have started a new Ministry, *Seat Ambassadors*. Once we were allowed to celebrate public Mass in the Church we have had them at every Mass. These men and women ensure that we are all safe through social distancing and contact tracing. They have learned your names and even know where you sit. Please take time to say “thank you.” They are a great group and are looking for people to join them. Please contact billb@olvparish.org if you are interested joining this ministry.



Special For Mother’s Day

On Mother’s Day we honor our mothers and the women who shaped our lives. Let them know your gratitude and love for them by requesting a special Mass in their honor. We will remember them when we celebrate the Eucharist at Masses on Mother’s Day weekend, May 8 and 9. Special Spiritual Gift Mother’s Day cards are available for \$10. Contact Barbara in the OLV Office, Barbara@olvparish.org or 508-775-5744 x 200.



Knights of Columbus Council 2525

John Roberts Memorial Scholarship 2021

Three \$4,000 scholarships will be awarded to three High School Graduating Seniors for 2021. These scholarships will be for the seniors first year of college. The applicant must be a graduating high school senior and he/she or family *must be a registered parishioner of Our Lady of Victory, Our Lady of Assumption, or Saint Francis Xavier*. The guidelines and application are now available. To request a copy of the guidelines and application please send an email to, council2525@yahoo.com. PLEASE NOTE: *applications and all supporting documentation must be returned to the Knights of Columbus, 230 South Main Street, Centerville, MA 02632 on or before April 17, 2021.*

Knights of Columbus

On Saturday March 27, the Knights had a food drive and we would like to thank all who came to support our efforts. We were able with your help to deliver over six truckloads of food to the St. Francis food pantry. The Knights were also able to donate almost \$500 in contributions from the great people of this parish. Thank you, thank you.

Our Lady’s Guild

The mission of Our Lady’s Guild is to bring the women of our parishes together in community and to promote our spiritual, charitable and social activities. We WELCOME your participation! If you have interest or questions please call Nuala Quinn (774-361-8838) or Rosalyn Doran (508-428-2757). Membership is golden! One of our ongoing charitable activities is to procure and deliver dinner for the sixty residents of St. Joseph House. **We are currently in need of volunteers for this activity.** Our meal donation commitment is for the third Monday of the month; you would be reimbursed for food costs. Please contact Carol Hickey at (508-428-1302) if you are able to help us with this program.

Bible Study On-Line Meetings—All Are Welcome

Weekly Bible Study meets each Tuesday from 6pm to 7pm via Zoom meeting. We are using the workbook, *Understanding the Scriptures* by Scott Hahn, Ph.D. Workbooks are available in the OLV Office for \$15 cash/check. For more info and to sign up for Zoom meeting, please contact: Eleanor Ubaldini, eleanorubaldini@gmail.com or 508-827-7926

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 Françoise Rocher 508 771 6737 (5 to 7pm, and leave a message). Thank you.



The Green Team

With winter behind us, it’s time to start spring cleaning in an environmentally safe way. To clean window panes, fill a spray bottle with a vinegar and water mixture to make a DIY wash. If you’ve used conventional glass cleaners in the past, add soap or detergent to the mixture to cut the wax buildup left by commercial products. Scrub with newspapers to avoid streaking. Source: Sierra Club

WORSHIP & MEDITATION



FIRST READING:

With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great favor was accorded them all. (Acts 4:33)



PSALM:

Give thanks to the Lord, for his is good, his love is everlasting. (Ps 118)
Or Alleluia.



SECOND READING:

Everyone who believe that Jesus is the Christ is begotten by God, and everyone who loves the Father loves also the one begotten by him. (1 Jn 1:1a)



GOSPEL:

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." (Jn 20:21)

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GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

What a wonderful joy fills us today as we ponder the inexhaustible mercy of God. "Mercy is the heart of God," Pope Francis tells us. The image of a heart has been used to point to the very life source of a person as it is the organ that allows life to flow through our veins and sustain us. Mercy is the heart of God. Imagine this dynamic, powerful, compassionate, piercing, embracing, loving, propelling, penetrating, absorbing, and enveloping, transforming presence of God flowing into the very depth of our souls. It is God's mercy that allows blood to flow through our veins. It is God's mercy that forms every atom of our being and leads us to what is true. God's mercy reveals all superficiality and falsehood, and lays bare all distortions, empty promises, weakness, and sin.

"Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope," Pope Francis continues. God's all-forgiving, compassionate love is with us. When we finally believe and accept that Christ's resurrected transfigured presence resides with us, we then find within us a strong confidence to accept life's imperfections and disappointments and move on. Every day is a new adventure in new life. God leaves the past behind and opens doors to the future. It doesn't matter how many mistakes we made yesterday. All that matters is what we do tomorrow and what we learn along the way. It is so easy to remain tethered and mired in the past, but there is no need to do so. God is all about tomorrow and the work God has yet to do in our lives.

Mercy gives birth to hope. Hope for the greatest of sinners and hope for the worst of disasters. There is nothing God cannot do and nothing God cannot fashion. After all, everything we know and treasure was once nothing, and look what God did with the nothing God had! The resurrected Christ stands before us with nail marks in his wrists and wounds on his body as a testament that not even injustice, suffering and death can trample over and destroy God's mercy. What have we to fear? Why do we keep ourselves from peace? Our lack of faith prevents us from going forward and fully receiving the holiness God desires to breathe upon us. Breathe in God's mercy, allow the wind of God's presence to kiss all of your sins and caress all of your fears. Exhale peace.

HHW



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