

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

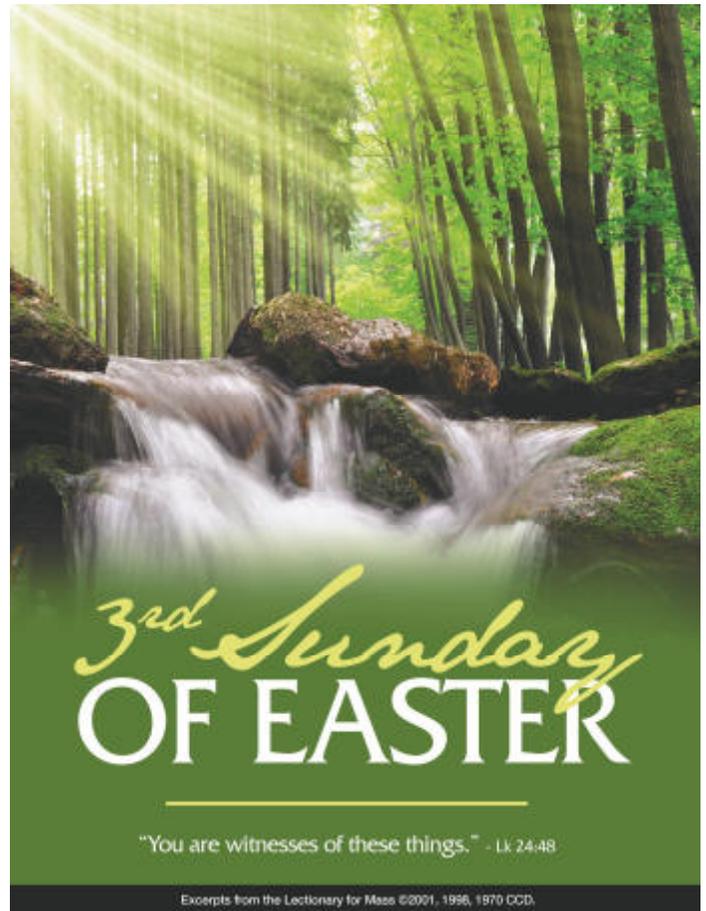
Rosalyn Doran and Nuala Quinn, Co-Presidents
76 Wianno Avenue, Osterville, MA 02655

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 17-18

Sat 4pm Ann Donaruma

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

April 19-23

Mon 8am For the Parish
Tues 8am Dorothy Carroll
Wed 8am Carol Ann Leary
Thurs 8am John Raffa
Fri 8am John V. Colgan

April 24-25

Sat 4pm Jane Davis Gavin

Sun 9am Joseph Mladinich
11am Rita Connolly

OUR LADY OF VICTORY

April 17-18

Sat 4:30pm Diane Marie St. Thomas

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

April 19-24

Mon 9am Irene Benoit
Tues 9am Philip Doorey
Wed 9am Jonathan Segura
Thurs 9am Mary Elizabeth Gilsenan
Fri 9am John and Grace Carney
Sat 9am Community Mass

April 24-25

Sat 4:30pm John J. "Jack" Pendergast

Sun 9am Manuel and Deolinda DeMelo
11am Grace Carney
5:30pm People of the Parish

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 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.*



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

***Robert Mielde
Ann and Jim Melleyn***

*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.*



80TH ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL
DIOCESE OF FALL RIVER

Time To Gather, Time To Heal, Time to Love

You should have received a letter from me this weekend or in the coming week about the 80th Annual Catholic Appeal. Since it's very beginning at Our Lady of the Assumption and 1957 at Our Lady of Victory, the two parishes have generously responded to the Appeal. As I mentioned in my letter, this Appeal responds to the local needs and ministries of the Fall River Diocese in Barnstable and Bristol Counties.

Last year in spite of the Covid Pandemic, OLA gave \$64,585.00 and OLV \$76,781.00.

Unfortunately, at OLA this amount was \$28,969 less than the year before with 38 less donors. At OLV it was \$35,691 less with 56 less donors. This is truly a remarkable amount from both parishes considering all the events of the past year. Be assured of my gratitude for your generous donations. Our brothers and sisters in the Diocese thank each and everyone of You.

Finally, I know and hope that your response to this 80th Appeal will continue the long history of support that has marked the history of both parishes. Thank you in advance for your donations.

Sincerely,

Msgr. Perry

First Reading Acts 3:13-15, 17-19

Peter said to the people:
“The God of Abraham,
the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob,
the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus,
whom you handed over and denied in Pilate’s presence
when he had decided to release him.
You denied the Holy and Righteous One
and asked that a murderer be released to you.
The author of life you put to death,
but God raised him from the dead; of this we are
witnesses.
Now I know, brothers,
that you acted out of ignorance, just as your leaders did;
but God has thus brought to fulfillment
what he had announced beforehand
through the mouth of all the prophets,
that his Christ would suffer.
Repent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may
be wiped away.”

Responsorial Psalm

Refrain: Lord, let your face shine on us.

Second Reading 1 Jn 2:1-5a

My children, I am writing this to you
so that you may not commit sin.
But if anyone does sin, we have an Advocate with the
Father,
Jesus Christ the righteous one.
He is expiation for our sins,
and not for our sins only but for those of the whole
world.
The way we may be sure that we know him is to keep
his commandments.
Those who say, “I know him,” but do not keep his
commandments
are liars, and the truth is not in them.
But whoever keeps his word,
the love of God is truly perfected in him.

Verse

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Lord Jesus, open the Scriptures to us;
make our hearts burn while you speak to us.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel Lk 24:35-48

The two disciples recounted what had taken place on the
way,
and how Jesus was made known to them
in the breaking of bread.
While they were still speaking about this,
he stood in their midst and said to them,
“Peace be with you.”
But they were startled and terrified
and thought that they were seeing a ghost.
Then he said to them, “Why are you troubled?
And why do questions arise in your hearts?
Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself.
Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh
and bones
as you can see I have.”
And as he said this,
he showed them his hands and his feet.
While they were still incredulous for joy and were
amazed,
he asked them, “Have you anything here to eat?”
They gave him a piece of baked fish;
he took it and ate it in front of them.
He said to them,
“These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still
with you,
that everything written about me in the law of Moses
and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled.”
Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.
And he said to them,
“Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer
and rise from the dead on the third day
and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins,
would be preached in his name
to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.
You are witnesses of these things.”

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 18, 2021
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Each one teach one
Each of us walks through miracles eventually. Maybe we know it at the time and praise God heartily. Or perhaps we

only look back later, realize the road's on fire behind us, and shiver. Sooner or later, we all experience the mystery of grace that carries us over obstacles, through dangers, and ferries us to safety. We are witnesses of these things. And even if we're reluctant to "talk religion" to friends, coworkers, and strangers, we'll inhabit hours when it's time to tell what we know about Divine Providence. Be attentive for when your testimony is required.

"You are witnesses of these things."

Reading for the Week of April 18, 2021

Sunday: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19/Ps 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9 [7a]/1 Jn 2:1-5a/Lk 24:35-48
Monday: Acts 6:8-15/Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30 [1ab]/Jn 6:22-29
Tuesday: Acts 7:51—8:1a/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 7b and 8a, 17 and 21ab [6a]/Jn 6:30-35
Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8/Ps 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a [1]/Jn 6:35-40
Thursday: Acts 8:26-40/Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20/Jn 6:44-51
Friday: Acts 9:1-20/Ps 117:1bc, 2 [Mk 16:15]/Jn 6:52-59
Saturday: Acts 9:31-42/Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17 [12]/Jn 6:60-69



Earth Day
EVERY DAY

Monday, Apr 19, 2021

Seek a way to serve

Saint Timon, whose feast is today, is mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles (6:5) as one of seven deacons chosen by the apostles to assist in ministering to the community of believers in Jerusalem. As the apostles concentrated on preaching, the deacons assisted in providing for the material needs of the community. This focus on both word and deed, or evangelization and service, continues to be the hallmark of Christian discipleship. As the church teaches in *Lumen Gentium*, "Each one of the faithful must willingly hear the word of God and accept God's Will, and must complete what God has begun by their own actions with the help of God's grace." What will you do to continue the work of love that begins and ends with God?

"What can we do to accomplish the works of God?"

Tuesday, Apr 20, 2021

Seek the light in learning

On this day in 1303, Sapienza University of Rome was instituted by Pope Boniface VIII. Sapienza, boasting such famous alumni as Maria Montessori and Federico Fellini, is considered the first pontifical university—an institution approved by the Vatican and committed to teaching theology, philosophy, and canon law. Today, all pontifical universities are governed by the document *Veritatis Gaudium*, a 2017 update written by Pope Francis. It begins: "The joy of truth expresses the restlessness of the human heart until it encounters and dwells within God's Light, and shares that Light with all people." How will you share God's light today?

Wednesday, Apr 21, 2021

MEMORIAL OF ANSELM, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Love the questions

How would you define the term theology? Google it and you find it described as the critical study of the nature of God or the divine. Saint Anselm (1033-1109) said it another way: "Theology is faith seeking understanding." Every time you try to understand how God allows suffering, or wonder how it is that God loves every human being, or try to understand if God truly hears your prayers, you are doing the work of theology. As a French Benedictine monk and later archbishop of Canterbury, Anselm was a wise and learned teacher who challenged the secular power of kings. Your life may not seem extraordinary, but the pursuit of knowledge about God belongs to you as well. Don't be afraid of the questions. Ask for grace to allow the questions to help your faith grow.

"Everyone who . . . believes in him (the Son) may have eternal life."

Thursday, Apr 22, 2021

Take care of your mother

Catholicism is rich in observances, but here's one outside our tradition that Catholic teaching also invites us to join: Earth Day, celebrated annually on this date since 1970. The event, which kick-started the environmental movement, is now the largest secular observance in the world, with 193 countries demonstrating support for environmental protection. From the biblical mandate to care for God's creation to Pope Francis' recent encyclical on environmentalism, you are directed by your faith to heed the call to "think globally, act locally."

Friday, Apr 23, 2021

Be the change

Prior to his conversion, Saint Paul, who earlier in life was known by his Hebrew name Saul, was most definitely no saint. He not only disliked those who followed Jesus, he attacked them. So what happened? He encountered Jesus the Christ. Jesus did not put Paul through what fiction refers to as a "mind wipe," or erasure of former personality and memory. Jesus called Paul to stop and see clearly the truth of his mindset and actions. And then Paul put in the work. This is something we all have to do—put in the work—especially when our dislike of those who are different leads to harm. "Saul, why are you persecuting me?"

Saturday, Apr 24, 2021

Stay the course

Followers of Jesus have been disputing the meaning of the eucharistic meal and Jesus' instructions to "eat my flesh and drink my blood" ever since the words were first uttered. Many could not look beyond a literal interpretation of the words to see the powerful symbolism of the image of the paschal lamb offered for the sins of the community at Passover. So they simply walked away. Now that the sacrifice has been accomplished and Easter season is well underway, will you turn away as well, or are you with those who stayed with Jesus because, like Peter, you have come to believe that he has the words of eternal life? "Many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer walked with him."



Earth Day and "Laudato Si"

Stewardship is an ethic that embodies the responsible planning and management of resources. The concepts of stewardship can be applied to the environment and nature, economics, health, property, information, theology, indeed, all aspects of life.

Responsible planning and management of resources. That is what we are called to do with the environment. Not only the natural environment, but also the man-made environment in which we live.

Pope Francis has made a compelling statement on the environment by saying that we are truly the masters of the environment and that we are called by God to protect it, not only for ourselves but also for those who live on the fringes of the community, those who have no voice.

In paragraph 13 of his encyclical, *Laudato Si*, the pope says:

"The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change. The Creator does not abandon us; he never forsakes his loving plan or repents of having created us. Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home. Here I want to recognize, encourage, and thank all those striving in countless ways to guarantee the protection of the home which we share. Particular appreciation is owed to those who tirelessly seek to resolve the tragic effects of environmental degradation on the lives of the world's poorest. Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded."

So as we move toward implementing the pope's vision of care for our common environmental heritage, let us keep each other in prayer as we protect and steward our mother earth.



Our Men and Women in the Service

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

Pvt Louis Barrett
 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
 Mary Sekerak
 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.

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.



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.

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



GREEN TEAM
This Earth Day, April 22, heed the words of **President Theodore Roosevelt** in 1908.

It is time for us now as a nation to exercise the same reasonable foresight in dealing with our great natural resources that would be shown by any prudent man in conserving and widely using the property which contains the assurance of well-being for himself and his children.

Powerful words, even after more than 100 years.

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 at both Our Lady of the Assumption and Our Lady of Victory. Purchase one and send it in time for Mother’s Day. Contact Gillie, OLA, 508-428-2011 or Barbara, OLV Office, Barbara@olvparish.org or 508-775-5744 x 200.



OLV Scholarship Applications Available

Thanks again to an anonymous donor, Our Lady of Victory is able to give deserving graduating high school seniors scholarships.

You could receive one of these scholarships if you meet these requirements: 1) Your family is registered in the parish. 2) You submit a complete application package by the due date and 3) You have been active in the parish since Confirmation. The OLV Scholarship is awarded upon successful completion of a four year college or university. Deadline is May 14, 2021. Applications are available by emailing billb@olvparish.org

May Day Food Drive

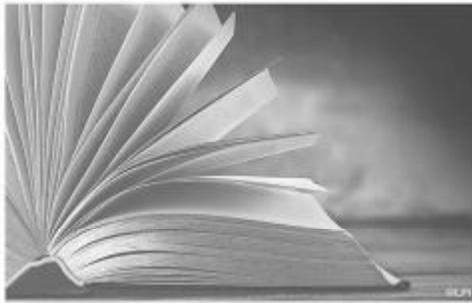
Saturday, May 1 from 10am -1pm
The Osterville Business and Professional Association announces a May Day Food Drive on Sidewalk Sale Day at Rockland Trust Bank Drive-Thru, 22 Wianno Avenue Osterville (across from Lilly Pulitzer). All unexpired dry, canned goods , and toiletries are appreciated. Donations will be delivered to St. Joseph House and food pantries.



The Legend of the Dogwood

In Jesus’ day, according to legend, dogwood trees used to grow to the size of oak trees. Its wood was so strong, it is said, that dogwood was chosen as the timber for Jesus’ cross. Since that time, no dogwood has grown large enough to be used for crucifixion. The tree’s flowers, which bloom around Easter time, are said to commemorate the Lord’s sacrifice and Resurrection. The two short petals and two long ones form a cross. Like St. Francis’ stigmata, the grooves at the edge of each petal represent Jesus’ wounds from the nails that pierced His hands and feet. *Franciscan Friars, T.O.R., Loretto, PA*

WORSHIP & MEDITATION



FIRST READING:

The author of life you put to death, but God raised him from the dead; of this we are witnesses. (Acts 3:15)



PSALM:

Lord, let your face shine on us. (Ps 4)
Or Alleluia.



SECOND READING:

He is expiation for our sins, and not for our sins only but for those of the whole world. (1 Jn 2:2)



GOSPEL:

"Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name." (Lk 24:46-47)

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GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

We often act out of ignorance. Armed with the best of intentions, we think we are seeing clearly and correctly, but we are not. We don't always understand the full meaning of things and only perceive part of the truth. Hence, our judgments and actions can be impaired by myopic, incomplete or erroneous perceptions. The meaning of life, understanding of human experience, and negotiating life's challenges can all become skewed without proper understanding and vision. The resurrection of Christ is the corrective to our incomplete and limited view of life. Looking at things with the eyes of faith brings a depth of clarity and understanding to how we see God, ourselves, others, and the world.

Even the disciples struggled with their limited understanding and ignorant perceptions. It was only when Jesus opened their minds to understand the Scriptures that their eyes were opened. It was their "aha" moment when everything clicked. We all want the substance of our lives to come together, make sense, and have meaning. This is easier to achieve when things are going positively and life is good. It is when suffering, disappointment, death, hardship, and injustice enter the picture that things can become unsettled and disoriented. Our faith in the goodness and love of God is tested. We tend to shift our focus on these difficult and challenging moments and do not see them within the greater picture of how God intends life to unfold. We can gain, from the passion and resurrection of Christ, the clear vision we need in order to move away from ignorance to enlightenment.

We need our "aha" moment when everything comes together and clicks. It can come in a fleeting instant when we feel totally connected with God, where we find ourselves, others and all of creation. It is a moment when all is right and good, regardless of how difficult our journey. Our "aha" moment assures us that God is here, right with us, in us and around us bringing us a gift and blessing we can receive nowhere else: peace. In those brief sacramental encounters when we are lifted up out of ourselves and centered, we can hear God say, "peace be with you," and we feel secure. It's all okay. The resurrected Christ has the power to bring this gift to us. Some people, as they are facing their deaths, remark about this peace. When looking into the window of eternity, they experience a depth of joy and are amazed at God's goodness and closeness. We are called to be witnesses to this Good News.

HHW



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