

SEPTEMBER 12, 2021



Parish of the
TRANSFIGURATION

ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA CHURCH | ST. DOROTHY OF THE CAPPADOCIA CHURCH

PATRIOT DAY

We will never forget



SEPTEMBER 11

WELCOME! HOW TO REGISTER?

Please contact the Parish Office. We will be happy to answer questions or help you register. You can also register by going to our parish website.

Reminder Tax Letters can only be sent to registered parishioners who donate on line or by using the Parish Envelopes.

PASTORAL SERVICE TEAM

Fr. Ron Coyne, Administrator

Joe Fagan, Deacon, Finance & Operations

Manager

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Kathy Lonergan Troiano, St. Dorothy Music Dir.

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Lora Tamagini, St. Thomas Music Dir.

losuta@aol.com



Eucharistic Adoration
2pm to 5pm
St. Dorothy Church
First Friday of the Month

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday

4:00 PM at St. Dorothy's Church

Sunday

8:00 AM at St. Thomas Church

10:00 AM at St. Dorothy's Church

12 NOON at St. Thomas Church.

Daily Mass

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

Mass

Wednesday Communions Service

9:00 am St. Dorothy Church

SACRAMENT OF THE RECONCILIATION

Saturday, before the 4pm Mass 3:15 to 3:45pm at St. Dorothy Church or by appointment

PARISH OFFICE

11 Harnden Street, Wilmington, MA 01887

P: 978-658-4665 F: 978-658-2008

FAITH FORMATION OFFICE

126 Middlesex Avenue, Wilmington, MA 01887

P: 978-658-6040

We would like to remind families that our Faith Formation classes will be starting on Sunday October 3rd. Please contact the office at 978-658-6040 with any questions or if you have not registered your child. We are looking forward to the upcoming year.



Congratulations on the birth of your child! Please contact the Parish Office to schedule a Baptism. The instruction for families is offered in St. Thomas Church the last Sunday of the month at 1:30 PM. Baptisms are held in St. Thomas Church the first Sunday at 1:30 PM and at St. Dorothy Church on the third Sunday of the month at 1:30 PM.

Congratulations to the families of the children who were baptized here last weekend: **Mark Robert Hastry and Isabella Maria Wojtkiewicz.**

A NOTE FROM FR. COYNE

Friends,

September is the month when we witness our children, teenagers and young adults begin another year of pursuing their education in elementary, high school, college and beyond. This experience can be exciting, challenging and frightening for them and their families. I realize that COVID has deeply affected this experience on many levels.

Most children attend their local elementary and middle schools unless there is an assignment process. There are also so many alternatives when you factor in private schools, charter schools, parochial schools as well as vocational schools. For many of your teenagers high school may be their first time having input into where they will go and from which school they hope to graduate. College is a choice made that usually indicates what a young person may consider as an area of interest or where they may pursue their passions. Of course, there are many of our young adults who may choose not to further their education but choose to join the workforce or enter the military. Parents may have goals and dreams for their children but as our children become adults we have to respect their choices and plans that may be very different than what we imagined for them. These differences can lead to many conversations and even confrontations; however, honest dialogue is such a gift within families.

The Towns of Wilmington/Tewksbury and Parish of the Transfiguration are blessed with wonderful families. As the Catholic Faith community we want to wish all our children, teenagers and young adults the best. We realize that many families may experience pain during this time as their children may struggle with social anxiety, depression or may have different abilities and need support systems within their school community. I believe the four most positive influences for a child are: 1) a good home life; 2) deep faith experience; 3) good education; and 4) choosing healthy friends. If those four influences are overseen by parents, I believe the chances of our children growing up happy, at peace and fulfilled are enhanced greatly.

The Parish of the Transfiguration is here to support our parents as they are the primary educators of their children. We realize there may be reasons that families are dechurched or unchurched at this time but we want you to know your families' presence and faith are a vital aspect of our Church community. We want to support you as you continue on your faith journey.

So as our 2021-22 school year commences we pray that each of us may know that we are all created in God's image, are loved unconditionally by God and that God has given us unlimited potential. How blessed are we!

Enjoy life!

Fr. Coyne



Next weekend The Second Collection will be for The Clergy Health and Retirement Trust

Mass Intentions

Saturday, September 11

4:00pm	Rosaleen & Daniel Coakley Phyllis Berg William Guillemette
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Sunday, September 12

8:00 am	John DeMarco Joseph Callahan
10:00 am	Paul & Lisa Pereira John & Mary Rose Gigante Agnes Romano

Noon	Thelma Lois Gardner Ceili Kinneen
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Monday, September 13

9:00 am	Ellen Dean
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Thursday, September 16

9:00 am	Ellen Dean
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Friday, September 17

9:00 am	Healing for Aden Bernabei Marie Butler
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Saturday, September 18

4:00 pm	Edward F., Catherine J. & Anthony M. Guest Edward Silva Jr. Joanne Harding
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Sunday, September 19

8:00 am	Joao Liberato Joseph Sousa Joseph Callahan
10:00 am	John & Barbara Paone Giuseppe E. & Rosaria Bellino
Noon	John J. Foresteire Luis Manuel DeJesus

LITURGY AS SOURCE AND SUMMIT OF CHRISTIAN LIFE

The Parish of The Transfiguration strives to offer parishioners the very best from our liturgical celebrations. Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers, Music Ministers, Celebrants and Deacons are of one mind – to offer the Holy Sacrifice of The Mass with grace, dignity and beauty. The Mass remains the single most important work of the parish each day and in particular on weekends – **what we do as we leave church** to serve our brothers and sisters in Christ is our response to the prayers, to the Word and Sacrament, the homily, the music, etc. Mass truly begins as we go into the world to serve God and others in the name of Christ.

All our liturgical ministers have been trained and formed, practically and spiritually, to help them proclaim the Word and distribute the Sacrament to our parishioners. Altar Servers are trained because of the important role they play assisting with the celebration of Word and Sacrament each weekend. Music Ministers, too, tirelessly work to prepare choirs and cantors for our weekend Masses offering spiritually uplifting music engaging parishioners throughout Mass. Our celebrants and deacons, too, prepare for their roles as we witness their dedication to their ministry of service in our liturgical celebrations. We give thanks, too, to the dedicated cleaning personnel who keep our two churches clean daily after Masses, Baptisms, Funerals, Weddings, and other Sacramental celebrations throughout the year – **it takes a village!**

As you can see, it takes a lot of people to prepare for and celebrate these Sacred Mysteries. You, too, have an important role to play at Mass which begins with the decision to attend Mass. Once you arrive, there is an expectation to arrive at a clean church, to be welcomed by friendly greeters and staff members, to find a place to sit and pray and prepare for Mass, and to enter into the liturgy as it begins. So many moving parts to our liturgies and **we all have a role to play.**

An aspect of liturgy we'd like to enhance when the new liturgical season of Advent arrives at the end of November is the missal that we're currently using at both churches. We have heard your opinions about the book – such as the difficulty finding the Sunday readings, music that is unfamiliar to many, and some other issues. At the time we introduced the St. Augustine Hymnal they were donated to us thus avoiding a sizeable yearly bill for church missals. We're hopeful you'll consider **a one-time pledge** which will enhance our music programs at both churches thus avoiding adding to current financial struggles – much like we did with our two beautiful Paschal Candles raising enough money to cover costs. The more familiar hymnal, **Breaking Bread**, is a more popular missal used widely by parishes throughout the Catholic world. The yearly book includes all of the Readings for weekends, all of the Mass Parts & Common Prayers – now on a separate card in the pews – and a full array of music already known to many of us.

We fully acknowledge that the parish cannot simply buy this new hymnal because of budget issues. A harsh reminder from the COVID-19 virus, for all types of businesses, is that revenue has been lost. Small and medium sized businesses have closed. Some churches have lost significant income, including our parish, that force us to examine each day how your money and generosity is being spent. We have cut corners in a variety of ways, but the liturgical celebrations must continue to be of the highest quality requiring us to examine how best to use our resources going forward.

The suggestion was made recently, when talking about the possibility of enhancing our music for weekend liturgies, to reach out to the parish to seek the necessary funds to purchase the ***Breaking Bread*** missals for the next year. Whenever the parish has had a financial need of any kind, parishioners have always stepped forward to assist us with our overall mission – ***to bring Word and Sacrament to the people of God with style and grace.***

We are proposing a few different levels of a ***one-time giving*** in the hope to collect enough funds to purchase ***Breaking Bread*** for the start of Advent – Sunday, November 28, 2021. The new missal will be good for one full year – until Advent 2022. Below are the suggested levels of giving for your consideration. Please consider a one-time gift of any amount to help us further enhance our liturgical celebrations each weekend with this new missal. You can drop off your donation to the Parish Office or place the donation in a separate envelope clearly marked “***new missal donation***.” We will NOT make this purchase until all necessary funds are collected – we will not add to the current parish financial struggle.

SOPRANO LEVEL: \$1,000.00	ALTO LEVEL: \$500.00
TENOR LEVEL: \$250.00	BASS LEVEL: \$100.00

It's always difficult to ask for money – especially during these challenging times post-COVID when many face health and job insecurity. Declining church attendance will level off at some point as people will become more comfortable returning to Mass. We hope our fiscal woes will make a recovery in the coming weeks and months. With your active participation we know we'll turn that corner soon!

For all your ***time, talent and treasure*** you already offer to your parish, we are forever grateful for your generosity each week and when we call upon you during challenging times. We invite you to pray about this enhancement to our liturgical celebrations and then decide if you'd like to contribute an amount. Again, ***we will not go forward with such a purchase unless the necessary funds are realized.***

MANY BLESSINGS!

Tom Griffin



Please join us **Next Sunday, Sept 12th, after the 10am Mass** at St. Dorothy Church, the Ladies Solidarity will host a **Coffee Hour downstairs. All are welcome**



If you love to knit or crochet and would like to join our ministry please call Sharon Keefe @ 978.697.1909

WOMEN'S CLUB will meet on **MONDAY, SEPT. 13TH in Villanova Hall at 7:00pm.** So we know how many will be attending please call Diane at 978.658.5697 or Kathy at 978.658.9189 **All women of the parish are Welcome**

PARISH VOLUNTEERS A CORI FORM must be completed every year by all parish volunteers. The new year began July 1, 2021 and will continue through June 30, 2022. The new (FY) 22 CORI Forms are available in the sacristy of both churches and at the Parish Office. A New Code of Conduct will be given to you when the Cori is returned to be verified.



We will be having our annual Blessing of the Pets on Sunday October 3rd. The Blessing will take place at 1pm on the grounds in front of the Blessed Mother, on the grassy side of the Church, at St. Thomas. Please bring your pets to receive their special Blessing. We look forward to seeing everyone!

FIRST READING
I gave my back to those who beat me,
my cheeks to those who plucked my beard;
my face I did not shield
from buffets and spitting. (Is 50:8)

PSALM
I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.
(Ps 116) Or Alleluia.

SECOND READING
What good is it, my brothers and sisters,
if someone says he has faith but does not
have works?
Can that faith save him? (Jas 2:14)

GOSPEL
And he asked them,
"But who do you say that I am?"
Peter said to him in reply,
"You are the Christ." (Mk 8:29)

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CATHOLIC APPEAL

We have reached our Parish Goal regarding the annual Catholic Appeal. The most recent update is as follows: Our assessment for 2021 is \$56,370.. Thank you for your support. Here are the results thus far:

Goal	Amount pledged	of assessment
\$56,370	\$57,91	103%

WORSHIP & MEDITATION



GOSPEL MEDITATION Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

We need to get our bearings straight and properly lay life's cornerstone. Otherwise, the rest of our journey will be skewed, and our judgment clouded. We can recall Jesus' famous rebuke of Peter, "You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." Even he, as one of Jesus' closest friends struggles with understanding things and grasping the big picture. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (1881-1955) a renowned and learned French Jesuit priest often has these words attributed to him: "We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a human experience." Whether they were actually from his lips, they certainly mimic his thought. These wise words orient us and capture the essence of who we really are.

Many people consider spirituality an option. It is no wonder that they come to this conclusion when they predominantly define themselves using human terms and concepts. Immersed in this world view, they struggle finding any semblance of God because God does not work according to human expectations! This is especially true when suffering and death enter life's picture. If we are only human beings having a spiritual experience, then we wrongly expect our spirituality to serve us as we desire. The human expectation is that my spiritual life is something that is useful in avoiding pain, hardship, and death, not something that gives the courage to live through it!

So, when we protest and get upset with God because our journey is becoming difficult, painful, treacherous, disappointing, and even pointing us toward death, Jesus rebukes us as he did Peter and gently reminds us how to see. It is God who inspires and opens hearts to see truth and beauty. In God, the true meaning of things is understood, and we receive a depth of insight and understanding that is not found following purely human paths. It is not our task to understand God, as God is beyond human understanding. Ours is the joyful privilege of simply resting in God's presence simply because God is God and we are who we are. As spiritual beings having an exciting and adventurous human experience, it is in our DNA to do so. Through prayer we can let go and let be. This is how we lose our lives but then save them.

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