

North American Martyrs Church

April 16, 2023 | Divine Mercy Sunday

PASTOR Rev. Frederick D. Fraini, III

OFFICE STAFF

Susan Zammarelli, Secretary Lisa Burkitt, Religious Ed. Director, Safe Environment Coordinator

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 7 a.m. | Saturday 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. (Vigil) Sunday 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.



BAPTISMS: Please contact the parish office for assistance or visit https://namartyrsauburn.org/baptism for detailed information and to obtain the Godparent Baptismal Testimony Form.

MARRIAGE: Contact the parish office at least 1 year in advance of the wedding date to make arrangements.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: If you have family members who are ill, anticipating surgery or weakened because of prolonged illness or advanced age, contact the parish office for assistance.

CONFESSIONS: Saturday 3 - 3:45p.m. or by appointment in the church.

COMMUNION CALLS: Parishioners who are sick or disabled may call the parish office to arrange for the Holy Eucharist to be brought to them at home.

-Mass Intentions-

SATURDAY, APRIL 15TH - SAINT CAESAR DE BUS

8:00a.m. Stephen Buteau by the Buteau Family

4:30p.m. Toni O'Leary Second Anniversary by daughters: Charleen,

Kathleen, Maureen and Eileen

SUNDAY, APRIL 16TH - DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

8:30a.m. Edward J. Hanam by Lindberg Family

10:30a.m. Wallace and Eileen Atchue by Their Family

MONDAY, APRIL 17TH - ST. BENEDICT JOSEPH LABRE

7:00 a.m. Anna Sullo 6th Anniversary by Gabriella and Lisa Burkitt

TUESDAY, APRIL 18TH - BLESSED JAMES OLDO

7:00 a.m. Gerald Fleming by Fr. Fraini

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19TH - ST. GIANNA BERETTA MOLLA

7:00 a.m. Rita Hanlon by her Family

FRIDAY, APRIL 21ST - SAINT ANSELM

7:00 a.m. For the deceased members of the Valeri and Piccolomini families by their granddaughter

SATURDAY, APRIL 22ND -SAINT ADALBERT OF PRAGUE

8:00 a.m. Peter Siskos by the Lindberg Family

4:30 p.m. Kathy Stasaitis by Carole Bentley

SUNDAY, APRIL 23RD - SAINT GEORGE

8:30 a.m. Arthur and Rita Lindberg by the Lindberg Family 10:30 a.m. Barbara Vaitkunas by the Stodolski Family

-Let Us Pray For-

Kayla Bowes, Michele Burke-Pellegrini, Louie Costagna, Frank Cole, Dean Michael Collins, Shirley Connor, Ted Cook, John Cooney, Christine Cote, Gail Craig, Patricia Darrah, Jacob DeCarolis, David DiGeronimo, Ellie Devereaux Kevin Dobson, Elaine Doherty, Sadie Dutton, Paul Dyke, David and Pat Faucher, Cnnie Flynn, Joan Fouhy, Bob Fuller, Suzanne Gird, Lori Girouard, Therese Gosland, Deacon Jim Graves, Jim Groves, Ed Handlin, Mary Hannon, Melissa Hathaway, Robert Hehir, Ronald Jablanski, Elijah Johnson, Kim Johnson, Maureen Jomes, Edward LaConto, Jean LaConto, Larry, Donna and Michael Langevin, Roger and Rosalie LaCroix, Alice Leduc, Peter Letourneau, Richard Levansavich, Sr., Audrey-Lynn Marron, Bill Martin, Michael McGrail, Fr. Anthony Mullaney, Max Mullen, Gary Nickerson, Mary Lou Paulli, Peggy Patenaude, Kaisse Pinard, John Power, Theresa Power, Anthony Real, Edward J. Rutkowski, Joseph Sbrogna, Raymond Scanlon, Scott Staruk, David Tatro, David Toomey, Bonnie Turner, Michael Young and Lucille Zammarelli. For all the men and women serving in our country's military.

~Partners in Charity 2023~

North American Martyrs goal is \$52,300 for this year. We've received \$13,990 in donations to date from over 60 donors! Please consider making a donation at https://partners-charity.net/donate or scan the QR Code. Remember to specify North American Martyrs Parish to credit your gift to.



-Religious Ed Registration-

Religious Ed Registration for 2023-2024 is open! Please contact Lisa at lburkitt@namartyrsauburn.org for details.

-Collections 4/9/2023-

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Sunday Collections	\$4,515
Monthly Reno	\$862
Bulletin Ads, Mass Intentions	\$245
Easter	\$6,081
Holy Land	\$445
Religious Education	\$200
Hall Rental	\$1,430
Online Donations	<u>\$159</u>
Total	\$13,937

-Tuesday with Fr. Fred

Father Fred will conclude his three part series on **Tuesday**, **April 18th** @ 6:30p.m.

Evening Three: "The Paschal Mystery & The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass". Where do we see the Paschal Mystery within the confines of the Mass? Once we understand, we will fall deeper in love with what many otherwise take for granted

<u>~Vocation Office~</u> <u>Second Sunday of Easter</u>

"Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature." Is God inviting you to live the gift and mystery of being sent as priest, sister or brother to proclaim the truth of Jesus Christ? Contact the Vocation Office at (508)-630-4473 or email: dinfante@saintpaulknights.org.

-Become A Deacon-

The Office of the Diaconate is accepting applications through May 1st from married and single men between the ages of 31 and 60 for this fall's formation process. Classes begin in September. Inquiry sessions will be held if you are interested in learning more. Email diaconate@worcesterdiocese.org to schedule an session. Information is also available at worcesterdiocese.org/diaconate-information.

~Coffee and Donuts~

Join us after Masses on Sunday for Coffee and Donuts!





<u>~Jeremy's Egg~</u>

Jeremy was born with several disabilities, a slow mind, and a terminal illness that had been slowly killing him all his young life. His parents wanted to give him as normal a life as possible and sent him to St. Theresa Elementary School. At the age of 10, Jeremy was still in second grade, unable to learn. His teacher, Doris Miller, became exhausted with him. He would squirm in his seat, drool, and make grunting noises. At other times, he would speak clearly and distinctly, as if a spot of light had penetrated the darkness of his brain. Most of the time, Jeremy irritated his teacher. He was too much of a disruption. She decided to call his parents and asked them to come in for a meeting.

As the Forresters sat in the empty classroom, Doris said to them, "Jeremy belongs in a special school. It isn't fair to him to be with younger children who don't have learning problems. Why, there is a two-year gap between his age and that of the other students!" Mrs. Forrester cried softly while her husband spoke. "Miss Miller," he said, "there is no school of that kind. It would be a terrible shock for Jeremy if we had to take him out of this school. We know he really likes it here."

Doris sat for a long time after they left, staring at the snow outside the window. Its coldness seemed to seep into her soul. She wanted to sympathize with the Forresters. After all, this was their only child who had a terminal illness. But it wasn't fair to keep him in her class. She had 18 other children to teach and Jeremy was a distraction. He would never learn to read or to write. Why waste any more time trying? As she pondered the situation, guilt washed over her. "Oh God," she said, "here I am complaining when my problems are nothing compared with that poor family! Please give me the strength and help me to be more patient with Jeremy."

From that day on, she tried to ignore Jeremy's noises and his blank stares. Then one day he limped to her desk, dragging his bad leg behind him. "I love you, Miss Miller," he said, loudly enough for the whole class to hear. The other children snickered, and Doris' face turned red. She responded, "Why, that's very nice, Jeremy. Now please take your seat." Spring came, and the children talked excitedly about the coming of Easter. Doris told them the story of Jesus, his death and his resurrection, and then to emphasize the idea of new life springing forth she gave each of the children a large plastic colored egg.

"I want you to take this home and bring it back tomorrow with something inside that shows *new life*. Do everyone understand the assignment?" "Yes, Miss Miller!" the children responded enthusiastically - all except for Jeremy. He just listened intently, his eyes never left her face. He did not even make his usual noises. Had he understood what she had said about Jesus' death and resurrection? Does he understand the colored egg assignment? Maybe she should call his parents?

The next morning, 19 children came to school, laughing and talking as they placed their eggs in the large wicker basket on Miss Miller's desk. After they completed their Math lesson, it was time to open the eggs. Doris realized that she forgot to call Jeremy's parents about the assignment. The guilt was overwhelming. However, she began to open the eggs.

In the first egg, Doris found a flower. "Oh yes, a flower is certainly a sign of new life," she said. "When plants peek through the ground we know that spring is here." A small girl in the first row waved her arms. "That's my egg, Miss Miller," she called out. The next egg contained a plastic butterfly, which looked very real. Doris held it up. "We all know that a caterpillar changes and grows into a beautiful butterfly. Yes, that is new life, too" Little Judy smiled proudly and said, "Miss Miller, that one is mine." Next Doris found a rock with moss on it. She explained that the moss, too, showed life. Billy spoke up from the back of the classroom. "My Dad helped me!" he beamed. Then Doris opened the fourth egg. She gasped. The egg was empty! Was it Jeremy's she thought and did he not understand her instructions? If only she had phoned his parents! She did not want to embarrass him, she quietly set the egg aside and reached for another.

Jeremy spoke up. "Miss Miller, aren't you going to talk about my egg?" Doris replied, "Um, Jeremy - your egg is empty." He looked into her eyes and said, "Yes, so was Jesus' tomb. It was empty." Doris was shocked and ashamed for this was the lesson she taught. The lesson she assumed he didn't understand. Doris asked Jeremy, "Why was the tomb empty?" with a smile. Jeremy exclaimed. "Jesus was killed and put in there. Then his Father raised him up!"

The recess bell rang. While the children excitedly ran out to the school yard, Doris cried. The cold inside her melted away. Three months later Jeremy died. Those who paid their respects were surprised to see 19 eggs on top of his casket, all of them empty.

2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

"Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you." (John 20:19) Are you good at making people feel welcome? When you meet someone new, like a new neighbor, a new work colleague or a new parishioner, do you make them feel at home? When we make people feel welcome, we make them feel like they are included instead of being excluded. We are made for relationships – with God and each other. When you see yourself as a beloved son or daughter of God, you tend to see others the same way, too – just as God, Our Father, sees us.



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