



North American Martyrs Church

September 10, 2023 Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

PASTOR

Rev. Frederick D. Fraini, III

OFFICE STAFF

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.



Parish Office

The parish office is located in the Church Hall and open Monday -Friday 9 am-2:30 pm

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 one year in advance of the wedding date to make arrangements

ANOLTING 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 - 3:45 p.m. or by appointment

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, September 9th Memorial of Saint Peter Claver, Priest

8:00a.m. Father Stanley Piwowar by Richard & JoAnn Foley

4:30 p.m. Sullivan & Lusignan Family by Their Family

Sunday, September 10th Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 a.m. The Deceased Members of the Dobson Family by David Dobson

10:30 a.m. Norma & Arthur Colonna by Their Daughter, Debbie Gordon

Monday, September 11th Saint Cyprian

7:00 a.m. Edward Hanam by Janice & Stephen Lindberg

6:30 p.m. For the courageous men and women who selflessly dedicate their lives in service to us each day

Tuesday, September 12th Most Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00 a.m. Carol Bender by Joann Foley

Wednesday, September 13th St. John Chrysostom, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

7:00 a.m. Marilyn Loxley

Friday, September 15th Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows

7:00 a.m. Irene Dymek by Nora & Chet Makowiecki

Saturday, September 16th Saints. Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs

8:00 a.m. Aristide & Corrine Nadeau by Claire Fleming

4:30 p.m. Christine Diggins by her friends

Sunday, September 17th Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 a.m. James Joseph Riley

10:30 a.m. John Carpenter, 5th Anniversary, by his family



Mark Ashton, Ava Blazis, Kayla Bowes, Michele Burke-Pellegrini, Louie Costagna, Frank Cole, Dean Michael Collins, Shirley Connor, Christine Cote, Gail Craig, Brianna Croteau, Patricia Darrah, Jacob DeCarolis, Ellie Devereaux, Kevin Dobson, Elaine Doherty, Sadie Dutton, Paul Dyke, David and Pat Faucher, Connie Flynn, Joan Fouhy, Bob Fuller, Suzanne Gird, Lori Girouard, Therese Gosselin, Deacon Jim Graves, Jim Groves, Ed Handlin, Mary Hannon, Melissa Hathaway, Robert Hehir, Elijah Johnson, Kim Johnson, Maureen Jones, 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, Sue Morizzo, 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, Jake Thibeault, David Toomey, Bonnie Turner, Michael Young and Lucille Zammarelli.

For all the men and women serving in our country's military.

Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass, October 22, 2023

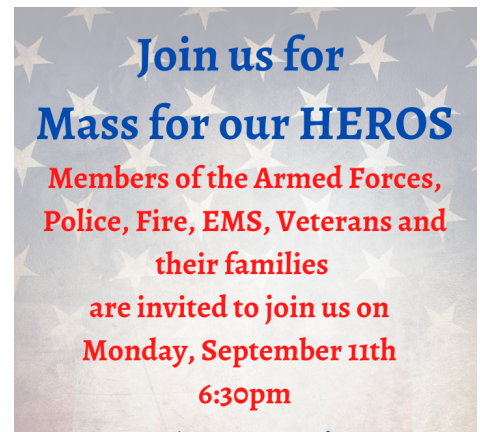
Bishop Robert J. McManus will celebrate the Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 22, 2023 at the Cathedral of St. Paul, Worcester. This liturgy of thanksgiving to God for many years of faithful witness to the sacredness of Christian marriage honors couples who are marking significant anniversaries (25th, 40th, 50th, etc.) this year. A light reception will follow downstairs in the Cenacle. Family and friends are welcome! Couples wishing to attend should pre-register no later than October 13 so that commemorative certificates may be issued. To register, complete the registration form at www.worcesterdiocese.org/wedding-anniversary-mass, or contact the Office of Marriage and Family at 508-929-4311 or email aledoux@worcesterdiocese.org to request that a copy of the registration form be sent to you.

STEWARDSHIP

September 3, 2023

Sunday Collection	\$4587.00
Monthly Renovation	172.00
Coffee Shop	20.00
CCD	569.00
Mass Intentions	25.00
Kateri's Kitchen	65.00
Assumption of Mary	76.00
Central & Eastern Europe	7.00
Religious Education	305.00
Support our Schools	65.00
Propagation of the Faith	10.00
All Saints Day	10.00
Online Giving	549.00
Total:	\$6460.00

Thank you for your generosity!



Religious Ed Classes Begin this weekend!

Grades 1-5 meet at 9:30 am on Sunday Mornings.

Please be careful as you are entering and exiting the parking lot after the 8:30 Mass and coming to 10:30 Mass, as the children will be coming to and leaving classes.

Please keep all of the children and Catechists in your prayers as we embark on a new year!

A Pro-Life Morning of Reflection and Enrichment

A Pro-Life Morning of Reflection and Enrichment will be held on Saturday, Sept. 16 from 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Paul, 38 High St., Worcester. The day will include Mass and light lunch. There is no cost to attend but pre-registration is required. To register, send your name, parish, and email address to aledoux@worcesterdiocese.org, or contact the Respect Life Office at 508-929-4311. All are invited to attend!

"Love & Transformation."

A special concert by Jane Shivick, soprano & Olga Rogach, pianist at Mechanics Hall on 9/24/23 at 4pm. Tix are \$35, \$25 with special pricing for students and young people available at www.mechanicshall.org.

This concert is given in memory of Todd A. Dickie.

Kateri's Kitchen

We are in need of the following items for the food pantry ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, cereal.

We thank you for your generosity!

Dear Parish Family,

Last week, after one of our weekday Masses, I was approached by a daily communicant who inquired about the Spiritual Works of Mercy. She recalled hearing all about the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy as a child growing up, but wondered why now there doesn't seem to be the same emphasis as before on them. I assured her that we should still place the same emphasis on them as we had done previously. With that being said, I thought it would be apropos to examine them this weekend, since our Gospel accentuates one of them!

The first Spiritual Work of Mercy is counseling the doubtful. This refers to our own initiative to help guide someone towards the truth. As Catholics, our very lives should be a witness to the truth that God sent His only Son to redeem us and invite us to share in His life forever. Each of us, however, can go through moments of doubt. How we can counsel the doubtful? Some examples could include: a priest guiding a soul towards a life of virtue in confession; a mother or father instructing or correcting their children; a spiritual director helping someone grow in their spiritual life; a religious education teacher helping their students learn about Jesus.

The second Spiritual Work of Mercy is forgiving injuries. Unfortunately, if you're Irish and Italian like me, forgiveness is not our natural response when we have been hurt or wounded. It's much easier to retreat inward, hold a grudge and avoid the problem altogether. However, as Catholics, we know that only forgiveness will lead us to true freedom. Try to understand why someone might have hurt you. Does it perhaps stem from their own woundedness? Unfortunately, we've all been inflicted with wounds from others for no apparent reason. This is indicative of an individual's inability to deal with their own insecurities, prejudices, and previous hurts, which are then transferred onto us. Pray for those that have harmed you. Go to confession regularly! I've said it before, but I'll say it again, you cannot forgive, unless you allow yourself to be forgiven! Pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and ask to grow in the same Mercy that Almighty God extends to us!

The third Spiritual Work of Mercy is instructing the ignorant. Our Catholic faith is incredibly deep and rich. Knowing all of it can be impossible, but it's important to learn as much about it as we can! Instructing the ignorant means teaching others how to live according to the Gospel and how to be followers of Christ. We live in a world that is continuously soliciting ideals and values that contradict the faith we profess. Sadly, many ignorant people who do not know any better, will succumb to these erroneous and immoral ideals that will deprive them of the happiness and peace every human heart desires. Instructing the ignorant can include examples like Father Roy's homily last week, where he defended Bishop McManus, who has an obligation to ensure every Catholic institution is professing Catholic values and the truth of our Catholic faith, without the infiltration from a culture which seeks to destroy them. This may also include formal Catechesis, helping in an RCIA program, volunteering in youth ministry, teaching religion education, or even teaching your children or family members about different prayers, devotions or Church teaching.

The fourth Spiritual Work of Mercy is bearing wrongs patiently. Because we live in a fallen world, we face injustice throughout our lives. Do not be afraid to ask for the strength to encounter hardship and sorrow with patience when it arises. Inevitably, there will be moments when you feel unjustly treated by co-workers, family, friends, or even by God Himself. Ask for clarity, patience and joy in the midst of these trials. Pray for those who have treated you unfairly. This is also a wonderful time to pray about any time you have treated others unfairly.

The fifth Spiritual Work of Mercy is admonishing the sinner. This means helping someone who has fallen off the track get back on the path of holiness. We all fall at different points of our life. Sometimes, we need help choosing the good and sticking with it. James 5:19 says, "whoever brings back a sinner from the error of his way...will cover a multitude of sins." This can include pointing out some negative patterns or tendencies in a person's life, a friend or roommate sitting down in love to point out some wrong behavior or actions to a loved one. Admonishing the sinner should never be easy. We do not do it out of spite or pride, but as a merciful act of love to bring someone closer to the heart of the Father.

The sixth Spiritual Work of Mercy is praying for the living and the dead. Prayer unites us not only with God, but with each other. We are called to pray, as the Church, for the other members of the Body of Christ. Some of these members have gone before us. We pray for the repose of their souls, especially within our families, so that we may hope to join them one day in Heaven. We do this when we offer an intention during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. We also pray for the needs of our families, friends and those of the entire world. Ask a family member or friend how you can best pray for them. Write down a list of prayer intentions and bring them with you to Mass or the chapel. Offer up your day, work or activities for the needs of those around you. Offer up a Mass for a deceased loved one or family member.

The seventh Spiritual Work of Mercy is comforting the sorrowful. We all experience different moments of sorrow in our lives. Comforting the sorrowful involves reaching out to those having a hard time and accompanying them on their journey of grief. Call a friend whose been feeling down and ask them about their day. Send a card to someone going through a difficult time. Listen to and comfort a friend who needs to vent or cry. We must never disregard the immense value in simple human accompaniment.

Now that we've covered the Spiritual Works of Mercy, next week we'll tackle the Corporal Works of Mercy!

God Love You!
Father Fred

Safe Environment Notice: Our parish follows the guidelines of the national charter for the protection of children & young people approved by the US Bishops & Diocese of Worcester policies. If you have been abused or victimized by someone representing the Catholic Church, please believe in the possibility for hope and help and healing. Contact Judith Audette, L.I.C.S.W., Victim Services Coordinator. A report can be made by phone to 508-929-4363 (a 24 hour confidential voicemail is available.)



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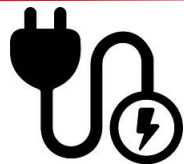


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