



North American Martyrs Church

September 24, 2023 Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

PASTOR
Rev. Frederick D. Fraini, III

OFFICE STAFF
Lisa Burkitt

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 23rd Memorial of Saint Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest

8:00 a.m. Judy Bjork

4:30p.m. Robert Paulsen by his family

Sunday, September 24th Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 a.m. Mary & Stanley Parrish by friends of the Dawson Family

10:30 a.m. Leroy Thomas Jr., 17th Anniversary by Heidi and John Worster

Monday, September 25th Saints Louis Martin and Zélie Guérin

7:00 a.m. Mary Genatossio, 34th Anniversary, by her family

Tuesday, September 26th Saint Paul VI

7:00 a.m. Lester Rita Rice Anniversary by family

Wednesday, September 27th Memorial of Saint Vincent de Paul, Priest

7:00 a.m. Judy Colaianne, Birthday Remembrance by family

Friday, September, 29th Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, Archangels

7:00 a.m. Vanessa & John Marcotte by Father Fraini

Saturday, September 30th, Memorial of St. Jerome, Priest & Doctor of the Church

8:00 a.m. The Poor Souls of Purgatory

4:30p.m. Rita Trombi by Mary Toomey

Sunday, October 1st, Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 a.m. Eileen Lebel by Peter & Maureen Morse

10:30 a.m. Jean & David Johnson, Jason Russell & Aili Messier by Jenna Holbrook



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.

Annual Life Chain in Worcester & Shrewsbury

Let your voice be heard in proclaiming the sanctity of life! All are invited to join the annual Life Chain on Sunday, Oct. 1 from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. This event of peaceful, prayerful witness to the sacredness of human life is held annually on Respect Life Sunday across the nation. Life Chain stations will be located at Elm Park/Highland St., at Denny's Restaurant on Lincoln St. in Worcester, and at White City Plaza in Shrewsbury. You may bring a chair if you'd like to sit. Signs will be available. Invite family, friends, and fellow parishioners to join you in proclaiming the Gospel of Life and reminding passers-by that life is a precious gift from God. The event will be held rain or shine. For more information, contact Joe Godek at 508-614-5971.

All are welcome!

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.)

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.

*Congratulations to
Sara Elizabeth Watson & Bryan David Erickson
who celebrated the Sacrament of Matrimony on
Saturday, September 23rd!*



Kateri's Kitchen

Our shelves are low!

Help us stock Kateri's Kitchen!

This week the Kateri's Kitchen Staff is requesting peanut butter or jelly.

We thank you for your generosity!

STEWARDSHIP

September 10, 2023

Sunday Collection	\$3,083.00
Monthly Renovation	107.00
Coffee Shop	25.00
CCD	50.00
Mass Intensions	20.00
Hall Rental	360.00
Donation	200.00
Support Our Schools	30.00
Online Giving	119.00
Total:	\$3994.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Religious Education News

Grades 1-5 will meet this Sunday from 9:30-10:15 a.m.

For the complete schedule please visit our website:

<https://namartyrsauburn.org/religious-education>

Tuesdays with the Saints Meets every Tuesday at 10a.m.
in the Hall.

Dear Parish Family,

Many parishioners expressed their appreciation for the last two bulletin reflections which discussed the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. This week, I thought it would be apropos to discuss another important topic of Catholicism, namely, the Cardinal Virtues. Moving forward, each week I will do my best to address some important aspect of our faith in effort to both catechize and foster a deeper appreciation of its beauty and richness.

The Cardinal Virtues are the four principal moral virtues. The English word Cardinal is derived from the Latin word *cardo*, which means “hinge.” All other virtues hinge on these four: prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance.

The Greek philosopher Plato first discussed the cardinal virtues in his Republic, and they entered into Christian teaching by means of Plato’s disciple Aristotle. Unlike the theological virtues, which are the gifts of God through grace, the four Cardinal Virtues can be practiced by anyone; thus, they represent the foundation of natural morality.

Prudence: The First Cardinal Virtue

Saint Thomas Aquinas “The Angelic Doctor” ranked prudence as the first cardinal virtue because it is concerned with the intellect.

Aristotle defined prudence as *recta ratio agibilium*, “right reason applied to practice”. It is the virtue that allows us to judge what is right and what is wrong in any given situation. When we mistake the evil for the the good, we are not exercising prudence, instead we are showing our lack of it.

Incidentally, there is an appalling lack of prudence in our world today!

Because it is so easy to fall into error, prudence requires us to seek the counsel of others, particularly those we know to be sound judges of morality. Disregarding the advice or warnings of those whose judgment does not coincide with ours is a sign of imprudence. Sadly, in today’s world, even biological gender is disputed among the erroneous. I feel it safe to assume that Saint Thomas Aquinas would prudently point us to Sacred Scripture: Genesis 1:27. “Male and Female He created them.”

Justice: The Second Cardinal Virtue

Justice, according to Saint Thomas Aquinas, is the second cardinal virtue, because it is concerned with the will. As Father John A. Hardon notes in his Modern Catholic Dictionary, it is “the constant and permanent determination to give everyone his or her rightful due.” We say that “justice is blind,” because it should not matter what we think of a particular person. If we owe them a debt, we should repay what we owe.

Justice is connected to the idea of rights. While we often use justice in a negative sense (He got what he deserved), justice in its proper sense is positive. Injustice occurs when we as individuals or by law deprive someone of that which they are owed. Legal rights can never outweigh natural rights established by Almighty God. This is why the Catholic Church vigorously defends the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. Practices such as abortion and euthanasia are always immoral and unjust, because they deprive a soul the right to life, a gift, given by God alone.

Fortitude: The Third Cardinal Virtue

The third cardinal virtue, according to Saint Thomas Aquinas is fortitude. While this virtue is commonly referred to as courage, it is different from much of what we think as courage today. Fortitude allows us to overcome fear and to remain steady in our will in the face of obstacles, but it is always reasoned and reasonable; the person exercising fortitude does not seek danger for danger’s sake. Prudence and Justice are the virtues through which we decide what needs to be done; fortitude gives us the strength to do it.

Fortitude is the only one of the cardinal virtues that is also a gift of the Holy Spirit, allowing us to rise above our natural fears in defense of our Catholic faith.

Temperance: The Fourth Cardinal Virtue

Temperance, Saint Thomas declared, is the fourth and final cardinal virtue. While fortitude is concerned with the restraint of fear so we can act, temperance is the restraint of our desires and passions. Food, drink, and sex are all necessary for our survival, individually and as a species; yet a disordered desire for any of these goods can have disastrous consequences both physical and moral.

Temperance is the virtue that attempts to keep us from excess, and, as such, requires the balancing of legitimate goods against our inordinate desire for them. Our legitimate use of goods may be different at times; temperance is the “golden mean” that helps us determine how far we can act on our desires.

We all suffer from various vices in our lives. It is important to remember that the only way we can effectively eradicate a particular vice is by incorporating its opposite virtue. This week, let us all pray for the grace to incorporate the Cardinal Virtues of Prudence, Justice, Fortitude and Temperance into our own lives!

Have a wonderful week!

God Love You!!!

Father Fred



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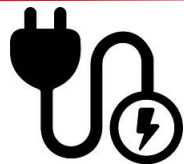


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