



North American Martyrs Church

October 8, 2023 Twenty-seventh 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.

Novena to the North American Martyrs October 9-19, 2023 6:30pm



October 9th
Rev. Frederick D. Fraini, III
St. Isaac Jogues



October 10th
Rev. John Gavin, SJ
St. Jean de Brebeuf



October 11th
Monsignor
Robert Johnson
St. Rene Goupil



October 12th
Rev. Lucas LaRoche
St. Gabriel Lalemant



October 13th
Monsignor James Moroney
St. John Lalande



October 16th
Rev. Paul Shaughnessy, SJ
St. Anthony Daniel



October 17th
Reverend Monsignor
Richard Reidy
St. Charles Garnier



October 18th
Monsignor
Stephen Pedone
St. Noel Chabanel



October 19th
Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Feast Day Mass

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, October 7th, Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary

8:00 a.m. Edward Hanam by Janice & Stephen Lindberg

4:30 p.m. Ronald Talman 2nd Anniversary by his loving family

Sunday, October 8th, Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 a.m. Chester Wisialko, 8th Anniversary by Ann Marie

10:30 a.m. Bishop Robert McManus for Spiritual Protection & Fortitude
by Richard & Joann Foley

Monday, October 9th, Saint Denis and Companions

6:30 p.m. Reverend Father Edmund F. Falvey

Tuesday, October 10th, Saint Francis Borgia

6:30 p.m. Edmund and Nellie Falvey

Wednesday, October 11th, Saint John XXIII

6:30 p.m. Frederick and Betty Fraini

Thursday, October 12th, Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos

6:30 p.m. Raymond and Kathleen Pescara

Friday, October 13th, Saint Edward the Confessor

6:30 p.m. Gerald Falvey

Saturday, October 14th, Blessed Carlo Acutis

8:00 a.m. Patricia Garvey by her family

4:30 p.m. John Letourneau by Eleanor Binnall

Sunday, October 15th, Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 a.m. William (Rip) VanWinkle by his wife, Jane

10:30 a.m. Freeman Worster by Heidi & John Worster

Please Note: There will be no 7am Mass during the Novena.



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 DeCarolus, 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 Tatrow, Jake Thibeault, David Toomey, Bonnie Turner, Michael Young and Lucille Zammarelli.

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

October 8th Pastor Appreciation Day



On this Pastor Appreciation Day,
we would like to thank
Father Fred for all he does for our parish.
He will climb to the highest heights to
help us to grow in our faith and love of the
One Who is Love Himself!

Congratulations to
Brittany Friend & Michael Vessello
who celebrated the Sacrament of Matrimony on
Saturday, October 7th!


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.)

Kateri's Kitchen

Our shelves are low!

Help us stock Kateri's Kitchen! This week the Kateri's Kitchen Staff is requesting mustard, ketchup or mayo.

We thank you for your generosity!



<u>STEWARDSHIP</u> October 1, 2023	
Sunday Collection	\$3966.00
Monthly Renovation	280.00
Coffee Shop	12.00
Holy Days	45.00
Bulletin Ads	75.00
Mass Intentions	30.00
Kateri's Kitchen	55.00
Donation	1,000.00
Religious Ed	85.00
Funerals & Weddings	850.00
Our Schools, Prop. of the Faith & Aid to Europe	95.00
Online Giving	394.00
Total:	\$6,887.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Rosary Rally at Drury Square to Our Lady Of Fatima

The Rally will be held on October 14, 2023 at noon.
Parking is behind the Verizon Store.
For questions contact Judy 508-832-5431

Respect Life Month Novena October 13-21

Join thousands of Catholics praying for the protection of human life from conception to natural death.

The Respect Life Month novena takes place

Friday, Oct. 13 - Saturday, Oct. 21.

Get daily intentions, brief reflections, and more.

Sign up at respectlife.org.

Religious Education News

No Classes this weekend!

For the complete schedule please visit our website:
<https://namartyrsaurn.org/religious-education>

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

Holy Hour to Pray for Priests

On Friday, Oct. 13 from 7 - 8 pm, a Holy Hour to pray for priests will take place at Immaculate Conception Church on 353 Grove St., Worcester. The holy hour consists of time for silent Adoration, a short reflection, the Rosary, and Benediction.

Please join us to pray for our priests.

Takes place every second Friday of the month.

Dear Parish Family,

Admittedly, when I was a little boy, some of the worst words to wake up to were: "Freddie, wake up! We have to go to Mass this morning!" "Today? On a Wednesday?" "Yes, it's a Holy Day of Obligation." "Terrific, that means the Church is making us go to Mass in the middle of the week. Does that mean we can skip on Sunday?" "Of course not! We're still going to Mass on Sunday, now get up and get ready!"

Friends, a holy day of obligation is a type of solemnity. In the Church, solemnities are special days when we reflect on a particular mystery of our faith or remember a particular saint. The holy days of obligation are solemnities that have something distinctive about them: they're so important that the Church asks us to attend Mass on these days, even if they do not necessarily fall on a Sunday. Far too often, we as Catholics, tend to focus all of our attention on the "obligation" part. We think of all the things that occupy our time, all the things that we need to do, all the things we would rather do, and wonder why on earth the Church chooses these seemingly random days to demand more of our time. At least, that's how my young childhood mind used to think. I also know that there are many adults who think the way I used to...after all, I see the attendance on holy days.

If you can relate to this sentiment at all, I would like to propose something that will hopefully change your mindset towards our holy days of obligation, as it changed mine. I will not deny that holy days involve obligations: the Church does expect us to attend Mass on those days. However I propose, as the Church does, that they are much more than that. At their core, they are celebrations, not obligations. The Church is not merely demanding that we "go to Mass." The Church is demanding that we celebrate! You even see this in the name itself. We derive our word holiday from the concept of a "holy" day, and so a "holy day" of obligation is really a "holiday" of obligation.

Therefore, we attend Mass on these days to rejoice! At the heart of Christianity is the belief that we have something to rejoice over: namely, our salvation in Christ! The Church invites us to Mass on these holy days to remind us of this reason to rejoice. If we allow ourselves to go about our time distracted from this truth, we're forgetting the most important thing, the thing most worth celebrating. The Church isn't telling us, "Go to Mass so you can pay your debt"; it's telling us, "Your debt has been paid! Go to Mass and celebrate!"

Dear family, with this perspective, holy days of obligation become a gift. We must take a step back from all our worries and preoccupations to remember what is good, joyous, and true. We must celebrate, not so that we can "get away from it all," but so that we can get back to it all, returning to everything that matters most. Should you want to add these festivals to your calendars now, then here are the six holy days of obligation: January 1 - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, Thursday of the sixth week of Easter - Solemnity of Christ's Ascension into Heaven, August 15th - Solemnity of Mary's Assumption into Heaven, November 1 - Solemnity of all Saints, December 8th - Solemnity of Mary's Immaculate Conception, December 25th - Christmas, Christ's birthday.

So what are these holy days? Christmas has been celebrated since the beginning of the Church, but so has the Ascension. Since the fourth century, this holy day has commemorated Christ's "Ascension" into Heaven forty days after His Resurrection. This day reminds us of the reality of Heaven: our Kingdom is not of this world, and one day we'll follow Jesus to His Heavenly Kingdom.

Three of these holy days focus on Mary, Jesus' mother. The Immaculate Conception commemorates Mary's being conceived without sin, a special grace that was offered other by virtue of her being Christ's future mother. The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, celebrates her motherhood and her role in salvation history. The Assumption commemorates her being received body and soul into Heaven, much like Jesus. These three days therefore celebrate her entire life, from conception to Heaven.

Finally, there's All Saints' Day (which is coming up...*wink wink*). On this day, we celebrate all the saints who serve as models to teach us the way to the Kingdom of Heaven. However, we also celebrate more than that: a saint is someone who we believe is in Heaven, whether or not the Church has declared them a saint. If you have a relative or friend who has passed away, consider the day as celebrating their eternal life in the Lord too! If you're a pessimist like me, and you're not as convinced that all of your loved ones are in Heaven yet, then consider coming to Mass on November 2nd - All Souls Day, even though it is not a holy day of obligation, it's a wonderful day to pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed and to trust in the power of intercessory prayer and the overwhelming mercy of Almighty God.

As you can see my friends, each of the holy days of obligation center around joyous Good News: the Word has become flesh, through Mary, to offer us life in the Kingdom of Heaven. Surely this is news worth celebrating!

Finally, we at North American Martyrs parish have another reason to celebrate! Our patronal feast day is rapidly approaching! Starting this Monday evening at 6:30p.m., we will begin our second annual Novena in honor of the North American Martyrs. I have personally invited some of the finest preachers from across our diocese to share in this time of parish retreat and renewal. Please remember that each of these priests are extremely busy with their respective ministerial roles in our diocese. They have so generously and graciously afforded us their precious time to celebrate with us, in order that we may more prayerfully meditate on the tremendous sacrifices our parish patron saints have made to enhance the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. It is my fervent hope and prayer that each one of us will be captivated and fall deeper in love with the magnificent reality of Love, that they so generously shared with the world!

I know that all of us are busy and live extremely hectic lives. However, as I aforementioned above, we must dedicate time to God, and celebrate in the reality of His Love for us! After all, that is the only thing that matters. Please consider coming to as many of the evening novena Masses that you possibly can. You would give your pastor a tremendous gift if he saw as many of you each evening as possible. As an aside, if you plan on missing any of the evenings, skip the first one...that guy talks too much and in my opinion, really isn't worth listening to anyway! I hope to see you all and celebrate this reality: "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church." - St. Tertullian.

God Love You!!!

Father Fraini



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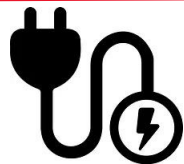


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