

North American Martyrs Church

February 18, 2024 First Sunday of Lent

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.

LENT

*Fast
Pray
Give*



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

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

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

CONFESSIONS

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

8 Wyoma Dr. Auburn, MA 01501 | www.namartyrsauburn.org | 508 - 798- 8779



Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 17th, Seven Founders of the Servite Order

8:00am Gerald Fleming by Claire Fleming

4:30pm Deceased Members of the Dunn & Worster Family
by John & Heidi Worster

Sunday, February 18th, First Sunday of Lent

8:30am James Brennan 3rd Anniversary by the Brennan Family

10:30am Stanley & Helen Kerbel, Wedding Anniversary Remembrance,
by their family

Monday, February 19th, Saint Conrad of Piacenza

7:00am Blanche Kiley by Pauline Belair

Tuesday, February 20th, Saints Jacinta and Francisco Marto

7:00am Michael J. Morrissey

Wednesday, February 21st, Saint Peter Damian

7:00am Edward Charlton

Thursday, February 22nd Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter, Apostle

7:00am Eleanor Grendmaison

Friday, February 23rd, Memorial of Saint Polycarp, bishop and martyr

7:00am Robert Hehir

Saturday, February 24th, Blessed Luke Belludi

8:00am Thomas Clancey

4:30pm Betty Paulsen by Mary Toomey

Sunday February 25th, Second Sunday of Lent

8:30am Ginny Alex by Maureen & Peter Morse

10:30am Rev. Father Walter Riley

Looking for an Examination of Conscience?

Last weekend Father Fraini reminded us that ashes are a sign of repentance. He told us to find an examination of conscience.

Here is one he has shared:

www.bulldogcatholic.org/go-to-confession/

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be held during Lent in the church on Mondays beginning at 6pm until the last penitent and Saturdays from 3-3:45pm

STEWARDSHIP February 11, 2024

Sunday Collection	\$3,578.00
Monthly Renovation	779.00
Hall Rental	480.00
Mass intentions	120.00
Funeral	300.00
Catholic Home Missions & Catholic Free Press	252.00
Bulletin Ads	150.00
Coffee	12.00
Baptism	250.00
Online Giving	1014.00
Total:	\$6935.00

Thank you for your generosity!



Please Note: There is no religious education this weekend due to school vacation week. Classes will resume on February 25th.

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.)

Baptism

On Sunday, February 11th, Neve Kathy Lucey was baptized by Rev. Father Frederick D. Fraini, III. Neve is the daughter of Jeremiah & Katie (Stasaitis) Lucey. Her Godparents are Matthew & Sarah Seaman. It is with tremendous joy that we welcome Neve to the Catholic Church as our newest sister in Christ!

NORTH AMERICAN MARTYRS AUBURN LENT 2024

Prayer · Fasting · Almsgiving

Daily Mass will be celebrated Monday thru Friday at 7am & Saturdays at 8am

February 14, Ash Wednesday:

Mass will be celebrated at 7am, Noon and 6pm

Confessions: Mondays 6pm until the last penitent & Saturdays 3-3:45

Stations of the Cross: Fridays 6pm

Bible Study: Mondays 6pm

Parish Mission: 6pm on Tuesdays

February 20th & 27th, & March 12

Guest Speaker Rev. Father Paul Shaughnessy, SJ

**AS WE ENTER INTO LENT NEXT
WEEK WE WILL BE COLLECTING
DIAPERS OF ALL SIZES TO HELP
A YOUNG FAMILY IN NEED!
THEIR NEW BABY IS DUE SOON!**



Please consider
purchasing
diapers of any
size or wipes and
leaving them by
St. Issac!



Let Us Pray

Ava Blazis, Kayla Bowes, Eric Baumgarten, Janett Brancy, Michele Burke-Pellegrini, Steve Cenedella, Louie Costagna, Frank Cole, Shirley Connor, Jonathan Corey, Christine Cote, Gail Craig, Brianna Croteau, Patricia Darrah, Jacob DeCarolis, Derosas Family, Ellie Devereaux, Kevin Dobson, Elaine Doherty, Sadie Dutton, Paul Dyke, David & Pat Faucher, Connie Flynn, Joan Fouhy, Bob Fuller, Suzanne Gird, Lori Girouard, Therese Gosselin, Deacon Jim Graves, Jim Groves, Mary Hannon, Elijah Johnson, Kim Johnson, Maureen Jones, Edward LaConto, Jean LaConto, Roger & Rosalie LaCroix, Larry, Donna & Michael Langevin, Paige Lariviere, Michael Leung, Richard Levansavich, Sr., Audrey-Lynn Marron, Bill Martin, Michael McGrail, Sue Morizzo, Max Mullen, Gary Nickerson, Mary Lou Paulli, Peggy Patenaude, Kaise Pinard, John Power, Theresa Power, Anthony Real, Edward J. Rutkowski, Joseph Sbrogna, Raymond Scanlon, Dan Slavinskas, Scott Staruk, David Tatro, Jake Thibeault, David Toomey, Bonnie Turner, Michael Young & Tracy Williams.

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

My sin is always before me

Dear Parish Family,

Without question one of the most underutilized Sacraments in the Catholic Church today is the Sacrament of Reconciliation. I would propose three primary factors which contribute to the staggering absence of contrite penitents darkening the thresholds of our confessionals. The first is rather obvious, it is complete apathy. Sadly, there are many individuals who could simply care less either way. These indifferent hearts have little concern for what they perceive to be such a trivial matter. Unfortunately, the spirit of sensualism has infiltrated these fragile hearts. When one becomes so consumed for the pleasures of the body, things of the flesh, religion becomes relegated only to the form of the spectacular. In their estimation, there is nothing spectacular about kneeling sinful and sorrowful before Love Himself and admitting that we often fall short of the standard of love that He calls us to. However, there is something spectacular present, there is Someone spectacular present. The One who created them, the One who knows them intimately and loves them perfectly, is present. There He waits to remind them that holiness is not synonymous with perfection, but instead, perseverance. There He waits to infuse them with His own Sanctifying Grace, which will in turn empower them with the strength, courage, and conviction to persevere unto the end. There is nothing more spectacular than receiving a gift we are keenly aware we do not deserve. The Mercy of His Sacrament is the gift of Himself to us.

The second factor lies in those who deny absolute moral truth, or right and wrong. This naive, pitiful, collective group has foolishly accepted the cultural lie that there is no longer any such thing as sin. The ludicrous mentality which expresses inherent belief that when we die, we all automatically go to heaven. I must admit, it is a pleasant thought, however, entirely erroneous. To propose such a thought, one must consider some fundamental principal questions. If there is no such thing as sin, why do we need a Savior from sin? If therefore, we do not need a Savior from sin, why do we need God? The latter question illustrates the proposal of this insidiously evil agenda, namely, the lie that we do not need God for eternal salvation. I find it appalling one can presume eternal redemption yet negate the necessity of the One who secured it. The truth of the matter is this, every insult, every bruise, and every wound that Christ endured during His Sorrowful Passion and Death, represent the sins of our past, our current sins, and the sins of our future, these sins are always before us. We need not look any further than the crucifixes we possess in our homes. Each time the magnitude of the importance of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is negated, it is as if the Cross of Calvary is beheld as something insignificant and superfluous. Woefully, nothing could be further from the truth.

The final primary factor is simply fear. Far too many faithful Catholics are absolutely terrified of this necessary, imperative, redeeming Sacrament. Admittedly, many have good reason to be. In the past, they have been unbelievably scorned, and belittled. They left not feeling forgiven and uplifted, but instead, with far greater burdens of shame and embarrassment imposed upon them. I assure you this is certainly not what our Blessed Lord intended, for these, I apologize. The priests who have misused and weaponized this sacred institution by inflicting pain on others, will indeed answer for their own sins.

Once I entered the Sacrament full of fear and anxiety. I explained to the priest how nervous I was. Afterwards, he asked me a peculiar question. "Do you know who Jesus is?" Yes, Father, I think I do, I answered. He explained, "No, you don't. Because if you knew Him, you would have never been afraid to come." I will never forget those words. I pray that you may never either. My sin is always before me, but in the Sacrament, only He can take it away.

God Love You!

Father Fraini



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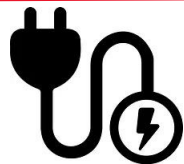


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