

North American Martyrs Church

Sunday, June 29, 2025, Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles
8 Wyoma Dr. Auburn, MA 01501 | www.namartyrsauburn.org | 508 - 798- 8779



PASTOR

Rev. Frederick D. Fraini, III

OFFICE STAFF

Lisa Burkitt

Mass Schedule

Monday-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

Baptisms are held on the first & third Sunday of the month following the 10:30 Mass. 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

Mass Intentions

Saturday, June 28th, Saint Irenaeus

8:00am Fernando Peschiera Carrillo - by Peschiera Roy family

4:30pm Arthur & Rita Lindberg by the Lindberg Family

Sunday, June 29th, Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles

8:30am Ann Sutor by Lynn Bombard

10:30am Deceased Members of the Montville, LaPorte & Cusson Family
by the Montville Family

Monday, June 30th First Martyrs of the Church of Rome

7:00am Eduardo Peschiera Rebagliati by Peschiera Roy family

Tuesday, July 1st Saint Junipero Serra

7:00am Raymond and Kathleen Pescara

Wednesday, July 2nd Saint Oliver Plunkett

7:00am John Zizileuskas by Deb Norling

Friday July 4th Saint Elizabeth of Portugal

7:00am Javier Peschiera Rebagliati by Peschiera Roy family

Saturday July 5th Saint Anthony Zaccaria

8:00am Rev. John Selwin Ledford

4:30pm Lillian Lawrence Birthday Remembrance by Eleanor Binnall

Sunday July 6th, Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30am James Sullivan by Maureen & Peter Morse

10:30am Freeman Worster by John & Heidi Worster

Religious Ed Registration for 2025-2026 Registration

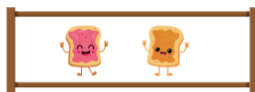
Registration is now open for all children in grades 1-11 for 2025-2026! Please note if your child is in grade 2 or 11 at a Catholic School they must attend classes at their parish to receive their Sacraments.

Your registration form and payment must be received in order to secure your child's/children's spot. Please visit our website to register:

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

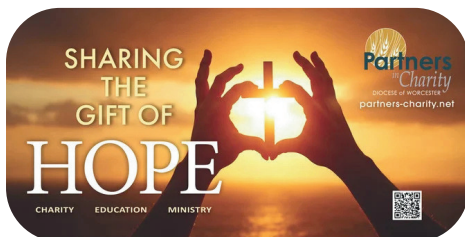
Kateri's Kitchen

**This week help us fill the shelves!
Peanut butter and Jelly**



Partners in Charity

We have received \$26,170 of the \$52,300 goal from 77 donors. Please consider giving, envelopes are available at the doors or you may give online!



Stewardship

June 22, 2025

Sunday Collection	\$2444.25
Monthly Renovation	5.00
Tabernacle Fund	20.00
Mass Intentions	25.00
Kateri's Kitchen	200.00
Religious Education	215.00
Donation	1200.00
Estate of Frederic Dupre	25000.00
Peter's Pence	1.00
Fuel and Heat	20.00
Coffee	6.00
Online Giving	269.00
Total:	\$29,405.25

Thank you for your generosity!



Jubilee 2025

Jubilee Pilgrimage

ECUMENICAL VESPERS in Worcester

All are welcome to join Bishop McManus, Metropolitan Methodios of the Greek Orthodox Church and visiting clergy for Ecumenical Vespers in Commemoration of the Jubilee of Hope and the 1700th Anniversary of the Council of Nicaea (which resulted in the Nicene Creed) on Sunday, June 29 at 4:00 pm at St. Paul Cathedral, Chatham and High Streets, Worcester at 4 pm. Multiple confessors will be available for the Sacrament of Penance from 3 - 4 pm. A public reception will follow in the Cenacle.

Let Us Pray

Ava Blazis, Kayla Bowes, Eric Baumgarten, Paul Beckwith, Susan Bradley, Haddie Boucher, Michele Burke-Pellegrini, Betty Capuano, Louie Costagna, Frank Cole, Shirley Connor, Jonathan Corey, Christine Cote, Gail Craig, Brianna Croteau, Jacob DeCarolus, Derosas Family, Elaine Doherty, Richard Dowd, Sadie Dutton, Paul Dyke, Ruthann & Charles Flynn, Joan Fouhy, Bob Fuller, Suzanne Gird, Lori Girouard, Deacon Jim Graves, Jim Groves, Mary Hannon, Elijah Johnson, Kim Johnson, Maureen Jones, Edward LaConto, Jean LaConto, Michael LeFlecer, Lafrry, Donna & Michael Langevin, Paige Lariviere, Benjamin & Jane Larsen, Michael LeFlecer, Barbara Letourneau, Michael Leung, Richard Levansavich, Sr., Audrey-Lynn Marron, Bill Martin, Mary McCafferty, Michael McGrail, Max Mullen, Gary Nickerson, Bill & Denise Norberg, Matteo Padilla, Mary Lou Paulli, Peggy Patenaude, John Power, Theresa Power, Anthony Real, Paula Ruoppo, Edward J. Rutkowski, Joseph Sbrogna, Raymond Scanlon, Dan Slavinskis, Scott Staruk, Sophie Stodolski, David Tatro, Jake Thibeault, Bonnie Turner, Evelyn Urban, Heidi Worster, Walter Wheeler & Tracy Williams.

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

Dear Parish Family,



On July 4, 1776, in the midst of the American Revolution, the Continental Congress meeting in Philadelphia courageously declared the thirteen colonies independent from Great Britain. Today, 249 years later, we celebrate this Declaration. With all our fellow Americans, we celebrate our freedom on this Independence Day, the Fourth of July. As Catholics, we especially pray for religious liberty.

Many of the colonists who came to America in the 17th and 18th centuries were fleeing religious persecution. Like the Puritans and Quakers, Catholics came to America to escape persecution. English and Irish Catholics first settled in Maryland since the first Baron of Baltimore, George Calvert, and his brother Leonard, who were Catholics, had founded Maryland as a haven for persecuted Christians. Catholics and Protestants lived peacefully side by side in Maryland. The famous Act of Toleration of 1649 guaranteed religious liberty. However, in 1654, when Puritans took over the governance of Maryland, the Act of Toleration was repealed and Catholics were outlawed. Maryland joined the other colonies in enacting the English penal laws that restricted the freedom of Catholics: the denial of the right to vote or to hold public office, the prohibition of public worship, and even the imprisonment of priests. The penal laws against Catholics were in force with different levels of severity in the colonies for over a century. Pennsylvania was somewhat an exception, thanks to the religious tolerance of William Penn and the Quakers.

By the time of the American Revolution, the number of Catholics in the thirteen colonies was rather small: about 25,000 among 2 ½ million colonists. For over a century, the small body of Catholics in the thirteen colonies had clung to their religious faith despite active persecution and denial of their civil rights. They supported the American Revolution with the hope that independence from Britain would bring them greater religious liberty in the new republic.

American Catholics, including Father John Carroll, who in 1790 would become the first Catholic bishop in the United States, the first bishop of Baltimore, received with great satisfaction the Constitution in 1787 and the Bill of Rights a couple years later, especially the First Amendment and its definition of our first freedom: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” The First Amendment allowed Catholics the freedom to practice their faith, yet it did not eradicate the cultural anti-Catholicism that persisted in sometimes vigorous form during the following century. Sadly, this persistent prejudice is still alive today, especially among certain elites in academia, Hollywood, the media, and other influential molders of public opinion.

Our concerns about religious liberty today are especially focused on a more general anti-religious cultural movement, rooted in secularism and relativism, which seeks to limit the role of religion in public life. This was certainly not the intent of our founding fathers who recognized the essential role of religion and the virtues it inspires in providing the foundation for the success of a democratic society. They believed in God and the divine law. In the Declaration of Independence, they specifically referred to “the laws of nature and of nature’s God.” They were not secularists and they were not moral relativists. They declared: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” At the end of the Declaration, they affirmed their “firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence” as they pledged to each other “their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.”

Our founding fathers believed that religion, virtue, and morality based on the natural law were essential foundations for the success of the American Experiment. In his farewell address, George Washington declared: “Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness.” John Adams wrote: “It is religion and morality alone which can establish the principles upon which freedom can securely stand. Religion and virtue are the only foundations... of republicanism and of all free governments.” As Catholics, we agree with this vision of our founding fathers. Pope Francis said something very similar in the following words: “When, in the name of an ideology, there is an attempt to remove God from society, it ends up adoring idols, and very soon men and women lose their way, their dignity is trampled and their rights violated.”

The Catholic Church is at the forefront today in advocating and fighting for these indispensable supports of our nation and its freedom: for example, in defending the right to life and the truth about marriage. We are responding to an aggressive secularism in our society. We are standing up for our faith, to be sure. We are also standing up for the self-evident truths proclaimed by our founding fathers. We stand against the subjectivism and relativism that seeks to sever freedom from its indispensable foundation in truth. We stand up for the freedom not only to worship, but also to live our faith without government coercion to violate the sacred sanctuary of our conscience. Our late Pope Francis said: “Religious freedom is not only that of private thought or worship. It is the liberty to live, both privately and publicly, according to the ethical principles resulting from found truth.” That is why we are very worried about being forced to cooperate with a redefinition of marriage that goes against the natural order as established by God. Sadly, in today’s cultural climate, speaking and defending the truth about marriage often results in unjust and false charges of bigotry. We can expect claims of discrimination for upholding what for millennia has been considered a self-evident truth: that marriage by its nature is between one man and one woman. In all this public debate about these matters, notice that the often anti-Catholic or anti-Christian bigotry of the Church’s critics and opponents is ignored.

Jesus teaches us to render to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God. In the contemporary debate and struggle, we seek to have the freedom to do so. This is part of our human dignity — not only to be free to worship God, but free to serve Him and others through our schools, colleges, universities, hospitals, charities, and other institutions and to do so without compromising our faith and moral convictions. There are many in our society who disagree with the teachings of the Catholic Church on various issues. They have the right to disagree. But it is quite another matter to deny to us the right to live our faith and to conduct our lives, ministries, and works in accord with the Church’s teachings. And rather than engaging in civil and respectful debate, critics and opponents of the Church will sometimes resort to attacks that reveal the persistent anti-Catholic prejudice that for some reason is still deemed acceptable in our culture.

On this Independence Day, as we pray for the protection of religious freedom in our nation, let us also remember in prayer the millions of our brothers and sisters throughout the world who are persecuted and suffer injustices because of their faith. Not only are so many denied the right to live their faith or the right to worship, so many Christians and other minorities, innocent individuals and communities, are subjected to barbaric acts of violence, evicted from their homes and native lands, or sold as slaves. Some are killed, beheaded, crucified, or burned alive. It is a great sacrilege that this evil is being done in the name of God. We are living in a new age of Christian martyrdom. May these present-day martyrs inspire us by their faith and courage! Their suffering and death was not in vain: their lives bear eloquent witness to the love of Jesus Christ.

Happy Fourth of July!

God Love You!

Father Fred





Heidi Worster

Vice President

Phone: 508-752-1117

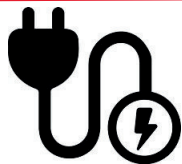
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