

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



“Strive to enter through the narrow gate,
for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter
but will not be strong enough.”

Luke 13:24

© Pilot Bulletins



St. Roch Parish

PARISH DIRECTORY

Rev. James J. Boulette, Pastor

Mr. Paul Connolly, Deacon

RECTORY OFFICE & ST. ROCH CEMETERY

Administrative Assistant ~ Mrs. Teri Rawson

Email: parishoffice@strochoxford.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE

Coordinator of Religious Education ~ Ms. Jaclyn Green

Email: faithformation@strochoxford.com

Office Hours ~ Monday-Thursday 9:00 am—4:00 pm



Mass Schedule

Saturday 4:00 PM & Sunday 8:30 & 11:00 AM

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday at 8:30 AM

Friday Mass at 6:00 pm

Adoration at 6:30 pm

Confession during Adoration

Benediction at 7:30 pm

Confessions

Tuesday 6—7 pm, Friday 6:30—7:30 pm,
and Saturday 3—3:30 pm
or by appointment



Phone: (508) 987-8987

Email: parishoffice@strochoxford.com

Website: strochoxford.com

St. Roch Prayer Line Email:

Prayerline@strochoxford.com

334 Main Street, Oxford, Massachusetts 01540



THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC BIOETHICS CENTER

50 YEARS OF SERVICE, 1972-2022

Living a Catholic Life No. 3 *What Is Moral Theology?*

“Living a Catholic Life” is a collaboration between Knights of Columbus councils, parishes, grassroots organizations, and The National Catholic Bioethics Center to educate the laity on principles of the moral life and their application.

Christian theology is “faith seeking understanding,” says St. Anselm. According to St. Thomas Aquinas, theology is a *science*, i.e., a body of logically ordered knowledge based on sound principles. Some sciences base their principles directly on experience. Others borrow principles established by another science; e.g., physics takes equations on faith from mathematics. Theology belongs to this second type because it takes its principles on faith from God’s revelation to the Church in the Bible and Tradition.

Christian theology has both theoretical and practical tasks. Theoretical, or dogmatic, theology seeks to understand God’s self-revelation, practical, or moral theology, to understand how we should respond to God’s gracious invitation to share his Triune life. Therefore, moral theology receives its principles from dogmatic theology and applies them to our lives. Thus, it is able to formulate many *certain, universal* norms but, in applying them to concrete, changing situations, often has to settle for probability. Moreover, in order to make this prudential application, one needs not only to know the norms but to have a good character and lengthy experience.

Practical thinking begins with the *end*, or goal, to be accomplished (the principle) and then reasons to the means appropriate to attain this goal (the conclusion or practical norm). From dogmatic theology, moral theology learns that God created us in his own image out of the earth (Gen. 1:27, 2:7); i.e., we are bodies endowed with spiritual capacities to think and make choices. Consequently, human nature is defined by four *basic needs* (goals) that we live to satisfy: (1) bodily health and security, (2) propagation of our species, (3) membership in community, and (4) knowledge of the truth (meaning, experience) which unites the community. These goals form a hierarchy of values. Health and reproduction are for the sake of human community. Community exists so we can know and thus love one another in shared truth. Therefore, our supreme good is to experience community in truth and, ultimately, to share in the most perfect community of the Trinity. Thus, the fundamental principle of moral theology is “Love God and your neighbor as yourself,” a principle whose fulfillment is the “Kingdom of God” (Mark 12:28–34). Hence, every free act of our lives must be a means to this goal, and moral theology is a general plan to solve the problems of every human life.

To move to our goal easily and consistently throughout life, we need a good *character*, i.e., *virtues*, or skills in solving difficult moral problems. With the help of *graced* (infused) virtues, we must also develop corresponding *natural* virtues. Christian LOVE is a theological virtue, and it is assisted by the graced and natural virtue of JUSTICE, since to love others we must first respect their rights. Thus,

we can achieve our basic goal of life in *community*. Christian love is based on a second theological virtue, FAITH, by which we believe God’s Word preached by the Church. The practical application of faith is aided by PRUDENCE (Wisdom). Thus, we can achieve our basic goal of *true knowledge*. Finally, Christians need discipline (asceticism) as regards both our love of bodily pleasures and our posture in the face of difficulties. Sin leads us to make an idol of pleasure and either weakly to surrender to threats or aggressively to attack in destructive anger. Our desires for pleasure must be moderated so as to facilitate reasonable activities, our aggressions moderated to supply constructive strength. Hence, we need the third theological virtue of HOPE, aided by TEMPERANCE to moderate our pleasures and FORTITUDE to moderate our aggressive tendencies. Thus, we can achieve our basic goals of *health and security* and *procreation*.

To achieve our supreme goal of life in the Trinity, however, we must use these virtues not in a merely human mode but in a divine mode. Hence, God also gives us the seven *Gifts of the Holy Spirit* that open us up to the Spirit’s guidance. Christian spirituality is nothing other than an increasing reliance on this guidance of the Spirit in our life of Faith, Hope, and Love, and their auxiliary virtues. *The task of moral theology, therefore, is to formulate in concrete moral norms (precepts) how each of these seven virtues guides our decisions toward God and his kingdom as our goal.*

Every choice not only moves us toward or backward from our goal in the Trinity but also forms our characters so as to make good or bad decisions more likely in the future. Faith tells us our only teacher and model is Christ Jesus whom we can know only through the Church. Thus, Prudence demands that, to make a decision, we first inform ourselves about the moral norms the Church teaches and the force it gives to each. Although theologians and other experts may greatly help to get correct information, they have only human authority, while the popes and the Magisterium are empowered by Jesus to speak in his name.

When we know the moral norms taught by the Church, we still have to understand them so as to apply them intelligently to our own lives. Prayer, meditation, and study will gain the Holy Spirit’s guidance. We need also to develop our graced and natural virtues to gain skill in making decisions. Yet our own faith is less sure than the witness of the Church from which we received our faith and must be corrected by it. But if we use the virtues God has given us, we will make a decision which is at least subjectively without sin. As we advance in virtue and spirituality, our subjective judgment will better conform to the objective truth that will bring us to our goal.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, August 23	4:00 pm	Pat Carbonneau (30th Anniversary) by the family
Sunday, August 24	8:30 am	The Parishioners of St. Roch Parish
	11:00 am	Jeffrey Gentile (living) by Paula Miner & Ken Mills
Monday, August 25	8:30 am	Rev. Thomas Egan
Tuesday, August 26	8:30 am	Rev. Thomas Egan
Wednesday, August 27	8:30 am	Vernon L. Laverdure by Paula Miner & Ken Mills
Thursday, August 28	8:30 am	No Mass
Friday, August 29	6:00 pm	Alfred Dumais by David Dumais
Saturday, August 30	4:00 pm	James W. Powers by the family
Sunday, August 31	8:30 am	Amelia & Alphonse Anusauskas by the Jalbert family
	11:00 am	Cheryl Lotti by husband Dennis Lotti



Sacrificial Offering

AUGUST 16 & 17

Offertory Envelopes	4,194.50
Online Giving	237.00
Holy Day	1,404.00
Other sources of income	458.00
<i>Thank you!</i>	<u>6,293.50</u>

PARISH APPRECIATION COOK-OUT

Sunday, September 14 - Noon

All in the parish are invited
for a FREE fun day of games
and fellowship!

Hot dogs, burgers, beans
and salads.

Come join us!



This parish cookout is for all our parishioners as our
THANK YOU. We appreciate all the hard work that
everyone has been doing around the parish, and we
want you to come and enjoy a cookout on us.

Meetings

Fundraising/Yard Sale Meeting TBA. All are invited.

If you would like to assist in sorting and pricing the items or
working the day of the yard sale, please call Don Letson,
Chairperson—413-835-1915 or the rectory office—508-987-
8987. Thank you!

Yard Sale!

September 27

**The Yard Sale Committee will be collecting the
First 3 Saturdays in September 9-11 am ONLY.**

Please no drop offs beforehand.

Please NO Electronics, TV's, computers, printers, key-
boards, monitors, mattresses, clothing, encyclopedias,
appliances, Christmas trees, rugs, stuffed animals,
tires, or furniture.



Contact:
Don Letson
413-835-1915

HELP IS NEEDED

I want to help...

___ As a crew member to work in the lot sorting & pricing
items 9-11am:

Sat 9/6 ___ Sat 9/13 ___ Sat 9/20 ___

___ Set out tables: Fri 9/26 3-6 pm

___ Set up the tables: Sat 9/27 7-9am

___ Work at the tables Sat 9/27:

8-10 am ___ 10 am-12 pm ___

12-2 pm ___ 2-4 pm ___

___ Breakdown tables 3-5 pm ___

Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

HELP US WITH HOSPITALITY!

- Be a greeter at Mass to welcome people with a smile and a kind word.
- Help people find a seat and get settled in.
- Hand-out bulletins.
- Assist with the collections.
- Thank people for coming and invite them back.



Contact the Parish Office for more information

Oxford Catholic Renewal Website

Transition Phase information available with frequently asked questions. Scan the QR Code to the left or go to: oxfordcatholicrenewal.org



"Shine like lights in the world as you hold on to the word of life." Are you called to belong to Christ alone as a priest, deacon or through the consecrated life? Contact the Vocation Office at (508) 630-4473 or email: donato.infante@gmail.com.

**THE CATHOLIC FREE PRESS**

To renew your subscription, pop an envelope in the basket or mail to the rectory office with \$39, your name & address. Thank you.



Religious Education is almost back for the 2025-2026 school year! Is the Lord calling YOU to serve?

Seeking catechists and assistants for grades K through High School. We are also looking to increase our OCIA team.

All are CORI checked per Diocesan policy and have a mature, well-formed Catholic faith.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace..."

1 Peter 4:10

How will YOU serve? Contact Jackie at faithformation@strochoxford.com

**JUBILEE YEAR 2025
YEAR OF HOPE****A Special Year of:**

**FORGIVENESS
RECONCILIATION
CONVERSION
and CELEBRATION**



<https://worcesterdiocese.org/jubilee>

334 CLUB WEEK 9 WINNERS

371 Barbara Driscoll
434 Jackie Daury
208 Christine Lee
592 Donna Fisher

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!!!



Great Resources Year Round!!

www.formed.org/signup

Something for Everyone! It's Easy and It's Free!

2025 St. Roch Parish Event Calendar!

Parish Appreciation Cookout—Sat, Sept 14 Noon

Yard Sale—Saturday, September 27 8-2pm

334 Club Dinner—Saturday, November 1 5:30 pm

Parade of Soups—Saturday, November 15th 5-8pm

American Heritage Girls and Trail Life USA**THE ADVENTURE
BEGINS HERE!**

It is with excitement that I announce the official chartering of Trail Life for boys in our parish. We are now Trail Life Troop MA1321!



Also this summer, Troop MA0716 of the American Heritage Girls will transfer their charter to Saint Roch.

If you are looking for a Christian Catholic alternative to the Boy and Girl Scouts, here it is! If you have children in your life between the ages of 5 and 18 who want live a Christ Centered life, go on adventures, and have fun, check out our webpages at <https://strochoxford.com/american-heritage-girls>

or <https://strochoxford.com/trail-life-usa> or scan the QR codes. There are interest forms to fill out so you can receive more information about signing up.



September Sessions:

- 9/7** - High School Session
@4:00 -7:30 PM at St. Anthony in Dudley
- 9/14** - K-8th Grade Religious Ed
@9:30-10:45 AM at Parish Center
- 9/21** - K-8th Grade Religious Ed
@9:30-10:45 AM at Parish Center
- 9/28** - K-8th Grade Religious Ed
@9:30-10:45 AM at Parish Center



FILL IN THE GAPS

The sentences below are missing key words. Can you find the correct ones? (They are all in today's readings.)

- I know their _____ and their _____, and I come to gather nations of every _____.
- My son, do not _____ the discipline of the Lord, or lose _____ when _____ by him.
- For what "_____" is there, whom his _____ does not _____?
- _____ asked him, "Lord, will only a _____ people be _____?"
- For _____, some are _____ who will be first, and some are _____ who will be last.

ANSWERS

1. works, thoughts, language 2. disdain, heart, reproved
3. son, father, discipline 4. Someone, few, saved
5. behold, last, first

CATHOLIC MOMS GROUP



Summer Schedule & Events

Adoration/Confession & Potluck -- 4:30pm on 8/6
Meet upstairs in the church for kid-friendly adoration. Confessions available 4:30-5:30pm. Potluck style dinner downstairs. Please text or email Gina (gina.hamwey@gmail.com) to RSVP/ sign up for potluck.

Rosary Pray & Play -- 9:30am on 7/9, 7/23, 8/13, 8/27

Post-Bedtime/Late Night Moms Only -- 8:15pm on 7/16, 8/20

***NEW* Summer Bible Study** -- 9:30am on Tuesdays
7/15, 8/5, 8/19

Please contact Gina at gina.hamwey@gmail.com for meeting locations, or reach out if you are new to moms group or the parish!



THE LITTLE CROWN

Catholic Homeschooling Community & Co-op

The Little Crown (TLC) is a parent-led Catholic homeschooling group and a ministry of St. Roch Church. Membership is open to all practicing Catholic families from any parish.

Registration is now OPEN for the Fall Semester!

Please visit the following webpage for more information:
www.strochoxford.com/the-little-crown-homeschooling-co-op

Contact Gina at gina.hamwey@gmail.com with any questions.

Hey Parents!



Religious Education and High School Ministry begin in September.
Are YOUR kids registered??

Register easily online at
strochoxford.com/religious-education-registration

Full class schedule for all grades is on the parish website.

strochoxford.com

Help is needed with grounds maintenance.

Any help will be much appreciated. Please contact the rectory office at 508-987-8987 if you are able to give a hand. Thank you!



GOD'S HELPING HANDS

Are you homebound or need a little extra love and assistance?

We Can Provide:

Visits and Conversation	Rides to the Doctors
Pickup a Needed Item	Groceries
Food Delivery	or Other Needed Services

Call the Parish Office at **508-987-8987** for more information. Linda Lloyd is leading this vital new Parish Ministry with a small number of ministers who are here to help. Call today!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP FEED THE HUNGRY?



Can You Cook A Batch of American Chop Suey?

The St. Vincent de Paul Society is looking for people to help by making a pot of American Chop Suey for *Rachel's Table* (an organization in Worcester that feeds those less fortunate) once a month. Dates will be announced in the bulletin.

This cooking involves a very simple recipe. **Brown 1 pound of hamburger. Drain. Add 1 jar of spaghetti sauce. Cook 1 box of elbow macaroni. Mix all together and place in a gallon zip lock bag.**

The next collection day is Monday, September 1st.

Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf

The Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf thanks you for your continued support!

We need non-perishable food items such as canned vegetables (peas, carrots, green beans, etc.), and packaged cereals and pasta. Also needed: canned pasta, jams and jellies, and soups.

Please leave your donations in the Food Shelf DROP BOX located in the bins inside the front doors of the church.

If you need help providing food for yourself or your family, please come to see us.

Open Thursdays 4:30 to 6:30 pm, except holidays, the Food Shelf is located in the lower level of the Oxford Community Center, 4 Maple Road. For more information, call 508-987-1062.

To make a financial donation, please mail a check to Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf, 4 Maple Road, Oxford MA 01540.



SEEKING MEANING, TRUTH & COMMUNITY?

You're not alone! Join others to explore Catholicism through OCIA

- Do you wonder if there is more out there than just this broken world?
- Do you want a community to journey with you as you explore the meaning of life?
- Unbaptized? Need First Communion and/or Confirmation?
- Come and See what God has in store for you!

If you are age seven to adult, OCIA is for you! For more information and to begin your journey, visit www.strochoxford.com/ocia or scan the QR code.



**SIGN UP
TODAY!**

Flocknote is a communication tool that the parishes in the Worcester Diocese use to stay in contact with the people of God. Sign up today to receive important notices and information.

Sign up by scanning this QR Code or go to:

<https://strochoxford.flocknote.com/everyone>



PRAY FOR ...

Kathy Perry, John & Bev Makowski,

Cynthia Clark, David Dumais, Ann

Caplette, Deacon Jim Denning, Jennifer

Cowperthwaite, Jay and Jon Moore, Rose, Jill and Desirae, Cyndy

Paradis, Fern Goldsmith, May Stanikmas, Cameron Chickering,

Evelina Piscopo, Carol Clouthier, Pauline Clouthier, Annmarie

Morrissey, Julia Krasinskas, Paula Kapurch, June Deary, Paula

C. Bouthillier, Andrea Reeves, Nancy Mott, Adam Yankauskas,

Joel Balsh, Robert & Aline Krasinskas, Mary-ann Richard, Leona

Shaw, Lorraine Dumais, Ernie LaVallee, Lisa Ackley, Lorna

Hennessey, Cheryl Ducharme, Judy Leone, James Malo, Joseph,

Matthew & Marie, Kyle Brodeur, Donald Morin, Leonard

Marcotte, Pam Jackman, Chloe Jones, Jane Desy Montigny,

Theresa Stone, Linda Vigeant, Dianne Ackley, Randy Henderson,

Charley Theodore Cutting, Barbara Lavalley, Andrea Boyle,

Melissa Dube, William Patrick Bernard, Peter Giles, Michelle,

Susan Maass, Jack Hamilton, Paul Neboski.