

# NORTH QUABBIN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

192 School Street, Athol MA 01331-2399

978.249.2738 (Office) 978.830.4046 (FAX) 978.249.7690 (CCD) www.nqatholic.com  
Church Office: ourladyrectory@hotmail.com • Religious Education: ourlady.ccd@mail.com



## OUR LADY IMMACULATE

## SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

## SAINT PETER

192 School Street, Athol MA 01331

Church Office Hours:  
M, T, W 8:30am-3:30pm

Masses:

Lord's Day ~ 4pm (Vigil) & 11am  
Holy Days of Obligation ~ 12:10pm  
Weekday ~ 8am M, T, W  
First Saturday ~ 9:00am

Confessions:

Saturday ~ 3 to 3:30pm in the OLI Chapel

Holy Hour of Adoration:

Tuesday ~ 2:00pm -3:00pm

Men's Rosary

Tuesday ~ 7:00pm OLI Chapel

Pray the Rosary

13th of the Month at 6pm OLI Chapel  
(3pm is 13th falls on a Tuesday)

101 Main Street, Athol MA 01331

Masses:

Lord's Day ~ 8:00am  
Holy Days of Obligation ~ 7:00pm

Confessions:

Saturday ~ 3 to 3:30pm in the OLI  
Chapel

Divine Mercy Chaplet:

Sunday ~ 7:40am

18 North Street  
Petersham MA 01366

Mass:

Lord's Day ~ 9:30am

Confessions:

Saturday ~ 3 to 3:30pm in the OLI  
Chapel

Rosary

Thursday ~ 9:00am

Rev. Mateus Souza, Administrator  
fr.mateussouza@gmail.com

Bryan Lagimoniere, Deacon

Gayle Bassett, Administrative Assistant

Irene Inniss, Cluster CCD Administrator  
& Safe Environment Coordinator

Patrick Kennelly, Business Manager

Terry Parker, Music Director

Christian Cormier, Maintenance



## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY)



Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my  
God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe  
because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have  
not seen and have believed." - Jn 20:28-29

## Visitors and New Parishioners

Please introduce yourself. We want to meet you.  
Registration forms are available in the sacristy.

## Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated on Saturdays and Sundays. Please contact the Church Office for the preparation session, which includes parents and godparents.

## Marriage

Contact the Church Office one year in advance.

## Visitation of the Ill and Homebound

Please contact the Church Office if you know of anyone who is in need, so a Priest, Deacon or Eucharistic Minister may visit.

## Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Adults seeking information about the Catholic Faith or seeking full admission into the Church through Baptism, Confirmation & Eucharist ~ Please call the Church Office.

## Lending Library

Temporarily Suspended—thank you.

## NQCC Facebook Page

For those of you with a Facebook page, please “LIKE” the North Quabbin Catholic Community Facebook page. Stay up to date with all the happenings in the Cluster

## Sharing Our Fathers Bread

Meals are served Wednesdays, Sept.-May, at St. Francis Hall at 5pm for those in need. Donation baskets are located at each church for your convenience to support this important program. For questions please call 978-249-7304.

## Healing and Prevention

If you or someone you know has been sexually abused by a priest, religious or lay person working for the Church, and you need a place to talk about your feelings, please call the Office for Healing and Prevention, (508) 929-4363. A 24 hour-a-day confidential voicemail is available.

## Other Information

Prayer Line: Please notify the Rectory  
Bulletin Deadline: Prior Monday by 12N

## A MESSAGE FROM FATHER MATEUS

Dear brothers and sisters,

After the great celebrations of Holy Week, the Church is now living the Easter Season. Liturgically, Christians called this Sunday of the Octave of Easter also Sunday *in albis*, that is, "Sunday in white", because the newly baptized had to spend the entire week dressed in white robes and keeping them clean for, on the day of the Lord, present themselves to the bishop. It was a Church pedagogy to teach neophytes to keep their souls clean from every stain of sin.

In more recent times, Pope Saint John Paul II instituted for this same Sunday the feast of Divine Mercy, in response to the requests of Our Lord to Saint Faustina Kowalska. In these particular revelations, Jesus promised many graces to those who celebrated his Mercy, so that many have the custom of preparing for this feast since Good Friday, praying novenas, rosaries and other devotions. Be that as it may, the Gospel and the entire liturgy of this Sunday of the Octave of Easter are perfectly united to the message of Our Lord on Divine Mercy. We read in the Gospel of Saint John that Jesus entered the house where the disciples were hiding for fear of the Jews, and said to them: "Peace be with you". For the mentality of that time, "peace" was not simply the absence of war, but the state of those who, after many efforts, struggles and anguish, finally managed to achieve their goal and rest their heads. The life of Christians is a constant struggle, and God, with his infinite mercy, wants to join us in putting our hearts at ease. The "peace" that Christ gives us is freedom from sin, from that which generates enmity and prevents us from being in communion with Him, especially in the Eucharist.

In the same Gospel, Jesus also exhorts the disciples to go on a mission in order to forgive sins, breathing the Holy Spirit on them. Immediately, this image can be related to the white river that leaves the open side of Jesus, in the famous vision of Santa Faustina. The mercy of God is, without a doubt, the effective remedy for our miseries. Drinking, therefore, from the waters of this river (the baptismal waters), we have our soul torn from the hands of the Evil One and the path paved for union with God in the sacrament of the Eucharist. It is worth remembering that the Church's commandment asks all the faithful to go to Confession and Communion at least during the Easter period.

The second river of mercy, according to Saint Faustina's vision, is precisely the river of blood, that is, the grace of union with God. This is an important point, because many Christians fail to progress in holiness precisely because they do not seek the intimate union with the Lord, which takes place only through prayer and communion well done. In addition to the negative part (cleansing sins), we need to apply ourselves to the positive part of mercy, which is the desire to unite with God already in this life. United with the choir of Saint John in the book of Revelation, we must say here and now: "Come, Lord" (22, 20).

Modern life offers many distractions, which drown out the voice of Christ in our hearts. In our daily lives, worldly concerns seem much more alive than the risen Jesus. And that is why, this Sunday, the Church reminds us of the great Mercy of the Lord, whose desire to unite with us is infinite. In short, He grants us two sources of mercy (the baptismal water and

### FOOD PANTRY

Thank you for your support! This week we will collect:  
**Jams / Jelly / Canned Chicken~Meat~Spam**

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER—DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**

the Eucharistic blood) to forgive our sins and unite us to His Sacred Heart. For our part, it remains to desire union with the Lord even in the midst of anguish, difficulties and trials, fleeing Thomas' skepticism and letting Him touch us and thus renew our faith.

Prayer. — My merciful Jesus, in whom I place all my trust, help me to believe more fervently in your substantial presence in the Eucharist, so that I may be touched by your sacramental grace and unite myself totally to your infinite love. So be it! God bless you!

Fr. Mateus

**RECTORY OPEN HOUSE/BIRTHDAY**

All parishioners of the cluster are cordially invited to attend an Open House/Birthday Celebration at the Rectory on Saturday, April 23rd from 5-8pm. We will officially welcome Fr. Mateus to the Cluster as we wish him Happy Birthday. Pot Luck refreshments and birthday cake will be served. Hope to see you there!!

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

The next meeting for the Knights of Columbus will be Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 7:00 P.M. All Knights are encouraged to begin thinking about spring and summer activities and to bring new ideas to the meeting. The Knights would like to give a "shout out" to Marie Shatus for all her help in preparing the St. Francis Hall and getting us squared away for our Simple Supper on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Your help was truly appreciated. Thank you Marie.

**WORD OF LIFE**

"Virgin of Guadalupe, Patroness of unborn children, we implore your intercession for every child at risk of abortion. Guide your public officials to defend each and every human life through just laws. Inspire us all to bring our faith into public life, to speak for those who have no voice. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who is Love and Mercy itself. Amen." ~A Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe—USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

**CHURCH OPEN HOURS**

The OLI Chapel and St. Francis Church will now be open daily from 8am-4pm. If visiting St. Francis please use the ramp side door. Thank you.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK**

Please call the office and give the names of those who are in need of prayers ~ they will be listed in the bulletin so they can be added to personal prayers. God bless you!

**PRAYER LIST**



Kevin Doherty ~ Rosemary Saylor  
Ann Marie Doherty ~ Vernon Goupil  
Arlene Duguay~ Terezinha Souza  
Marcella Catalano ~ Joe Labrie  
Jackie & Cliff Shatos ~ Pat Shatos  
Rita Simulis ~ Mark Brault  
Thomas Superchi ~ Jane Bellar  
Raymond Dufort

**OUR LADY IMMACULATE  
COLLECTION**

4-17-22 Sunday: \$1,333.50; Building: \$306.00; Fuel: \$35.00; Easter \$1,921.85; SOFB: \$213.00; Flowers: \$10.00; Good Friday: \$417.12; Window: \$300.00.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT**

Repairing the exterior trim around the stained glass windows in the church. To date \$54,476.53 has been collected; repairs to date: \$16,944.00.

**SHARING OUR FATHERS BREAD**

Free Will: \$37.00; St. Peter: \$5.00; Simple Supper: \$171.00.

**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI  
COLLECTION**

4-17-22 Sunday: \$295.00; Monthly: \$10.00; Reno: \$10.00; Fuel: \$10.00; Easter: \$545.00; Good Friday: \$366.00.

**KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA**

The K of L will meet on Sunday May 1, 2022 at 1:00pm in the St. Francis Church Hall. All members are invited to attend. Anyone interested in joining is also invited. Thank you.

**SAVE THE DATE**

The Knights of Lithuania will sponsor a Lithuanian Style Breakfast on May 22nd in the St. Francis church hall from 10:00am—12:30 pm. Tickets for Adults—\$12.00, children under 12—Free. All are welcome.

**RECYCLING**

St. Francis will host a recycling day on Saturday, May 28th. More info to follow.

**ST. PETER'S  
COLLECTION**

4-17-22 Sunday: \$335.00; Easter: \$740.00.

**PARTNERS IN CHARITY 2022**

Our agencies and ministries are faces of hope to so many people during this pandemic. Your pledge or one time gift is a tangible way to be a 'face of Christ' to the world through your support of the agencies and ministries which rely on this appeal for the funding each year. Thank you for your continued support!

**Our Lady Immaculate:** ~ Goal: \$23,800 To Date: \$17,027  
**St. Francis of Assisi:** ~ Goal: \$5,300 To Date: \$925  
**St. Peter Church:** ~ Goal: \$6,000 To Date: \$2,920



APRIL 24, 2022

## Hymnal Readings: 828

### Readings for the week of April 24, 2022

Sunday: Acts 5:12-16/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 [1]/Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19/Jn 20:19-31

Monday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14/Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17/Mk 16:15-20

Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/Jn 3:7b-15

Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 3:16-21

Thursday: Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20/Jn 3:31-36

Friday: Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Jn 6:1-15

Saturday: Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/Jn 6:16-21

Next Sunday: Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 [2a]/Rv 5:11-14/Jn 21:1-19 or 21:1-14



### Saturday, April 23rd Vigil: 2nd Sunday of Easter

#### Divine Mercy

4:00 PM **OLI:** +Etienne Lozier by his Family  
+Mary Jo Beek by the Lemoine Family

### Sunday, April 24th 2nd Sunday of Easter—Divine Mercy

8:00 AM **St. Francis:** +John C. Doherty 12th Ann.  
and +Marion E. Feeney  
by Jacqueline Doherty

9:30 AM **St. Peter:** +Wesley Laford by his Wife

11:00 AM **OLI:** +Carole Landry by her Family

### Monday, April 25th St. Mark, Evangelist

8:00 AM **OLI:** Health & Blessing for Rev. Mateus  
Souza by Kaitlyn Stanley

### Tuesday, April 26th

8:00 AM **OLI:** +Blanchard Family by the Family

### Wednesday, April 27th

8:00 AM **OLI:** +Ida Hayden by her Family

### Saturday, April 30th Vigil: 3rd Sunday of Easter

4:00 PM **OLI:** +Tuholski Family  
by Clarence & Janet Blanchard  
+Rita Blanchard by Cindy & Gary Blanchard

### Sunday, May 1st 3rd Sunday of Easter

8:00 AM **St. Francis:** +Kenneth Mousseau  
by Jacqueline Doherty  
+Michael Amedio

by Clarence & Janet Blanchard

9:30 AM **St. Peter:** +Dennis Killay by Joyce Laford

11:00 AM **OLI:** +Gary & Brenda Beek  
by Bob & Kathy Lemoine



APRIL 24, 2022

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## GARDEN COMMITTEE

Father Mateus is looking for people that would like to form a Garden Committee at Our Lady Immaculate.

The primary purpose of this ministry is to invite parishioners to come together and use their gifts in a way that will care for the grounds of Our Lady Immaculate Parish and create, maintain and restore a garden of peace and prayer. This beautiful garden will provide an opportunity for members of the parish, to spend time planting, tending the garden, donating plants, seeds, trees, benches, bushes or other accessories. Through the years as we grow our faith and our faith community so too will our garden flourish.

Our focus right now is the garden around the statue of the Blessed Mother and the cleaning of the statue itself. Now that the overgrown bushes are gone, we have a blank canvas to honor Our Lady and make it beautiful. If you have a green thumb and would like to be part of this ministry please send an email to [fr.mateussouza@gmail.com](mailto:fr.mateussouza@gmail.com) ~ we will be planning a meeting as soon as possible. Thank you and God bless.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### SATURDAY 23rd

4:00 PM Vigil Mass at Our Lady Immaculate  
5:00 PM Open House at Rectory til 8pm

### SUNDAY 24th

8:00 AM Mass at St. Francis of Assisi  
9:00 AM CCD Grades K-5 Last Class  
9:30 AM Mass at St. Peter  
11:00 AM Mass at Our Lady Immaculate  
6:00 PM CCD Grades 6-9 Last Class

### MONDAY 25th

8:00 AM Mass at Our Lady

### TUESDAY 26th

8:00 AM Mass at Our Lady  
2:00 PM Holy Hour with Adoration at OLI  
7:00 PM Men's Rosary at OLI Chapel

### WEDNESDAY 27th

8:00 AM Mass at Our Lady

### THURSDAY 28th

9:00 AM Rosary at St. Peter's

### SATURDAY 30th

4:00 PM Mass at Our Lady Immaculate

### SUNDAY 1st

8:00 AM Mass at St. Francis of Assisi  
9:30 AM Mass at St. Peter  
9:30 AM First Communion Parents Class  
11:00 AM Mass at Our Lady Immaculate

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