

# NORTH QUABBIN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

192 School Street, Athol MA 01331-2399

978.249.2738 (Office) 978.830.4046 (FAX) 978.249.7690 (CCD) [www.nqcatholic.com](http://www.nqcatholic.com)  
Church Office: [ourladyrectory@hotmail.com](mailto:ourladyrectory@hotmail.com) • Religious Education: [ourlady.ccd@mail.com](mailto:ourlady.ccd@mail.com)



## OUR LADY IMMACULATE

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)

## SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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

## SAINT PETER

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](mailto:fr.mateussouza@gmail.com)

Bryan Lagimoniere, Deacon

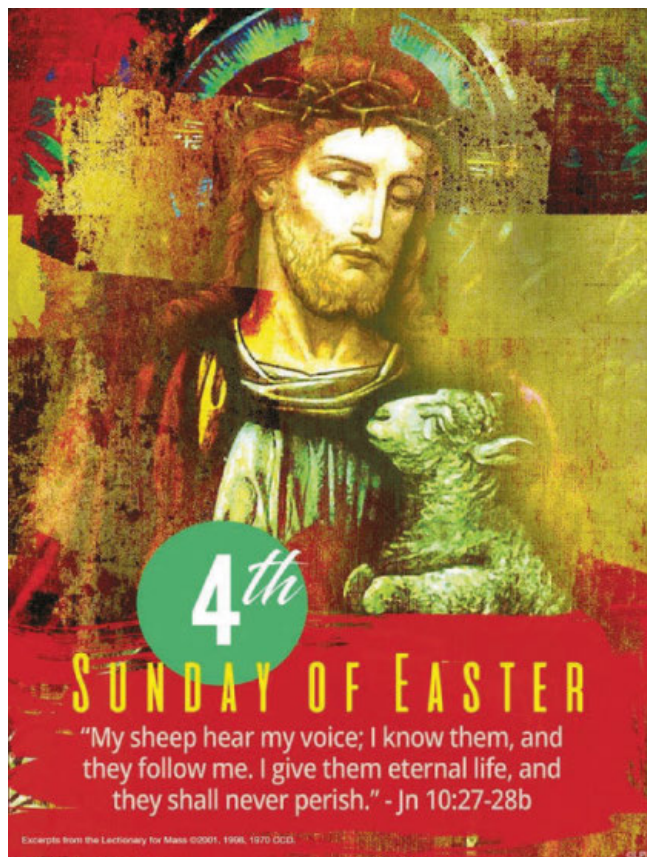
Gayle Bassett, Administrative Assistant

Irene Inniss, Cluster CCD Administrator  
& Safe Environment Coordinator

Patrick Kennelly, Business Manager

Terry Parker, Music Director

Christian Cormier, Maintenance



## 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,

There are those who interpret Jesus' preaching about the Good Shepherd, which runs through the entire 10th chapter of the Gospel of Saint John, as a merely bucolic and picturesque discourse. As we hear Him saying, "No one will pluck them out of my hand" (v. 29), our imagination can immediately conceive of a shepherd carrying us on his shoulders and tenderly caring for us. The illustration is true and there is no problem in resorting to these images to illustrate what Our Lord says in this beautiful passage of Scripture. The reach of Christ's words, however, goes much further. By employing the analogy of the shepherd, Our Lord alludes to a duel of life and death whose apex is precisely in His Passion, Death and Resurrection — in His Easter.

It is that, by giving His life for His sheep, Christ the Shepherd gives them life, and not just a biological life, but an eternal life. In doing so, the Lord counters the greatest threats to the flock, which are thieves and mercenaries:

"The thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy. I have come that they may have life, and have it more abundantly" (Jn 10:10). The thief comes from outside to kill, to lead the sheep to eternal death. It is the image of Satan and of everything he uses as an instrument to lead souls to eternal death, which is hell. Jesus, on the contrary, comes to give life to souls.

"The hireling, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep do not belong, sees the wolf come and flees. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives his life (ponit animam suam) for his sheep" (Jn 10:11- 12). The mercenary is not master of the sheep: he is inside, but he takes care of them only for the salary. It is the image of the bad shepherd, who, when he sees the wolf coming, flees and leaves the sheep exposed; that he would rather sacrifice the sheep's lives than give his own. Jesus, on the contrary, comes to give His life for souls.

In order to participate in this life that Christ came to bring us by giving our own life, however, it is necessary that we close our ears to thieves and robbers and pay attention to His voice, as He himself says: "My sheep listen to my voice, I know them. and they follow me" (v. 27). In practice, this means listening to the eternal Word and nourishing our faith in him — a faith without which it is impossible to please God (cf. Heb 11:6). The Father has revealed his great love for us, but we will only enjoy that love if we believe. Everything begins, therefore, with the virtue of faith.

A final word must be said about the nature of the Catholic priesthood on this day when we celebrate the Good Shepherd. The priest is not an official, but a man called to configure himself to Christ, in the double dimension that is presented in today's Gospel: in sacrifice, in giving his life for the flock, and in fruitfulness, in bringing eternal life to it, especially for the celebration of the Sacraments.

Let us ask God, this Sunday, to send us holy and humble priests, who, imbued with the spirit of the Good Shepherd, faithfully watch over the flock, echoing not the disturbing voice of the world, but the true and charitable voice of Christ.

God Bless You!

Fr. Mateus

### FOOD PANTRY

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

### THANK YOU!

Dear parishioners, I was extremely glad that you were able to celebrate my special day with me. I was so overwhelmed by the attendance of the party! I really enjoyed your visit and catching up with you. Thank you for all the generous cards and gifts. Thank you for helping make my 34th birthday a day I will never forget! I would like to thank Gayle Bassett who organized this party so well and all those who helped her. God bless you. There will be more occasions in the future for us to celebrate an open house again!

Fr. Mateus

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Come Join Us. The Athol Knights of Columbus have been serving our Cluster and the Athol community for over 100 years. Our work in the community includes supporting Seminarians and church activities, involvement in community food drives, a Coats for Kids program, playing an important role in a monthly community meal, organizing activities for the youth in our community and investing in summer camp scholarships for kids in town. *Are you interested in learning more?* Call our membership director, Charles Thibault at (978-249-9722). We look forward to the new ideas and new energy that new members often bring to our programs.

The Athol Knights meet on the first Monday of the Month in our Chambers in the basement of OLI. The next meeting will be Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. All Knights are encouraged to begin thinking about spring and summer activities and to bring new ideas to the meeting.

### WORD OF LIFE

“If you or someone you know has had an abortion, be assured that it is never too late to seek God’s forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Additionally, other confidential, compassionate help is available. Select “Find Help” from the menu on [www.hopeafterabortion.org](http://www.hopeafterabortion.org) to find the diocesan Project Rachel Ministry near you. ~USCCB Secretariat of Pro Life Activities “Bridges of Mercy for Healing after Abortion”

### 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  
Arline Duguay ~ Terezinha Souza  
Marcella Catalano ~ Joe Labrie  
Jackie & Cliff Shatos ~ Pat Shatos  
Fred Hutchinson ~ Mark Brault  
Jane Bellar ~ Raymond Dufort

### OUR LADY IMMACULATE COLLECTION

5-1-22 Sunday: \$2,294.50; Building: \$461.00; Holy Day: \$10.00; Easter \$10.00; SOFB: \$145.00.

### 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: \$40.00; St. Peter: \$5.00; Individual: \$100.00.

### ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI COLLECTION

5-1-22 Sunday: \$673.00; Monthly: \$65.00; Reno: \$95.00; Fuel: \$50.00—(Last week \$197.00); Easter: \$20.00; Catholic Relief: \$10.00; Good Friday: \$10.00.

### KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

The K of L will sponsor a Lithuanian Style Breakfast/Brunch on May 22nd in the St. Francis church hall from 10:00am—12:30 pm. Potato pancakes, eggs, english muffins, fresh kielbasa, fruit compote, salad, pastries, orange juice, coffee. For advanced tickets call Jackie at 617-275-3577 or Richard Gatautis at 978-501-7480—tickets also sold at the door. Adults—\$12.00, children under 12—Free. Eat in or Take Out—All are welcome.

The next meeting for the Knights of Lithuania will be on June 5th at 1pm—held at the Lithuanian Club, 80 Kendall Pond in Gardner. All members and those interested are invited to attend.

### RECYCLING

St. Francis will host an Electronic & Appliance recycling day on Saturday, May 28th from 9am—2pm. Prices for electronics range from \$5 to \$35. Bicycles are Free. All Towns are Welcome!!

### ST. PETER’S COLLECTION

5-1-22 Sunday: \$569.00; Building: \$260.00.

### 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: \$20,079

**St. Francis of Assisi:** ~ Goal: \$5,300 To Date: \$1,625

**St. Peter Church:** ~ Goal: \$6,000 To Date: \$2,920

### BLESSING OF THE BIKES ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The Red Knights Motorcycle Club—Massachusetts Chapter 2 and Rev. Mateus invite you to a Blessing of the Bikes and Ice Cream Social. The event will take place at Our Lady Immaculate on Saturday, May 21, 2022 at 11am. A free-will donation of \$5 per bike is asked, and all proceeds will be donated to Home Base, a Massachusetts based Veterans Support Service.

**MAY 8, 2022**

## **Hymnal Readings: 834**

### **Readings for the week of May 08, 2022**

Sunday: Acts 13:14, 43-52/Ps 100:1-2, 3, 5 [3c]/Rv 7:9, 14b-17/  
Jn 10:27-30

Monday: Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4/Jn 10:1-10

Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/Jn 10:22-30

Wednesday: Acts 12:24—13:5a/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/Jn 12:44-50

Thursday: Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27/Jn 13:16-20

Friday: Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab/Jn 14:1-6

Saturday: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8/Jn 15:9-17

Next Sunday: Acts 14:21-27/Ps 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13/Rv 21:1-5a/Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35



### **Saturday, May 7th**

9:00 AM +Anna Tylanda

**Vigil: 4th Sunday of Easter**

4:00 PM **OLI:** +Mary Jo Beek by Cheryl King

### **Sunday, May 8th** 4th Sunday of Easter

8:00 AM **St. Francis:** All Mothers Living & Deceased

9:30 AM **St. Peter:** All Mothers Living & Deceased

11:00 AM **OLI:** All Mothers Living & Deceased

### **Monday, May 9th**

8:00 AM **OLI:** Jason Beek Health & Healing  
by Bob & Kathy Lemoine

### **Tuesday, May 10th**

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

### **Wednesday, May 11th**

8:00 AM **OLI:** +Frank, John & Leo Fanelli  
by the Family  
+Marcial, Emerenciana & Joseph Yandoc  
by the Family

### **Saturday, May 14th** Vigil: 5th Sunday of Easter

4:00 PM **OLI:** +M/M Leopold Mallette  
By their granddaughters  
+Dennis Killay by Janet Mousseau

### **Sunday, May 15th** 5th Sunday of Easter

8:00 AM **St. Francis:** +Kenneth H. Cusson  
by Jacqueline Doherty

9:30 AM **St. Peter:** +Susan Andreson  
By Don & Carol Ambrozy

11:00 AM **OLI:** +Romeo (14th Ann.) & Irene Roussel  
By the Family  
+Carol Bonenfant by the Donovan Family

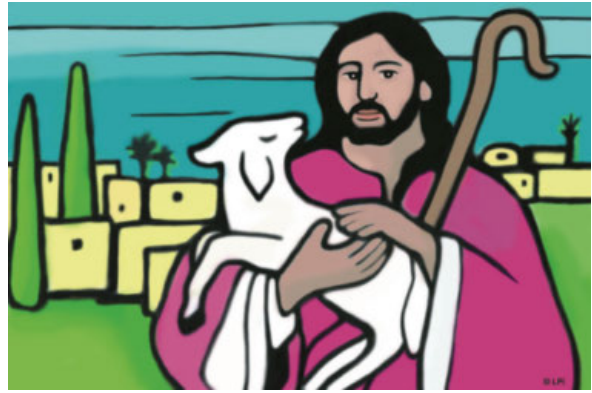


**REMEMBER**  
*in your prayers*

Please remember **Thomas & Evelyn Superchi** who passed away recently, as well as their family. Always remember the power of prayer in helping others.

*MAY 8, 2022*

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*We are his people, the sheep of his flock.*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **SATURDAY 7th**

9:00 AM First Saturday Devotion at OLI Chapel  
4:00 PM Vigil Mass at Our Lady Immaculate

### **SUNDAY 8th**

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

### **MONDAY 9th**

8:00 AM Mass at Our Lady

### **TUESDAY 10th**

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 11th**

8:00 AM Mass at Our Lady

### **THURSDAY 12th**

9:00 AM Rosary at St. Peter's

### **SATURDAY 14th**

4:00 PM Mass at Our Lady Immaculate

### **SUNDAY 15th**

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



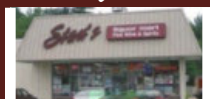


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