

Our Lady of Sorrows Parish

January 8, 2023



Mass Schedule

Sunday Masses:

Saturdays

4:30 PM

Sundays

7:30AM, 8:45AM & 11 AM

Week Days:

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

9:00 AM

To Contact Us

Address:

59 Cottage St., Sharon, MA

Phone:

781-784-2265

Website:

www.olossharon.org

Parish Email:

parish@olossharon.org

Pastor:

Rev. Robert Cullen



Weekly Offertory

The average cost to run the parish is \$9,600 per week. Our expectation is that 73% or \$6,980 will come from the weekly offertory. Parishioners contributed **\$6,445** for the week ending **Jan.1, 2023**. Please remember to contribute to the Grand Annual Collection as well. Thank you.



Prayers for: Sick

David Bowlby, Stephen Zrike, Mike Methot, Katherine Howley, Lauren Magobabs, Owen Devlin, Douglas Devlin

Deceased

Douglas Sullivan, Alan Sendker, Margaret McGrath, Phyllis Kurtzer, Cesar Barbagelata, Margaret McGrath, Pauline Holte Callahan, Lois Staula

Weekend Readings

1st Reading: Is 60:1-6

2nd Reading: Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6

Gospel: Mt 2:1-12

Monthly Coffee Hours

We are having coffee hours the first Sunday of each month. If you are interested in helping or want to provide goodies please contact Lynn Jacobs at the parish office.
ljacobs@ollossharon.org.

Music

Mass Parts

#198, 200, 202, 204

Gathering ~ #461

What Start Is This?

Responsorial ~ Psalm 72 ~ #60

"Ev'ry nation on earth will adore you, Lord"

Offertory ~ #463

We Three Kings of Orient Are

Communion ~ #466

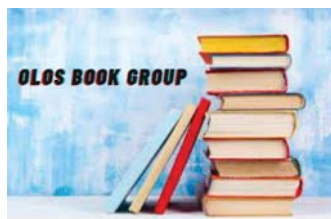
What Child Is This?

Sending Forth ~ #438

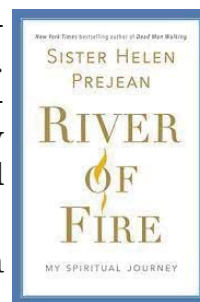
Angels, From The Realms Of Glory

Pastor's Desk

The celebration of the Baptism of our Lord should be a call for all of us to review our own commitment level to our faith and our surrender to the will of the Father for our lives. If Jesus is our model, then our commitment cannot be half-hearted. It cannot be just on Sundays or a couple of days a year. We should give our lives totally just like we do for our studies, our careers, and our families. Full commitment means to seek to do the will of God for our lives, in all things, at all times. Vatican II calls each one of us to full active participation in the Mass and also in the efforts to bring about the kingdom of God here on earth. Today, we are invited to reflect on our identity as the baptized, who like Jesus are beloved of the Father and who help others to know they are beloved too.
~ Fr Bob



The next meeting of the OLOS Book Group is scheduled for Sunday, January 22 from 2-3 p.m via Zoom. We will discuss *River of Fire* by Sister Helen Prejean. The Book Group continues to meet one Sunday afternoon a month to discuss books that broadly deal with spiritual or religious themes.



For our January meeting, we will meet via Zoom. Please contact Teresa Coda at tocoda@olossharon.org for the Zoom link.

Books we will discuss during upcoming meetings include:

February 26, 2023 (online): *Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship* by Gregory Boyle

March 26, 2023 (TBD): *My Sisters the Saints: A Spiritual Memoir* by Colleen Carroll Campbell

April 23, 2023 (in person): *The Hiding Place* by Corrie Ten Boom

Continental Breakfast Item Donations Needed for MainSpring House



We are collecting continental breakfast items for donation to the MainSpring House in Brockton, which provides shelter and meals to homeless men, women and children. We need muffins, bagels, cereal in individual serving containers, yogurt in single servings, bread and juice. Donations should be dropped off in the Bullock Center anytime Monday, January 30 or before noon on Tuesday, January 31. Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/2p8t5war> to sign up.

First Reconciliation



Congratulation to the young people of our parish who will be receiving their First Reconciliation on Jan. 28th.

Ruben Andrade, Alexander Bozzuto, William Brooks, Nicholas Charon, Gisella Chichester

Gabriel Cifuentes Martín-Goula, Samuel Cveck, Hana Cveckova, Simon Flieger, Raphael Gaboton, Kamau Gachanju, Niva Gachette, Tomas Giguere, Robert Hari, Henry Poyau, Elizabeth Reid, Brogan Ricker, Hailey Rodecker, Eva Romao, Lea Tarrazi, Evelyn Taylor, Theo Theodat, Ethan Woodcome

Thank You For Your Donations



Thank you to everyone who donated warm winter clothing and Stop & Shop gift cards for the residents of a local shelter run by Father Bill's and MainSpring House. The residents of this shelter include refugees seeking legal status here in the U.S., including eight of the migrants dropped off in Martha's Vineyard earlier this fall. The migrants' case manager says that the residents have been overwhelmed by the generosity of the OLOS community and send their heartfelt thanks. If you have men's winter clothing and/or gift cards you would like to donate, it's not too late! Please contact Monica LaFond at mlafond@olossharon.org or 781-784-2265 for more information.

OUR LADY OF SORROWS
Adult Faith Formation

"I Was in Prison and You Visited Me"

Matt 25:36

A Coffee Hour Panel Discussion



PRESENTERS FROM BETHANY HOUSE MINSTRIES

Ruth Raichle

(Founder/Executive Director)

Dr. Kathleen Dennehy

(2004-2007 Commissioner of
the Massachusetts

Department of Corrections)

Paul Robinson (Member)

Ed Poole (Treasurer and
Board Member)

What is criminal justice in the U.S.?
Who is imprisoned?
How could I serve Christ among the
imprisoned?

Join us to explore these questions
and more!

Sunday, Jan. 22
9:45 A.M.
O'Connell Hall

Catholic Social Thought and Criminal Justice

By Fr. Fred Kammer, S.J.

The common good is undermined by both “criminal behavior that threatens the lives and dignity of others and by policies that seem to give up on those who have broken the law.”

- *Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration:
A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Punishment*

Consideration of prison construction, imprisonment practices, and imprisonment of immigrants should begin with principles drawn from Catholic Social Teaching (CST). The most comprehensive authoritative U.S. treatment of these themes was the 2000 statement by the U.S. bishops titled *Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Punishment*.¹ The most applicable principles drawn from CST are human dignity and the common good.



The **common good** is undermined by both “criminal behavior that threatens the lives and dignity of others and by policies that seem to give up on those who have broken the law.”

Human dignity focuses the morally concerned person on the victim of crime and the offender, but also on those involved in various roles within the criminal justice process. The bishops call for strong support to make the justice system more responsive to the concerns of victims who too often are neglected in the process or their anger and pain is exploited to support punitive policies. Attention must be paid to their needs of healing and compassion, inclusion in the proceedings against their offenders, and the help of the faith community in recovering their dignity as they search for genuine justice. The bishops urge the widespread adoption of “innovative programs of restorative justice that provide the opportunity for mediation between victims and offenders and offer restitution for crimes committed.”

Offenders, too, retain their human dignity no matter what. Their rights must be respected and defended in the justice process. In the penal system, this means conditions that comport with human dignity including food, clothing, shelter, personal safety, timely medical care, opportunity for religious worship, education, and meaningful work adequate to the conditions of human dignity.



REFLECTION: CST

Too often our prison systems have abandoned the traditional corrections goal of rehabilitation. Prisons have been moved to distant rural locations that prevent family support and visits with inmates and undermine relationships with prisoners' families and children.

In response, the bishops cite the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and its teaching that civil punishment for crimes must serve three principal purposes:

- (1) the preservation and protection of the common good of society,
- (2) the restoration of public order, and
- (3) the restoration or conversion of the offender.

To these they add the importance of redress, the repair of the harm done to the victims and society, which often is neglected in current justice systems.

In keeping with human dignity, the bishops urge drug treatment in communities and in jails and prisons, an end to "three strikes and you're out" policies and rigid minimum sentences, efforts to address racism in society and in the system, the importance of strong family life, community-based prevention and responses to crime, challenging a culture of violence, and insisting on the rehabilitative purposes of incarceration that encourage and reward efforts to change behaviors and attitudes and promote needed education and employment and life-skills. Society's resources should move away from more and more imprisonment and toward prevention, addiction and mental health treatment, parole, and probation programs. We must insist upon a vision of social justice and the common good that undergirds the possibility of a fair criminal justice system.



Fr. Fred Kammer, S.J., serves as the Director of the Jesuit Social Research Institute at Loyola University in New Orleans, Louisiana. For more information on the JSRI: www.loyno.edu/jsri
Reprinted with permission *JustSouth Quarterly*, Winter 2010.

ENDNOTES

- 1 U.S. Catholic Bishops, *Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Punishment*, in *Origins*, Vol. 30: No. 25, November 30, 2000.



REFLECTION: CST



Photo credit: Jonathan Ernst/RNS via Reuters

*"I am here as a pastor but,
above all, as a brother,
to share your situation
and to make it my own.
All of us have something
we need to be cleansed of,
or purified from ...*

I am first among them.

~ Pope Francis, at the Curran-Fromhold
Correctional Facility in Philadelphia,
September 27, 2015

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Fr. Kammer discusses human dignity and how we must use this value as a touchstone when evaluating our current system of criminal justice. Have you seen or read about cases where the human dignity of the victims of a crime was not upheld in the justice process? Have you seen or read about cases where the human dignity of the accused was not upheld? What are images of victims and of criminals that are common in the media, the News, on TV, and in films? What are the societal roots of how we view both victims and "criminals?"

2. In his recent address at a Philadelphia prison, Pope Francis said: "It is painful when we see prison systems which are not concerned to care for wounds, to soothe pain, to offer new possibilities." He goes on to talk about the importance of rehabilitation for those who have broken laws and acted in destructive ways, saying that rehabilitation will benefit the entire community. What values are the roots of the Pope's statement? Why is it a challenge to promote rehabilitation rather than punitive experiences? What values underlie a punitive perspective for those convicted of crimes? What benefits is the Pope possibly thinking of when he declares that rehabilitation of prisoners will contribute to the common good?

3. Fr. Kammer refers to the U.S. Bishops' document on a Catholic perspective on crime and punishment; this document calls us to look at the root causes of criminal behavior. What are some of the causes Fr. Kammer mentions? Have you seen evidence of these in our society? Why do the Bishops call us to examine these? What are some of the ways these can be addressed so we can help people live constructive lives, reduce criminal behavior, and build the common good?



REFLECTION: CST

PRAYER

As our father, Francis, declared, help us share the pain of all members of society, especially those who have been the victims of crime, and also those who have committed crimes.

Pope Francis has asked us to remember “Jesus seeks us all out, he wants to heal our wounds, to wash us clean.”

We pray to have the faith of Francis, the faith that seeks to help all resume their journeys, to recover hope, to restore their lives no matter what has happened.

We pray that we may be part of the healing of this society through our work to address the conditions that contribute to destructive behavior and through our support of justice that restores the common good.

FAITH IN ACTION

1. In an existing group, or in a small group you call together, read the U.S. Bishops’ document *Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Punishment* at www.usccb.org as well as Pope Francis’ address to prisoners in Philadelphia (<http://ti.me/1iDaVgs>). Share the insights from your reading and your group discussions with others. Follow and support the Bishops’ recommendations for transforming the U.S. criminal justice system.

2. Find out if there are organizations in your area that work with victims of crimes (see the directory at <http://victimsofcrime.org/help-for-crime-victims>), and organizations such as Hour Children, started by Sr. Tesa Fitzgerald, CSJ, to help mothers in prison retain bonds with their children and by helping mothers released from prison re-unite with their children, learn parenting skills, get job training, and find adequate housing (www.hourchildren.org) Learn how you can support such organizations.



SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

By Fr. Larry Rice

“All of creation is changed by the
appearance of Christ.”

In popular tradition, the feast of Epiphany commemorates the arrival of the three kings at the stable in Bethlehem where Christ was born. The gospel reading for the day—Matthew 2:1-12—tells the story. Over the years, a lot of tradition has grown around this story. Many people will tell you that the magi were three kings, named Caspar, Balthazar, and Melchior, and they may note that Caspar is traditionally depicted with darker skin. But if you read those twelve short verses from Matthew’s Gospel, it becomes clear that we really know very little about the magi. We don’t know their names. We don’t know where they came from—Matthew only says “from the east.” We don’t even know that they were kings. The word used by Matthew is “magi,” meaning someone learned in esoteric knowledge. Some translations call them “astrologers,” but the only basis for that is the statement that they were following a star. And even the star itself is a mystery. Astronomers can chart the movement of the stars back in time, but they can’t seem to agree about the existence of an astronomical event that would explain the reference. And even the most casual observer would have a hard time explaining what it would mean for a star to move through the sky and then stop over a particular place. Regardless of who the magi were and how the star showed them the way, the most significant

part of this event is the identity of the one who is made known—Jesus, the newborn king, who is worthy of homage by all men and women. The meaning of the epiphany that occurs in this gospel passage is that the “the newborn king of the Jews” is revealed to and recognized by people from far and distant lands. The appearance of mystical signs in the sky makes the point that all of creation is changed by the appearance of Christ. Because God has chosen to become human, all creation and all the people of the earth can experience the redemption he has come to bring.

Fr. Rice is Vocations Director for the Paulist Fathers.



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OUR LADY OF SORROWS PARISH

59 Cottage St, Sharon MA 02067

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If you are housebound and would like to receive the Eucharist, if you are in need of prayer or if you need assistance from our community, please call the Parish Office or send us an email. We want to hear from you.

Bible Study:

Wednesday at 10 AM in the Bullock Center

All are Welcome!

Contact Us:

We welcome your ideas and involvement. Please contact us. We also invite you to visit and contribute to our prayer book in the back of the church.

Parish Office: 781-784-2265

Web: www.olossharon.org

Email: parish@olossharon.org

Our Vision

We welcome all to our community as we celebrate and explore our Catholic faith. We embrace the unique religious composition of Sharon. We proclaim the Risen Lord who gathers us as a community. We pursue open dialogue as we follow the teachings of Jesus Christ through lifelong learning and faith formation. We practice and promote social justice that affirms the Dignity of every human being. We call upon the grace and talents of all parishioners to strengthen our living church.

Please visit our full Vision Statement at our website.

Staff:

Rev. Robert Cullen

Pastor

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Rev. Kevin Spicer, C.S.C.

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Parish Pastoral Council:

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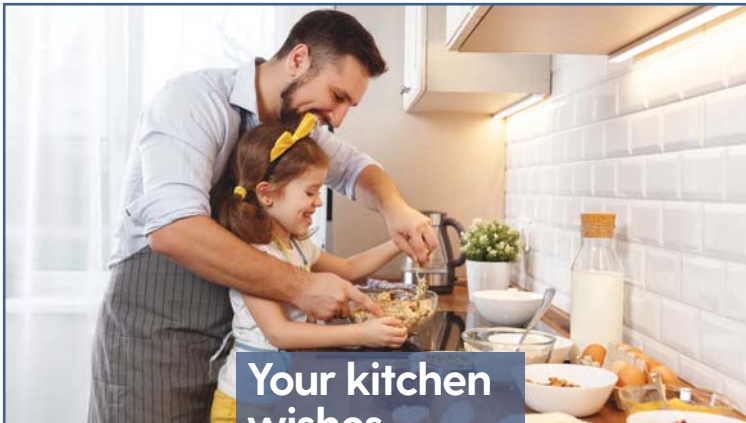
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