

August 30, 2009 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

4:00 PM Mr., & Mrs. Jacintho Furtado by daughter, Dorothy

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

8:00 AM Norman Tolley by Yvette Abrams (18th anniv)

9:30 AM Donald Martin by Manny and Lorraine (5th anniv)

11:00 AM Joseph S. Korkosz, by wife Alice and children

MONDAY, AUGUST 31

9:00 AM Daniel and David Viveiros by their family

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

9:00 AM Stanley Treloar, Jr. by his wife and children

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

9:00 AM Robert Peloquin by his wife, Wanda

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

9:00 AM Steven Prior by his family (birthday remembrance)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

4:00 PM Jack Lyons and Clement Levell by Katherine Lyons

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

8:00 AM Raymond Coulombe by his family

9:30 AM Marie Jordan by her son, John

11:00 AM Claire Reynolds by her family

Month of August Memorial Candles

Sanctuary Lamp in memory of Arthur Abrams by his wife, Yvette

Altar Candles in memory of Jeffrey Varanese by his brother and sisters

Tabernacle Candles in memory of Jack Lyons by his wife, Katherine

August 23rd Collection

Budget \$ 3,646.75

“Thank You” to all who continue to generously support our parish!

Gift Bearers - If you are a family member or friend who would like to bring the gifts to the altar at a loved one’s Mass, we would be happy to have you do so. Just stop by the Sacristy before Mass and tell Father Michael you will be the gift bearer that day. Thank you.

50 Week Club – Congratulations to the August 30th winner.....Elaine Thibault

Pro-Life Committee



CHOOSE LIFE LICENSE

PLATE initiative has now collected 1046 registrations; the goal is 1500 by October 31. So far, only three people have signed up in Swansea. If you haven't considered making a commitment to this Pro-life program, please do so. For information go to www.machoose-life.org/ or call Joe Ripanti for information. 508-678-4453

St. Vincent de Paul



In Need of Assistance? Are you facing utility shutoffs and or high food bills? If you are a family in need of assistance, please contact the Saint Vincent de Paul Society at 508-673-2808.

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul will hold its' Second Annual Friends of the Poor Walk at BCC on Saturday, September 26. Registration starts at 8:30 AM, Walk at 10:00 AM. Parishioners are welcome to participate.

Message from Joe Ripanti:

As we approach the second annual FRIENDS OF THE POOR WALK fund raiser on September 26, we would like to again thank the St. Francis of Assisi Community for its past generosity and report on what your gifts have enabled us to do.

In the past year we distributed Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets to needy families, sponsored children at camp, provided financial assistance to other St. Vincent de Paul conferences, especially in the inner city, who cannot keep up with the demands made upon them. We sponsored, cooked and served meals for the homeless at a community soup kitchen. On a bi-weekly basis, we provide several needy families with groceries and food gift certificates. Financial assistance has been provided to families faced with utility shut-offs and struggling with housing costs. Providing tuition payments for job retraining to enable people to become self-sufficient is a new initiative.

We are able to do these works only because of the generosity of our parish family. Your gifts to holy day collections, poor boxes, brown bag Sunday collections and private donations by benefactors makes it all possible. Thank you for your past help, and we encourage you to support the upcoming “Friends of the Poor Walk”.

Family Life

The Family Life Committee is looking for faith-filled, generous people who are willing to share ideas, talents and faith to enrich St. Francis of Assisi parish. Our goal is to transform our parish community into a vibrant, active and welcoming home, where we all feel treasured and loved. To do this, **we need you!** Our membership is growing, but we still need more people to continue to do things which make our parish awesome. Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 8th at 7:00 p.m. in the church hall. Please join us for some fun and fellowship.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday October 3rd

Pet Blessing at 1 pm in the church parking lot.

Sunday October 4th

The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi

will be celebrated with a family festival to take place after the 11 a.m. mass. There will be a B.B.Q., games, music, a family scarecrow contest, an apple pie contest and much more! Be on the lookout for more information in the coming weeks.



Sunday October 25th

Family Halloween Party from 2-4 pm in our parish hall. All ages are welcome to attend. There will be make-your-own sundaes, games, music, crafts and much more. Come join us for an enjoyable afternoon. Contact Christine Patota @ (508)677-0804 for more information or to volunteer.

Friday November 13th

Family Game Night and Pizza Party, come and get to know fellow parishioners for a fun and competitive evening of fun and games!

Sunday November 29th

Advent Wreath making & Pasta Luncheon, come join us for our ever-popular annual event on the first Sunday of Advent. There will be a sign up sheet when the date draws near so we can make sure we have enough supplies. Each family will be given the supplies to decorate an advent wreath and we always enjoy a delicious pasta luncheon!

Faith Formation

As of the printing of this week's bulletin, of the 290 returning students in last year's program, and an estimated 30 new 1st graders (for a total of 320), 129 children have been registered. Until most of the children entering the 2009-2010 program year have been registered, it is impossible to know the number of teaches and classrooms needed for each grade, or the date classes will begin. Once classes do begin, It is difficult for the teachers, coordinators, and the children to have classes disrupted each week when children are placed in a classroom after the start of the program year. The Diocese of Fall River requires 25 weeks of Faith Formation classes - the later classes start, the later they will end.

Parish family, I am asking for your help - If you know of anyone who has not yet registered their child in this year's program, please bring a bulletin to them. In this way they will be able to fill out the registration form and return it to the parish office.

Thank you,

Nancy Storey

Faith Formation Coordinator

Prayer Shawl Ministry - Workshops for September will be on Tuesday, Sept. 1st and Tuesday, Sept. 15th at 1:30 p.m. in the church hall. We have shawls, lap robes, and chemo caps available. Please contact Claire Morissette at 508-672-0104 if you know someone in need of any of these items.

Year for Priest 6/19/09 – 6/19/10 Please Pray for Priests

Dear Lord,

we pray that the Blessed Mother wrap her mantle around your priests and through her intercession strengthen them for their ministry.

We pray that Mary will guide your priests to follow her own words,

"Do whatever He tells you" (Jn 2:5).

May your priests have the heart of St. Joseph, Mary's most chaste spouse.

May the Blessed Mother's own pierced heart inspire them to embrace all who suffer at the foot of the cross.

May your priests be holy, filled with the fire of your love seeking nothing but your greater glory and the salvation of souls.

Amen.

Saint John Vianney, pray for us

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Moses reminds the people why they followed God in today's First Reading. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob worked in the lives of the people. Unlike foreign gods of nature who were distant, Israel's God was close; He heard His people and answered! As their God was unique, so was His Law. The Law insisted upon high moral character and action. The Law guided the daily lives and social conduct of the people by promoting compassion and justice. To insure justice, the people were to keep the entire Law and not pick and choose based upon convenience. Ultimately, the honor of the people was not going to be based upon their acts, but upon the gift of God's Law. The honor of the people reflected the justice of their Law, which, in turn, reflected the goodness of their God. With many authorities vying for our attention, the test of authority is the result its rules have on daily life. God has shown us the results of moral living, so His authority is proven.

Some bible scholars speculate Psalm 15, today's Responsorial Psalm, represented a ritual to re-admit a penitent to the Temple for worship. The priest would approve of the penitent's return, thus allowing him entrance to the Temple. While this scenario is not certain, it can give us a glimpse into the cultural values of the time. Imagine if our culture did have public rituals of forgiveness; we might be a better society, for we would have a way to reintegrate the penitent. We would have institutional ways not just to right wrongs, but also to heal them. Everyone has a person they need to forgive. Everyone has the need for forgiveness. Identify that person in your life, how can you forgive him or her and seek forgiveness? How can you know forgiveness is successful?

James placed the moral lifestyle of the Christian in the context of grace in today's Second Reading. Every good gift came from God, but the highest gift was His "Word," the indwelling of Christ through the power of the Spirit. The Word was not something to be simply heard, as something external. No, it was to take root in one's being and lived out. For James, the life of grace was the ethical life. Have you studied the Word today? How will you bring the Word to others? How does your faith guide your everyday actions?

Today's Gospel of Mark raises the following Catechism Theme: All Gather Together (for Mass) (CCC 1348). It is ironic that Christians prepare for a community meal, just as their Jewish

counterparts did in the time of Jesus. Human beings need a transition from the secular to the sacred. In fact, such rituals as these transition moments define the purpose of the community. Judaism had washing rituals to show it was separated from the dominant culture. Christianity has penitential rites in liturgy to define itself as a community of saved sinners. This is the first moment of active worship where all have a place at the table. During worship, Christ is at the head, represented by the bishop or priest (who acts in persona Christi). Others have ministries of welcome, reading, bring forth the gifts, and distributing communion. But the entire congregation forms Christ's Body. But to become his Body, each member must first be reconciled to their Master and each other. How does the penitential rite during Mass help you to celebrate and worship? Remember when we prepare to worship at the sacred meal; we separate not from others but from sin for others. How do you prepare for Sunday liturgy? Try a nightly Examination of Conscience, a review of the day and a prayer for forgiveness. Over the next several days, see if that prayer heightens your thirst for Sunday worship.



