## SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### **DIOCESE OF FALL RIVER**

### **FEBRUARY 19, 2017**

### STEWARDSHIP OF PRAYER

### HEART OF THE WORLD XI

### Like the heart in the body, the very center and life-moving force of the Church is the Eucharist. All of the other Sacraments and the whole life of Grace and the Church in the world flow from it and lead back to it.

2017 commemorates 100 years since the apparitions of the Blessed Mother to Lucia, Jacinta, and Francisco at Fatima. In this column, we have been discussing how an Angel appeared to them three times in order to prepare them to meet Our Lady. One of the most important things he desired to teach them was the practice of Reverence (or Piety).

This Gift of the Holy Spirit precedes any interaction (prayer) with God and denotes an interior attitude that is also expressed outwardly. The Angel was able *to appear* to bow, kneel, prostrate, etc. but could not actually do so. Angels do not have bodies. The fact that we can worship with our bodies is a source of wonder and amazement to them. (cf. Lk, 15:10; Eph 3:10; Heb 2)

However, Angels, who perceive reality with perfect clarity, have a lot to teach us about Reverence. We become tired, or sore, or sick, or injured and get distracted by the gift of our bodies from what we can do with them.

Over the last couple of weeks, we have pondered the meaning and purpose of the various objects and areas that are in the formally dedicated Sacred Spaces of our Church buildings. They are the setting of the choreography of the Divine Worship as it is the intersection point between Heaven and Earth and is present in both.

As the Church directs the presence of this Divine Worship in the world, slowly over time there are developments of our practice that occur as a result of the development of our understanding. Unfortunately, over the last few generations, these things have been as subject to fads as are clothing styles.

In many churches you can see the vestiges of these fads. Church layout/design; colored Altar clothes; various use of banners; seasonal decorations beyond flora like desert scenes in Lent, pools in Easter, etc.; removing the Blessed Sacrament from the Sanctuary; changing out the Crucifix for a depiction of Christ resurrected; colors and materials of vestments; use or non-use of candles and where they are located; and the list is virtually endless.

Succumbing to faddish change as opposed to considered development has been unfortunate because it has subjected our souls to the unintended meta-message that to be relevant things need to change and stay "up to date". Even worse, is a subconsciously perceived sense of instability.

This is not to say all change is bad. It is not. Development requires change, but it needs always to be held up against the original meaning and considered if this will still be a good idea 50 or 100 years from now. Next week—Altar rails.

#### ~ ST. FRANCIS XAVIER ~

Saturday:	Feb 18
8:30 AM	Robert E. Manning
4:00 PM	Hazel Lawton
Sunday:	Feb 19
9 AM	Mary Jane Camara
11AM	Rose Bouchard
1 PM	Special Intention
Monday:	Feb 20
8:30 AM	Richard Burton
Tuesday:	Feb 21
8:30 AM	Veneranda Camara
Wednesday:	Feb 22
8:30 AM	Betty Aiken
Thursday:	Feb 23
8:30 AM	Deacon Richard & Peg Dresser
Friday:	Feb 24
8:30 AM	Mary Jane Ferreira
Saturday:	Feb 25
8:30 AM	Robert Klaiber
4:00 PM	Eileen Cronin
Sunday:	Feb 26
9 AM	Members of the Parish
11AM	Rita G. McLaughlin
1 PM	Cathryn P. Wiatroski

#### ~ SACRED HEART CHAPEL ~

Saturday:	Feb 18
4 PM	Jopseh Mahoney
Sunday:	Feb 19
8 AM	Members of the Parish
Saturday:	Feb 25
4 PM	John Sheehan
Sunday:	Feb 26
8 AM	Peros & Starke Families

THE PARISH OFFICE
WILL BE CLOSED ON
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20
IN OBSERVANCE OF
PRESIDENTS' DAY

## **ADORATION**



MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY



NOON TO 3PM
COME PRAY
AN HOUR WITH ME.

# ADORATION COME PRAY ONE HOUR WITH ME

There is a need for additional people to spend a time with Our Lord. Sometimes things come up (illness, family problems) that require the presence of the person who said they would pray with the Lord. It is difficult to predict, but also makes it difficult for them to follow through with this commitment. If you can fill in as a substitute, could you please contact Deacon Bruce Baxter at his email or call the deaconbrucebaxter@gmail.com Parish Office for details 508.775.0818. Thank you to those of you who have come forward and offered to help.

# EUCHARISTIC APOSTLES OF DIVINE MERCY

Meetings are held every other Monday. The next meeting will be held on **Feb 27**. For further information, call the office at 508.775.0818.

# COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP... LIGHT LUNCH. TOO...!!

Join us each Sunday morning after 9 and 11AM Masses, in the Lower Church Hall, at St. Francis, for coffee and fellowship. Breakfast after 9AM Mass and light luncheon after 11AM Mass.

## WALKING WITH PURPOSE

Bible Study Group meets at

Christ the King Parish on:



Women from all Parishes are welcome. No meetings during school vacations. For more information, go to WWPMashpee@aol.com or call 508-420-0443.

# Celebrating "Fat" Sunday - Serving Breakfast & Brunch

February 26<sup>th</sup> following - 9:00 & 11:00 am Masses



Lower Church Hall

"May We Serve You?"

Sample a variety of Breakfast Foods

(a change from the normal menu)

with Coffee, Juice & Fellowship

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#### SANCTUARY LAMP

Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to book the Sanctuary Lamp at St. Francis, in honor of a loved one. The Sanctuary Lamp is lit this week in honor of:

## **GERRY HOCKER**

#### **COLLECTIONS**

February 12, 2017 - \$ 5,437

St. Vincent DePaul Society - \$ 487

#### WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTERS - MAR 17 - 19 and APRIL 22-23, 2017

"So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect." Encourage the Holy Spirit to perfect your marriage by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next WWME Weekends are Mar 17-19, 2017 in South Kingstown, RI and Apr 22-23, 2017 in Brewster, MA. For more information, call Stephen & Michelle O'Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit us at www.WWMEMA.org.

#### ANCHOR NEWSPAPER - CHANGES ..!!!

If you receive budget envelopes, you will notice that there is still an envelope for the ANCHOR newspaper. Again, as was the case last year, the ANCHOR is taking care of subscriptions on its own. The checks will no longer go through the parish. Please contact the ANCHOR directly to renew your subscription. Their address is:

# The ANCHOR 887 Highland Avenue Fall River, MA 02720

#### THE GREATEST WOMAN WHO EVER LIVED

The Bible and the Virgin Mary unveils the mystery of Our Lady that is woven into the fabric of Sacred Scripture. In this beautiful and awe-inspiring series based on Dr. Scott Hahn's book Hail, Holy Queen, watch the Mary of doctrine and devotion come alive in a powerful, new way! Join us at St. Francis Xavier as we embark on this 12 week study series. We will be beginning the series in Lent and concluding it in the Spring after a short hiatus. (Two 6-week sessions) beginning March 4, 2017, at the Duffy Pastoral Center at 11AM. Please Register, since seating is limited. (complete and return to Parish Office)

 BIBLE STUDY - BEGINNING MARCH 4, 2017	
(*NAME)	
(PHONE)	
(*EMAIL)	•
(*print legibly - one per person)	

#### OFFICE FOR CHILD PROTECTION

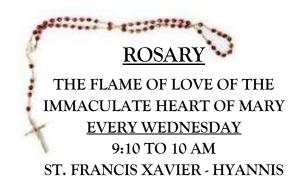
If you need to attend an Abuse Prevention Training as approved by the Diocese, please contact your DRE. If there are no trainings taking place in your parish, please call Debora at (508) 997-7337 or see www.cssdioc.org for information on dates, times and the registration process. (5)

#### **INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY**

In cases of inclement weather when the Barnstable School Department cancels classes, the Parish Office, Religious Education classes and other parish events or gatherings are also cancelled. **Masses will be held as scheduled**. Please check with civil authority (i.e. state of emergency) and use your discretion and good judgment about whether you may safely attend Mass.

# HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED AN EMMAUS RETREAT?

Emmaus is a retreat for men and women (ages 20+) who seek to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ, regardless of their present level of faith or practice. We want to invite you to join us on our next Emmaus weekend. You will be welcomed by a loving community, spend time in personal and communal prayer, and celebrate the sacraments. The next Emmaus is **March 10-12**, 2017 at Cathedral Camp in East Freetown, MA. For more information or to apply online, email us at emmausretreats@gmail.com or visit our website: www.emmausretreats.com



#### PRAYER FOR THE UNBORN

Heavenly Father, You created us in Your own image, and You desire that not even the least among us should perish. In Your love for us, You entrusted Your only Son to the Holy Virgin Mary. Now in Your love, protect against the wickedness of the devil, those little ones to whom You have given the gift of life. I ask that you help Another Way Pregnancy Center in Farmington Hills, Michigan and Birth Choice of Orange County, California reach those considering abortion, and by Your Grace, changing their hearts and protect the unborn. And bless all efforts to protect human life from capital punishment, war, starvation, euthanasia, and all other threats to the Dignity of Life from Conception to Natural Death.

#### ASH WEDNESDAY RETREAT: "HERE FOR A PURPOSE"

A Retreat led by Peggy Patenaude and held at <u>Sacred Hearts Retreat Center in Wareham</u>, MA will take place Wednesday, March 1 from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM. Mass, distribution of ashes, and lunch are included. Fee: \$55. Pre-registration is required by Monday, February 27. Visit <u>www.timeoutretreats.com</u> for more information and for a registration form. For questions, contact Peggy at <u>timeoutretreats@comcast.net</u> or 508-548-9149.

# SERVING THE SPIRITUAL NEEDS OF GRIEVING PARENTS

Losing a child under any circumstance is horrific. Focusing on the spirituality of the grieving process can help tremendously. Please join us. All are welcome. St. Anthony Shrine, Boston, MA, is offering an Emmaus Ministry for Grieving Parents will conduct a Lenten 'One-Day' Spiritual Retreat on March 11, 2017, from 9:30 am - 7:30 pm. For more information, call Diane, Mother of Paul, at (617) 542-8057 or see <a href="https://www.emfgp.org">www.emfgp.org</a>

YOUNG ADULTS MEETING
The Young Adults will be meeting every 1st and 3rd
Saturdays of each month at 5:30pm in the Fr. Duffy Center.

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