

MASS INTENTIONS

THIS WEEK

Saturday	5:00	Frank Killmaier
Sunday	8:00	Mark Dundas & Louis DiGiovanni John Doyle, Fr. Bob Kemmery, Parish Family
	10:00	Connie Nero
Monday	8:00	Rose Walker
Tuesday	8:00	Al, Ellen & Diane Ginter
Wed	8:00	Mary & George Mess
Thurs	8:00	Communion Service
Friday	8:00	David Vincent Cardito

NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday	5:00	Olive Looney
Sunday	8:00	Edward Hurley, Josephine Bachi Kuralt Fr. Bob Kemmery, Parish Family
	10:00	Michael Villano

PRAY FOR THE ILL OF THE PARISH

Flora Massa, Martin Coughlin, Loretta Stephens, Regina Zanis, Harry Marcoux, John Keane, Tris Windle, David Cousins, Lynne Scalia, Alex Podeszwa, Bernadette Harrod, Eileen Metterville, Thomas Stone, Nick Bartick, Pam Hedlund, Paul Conte, Len Hedlund, Greg Morongell, Nora Gould, Edan Pearl, Richard Smith, Anne Caruso, Natalie DiPaolo, John M. Pollard, Alexandra Burke, Peter Cruckshank, Bill Hannon, Peter Gill, Ivy Davis, Maddy Hayes, Clare Stevenson, Joseph Nosari, Vincent Lenczewski, Jeffrey Wolfgang, Louise Francke, Joan Ouellette, Bev Sarazin, Helen Stempsey, Regina Collyer, Tyler Bencotter, Agnes Wolfgang, Fr. Paul Smith, Marilyn Drewes, John L. Sullivan, Kameron Hardaker, Ray Castriotta, Julianne Sullivan, Robert Grudzina, Brenda Kowalski, Marge LaGrassa, Jim Lewis, Joyce Loechner, Frank Salomone, Paul Chamberlain, Pauline Laberge, Edith Vinci, Chad Larivee, Patrick McNulty, Marirose (Mary) Lynch, Dick Wentworth, Nuvia Downs, Karen Mary McNulty, Olivia Hart, Alex Haas, Patrick Devine, Ellen Marie Anderson, Carter Mock, Nancy Hurley, Gerry Csaposs, Peggy Carson, Ed Daly, James Roberts, Addie Priess, Pat Hastings, Tim McEnaney, Frank McCarthy, Ruth Kantorski, Andree Yager, Loretta Reiter, Thomas Murphy, Paul Kascsak, Bill Martin, Lolita Previd, Judy Chamberlain, Joe Conlan, Dusty Fahey, Patty Camarra

PRAY FOR LOVED ONES IN THE MID-EAST

Brandy Nelson, Timothy Horigan, Scott Doucette, Michael Wilson, David Lucas, Sean Lucas, Peter Civita Shayne, Peter Cabral, Gregory DeLuca, Joshua Schmitt, Joseph Long, Brad Howard, Thomas Scudder, Jeffrey Stebbins, Phillip McDonough, David Wilcox, John Amick, David McDonald, Lt. Edward J. Maloney, Andrew Kelley, William James Miller, David Orloski, Stephen Tamaro, Michael L. Hamilton, Thomas Crawford, Aaron Charette, Matthew Blair, Jared Stubbs, Nicholas McGahey, Edward Pruffer, Christian P. Goodman

PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED

THIS WEEKEND IS HARVEST SUNDAY

The second collection this weekend is the Harvest Sunday Collection, which supports the efforts of the parish St. Vincent de Paul Conference to help those in need with necessities – food, medicine, rent, utilities. Thanks for giving.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS THIS SUNDAY

BEEF STEW (24 oz), BAKED BEANS (16 oz) JELLY (8-16 oz) CANNED FRUIT (16 oz), CANNED VEGETABLES (14.5 oz) TUNA FISH (6 oz) , SPAGHETTI (1 lb box) MACARONI & CHEESE (6 oz box), PEANUT BUTTER (18 oz) SPAGHETTI SAUCE (28 oz), JELLO (3 oz) and CANNED SOUP (11 oz), HOT CEREAL (10 env. Pack), COLD CEREAL. Thanks for sharing.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

The Bereavement Support Group will meet THIS Sunday, February 19, at 1:30 p.m. in the Parish Center. These year-round monthly group meetings focus on the various aspects of grieving. The presentations and round-table discussions provide information to assist the bereaved as they move forward with their new life. For further information, please call Barbara at 508-249-1090 or Liz at 508-896-4916.

MOVIE TIME

Join us in the Parish Center at 2:00 p.m. next Sunday, February 26, for the movie *Radical Grace*, an award winning film about three American Sisters and their unwavering commitment to the poor, and to social justice. The film also chronicles the sisters' conflict with Church hierarchy as they seek to live the Gospel, both within the church, AND in the modern world. Come and enjoy!

SEASONAL REMINDERS

Due to the flu season, the cup will not be offered at Mass until Holy Thursday. The Sign of Peace may be offered with words and a smile rather than a handshake, if you like. If you suspect you are ill, or weather conditions are hazardous, you are **not obligated to attend Mass. Remain at home**, possibly participating in the Mass on TV, radio or Internet. **If schools are CLOSED or DELAYED due to snow, THERE IS NO DAILY MASS. Please observe this policy for your safety, as well as to expedite the snow removal in our parking lots.**

REFUGEE REFLECTION

The Refugee Issue is a very emotional **POLITICAL** issue right now. The Scriptures remind us, however, that how we treat the hungry, the homeless, the oppressed, the afflicted, and those living in ANY kind of darkness, is **ALSO a religious and moral issue.**

Many religious leaders, including the Massachusetts Council of Churches, and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, have **spoken out AGAINST the recent harmful executive action** toward refugees. Here are a few quotes from the USCCB website:

“It is our conviction as followers of the Lord Jesus that **welcoming the stranger and protecting the vulnerable** lie at the **CORE** of the Christian life.”

“We believe that by helping to resettle the most vulnerable, we are **living out our Christian faith** as Jesus has challenged us to do.”

“The Church will not waver in her **defense of our sisters and brothers of ALL faiths** who suffer at the hands of merciless persecutors.”

“We must screen vigilantly for infiltrators who would do us harm, but we must always be **equally vigilant in our welcome of friends.**”

“We will work vigorously to ensure that **refugees are humanely welcomed** in collaboration with Catholic Charities, without sacrificing our security, or our core values as Americans, and to ensure that families may be reunified with their loved ones.”

I encourage you, instead of just emotionally reacting to one side, **OR** the other, of this issue, to **please prayerfully reflect on it.** Bring it to the Lord in prayer. Ask Him, “Lord, what do **YOU** want done for Your people here? Is there anything I should do, Lord?”

Then, after praying about it, if you feel so moved, please **consider contacting our elected officials** to advocate for a compassionate response to the men, women and children who are desperately fleeing violence and persecution in their homeland.

Options for action: Call 202-224-3121 and ask to be connected to our Representative or Senators.

E-mail Options:

www.markey.senate.gov/contact

www.warren.senate.gov/?p=email_senator

www.keating.house.gov/contact

whitehouse.gov/contact

Facebook: [Facebook.com/WhiteHouse](https://www.facebook.com/WhiteHouse)

Thank you for your **prayerful consideration of this tragic human situation.**

Fr. John Kelleher

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

Diocesan Women and Men’s Conference

For Lent this year, the Fall River Diocese is offering something new! The 2017 Women & Men’s Conference is a one-day program with enriching talks, reflection, prayer, and fellowship for a deeper faith-filled journey towards Easter. It will take place on Saturday, March 11, at Stonehill College. The theme for the Conference is *Thirsting for Hope — Can You Drink the Cup I Drink?* Our speakers will be Cardinal Sean O’Malley, OFM Cap.; RENEW International Director Sr. Terry Rickard, O.P.; Christian music artist ValLimar Jansen; and lay evangelist and humorist Michael Cumbie. The cost for the event is \$45 per person, which includes lunch and the option for CEUs. During lunch, there will be an opportunity for reconciliation and time to visit the many vendors who will be exhibiting with us. Mass will be celebrated at 3:00 p.m. To register or obtain more information, visit www.fallriverdiocese.org or pick up a flyer in the church foyers. Registration deadline is March 1.

Weekend Retreat for Adults In Theirs 20s and 30s

The What Next? Finding Answers with Faith Retreat is designed for men and women in their 20s and 30s who are interested in taking time to prayerfully reflect on the transitions they have faced, or are currently facing — and how their experiences of transition influence their faith, as well as how their faith can guide, comfort, and support their journey of transition. The weekend incorporates conversations in small groups, and personal time to reflect and pray. Join us for this Charis Retreat weekend from 5 p.m. Friday, March 3, through 1 p.m. Sunday, March 5 at the Sacred Hearts Retreat Center, 226 Great Neck Rd, Wareham, MA . Cost is \$75/person for college students, or \$125/person for non-college students in their 20s and 30s. Sponsored by the Diocese of Fall River Office for Campus Ministry. For more information, visit www.fallrivercampusministry.com or contact Fr. David Frederici at Fr.David@fallrivercampusministry.com.

Priesthood Discernment Retreat

The Diocesan Vocations Office is sponsoring a retreat for men ages 19-45 who are open to praying about a Vocation to the Priesthood. This retreat will be held March 3-5 at the Betania II Retreat Center in Medway. For more info or to register, contact Fr. Chris Peschel at discernmentretreat@yahoo.com or at 508-398-2248.



FAITH FORMATION

Grades 1-5 Mondays 2:20—4:00 p.m.
Grades 6-10 Monday 6:00---7:30 p.m.

FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE

There are **no** Faith Formation classes on Monday, February 20. We look forward to seeing all Kindergarten through Grade 10 students on Monday, February 27.

RCIA

Please support our candidate, Olive Murphy, and the RCIA team by keeping them in your prayers. If you wish to explore what it means to be a member of a Catholic Christian community please call Judy Burt Walker at 255-1257 or Fr. John at 255-0170.

RETREAT OPPORTUNITIES

Ash Wednesday Retreat: *Here for a Purpose*, led by Peggy Patenaude and held at Sacred Hearts in Wareham, is scheduled from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on March 1. Mass, distribution of ashes and lunch are included. Fee: \$55. Pre-registration is required by Monday, February 27. Visit www.timeoutretreats.com for registration form.

WORLDWIDEMARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Let the light of your love shine upon your marriage by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend. Upcoming weekends are March 17 –19 in S. Kingston, RI, and April 22-23 at **Our Lady of the Cape in Brewster**. For more information, call Stephen & Michelle O’Leary at 800-710-9963.

WILL YOU ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE?

As human beings we naturally imitate what we admire. This tendency has its positive aspects such as striving to live in a more selfless way like Saint (Mother) Teresa; or resisting injustice without hostility like Gandhi or Martin Luther King, Jr. But, it also makes us prone to our own modern-day idolatries: having the right designer tag on our clothing; obsessing over the flashy car that bespeaks our lifestyle; categorizing ‘who is in’ and ‘who is out’. We know what has become ‘*holy*’ to us by what makes us cheer; by the way we spend our energies and our money; and by how we choose to meet personal and societal injustice.

The question is— *Can we commit ourselves to the level of self-giving to which Jesus calls us?* Can we stand on our word and not make shallow promises? Can we resist violence without demanding an eye-for-an-eye? Can we respond to divisiveness by building networks of dialogue and tolerance that might lead to greater trust? How do we respond to the call to holiness?

Commenting on the “universal call to holiness”, Pope Francis says that *we are all called to become saints*. That is good news indeed! We all have the potential to respond positively to the challenge of the Gospel message. The temptation to think that holiness is only for those who devote their lives to prayer—or who close their eyes and put on a pious face—is a narrow interpretation of the holiness or perfection of which Jesus speaks. Holiness is so much more. In very simple language, Pope Francis says that *holiness is an invitation to share in God’s joy—to live and offer every moment of our lives with joy, at the same time making (our lives) a gift of love for the people around us*.

For Pope Francis, the message of holiness—the perfection spoken of by Jesus— is not about living with no imperfections—it is about being fully alive—open to using all our human capacities to know and love and be of service to our families; neighborhoods; nation; world. Being fully alive implies engaging new people, events, and needs with our whole selves. The whole person *notices* the person who needs a coat as well as a shirt. The whole person can hold differences in dialogue, whenever possible, and work with others toward more just and peaceful solutions.

The Gospel asks us to rise to the challenge: the challenge of embracing the Spirit of love and humility; the challenge of meeting difficult situations with wisdom, compassion, and mercy—the challenge of saying “Yes” to the universal call to holiness