

MASS INTENTIONS

THIS WEEK

Saturday 5:00 Rose Ingham
 Sunday 8:00 Mark Dundas/Louis DiGiovanni
 Alba Grant, Sharon Phillips
 Fr. Bob Kemmery, Parish Family
 9:30 Eugene S. McLean, III
 11:00 Joan Flaherty
 Monday 8:00 John & Olivia Kealty
 Tuesday 8:00 Noreen O'Driscoll
 Wednesday 8:00 Steven Burgess
 Thursday 8:00 Communion Service
 Friday 8:00 Thomas Mahoney

NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday 5:00 Thomas Harrison
 Sunday 8:00 Dave Bessom, Clark Booth,
 Charles P. Goslee,
 Fr. Bob Kemmery, Parish Family
 9:30 George Brescia
 11:00 Dawn Monkiewicz

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, Eileen Metterville, Thomas Stone, Nick Bartick, Pam Hedlund, Len Hedlund, Greg Morongell, Nora Gould, Edan Pearl, Anne Caruso, John M. Pollard, Peter Cruickshank, Bill Hannon, Ivy Davis, Maddy Hayes, Clare Stevenson, Joseph Nosari, Vincent Lencvewski, Jeffrey Wolfgang, Louise Francke, Joan Ouellette, Bev Sarazin, Tyler Benscoter, 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, Chad Larivee, Patrick McNulty, Dick Wentworth, Nuvia Downs, Karen Mary McNulty, Olivia Hart, Alex Haas, Patrick Devine, Carter Mock, Nancy Hurley, Gerry Csaposs, Peggy Carson, Ed Daly, Addie Priess, Tim McEnaney, Frank McCarthy, Andree Yager, Loretta Reiter, Paul Kasczak, Lolita Previd, Joe Conlan, Patty Camarra, Sue Waugh, James Manley, Betty Babcock, Thomas Murphy, Tom & Deb O'Connor, Chris Frazier, Melissa K., Claire Surprenant, Jayne Boyle, Vittoria Hillis, Baby Lillian Thoman, Jessica O., Fran McDonagh, Paul Hendrickson, Donna Hibbert, Margaret Royce, Beth Nixon, Maureen Hall, Anne O'Brien, Ben McMahon, Mark Dance, Gerry Moynihan, Bill Strakele

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 Tammaro, Michael L. Hamilton, Thomas Crawford, Aaron Charette, Nicholas McGahey, Edward Pruffer, Christian Goodman

COLLECTION RESULTS

August 12 Regular	\$11,759.00
Mission Co-op	\$ 7,610.00
August 15 Assumption	\$ 2,145.00
August 19 Regular	\$10,275.00
Harvest	\$ 5,935.00

GIFTS FROM BETHLEHEM THIS WEEKEND

This weekend we welcome Representatives of Gifts from Bethlehem who will be selling beautiful handcrafted olive wood items from the Holy Land before and after Masses in the Parish Center. The handicrafts trade evolved as a cultural tradition of Christians in the Holy Land for centuries and has become an industry of great importance to Holy Land Christians as the olive wood carving market is the major source of income in the Bethlehem area.

BE STILL

All are invited to join us in the Chapel following the 8 a.m. Mass this Wednesday, August 29, for a period of reflection and stillness facilitated by Judy Burt Walker.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE

The Knights of Columbus will be collecting for the annual "Tootsie Roll Drive" after all Masses next weekend. The campaign is also known as *The Campaign for People with Intellectual and Physical Disabilities*. The "Tootsie Roll Drive" nickname is due to the fact that Knights distribute specially marked Tootsie Rolls in exchange for donations used to support programs geared to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities. The "Tootsie Roll Drive" last year resulted in a state Knights of Columbus grant of \$20,000 to CapeAbilities for their new Orleans rehabilitation facility. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

NEW DAY BEREAVEMENT PROGRAM

The St. Joan of Arc Bereavement Ministry is offering *A New Day*, a nine-week bereavement program designed to help you work through the natural process of grieving in a small group atmosphere of care and understanding. The program will be held in the SJA Parish Center from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. each Wednesday from September 19 to November 14. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, please call 508-240-1119.

HABITS OF HOLINESS IN DAILY LIFE

Fr. Roger Landry, a priest of the Diocese of Fall River on loan to the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations in New York City, will speak about his recently published book, *"Plan of Life, Habits to Help You Grow Closer to God,"* at Corpus Christi Church in East Sandwich, MA on Thursday, August 30 at 7:00pm. Fr. Landry will be happy to sign copies of his book and take your questions about responding to God's call to holiness today.



Pastor's Corner

Prayer for Angry Catholics

The American Jesuit priest, James Martin, wrote this *Prayer for Angry Catholics* in June 2012. In light of recent news, this prayer and the sentiments contained therein may be helpful to many of us.

Dear God, sometimes I get so angry at your church.

I know that I'm not alone. So many people who love your church feel frustrated with the Body of Christ on earth. Priests and deacons, and brothers and sisters, can feel frustrated, too. And I'll bet that even bishops and popes feel frustrated. We grow worried and concerned and bothered and angry and sometimes scandalized because your divine institution, our home, is filled with human beings who are sinful. Just like me.

*But I get frustrated most of all when I feel that there are things that need to be changed and I don't have the power to change them. So I need your help, God. Help me to remember that Jesus promised that he would be with us until the end of time, and that your church is always guided by the Holy Spirit, even if it's hard for me to see. Sometimes change happens suddenly, and the Spirit astonishes us, but often in the church it happens slowly. In your time, not mine. Help me know that the seeds that I plant with love in the ground of your church will one day bloom. **So give me patience.***

*Help me to remember that Jesus promised that he would be with us until the end of time, and that your church is always guided by the Holy Spirit, even if it's hard for me to see. Help me to understand that there was never a time when there were not arguments or disputes within your church. Arguments go all the way back to Peter and Paul debating one another. And there was never a time when there wasn't sin among the members of your church. That kind of sin goes back to Peter denying Jesus during his Passion. Why would today's church be any different than it was for people who knew Jesus on earth? **Give me wisdom.***

*Help me to trust in the Resurrection. The Risen Christ reminds us that there is always the hope of something new. Death is never the last word for us. Neither is despair. And help me remember that when the Risen Christ appeared to his disciples, he bore the wounds of his Crucifixion. Like Christ, the church is always wounded, but always a carrier of grace. **Give me hope.***

*Help me to believe that your Spirit can do anything: raise up saints when we need them most, soften hearts when they seem hardened, open minds when they seem closed, inspire confidence when all seems lost, help us do what had seemed impossible until it was done. This is the same Spirit that converted Paul, inspired Augustine, called Francis of Assisi, emboldened Catherine of Siena, consoled Ignatius of Loyola, comforted Thérèse of Lisieux, enlivened John XXIII, accompanied Teresa of Calcutta, strengthened Dorothy Day and encouraged John Paul II. It is the same Spirit that is with us today, and your Spirit has lost none of its power. **Give me faith.***

*Help me remember that like Christ, the church is always wounded, but always a carrier of grace. Give me hope. Help me to remember all your saints. Most of them had it a lot worse than I do. They were frustrated with your church at times, struggled with it, and were occasionally persecuted by it. Joan of Arc was burned at the stake by church authorities. Ignatius of Loyola was thrown into jail by the Inquisition. Mary MacKillop was excommunicated. If they can trust in your church in the midst of those difficulties, so can I. **Give me courage.***

*Help me to be peaceful when people tell me that I don't belong in the church, that I'm a heretic for trying to make things better, or that I'm not a good Catholic. I know that I was baptized. You called me by name to be in your church, God. As long as I draw breath, help me remember how the holy waters of baptism welcomed me into your holy family of sinners and saints. Let the voice that called me into your church be what I hear when other voices tell me that I'm not welcome in the church. **Give me peace.***

Most of all, help me to place all of my hope in your Son. My faith is in Jesus Christ. Give me only his love and his grace. That's enough for me.

Help me God, and help your church. Amen.



REGISTRATION PACKETS

The calendar is finalized and the registration forms are being processed. Therefore, be on the lookout for your registration packet in the mail. If you are new to the Parish or wish to enroll your kindergartener or first grader, please feel free to stop by the Faith Formation Office to complete the registration form. Classes are scheduled to begin Monday, September 24.

CURSILLO OPEN HOUSE

Past Cursillistas, Ultreya members and persons interested in pursuing Cursillo are invited to an open house picnic at the home of Rainie Brooks, 15 Locust Grove Road, E. Harwich on Sunday, September 9, from 1 to 3. Call 914-907-9549. Pat Cole will be the guest speaker. Attendees are asked to bring a hot or cold dish or dessert to share. Join us and bring an interested friend.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Bishop Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., will celebrate a Wedding Anniversary Celebration Mass of Thanksgiving for couples observing significant wedding anniversaries (including first year) during 2018. The celebration will take place on Sunday, October 14, at 3 p.m. in the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption in Fall River. If you would like an invitation, please call the Rectory 508-255-1257 by Friday, October 5.

PERMANENT DIACONATE INFO NIGHTS

His Excellency, the Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, Bishop of Fall River, has authorized the formation of a new class for Permanent Deacons beginning in the Spring of 2019. Those interested in pursuing the vocation of the diaconate, scheduled to begin the Aspirancy phase in the spring of 2019, are invited to submit a preliminary application. Additional details and a preliminary application is available on the website – fallriverdeacons.com. Information meetings will be held on **August 28 and November 8** with one more to follow in the Winter. These general information meetings will delve into the process of formation of a deacon for the Diocese of Fall River. The information nights will be held at Holy Name of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Center, 121 Mt. Pleasant Street, New Bedford, MA 02740 at 7:00pm. If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Frank Lucca or Rev. Robert Oliveira, Co-Directors of the Office of the Permanent Diaconate at 508-990-0341.

GOD, REMEMBER YOUR JOB!

Author Madeleine L'Engle once related a simple anecdote when she was reflecting upon a historical moment – a moment in which the United States of America faced great tension and fear. It was a time when the nation stood at the brink of nuclear war with Russia over the installation of missiles in Cuba. The news of the day was filled with the dire predictions and consequences of attack and counterattack:

Listening to the news, one mother and father simply could not disguise or hide their anxiety from their children. One night they put their four-year-old to bed. He said his prayers as usual – all the ‘God blesses’ sent out to aunts and uncles, cousins, and pets. Then the boy stopped in the middle of his prayers and said, “And God, remember your job – don’t forget to be the Lord.”

His mom thought, ‘I don’t have to teach this child anything. He’s got it all.’

The little boy echoes the Apostle Peter’s plaintive outcry of faith in today’s Gospel. He possesses the hope and conviction of every faithful disciple – the faith that God is the ‘compassionating’ source of everything that is good. This is the Lord who listens to our prayers, and knows our anxieties and fears. This is the ultimate Good which will, eventually, rise up over evil and even death. Despite our own doubts, and misgivings we know in the depth of our hearts that in the times of pain, change, and despair, God can be rediscovered in the acts of love, generosity, support and healing we extend to others and others extend to us.

The readings this week speak of commitment and conviction, but they also remind us that faith is a matter of the heart as well as the head. It is an empowering grace, as well as a voluntary response to God’s invitations. It is the deep awareness of that which is most important – that which is seen most clearly through the eyes of the heart.

Crisis of faith will come – tensions and fears will threaten to overwhelm us. But such crises demand that we remember who God is; what God has done for us; and how our hearts have been touched. May we, then, respond to the tough questions that stretch our faith – to the fears that wrack our world – with the simplicity of the young child and the forthrightness of Peter: “*Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.*” God, we trust that you will do your job – we believe that you will remember that you are Lord



Diocese of Fall River
Office of the Bishop
Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D.

August 21, 2018

Dear Friends in Christ,

Early this week, Pope Francis issued a “Letter to the People of God” in which he acknowledged “the suffering endured by many minors due to sexual abuse, the abuse of power and the abuse of conscience perpetrated by a significant number of clerics and consecrated persons.”

I am grateful for the Pope’s impassioned response at this time. As you know, this very painful issue has once again come to the forefront of our Church, and all of us are shaken by it.

Revelations about now former Cardinal Theodore McCarrick and his subsequent removal from public ministry and the report of the Pennsylvania Grand Jury profoundly sadden and disturb me.

I know that many of you feel the same way. I realize the anguish this has brought to our faithful parishioners in the Diocese. Understandably, you are upset, disillusioned and even angry.

As Bishop of Fall River, I want to reiterate my firm, unequivocal commitment to doing all in my ability to ensure that a culture of safe environment permeates all ministries and programs offered by this Diocese especially those that serve our children and young people.

In the spring, we established a separate, stand-alone Office of Safe Environment to oversee our child protection protocols and programs and hired two former law enforcement officials to oversee them. These changes, and others made thus far to our abuse prevention training program and CORI procedures, have strengthened our efforts in these areas. A predominantly lay Review Board, in place to serve as an advisory body in matters of sexual misconduct, has already begun a review of our policies on abuse prevention and response to ensure their optimum effectiveness. To access these policies and procedures and all related documents, please visit the diocesan website at <http://www.fallriverdiocese.org/> and click on the Safe Environment tab at the top of the homepage.

Pope Francis writes in his letter of the urgency to reaffirm the Church’s commitment to ensure the protection of minor and vulnerable adults, “...no effort must be spared to create a culture able to prevent such situations from happening, but also to prevent the possibility of their being covered up and perpetuated.” You have my promise that I will do all that I am able to uphold this commitment here in the Fall River Diocese.

With regard to the wider Church, I was pleased to learn last week that the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has announced a series of steps designed to implement stronger protections against predators in the Church and anyone who would conceal them, protections that will hold bishops to the highest standards of transparency and accountability. Know that I firmly support such steps.

In closing, let me assure you of my prayers at this difficult time. At the same time, I ask that you please join your prayers with mine for the eradication of all forms of sexual abuse and especially for those who have been victims of abuse in our Church, that they may find healing and comfort and the necessary strength for rebuilding their lives.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D.
Bishop of Fall River