

Please Pray for...

All who have died these past weeks, especially all those affected by Hurricanes Irma. We offer our prayers to all families and pray that they will persevere and get the help that they need.

Those who are sick in the hospital or recovering:

Fr. Martin Donahue, Mary Madden, Bernadette Pervier, Elaine Lamoureux, Whitney Fritze, George Gouin, Dottie Woodward, Diane Aoun, Peter Lacroix, Heather Josti - Harris, Simon Kibe, Jean Wheeler, Melanie Paquette, Al Shedyak, Kathleen Bowen, Paul Masiello, Paul Provencher, Lucy Kelly, Bill Keyes, Diane Cyr, Theresa Cassavant, Laurie Gablaski, Ann Gablaski, Addison Lacaire, Elizabeth Lemerise, Pat Benoit, Gloria Butler, Joyce Frigon, Laura Wynn, Carey Dubois, Raymond Brodeur, Dawn McDonald, Michael Kady, Bonnie Sheldon, Heather Lech, Joseph Nisel, Joseph Sauris, Cheryl Branham, Pauline Casavant, Jon Widdison, Lynn Desforges, Trajan Imperator

OUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS SEPTEMBER

Envelopes \$4,060.00
Loose \$ 622.00
Total collection \$4,682.00
Hurricane Relief (total 2 weeks) \$3,944.25
Number of envelopes 158
Mass Attendance 373

Thank you for your generous gifts this past weekend which enable us to continue to do God's work. May God bless you all. Please consider weekly or monthly online giving.

FOOD PANTRY REQUEST FOR THIS WEEK
Coffee & Tea



FIRST SATURDAY EUCHARISTIC EXPOSITION
OCTOBER 7, 2017 8:30AM - 4:00 PM

Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary: 8:00 am Confessions following Mass. Exposition starting at the end of Mass and continuing throughout the day until 4:00pm. Confessions 3:00 - 3:50 pm. Benediction 4:00 pm. If you wish to participate there is a sign up sheet in the sacristy.

Outreach Ministry: Carol St. John visits and brings communion to the homebound and those in nursing homes. If you know of someone who needs a visit please call her at 508-885-3017 or 508-864-6323

Spiritual Exercises in Everyday Life: A 30 week experience of Directed Prayer and Reflection in the tradition of St. Ignatius of Loyola, starting October 1, 2017 at St. Mary's Church in Jefferson. For more info visit

www.findinggodindailylife.com/worcesterspex-home or email: worcspex19@gmail.com or call Dick at 508-885-4462

Spiritual Support for those with Cancer St. Vincent Cancer and Wellness Center is offering a support group dedicated to the spiritual and sacramental support that the Catholic faith can provide. The

meetings are on the first Thursday of every month at 11:30 am in the chapel in the Cancer Center located at 1 Eaton Place, Worcester. The meeting will take place on the Garden Level of the Center. Contact Sr. Paula Kelleher or Msgr. Peter Beaulieu at 508-363-6246.



Remaining sessions are Oct. 5, Nov. 2, and Dec. 7.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Office hours: 10:00 - 5:00

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, only, from 10:00-5:00

Contact Judi at 508-885-3111 x 105 or

jbrennan@parishmail.com



PLEASE REGISTER NOW!!!!

Schedule for the 2017 - 2018 year will be:

Table with 3 columns: Day, Time, Grades. Rows include Sunday 9:00-10:00 am (Grades K-5), Sunday 5:30-8:30 pm (Grades 9-11), Monday 4:45-6:00 pm (Grades 2-5), Tuesday 7:00-8:15 pm (Grades 6-8).

Faith Formation information:

Faith Formation Classes Begin Today, Sunday, Sept 17th - please register your child/children. Many families still need to register....

Catechetical Sunday: Sept. 17th commissioning of all catechists and all helpers at the 10:15 Mass

Faith Formation Needs for the Fall

- Someone (1 or 2 people) to work with Ken Choquette and the Jr. Youth Group implementing activities throughout the year.

Elder Abuse Hotline: In response to the countless attempts to scam or defraud our seniors in Worcester County, RSVP- Worcester Area Volunteers is launching its Senior Fraud HelpLine on Oct. 2. Senior citizens or their families should call 800-297-9760... The HelpLine is sponsored by Harvard-Pilgrim Health Care.

The Serra Club of Southern Worcester County is sponsoring a Chicken Pot Pie Sale / Chicken Pot Pie Dinner on Saturday, October 7th at St. Roch's Church, 334 Main St., Oxford.. Meal includes "Harrows Chicken Pot Pies", Mashed Potatoes, Cranberry Sauce, Coffee, Tea or Soda and a selection from the "Parade of Cakes". Cost is \$10.00 Dine in or Take out. Themed baskets and 50/50 raffle will be available. Small pie price \$14.95, Jumbo size pie \$23.95. Order forms are at the doors of our church. The Serra Club supports the Seminarians and Vocation Office of the Diocese of Worcester.

If you missed the Parish Picnic, you missed a great event. Our parish community is so blessed with dedicated people who love their church. We can't express in words the gratitude of all our fellow church family that helped make this event so wonderful. Thank you for all that attended and those who worked so diligently behind the scenes. Our parish community is strong. Ken & Sandy

Volunteer Opportunity with Catholic Charities in Worcester. Volunteers needed ASAP to provide child care Monday thru Thursday 9 am to 2 pm at Mercy Center (25 West Chester St., Worcester) Please contact Rose Gage, Coordinator of Volunteer Services, at 508-860-2211 or at rgage@ccworc.org.

A message from Fr. Bill

In last week's Gospel, the issue of fraternal correction or how to act in regard to believers who are obstinate in their sinfulness. In this week's Gospel, the situation revolves around individual faults committed. To the average person, forgiving someone else seven times appears to be not only reasonable, but in fact quite generous. Such a preoccupation with fairness, though, only is applicable to the realm of earthly justice and touchy legal matters. Jesus declared that He had not come to decide those kinds of disputes. Instead, He states the type of justice that He did come to endorse when He said to Peter, "...not seven times but seventy seven times." Therein, Jesus articulates justice from an altogether different perspective, namely, divine justice. Then, He proceeds to illustrate what He had first stated, illustrating it with a parable. The king decided to close out his ledgers and one of his servants owed that king an unheard of amount of money (ten thousand talents). This debt was impossible to incur even for the richest man in that period of time. Thus, the enormity of the debt serves to identify the king—because only God could be owed the kind of debt which no one could ever pay back. The debtor realizes he is checkmated and even the king knows full well that enslaving the entire family and selling all the man's property will not come close to satisfying the debt owed. Thus, this man has really lost everything—freedom, his way of living and the enslavement of both himself and his family. Desperate, the servant does the king homage and begs for patience and mercy. The man's plight elicits compassion from the king who forgave the entire debt and punishment. The parable could have ended at this point, but it does not leave the interpretation of God's infinite mercy to human minds alone. It is the debt-free servant's reaction to another servant's debt who owes him a ridiculously small amount of money (100 silver coins) that drives home the parable's true message. The demand for repayment is met with the same action and words the man had just used in his defense and his request for a delay is rejected. This minor debtor is imprisoned. The hearers of this parable are meant to be outraged! The now debt-free servant's behavior is a scandal. The Master recalls the servant and takes back his writing-off of the man's debt and the "eavesdroppers" cheer the master on. We, too, are meant to judge the servant's lack of fair play as abominable! Yet, this is not the Lord's endorsement of fairness; no, it is a lesson in divine justice. The Gospel concludes with Jesus saying, "So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart." There is no longer talk about master versus servant. The frame of reference is now the human family and the standard by which we are judged is not mathematical—it is from the heart. As part of a community of like-minded believers, having received the Father's merciful love and forgiveness time and time again, the unpayable debt incurred by our sins has been relieved by Christ's sacrifice on Calvary. Our conduct toward the offenses that others have heaped upon us must, then parallel the example of the Father's merciful love. For anyone to work from a different set of standards serves to provoke God's wrath. Our pardon for others must be heart-felt and pure, not mere lip service or half-hearted.

Fr. Bill

"The Alpha Course" at St. Richard in Sterling is being offered to anyone interested; active catholic, inactive Catholic, Protestant, Agnostic, Atheist, and Not-Sure. It is a place to talk, to ask questions, to share, about life and God. All opinions are respected, there is no judgement, just a safe place to be honest and consider these big issues. There is no cost, it is free. An informational dinner for anyone interested is on Sunday, Sept 17th at 6:00 pm. Please call 978-422-8881 or email st-richardsterling@comcast.net to let us know if you are coming.

Boy Scout Yard Sale: Boy Scout Troop 201 is accepting donations for their Annual Yard Sale which will take place on September 30th on the church grounds. Their yard sale coincides with the Spencer town wide yard sale that day from 8am-3pm. If you would like to donate something please contact Ken at 774-745-0335.

Check out our **Parish Facebook Page**, Please "like" us and invite your contacts to do the same.

The 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Schedule

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| Saturday, September 16 4:30 pm Michael Lech by the Family |
| Sunday, September 17 8:00 am Henry Shepard (11 th Anniv) by Lorraine & Family 10:15 am Richard Chabior by his Wife |
| Monday, September 18 8:00 am Edward Delongchamp (33 rd Anniv) by Marie & Family |
| Tuesday, September 19 8:00 am Conrad "Joe" Lussier by Normand & Alice Vandale |
| Wednesday, September 20 8:00 am Rita Luszey by the Family |
| Thursday, September 21 8:00 am For the People of the Parish |
| Friday, September 22 8:00 am No Mass Today |
| Saturday, September 23 4:30 pm David & Grace Drake by the Family |
| Sunday, September 24 8:00 am Therese Johnson by Riter Berger 10:15 am Ann Docwra by Al & Mimi Shedyak |

Calendar of Events

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| Sunday, September 10 | Coffee Shop OPEN |
| 10:15 am | Catechetical Sunday-Commissioning of Teachers |
| 9:00 – 10:00 am | Faith Formation K - 5 |
| 5:30 – 8:30 pm | Faith Formation Freshmen & Juniors |
| Monday, September 11 | |
| 10:00 am | Food Pantry OPEN |
| 4:45 – 6:00 pm | Faith Formation Grades 2 - 5 |
| Tuesday, September 12 | |
| 7:00 – 8:15 pm | Faith Formation Grades 6 - 8 |
| Wednesday, September 13 | |
| 9:00 am | Spiritual Life Ministry |
| Thursday, September 14 | |
| 10:00 am | Food Pantry OPEN |
| Friday, September 15 | |
| Saturday, September 16 | |
| 3:30 pm | Confessions |
| Sunday, September 17 | Coffee Shop OPEN |
| 10:15 am | Catechetical Sunday |
| 9:00 – 10:00 am | Faith Formation K – 5 |
| 5:30 – 8:30 pm | High School Sophomores |

David Haas Concert in Milford, NH. St. Patrick Parish, Milford, NH presents David Haas and Lori True in concert on Friday, Sept 22 at 7:00 pm. Concert tickets are \$20.00. On Saturday, Sept. 23 from 9 am to 2 pm they are hosting a Liturgical Music Workshop, tickets are \$30.00 (includes lunch). St. Patrick Church, 34 Amherst St., Milford, NH. Contact Henry Kopczynskie at saintpatmusic@gmail.com or 603-673-1311.

Spiritual Life Ministry will be meeting this Wednesday, Sept 13th after Rosary at 9:00 am in the church hall.



Prayer Group for Grandparents. All are invited to a Grandparent Prayer Group, from 11:00 am to

Sept. 17, 2017

Noon in the church hall Conference Room at St. George, 40 Brattle St., Worcester. This group meets the third Friday each month September through May and includes prayers to Ss. Ann and Joachim, grandparents of Jesus. Join them to pray for the safety and well-being of all grandchildren. Contact Ruth Viens, Family Ministry Coordinator, 508-852-5658 or ruthviens@charter.net for more information.

“For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s”. (Romans 14:8)