

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Mass Intentions

Saturday, July 23

5:30pm Virginia Fallon

Requested by family

Sunday, July 24

8:00am Robert Cote

Requested by family

10:00am Joao, Maria, Jose and
Manuel Amaral

Requested by Natalie Amaral

12:00NN Henry H. Thayer, Jr.

Requested by Michael & Patty Salerno

Monday, July 25

7:00am Eleanor Gadrow

Requested by Caroline Caswell

Tuesday, July 26

7:00am Sonny & Betty Goodwin

Requested by daughter Kathy Cawley

Wednesday, July 27

7:00am Rev. Edward M. Raftery

91st Anniversary-4th Pastor of St. Francis

Thursday, July 28

7:00am Anthony Soltysiak

Requested by family

Friday, July 29

7:00am Sarah McClarnon

Requested by grandparents

Saturday, July 30

5:30pm Bernard McSally

Requested by family

Sunday, July 31

8:00am John Matuza

Requested by Debbie & Dennis Ferreira

10:00am Peter Swanson

Requested by family

12:00NN Marion Cappuccio

Requested by Colavita family



St. Romuald Chapel Mass Intentions

Saturday, July 23

5:30pm Philomena Arbolino

Requested by Joe & Margie Mancini

Sunday, July 24

8:00am Margaret & James Ferry

Requested by Dr. Edward T. Ferry

10:00am Dorothy & John Geisel

Requested by Mary C. Young

Saturday, July 30

5:30pm Craig Michael Bento & James
and Mary O'Rourke

Requested by family

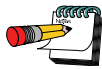
Sunday, July 31

8:00am William Apicerno

Requested by family

10:00am Madeline Johansen

Requested by Jude and Bob



For Your Information

PARISH SUPPORT for July 17 was Budget—\$8,745.50; Ongoing Maintenance—\$3,067. Next weekend's second offering—Mission Cooperative. Father Louis Pintye of the Franciscan Friars, Immaculate Conception Province will talk with us about their particular mission. Thank you for your continued generosity.

SANCTUARY LAMP

This week's sanctuary lamp at St. Francis Church burns in memory of Jack Monahan, Mavis Phalen, Harold Titcomb, Louise H. Beaulieu.

ST. FRANCIS CANTOR MINISTRY

Have you been blessed with a good singing voice and have the ability to read music? Here at St. Francis our cantors sing at each Mass and are the foundation of our music ministry! If you are interested in this unique and important ministry, contact me, Mimi Battey, to set up a private audition. (You must have made your Confirmation and be active in our faith for cantor ministry.) Call 792-8301 to chat further on the wonderful world of cantor ministry!

THE FOURTH PASTOR OF SAINT FRANCIS

July 27th marks the 91st anniversary of the death of Fr. Edward M. Raftery, the fourth pastor of Saint Francis. Fr. Raftery served as pastor from 1900-1917. He remodeled the old church and was responsible for the building of Saint Philomena's Chapel at Narragansett Pier, which served the Catholics of Narragansett before St. Thomas More parish was established. Fr. Raftery passed away in 1920. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him!

PARISH MOVIE NIGHT

Move over Showcase! Saint Francis will be hosting a night at the movies! Join our parish family for a showing of the outstanding film, **"Of Gods and Men,"** which tells the story of nine Trappist monks living in Algeria who were kidnapped in 1996. It is by far one of the most powerful films of a religious theme ever made. "Of Gods and Men" won the prestigious Grand Prix award at the 2010 Cannes Film Festival, as well as the Lumière Award and César Award for Best Film. Join us in Lower Greenan Hall (air conditioned) on Sunday, August 7, at 7:00PM for a showing of the film on our brand new giant screen! All are welcome! (This is a powerful family film, as well.) We'll provide the popcorn and soft drinks. Call the rectory to let us know if you're coming!

FACEBOOK US!

Check out our parish Facebook page to "like" our parish! You'll find photos from recent events, articles, important reminders and updates, and best of all, you'll be able to network with fellow parishioners:

<https://www.facebook.com/stfranciswakefield>



JULY 24, 2011



Breaking Open the Word

This is the last of three Sundays in which the Gospel passage comes from the parable discourse in Matthew 13. In this relatively short Gospel, there are five distinct sections. In the first parable, Jesus teaches his disciples about the genuine and essential response of disciples who find the treasure of the kingdom of heaven. Disciples realize that it offers opportunities for living that nothing else can. They will sacrifice everything to protect the treasure of the kingdom they have found. The second parable of the pearl of great price presents much the same message as the first. The merchant's behavior points to the great value

of the kingdom and the necessary sacrifice for the kingdom that a disciple must make. In the third parable, the disciples learn that in the kingdom of heaven the good will be sorted out from the bad at the last judgment. This parable provides an image of the church to which both saints and sinners belong until the time of judgment. After the brief third parable, in the fourth section, Jesus explains to the disciples what will happen at the end of time. They learn that the wicked will be separated from the righteous. The deplorable consequence the wicked will face is the same that the evildoers face in the explanation of the parable of the wheat and the tares heard last Sunday. The final section of today's Gospel is understood both as a general description of the Christian scribe's role and evangelist's autobiographical statement of how he understands his own role. Almost a parable in itself, Jesus' reply to the disciples' affirmation of their understanding unites the Jewish scriptures with his own teaching. The bringing together of the old and the new, which have the same roots, is unfolding in Matthew's community. This verse also looks forward to the completion of the union of the old and new in the kingdom of heaven, a kingdom already present in Jesus, but still yet to come.

St. Francis Welcomes a Missionary

Once again it is that time of the year when the Propagation of the Faith of the Diocese of Providence invites us to give prayerfully and generously of ourselves to the Missionary efforts of the Church. Saint Francis Parish has been assigned the Franciscan Friars—the Order of Franciscan Friars Minor—from the Province of the Immaculate Conception of New York City to be with us next weekend, July 30th-31st. Friar Louis M. Pintye, O.F.M. from Saint Joseph's Parish in Winsted, Connecticut will preach on the ministry and good works of the Friars among the Hungarian minority in the ancient Kingdom of Transylvania in modern day Romania. The Franciscan Friars were sent to Hungary by Saint Francis of Assisi himself in 1224 to bring the Magyar people into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and one another. Through gospel simplicity and an authentic living out of the Good News the spirit of Saint Francis continues to live among the Hungarians through friaries, parishes, retreat and shrine centers, faith formation and catechetical programs. The Friars even up until today are affectionately known as the "Jo Barat" - the Friends of God's People. Next weekend there will be a second collection and we hope that you will respond generously to Fr. Louis' appeal on behalf of the Franciscan Friars who minister to the Hungarian people.



This Week

Sunday, July 24

7:00pm AA (HBH)

Monday, July 25

7:00pm Festival Meeting (MCCR)

Tuesday, July 26

7-8:30pm Praise! Rehearsal (FGC)

NEW TRANSLATION COUNTDOWN

18 weeks remain until the new translation of the Mass is implemented on November 27, 2011, the First Sunday of Advent.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Mass Readings for every day of the month can be found online at:

<http://www.usccb.org/nab/>

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

First: Isaiah 55:1-3 Second: Romans 8:35, 37-39 Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

CALLING ALL COLLEGE-BOUND PARISHIONERS!

As Monsignor Theroux noted in his homily last weekend, the youth of our parish are one of our greatest blessings. We would like to express our best wishes to those young parishioners of ours who will be heading off to college in the Fall. On Sunday, August 7, at the 12NN Mass, we will offer a special ceremony of blessing and sending-forth for those who will be *starting or returning* to college. Our young people are an integral part of our parish family, even when they go away to school! Call the rectory to let us know if you or your son/daughter will participate!

QUICK! BEFORE THE SUMMER IS OVER!

Spend some time catching up with an old friend. He's always there for us, even when we don't make time for him. Join us for our parish Twilight Retreat, "With Burning Hearts," and reconnect with God. Monday, August 1, 6:30PM in Fr. Greenan Hall. RSVP required. A light dinner will be provided. An offering of \$10 is suggested. A team of parishioners has been hard at work preparing for this experience and it's sure to be a memorable evening! Join us and bring a friend!

IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

In today's second reading, Saint Paul speaks about "conformation to the image of Christ." We know that we are made in the image and likeness of God. By virtue of our being created by God, we bear a certain likeness to him. We are free, we exercise the faculty of reason, we possess a dignity not because of something we do or produce, but simply because we are made and known and loved by God. Every product bears some likeness to the one who created it; the artist says something about himself in the painting he produces. But Saint Paul is not speaking about that basic, foundational image that all human beings possess. He discusses something else, something additional to that image. Being conformed to the image of Christ by necessity involves the mystery of grace. It is by grace that we are transformed further into the image of Jesus. The Roman Liturgy addresses this concept beautifully in a moving prayer to God the Father: "So great was your love that you gave us your Son as our redeemer. You sent him as one like ourselves, though free from sin, that you might see and love in us what you see and love in Christ." By allowing ourselves to be transformed in grace, we assume more and more the identity of Jesus. This does not mean that we lose ourselves in the process. Rather, in allowing Jesus to live in and through us, we become our truest selves! In this way, the Father can see and love in us what he sees and loves in Christ! Even our praying, especially at liturgy, is fruitful only insofar as it is united to the praying of Jesus. The liturgy is principally Jesus' prayer to the Father, and we are given privileged access to it. We unite our sacrifices and prayers with his, so that they can be purified and transfigured. The process of conformation to the image of Christ is not something that happens on its own. It is not something we can produce or manufacture. Jesus instituted the sacramental system to give us the grace we need to be more gradually conformed to his image. The sacraments are not empty rituals. They are not mere occasions for grace, they actually cause grace! We can bear the image of human nature and its likeness to our Creator, but it is far more glorious to bear the image of the crucified and risen Jesus, an image we encounter tangibly in the worthy and fruitful reception of the sacraments. If we find that treasure of grace, like the pearl of great price, we should be willing to sell everything we have in order to possess it.



Year of Liturgical and Spiritual Renewal



Summer's Swan-Song Sweepstakes

Starting Saturday & Sunday,
August 6th & 7th

Cost: \$35

1st Prize—\$2,000

2nd Prize—\$500

3rd Prize—\$500

Tickets go on sale the weekend of August 6/7 after all Masses. Winning tickets will be drawn on Sunday, October 2nd at the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi Breakfast at Father Greenan Parish Center.

CONGRATULATIONS AND MANY THANKS!

Congratulations to Mary Kate Clossick for putting together an outstanding fundraiser-breakfast last week! Lower Greenan Hall was totally transformed by African food, music and art! It was a wonderful immersion experience for all involved! Many thanks, as well, to all those who so generously supported the effort through donations and ticket purchases. We raised over \$4,000! The Mwea School will greatly benefit from your kindness!

NEED SOME SUMMER R&R?

Join the disciples on the road to Emmaus as they journey from resentment to gratitude, from despair to hope, from sorrow to joy. Come and meet Christ anew in the Word and the Eucharist, and learn how to live a truly Eucharistic life! A team of parishioners, led by Cathy Dowd and Fr. Joe, will present a "Twilight



Retreat" (an evening mini-retreat for adults) called "With Burning Hearts" on Monday, August 1, from 6:30PM to 9:30PM. A light supper will be served, and the evening will include time for prayer, discussion and reflection. You won't want to miss this new and exciting opportunity for spiritual rest and refreshment! Call the rectory ASAP to register. A suggested donation of \$10 will be accepted from those who are able to help defray the cost of the meal. Please join us and tell a friend or two!



UPCOMING EVENTS

August 1 - Parish Twilight Retreat, "With Burning Hearts," at 6:30PM in Fr. Greenan Center. There is still time to sign-up! A great opportunity for summer R&R for the soul!

August 3 - Book Club Meeting, Matthew Kelly's *Rediscovering Catholicism*, at 10:00AM in Helen Bouchard Hall.

August 6 - First Saturday Mass at 8:00AM in St. Francis Church.

August 7 - Parish Movie Night, "Of Gods and Men," at 7:00PM in Fr. Greenan Center. Come watch an outstanding film in a comfortable atmosphere. Popcorn and drinks provided.

August 7 - Special Blessing for College-Bound Parishioners (new and returning) at the 12:00NN Mass at St. Francis.

August 9 - PRAISE Holy Hour at 7:00PM in St. Francis Church. Join us for an evening of uplifting yet reverent prayer and song with the Blessed Sacrament.