

NORTH QUABBIN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

192 School Street, Athol MA 01331-2399

978.249.2738 (Office) 978.830.4046 (FAX) 978.249.7690 (CCD) www.nqcatholic.com
Church Office: ourladyrectory@hotmail.com • Religious Education: ourlady.ccd@mail.com



OUR LADY IMMACULATE

192 School Street, Athol MA 01331

Church Office Hours:
M, T, W 8:30am-3:30pm

Masses:

Lord's Day ~ 4pm (Vigil) & 11am
Holy Days of Obligation ~ 12:10pm
Weekday ~ 8am M, T, W
First Saturday ~ 8:00am

Confessions:

Saturday ~ 3 to 3:30pm in the OLI Chapel

Holy Hour of Adoration:

Tuesday ~ 2:00pm -3:00pm

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

101 Main Street, Athol MA 01331

Masses:

Lord's Day ~ 8:00am
Holy Days of Obligation ~ 7:00pm

Confessions:

Saturday ~ 3 to 3:30pm in the OLI
Chapel

Divine Mercy Chaplet:

Sunday ~ 7:40am

SAINT PETER

18 North Street
Petersham MA 01366

Mass:

Lord's Day ~ 9:30am

Confessions:

Saturday ~ 3 to 3:30pm in the OLI
Chapel

Rev. Mateus Souza, Administrator
fr.mateussouza@gmail.com

Bryan Lagimoniere, Deacon

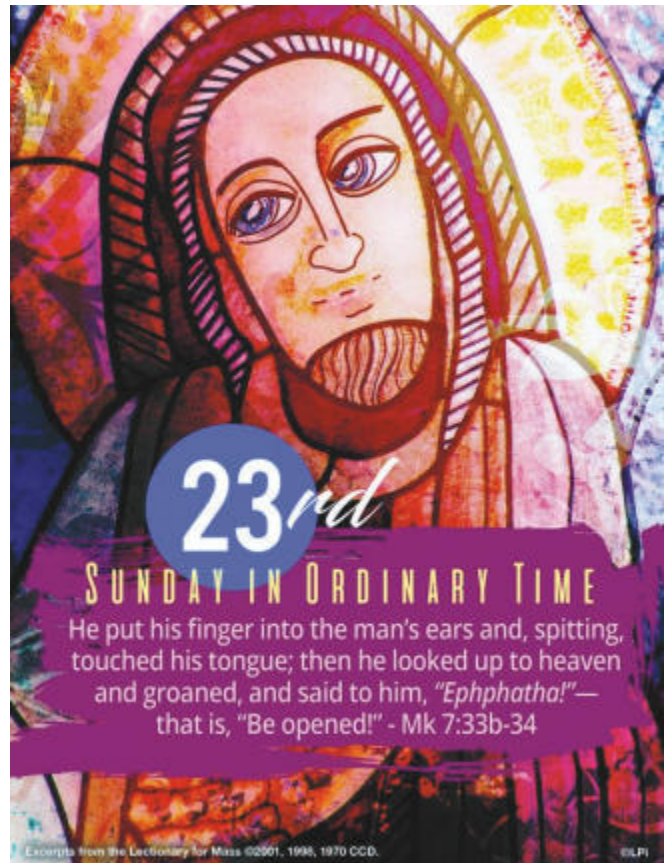
Gayle Bassett, Administrative Assistant

Irene Inniss, Cluster CCD Administrator
& Safe Environment Coordinator

Patrick Kennelly, Business Manager

Terry Parker, Music Director

Christian Cormier, Maintenance



Visitors and New Parishioners

Please introduce yourself. We want to meet you.
Registration forms are available in the sacristy.

Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated on Saturdays and Sundays. Please contact the Church Office for the preparation session, which includes parents and godparents.

Marriage

Contact the Church Office one year in advance.

Visitation of the Ill and Homebound

Please contact the Church Office if you know of anyone who is in need, so a Priest, Deacon or Eucharistic Minister may visit.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Adults seeking information about the Catholic Faith or seeking full admission into the Church through Baptism, Confirmation & Eucharist ~ Please call the Church Office.

Lending Library

Temporarily Suspended—thank you.

NQCC Facebook Page

For those of you with a Facebook page, please “LIKE” the North Quabbin Catholic Community Facebook page. Stay up to date with all the happenings in the Cluster

Sharing Our Fathers Bread

Meals are served Wednesdays, Sept.-May, at St. Francis Hall at 5pm for those in need. Donation baskets are located at each church for your convenience to support this important program. For questions please call 978-249-7304.

Healing and Prevention

If you or someone you know has been sexually abused by a priest, religious or lay person working for the Church, and you need a place to talk about your feelings, please call the Office for Healing and Prevention, (508) 929-4363. A 24 hour-a-day confidential voicemail is available.

Other Information

Prayer Line: Please notify the Rectory
Bulletin Deadline: Prior Monday by 12N

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER MATEUS

Ephphatha! “Be Opened”. We are all familiar with the Baptism ritual, in which the priest, after baptizing the child, traces the sign of the cross on the child's ear and mouth, repeating the same gesture as Jesus, a symbolic gesture, but with a very deep meaning. Let us analyze the Gospel. The man Jesus had before him was a deaf and mute man who spoke with difficulty. Jesus then puts his finger in his ears to make him hear and, with saliva, touches his tongue. What Jesus is doing here is, first of all, to cure hearing difficulties. We all have this difficulty, we all need to be freed from our deafness. People tend, through original sin, to want to hear only what pleases them, only what is in their interest. The Word of God, however, wants to enter us; but when it enters, it penetrates, cuts, because it wants to reach the depths of the soul. Only when the Word enters and transforms us from within can we announce the truth. The deaf-mute man spoke with difficulty. Jesus takes the contents of his own mouth, the saliva, and places it in the deaf-mute's mouth, so that he can speak and bear witness to what are not his words, but Jesus' words. Christ wants to do the same for all of us. — In practice, what can we glean from this Gospel? The first thing is the need to be willing to change our mind. After all, what is to listen, and truly listen to a person? Listening is being willing to change position: without that, the shield is raised, because what you want is just to win the argument, and not enter into a real dialogue in search of the truth. Those who don't listen, only seek to “be right”, the victory of a debate, out of pride. But God resists the proud, and gives his grace to the humble. What Jesus wants to do is to cleanse us of pride, which encloses us in our own opinions: “My son”, He says, “be humble, learn from God, be willing to let him show you where you are wrong, in what you need to change. Hear, have a disciple's heart, a listener's heart”. Listener's heart! This expression in Hebrew, in the Old Testament, is *lev-shomer*, that is, the heart of the one who listens, of one who is truly ready to listen. If we don't do that, we won't be able to hear from God. — In the Book of Deuteronomy, before giving the commandment: “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy might, with all thy mind,” God said, “Hear, Israel.” Listen! If we listen, if we are willing to receive God's truth, we will be able to transform our hearts, and this is what makes us capable of loving, of being true children of God, of producing divine fruits, fruits of charity. Here, then, is the first attitude we must have: be willing to change our minds. Once we are willing to let God, by His Word, make our hearts fertile with the truth, we will then need to be faithful in transmitting that Word, because we too can be instruments of God to change other people. Let's go to God: “Come”; and then go out and teach: “Go”. We need to teach God's Truth to our children, to all the people we love and have some openness to. Transforming hearts is what God expects of us. Then we will no longer be deaf and mute, we will have the heart of a listener, the mouth of an apostle, who knows how to convey the truth.

God bless you!

Fr. Mateus.

FOOD PANTRY

Thank you for your support! This week we will collect:
Jams / Jelly / Canned Chicken~Meat~Spam

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The Church office will be closed Monday, September 6th in observance of the Labor Day holiday. Normal office hours will resume on Tuesday the 7th. Thank you.

FOOTSTEPS FOR FRED

Our Team will be participating in the annual ALS Cliffwalk this year on Sunday, September 12th. As many of you remember, Fred Richard was a member and custodian of OLI before he was diagnosed with ALS in November 2004 dying just 4 months later. This is a very devastating disease with no cure. Fred was a wonderful son, husband and father and is greatly missed. Anyone wishing to make a donation can mail a check payable to Edna Richards with a notation in the memo section - Fred Richards ALS walk. This year all donations must be made online prior to the day of the walk. Checks can be mailed to 296 Crescent Street, Athol, MA, or contact Edna at 978-249-3964. Thank you!

WORD OF LIFE

“In times of suffering, the human person should be able to experience a solidarity and a love that takes on the suffering, offering a sense of life that extends beyond death... In the family a person can count on strong relationships, valued in themselves apart from their helpfulness or the joy they bring. It is essential that the sick under care do not feel themselves to be a burden, but can sense the intimacy and support of their loved ones” (SB 4-5). ~ *On the Care of Persons in the Critical and Terminal Phases of Life.*

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Athol Knights of Columbus will be having the first meeting of our calendar year on Monday, September 13th, at 7:00pm in our council chamber. The doors will be open at 6:30pm for fellowship. If you would like to learn more about the Athol Knights, you may contact me personally, (Paul McNiff at 978-249-2108), and I will be happy to talk to you about the Athol Knights of Columbus and our mission here in the Cluster.

MASS INTENTIONS and MASS CARDS

To accommodate the demand on intentions, we will begin allowing the addition of a 2nd intention to all masses in the cluster. This gives the chance for all parishioners to have masses said for loved ones, as well as promoting prayer by all for those who have passed away. As always, you can reach Gayle at 978-249-2738 to schedule an intention. MASS CARDS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE in the office as a way of notifying the family of your mass intention.

ST. PETER'S TAG SALE

St. Peter's Church will participate in the Petersham Town-Wide Tag Sale on September 18th. 9 AM - 3 PM. as a fundraiser. All proceeds will be donated to St. Peter's church. Items can be dropped off at Kathy McCrohon's home on the Common - Tag Sale space #16 - before 9:00 on the day of the sale. We will also have a Bake Sale Table for anyone willing to contribute baked goods. Volunteers are needed to man tables. For questions or additional information, please contact Kathy McCrohon at 508-404-7552 or KMDC@gmail.com, or Carol Ambrozy at 249-7304.

OUR LADY IMMACULATE COLLECTION

8-29-21 Sunday: \$1,724.50; Building: \$270.00; Memorial: \$100.00; Initial: \$10.00.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

Repairing the exterior trim around the stained glass windows in the church. To date \$49,282.78 has been collected.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI COLLECTION

8-29-21 Sunday: \$616.00; Monthly: \$10.00; Renovation: \$30.00; Fuel: \$35.00; Holyday: \$40.00; Initial: \$30.00.

ST. PETER'S COLLECTION

8-29-21 Sunday: \$574.00

APPEALS

PARTNERS IN CHARITY

Our Lady Immaculate: ~ Goal: \$23,800 To Date: \$16,895

St. Francis of Assisi: ~ Goal: \$5,300 To Date: \$2,830

St. Peter Church: ~ Goal: \$6,000 To Date: \$2,950

LEGACY OF HOPE

Our Lady Immaculate:

Goal: \$129,720 ~ Raised/Pledged: \$150,240

St. Francis of Assisi:

Goal: \$50,953 ~ Raised/Pledged: \$46,210

St. Peter Church:

Goal: \$32,844 ~ Raised/Pledged: \$42,040

FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS DONATION

Now you can honor a deceased relative by donating a flower arrangement to the Parish you belong. The arrangement will be placed in the sanctuary for the weekend and their names will be mentioned in the bulletin. Please contact Jane at Our Lady, Marie at St. Francis, and Islay at St. Peter's for more information. *“The use of living flowers at Mass serves as a reminder of the gift of life God has given to the human community”.*

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

The K of L will meet on Sunday September 12th in the St. Francis church hall. Plans for the fall district meeting on Sept. 26th will be discussed. All members are invited to attend.

PUBLIC SQUARE ROSARY

Save the Date!! Our Lady Immaculate Church will host the Public Square Rosary on Saturday, October 16, 2021 at 12 Noon. All are invited to attend!

SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

Hymnal Readings: 920

Readings for the week of September 5, 2021

Sunday: Is 35:4-7a/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 [1b]/Jas 2:1-5/Mk 7:31-37

Monday: Col 1:24—2:3/Ps 62:6-7, 9 [8]/Lk 6:6-11

Tuesday: Col 2:6-15/Ps 145:1b-2, 8-9, 10-11 [9]/Lk 6:12-19

Wednesday: Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30/Ps 13:6ab, 6c [Is 61:10]/
Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23

Thursday: Col 3:12-17/Ps 150:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6 [6]/Lk 6:27-38

Friday: 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14/Ps 16:1b-2a and 5, 7-8, 11 [cf. 5]/Lk
6:39-42

Saturday: 1 Tm 1:15-17/Ps 113:1b-2, 3-4, 5a and 6-7 [2]/Lk 6:43-49

Next Sunday: Is 50:5-9a/Ps 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [9]/Jas 2:14-
18/Mk 8:27-35



Saturday, September 4th

- 8:00 AM **OLI:** All Parishioners
Vigil: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00 PM **OLI:** +Andy Bosco by the Family
+ Lillian Reps by the McHugh Family

Sunday, September 5th 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 8:00 AM **St. Francis:** +Antena Shatos by Marie Shatos
9:30 AM **St. Peter:** +Cero Ermini by Charles Crowley
11:00 AM **OLI:** +Francis Joly by Rosetta and Family

Monday, September 6th

- 8:00 AM **OLI:** All Parishioners

Tuesday, September 7th

- 8:00 AM **OLI:** +Blanchard Family by the Family

Wednesday, Sept. 8th Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- 8:00 AM **OLI:** +Marcial, Emerenciana & Joseph
Yandoc by the Family

Saturday, Sept. 11th Vigil: 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 4:00 PM **OLI:** +Mary Blake by the Family
+Esther & Jake Mitchell
by the Family

Sunday, September 12th 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 8:00 AM **St. Francis:** +Deceased Members of the
Funa & Catan Families
by the Funa Family
9:30 AM **St. Peter:** +M/M Daniel Donovan
By the McHugh Family
11:00 AM **OLI:** +Fern Fregeau
by Mark & Cindy Winters

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Do you know anyone who is sick and in need of prayers? Please call the office and their names will be listed in the bulletin every week so our parishioners can include them in their personal prayers. God bless you!

PRAYER LIST

William Wood ~ Vernon Goupil ~ Arline Duguay
Carlos Maramag



Praise the Lord, my soul!

SATURDAY 4th

8:00 AM First Saturday Mass & Devotion at OLI
3:00 PM Confessions at OLI Chapel
4:00 PM Vigil Mass at Our Lady Immaculate

SUNDAY 5th

8:00 AM Mass at St. Francis of Assisi
9:30 AM Mass at St. Peter
11:00 AM Mass at Our Lady Immaculate

MONDAY 6th

8:00 AM Mass at Our Lady Immaculate

TUESDAY 7th

8:00 AM Mass at Our Lady Immaculate
2:00 PM Holy Hour with Adoration at OLI

WEDNESDAY 8th

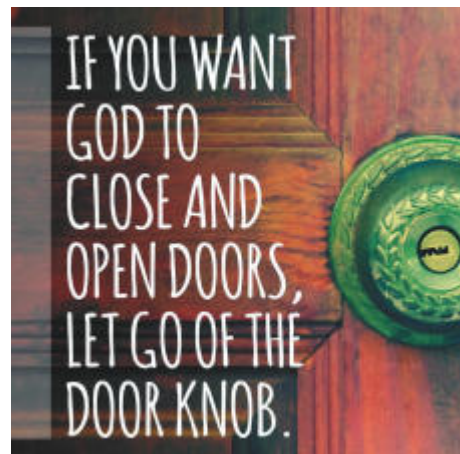
8:00 AM Mass at Our Lady Immaculate

SATURDAY 11th

4:00 PM Vigil Mass at Our Lady Immaculate

SUNDAY 12th

8:00 AM Mass at St. Francis of Assisi
9:30 AM Mass at St. Peter
11:00 AM Mass at Our Lady Immaculate



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Kevin J. Mack, Director



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