

NORTH QUABBIN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

192 School Street, Athol MA 01331-2399

978.249.2738 (Office) 978.830.4046 (FAX) 978.249.7690 (CCD) www.nqatholic.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

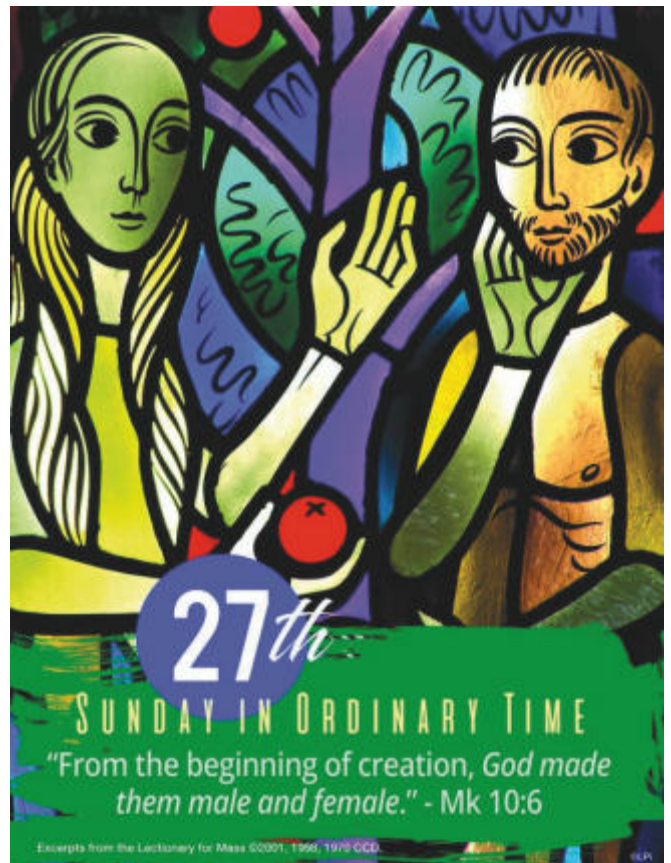
Gayle Bassett, Administrative Assistant

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

Dear brothers and sisters,

This Sunday's Gospel begins by narrating that "some Pharisees came to Jesus" and "asked if a man was allowed to divorce his wife". The fact that they approached Christ with the intention of "putting him to the test" reveals that Our Lord's doctrine on the family, as well as His whole life, was already controversial back in his day.

Jesus' sharp response reveals a change in the order of things. What was disturbed in the Old Testament because of original sin is now, with the New Law, restored and raised to the dignity of a sacrament. Before, the "hardness of your heart" predominated – marriage, surrounded by fiery passions, possessive jealousies and inordinate pleasures; now, however, what it was "from the beginning of creation" is restored – the love between man and woman is raised to the status of a sign between Christ's love for the Church. What was merely natural is raised to the supernatural level. The bitter old wine of simply human love is replaced by the savory new wine of divine love.

But what does this change mean in practice? It means that we need to love the other as a sacrament, and we need to see in the spouse the very person of Christ: husband and wife must approach each other as they approach the Blessed Sacrament. If this seems difficult, it must be remembered that: (a) when men and women celebrate marriage, they receive a special divine help for just that, called sacramental grace; (b) this is how Christ treats us in His mercy, doing us good, even when we turn our backs on Him and mistreat Him for sin. So instead of giving the excuse that it is "impossible" to love the spouse you live with, let us meditate on the fact that "Christ died for us when we were still sinners" and, of servants, He made us His friends.

It's not new that the message of an indissoluble love that sheds its blood for the loved one is scandalous. This Sunday's version of the Gospel narrated by St. Matthew reports that the same followers of Christ, upon hearing his words, said: "If the situation between a man and a woman is like that, it is better not to marry". Also in the time of Christ, the gospel of the Family was seen as a scandal, a stumbling block. Therefore, the evangelical doctrine cannot be mutilated under the pretext that "it is difficult for modern man to accept the indissolubility of marriage": if that were so, Our Lord should not even have preached what he actually preached about marriage. In fact, even knowing the resistance of His own followers to what He said, the Lord did not diminish a single point of His teaching.

More than that, it would be a great disrespect and lack of charity for the Church to stop preaching the "gospel of the family", confusing the men of our time and preventing them from entering the beautiful adventure of loving. If blessed Luís Martin and Zélia Guérin, at the end of the still recent 19th century, managed to live sanctity in marriage, why wouldn't the man of the 21st century, aided by divine grace?

St. Mark closes this Sunday's Gospel reminding us that "whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God as a child will not enter it". May we, in these times of diabolical confusion and pride – distilled from the very mouths that should proclaim the beauty and sanctity of marriage – become children, receiving with filial love and trust the doctrine of Our Lord concerning marriage. And that we welcome it in its entirety, without revisions or undue adaptations. For, just as what God has united man cannot separate (v. 9), what Christ taught once and for all, no human power can diminish or nullify.

God bless you!

Fr. Mateus

FOOD PANTRY

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

LEGACY OF HOPE

Our Lady Immaculate:

Goal: \$129,720 ~ Raised/Pledged: \$150,660

St. Francis of Assisi:

Goal: \$50,953 ~ Raised/Pledged: \$46,310

St. Peter Church:

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

SHARING OUR FATHERS BREAD

Because of the rise in local COVID cases, we are currently offering a hot "takeout" dinner. Meal pickup will be available to individual guests every Wednesday evening at 5:00 PM at St. Francis Church Hall on Canal Street on a first-come, first-served basis. Hopefully, we will return to serving our well known sit down dining in the near future. Each church has again provided a collection basket requesting your donation to support this very worthwhile program. We are so very grateful for your generosity.



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."*

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Sept. 18-19 Margaret Shatos by Marie Shatos

Sept. 25-26 Amelia Watkevich by Emily Krustapentus

Robert & Ann Marie Ellison by the Family

PUBLIC SQUARE ROSARY

Please join the 2021 Public Square Rosary Crusade. As we all know, the United States is in great need of public prayer, repentance and conversion. We must ask God to save America through the Rosary of His Most Holy Mother. Our Lady Immaculate Church will host the Public Square Rosary on Saturday, October 16, 2021 at 12 Noon. All are invited to attend ~ Please bring your lawn chair. For more information, please contact Cora at 978-249-9569 or 978-618-9181.

BLESSING OF ANIMALS

In honor of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the Blessing of Animals will be held Sunday, October 3rd at 1:00pm in the parking lot of St. Francis Church. Refreshments will follow. All pets are welcome!

WORD OF LIFE

"By our baptism, we are members of Christ's body and sharers in his mission. Imitating Christ, we must care for all members of our communities, honoring each person as unique, sacred, and created in the image of God." ~USCCB Open Wide Our Hearts"

OUR LADY IMMACULATE COLLECTION

9-26-21 Sunday: \$2,798.50; Building: \$307.00; Fuel: \$115.00; Catholic School: \$97.00; CCD: \$20.00.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

Repairing the exterior trim around the stained glass windows in the church. To date \$49,894.78 has been collected; repairs to date: \$16,944.00.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI COLLECTION

9-26-21 Sunday: \$955.00; Renovation: \$20.00; Monthly: \$9.00; Fuel: \$253.00; Holy Day: \$20.00; CCD: \$48.00; Catholic Schools: \$22.00.

ST. PETER'S COLLECTION

9-26-21 Sunday: \$597.00; Building: \$20.00; Holy Day: \$20.00; Catholic Schools: \$37.00.

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

Kevin Doherty ~ Joan Doherty ~ Irene Dearden
Roberta Baker ~ Vernon Goupil ~ Arline Duguay
Fr's Mother—Terezinha Souza ~ Marcella Catalano
Judy Gancorz

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SATURDAY 2nd

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

SUNDAY 3rd

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 4th

7:00 PM Mass at St. Francis of Assisi

TUESDAY 5th

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

WEDNESDAY 6th

8:00 AM Mass at Our Lady Immaculate

SATURDAY 9th

4:00 PM Vigil Mass at Our Lady Immaculate

SUNDAY 10th

9:30 AM Mass at St. Peter
11:00 AM 100th Ann. Mass at St. Francis

OCTOBER 3, 2021

Hymnal Readings: 932

Readings for the week of October 3, 2021

Sunday: Gn 2:18-24/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 [cf. 5]/Heb 2:9-11/Mk 10:2-16 or 10:2-12

Monday: Jon 1:1—2:2, 11/Jon 2:3, 4, 5, 8/Lk 10:25-37

Tuesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 130:1b-2, 3-4ab, 7-8 [3]/Lk 10:38-42

Wednesday: Jon 4:1-11/Ps 86:3-4, 5-6, 9-10 [15]/Lk 11:1-4

Thursday: Mal 3:13-20b/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [Ps 40:5a]/Lk 11:5-13

Friday: Jl 1:13-15; 2:1-2/Ps 9:2-3, 6 and 16, 8-9 [9]/Lk 11:15-26

Saturday: Jl 4:12-21/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12a]/Lk 11:27-28

Next Sunday: Wis 7:7-11/Ps 90:12-13, 14-15, 16-17 [14]/Heb 4:12-13/Mk 10:17-30 or 10:17-27



Saturday, October 2nd

8:00 AM All Parishioners

Vigil: 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 PM **OLI:** +Paul & Mayree Killay by the Family
+Deceased members of the Steer Family
by the McHugh Family

Sunday, October 3rd 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM **St. Francis:** +Roseanna "Pic" Godin
By her Family

9:30 AM **St. Peter:** All Parishioners

11:00 AM **OLI:** +Richard Gagnon by his sister
Chris & Greg Mastaler

Monday, October 4th St. Francis of Assisi

7:00 PM **St. Francis:** +Meg Shatos by Marie Shatos

Tuesday, October 5th

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

Wednesday, October 6th

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

Saturday, October 9th Vigil: 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 PM **OLI:** +Mary & Leo Wright by the Family
+Simone Vorce by the Family

Sunday, October 10th 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:30 AM **St. Peter:** All Parishioners

11:00 AM **St. Francis:** All Parishioners



Our Lady Immaculate Church welcomes **Jaxon Carl Gonzalez** with great joy into the faith community, the Catholic Church. Congratulations and may the flame of the Christian faith be alive in his heart.

OCTOBER 3, 2021



SAINT FRANCIS PARISH
INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE ITS FIRST MASS'

100th Anniversary



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2021

HOLY MASS PRESIDED
BY THE MOST REV. ROBERT J. MCMANUS
AT 11 AM

REFRESHMENTS IN THE HALL TO FOLLOW



CATHOLIC BIBLE STUDY 2021

"THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES"

KICK OFF: MONDAY, OCTOBER 18 AT 7PM
AT THE CCD CENTER - 925 Main Street - Athol, MA
GUEST SPEAKER: MSGR. JAMES MORONEY

FOR REGISTRATION PLEASE CALL MRS. SHARON MAHER
(978) 400-6460



MASS IN HONOR OF
St. Francis of Assisi

Monday, October 4th at 7pm
St. Francis Parish
101 Main St. Athol, MA

Family Memorials

Lasting Tributes to Those You Love

Monuments • Markers • Lettering
465 West Street • Gardner
Tel/Fax: (978) 632-1323
C.S.C. Michael K. Roberts
Owner

THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE



MACK FAMILY FUNERAL HOMES
www.mackfamilyfh.com

LET US PLACE YOUR AD HERE.



Heywood Wakefield COMMONS

An Assisted Living Residence
A New Place to Call Home in a Community that Cares
www.hwcommons.com
(978) 632-8292
50 Pine Street • Gardner, MA

Fiske-Murphy & Mack Funeral Home
110 New Athol Road, Orange, MA 01364
978-575-0575

Higgins-O'Connor Funeral Home
146 Main Street, Athol MA 01331
978-248-4139

Kevin J. Mack, Director



FREE AD DESIGN WITH PURCHASE OF THIS SPACE.
- 800-477-4574 -



4LPi WE'RE HIRING AD SALES EXECUTIVES

- Full Time Position with Benefits
- Sales Experience Preferred
- Paid Training
- Overnight Travel Required
- Expense Reimbursement

CONTACT US AT
careers@4LPi.com
www.4LPi.com/careers

This Space is Available

JOSEPH A. MALLET & SON, INC.

Paving	Phone 978-249-4785
Excavating	Fax
Grading	978-249-8994
Sand Gravel Loam	P.O. Box
	Athol, MA 01331

Stan's Liquor Mart



Beer • Wine & Spirit
1586 S Main Street, Athol, MA
978-249-9550

AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE

Contact **Victoria Russo** to place an ad today!
vrusso@4LPi.com or (800) 477-4574 x6283

Too Sick for Mass?

SUPPORT OUR PARISH NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE!

Sign-up to get your bulletin delivered right to your inbox!

www.parishesonline.com



Please support our advertisers and mention you saw their ad here.

UPGRADE TO A **VIBRANT ad**

Contact us for details • 800-477-4574