

## WELCOME

If you are alienated or upset, we welcome you lovingly.  
If you are in need of forgiveness, Jesus forgives you completely—with unconditional love.  
If you have been hurt by the Church, we are truly sorry.  
If you are angry, Jesus offers you peace.  
If life has become burdensome, we are here to support you.  
We are happy you are here and want you to stay.  
We would like to share our lives with you.  
Come join us each week so we can worship God together.

### Parish Staff

**Rev. Richard T. Conway—Pastor**

rtconway@comcast.net

**Irene Bonner – Business Manager**

ibonner@comcast.net

**Susan Hurton—Faith Formation Director**

shurton.srb@gmail.com

**Joe Galluzzo – RCIA Coordinator**

joe.galluzzo@comcast.net; 978-314-3404

**Yvonne Gobis – Liturgical Music Coordinator**

ygobis@comcast.net; 603-458-7291

**Karen Bailey – Communications Coordinator**

kbailey07@comcast.net

**Laura Szekely – Funeral Ministry**

lcszekely@gmail.com

### Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday 4:00 pm

Sunday at 10:00 am

Weekdays as announced

### Parish Office

978-683-8922

Fax: 978-689-8878

Office Hours:

Tuesday-Thursday

9:30 am to 4:00 pm

(closed from noon-1:00 pm)

### Marriage

Please contact the Parish Office at least six months in advance. Participation in both a parish and a diocesan preparation is required of all couples.

### RCIA

Adults interested in baptism or joining the Catholic Church should contact Joe Galluzzo at 978-314-3404 or joe.galluzzo@comcast.net.

### Anointing & Pastoral Care of the Sick

Please contact the Parish Office when a parishioner is seriously ill or goes into the hospital. Staff and Communion Ministers bring communion to those who are infirm. Sacrament of the Sick is celebrated communally in the spring and the fall.

### Baptism

Celebrated regularly at Sunday Eucharist. Mandatory parent preparation sessions are held at church every other month. Please contact the Parish Office four months prior to the intended Baptism date.

### *A Stewardship Parish*

*Building a Catholic community of commitment, passion and love  
Celebrating our faith through dynamic liturgy and a rich sacramental life  
Welcoming all into the warmth of our parish family  
Sharing the gifts God entrusted to us  
Striving to learn, live and share our faith*

**FROM FATHER RICK**

*Dear Friends,*

**FROM POPE FRANCIS**

**MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS  
FOR THE XXVIII WORLD DAY OF THE SICK 2020**

11 February 2020

*“Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened,  
and I will give you rest” (Mt 11:28)*

Dear brothers and sisters,

1. Jesus’ words, “Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest” (Mt 11:28) point to the mysterious path of grace that is revealed to the simple and gives new strength to those who are weary and tired. These words of Christ express the solidarity of the Son of Man with all those who are hurt and afflicted. How many people suffer in both body and soul! Jesus urges everyone to draw near to him – “Come to me!” – and he promises them comfort and repose. “When Jesus says this, he has before him the people he meets every day on the streets of Galilee: very many simple people, the poor, the sick, sinners, those who are marginalized *by the burden of the law and the oppressive social system...* These people always followed him to hear his word, a word that gave hope! Jesus’ words always give hope!” (*Angelus*, 6 July 2014).

On this XXVIII World Day of the Sick, Jesus repeats these words to the sick, the oppressed, and the poor. For they realize that they depend entirely on God and, beneath the burden of their trials, stand in need of his healing. Jesus does not make demands of those who endure situations of frailty, suffering and weakness, but offers his mercy and his comforting presence. He looks upon a wounded humanity with eyes that gaze into the heart of each person. That gaze is not one of indifference; rather, it embraces people in their entirety, each person in his or her health condition, discarding no one, but rather inviting everyone to share in his life and to experience his tender love.

2. Why does Jesus have these feelings? Because he himself became frail, endured human suffering and received comfort from his Father. Indeed, only those who personally experience suffering are then able to comfort others. There are so many kinds of grave suffering: incurable and chronic diseases, psychological diseases, situations calling for rehabilitation or palliative care, numerous forms of disability, children’s or geriatric diseases... At times human warmth is lacking in our approach to these. What is needed is a personalized approach to the sick, not just of *curing* but also of *caring*, in view of an integral human healing. In experiencing illness, individuals not only feel threatened in their physical integrity, but also in the relational, intellectual, affective and spiritual dimensions of their lives. For this reason, in addition to therapy and support, they expect care and attention. In a word, love. At the side of every sick person, there is also a family, which itself suffers and is in need of support and comfort.

3. Dear brothers and sisters who are ill, your sickness makes you in a particular way one of those “who labour and are burdened”, and thus attract the eyes and heart of Jesus. In him, you will find

light to brighten your darkest moments and hope to soothe your distress. He urges you: "Come to me". In him, you will find strength to face all the worries and questions that assail you during this "dark night" of body and soul. Christ did not give us prescriptions, but through his passion, death and resurrection he frees us from the grip of evil.

In your experience of illness, you certainly need a place to find rest. The Church desires to become more and more the "inn" of the Good Samaritan who is Christ (cf. *Lk 10:34*), that is, a home where you can encounter his grace, which finds expression in closeness, acceptance and relief. In this home, you can meet people who, healed in their frailty by God's mercy, will help you bear your cross and enable your suffering to give you a new perspective. You will be able to look beyond your illness to a greater horizon of new light and fresh strength for your lives.

A key role in this effort to offer rest and renewal to our sick brothers and sisters is played by healthcare workers: physicians, nurses, medical and administrative professionals, assistants and volunteers. Thanks to their expertise, they can make patients feel the presence of Christ who consoles and cares for the sick, and heals every hurt. Yet they too are men and women with their own frailties and even illnesses. They show how true it is that "once Christ's comfort and rest is received, we are called in turn to become rest and comfort for our brothers and sisters, with a docile and humble attitude in imitation of the Teacher" (*Angelus*, 6 July 2014).

4. Dear healthcare professionals, let us always remember that diagnostic, preventive and therapeutic treatments, research, care and rehabilitation are always in the service of the sick person; indeed the noun "person" takes priority over the adjective "sick". In your work, may you always strive to promote the dignity and life of each person, and reject any compromise in the direction of euthanasia, assisted suicide or suppression of life, even in the case of terminal illness.

When confronted with the limitations and even failures of medical science before increasingly problematic clinical cases and bleak diagnoses, you are called to be open to the transcendent dimension of your profession that reveals its ultimate meaning. Let us remember that life is sacred and belongs to God; hence it is inviolable and no one can claim the right to dispose of it freely (cf. *Donum Vitae*, 5; *Evangelium Vitae*, 29-53). Life must be welcomed, protected, respected and served from its beginning to its end: both human reason and faith in God, the author of life, require this. In some cases, conscientious objection becomes a necessary decision if you are to be consistent with your "yes" to life and to the human person. Your professionalism, sustained by Christian charity, will be the best service you can offer for the safeguarding of the truest human right, the right to life. When you can no longer provide a cure, you will still be able to provide care and healing, through gestures and procedures that give comfort and relief to the sick.

Tragically, in some contexts of war and violent conflict, healthcare professionals and the facilities that receive and assist the sick are attacked. In some areas, too, political authorities attempt to manipulate medical care for their own advantage, thus restricting the medical profession's legitimate autonomy. Yet attacking those who devote themselves to the service of the suffering members of society does not serve the interests of anyone.

5. On this XXVIII World Day of the Sick, I think of our many brothers and sisters throughout the world who have no access to medical care because they live in poverty. For this reason, I urge healthcare institutions and government leaders throughout the world not to neglect social justice

out of a preoccupation for financial concerns. It is my hope that, by joining the principles of solidarity and subsidiarity, efforts will be made to cooperate in ensuring that everyone has access to suitable treatments for preserving and restoring their health. I offer heartfelt thanks to all those volunteers who serve the sick, often compensating for structural shortcomings, while reflecting the image of Christ, the Good Samaritan, by their acts of tender love and closeness.

To the Blessed Virgin Mary, Health of the Sick, I entrust all those who bear the burden of illness, along with their families and all healthcare workers. With the assurance of a remembrance in my prayers, I cordially impart my Apostolic Blessing.

*From the Vatican, 3 January 2020*  
Memorial of the Most Holy Name of Jesus  
Francis

## LENT 2020 AT SAINT ROBERTS

### LIVING THE EUCHARIST

This is sign up weekend. There are cards available in the pews. Please fill one out and leave it in the basket on the round table in the vestibule at the 4:00 pm Mass. Or give it to Maggie Butler, who will be in the Gathering Space after Mass. If you have questions, you can reach Maggie at [butler.fam@verizon.net](mailto:butler.fam@verizon.net) or 978-640-1879.



Also this Lent we will immerse ourselves into Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si*, as we mark its 5th anniversary this year. Each week there will be a bulletin insert focusing on some aspect of climate change and how the Gospel calls us to respond.

### LENTEN MASS SCHEDULE

#### ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES (2/26)

12:10 & 6:30 pm

Ashes distributed during both Masses

#### SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday at 4:00 pm

Sunday at 10:00 am

Sunday (2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th & Palm) 5:00 pm

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#### WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday at 4:00 pm

Tuesday at 5:30 pm

Wednesday at 6:00 pm

Thursday at 12:10 pm

Friday at 6:30 am

**CONFESSIONS**

**Wednesdays** – 6:30-8:00 pm on March 4, 11, 18, and April 8 (NOT April 1)

**Wednesday, March 25** – 7:00-8:00 pm (after Mass for Annunciation)

**Thursday, April 2** - 7:00 pm **Penance Service**

**LENTEN SOLEMNITIES**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 17 – ST. PATRICK’S DAY**

Mass at 5:30 pm, followed by hospitality in the Gathering Space

**THURSDAY, MARCH 19 – ST. JOSEPH’S DAY**

Mass at 12:10 pm, followed by St. Joseph’s Table at the Rectory

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25 – ANNUNCIATION**

Mass at 6:00 pm, followed by hospitality in the Gathering Space

**FLU PRECAUTIONS**

- **We CONTINUE TO provide bottles of hand sanitizer throughout the vestibule, Gathering Space and other areas of the church.**
- **Communion under both species will be suspended at most Masses.**
- **I will not be coming down from the sanctuary for the sign of peace**
- **I would ask that those who regularly receive Holy Communion on the tongue to please come to communion at the end of the Communion line.**

**Hopefully, this will be short lived.**

*Please pray for our parish. I wish you a peaceful week,  
Fr. Rick*

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**Parish Community  
Prayer Intentions**

*At our parishioners’ request or with permission,  
we list those who are sick or in the hospital and  
wish to be remembered in our prayers:*

*The names in the Parish Community Prayer  
Intention list are not included in the web ver-  
sion of the bulletin in order to maintain the pri-  
vacy of those individuals.*

***Liturgical Ministers This Weekend***

**Saturday, February 15, 4:00 pm Mass**

President: Fr. Rick; Greeter: Kate Landry; Cantor: Melissa  
Glaister; Lector: Maria Shapiro; Server: Bill Sullivan

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Linda Biles,  
Ellen Clancy, Frank Coppola, Ruthie Gordon, Rod  
Houde

**Sunday, February 16, 10:00 am Mass**

President: Fr. Rick; Greeter: Grace Bouvier; Cantor: Ma-  
ria Furnari and Rachel Gealow; Lectors: Sal Basta and  
Gloria Lucas; Server: Tom Cuff

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Tom Atkins,  
Jill Basta, Grace Bouvier, Nancy Griffin, Mary Jo O’Bri-  
en, Kevin Roselle

***Stewardship Reflection***

*“For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” (Mt 5:20)*

The scribes and Pharisees lived according to the letter of the law, and they used this to elevate themselves above the other people. Jesus is clear – it’s the love that you have in your heart that will get you to heaven. Simply following church rules out of obligation, not love, does not put you on the path to heaven. Attending Mass on Sunday and then gossiping about a fellow parishioner on the parking lot is an example of a modern day Pharisee.



Please bring in your palms from last year to be burned for our celebration of Ash Wednesday this year. Please place them in the basket in the Gathering Space.

***Special Collection Next Weekend: Support of the Church Around the World***

Next week’s second collection will support the Church in underdeveloped areas of the world through the work six important organizations. Your generosity will help fund the spiritual, educational, and humanitarian needs of the Church around the world through the work of these groups:

**Catholic Relief Services:** Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ’s love and mercy to all people here and abroad. Please give generously and help “Jesus in disguise.” Learn more at [www.usccb.org/crscollection](http://www.usccb.org/crscollection).

**Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa:** Although the Church in Africa is growing, many still lack access to basic resources and pastoral care. Many suffer due to high rates of poverty and unemployment, illiteracy, and poor education. The Solidarity Fund supports pastoral projects that foster lasting peace and reconciliation in a continent often marked by division and tension. To learn more, visit [www.usccb.org/africa](http://www.usccb.org/africa).

**Church in Central and Eastern Europe:** Funds support pastoral care, catechesis, building renovations, and seminary formation in more than 20 countries that still struggle to recover from Communist rule. Your support restores the Church and builds the future in this region. More information can be found at [www.usccb.org/ccee](http://www.usccb.org/ccee).

**The Archdiocese for the Military Services:** This organization was created by Pope John Paul II to provide the Catholic Church’s full range of pastoral ministries and spiritual services to those in the United States Armed Forces. This includes more than 220 installations in 29 countries, patients in 153 V.A. Medical Centers, and federal employees serving outside the boundaries of the USA in 134 countries. Numerically, the AMS is responsible for more than 1.8 million men, women, and children. More information can be found at [www.milarch.org](http://www.milarch.org).

**Catholic Home Missions Appeal:** Today, over 40 % of dioceses in the United States are considered mission territories because they are unable to fund the essential pastoral work their communities need. Your support of this appeal helps ease the struggle of these dioceses. More information can be found at [www.usccb.org/home-missions](http://www.usccb.org/home-missions).

**The Black and Indian Mission:** This organization helps local African American and Native American Diocesan Communities throughout the United States spread the Good News of Jesus Christ and respond to real and pressing needs on the ground. Funds allow the mission to give helpful grants to dioceses across the country to operate schools, parishes, and other missionary services that build the Body of Christ in Native American, Alaska Native, and Black Catholic communities. Learn more at [blackandindianmission.org](http://blackandindianmission.org).

MASS SCHEDULE



**Saturday, February 15**  
**Vigil, Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
 4:00 pm: Celebration of World Marriage Day

**Sunday, February 16**  
**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
 10:00 am: Nancy Hesselton; \*\*Baptism of  
 Garrett James Xander Stewart

**Tuesday, February 18**  
**Weekday Mass**  
 5:30 pm: Intention of the Presider

**Wednesday, February 19**  
**Weekday Mass**  
 6:00 pm: Christopher Connolly

**Thursday, February 20**  
**Weekday Mass**  
 12:10 pm: Rev. John Sutton

**Saturday, February 22**  
**Vigil, Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
 4:00 pm: Deceased members of the  
 Grabowski Family

**Sunday, February 23**  
**Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
 10:00 am: Eric Begg

*“Faith is not something you achieve. If you try to nail it down, it gets up and walks away with the nail. Some days you walk on water; other days you sink like a stone. You live with a deep secret, the poet Rumi says, that sometimes you know, and then not, and then know again. Sometimes you feel the real presence, and sometimes you feel the real absence.” – Fr. Ronald Rolheiser, OMI*

**Question of the Week:  
 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Theme:** God’s Commandments are a way of life.

**Breaking Open the Word**

Suggested text for faith sharing: Today’s Gospel Reading

**Step One: Listen to the Word**

When you hear the word commandment, what do you feel? What did Jesus mean when he said he did not come to abolish but to fulfill the law of the prophets?

**Step Two: Look into your Life**

**Question for Children:** Which rules cause you the most difficulty? Why?

**Question for Youth:** In your own words, describe what the spirit of God’s law is.

**Question for Adults:** Have you considered that laws are made with love? Do you accept God’s love through his laws?



**Readings for the week of February 16, 2020**

- Sunday: Sir 15:15-20; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37
- Monday: Jas 1:1-11; Ps 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76; Mk 8:11-13
- Tuesday: Jas 1:12-18; Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19; Mk 8:14-21
- Wednesday: Jas 1:19-27; Ps 15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab, 5; Mk 8:22-26
- Thursday: Jas 2:1-9; Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Mk 8:27-33
- Friday: Jas 2:14-24, 26; Ps 112:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Mk 8:34 — 9:1
- Saturday: 1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6; Mt 16:13-19
- Sunday: Lv 19:1-2, 17-18; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13; 1 Cor 3:16-23; Mt 5:38-48



**Have you ever thought about singing in the choir?  
Join us for the upcoming Lent and Easter seasons!**

Singing in the choir is a wonderful way to engage fully in the liturgy and to get to know other members of the St. Robert's community. No previous experience is necessary and no audition is required. We welcome all voices to participate! Our combined Youth and Adult Choirs sing at the 10:00 am Mass on Sundays. Both groups rehearse weekly on Thursday, beginning with Youth only rehearsal at 6:00 pm, followed by combined group rehearsal at 6:30 pm.

Questions? Contact: Yvonne Gobis, Liturgical Music Coordinator, at [ygobis@comcast.net](mailto:ygobis@comcast.net); or Kathy Scharadin, Youth Choir Director, at [kjschard@aol.com](mailto:kjschard@aol.com) or 617-838-3463; or Nina Wolfendale, Adult Choir Director, at [bnwolfendale@comcast.net](mailto:bnwolfendale@comcast.net) or 978-697-3835.



**It's sign up  
weekend—small  
groups for Lent  
are forming now!**

Once again our parish will be participating in the Living the Eucharist faith sharing program during Lent. These small group sessions meet weekly for about an hour during the six weeks of Lent. There are morning, afternoon, and evening options available on several days of the week.

Contact Maggie Butler at [butler.fam@verizon.net](mailto:butler.fam@verizon.net) or 978-640-1879 to learn more and find the group that fits your schedule. One hour per week—you can do this!



**Meal Service Team Needed  
Third Sunday Every Month**

4:30-7:30 pm, Lazarus House Holly St. Shelter

Details and sign up are available at [signupgenius.com/go/10c0a4cabac2fa4fc1-lazarus](http://signupgenius.com/go/10c0a4cabac2fa4fc1-lazarus).  
This link is also live on the parish homepage.



Our third and final soup truck commitment is for Sunday, March 8 (the truck only runs January-March). Details and sign up will be available later this month.

Thank you!

**In Service**

2nd Lt. Luke Beaulieu, USA, Lt. William E. Conway, USN, SN Madalina Yvonne Southworth, USN, SFODA 1324 Detachment, 2nd Lt. Hannah Jean Kuegler, USA, BM2 Stuart Bangs, USCG, Sean Hodgdon, USAF, Cpl Chris Carey, USMC, SFC John B. Nicholas, USA, SGT Jean-Paul Fitzpatrick, USA, SGT Vincent Amasula, USA, CDR Paul Giguere, USN, 1st Lt. Stephen Draheim, USA, Col. James Coffey, USAF, Lyle Shackelford, Pvt. Alexander Sabu, USA, Gen'l. R. Steve Whitcomb, USA, Col. Brian P. Bedell, USA, Capt. Lauren Whitcomb, USA, BG Patrick J. Donahue, USA, BG Brian P. Donahue, USA, Cpt. Michael McGaffigan, USA, Lt. Jesse Salisbury, USA F, Commander Kevin B. O'Brien, USN, Miko Belonia, Maj. Tony Hoffman, USA, Maj. Ross Coffman, USA, Maj. Garth Howe, USA, Chief Warrant Officer II Michael Morris, USA, Captain Matthew Mancini, USA, Sgt. Ellen Barnes O'Connor, USA, Pvt. Adam James Mazza, USA, Pvt. Joseph D. Gagnon, USM





**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK:  
SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**A reading from the Book of Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18**

The LORD said to Moses, “Speak to the whole Israelite community and tell them: Be holy, for I, the LORD, your God, am holy.

“You shall not bear hatred for your brother or sister in your heart. Though you may have to reprove your fellow citizen, do not incur sin because of him. Take no revenge and cherish no grudge against any of your people. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.”

**A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians 3:16-23**

Brothers and sisters: Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy that person; for the temple of God, which you are, is holy.

Let no one deceive himself. If any one among you considers himself wise in this age, let him become a fool, so as to become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in the eyes of God, for it is written: God catches the wise in their own ruses, and again: The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain.

So let no one boast about human beings, for everything belongs to you, Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or the present or the future: all belong to you, and you to Christ, and Christ to God.

**+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 5:38-48**

Jesus said to his disciples: “You have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil. When someone strikes you on your right cheek, turn the other one as well. If anyone wants to go to law with you over your tunic, hand over your cloak as well. Should anyone press you into service for one mile, go for two miles. Give to the one who asks of you, and do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow.

“You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father, for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what recompense will you have? Do not the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brothers only, what is unusual about that? Do not the pagans do the same? So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

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***Do you love to sing? Join the Tewksbury Interfaith Choir!***

On Sunday, February 23, Tewksbury Interfaith Choir will begin rehearsals for its spring concert and invites new members to join in the preparations. Rehearsals will be held at the Tewksbury Congregational Church at 7:15 on Sunday evenings. To sing with the choir requires no audition and no ability to read music. The main requirements are the interest in singing multi-part music and the commitment to the rehearsal schedule. The program for the spring concert includes songs from Broadway, the 40's, patriotic selections, and some religious favorites too. Come and join us and bring a friend—or two!