

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 21

4:30pm Branden DeLuca

*Requested by family***Sunday, January 22**

8:00am Francis Smith

Requested by James & Linda McNulty

10:00am Frank Signorelli

Requested by wife

12:00NN Mass for the People

*Requested by family***Monday, January 23**

7:00am John Champion

*Requested by Antonio Posillo***Tuesday, January 24**

7:00am Rita Greenan

*Requested by Janice Quirk***Wednesday, January 25**

7:00am Matilda Coppolino

*Requested by family***Thursday, January 26**

7:00am John Folkl

*Requested by Sr. Janet Folkl***Friday, January 27**7:00am Deceased Members and
Sisters of Divine Providence*Req. by Sisters Janet, Martha & Monika***Saturday, January 28**

4:30pm John Champion

*Requested by Dick and Jan Moore***Sunday, January 29**

8:00am William Krul

Requested by family

10:00am Rose Silva

Requested by granddaughter

12:00NN Josephine Doyle

Requested by Paul & Guin Goscinski

St. Romuald Chapel Mass Intentions

Sunday, January 22

10:00am Mary Marchand

*Requested by Gerri and Al Marsocci***Sunday, January 29**

10:00am Robert Tiernan, Jr.

Requested by family

For Your Information

PARISH SUPPORT for January 15 was Budget-\$7,951; Catholic University of America—\$2,124. This weekend's second offering is for the Ongoing Maintenance Fund Offering. Next weekend's second offering is for the Church in Latin America. Thank you for your continued generosity.

SANCTUARY LAMPS

This week's sanctuary lamp at St. Francis Church burns in memory of Virginia Foor. The sanctuary lamp at St. Romuald Chapel burns in memory of Richard Bianco.

MASS OF THANKSGIVING

Forty years ago, Bishop Gelineau was ordained Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Providence. The Diocese invites you to join the Bishop, priests, religious and laity of the local Catholic community in celebrating this blessed occasion with a Mass of Thanksgiving at 1:00 PM in the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul on Sunday, February 5, 2012. A light reception will follow the Mass in the Cathedral Hall. For more information, please visit www.dioceseofprovidence.org.

LETTER OF THANKS FROM THE JONNYCAKE CENTER

Dear Friends,

On behalf of our Teen Jonnycake Program I would like to thank you for your donation of toys for Santa's Workshop and \$965 in gift cards, which we received in December 2011. Thanks so much also for allowing us once again to hold our Santa's Workshop in your hall. Your support for this program has been crucial to its success!

Your contribution has made a difference in the lives of many over this holiday season. With the support of our community we distributed holiday dinners to 581 individuals, as well as school vacation meals to 186 children, and distributed holiday gifts to 251 children, 83 teens and 82 elders. Following are just a few words of thanks we collected over the past few weeks:

"Please know how much all your work is truly appreciated by the 'older generation' that you serve. Loved my bag of Christmas 'goodies' ... Thank you for caring, sharing and being so thoughtful!"

"Thank you so much! I got laid off this year right before Christmas—this means so much to my family."

"This means so much for my two little girls. I know they will have a great Christmas!"

"This is my first year coming to get help. It is just me and my son and when I found out about this it made me so happy because I was not going to be able to get him anything this year."

Thank you for helping to make the holidays special for others!

Sincerely,
Susan A. Gustaitis
Executive Director

JANUARY 22, 2012



The Memorial of Saint Thomas Aquinas

Saint Thomas was a member of the Order of Friars Preachers (the Dominicans) who lived in the 13th century. Originally from a wealthy family, his parents were dismayed at Thomas' decision to become a preaching beggar and went to great lengths to dissuade him from doing so. God's will was accomplished despite their efforts, and Saint Thomas became one of the greatest lights of the Western intellectual tradition. He wrote extensively and taught throughout his whole life. His masterwork, the *Summa Theologiae*, a handbook for beginners in theology, was left unfinished at the time of his death, although his students and collaborators took up the task of completing it with Thomas' own writings. Saint Thomas' unified presentation of the whole of revealed truth has won him the title "Common Doctor" of the Church, and his theological approach has been recommended to the Church by countless popes, bishops and theologians. Likewise, the Second Vatican Council affirmed the absolute necessity of Saint Thomas in theological inquiry today.

You are invited to join us
as we commemorate the
MEMORIAL OF ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

Saturday, January 28, 2012

9:00AM - Celebration of Mass
in St. Francis Church

Followed by a presentation:
"St. Thomas and the Mystery of Grace"
in Helen Bouchard Hall

The word "grace" is so often used and heard, but is little understood. Saint Thomas offered one of the clearest and most comprehensive treatments of grace in the history of the Christian tradition. Please consider joining us for a morning of prayer and learning!



Religious Ed. Notes

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Sunday, January 22

8:50-9:50am Grades 1 & 2

9:50-10:50am KINDERGARTEN

10:50-11:50am GRADES 3-6

Monday, January 23

NO Confirmation I and II

Wednesday, January 25

4-5:00pm GRADES 3-6 (FGC)

7-8:15pm GRADES 7 & 8 (FGC)



This Week

Sunday, January 22

Rel. Ed. Classes—see above schedule

5:30-7:00pm PRAISE! Rehearsal (FGC)

7:00pm AA (HBH)

Monday, January 23

NO Confirmation I & II

Tuesday, January 24

6:30-8:00pm RCIA (HBH)*

7:00pm Bible Study (FGC)

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (loft)

Wednesday, January 25

4-5pm GRADES 3-6 (FGC)

CLASSES GRADES 7 & 8

Thursday, January 26

7:00pm Men of St. Joseph (Library FGC)

7:00pm Couples in Recovery (HBH)

Saturday, January 28

9:00am Mass in Honor of St. Thomas Aquinas followed by a presentation: "St. Thomas and the Mystery of Grace"

**RCIA—Please note the RCIA Class is now being held in Helen Bouchard Hall located in the lower church. Thank you.*

A Morning of Prayerful Remembrance & Intercessions

If you or someone you know has been impacted by abortion, please join us to pray, listen to personal testimony; meditate on the Rosary, Adoration, Reconciliation and Mass. All are invited to join us in prayer from 9am-12Noon on Saturday, January 28th at St. Philip Church, 622 Putnam Pike, Smithfield. For more info. call 421-7833 x. 218.

MANY THANKS

Our gratitude is due to the Office of Life and Family Ministry of the Diocese of Providence for bringing the Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe to our parish this past Monday. Steady crowds throughout the day gathered in the church to pray before the Blessed Sacrament exposed and the image of Our Lady. Many thanks to all those who volunteered to lead the rosary and to keep watch with the Blessed Sacrament. Thanks are also due to Bill Harding, who assisted with the liturgies of the day, as well as Mimi Battey for leading us in song. May Our Lady continue to bless our parish and our diocese!

PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER...

Later tonight, several parishioners of ours will board a bus to Washington, DC for the Annual March for Life. Among them will be Fr. Joe and several students from Prout who will be joining with others from around the Diocese for this brief but important trip. Each year, the March draws thousands of people (from all different faiths and walks of life) to the nation's capital to witness to the sanctity of all human life. Please keep them in your prayers.

ROE V. WADE: A RETROSPECTIVE

Each year on January 22nd – the anniversary of the 1973 Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade* – people pause to recognize the date in some way. Some speak out, some march, some reach out, some educate, some just reflect. Many pray. Each year, for nearly forty years, pro-life Americans have shown that their commitment will not waver, their efforts will not cease. Our firm conviction as Catholics that "life must be protected with the utmost care from the moment of conception" (Second Vatican Council's *Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World*, no. 51) has been a part of the Church's constant witness since the Apostolic age and has inspired millions to defend human life at every stage. Against the backdrop of a society in which many institutions of influence endorse legal abortion, the pro-life movement has grown year by year, in numbers and in vitality. The anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* is also a time to reflect on the dignity of every human life. The Church's holistic teaching on life issues keeps in mind all of God's children, from womb to tomb. The pro-life efforts of the Church do not stop with birth, but continue with aid to those in need, advocacy for the marginalized, and protection for the vulnerable. Please keep those who fight for the dignity of every human life—the unborn, the stranger among us, the prisoner on death row, the homeless, the terminally ill, the disabled—in your thoughts and prayers.



St. Francis de Sales

Feastday is this Tuesday, January 24th
Patron Saint of Journalists, Writers
1622

Born in France in 1567, Francis was a patient man. He knew for thirteen years that he had a vocation to the priesthood before he mentioned it to his family. When his father said that he wanted Francis to be a soldier and sent him to Paris to study, Francis said nothing. Then when he went to Padua to get a doctorate in law, he still kept quiet, but he studied theology and practiced mental prayer while getting into swordfights and going to parties. Even when his bishop told him if he wanted to be a priest that he thought that he would have a miter waiting for him someday, Francis uttered not a word. Why did Francis wait so long? Throughout his life he waited for God's will to be clear. He never wanted to push his wishes on God, to the point where most of us would have been afraid that God would give up!

God finally made His will clear to Francis while he was riding. Francis fell from his horse three times. Every time he fell the sword came out of the scabbard. Every time it came out the sword and scabbard came to rest on the ground in the shape of the cross. And then, Francis, without knowing about it, was appointed provost of his diocese, second in rank to the bishop.

For Francis, the love of God was like romantic love. He said, *"The thoughts of those moved by natural human love are almost completely fastened on the beloved, their hearts are filled with passion for it, and their mouths full of its praises. When it is gone they express their feelings in letters, and can't pass by a tree without carving the name of their beloved in its bark. Thus too those who love God can never stop thinking about him, longing for him, aspiring to him, and speaking about him. If they could, they would engrave the name of Jesus on the hearts of all humankind."*

The key to love of God was prayer. *"By turning your eyes on God in meditation, your whole soul will be filled with God. Begin all your prayers in the presence of God."*

From one of St. Francis de Sales' writings, INTRODUCTION TO THE DEVOUT LIFE:

During the course of the day, recall as often as possible that you are in God's presence. Consider what God does and what you are doing. You will see His eyes turned toward you and constantly fixed on you with incomparable love. Then you will say to Him, "O God, why do I not look always at You, just as You always look at me? Why do You think so often of me, O Lord, and why do I think so seldom of You?" Where are we, O my soul? God is our true place, and where are we? (INT. Part II, Ch. 12; O. III, p. 92)

"St. Francis de Sales, **pray for us.**"