

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Mass Intentions

Saturday, July 16

5:30pm Edgar Timothy

Requested by family

Sunday, July 17

8:00am Joseph Vieira

Requested by family

10:00am Ricardo Santos

Requested by Betty Ann Hogan

12:00NN Nat Turco

Requested by family

Monday, July 18

7:00am Jennie Luciano

Requested by Cathy Hawkins

Tuesday, July 19

7:00am Ronald Nocito

Requested by Posillo family

Wednesday, July 20

7:00am Evelyn Caswell & Jane Hange

Requested by Maria Posillo

Thursday, July 21

7:00am Michael Abbruzese

Requested by family

Friday, July 22

7:00am Jean Ellis

Requested by Ed & Kathleen Puchalla

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



St. Romuald Chapel Mass Intentions

Saturday, July 16

5:30pm Terrence & Elizabeth Simpson

Requested by family

Sunday, July 17

8:00am John and Grace Carpinelli

Requested by family

10:00am Henry H. Thayer, Jr.

Requested by Concetta M. Wilson

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



For Your Information

PARISH SUPPORT for July 10 was Budget—\$9,102.50. This weekend's second offering is the Ongoing Maintenance Fund Offering for July. Thank you for your continued generosity!

SANCTUARY LAMPS

This week's sanctuary lamp at St. Francis Church burns in memory of Ralph Calitri. The sanctuary lamp at St. Romuald Chapel burns in memory of Henry H. Thayer, Jr.

BEST WISHES AND PRAYERS...

This past week, Sr. Barbara Matazzaro and her mother, Rita, bid farewell for their new home in Connecticut. Several weeks ago, we announced that Sister was able to find new housing for her mother closer to her religious community in Connecticut. We are sad to see them go, but we assure them of our prayers and best wishes!

THE UPPER ROOM: WISH LIST

As was announced several weeks ago, we are looking into the possibility of utilizing the third floor in Greenan Center as a youth ministry space called the "Upper Room." We want our young people to feel connected to our parish community, and to experience a sense of belonging by having and maintaining their own space. The room could also be used for religious education and occasional parish meetings. We are looking for donations of new or **GENTLY** used items to help furnish the space. Items can be given in memory of a loved one, and donations will be published in the Fall. Here's the wish-list as it stands: large area rug, easy chairs, Kuerig coffee maker (or similar), mini-refrigerator, bar stools or high chairs for a counter, microwave oven, flat-screen television, television stand, DVD/blu-ray player, ping-pong table or other game table. Thank you for helping us fashion a space for our youth, who are not only the future of our parish but also our present!

WHO WANTS BREAKFAST?

Don't forget to stop by Father Greenan Hall TODAY, from 9AM to 12PM for a homemade breakfast for a cause! Tickets are only \$7 for adults and \$5 for children. All proceeds go to support the Mwea School in Kenya. African face-painting, music, raffles, and fun for the whole family! Tickets will be sold at the door.

GET A HEAD-START...

Check out next Sunday's Mass readings in advance of the weekend. Take some time to review and pray over them, and look up anything that might not make sense at first glance. Use a Bible with good footnotes (e.g. New American Bible). The readings for next weekend are: 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12 (First Reading), Psalm 119, Romans 8:28-30 (Second Reading), and Matthew 13:44-52 (Gospel).

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 17, 2011

The Parable of the Wheat and the Weeds



The Gospel passage for this Sunday is composed of three parables, a section in which, like that in last Sunday's Gospel, Jesus explains why he teaches the crowds in parables, and a final section in which Jesus explains the parable of the weeds and the wheat. In

the parable of the weeds and the wheat, the Master surprisingly tells his slaves not to pull up the weeds lest they risk pulling up the wheat, too. Naturally concerned about keeping the field fruitful, the slaves were only asking to perform the practical gardening chore of removing weeds. Yet the Master, whom Jesus later reveals is the Son of Man, teaches them that the wheat and the weeds are to grow together until the harvest. At the time of the harvest, the time of the last judgment, the weeds will face the consequence of the evil they have perpetrated and burn in the fiery furnace. On the other hand, the wheat, a symbol of those who have remained faithful despite the temptation of the evil weeds, will remain forever in the kingdom of heaven. The point about the kingdom in this parable, then, is that until the time of final judgment, wheat and weeds, good and evil, faithful ones and unfaithful ones, will coexist. In the second parable, Jesus shows how the kingdom of heaven grows exponentially by using the symbol of the mustard seed. On average about two millimeters in diameter, this very tiny seed grows to be a small tree in the area of the Holy Land. As the tree looks inviting to the birds of the sky who come to make their home in it, so too the kingdom of heaven is welcoming, opening itself universally to those who choose to believe. In the third parable, the woman mixes yeast with flour and the leavening action of the yeast causes the entire batch to rise. In the Jewish tradition, leaven denoted the propensity of human persons to sin. Yet in this parable, the leavening agent symbolizes God's power. In the First Reading we learn God's power cannot be understood apart from his compassionate justice. This parable, then, shows us that because of this merciful power, the kingdom will grow. This week Jesus' explanation for speaking in parables shows us that Jesus knows the Father's plan, a plan that has been hidden since the beginning of the world. Jesus' words are based on Psalm 78:2, which is attributed to Asaph, although Matthew may be drawing from another source for the quotation. Regardless of the source, Jesus' explanation teaches the crowds that his announcement of the kingdom through parables fulfills the teachings of the prophets. The explanation of the parable of the wheat and the weeds ends with the command for those who have ears to hear, a command which we heard in last week's gospel as well.



This Week

Sunday, July 17

9-12:00 Breakfast Fundraiser (FGC)

7:00pm AA (HBH)

Monday, July 18

7:00pm Festival Meeting to review surveys (MCCR)

Tuesday, July 19

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

Wednesday, July 20

10:00am Book Club Mtg. (HBH)

NEW TRANSLATION COUNTDOWN

19 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/>

WHY DO WE NEED THE NEW TRANSLATION?

Compare last Sunday's Opening Prayer (Collect) from the 1973 version of the Roman Missal with the prayer as it will read in the 2011 Roman Missal: "*God our Father, your light of truth guides us to the way of Christ. May all who follow him reject what is contrary to the gospel*" versus "*O God, who show the light of your truth to those who go astray, so that they may return to the right path, give all who for the faith they profess are accounted Christians the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the name of Christ and to strive after all that does it honor.*" The new translation better portrays the complexity and variety of themes found in the Latin original.

BOOK CLUB

The next Book Club meeting will take place this Wednesday, July 20th at 10:00am in Helen Bouchard Hall located in the basement of the church.

Don't forget to check out our NEW parish website:

<http://stfranciswakefield.com>

IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

POSTURES AND GESTURES AT MASS

In the celebration of Mass we raise our hearts, minds and voices to God, but we are creatures composed of body as well as spirit and so our prayer is not confined to our minds, hearts and voices, but is expressed by our bodies as well. When our bodies participate in our prayer we pray with our whole person, as the embodied spirits God created us to be, and this engagement of our entire being in prayer helps us to pray with greater attention. During Mass we assume different postures: standing, kneeling, sitting, and we are also invited to make a variety of gestures. These postures and gestures are not merely ceremonial. They have profound meaning and, when done with understanding, can enhance our personal participation in Mass. In fact, these actions are the way in which we engage our bodies in the prayer that is the Mass. Each posture we assume at Mass underlines and reinforces the meaning of the action in which we are taking part at that moment in our worship. In addition to serving as a vehicle for the prayer of beings composed of body and spirit, the postures and gestures in which we engage at Mass have another very important function. The Church sees in these common postures and gestures both a symbol of the unity of those who have come together to worship and a means of fostering that unity. We are not free to change these postures to suit our own individual piety, for the Church makes it clear that our unity of posture and gesture is an expression of our participation in the one Body formed by the baptized with Christ, our head. When we stand, kneel, sit, bow and sign ourselves in common action, we give unambiguous witness that we are indeed the Body of Christ, united in heart, mind and spirit.



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.

FOODS/COMMODITIES FOR JULY & AUGUST:

Peanut butter and jelly, cans/jars of veggies, tuna, canned meats, tomato sauce, pasta, fruit juice and snacks. Toilet tissue and paper towels, bug spray and sunblock are also needed. Collections are low so please try to remember to bring some items once a month. As always, thank you for your generosity.

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!



THIS COMING WEEK...

Several high-school and college-aged students from our parish will attend the annual Steubenville East Conference at the Ryan Center at URI. This annual conference brings hundreds of young Catholics together from the entire East Coast to celebrate and deepen their Catholic faith. We are proud that our parish will be well represented at this event! Keep our young people in your prayers!

A NEW YOUTH LEADER IN OUR MIDST...

"Do not let anyone look down on you because of your youth but be an example to others" (1 Timothy 4:12). **Julia Craig**, a parishioner who will be entering her Senior Year at South Kingstown High, recently attended the annual Diocesan Youth Leadership Institute. She spent a week learning and practicing the techniques needed to be a Catholic youth leader (facilitating meetings, promoting events, leading prayer). As a graduate of this program, we will look to Julia to help our parish strengthen our youth ministry programs in the Fall. Congratulations, Julia, and thanks for making us proud!