

THE NATIVITY OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST



Mass Intentions

Saturday, June 23

4:30pm Joseph & Gilda Boragine
Requested by family

Sunday, June 24

8:00am David Halsey
Requested by Kim Dias

10:00am Marjorie Meehan
Requested by Jim & Susan Meehan

12:00nn Rita Travis
Requested by family

Monday, June 25

7:00am Special Intention
Requested by Laurie Friel

Tuesday, June 26

7:00am Anna Mrosek
Requested by Sister Monika

Wednesday, June 27

7:00am Ellen and Edward Flynn
Requested by Fred and Arlene Robinson

Thursday, June 28

7:00am Rev. David Quinn—85th Anniv.
6th Pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church

Friday, June 29

7:00am Marjorie Meehan
Requested by Jim & Susan Meehan

Saturday, June 30

4:30pm Feeny/Robinson families
Requested by family

Sunday, July 1

8:00am Dagmar Pucella Pignataro
Requested by family

10:00am James Denbow
Requested by family

12:00nn Dr. Vincent Turco
Requested by family



St. Romuald Chapel Mass Intentions

Saturday, June 23

5:30pm Thomas & Edward McLaughlin
Requested by family

Sunday, June 24

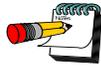
8:00am Mass for the People
10:00am Nina and Louis Argondizzo
Requested by Kathleen Dwyer

Saturday, June 30

5:30pm Robert Brouillette
Requested by family

Sunday, July 1

8:00am Steven Schmidt
Requested by John and Regina Blair
10:00am Louis Agro
Requested by Paula and John Simone



For Your Information

PARISH SUPPORT for June 17th was: Budget-\$8,832; Ongoing Maintenance-\$2,979; Online Giving-\$246 from 12 donors. Next weekend's second offering—Monthly. Thank you for your continued generosity!

SANCTUARY LAMP

This week's sanctuary lamp at St. Francis Church burns as a birthday remembrance for Edie Beaulieu.

TWENTY WEEK CLUB WINNERS

Congratulations to the winners of this week's 20 Week Club drawing:

- **Kathleen Carney—\$25.00**
- **Regina Brannon —\$25.00**

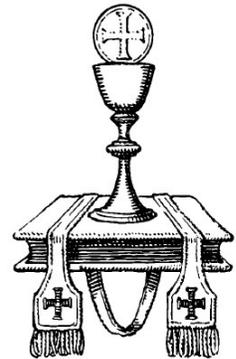
Congratulations! Stay tuned for next week's drawing!

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES!

On Saturday, June 23, three young men were ordained to the priesthood in the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul by Bishop Tobin for service in the Diocese of Providence.

Fr. Ryan Connors, Fr. Francesco Francese and Fr. Christopher Murphy have been configured through the Sacrament of Holy Orders to Christ the Priest. They will teach and instruct the flock entrusted to them and they will celebrate the life-giving sacraments entrusted to the Church by Christ himself.

Take a moment to offer a prayer of thanksgiving for their witness of faith and for their priestly service. Ask the Lord to make them holy and generous, giving them priestly hearts after the heart of Christ himself.



MOTHER OF HOPE CAMP AND SOCCER PROGRAM

Looking for a fun activity for your children as they begin the summer? Look no further. Mother of Hope Camp has been providing safe, fun and activity-filled summers to thousands of children ages 5-12 for more than 60 years! Camp opens June 25 and runs through August 17. Visit www.motherofhopecamp.com for all the details or call 568-3580. New this year, additional Soccer Camp opportunities for youth ages 7-10.



2012 CATHOLIC
CHARITY APPEAL

2012 PARISH GOAL

\$103,000

Week 16—Donations received to date:
\$96,709

94% of goal from 476 gifts

We are still in need of your help to reach our parish goal. Time is running out on this year's Appeal. Please prayerfully consider making a pledge in support of the Catholic Charity Appeal THIS WEEK. A gift in any amount is greatly received and sincerely appreciated. For your convenience, pledge envelopes are available at the entrances of the church and chapel. Thank you.

JUNE 24, 2012

THE CHURCH SUFFERING

What is the “faith-difference”? Should the practice of our beloved Catholic faith have any practical bearing on our day-to-day lives? While we consider these questions from the comfort of our homes, our brothers and sisters in Christ in other parts of the world are sacrificing their lives for the practice of their Christian faith. For them, fidelity to Christ and his Church is a matter of life and death. In less than six months, nearly 600 deaths have been caused in Nigeria by Boko Haram, an association of radical Islamist terrorists. Clearly, the assault on religious freedom takes on varied forms in varied places. While most of the West remains indifferent to the plight of suffering Christians around the globe, a group of Italian politicians recently issued this statement:

We cannot wait for next Sunday. If there remains alive in us even a crumb of humanity and justice, we can't lose a single moment. We have to mobilize ourselves at every level to stop the hunt against Christians which explodes every Sunday in the northern regions of Nigeria. Since the beginning of the year, roughly 600 deaths have been caused by Boko Haram, most of which were assassinated during the Mass and Sunday celebrations.

We deeply admire the courage with which millions of persons, most of them young people, still go to the churches, choosing the freedom to believe and to manifest their faith instead of allowing violence to win. The aim of the terrorists, who act because of the impotence of the government, is to 'purify' the north of Nigeria from any presence which isn't Islamic. The same objective has been pursued in other areas of Africa and of the world, wherever religious ideology becomes a pretext for claiming power without any respect for freedom and human rights.

We cannot be complicit in the basic indifference that surrounds these atrocities and the denial of religious freedom, a principle which applies to every religion, the expression of which is always and everywhere an indispensable value.

How many other Sundays must pass with the rite of bombs and innocent blood?

With this protest, we affirm the will to commit ourselves in every sphere and at all levels so that in Nigeria, in Africa, and in all the world, the killing of unarmed persons guilty solely of professing their Christian faith will stop.

We solicit all men and women of good will, whatever their creed may be, to adhere to this appeal for religious freedom. Only a vast mobilization of public opinion can inspire the highest European and international authorities to resist this murdering hatred.

Please pray for suffering Christians throughout the world. May their example of faith and conviction serve to inspire in us a deeper commitment to cling to Christ and his Church, whatever the consequences.



This Week

Sunday, June 24

7:00pm AA (HBH)

Monday, June 25

7:30am-12nn Adoration (St. Francis)

11am-12nn Divine Mercy (St. Francis)

8:30-11:30am—Vacation Bible School
(LC & FGC)

Tuesday, June 26

8:30-11:30 Vacation Bible School
(LC/FGC)

Wednesday, June 27

8:30-11:30am—Vacation Bible School
(LC & FGC)

Thursday, June 28

2:00pm Mass at Brightview Commons

7:00pm Men of St. Joseph (UR)

7-8:30pm Divine Mercy Cenacle at
Saint Romuald Chapel

THE NATIVITY OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST



Today, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Birth of Saint John the Baptist. Aside from Jesus and the Blessed Virgin Mary, no other saint's birthday is celebrated with a special feast. (The feast commemorating the martyrdom of Saint John the Baptist is celebrated each year on August 29.) The significance of today's celebration is found in the role played by John the Baptist as a kind of bridge between the Old Testament and the New. Like the Old Testament prophets, who spoke boldly and courageously about the centrality of the covenant in the lives of the Israelites, Saint John the Baptist was raised up by the Father to boldly proclaim the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Today, as we celebrate a saint who courageously proclaimed the truth in the face of adversity, even shedding his blood for the cause of the Gospel, we pray for a similar courage to proclaim Jesus as the Lamb of God to the whole world, and to stand by his Church even when it is unpopular to do so.

The Fortnight for Freedom Continues!

Catholic Health Association Modifies Position

Recently, Sr. Carol Keehan of the Catholic Health Association, the largest representative group of Catholic healthcare services in the nation, admitted that the HHS mandate, even with its supposed “accommodation” is **not sufficient** to distance Church-sponsored institutions from services they find morally objectionable. No matter what one makes of the teaching of the Church, it is unconscionable and un-American to force anyone to *pay* for something they are morally opposed to.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What do we mean by religious liberty?

Religious liberty is the first liberty granted to us by God and protected in the First Amendment to our Constitution. It includes more than our ability to go to Mass on Sunday or pray the Rosary at home. It also encompasses our ability to contribute freely to the common good of all Americans.

Why does the Health and Human Services (HHS) mandate to cover contraceptives, including abortion-causing drugs and sterilization, violate religious liberty?

In short, it is the element of government coercion against conscience, and government intrusion into the ordering of Church institutions. As Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, testified to Congress: “This is not a matter of whether contraception may be prohibited by the government. This is not even a matter of whether contraception may be supported by the government. Instead, it is a matter of whether religious people and institutions may be forced by the government to provide coverage for contraception or sterilization, even if that violates their religious beliefs.”

The vast majority of Catholics practice artificial birth control. Some argue that the church is out-of step with modern family realities.

Again, the issue isn’t whether individuals practice artificial birth control. Our teachings may not be popular, but that doesn’t mean that the State can force us to violate our own teachings in our own institutions.

Aren’t you making too much of this “religious freedom” issue?

Religious liberty is a cornerstone of our democracy. The HHS mandate fundamentally alters the fragile balance between government and religious groups created by the framers of our Constitution. The same First Amendment that protects religious freedom protects freedom of the press. We wouldn’t stand for the State telling newspapers or news programs what to write or whom to interview.

The HHS mandate has become a major political issue in the current Presidential campaign. Does opposition to the mandate put the church in league with the Republicans?

No. This is a bipartisan issue that affects all Americans. Legislation to correct this problem has enjoyed bipartisan support in both houses of Congress. We are asking all citizens—Democrats, Republicans, Independents, people of any faith or none at all—to let their views be known to all their elected representatives and to stand up for religious freedom and the First Amendment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
<http://www.usccb.org>
<http://www.faithfulcitizenri.org>



YOU ARE INVITED!

Join us for a Day of Prayer for Religious Liberty at Saint Francis of Assisi

Since June 21, the American Church has been focusing on our American heritage of liberty and our Catholic commitment to evangelizing the culture without political interference. Please join us on **Monday, July 2**, as our parish family concludes our observation of the **Fortnight for Freedom** organized by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. A special **Mass for our Nation** will be celebrated at **7:00AM** in St. Francis Church. **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** will follow immediately and **Eucharistic Adoration** will continue throughout the day. At **12:00NN**, the **Holy Rosary** will be prayed for the preservation of religious freedom. The **Chaplet of Divine Mercy** will be prayed at **3:00PM** in reparation for sins against the dignity of human life. The day of prayer will conclude with a **Liturgy of the Word and Benediction** at **6:00PM**. Please join us during this decisive hour in the history of our nation to pray for the freedom of the Church to teach and preach the Gospel at all times without government interference.

PRAYER FOR THE PROTECTION OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

O God our Creator,
Through the power and working of your Holy Spirit,
you call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world,
bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel
to every corner of society.

We ask you to bless us
in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty.
Give us the strength of mind and heart
to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened;
give us courage in making our voices heard
on behalf of the rights of your Church
and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith.

Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father,
a clear and united voice to all your sons and daughters
gathered in your Church
in this decisive hour in the history of our nation,
so that, with every trial withstood
and every danger overcome—
for the sake of our children, our grandchildren,
and all who come after us—
this great land will always be "one nation, under God,
indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.