

 **MASS INTENTIONS  
FOR THE WEEK**

## *Second Sunday of Easter*

**Saturday, April 22, 2017**  
**4:00 PM** Mary Ellen Pettine – 1<sup>st</sup>  
Anniversary

**Sunday, April 23, 2017**  
**8:30 AM** Sara Matos – 92<sup>nd</sup> Birthday  
**11:00 AM** Margaret Greany

Daily Mass this week will be held on  
Monday through Thursday at 8:00 AM

**Monday, April 24, 2017**  
**8:00 AM**

**Tuesday, April 25, 2017**  
**8:00 AM** Jerry Pereira – 22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary

**Wednesday, April 26, 2017**  
**8:00 AM** People of the Parish

**Thursday, April 27, 2017**  
**8:00 AM** Manuel Ledo

**Friday, April 28, 2017**  
**NO MASS**

## *Third Sunday of Easter*

**Saturday, April 29, 2017**  
**4:00 PM** William & Theresa Davis

**Sunday, April 30, 2017**  
**8:30 AM** People of the Parish  
**11:00 AM**

### ***SANCTUARY CANDLE***

The Sanctuary Candle burns this week *for a  
Family In Need.*

### ***MARIAN CANDLE***

The Marian Candle burns this week in memory of  
*Gladys Taylor.*

### **ALTAR BREADS FOR APRIL**

Are in memory of  
***David Rocha and Linda Rocha***

### **ALTAR WINE FOR APRIL**

Is in memory of  
***Stanley Banalewicz***

## *Today's Hymns*

*Entrance: #77 Christ the Lord, Is Risen Today*

*Preparation: #64 Christ is Arisen*

*Communion: #74 Ye Sons and Daughters*

*Meditation #493 We Walk By Faith*

*Recessional: #69 Alleluia! Alleluia*

### **STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE**

*God has taught us that you cannot love without  
giving. That giving includes giving of our time,  
talent and treasure.*

**Weekend Collection** \$2,519.30

**Retired & Infirm Priest** \$2,013.43

The second collection this week will be for the  
Renovation Fund. *Thank you for your support.*

### **FATIMA'S 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

Living the Fatima Message invites you to: **Say Yes to Mary: Fatima's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM sponsored by Bishop Connolly High School** located at 373 Elsbree St., Fall River, MA. Discover how you can live Our Lady's "peace plan" through a Living Rosary, Eucharistic Adoration and Confession. Learn to make your own rosary. Glimpse into Our Lady's life through art and performance. Listen to reflection on answering her call from Rwandan genocide survivor Fr. Leonard Kayondo and learn from keynote speaker Fr. Thaddeus Lancton, MIC of the Divine Mercy Shrine in Stockbridge. Join us May 6<sup>th</sup> for any part or for the entire program. No admission fee. The full schedule can be located on [facebook.com/livingfatima](https://www.facebook.com/livingfatima) – click events or email [livingfatima@gmail.com](mailto:livingfatima@gmail.com) or call #781-521-3677.

### **BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT**

This is a group to help people cope with the loss of a loved one. Losing someone we love truly hurts, leaving us with so many unanswered questions and a multitude of conflicting emotions. Fall River Area Bereavement Group will be meeting beginning **May 16<sup>th</sup> - June 20<sup>th</sup>, July 18<sup>th</sup> - August 29<sup>th</sup>, September 26<sup>th</sup> - November 7<sup>th</sup> 2017.** This group meets every Tuesday from 7-9 PM for seven weeks at the Catholic Education Center, 423 Highland Ave., Fall River, MA. For more information call #508-678-2828 Ext. 27 or call #508-642-0583. There is no fee to participate. Parking is available adjacent to the building. **All are welcome.**

**FAITH FORMATION**  
**Religious Education**  
**FIRST COMMUNION PROGRAM**

**First Communion Rehearsal Dates** – Saturday, April 29, 2017 and Saturday, May 6, 2017 from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM in the Church.

**Sacrament of First Communion** – Sunday, May 7, 2017 during the 11:00 AM Mass.

**SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION**

The **Sacrament of Confirmation** will be held on **Sunday, April 30, 2017 at 2:00PM** in our parish. Confirmation Students from our parish and those of St. John of God, St. Louis de France and St. Patrick of Somerset will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation here. The celebrant will be Bishop Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V.

**CONFIRMATION REHEARSAL DATES**

*\*Monday, April 24, 2017\**

*Candidates Only*

*at St. Thomas More Church at 6:30PM*

*\*Thursday, April 27, 2017\**

*Candidates and Sponsors*

*at St. Thomas More Church at 6:30PM*

**ADULT ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED**

We are in need of Adult Altar Servers for weekday masses. If you think you might be interested in this Ministry, please speak with Msgr. Fitzgerald or call the Rectory at 508-673-7831. Thank you.

**Funeral Ministry Volunteers Needed**

Please consider joining this wonderful ministry that by greeting and serving those families who have lost a loved one. We are looking for adults who would be able to serve at funerals or be greeters at funeral masses. If you are interested, please call the Rectory at 508-673-7831.

**VOCATION PETITION**

For all the priests, deacons, and religious, of the Diocese of Fall River, that they will be blessed and will inspire men and women to a vocation to the priesthood and consecrated life.

***STM Dinner Club***  
***Next Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>!***

**Cocktails 6 - 7 PM and Dinner @ 7:00 PM**

**Please return your meal order as soon as possible.** The dinner-dance will be held **Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>** at the Venus de Milo Restaurant. There will be various raffles at the dinner; we are in need of gifts!

**Gifts are needed for the raffle. Please consider donating a basket or a gift. Also, a popular raffle prize is the lottery scratch tickets. Please consider making a donation of lottery scratch tickets or money to purchase them for the raffle.** Any donations for the raffle can be placed in an envelope and drop in the collection basket or can be dropped off at the rectory. Please help; the raffle makes chances more fun and the proceeds will help the parish. If you have any questions, please contact the Rectory at 508-673-7831.

**SVDP MEETING**

The next St. Vincent de Paul Society meeting will be held in the parish center on Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM.

**PARISH SURVEY UPDATE**

The Parish Council and the Survey Task force members met on Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss the survey results of our parish. Overall, we graded in the mid-range in all aspects of the survey. One area that was noted for improving was informing parishioners of the ministries that are offered as well as communications of the daily functions of the parish operations. An idea on how to inform parishioners of the happenings of the parish is to write up brief explanations of the various ministries in our parish. Each Ministry will be highlighted to help inform you of what the parish has to offer. The survey also showed that many parishioners are unaware of the hospitality and welcoming of new members and how the Pastor welcomes them. Bulletin inserts will be featured highlighting the various ministries and happenings of our parish. Our parish is a strong and welcoming community which can be enhanced by more volunteers joining and strengthening our church. Thank you to all who participated in responding to the survey. Your input was very important and very much appreciated.



## **CHURCH ORGAN**

As you all are aware, our church organ is no longer working. It cannot be repaired because there are no parts available due to the age of the organ. It is an analog type organ which is now obsolete. This organ was purchased by many generous contributions from parishioners back in 1983. Kyle Medeiros, Director of Music, was able to locate a similar but digital, newer version organ from the same company we purchased our current one as well as the same company that has been servicing this organ. This is an organ that has been completely refurbished and comes with a warranty. The cost for the organ, complete installation and removal of the old organ will be \$32,000. I discussed this with the Parish Council and they all agreed that I pursue permission from the Bishop to purchase this using money from our Renovation Account. I asked the Bishop and he has given me permission and I will proceed with the contract to purchase the new organ. Anyone willing to make a donation of any size as a gift or as a memorial in memory of a loved one is asked to do so and will be most welcomed and appreciated. **Envelopes marked Church Organ Fund are available at the entrances of the church.** If there are any questions please call me at the Rectory at 508-673-7831. Thank you.

### **SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER OR SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY**

#### **First Reading: Acts 2:42-47**

In the early days of the Church in Jerusalem, the faithful listened intently to the teachings of the apostles. They lived a communal life, sharing all property in common and praying and taking their meals together.

#### **Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9**

In this first letter from Peter, he speaks to the Christians with great joy and confidence, reminding them that through Christ's resurrection, they have been given a new birth and are heirs to the kingdom of heaven.

#### **Gospel: John 20:19-31**

After his resurrection, Jesus appears to his disciples and gives them the power to forgive sins. Thomas, who is absent, sees Christ later and believes in His resurrection after feeling His wounds. Christ admonishes Thomas by saying, "You became a believer because you saw Me. Blessed are they who have not seen and believed."

**HIS WORD TODAY** by Rev. William J. Reilly

#### **Second Sunday of Easter or Sunday of Divine Mercy April 23, 2017**

**"They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers... All who believed were together and had all things in common... Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes... and every day the Lord added to their numbers."**

Such a description seems 'too good to be true' but this is the description of the first disciples of the Lord. The teaching of the apostles, the kerygma, telling of the resurrection of Jesus and His victory gave their discipleship new meaning. Like a family, they formed a support group, sharing joy, as well as fears, anxieties and triumphs because Christ was alive. The Eucharist became the common bond, uniting them with Christ and one another. Prayer became a binding force.

Can I not see that my life in my parish, my small group, is a mirror of those described by St. Luke or of those gathered in the upper room? Can the presence of Christ in my life, lead me to recognize His presence in others? Can I truly believe that I am not alone in my faith and move from 'God and me' to 'God and we?' On Divine Mercy Sunday, it can happen.