



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

First Sunday of Lent

Saturday, February 17, 2018
4:00 PM Irene & Arthur Shea

Sunday, February 18, 2018
8:30 AM Natalia Cabral
11:00 AM For the People of the Parish

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

Monday, February 19, 2018
HOLIDAY – NO MASS
OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, February 20, 2018
8:00 AM John A. Coady, Jr.

Wednesday, February 21, 2018
8:00 AM John & Esther Butler
6:00 PM Atty. Frank A. Rodrigues -
 5th Anniversary

Thursday February 22, 2018
8:00 AM

Friday, February 23, 2018
NO MASS

Second Sunday of Lent

Saturday, February 24, 2018
4:00 PM For the People of the Parish

Sunday, February 25, 2018
8:30 AM John C. O'Brien - Anniversary
11:00 AM Lucille Franco – 1st Anniversary

PASCHAL-EASTER CANDLE

The new Paschal-Easter Candle has been donated in memory of *Gilbert & Eleanor Leonard*. This candle is used during the Easter Season, for funerals and Baptisms, and is located throughout the year at the Baptismal Font.



In Loving Memory

We extend our prayers and sympathy to the family and friends of *Barbara J. Burluson* who died last week.

Adult Faith Formation Series

The sessions are at Holy Name School, 850 Pearce St., Fall River at **6:30 PM on Wednesdays, February 21, March 7, 14, and 21**. The program **Seven Deadly Sins and Seven Lively Virtues** will be the latest topics. People of all ages are most welcome. For more information call #50/8-678-7532.

Today's Hymns

Entrance: Forty Days and Forty Nights #126
Preparation: Led By the Spirit #124
Communion: Have Mercy on Us, Lord #118
Meditation: Seek Ye First #436
Recessional: Again We Keep This Solemn Fast #120

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Weekend Collection	\$ 1,893.20
Renovation Fund Collection	\$ 1,351.38
Organ Collection to date	\$28,050.00
20/20 Raffle ticket sales to date	\$ 1,680.00
Month of January E-Giving	\$ 1,290.54
Assessment to date	\$ 4,889.00
Expenses from December, 2017–February, 2018	
Snow Removal	\$ 7,888.50
Heating for the Church	\$ 5,565.42
Heating for the Rectory	\$ 2,480.39
There will be a Special Collection this weekend for the Catholic University of America & Other Institutions of Higher Learning.	

LENTEN REGULATIONS

All adults 18 and up to the beginning of their 60th year are bound by the laws of fast. On days of fast, one full meatless meal is to be eaten. The other two meals should be meatless and together should not equal a full meal. There are **two prescribed days of fast: Ash Wednesday, and Good Friday, March 30th**. Those who are 14 years of age and older are obliged to observe the law of abstinence from meat. **Abstinence from meat is prescribed on all Fridays of Lent, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.**

LENTEN MASSES

Please note that **there will still be daily Mass at 8:00 A.M.** and the Rosary will be said before the morning mass.

EVENING MASS

A mass will be held each Wednesday during Lent at **6:00PM on the following dates February 21st, 28th and March 7th, 14th and 21st, 2018**. Hopefully this will enable all to attend a Mass during the week during the Lenten season.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

“The kingdom of God is at hand.” As we begin Lent, let us try to bring the kingdom of God to our marriages by attending a Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are Mar 9-11, 2018 in Duxbury, MA and Apr 21-22, 2018 in Brewster, MA. For more information, call 800-710-9963 or visit <https://wwmema.org/>.

FAITH FORMATION 2018

FIRST COMMUNION PROGRAM DATES

First Communion Rehearsal Dates – Saturday, April 28, 2018 and Saturday, May 5, 2018 from *10:00 AM to 11:30 AM in the Church.

First Communion – Sunday, May 6, 2018 during the 11:00 AM Mass.

Sacrament of Confirmation

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be held on Sunday, April 8, 2018 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.

REHEARSAL DATES FOR CONFIRMATION

Monday, April 2nd from 6:30 – 7:30 PM –

Candidates only

Thursday, April 5th from 6:30 – 7:30 PM –

Candidates and Sponsors

ALTAR SERVERS SIGN-UP

Any boy or girl in grades 3 & up, public or Catholic school, who is interested in becoming an Altar Server, should complete an Altar Server sign-up form. Sign-up forms are available from your Religious Education Teacher and are also available at the entrance of the church. **This is a great opportunity for our youth to serve their parish community!** Training sessions will be scheduled at a later date.

Annual Fall River Area Lenten Mission

The theme of this year's Mission is "The Temptations of Christ In 2018". The Mission will take place from February 26- March 1st. Each evening will begin at 7:00 PM with Mass and the Mission talk preceded by the availability of the Sacrament of Reconciliation at 6:00 PM. The designated locations are Monday, February 26th, St. Bernadette Parish, Fall River, Tuesday, February 27th, St. John of God Parish, Somerset; Wednesday, February 28th St. Bernard Parish, Assonet and Thursday, March 1st, St. Anthony of the Desert Parish, Fall River.

STM DINNER CLUB

Congratulations to October, November and December \$25.00 Winners!

October

#2161 Ronald Bruneau
#73A John Coyle
#162 Edward Cote

November

#1916 Elvio Ferreira
#38A Cornelia Burgmyer
#351 Dolores Highsmith

December – #869 Michael Stubbs,

#87A Virginia Bradbury and #63A Linda Reidy

20/20 RAFFLE

We have sold 84 tickets that have brought in \$1,680 to date. Tickets are on sale before and after each mass. **This raffle is a fund-raiser for our church renovation fund and will help with the costly snow removal and heating bills this winter. Tickets are \$20 each. There will be one lucky winner! The winning ticket will be drawn on March 18, 2018 after the 11 o'clock mass.** The winner is guaranteed \$1,000 or 20% of what is totally collected, whichever is larger. You may drop your ticket and donation in the collection basket. Thank you to all who participate.

AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, we invite you to join in our Lenten Program. "At the Foot of the Cross: Stewardship of Time, Talent, Treasure and Prayer". Time & Talent offers each person the opportunity to think about how their individual gifts and talent can be used to serve the parish community. Our Treasure (Almsgiving) will go to the St. Thomas More St. Vincent de Paul Society. **Please make checks payable to St. Thomas More.** Prayer Petitions may be written on papers provided. Special papers, Almsgiving envelopes and talent sheets are available at the entrances of the church and will be available throughout Lent. Prayer petitions and talent sheets should be placed in their respective purple boxes at the foot of the cross. **There are Time & Talent sheets available at both entrances to the Church.**



We are a light to each other

OPERATION RICE BOWL

As we begin our Lenten journey, you are invited to participate in *Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl*. Throughout Lent we will pray, fast, learn and give as a way to reach out in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world. Please take home a Rice Bowl packet available at each entrance.

ST. THOMAS MORE RETIREES CLUB

There will be a celebration of St. Patty's Day on **Thursday, March 15^h** at Kent's Restaurant at Noon, serving corn beef and cabbage. Members and Non-Members are welcome. Prices to be determined. To make reservations, please call Eileen #774-526-0811.

Prayer Shawl Knitting Ministry

There will be a meeting on **Tuesday, February 20th at 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM in the rectory meeting**

Ministries at St. Thomas More Church

The Altar Server Ministry



Dear Parishioners,

This is the first in our series of “information sheets” on the various pastoral ministries at our church. This sheet details the duties of our Altar Server Ministry—both the youngsters who cover weekend masses and the adult servers who handle daily mass.

If you would like to become involved in any of the parish ministries, I invite you to speak with me after mass or at the rectory. Or, if you prefer, you may contact one of the members of whatever ministry you are interested in. Either way, I look forward to your participation in the richly rewarding work of our church ministries.

At St. Thomas More Church, the Altar Server Ministry is made up of two categories—the boys and girls who serve the Saturday and Sunday masses, and the adult men and women who serve the weekday masses.

For the youngsters, the Altar Server Ministry is open to all boys and girls who are in Grades 3 and up in either public, private, or Catholic school. Each year, a new class of Altar Servers is recruited during February. Volunteers are given several training sessions and are then commissioned during a mass in March. Once commissioned, the new Altar



Servers are soon scheduled to serve a mass about once a month. For their first few masses, they are paired with an experienced Altar Server so that they can feel at ease. Any boy or girl who is interested in becoming an Altar Server should complete an Altar Server sign-up form. These forms are available from Religious Education Teachers and also at the main entrance of the church.

The men and women of the adult Altar Servers group usually serve one morning mass per week. This group includes husband and wife teams, as well as individual servers. Their duties, in addition to serving the mass and assisting with communion, include opening the church on their



assigned morning and setting up for mass (lights, sound system, candles, offertory gifts, etc.). One of the adult Altar Servers also performs lector duties at mass. After mass, the servers secure the church, putting away all mass implements, extinguishing lights and candles, locking doors, etc.

If you think you would like to join the Adult Server ministry, please speak with Msgr. Fitzgerald or contact the rectory. Serving morning mass is an ideal way to start your day.