

Easter Sunday

Saturday, March 31, 2018
NO 4:00 PM MASS
7:30 PM EASTER VIGIL
 John Donnelly, Jr.
 For the People of the Parish

Sunday, April 1, 2018
8:30 AM Mona Medeiros – 12th Anniversary
11:00 AM Olivia & Gerald Barboza, Alvaro
 Oliveira & Special Intention for all
 Deceased Family Members

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

Monday, April 2, 2018
8:00 AM Joseph Mulready

Tuesday, April 3, 2018
8:00 AM

Wednesday, April 4, 2018
8:00 AM

Thursday, April 5, 2018

Friday, April 6, 2018
NO MASS

Second Sunday of Easter

Saturday, April 7, 2018
4:00 PM Linda A. Mizher

Sunday, April 8, 2018
8:30 AM Walter Prayzner – 5th Anniversary
11:00 AM Arlene Hebert

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 throughout the year.

Mass & Music Missalettes

Mass/Music Missalettes for **2018** are available for reserving in memory of a loved one. If interested, please contact the Rectory 508-673-7831.



Happy Easter!

Today's Hymns

Entrance: Jesus Christ is Risen Today #159

Preparation: Christ Is Alive #158

Communion: Worthy Is the Lamb #574

Recessional: Alleluia Let the Holy Anthem Rise #167

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Weekend Collection	\$ 2,378.00
Renovation Fund	\$ 3,355.92
Organ Collection to date	\$ 28,100.00
Expenses from December, 2017– March, 2018	
Snow Removal	\$ 11,069.30
Heating for the Church	\$ 5,565.42
Heating for the Rectory	\$ 2,480.39

On Easter Sunday the Special Collection will be for the Retired & Infirm Priests. Thank you for your continued support.

Thank You

Thank you to all parishioners who participated in Holy Week. Special thanks also to the many people in all the parish ministries, the Altar Servers, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Music Director Kyle Medeiros, the Choir and the musician who helped make our **Holy Week Liturgies** beautiful celebrations. Also, thank you to the parishioners who participated in the Washing of the Feet during Holy Thursday service and to the Collectors, Michael Fitzpatrick, Director of Religious Education, the Religious Education Teachers and students who participated. Thank you to all. Alleluia, Christ has Risen, Alleluia!

RESERVING of MASSES OR CANDLES

Anyone wishing to reserve a Mass, Sanctuary Candle, Marian Candle or Sacred Heart Candle in memory of a loved one, please call the rectory at 508-673-7831

ALTAR BREADS AND ALTAR WINE

Altar Breads and Altar Wine are available for reserving on a monthly basis for anyone wishing to donate in memory of a loved one. Contact the Rectory to make arrangements 508-673-7831.

FAITH FORMATION 2018

Religious Education

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

First Communion

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

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

STM Dinner Club

Next Saturday, April 7th!

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 7th** at the Venus de Milo Restaurant. There will be various raffles at the dinner; we are in need of gifts!

Gifts are still 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. 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.

ST. THOMAS MORE RETIREES CLUB

There will be a meeting of the St. Thomas More Retirees Club on **Thursday, April 19, 2018 at 1:00 PM in the Parish Center.** New members are always welcome.

REBUILDING in FAITH and HOPE

What are your hopes and dreams for our Diocese?

Share them at a Listening Session with Bishop da Cunha.

Come and share your hopes and dreams for our Church! Bishop Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., is hosting a series of Listening Sessions at different parish locations as part of the strategic planning process here in the Fall River Diocese. Members of diocesan parishes are invited to attend one of them to offer their thoughts into that process. A listening Session is scheduled for **April 12th at St. Mary Cathedral, Fall River from 6:30 – 8:00 PM.**

“AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS”

Our Lenten Program, “At the Foot of the Cross: Stewardship of Time, Talent, Treasure and Prayer” has finished. It is **not too late** to participate in any of these stewardship opportunities. **We are all valuable to our church by either volunteering for a ministry, helping wherever help is needed in the parish or by the stewardship of treasure where your donations will help the St. Vincent de Paul Society help those who are less fortunate.** Please consider taking part in this. Thank you.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Meeting

The next St. Vincent de Paul Society meeting will be held in the parish center on Thursday, April 17th at 6:00PM.

FOOD PANTRY

The SVDP Pantry is low on soup, canned vegetables and baked beans. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

There will be a meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry on **Tuesday, April 3, 2018, at 9:30AM in the rectory meeting room.** New knitters and crocheters are always welcome.



Thank you to **Sue Lima** and all the **Decorating Volunteers** for the beautiful decorating for Easter. You always make the church look beautiful! Volunteers, please watch for the bulletin announcement for the un-decorating date!



Diocese of Fall River
Office of the Bishop
Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D.

Bishop da Cunha's 2018 Lenten Message

**Why should we do Penance and make sacrifice?
Is the acceptance of the inevitable suffering something we can learn to deal with?**

Dear Friends,

Many of us remember - maybe even with some nostalgia - when Lent was a time of real Penance and sacrifice. The Church still teaches us that Lent is a special time of conversion; that Penance and sacrifice are essential practices to help us in the process of change, which leads to sanctification. Obviously, Penance and sacrifice are not limited to the practice of Fasting and Abstinence - although these are good and practical ways to incorporate sacrifices into our daily lives. This is not meant to indicate that our spirit is good or our body is bad. However, bodily discipline and some sacrifices are good for spirit and body. When we fail to recognize our need for sacrifice, we fail to acknowledge our need for conversion. Sacrifices are not meant to be an end in themselves; they are always meant as a means to conversion and sanctification.

Lent is a time to remember all that Jesus did for us and to acknowledge all He was willing to suffer for us. By accepting and embracing our own sufferings, we share in the sufferings of Christ, so that we can also share in His Resurrection. But who wants to suffer? No one likes to face suffering. We do all we can to avoid suffering. We try to eat well, exercise, visit the doctor, have our annual check-up; all this to avoid sickness and suffering. However, we also know that we cannot fully avoid suffering. No one is immune to the evils that surround us and no one is exempt from the suffering that befalls us. One of the greatest problems of humanity is to learn how to suffer. Do we realize that suffering can also be a path to happiness, fulfillment, transformation and Salvation?

No one is ready to accept suffering until they know the good it does. Since suffering is unavoidable, we might as well learn to accept it and discover its value. "The one who faces suffering for itself is a masochist, the one who suffers for a superior ideal is a wise person" (Huberto Rohden). That is what Jesus did and taught us to do. Don't suffer aimlessly. Jesus knew that His sufferings were not useless; He knew that He was saving the world through His suffering. That is why He was able to accept it lovingly and peacefully. "Son though He was, He learned obedience from what He suffered; and when He was made perfect, He became the source of eternal Salvation for all who obey Him" (Hebrews 5:8). The one who rebels against suffering faces two evils instead of one.

When, like Jesus, we learn how to make our sufferings meaningful and redemptive; when we learn how to offer our sufferings to God as an oblation, as a sacrifice, as a prayer for us and for others, our sufferings will be easier to bear. As St. Paul tells us in his letter to the Romans, "we even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope" (Romans 5:3-4).

Let us keep the Spirit of Lent alive in our families, our homes, our parishes, our schools and in our own lives. Let us keep the Spirit of Sacrifice, and let us teach our children the value of making Penance and sacrifice during Lent. Let us all take time during Lent to pray together as a family so that the future generations will not forget that Jesus suffered and died to save us.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V.
Bishop of Fall River

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