

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, July 23rd

Vigil: 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 PM Open Intention
by

Sunday, July 24th

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM Open Intention
by

10:30 AM M. Joseph (13 yr.) & Geraldine Battista (1 yr.)
by their daughter Cindy Merrill & Family

12:30 PM Parishioners

Monday, July 25th

St. James, Apostle

8:00 AM NO MASS
Fr. Juan Away

Tuesday, July 26th

Saints Joachim & Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 AM NO MASS
Fr. Juan Away

Wednesday, July 27th

8:00 AM NO MASS
Fr. Juan Away

Thursday, July 28th

8:00 AM NO MASS
Fr. Juan Away

Friday, July 29th

St. Martha

8:00 AM NO MASS

Saturday, July 30th

Vigil: 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 PM David Papa (1st Anniversary)
by his mom Anna & family

Sunday, July 31st

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM Open Intention
by

10:30 AM Stanley Howe, Jr.
by his wife Nancy & Family

11:45 AM BAPTISM: Amber Carbone

12:30 PM Parishioners



St. Anthony Candle Intention:
*For the private intentions of
Irene Rojas*

July 23 - 24, 2022

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." (Luke 11:9) Jesus assures us that if we ask, God will take care of what we need. The problem is that our culture often confuses what we really need with what we simply want. The truth is that many of us need very little. However, we usually want so much more! Stewardship is simply being grateful for all that we are and all that we have been given, and generously sharing all of our God-given gifts with others. Generosity is a gift that opens doors to new relationships with others and with God.

READ AND PREPARE

Next Week's Scripture readings

First Reading Ecclesiastes 1:2; -2:21-23
Second Reading Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11
Gospel Luke 12:13-21

PARISH CALENDAR, NEWS EVENTS

Madonna della Cava Meetings will be held on Monday evenings at 6:00 pm in the church hall through Monday, August 8th. Can't attend the meetings but want to help out? We are in need of baked goods. Please contact Patty Vacca-Martin at **978-345-5936**. If needed, leave your name and phone # and Patty will get back to you ASAP.

Summer Office Hours in Effect:

Monday – Wednesday from 9-1. The office remains closed on Thursday & Friday.

Fr. Juan returns Thursday, July 28th. Reminder that there will be no weekday morning Masses this week. Please keep Fr. Juan in your prayers that he have a safe flight and returns refreshed.

To All Parishioners & Visitors – We kindly ask that you do not leave pamphlets, brochures, flyers, prayer cards, books or other items at the entrances of the church, or on the bulletin boards without Fr. Juan's prior approval. We have limited space and strive to keep the entrances looking clean. Thank you!

Weekly Envelopes – Do you currently receive weekly envelopes for your church donations but don't use them? Perhaps you put loose cash in the collection baskets? While we are happy to accept your donation in any form and appreciate it, we currently send out envelopes to 325 families each month but on average we receive up to 95 weekly returns. This is not very cost effective. We ask that you please use your envelopes or contact us to discontinue sending them to you. Thank you.



Please consider St. Anthony Parish when making a monetary donation in memory of a loved one. Checks can be made payable to St. Anthony Church and include "IMO" in the note area. We will acknowledge your gift and notify the family of your donations. Thank you.

Dear Friends,

Luke gives more attention to Jesus' teachings on prayer than any other Gospel writer. He also mentions Jesus at prayer more than the others. In today's reading, from the beginning of Chapter 11 of his Gospel, Luke presents the core of Jesus' teaching on prayer. It consists of Jesus teaching prayer to his disciples, a parable on the persistent neighbor, and assurances that God hears our prayers.

The disciples notice Jesus praying "in a certain place." They ask him to teach them to pray just as John the Baptist had taught his disciples. Jesus teaches them a simple version of the most famous Christian prayer, the Our Father, or the Lord's Prayer. Matthew's version shows signs of being shaped by public prayer. Luke's version is probably closer to the original form that Jesus taught. Stripped of much of the language we are used to, Luke's version seems simple and direct. We pray that God's name will be recognized as holy and that his rule over all will be established. This is followed by petitions for our needs for bread, forgiveness, and for deliverance. Luke uses the more theological language of "sins" rather than "debts," which is used in Matthew's version.

Having taught his disciples a simple, daily prayer, Jesus goes on to reassure them that God answers prayers. First, he tells a parable about a persistent neighbor who asks a friend for bread at midnight. The friend is already in bed and has no desire to disturb his family by opening the door. But because the neighbor is persistent, the sleeping man gets up and gives him all that he needs. If a neighbor is willing to help us if we are persistent enough, how could God not respond to our requests?

This teaching concludes with the reminder that if we seek, we will get a response. If a human father, with all his faults, knows how to give good gifts to his children, how much more will our heavenly Father give us? Instead of good gifts, however, Luke substitutes the word *Holy Spirit*. This foreshadows the gift of the Holy Spirit, who is central to Luke's theology and who will play an important role in the growth of the early Church after Pentecost.

The parable and the concluding teaching in this section should not lead us to think of prayer as a series of requests presented to God. Rather, as Jesus teaches in his model prayer, prayer consists in recognizing God's holiness and his rule over all things.

Blessings,
Fr Juan

Personal Hygiene Collection for Catholic Charities is Ongoing.

Please bring one or two items and place them in the collection bins at the entrances of the church. Suggested Items Needed: Shampoo, conditioner, shaving cream, soap, body wash, small packs of tissues, deodorant (men & woman's), toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash, hand sanitizer, lotion, toilet paper, diapers, baby wash, baby lotion.

Food Pantry Collection for St. Francis is ongoing. Please bring any nonperishable items when you can. If this is something that you have never done before, please strongly consider it. Even one or two items a month makes a huge difference to the people the pantry serves. The collection bin is located at the entrance of the church. The St Francis Food Pantry is open every week to the public so there is always much needed.

St. Anthony Shrine Candle Reminder: Did you know we have candles available for you at our St. Anthony Shrines? If you have special intentions or remembrances of someone dear to you, we offer St. Anthony candles. Our outside shrine candle(s) is \$5- and is a private intention, not in the bulletin. Our single candle inside the church, in front of St. Anthony statue, is \$10 and the intention is printed in the bulletin. It is lit weekly on a rotating basis as space is available. **Please do not request specific dates as this is not intended to be used in the place of our Mass Intentions.** Candles outside will be lit the day the request is made, and the candle inside will be lit in the order the requests are made. Both candles burn for 7 days. Please call the office to place your request.

Person, Empathy and Spirituality, according to St. Edith Stein. Fr. Thiago Ibiapina, who has studied the work of St. Edith Stein extensively, will be offering a presentation on her insights about

the human person, empathy and spirituality on **Monday, August 8th at 6:30 p.m. at Annunciation Parish in the Lower Church hall at Holy Rosary 135 Nichols St. Gardner MA.**

135th Annual Novena to St. Anne - July 18 – 26 - Theme: "They shall bear fruit even in old age" (Psalm 92:15) - In celebration of the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. *The theme "intends to emphasize how grandparents and the elderly are a value and a gift both for society and for ecclesial communities."* **Novena Schedule July 18 to 25:** 5:30pm Confessions at St. Anne Church Sacristy; 6:30 PM Rosary Procession from the Generations Statue in front of the Gift Shop; 7:00 PM Novena Mass at the Outdoor Pavilion. **Feast Day Schedule July 26:** 11:00 AM Mass with Anointing of the Sick – Fr. Luc Martel, AA; 4:30 PM Confessions at St. Anne Church Sacristy; 5:30 PM Rosary Procession from the Generations Statue; 6:00 PM Feast Day Mass at the Outdoor Pavilion with **Cardinal Seán Patrick O'Malley, OFM Cap.,** Celebrant and Homilist.

ITALIAN FESTIVAL 2022 - After two years, the Italian Festival at **Our Lady of Mt. Carmel & Our Lady of Loreto Parish is back!** **Thursday, August 11 (5pm-10pm), Friday, August 12 (5pm-11pm), Saturday, August 13 (noon - 11 pm) and Sunday, August 14 (noon -6pm),** at 37 Massasoit Rd., Worcester. Admission is \$2. Bouncy houses and face painting for the kids. Wonderful live music each night for all to enjoy. Fried dough, ITALIAN COOKIES, food options from local restaurants and much, much more. Please come and join us as we bring our parish community and neighbors together to share in our heritage and traditions. Mark your calendars now and come celebrate with us!