

St. Roch Parish

Sister Parish ~ St. Anne of Chardonnières

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Mark 1:17

Monnet

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, January 20, 2018

4:00 PM Pete & Pat Carbonneau by Dan & Cindy Carbonneau

Sunday, January 21, 2018

8:30 AM Elizabeth Rodier Mokrzecki by husband Stanley

11:00 AM Beatrice, Thomas and Elizabeth Rodier by the family

Monday, January 22, 2018

8:30 AM No Mass

Tuesday, January 23, 2018

8:30 AM No Mass

Wednesday, January 24, 2018

8:30 AM No Mass

Thursday, January 25, 2018

8:30 AM No Mass

Friday, January 26, 2018

8:30 AM No Mass

Saturday, January 27, 2018

4:00 PM Bobby DeJesus by his father

Sunday, January 28, 2018

8:30 AM Barbara Hoyle by sister Marian

11:00 AM Mary Paquette by Gerda Rusnica

Neighboring Parish Weekday Masses:

St. Joseph, Webster—7:00 am

St. Louis, Webster—7:00 am

Sacred Heart of Jesus, Webster—8:00 am

St. Ann, North Oxford—8:30 am

Scripture Readings

Sunday, January 21

Jon 3:1-5, 10

1 Cor 7:29-31

Mk 1:14-20

Monday, January 22

1 Sm 15:16-23, Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday, January 23

2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19

Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday, January 24

2 Sm 7:4-17

Mk 4:1-20

Thursday, January 25

Acts 22:3-16

Mk 16:15-18

Friday, January 26

2 Tm 1:1-8, Mk 4:26-34

Saturday, January 27

2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17

Mk 4:35-41

Sunday, January 28

Dt 18:15-20

1 Cor 7:32-35

Mk 1:21-28

PARISH DIRECTORY

334 Main St., Oxford, MA 01540

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 Religious Education Office.....(508) 987-2382

Pastor **Rev. Michael J. Roy**
 Deacon **Rev. Mr. Paul Connolly**
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 Email: strochrectory@gmail.com
 Director of Music **Ms. Anna Pizzolato**
 St. Vincent de Paul Society..... **Arlene (508) 987-2813**
 CemeteryContact rectory at (508) 987-8987

Mass Schedule

Saturday: 4:00 PM

Sunday: 8:30 & 11:00 AM

Monday, Wednesday,

Thursday, Friday 8:30 AM

(the fourth Wednesday of the month

Fr. Roy has Mass at St. Paul's Cathedral—no Mass here)

Confessions: 3:00 PM Saturday or anytime on request.

Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday 8:30-4

Pastoral Care: All the time

WEBSITE: strochoxford.com

EMAILS:

Teri Rawson—Rectory Office: strochrectory@gmail.com

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Your Sacrificial Offering January 13 & 14

Offertory Envelopes (142)	\$ 4,227.00
Loose Money	288.00
Fuel	1,507.00
Other sources of income	330.00
Total	6,352.00
Weekly Goal	5,582.00
Result	Thank You! + 770.00



There will be a second collection next weekend, **January 27 & 28** for *The Catholic Home Missions Appeal*. Thank you for your generosity.

The Catholic Free Press

Please consider renewing or beginning your subscription in the month of February!

A full year subscription is only \$30! When you subscribe you are not only receiving a quality weekly newspaper you are also supporting St. Roch Parish as we are charged an annual assessment. Your envelope may be placed in any collection basket. Extra envelopes are available at the entrances of the church. *Thank you for your support!*

ALL Recent & Past Light of the World Retreatants

Are cordially invited to a New Year's Get-Together!

Sunday, February 11, 2018 at noon in the Parish Hall
 (Rescheduled from January 6th)

A light lunch will be served.

RSVP 508-987-2382 or 508-987-8987 by Feb. 7th.



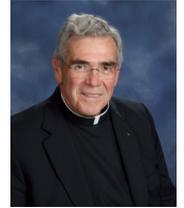
*From the
Pastor's
Desk*

The Readings for next Sunday, January 28, 2018

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

Mark 1:21-28



My dear Parishioners,

I am happy to be back sharing with you these reflections from the book the Bishop gave to all his priests, Fr. John Burns' Lift Up Your Heart, a ten day personal retreat based on the writings of St. Francis de Sales. The second meditation is called, "The End for Which We Were Created."

A challenging thought: God does not need us. No matter how important the things we do may seem and how massive the stresses and responsibilities before us feel, God can do just fine without us. But He chose not to. God prefers to do many things with and through us rather than without us. We tend to think too much of ourselves, give ourselves too much credit, and so also give ourselves too much apparent responsibility. God can do it! God can do it all. He wants us to cooperate to collaborate and indeed to exercise our freedom in a joy-filled submission to His good will.

A foundation question is a simple one: where is faith in our lives and what role does it play? Do I realize that my relationship with God is meant to be the center of my life? God provides the criteria by which we order and balance all the details of our lives.

When God is not central in our lives, when faith in God is but one of the spokes on the wheel of life, we discover another dilemma that plagues our age: we are on our own in the quest to define the meaning of life itself. We are stuck with the monumental task of creating our own purpose, crafting it according to our liking, and fulfilling it by our own design. The God question is the ultimate question.

Dependence on God means inviting God to be strong in us to guide us and show us the way. Realizing that our true identity lies in the Author of our existence who is our true destiny. Part of the purpose of this meditation is to look back over our lives and see all the ways we have chosen poorly. Awareness of our past sins protects us from falling backward. Only fools repeat their past bad choices.

One of Christ's great lessons though is that we are not to identify ourselves with our sins. Our sins are our own, certainly, but we are above them, better than them, and we can move past them. Look at the way Jesus loved the previous sinful Mary Magdalene or Matthew the greedy tax collector. God shows us mercy and brings us through the mess of our own meanderings to this moment. Here and now we are once more on track to embrace repentance. "This is the time of fulfillment, the Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the Gospel" (Mk 1:15)

The core realization of this meditation is this: our earthly time is not the whole reality. It is rather the entry point into eternity. If we grasp this correctly, it changes our entire perspective. A well-lived life does not necessarily contain every material enjoyment available and every social praise and pleasure. A well-lived life leads to eternal happiness. With death as the horizon, the urgency lies in "getting it right" here and now, all before time runs out. With eternity as the horizon, and in view of the possibility of an eternity without God, the urgency lies in "getting it right" so as to move from sinful division to communion with God and one another here on earth.

If only we could see that our actions are not neutral but have moral value positive or negative, good or bad. And what if we finally connected these values to our eternal destiny, either toward or away from eternal life with God? If we did we would see that actions that do not ultimately lead us to God are a terrible risk. We are at risk for trading a passing pleasure now for an eternal one later.

Let us continue to love one another,

Fr. Roy



My dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,

January 22, 2018 marks the 45th anniversary of the tragic *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision which, with its companion case *Doe v. Bolton*, legalized abortion throughout all nine months of pregnancy in every state in the nation. The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (n.373), designates **Monday, January 22** as a particular day of prayer and penance, called the “Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children”. All the faithful in dioceses throughout the United States of America are called to observe this day in a spirit of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for the violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion.

Forty-five years of legalized abortion in this country has left an incomprehensible aftermath. With close to 60 million lives lost, and countless women and men, mothers and fathers, grandparents, siblings, and friends who have been deeply wounded physically, emotionally, and spiritually by this tragedy, we need now more than ever to re-commit ourselves to defending life. I encourage our diocesan parishes and institutions, and all the faithful, to observe reverently the **Day of Prayer and Penance on January 22nd** both personally and within your communities. Let us unite our hearts and minds through special acts of prayer, fasting, and sacrifice on this day, to uphold the inherent dignity of all human life from conception to natural death.

As we reflect on this unspeakable tragedy, we also recall how the Church for many years has continued to reach out to those who have been so sadly affected by the culture of death, particularly through ministries providing aid to women and families in crisis pregnancies, offering the healing love and mercy of Christ to those wounded by abortion through the ministry of Project Rachel, and by continuing to teach and preach the truth and beauty about love and life that brings authentic freedom and happiness. It is through these charitable works, along with our fervent prayers and sacrifices, that the culture can be transformed, and the great goods of life, marriage, and religious liberty can be protected and upheld.

Let us take this opportunity of the January 22nd Day of Prayer and Penance to renew our resolve to live and proclaim the Gospel of Life. May we respond generously to the challenge Saint Pope John Paul II put forth in *Evangelium vitae*: “A great prayer for life is urgently needed, a prayer which will rise up throughout the world. May an impassioned plea rise to God, the Creator and lover of life, from the heart of every believer.” Our active participation in the shared commitment to the sacredness of human life and the dignity of the human person will with God’s grace, truly work toward the building up of a Culture of Life and a Civilization of Love.

With every prayerful best wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester



Religious Education

CALL 508-987-2382 FOR ALL QUESTIONS,
WEATHER CANCELATION NOTICES, OR TO
REPORT ABSENCE.

JANUARY 2018

- 21- Sun K-1, 3-12, 9:40-10:50 & Breakfast 8-11 AM
Confirmation Session 6:30-8 PM
- 28- Sun K-12, 9:40-10:50 & Confirmation Session
6:30-8 PM
Grades 7/8 performance 10:15 in the church
All Are Invited.

FEBRUARY 2018

- 3/4- Sat/Sun Soup-er Bowl Collection proceeds benefit
St. Vincent DePaul Society of St Roch
- 4- Sun K-12, 9:40-10:50 No Confirmation Session
- 10- Sat 1st Sacrament Family Mass 5:30 PM
- 11- Sun K-12, 9:40-10:50 & Confirmation 6:30-8 PM
Fat Sunday Breakfast 8-11AM
- 14- Wed Ash Wednesday / St Valentine's
- 18- 1st Sun Lent - No Class K-12 & No Confirmation
President's Weekend
- 25- 2nd Sun Lent K-12 9:40-10:50 & Confirmation
Session 6:30-8 PM

MARCH 2018

- 4- 3rd Sun Lent K-12, 9:40-10:50 Breakfast 8-11am
& Confirmation Session 6:30-8 PM
- 9-12- Light of the World Parish Retreat
- 11- 4th Sun Lent No Classes K-12 or Confirmation
Parish Center Hall Closed for LOTW retreat
- 18- 5th Sun Lent K-12, 9:40-10:50
Confirmation 6:30-8 PM
- 25- Palm Sun K-12, 9:40-10:50
Confirmation 6:30-8 PM



*1 Cor 15:33 Do not be deceived:
"Bad company corrupts good
morals".*

As I sat recovering from a bout of sickness, I was doing a little reading; a question caught my attention. "Is someone's group of friends a good reflection of what one is like as a person?"

Have you ever heard of the "average of five" rule?

It goes something like: "You are the average of your five closest friends".

It appears, there is a lot of truth to it. Like seeks like, and of course your best friends are the ones with whom you resonate easily. You and I enjoy the company of people who share interests, follow similar values, and have goals that match up to one another. In a network of human relations, if one person took on a lot of weight, or got into a healthier lifestyle his closest friends most likely would as well.

As this thought continues it follows if one has a good faith life, and shares it with others, they most probably will follow the lead, and do the same.

So yes, I believe one of the best reflections you can get of any one person is the picture of the people with whom they have chosen to be surrounded.

Still in itself it does not show the complete person.

One could also observe how the person treats other people, especially waiters and others in service positions. Do they reverence things that deserve reverence? Do they respect those who are in positions to protect, guide and nurture: parents, teachers, priests, coaches, and the like?

That is a good reflection of a person.

Well, I do hope someone's group of friends is a good reflection of what one is like as a person, because I have great friends who encourage me to be the best person I can be. They model the way I hope to live out my life and share my faith as we go.

It keeps me happy, maybe if you check your closest friends you may find the same.



Our Ignite retreat with teens preparing for Confirmation was completed with the shining lights of this team of adults & young adults:

Bob Clouthier, Allison Lane,
Paul Fitzpatrick, Ed & Terry

Ann Renaud, Lynne Jalbert, Hannah Caswell, Rebecca Jalbert, Cindi Gasiewski, Lori Schraffa, Joan Robbins-Daniels, Deacon Paul Connolly, Father Roy & Father Sanders. We are grateful for & pray for them in their ministry to the young church.



February 3th & 4th ~ Saturday & Sunday
Soup-er Bowl Collection at all Masses.

The proceeds will benefit *St. Vincent DePaul Society* of St. Roch to help those in need within our parish community.



334 CLUB WINNERS — Week 9

- #143 Russell Pytko
- #278 Clare Cahill
- #455 George Cloutier, Jr.
- #146 Judy Bowes

CONGRATULATIONS!!

MEETINGS

Fundraising Committee will meet **Tuesday, January 23rd at 6:00 PM** in the parish center.

Finance Committee will meet **Tuesday, January 23rd at 7:00 PM** in the rectory.

St. Vincent de Paul Society will meet **Monday, February 5th at 6:00 PM** in the parish center.



PRAY FOR...

Kathy Perry, Owen Benway, Jane Lewicke, Al Sinkis, Anthony Nguyen, Andrew Rivers, Raymond

Joseph, Ruth Andrzejczyk, Chloe Barbara Jones, Craig Ladd, Fr. Robert Kelley, Roseanne Ferlito, John Barton, Carol Violette, John & Bev Makowski, Dale Mahota, Maddy Desrosier, Phyllis Day, John Hickman, Stephen Rice, Timothy Bowes, Cindy Flores, Ed Carpenter, Liz Iandolli, Anita Prunier, Roger St. George, Charlene White, James Sumerlin, Jerry Coffey, Bob St. George, Julie Guertin, Francis DeSimone, Robert & Beverly Burns, Judy Rodier, Dawn Hoeg, Sean Bushey, Richard Fleming, Noelle Silverstein, Edward Wissell, Eric Lambert, Paul Murphy, Shannon Bernard, James Cadarette, James Quaiel, Irene Allain, Yvonne Mathurin, Debbie Roland, Deborah Mancini, Susan Gallant, Doris Prouty, Helen Gilman, Pat LaFontaine, and Andy McDonald.

Adult Faith Formation Program in Webster

“ACTS - The Spread of the Kingdom” will be the next adult Scripture Study program to be held at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Rectory, 18 E. Main St. Webster. 20 Sessions: **Feb. 21 through July 11** (closed Holy Week, March 28 & July 4), **TWO SESSIONS**: Wednesdays at 10:00-11:30 am or 7:30-9:00 pm. Cost/Registration including Workbook/Study guide is \$29. For more information and registration form contact Parish Office at 1 508 943 3140 or Al Kotkin, alkotkin@aol.com. Registration forms also available in the Main Church, the Emmaus Center and the Guadalupe Chapel. **Deadline is February 12.**

CATHOLIC SCHOOL OPEN HOUSES

St. Joseph School—Webster

Sunday, Jan. 28th from 11 am—1 pm
and Wednesday, Jan. 31st from 5-7 pm

Venerini Academy—Worcester

Sunday, Jan. 28th from 12:15—2 pm
and Monday, Jan. 29th from 9—11 am



Saturday, March 24, 2018

5 P.M.

In the Church Hall

\$8.00 Donation

All You Can Eat

& a bowl to keep!

What is your favorite recipe for soup?

Why not share a pot with us?

Call 508-987-2382

Tickets available for sale at the Church entrances before and after weekend Masses February and March and at the door that evening.



DROP-A-SOCK CAMPAIGN

The St. Vincent dePaul Society is asking for your help. There are many among us in need. One of those needs is warmth. We are asking you to buy new socks for men, women, and children and place them in the bins at the doors of the church. This drive will be held throughout the **month of February**. They will be donated to local nursing homes, veteran’s shelters, and places that assist families in need. You always help in such a generous manner. We know that we can count on you!



Considered a Vocation to the Priesthood?

Have you thought of a vocation to the priesthood? Come and learn more. The Diocese of Worcester’s annual discernment retreat, directed by Bishop McManus, will be held on **March 23 & 24**. This retreat begins 6 pm Friday and ends 6 pm Saturday. It is for men high school age, college age, and older. The retreat center is only 30 minutes from Worcester at the Immaculate Conception Retreat Center in Putnam, Connecticut. There is no cost, and transportation is provided if needed. Visit worcestervocations.com for more information. Contact Fr. Jim Mazzone at jmazzone@charter.net or call 508-340-5788 to sign up.



ST. ROCH CEMETERY

Vigil candles must be removed for the winter. The cemetery will not be held liable for any lights that are broken for any reason during the winter months. Thank you.

