

ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH

St. Thomas More Church

53 ROCKLAND STREET, NARRAGANSETT, RI 02882-3620



St. Veronica Chapel

1035 BOSTON NECK ROAD, NARRAGANSETT, RI 02882

Fr. John E. Unsworth | *Administrator* | jackuns@yahoo.com

Fr. Joseph Mappilamattel, C.M.I. | *Associate Pastor* | mappilajoseph60@gmail.com

Fr. Przemyslaw "Shemek" Lepak | *Part-time Associate Pastor* | frshemek@gmail.com

Msgr. John C. Halloran | *Pastor Emeritus*

Deacon Joseph Clossick | joseph.clossick@bms.com

Fr. Marcel L. Taillon, S.T.L. | *Pastor, on temporary leave of absence*
Interim Vocation Director, Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, Washington, DC

Mass Schedule

St. Thomas More Church

Vigil Mass - Saturday: 5:00PM

Sunday Mass: 10:00AM

Daily Mass - Monday - Saturday: 9:00AM

Confession - Saturday: 4:00-4:45PM

St. Veronica Chapel

Vigil Mass - Saturday: 4:00 PM

Sunday Masses

8:30AM

11:00AM



APRIL 21, 2024 - THE THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

A Word From Fr. Unsworth

I am very grateful to the warm welcome I have received at St. Thomas More Parish and I am grateful to God for allowing me to serve my priesthood as a steward of this great Parish. I would also like to extend a welcome to Fr. Przemyslaw Lepak, or Fr. Shemek, as we have come to know him. When I was the pastor of St. Brendan's Parish in Riverside, Fr. Shemek served with me for a number of years as the Associate Pastor. I can truly say that those years were, for me, very fruitful and blessed largely because of Fr. Shemek and his kind and generous priestly ministry. I am very happy to have him with me here, helping with the Masses and being a support for me. While he is also assigned to Our Lady of Czenstochowa Parish in Coventry, I look forward to serving with him once again and I know he will be a blessing for all of us.



For six weeks after Easter the Church presents us with Scripture readings that tell us of the beginnings of the Church in the days and years after Christ died and rose. They are like an owner's manual for the Christian. They give us a vivid description of the role and job qualifications of a faithful disciple as well as the qualities we are to exhibit in our lives in order to call ourselves His "followers". Today let us look at what it means to be a disciple of the Lord:

- ❖ Mature disciples make a conscious decision to follow Jesus, no matter what the personal cost.
- ❖ Christian disciples experience conversion – life-altering changes of mind and heart – and commit their very selves to the Lord.
- ❖ Christian disciples respond in a particular way to the call to discipleship. They see themselves as stewards of the "message" and shape their lives around its values.
- ❖ Faithful disciples recognize God as the origin of life, giver of freedom and source of all things. Disciples are grateful for the gifts they have received and are eager to use them to show their love for God and for one another.

The disciple of Christ also understands that the message of the Gospel is a message of stewardship because God has entrusted to us the responsibility of caring for and cultivating the world. As stewards of creation, disciples are called to:

- ❖ Protect and preserve the environment, which would be the stewardship of ecological concern.
- ❖ Respect all human life – shielding life from threat and assault, doing everything that can be done to enhance this gift and make life flourish.

Let us see in these days of spring, when the earth bursts forth with new life, an opportunity to answer the call to discipleship and stewardship in the world we use and enjoy so much.

Fr. Jack





Congratulations, baptized in Christ!
Aubree Priscilla Sadowski with Deacon Clossick,
her parents Matthew & Lauren and Godparents,
Maureen Farrow and Michael Sadowski.



Congratulations, married in Christ!
Michaela Degnan & Chase Almond.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations (Fourth Sunday in Easter)



Established in 1964 Pope Paul VI designated Good Shepherd Sunday to be World Day of Prayer for Vocations which is the day each year that all Catholics are asked to pray to God that he send more workers into the harvest.

Today is World Day of Prayer for Vocations when we ask you to pray for more vocations, especially to the priesthood and consecrated life. Please pray that more men and women will generously say yes to God's call in their lives and that their parents will support them.

FROM YOUR DIOCESE

APRIL 2024

FROM BISHOP RICHARD G. HENNING

PREVENTING CHILD ABUSE IS A SACRED TASK

*April is National Child Abuse
Prevention Month.*

As we raise awareness around the protection of young people, I would like to share with you my own experiences both here in the Diocese of Providence and in the wider Church. You may already be familiar with some or all of what I will say, but the importance of this topic bears repeating, and I invite your response and active participation as the People of God.

The year I was ordained to be a priest, a story made national news of a priest who had serially abused children including the abuse of his own child after leaving the priesthood to marry. Along with so many Catholics, I felt horror and revulsion. At the time, it seemed unthinkable that an

ordained priest could so violate his promises and the trust of those in his pastoral care. Then in 2002, the scandals in Boston sparked a renewed nationwide examination of the sin of child sexual abuse by clergy. I once again felt revulsion, shame, and grief. I was horrified but also mystified by the revelations because they did not reflect my own experiences growing up Catholic. In my own personal life, I am blessed by a close family and I experienced Catholic schooling and parish life as a place of strong community and abundant safety. I knew then, and know now, that such injustice cries out for our dedicated response. Determined to prevent any more such horrors, my focus on the protection of children has not diminished during more than thirty years of ministry.

As a young priest, my first pastor assigned me to work with young people in the parish school, religious education, youth group, and with altar servers. While the best practices of child protection were then still nascent, I consulted experts and implemented their recommendations, introducing rules around adult supervision, eliminating one-one-one interactions and transportation, incorporating

parent chaperones, adding windows to meeting rooms, and more. Together with the parents and volunteers, we also began to educate and empower the youth concerning their own safety, boundaries, and healthy relationships.

As child protection practices developed, my home diocese introduced a new training program, Virtus, developed by experts in childhood sexual abuse who had worked extensively with victim-survivors. The program offered a systematic approach to the protection of children and the prevention of abuse. I was so impressed by it that I later underwent training as a facilitator to help train others in the work of prevention.

Those who work with victim-survivors understand how difficult it is for young people to come forward in the midst of their abuse and so another important aspect of prevention concerns exposing the sinister methodologies of the abusers. Rarely strangers to their victims, abusers typically “groom” their intended victims and families by earning their trust. Effective prevention includes exposing these behaviors so as to stop abuse before it can happen.

READ MORE ONLINE: Scan the QR code



or go to provd.io/bulletin



DIOCESE of PROVIDENCE

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CONTINUED FROM FRONT SIDE

Collectively, preventing child abuse requires a latticework of strategies that all work in concert together:

- Train clergy, staff, parents, and volunteers to recognize the warning signs of child abuse and grooming behavior.
- Control access to children by utilizing background checks and supervision of all those who work with children.
- Control physical access to children including by locking buildings, locking rooms not in use, and supervising spaces when in use.
- Encourage clergy, staff, parents, and volunteers to report concerns to law enforcement and program leadership.
- Educate children concerning boundaries and their own sacred dignity.

These efforts, introduced across Catholic dioceses, religious orders, parishes, schools, and institutions in the US since the 2002 Dallas Charter, have proven to be highly effective. Allegations of abuse in the last two decades have plummeted in Catholic settings. Statistically, Catholic institutions are among the safest environments for young people today.

While there will always be the evil of predators among human communities, responsible and caring adults can create the safest possible environments for children through a mixture of education and vigilance.

Every child is sacred and made in the image and likeness of God. I want you to know that I remain as committed as

In addition to coordinating prevention efforts, the Office of Compliance vigorously and independently investigates, and promptly reports, every allegation to law enforcement regardless of credibility. Years ago, the Diocese of Providence signed agreements with the State Attorney General formalizing this long-standing and consistent practice of reporting every allegation, and fully cooperating with any resulting investigation.

We cannot undo the harm done in the past, but we can remain ever vigilant in preventing any such harm again. The protection of the most vulnerable among us is

a shared duty and one that we must uphold every hour, every day, every year. This month of April is a good time to remind, to renew, and to rededicate ourselves to this sacred task.

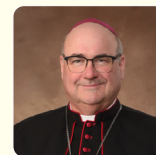
ever to the prevention of child abuse. In 1993, the Diocese of Providence was among the first in the country to establish an office focused on the protection of children. For decades the diocese has utilized the methodologies I outlined to protect children across our churches, schools, and ministries. Those efforts include training for all volunteers, the Circle of Grace program to help children understand proper boundaries, and a dedicated victim's assistance coordinator. I am grateful for these hard-working folks and for the good and compassionate work they do for the young people of the diocese.

TO REPORT AN INCIDENT

The Diocese of Providence urges anyone who has been the victim of sexual abuse, or with credible knowledge of such abuse, by any member of the Catholic Church, to report allegations to the R.I. State Police, local law enforcement, the R.I. Attorney General's Office, and **Kevin O'Brien**, *Director*, Diocesan Office of Compliance, 401.941.0760, kobrien@dpvd.org.

To seek assistance for victims or family members affected by such abuse, please contact **Michael Hansen**, *Director*, Diocesan Office of Outreach & Prevention, 401.946.0728, mhansen@dpvd.org.

For more information on the abuse policy of the Diocese of Providence, please visit: www.dioceseofprovidence.org/compliance.



MOST REVEREND RICHARD G. HENNING, S.T.D.
Bishop of Providence

READ MORE ONLINE: Scan the QR code



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MASS *intentions*

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SATURDAY, APRIL 20th

4 PM – for the souls of Anthony & Rose Salvato

5 PM – for the soul of Carolyn Siravo

SUNDAY, APRIL 21st

8:30 AM – 15th Anniversary ~ Amleto Salvatore

10 AM – 1st Anniversary ~ Julie Varco

11 AM – for the soul of Clement Palazzo, Jr.

MONDAY, APRIL 22nd

9 AM – for the soul of Geraldine Eagan

TUESDAY, APRIL 23rd

9 AM – Birthday Remembrance ~ John Saugy

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24th

9 AM – Special Intentions ~ Fr. Jim Sullivan (Living)

THURSDAY, APRIL 25th

9 AM – Special Intentions ~ Fr. Jonah Teller (Living)

FRIDAY, APRIL 26th

9 AM – for the soul of Edward Dennison

SATURDAY, APRIL 27th

9 AM – for the soul of Rosa Lema

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SATURDAY, APRIL 28th

4 PM – for the soul of Carol Silven

5 PM – for the soul of Catherine Ranaldi

SUNDAY, APRIL 29th

8:30 AM – Special Intentions ~ Delaney &
Kirwan Families (Living)

10 AM – 9th Anniversary ~ Marie Blanche Holmberg

11 AM – 4th Anniversary ~ Helen Leger

2024 Catholic Charity Appeal Update

Parish Goal: \$130,000.00

Received to date: \$94,102 ~ 72% of goal

Appeal Co-Chairs:

Kathy Leonard & Lynn Notarantonio

Gifts to the 2024 APPEAL educate our youth, promote peace and justice, counsel families, prevent suffering and foster discipleship within the Diocese of Providence.



CATHOLIC CHARITY APPEAL

Supporting the work of the Church

“Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”

-Matthew 25:40

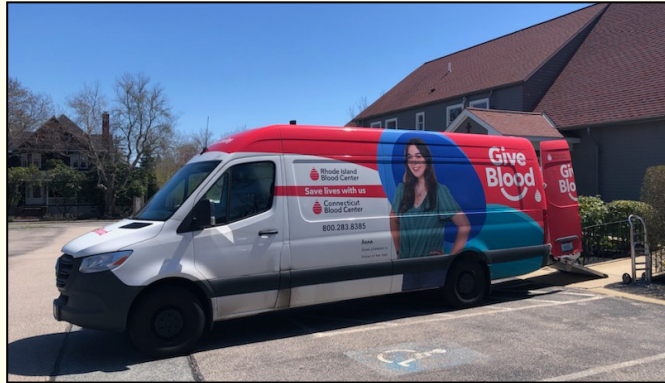
The Prout School Mission Trip Team Thank You

Dear St. Thomas More Parish,
On behalf of the Prout School mission trip team, we want to thank you for your generous donation. My name is Oliver Balbat and I have had family members attend your mission trips to Louisiana which is what inspired me to go. Our team will be visiting the Romero Center and St. Anthony's Shelter of Renewal. We will accomplish a lot and will come back with many photos and stories to share.

Thank you,
The Prout School Mission Trip team

WORLD DAY OF
Prayer for Vocations

Thank you to all who participated in the Knights of Columbus Blood Drive last Monday, there were 27 pints of blood collected, saving up to 81 lives!



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Pancake Breakfast
Sunday May 19th
 Msgr. Halloran Hall, St. Veronica Chapel

Save the Date

Come & enjoy fellowship!

Tickets will be available at the door, and at both churches before & after Masses May 11th and 12th

Proceeds directly benefit Pope Pius XII charities, particularly programs for adults with disabilities, Habitat for Humanity, and fighting food insecurity.



DIOCESE *of* PROVIDENCE

OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT DIACONATE

To: All Priests and Deacons

From: Deacon Noel Edsall and Deacon Bud Remillard, Office of the Permanent Diaconate, Diocese of Providence

Date: April 12, 2024

RE: **Information Sessions for men interested in the Permanent Diaconate**

Dear Father/Deacon,

Bishop Richard G. Henning has authorized the recruitment and formation of a new class of Permanent Deacons for the Diocese of Providence.

We need your help getting the word out. Please share this announcement in your parish bulletin, from the pulpit, on the web, on social media, and more, over the coming weeks. This will help invite interested men to the upcoming May/June Informational Sessions around our diocese.

The following may be helpful in this effort:

Informational Webpages and Resources to Share

Promotional resources to share in the Parish *(in English and en español)*

Including brief announcements, squares for web and social, and flyers
dioceseofprovidence.org/new-deacon-class-for-the-parish

Register for an Information Session *(in English and en español)*

dioceseofprovidence.org/information-sessions-permanent-diaconate-program

Deacon Formation Program (in English)

dioceseofprovidence.org/deacon-formation-program

Programa de Formación al Diaconado (en español)

dioceseofprovidence.org/programa-de-formacion-al-diaconado

Interested men are invited to attend an Information Session

They can do so by registering at dioceseofprovidence.org/information-sessions-permanent-diaconate-program to complete and submit a registration for a particular session. This will help us ensure that we have sufficient materials for each Information Session. If a man is married, his wife is cordially invited and encouraged to attend the presentation

About the Information Sessions

- Each session will begin with a brief prayer and introduction
- There will be a PowerPoint presentation covering:
 - the history and service of the diaconate in the Diocese
 - a description of the Program of Formation
 - a description of the Application Process
- There will be time for questions and answers
- Printed materials and an application will be provided at each session.

Attendance at a session will not obligate anyone. The process will begin when a man returns his completed application and required documentation to the Office of Deacons. We would like all applications by August 15, 2024 so we may begin scheduling interviews in September.

Thank you for promoting this new formation program for the permanent diaconate.

Sincerely in Christ the Servant,

Deacon Noel Edsall
Director of Deacons, Office of Deacons
401-278-4604
NEdsall@dpvd.org

Deacon Bud Remillard
Coordinator of Deacon Formation, Office of Deacons
401-278-4604
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