

SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
the Holy Mother of God



DECEMBER 31, 2023 - STTHOMASMORERI.ORG

A Message from Fr. Taillon

Pope Francis issued a lengthy document regarding blessings with people in irregular situations. I would encourage you to read the document and not just stories about it. Bishop Barron put out this statement that I found succinct and helpful. Let us pray for the gift of faithful chastity according to Jesus' teachings for everyone.



Diocese of Winona-Rochester
55 West Sanborn Street | P.O. Box 588 | Winona, Minnesota 55987
507-454-4643 | FAX: 507-454-8106

Office of the Bishop

Most Reverend Robert Barron

December 20, 2023

STATEMENT FROM BISHOP BARRON

On Monday, the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, with the approval of Pope Francis, published a declaration entitled *Fiducia Supplicans*, which has given rise to a good deal of commentary and controversy. The document allows for the possibility of blessing those in irregular or same-sex relationships. Despite some misleading reporting in the media, *Fiducia Supplicans* in no way sanctions irregular bonds or changes the Church's teaching on marriage and sexuality. It further specifies that no liturgical blessing can be offered to those in such unions, but rather an informal pastoral blessing. This latter benediction is a calling forth of the divine grace to help those who receive it to live more fully in accord with God's will and to enhance whatever is good, true, and beautiful in their lives.

I believe that the declaration is very much congruent with the pastoral instincts of Pope Francis, who always wants to remind those who are living the Christian life in a less than perfect way that they are, nevertheless, loved and cherished by God. To all of Jesus' brothers and sisters, the Church should never fail to be a source of welcome, compassion, and blessing.



FEAST CELEBRATION OF ST. KURIAKOSE ELIAS CHAVARA (Founder of CMI Congregation)

On Wednesday January 3, 2024, we are celebrating the feast of St. Chavara Kuriakose, the founder of my Religious Order: Carmelites of Mary Immaculate (CMI). St. Chavara also started a congregation for women, Congregation of Mother Carmel (CMC). St. Chavara was the pioneer of popular Catholic education in India and the one who inspired the Catholics to start schools in every parish along with their churches. While he was Vicar General of the diocese, he started schools attached to each parish like our Catholic schools here in USA.

Today the CMI congregation is running 110 high schools, 113 middle schools, 10 professional colleges, 3 Engineering colleges, 10 hospitals, one medical college and the Christ University, Bangalore, the only Catholic university in India.

By the grace of God, the Carmelite order is doing well. On December 8, the feast of our Congregation, 64 Novices made their first profession and became members of the order. They will start their priestly studies in 3 major seminaries run by the Order. This year there are 45 deacons to be ordained to priesthood and they will start their priestly ministry in India and abroad.

Feast celebration of St. Chavara at St. Thomas More

We are celebrating the feast of St. Chavara Kuriakose, the patron saint of families with a Holy Mass and Novena on Wednesday January 3, 2024 at 9AM. All are welcome to join, followed by a small celebration in our parish Hall.

Fr Joe Mappilamattel

“Let there be no day in your life in which you did no good to others.” -St. Chavara Kuriakose

MASS *intentions*

THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30th

4 PM – for the soul of Donna Gunning

5 PM – for the deceased members of the Delaney & Kirwan families

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31st

8 AM – for the soul of Robert Brown

9 AM – for the soul of Vincenza Masiello

10 AM – for the soul of Frank Kathy Palumbo

11 AM – for the soul of Michael McCarthy

MONDAY, JANUARY 1st (New Year's Day)

9 AM – for the soul of Albert Alba, Sr.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2nd

9 AM – for the souls of Frank & Theresa Heran & deceased members of the Heran & McGovern families

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3rd

9 AM – for the soul of Bill Murphy

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4th

9 AM – Special Intention ~ Maureen O'Brien (Living)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5th

9 AM – Birthday Remembrance ~ Jessica Tyler

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6th

9 AM – for the soul of Antoinette Caphone

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6th

4 PM – 1st Anniversary ~ Peter Slauta

5 PM – Anniversary ~ Mina Mueller

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7th

8 AM – Special Intention ~ for the safety of all our U.S. military service members

9 AM – for the souls of Clara Merino & Claire Grande

10 AM – 2nd Anniversary ~ Alfred Butler

11 AM – for the soul of Ronald F. Duska, Sr.

The parish office will be closed on
Monday, January 1st.



Thank you to all who donated to the Knights of Columbus Hat, Glove and Socks drive. The boxes represent only a portion of items donated this season to the Galilee Mission, the Jonnycake Center, Narragansett Sr. Association and to Providence parishes.



Additionally, based on our fundraising efforts with the cigar dinner, we recently distributed over 200 new winter coats (17 cases total!) to several organizations, including the Jonnycake Center, St. Charles Borromeo, Mother of Life Center and Hasbro Children's Hospital Primary Care Clinic.





ST. KURIAKOSE ELIAS CHAVARA
1805 - 1871

**Celebrate the Feast of
St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara,
the Patron Saint of Families**

**Wednesday, January 3, 2024
Holy Mass and Novena
9:00 AM**

at St. Thomas More

A light reception will follow in the parish hall.

**“Let there be no day in your life
in which you did no good to others.”**

-St. Chavara Kuriakose



**CELEBRATE THE EPIPHANY
Saturday, January 6th**

6:00 – 8:00 PM

Join Us for Dinner

Following Mass at 5 PM
in the Parish Hall at St. Thomas More



Frassati Young Adult Group is for those in their 20s & 30s.



The true meaning of Christmas - Children's Christmas Pageant 2023

Thank you to Kim O'Connell, who has been directing the pageant for the past 20 years;
 MaryTheresa Conca for coordinating, and Justin Dery for the beautiful music;
 new parents, Katie & Michael Freeman of James, our baby Jesus; and to all the parents
 who helped make this year's pageant a success.





View more photos on our website - stthomasmoreri.org in the photo albums.





INVITING SINGLE, MARRIED, AND
RELIGIOUS IN THEIR 20S AND 30S TO A

young adult holy hour

hosted by the Young Adult Evangelization Apostolate
of the Diocese of Providence

Young Adult
EVANGELIZATION APOSTOLATE



DIOCESE of
PROVIDENCE
OFFICE OF FAMILY, YOUTH, AND
YOUNG ADULT EVANGELIZATION

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 2024 AT 7:00PM
CATHEDRAL OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

Confession available | Followed by fellowship and food



[catholicyoungadults.ri](https://www.instagram.com/catholicyoungadults.ri)



[Young Adult Ministry Diocese of Providence](#)



www.evangelizeri.org/yae

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"Your own issue shall be your heir."
The Lord took Abram outside and said,
"Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can.
Just so," he added, "shall your descendants be."
(Gn 3:4-5)

Psalm:

The Lord remembers his covenant for ever. (Ps 105)

Second Reading:

By faith he received power to generate,
even though he was past the normal age
—and Sarah herself was sterile. (Heb 11:11)

Gospel:

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;
and the favor of God was upon him. (Lk 2:40)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

God's timing is not always our timing. Sometimes, we have to wait years for the answer to our prayer. Never despair. Remember that God keeps His word.

Observances for the week of December 31, 2023

- Sunday:** The Holy Family; New Year's Eve
- Monday:** Mary, The Holy Mother of God, New Year's Day, World Day of Peace
- Tuesday:** Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church
- Wednesday:** The Most Holy Name of Jesus
- Thursday:** St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
- Friday:** St. John Neumann, Bishop
- Saturday:** St. André Bessette, Religious
- Next Sunday:** The Epiphany of the Lord



Saint of the week

Venerable Mary Elizabeth Lange was a trailblazing black Catholic who founded the Oblate Sisters of Providence, the first congregation of black religious sisters in the USA. Her faith and perseverance helped break down barriers and create new opportunities for black Catholics.

Prayer

Almighty and Eternal God, You granted Mother Mary Lange extraordinary trust in Your providence. You endow her with humility, courage, holiness, and an extraordinary sense of service to the poor and the sick. You enabled her to fund the Oblate Sisters of Providence and provided educational, social, and spiritual ministry especially to the African American community. Mother Lange's love for all enabled her to see Christ in each person, and the pain of prejudice and racial hatred never blurred that vision.

Deign to raise her to the highest honors of the altar in order that, through her intercession, more souls may come to a deeper understanding and more fervent love of You.

Heavenly Father, glorify Your heart by granting also this favor (state your request) which we ask through the intercession of Your faithful servant, Mother Mary Lange.

Amen.

(Prayer Source: <https://nolacatholic.org/news/black-catholic-history-month-mother-mary-lange#:~:text=Prayer,the%20poor%20and%20the%20sick.>)

Readings for the week of December 31, 2023

Sunday:

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/ Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

Monday:

Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/ Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Tuesday:

1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/ Jn 1:19-28

Wednesday:

1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/ Jn 1:29-34

Thursday:

1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42

Friday:

1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Jn 1:43-51

Saturday:

1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/ Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

Next Sunday:

Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12



Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

I remember the first time my older sister asked me if I wanted to hold her newborn son. Terrified, I told her I didn't think it was a good idea. My résumé had nothing to suggest I would be a qualified baby holder. But she warmly told me, "I'll help you hold him." It struck me that she is baby's mother. She is the one who decides who is qualified to hold him. I took him in my arms and soon I began to feel comfortable with that tiny little warm cooing creature in my arms, and soon I no longer feared holding him. Now, twenty-seven nieces and nephews later, holding a newborn child is one of the great joys of my life.

Do we sometimes think that Jesus is given only to the highly qualified, special religious people? In the Gospel of Luke today we hear about the presentation of the Lord in the temple. The newborn son of God is passed around like a baton in a relay race, not guarded like a precious jewel or a breakable china dish. We can see him going from the arms of Mary to Joseph, then to the priest performing the ceremony, then to Simeon the old man, then to Anna the old widow. Each one receiving him and then handing him to the next. A tidal wave of joy and thanksgiving follows wherever he is placed.

Believe me, you are qualified to hold Jesus in your arms. How can I say that with such confidence? Because the mother decides who is qualified. The Blessed Virgin, embodied in the Church, holds him out to you and me. She rejoices to place him in our arms to hold, and to hand him on, too.

— *Father John Muir*



Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

The Sword and the Family

In the first few weeks of parenthood, the tears flowed fast and freely, and with very little provocation.

Sometimes I wept because it was getting dark out, and sometimes because the sun was coming up. Sometimes I wept because the days were so unbearably long. Sometimes I wept because they were so cruelly short and slipped past so quickly, bearing away with them forever these inaugural moments of my daughter's life — moments I knew I would long for on my deathbed.

So, the inclusion of the Presentation of Christ in the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary has always struck me. The Blessed Mother, just a few weeks after giving birth, standing at the holy temple: Is she tired? Is she emotional? Is she frightened? Is she happy? We cannot know for sure, but if she is anything like most of the postpartum women I know, she is all four. But she stands there dutifully, offering her baby to the Lord, and this is what she is told, "A sword shall pierce your heart."

Joyful? I would have snatched the baby back, called the police and sobbed for a week.

But Mary knows that Simeon speaks the truth, and she cannot receive God's will with anything less than joy, even if it means a pierced heart.

Family means love, but love means — what, exactly? Pleasure, fulfillment, contentment? Yes, but so much more, too. Love means you have much to lose.

How full is family life with these beautiful moments which, on the surface, look and feel painful — but hold within them the opportunity to be like Mary, to bow our heads and once again say "Yes, Lord."

"Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another..." — Colossians 3:12

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

What are the servant songs of Isaiah? How do they relate to Jesus' life and ministry?

Answer:

The four servant songs (Isaiah 42:1-4, 49:1-6, 50:4-9, and 52:13—53:12) are strategically placed in Second Isaiah to offer hope and consolation to a suffering Israel during its Babylonian Exile.

Israel had been defeated by the Babylonians, who destroyed their temple, killed the last of the kings in David's lineage, exiled them from their land, and transported them to Babylon. This is the context in which Second Isaiah composes his powerfully poetic book of hope and consolation. A significant part of that message is the portrait of God's servant, who is called to be a source of hope and encouragement for the people.

Each of the four poems emphasizes God's choice and election of the servant. The last poem stresses the suffering and rejection of God's servant, along with his eventual death. Isaiah is certain that God will use the servant's innocent suffering as a way to redeem and remove the guilt and sin of others. Thus, the servant becomes a source of salvation for himself and for others.

Who is this servant? Many suggest that Isaiah was referring to Israel herself, as she underwent exilic suffering which would ultimately prove to be redemptive. Jesus' followers, including those for whom Mark wrote his Gospel, understood Jesus' ministry in terms of Isaiah's suffering servant whose innocent suffering and death became the means of salvation for all.

Thank you to the many new families who have signed up for Faith Direct to support our ministries. Your support allows us to continue to serve the spiritual and corporeal needs of our parish and wider community. And, thank you to our many virtual parishoners who continue to support us, we appreciate your support too!



St. Thomas More Parish counts on your prayers and support and we truly appreciate your continued generosity during this difficult time.

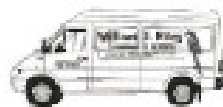
Giving is easy:

To Donate online:

1. Go to: FaithDirect.net. - click box "Give Now"
2. Enter our **Church Code: RI147** - click "Give Now"
3. Enroll in Recurring eGiving or make a One-Time Gift

Your donations can be one-time, weekly or monthly and can be easily monitored by you at faithdirect.net.

WILLIAM J. RILEY
Plumbing & Heating



738-1688
www.rileyplumbing.com

ANN O'BRIEN
REALTY

- Local family owned & operated for over 15 years
- Selling, buying, investing
- Real Estate client service
- Providing you with the best

Robert J. O'Brien
401-594-0522
rob@robertobrienrealty.com
www.robobrienrealty.com



O'Neill's
Package Store

366 South Pier Rd
Narragansett, RI
(401) 783-3272

Beer, Wine & Spirits
Mon - Sat 9am - 10pm
Sun Noon - 6pm



1100 Belmont Ave
Belmont Shoppers Park
Wakefield - 783-4666

PIER LUNCH
401-783-0333
Separately Owned & Operated



sea food | sea friends | sea view

401.783.0700 | thecoastguardhouse.com | 40 Ocean Rd • Narragansett, RI



Pizza, Calzones, Pastry
Self-Service Shopping Center, Narragansett
783-8086
Village of the Commons, Wakefield
783-2285



Avery-Storti Funeral Home & Crematory

Serving South County Families Since 1863

88 Columbia St., Wakefield - 783-7271 - www.averystortifuneralhome.com

Directors, Peter J. Storti, Joshua P. Storti, Joseph A. Nocerantonio
Traditional • Cremation Services • Memorials • On Site Crematory

DOCS BARBERSHOP
508-423-3324
1014 Boston Neck Road
Narragansett

Carolina's Bakery
401-675-7462

1014 Boston Neck Rd. • Narragansett

10% off purchases w/ mention of ad!
www.carolinabakery.com

Dan Mansolillo Real Estate Broker

"35 Years experience satisfying demanding customers"

401-944-9344 • cell 401-862-6888

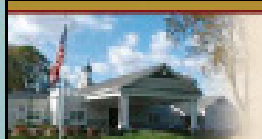
info@mansolillo.com • www.mansolillo.com



Mansolillo & Co.

Property Management / REALTORS

Serving Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts



Fagan-Quinn
FUNERAL HOMES

Family Owned • Traditional & Cremation Services

Michael E. Quinn • Patrick J. Quinn • James D. Quinn

Michael J. Quinn • Steven A. DiLorenzo

Christopher Quinn, Manager

1115 Boston Neck Road • North Kingstown, RI 02882 • 401.275.1601

www.FaganQuinnFuneralHomes.com

NEVER MISS OUR BULLETIN!

SUBSCRIBE

Have our bulletin emailed to you every week.



Visit www.parishesonline.com



The Prout School
Wakefield | Rhode Island
- www.theproutschool.org -

JOIN US FOR
OPEN HOUSE:
OCT 15
1-4PM

LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS
Place Your Ad Here and Support Our Parish!

CONTACT ME Mia Iannotti

miannotti@4LPi.com • (800) 888-4574 x3104

NARDOLILLO

FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATORY

"Family Owned & Operated Since 1906"

1278 PARK AVENUE • CRANSTON, RI 02910

942-1220

1111 BOSTON NECK ROAD • NARRAGANSETT, RI 02882

789-6300

Robert A. Nardolillo, Jr. • David M. Nardolillo • Angelo M. Nardolillo, Directors

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!

COASTAL
FINANCIAL PLANNING, INC.
Fee-Only Financial Planning

- Portfolio Management
- Retirement Planning
- Estate Services • Charitable Planning
- Offices in Narragansett and Lincoln

Narragansett

401.788.8151

Lincoln

401.727.8151

coastalfinancialplanning.com



WE APPRECIATE OUR ADVERTISERS!

Carty Realty

Raymond DiGiorgio
401-380-0067
raydigiorgio@gmail.com



Local family owned & operated Realty Since 1970
SELL, BUY OR RENT A HOME
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
129 Bacon Street • Narragansett, RI 02882



Keep supporting your parish
after you are gone by endowing your weekly offertory.
Curious?

Call the Catholic Foundation of Rhode Island

Dick Popovici
Executive Director
(401) 277-2115

CATHOLIC FOUNDATION
OF RHODE ISLAND

Cyrdy Brown, CAP®
Assistant Director
of Planned Giving
(401) 277-2117



Ad Info: 1-800-477-4574 • Publication Support 1-800-888-4574 • www.4LPi.com

31 Thomas Ware, Narragansett, RI

02-4051