

ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH

St. Thomas More Church

St. Veronica Chapel

53 ROCKLAND STREET, NARRAGANSETT, RI 02882-3620

1035 BOSTON NECK ROAD, NARRAGANSETT, RI 02882



Fr. Marcel L. Taillon, S.T.L. | *Pastor*

*Chaplain, Narragansett Police Department, Chaplain, Narragansett Fire Department,
Chaplain, South Kingstown Police Department
fathermtaillon@gmail.com*

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

Msgr. John C. Halloran | *Pastor Emeritus*

Deacon Joseph Clossick | joseph.clossick@bms.com

Mass Schedule

Effective February 4th

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



FEBRUARY 11, 2024 - THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD
THAT HE GAVE
HIS ONLY
BEGOTTEN
SON
THAT WHOSEVER
BELIEVETH IN HIM
SHOULD NOT PERISH
BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE

John 3:16

Jesus can I be your Valentine?

This year Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day. I think you know Valentine's Day is a secular commemoration and is not part of the Church's liturgical life.

Ash Wednesday is a very important day as it is the beginning of Lent and along with Good Friday is a day of fasting and penance. That means if anyone is of age and good health, they would be expected to fast (consuming the equivalent of one meal throughout the whole day). There is also a fast from alcohol, deserts and the like.

So, what does one do to be able to celebrate properly. Of course, Jesus and his time of temptations would and should take precedence. Bishop Henning has suggested and I also think it's a fantastic idea, if you have a special someone, take them out and celebrate on Mardi Gras or Fat Tuesday. It would also be a great idea to take your significant other to Mass on Ash Wednesday and support one another in Lenten practices.

I have fond memories of exchanging cards in elementary school often from "secret Valentines". I recall as I got older in the dating scene, I thought restaurants had price increases for Valentine's Day that would hit hard on a high school or college budget! This secular holiday celebrates love, particularly romantic love. We know the greatest love of our life is Christ, who gives us any and all others loves we experience and enjoy. This year, let Valentine's Day (named for a bishop and martyr who shed his blood for Christ in the early Church) give way to the love in the Passion of Jesus.

In yesteryear, we used to ask someone "Would you be my Valentine?" which meant, will you receive my love for you? This year rooted in prayer and penance we can ask, "Jesus can I be your Valentine in my prayer and fasting?"

Let's plan for a holy and grace filled lent.

Fr. Taillon

Lent 2024

Fasting and Abstinence Reminder

Church law requires abstinence from meat (for those 14 and older) on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all the Fridays of Lent. In addition, Ash Wednesday, and Good Friday are fast days: Those between the ages of 18 and 59 should eat less – no solid food between meals only one full meal and 2 smaller ones. (One's health can excuse you from these rules).

St. Thomas More Parish Lenten Mission with Dominican Friars, Province of St. Joseph

Featuring the music of
the Hillbilly Thomists

"Lent Matters"

March 3, 4 & 5th

6:00-7:00 PM - St. Veronica Chapel

Fr. James Sullivan, O.P.

Fr. Jonah Teller, O.P.



Fr. James Sullivan, O.P.



Fr. Jonah Teller, O.P.



Stations of the Cross

Every Friday during Lent

7:00PM

St. Thomas More

At St. Thomas More

Daily Mass Monday–Saturday at 9:00AM

The Rosary each day following morning Mass
& on Saturday following the 9AM Mass

Confessions - Saturdays from 4:00-4:45PM
at St. Thomas More or by appointment.

Parish CD/Pamphlet Book Rack:

Some excellent CD's & pamphlets are
available in the racks located
at the entrance of both Churches.
Children's books are also available.

March 10th

Praise and worship

Holy Hour

to pray for vocations
in the

Archdiocese for the
Military Services

St. Veronica Chapel
6- 7pm



ARCHDIOCESE FOR THE
MILITARY SERVICES, USA

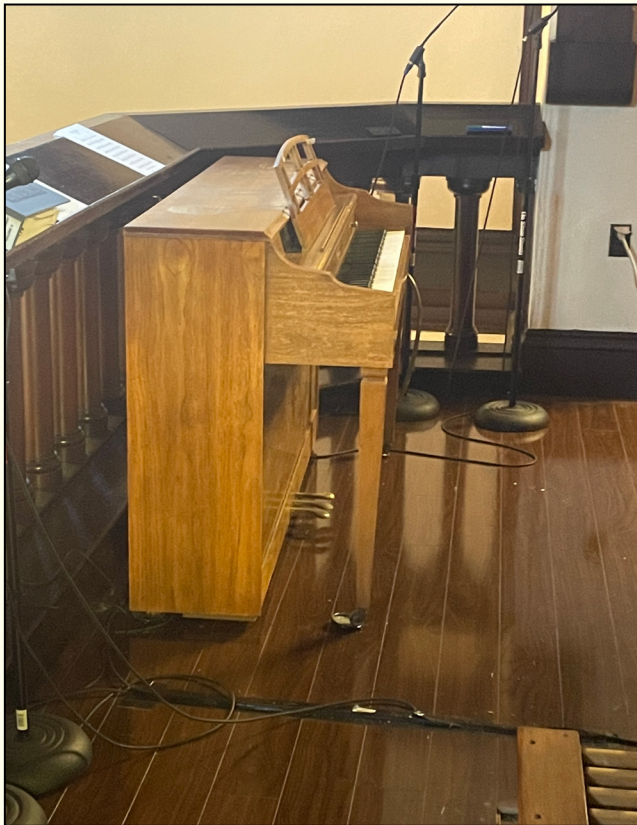
Operation Rice Bowl

Families are encouraged to eat a "poverty meal"
once a week and then place the money saved
in a "Rice Bowl" as a contribution for the poor
which is collected on Palm Sunday, March 24th.





St. Thomas More recently installed a new piano in the choir loft, shown above left removing the old and bringing in the new on the right.



PRAY THE ROSARY



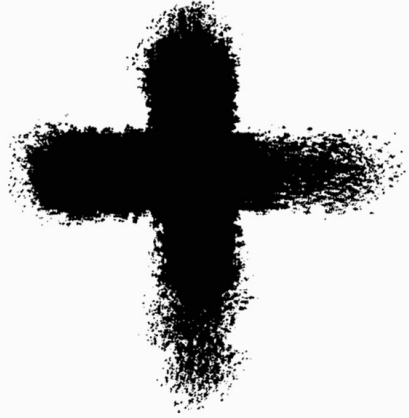
Join
St. Thomas More
Parish
in Praying the
Joyful, Sorrowful
& Glorious
Mysteries of the
Rosary

Sunday,
February 11th
1:00 - 2:00 PM

Near the Entrance
of Narragansett
Town Beach
(Rain or Shine)

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 14



MASS SCHEDULE

St. Thomas More - 9AM & 12:00 Noon

St. Veronica Chapel - 7PM



~SAVE THE DATE~

March 10th

Praise and worship

Holy Hour

**to pray for vocations
in the Archdiocese for
the Military Services**

St. Veronica Chapel

6- 7pm



**ARCHDIOCESE FOR THE
MILITARY SERVICES, USA**

MASS *intentions*

THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10th

4 PM – 5th Anniversary ~ J. Neil Murphy

5 PM – 11th Anniversary ~ Susan McNaughton

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11th

8:30 AM – 10th Anniversary ~ Anne D. Germeroth

10 AM – for the soul Janice Workman

11 AM – for the soul of Frank Maiorano

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12th

9 AM – Birthday Remembrance ~ Lynn Lydon

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13th

9 AM – for the soul of Al Leger

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14th

9 AM – for the soul of Patricia Normandin

12 PM – Special Intention ~

Louanne Brunenmeister (Living)

7 PM – for the soul of Rita Travis

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15th

9 AM – for the souls of soldiers & their loved ones

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16th

9 AM – for the soul of Bill Murphy

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17th

9 AM – for the soul of Nora Costello

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17th

4 PM – 3rd Anniversary ~ Jack Sullivan

5 PM – for the souls of the Russo family

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18th

8:30 AM – 11th Anniversary ~ John Cook

10 AM – Birthday Remembrance ~ Jim Provensal

11 AM – for the souls of Bill & Sheril Murphy

Second Collection

The 2nd collection this weekend will be for Tuition Assistance and School Support.

Knights of Columbus Monthly Membership Meeting

Monday, February 12th - 7PM
St. Thomas More Parish Hall



**Knights of
Columbus®**
Pope Pius XII Council 5295

Our Lady's Guild Meeting

**Wednesday, February 14th
10:00 AM**

All are welcome to join at
St. Thomas More Parish Hall



"God wishes to establish in the world, devotion to my Immaculate Heart. If people do what I tell you, many souls will be saved and there will be peace."

For more info contact Diane 401-996-3876

Knitting Ministry Meeting

Wednesday, February 14th - 1:00 PM

St. Thomas More Parish Hall

For more information, call the parish office at 789-7682. All are welcome!



**Cross Catholic
OUTREACH**

Delivering Food, Shelter and Hope to the Poorest of the Poor

On the weekend of February 17 & 18, our parish welcomes two visiting priests who will be sharing their experience in the Cross Catholic Outreach ministry.

*World
Marriage Day*

Sunday, February 11

Happenings around the parish

PRO-LIFE CORNER

It is fashionable, or at least usual, that when in the first few months of a pregnancy doctors do studies to see if the child is healthy or has something, the first idea is: "Let's send it away." We do the same as the Nazis to maintain the purity of the race, but with white gloves on.

POPE FRANCIS



Rhode Island Blood Center

Every Donation Can Save Up To 3 Lives

Consider donating blood at any Rhode Island Blood Center donor center throughout the state.

To register, visit www.ribc.org/locations or call 401-453-8383

When donating, please be sure to use parish Sponsor Code 0626.

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Donations can be easily changed one-time, weekly or monthly.



Gospel Reflections Group

All are welcome to join our informal discussion group which meets on Mondays from 10-11:30 AM in the parish hall. Over coffee & refreshments, we read and reflect on the Gospels of the coming week and share personal insights of those readings.

Men's Bible Study

Our parish has a very active group of men who meet each Saturday morning in the parish hall at 7:30 AM to discuss the Sunday scripture readings. This is very informal and all are invited and welcome to join.

Prayer Chain Ministry

If you know someone who would like or needs extra prayers, we are happy to help. Call Jean at 783-3403 to express your request. New volunteers are always welcome to join this necessary and important ministry.

Religious Education

Religious Education Schedule

Sunday, February 11th

Grades 1 - 4 at 10:05-10:55 AM
St. Veronica Chapel

No Class for 1st & 2nd Year Confirmation

Monday, February 12th

Grades 1 - 4 at 4:10-5:00 PM
St. Thomas More

Wednesday, February 14th

No Class for Grades 5 - 8
Ash Wednesday

Pray the Rosary

All are welcome to join, any time. The rosary is prayed Mon.- Sat. after the 9:00AM Mass at St. Thomas More.

Remember the Poor

The small donation boxes on the church walls labeled "Remember the Poor" goes to the Mother Teresa Fund, which helps with local rental assistance, utilities, food and prescriptions. Thank you for your generosity.

Rosary Repairs

Using the envelope provided, broken beads may be put in the box in the foyer with your name and contact info. You will be contacted within a few weeks when complete.

St. Vincent dePaul clothing bins

Accepts clothing and shoes. Bins located at the back of the St. Thomas More parking lot, inside the white fence.

Relevant Radio "Morning Air" Show

Join Fr. Taillon at 550 AM every Wednesday at 8:00 AM or listen on relevantradio.com

Weekly Food Collection

Many families in our area struggle with food and welcome your donations in the baskets located by all entrances. Ideas include: vegetables, pasta, soup, spaghetti sauce, whole grain cereal, and healthy snacks.

FROM YOUR DIOCESE

FEBRUARY 2024

FROM BISHOP RICHARD G. HENNING

In November, I had the opportunity to attend a meeting with Governor Daniel McKee and his staff concerning his Learn365RI initiative. The Governor explained his deep concern for the young people of our state and outlined the post-covid challenges for education. While I was aware of these challenges in general, I was still shocked by the data the Governor presented. Far too many of the young people in our state have not fully returned to school following the pandemic. The rates of chronic absenteeism are much too high in many districts, particularly in urban and poor neighborhoods. The Governor explained his efforts to reduce absenteeism and the significant progress to date. He also explained his Learn365RI initiative to involve the wider community and provide young people with broader opportunities for learning year-round.

I thanked Governor McKee for his leadership in identifying this critical need and striving to improve the odds for our young people and for our wonderful State of Rhode Island. I fully support his efforts to convince families and students to give priority to their education. I applaud the Governor's understanding of the need to make the entire community aware of the gift of our young people and his invitation for churches and community organizations to assist in creative ways. I will be looking for ways that the Diocese of Providence and our parishes might assist these worthy efforts.

As we get further from the pandemic crisis that gripped the world in 2020, I hope that we are willing to examine our choices and learn from them. I am sorry to say that I think that the lockdown efforts failed the young in very significant ways. I realize that many of the choices made in those early months were driven by a lack of knowledge and a high degree of fear. I am not trying to point fingers or score partisan points. Hindsight is 20/20, as the saying goes.

Precisely that hindsight is what matters now. Children and young people have suffered the effects of isolation, and many missed critical moments of development and learning. They deserved better from us, and they deserve our honest accounting and efforts to improve now.

One lesson emerges from the experience of Catholic schools across the United States and here in Rhode Island. In many places, Catholic schools adapted to the lockdown more rapidly than other schools. They also reopened sooner than most, unless impeded by local strictures. The dedicated teachers and engaged parents helped to make the best of extremely difficult circumstances. As a result, Catholic schools across the U.S. maintained their learning and testing standards and even saw modest improvements even as the overall educational endeavor lost ground on an epic scale. As too many districts in Rhode Island suffer even now with high rates of chronic absenteeism, Catholic schools see daily attendance rates above 95%, a number that reflects ordinary absences for illness and family matters.

It is curious to me that this more successful navigating of the crisis occurred in schools that generally have much more limited resources than public schools, charter schools, and private schools. It tells me that money may not be the only or even most important factor in the mix. The federal government and many state and local governments set aside large resources to help schools during the pandemic. Early on in the emergency, they even shared some resources with Catholic schools. Over time the usual stance reasserted itself. Scandalously, some states later denied health and safety funds to children in Catholic schools.

I believe that Catholic schools achieved different results because of the culture of the schools. Catholic schools certainly strive for academic excellence, but there is something more to their

character that becomes apparent almost from the moment you enter one. Catholic schools have a sense of mission and a desire to educate and form the whole person. They teach integrity, faith and charity. They practice reverence for each and every human person. Parents are an integral and trusted part of the school family as they are the first and best formators of their children. Catholic schools forge a culture of love where children thrive as students and as persons.

I thank Governor McKee for his commitment to our young people and I encourage all to heed his call to take responsibility for forging a culture of education across this state and its many schools and religious and community organizations. I also express my gratitude to those who have devoted themselves to teaching and forming the young in every type of school.

After celebrating Catholic Schools Week, I would like to express my particular gratitude to the teachers and administrators in the Catholic schools of Rhode Island. I know that you make significant sacrifices to devote yourselves to this mission. The results you achieve speak for themselves.

I ask all of you who read this column to consider the choice for Catholic education in your family and to support this good work of forming a new generation in wisdom, integrity and faith.



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

Catholic Schools Week took place from January 28 to February 3. Please visit catholicschools.org for more information about open houses and other events.

READ MORE ONLINE: Scan the QR code



or go to provd.io/bulletin



HOW TO LENT

FASTING



Catholics aged 18 through 59 are obligated to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Fasting means, at most, consuming one small meal and two smaller “collations” or snacks (which together wouldn’t equal one meal).

ABSTINENCE



Catholics 14 and older are obligated to abstain from consuming meat on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays of Lent, and Good Friday. On Fridays of the rest of the year, U.S. Catholics are permitted to substitute a different penance in lieu of abstinence from meat.

PRAYER



We are called to devote ourselves to more prayer during Lent. Consider attending Daily Mass or Adoration of Blessed Sacrament, adding a daily rosary, or praying the Liturgy of the Hours.

ALMSGIVING



Another important pillar of our Lenten practices, we are called to give more of our money and goods and perform other acts of charity during Lent.

PENANCE



Lent is an opportunity for us to prepare ourselves spiritually for the Great Solemnity of Easter. Examining one’s conscience and making a good sacramental confession are great ways to make this preparation. Check your local parish which may have expanded times for confession.

ON VALENTINE’S DAY AND ASH WEDNESDAY



FROM BISHOP RICHARD G. HENNING

This year, Ash Wednesday falls on February 14th. Most of us associate the date with Saint Valentine, and “Valentine’s Day” has become a major secular custom. I have no objections to the celebrations of the saint or even the celebration of romance in the secular observance. However, I must remind all that Ash Wednesday takes precedence over the custom. This solemn day of fasting and abstinence inaugurates the season of Lent. It recalls the faithful to a stance of humility towards God and openness to repentance. It reminds us of the Grace of the Lord Jesus and the saving power of Divine Love. For 2024, it is not a day for feasting.

Fortunately, the day before is Mardi Gras, “Fat Tuesday.” While it is not a feast of the Church, it is long standing custom to feast and celebrate on that day before the long season of Lenten preparation. I respectfully ask couples to consider celebrating Valentines on that day and leave Ash Wednesday to the eternal value of Christ’s love for us. May God’s love bless and keep you every day of the year!

BE IN THE KNOW IN 2024

Follow the Diocese of Providence on your favorite social media platforms. Find the links at the QR code or URL below.



READ MORE ONLINE: Scan the QR code



or go to provd.io/bulletin




DIOCESE OF PROVIDENCE OFFICE OF VOCATIONS

Frassati

"We must sacrifice everything for everything: our ambitions, indeed our entire selves, for the cause of the faith."

Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati



A discernment
group for young
men ages 17-28

Meetings at
Our Lady of Providence Seminary
485 Mt. Pleasant Ave.
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Sun Noon - 6pm



M-Sa: 7am-10pm Sun: 7am-8pm
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Village at the Commons, Wakefield
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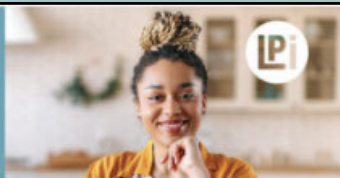
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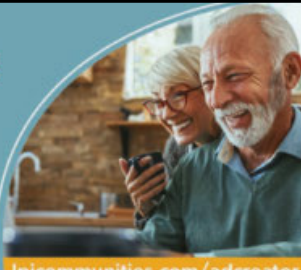
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