

The Pastor's Musings

Dear Family in the Lord,

Next Saturday will be a very significant day in the life of the Catholic community in the United States! Fr. Stanley Rother will be solemnly declared "Blessed" and is the first American Martyr beatified!

Father Stanley was born in 1935 in Oklahoma. He responded to the Lord's invitation to priesthood and entered the seminary to study for the Diocese of Oklahoma City, OK. Shortly after he began, Stanley was asked to leave formation due to his academic struggles, particularly in Latin, which in the 1950s was still being used not only in Liturgy, but for classes in Seminary. His bishop saw something in him and, after searching around, found another Seminary that would accept him and work with him. (I am very proud to say that it was the same one that I attended – Mount St. Mary Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland). He was ordained a priest in 1963 and began serving in his home diocese.



After five years, Fr. Rother asked his Bishop if he could go to do mission work in Atitlan, Guatemala. He was granted permission, and for the next thirteen years he would serve the poor and speak out for the rights of his oppressed people. After a few years, threats were made and he was told "his safety could not be assured." On a home visit to his family back in the United States, he met with his bishop, who did not want him to return to what was an increasingly hostile area, in light of the threats made and escalating violence. In the end, while he did not favor Fr. Stanley's return, his bishop told him he could follow his own conscience and he would not hold him back out of obedience. Father Stanley would declare to his Bishop, and to his friends and family who tried to persuade him to remain in the United States: "My people need me. A shepherd cannot run from his flock." So, he returned. On July 28, 1981, Father was murdered for his support of the indigenous poor and for his bold stand for faith, human rights, and justice. Pope Francis recognized him as a martyr on December 2, 2016, and he will be beatified in his home diocese of Oklahoma City by Cardinal Amato on behalf of Pope Francis.

This takes place in the midst of a world that, sadly, needs his powerful intercession, his prayers joined with ours, along with the action of government, to end the acts of terror, violence, and murder that have been committed against Christians in various parts of the world. Priests, sisters, lay men and women, and so many innocent people are being tortured, put to death, and driven from their homeland because of their lived faith. Here, in our own country, while it might appear more "subtle," there is a growing culture that is anti-faith and wants to rid our society of any recognition of the "Lord and Giver of Life." In too many cities the poor are "invisible" and cast aside. Policies and programs become burdens rather than helps to those who experience great need. This "holding up" of this Martyr-Shepherd can awaken us all, and stir us to fervent prayer and bolder action.

On Friday night, the eve on his beatification, we will hold a Vigil of Prayer here in our parish church from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. We will come before the Lord to bring a world that needs healing, comfort, relief for the poor, freedom to worship and live faithful lives, and a peace that the world cannot give. We will pray before Jesus in the exposed Blessed Sacrament in union with our Lady, the Black Madonna, who bears the scars of her wounded children, and seeking the intercession of Blessed Stanley Rother. I really hope you can join us as we lift up these needs for the world, our nation, our cities and our families.

EWTN will have an hour-long documentary on Blessed Stanley Rother on Friday night starting at 8:00 PM. Try to catch it after our Vigil of Prayer. It will also be on tomorrow, Monday, at 1:00 PM. There is a wonderful new book out that you can get on Amazon or from Barnes & Noble: *The Shepherd Who Didn't Run*, by Maria Ruiz Scaperlanda. I highly recommend it to you!

As a young seminarian, I would walk by a simple picture of Father Rother hanging on the wall in the hallway leading to our chapel. He was killed a month before I began my Theology studies at Mt. St. Mary. I'd glance at it and ask him to pray for me often, as one of our "notable alumni" – a distinction not of this world, but of one that REALLY counts – in the Kingdom! Join me in celebrating God's call and Stanley's response, God's grace and Stanley's courage – Blessed Stanley Rother, first American Martyr, pray for us in our time of need!

With you on the Journey,

The Week at a Glance

Monday, September 18

SPA School Mass – 9:15 AM (IC C)
Hey, I was wondering... – 6:30 PM (IC C)

Tuesday, September 19

Peter Scripture Study – 9:00 AM (SC H)
Peter Scripture Study – 6:30 PM (SC H)
Televised Parish Mass – 7 PM, Ch 98

Wednesday, September 20

Diocesan Vocation Team Mtg – 1PM (SJ)
Prayer Cenacle – 2:00 PM (IC C)
Rivier Retreat – 6:30 PM (EDPC)

Thursday, September 21

Exposition/Adoration – 8:30AM-5PM (IC)
Wedding Rehearsal – 5:30 PM (IC C)
Contemporary Group Practice – 7PM (ICC)
Televised Parish Mass – 7 PM, Ch 98

Friday, September 22

Wedding Liturgy – 4:00 PM (IC C)
Prayer Vigil Blessed Stanley Rother – 6:30PM
Italian Class – 7:00 PM (EDPC LL)

Saturday, September 23

Intentional Discipleship – 9AM-4PM (SJ)
Rosary – 3:30 PM (IC C)

Sunday, September 24

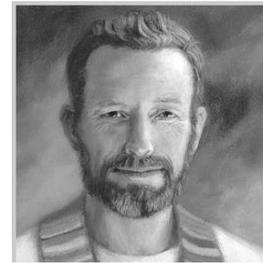
Children's Dismissal – at 8:30 Mass (IC)
Televised Parish Mass – 10 AM, Ch 98
RCIA – 11:30 AM (SJ H)
Music Ministry Rehearsal – 11:45AM (ICC)
Choir Practice Spanish Mass – 1PM (ICH)
Rosary – 1:30 PM (IC C)
Spanish Mass – 2:00 PM (IC C)
Bring It Home! – 5:30-7:30 PM (SPA)



Intentions For Holy Mass

- Monday SEP 18 Feria (weekday)**
 8:00AM Hazel Weigel, by Edward Butler
 9:15AM IC St. Patrick Academy Mass – open to all
- Tuesday SEP 19 St. Januarius**
 8:00AM The Homiszak Family,
 by Maryann Parnell
- Wednesday SEP 20 St. Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn,
 St. Paul Chŏng Ha-sang,
 and companions**
 8:00AM Anne Timmons, by Frances Lebel
- Thursday SEP 21 Feast of St. Matthew**
 8:00AM Irene Laverdiere, by Irene Lamy
- Friday SEP 22 Feria**
 8:00AM Joseph & Anne Parmentola, by the Family
- Saturday SEP 23 St. Pius of Pietrelcina**
 8:00AM Jules & Rose Montminy,
 by Priscille Sidley & Family
- Vigil 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time**
 4:00PM Theresa Lajoie, by Jean O'Brien
- Sunday SEP 24 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time**
 8:30AM Edward Balicki,
 by Gerry & Brenda Kelley
 10:30AM Robert Hart Sr., by Ted & Lis Connors
 2:00PM **in Spanish** Celebrant's Intention
 4:30PM Pro Populo (For our Parish Family)

To schedule Mass intentions or for sacramental records, please see Marilyn Chavez at the Eileen Daly Pastoral Center, or call 436-4555.



VIGIL OF PRAYER

Join us on the eve of the beatification of the first American Martyr, Fr. Stanley Rother, **this Friday from 6:30 to 7:30 PM in our parish church.** We will unite in prayer with our Lady, the Black Madonna, who bears the scars of her wounded children, seeking the intercession of Blessed Stanley, as we bring the innocents, victims of terror, violence, or religious persecution, and the many overlooked and downtrodden poor before Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament. (See details in the Pastor's Musings column.)

PARISH MISSION 2017

Surge of the Heart!

Plan now to join us! Invite family and friends!
 Great for the family!

OCTOBER 1, 2, 3 ~ SUNDAY – TUESDAY
 7:00 to 8:00 PM

Nationally known Catholic speaker and best-selling author Jon Leonetti will be here leading the way! Jon travels extensively helping Catholics deepen their understanding of the greatest story ever told – the story of Christ and His Church! Jon will help us close the gap between the Gospel and our everyday life. His reflections are insightful and dynamic, with some hilarious moments too! These are great opportunities to bring non-Catholic friends or inactive Catholics. Relaxed, enlightening, inspiring, and life renewing! Plan now! Spread the word! Flyers with nightly topics are available at the church door.

PARISH MISSION PRAYER

Please unite with our parish family, clip out this prayer and begin praying it, at the start of your day or maybe at the family dinner table, asking for abundant graces to flow in the upcoming days of Parish Mission 2017!

Jesus, you are the Way, the Truth, and the Life! With full confidence we run to you now, bringing with us all those we know and love, and our entire parish family. We ask that our upcoming Parish Mission be a time of renewal and growth in our walk with you. Enter into every household of our parish, Lord; especially those who are tired, lonely, and in need of your embrace. Heal our brokenness and awaken our hearts to a life fully lived in you! Mary, Mother of Jesus and our Mother, we pray that all who experience this Mission may grow in discipleship of your Son. We ask these prayers through Christ our Lord. Amen

**Our reflection
 of God's generosity to us!**

Weekend of September 9/10, 2017

Envelopes/EFT	\$ 13,974.00
Loose	\$ 1,896.60
Total	\$ 15,870.60

Last weekend 232 envelope/49 Online Giving users contributed 88 % of our income.

Poor Box Donations	\$ 430.78
Hurricane Harvey Relief	\$ 5,096.10

20/20 WINNERS\$

\$25 Winners ~ Week 3

- # 205 Lisa Boucher
- # 223 Alice Holding

Parish News

NEW! *Liturgical Ministries?*

The Fall season is a great time to submit your name and be trained to serve in our various liturgical ministries. Would you like to proclaim God's Word as a Lector, or minister the Body and Blood of the Lord as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, or offer hospitality as a Greeter? Would you like to join our team of dedicated women who care for the sanctuary, sacristy, altars, and things related to the Liturgy as part of our Martha & Mary Ministry? How about children in grades 4 and up willing to be altar servers? High school youth and young adults interested in serving as Masters of Ceremony at Mass? If you are willing to serve our parish in any of these ways, please call Mary Kay in our office or email her at aa1.cnh@gmail.com and give her your name, ministry of interest, and contact info. She will then pass the info on to those who will contact you to give you more info and training.

NEW! *Recently Baptized*

We warmly welcome **Beowulf Baker** and **Jack Davis**, who were given new life through water and the Holy Spirit in our parish community! To their parents and godparents we extend our congratulations and prayerful support as they live out the commitment they made to be "the first teachers of these children in the ways of faith." In the words of the rite, "may they be the best of teachers, bearing witness to the faith in what they say and do."

NEW! *Wedding Bells!*

Next Friday, **Meredith Eaton & Dan Dawidczyk** will pledge life and love in the sacrament of Marriage in our parish. We extend our congratulations and prayerful best wishes to them! May He who brought you together bless you in abundance in the years ahead as you live out this wonderful vocation.

NEW! *Called Home to the Lord*

We remember in prayer the repose of the souls of **John Stokel**, whose Funeral Mass was recently celebrated in our parish, and **Robert Padian**, a former parishioner who recently died in New York. To their families we extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayerful support as well.

NEW! *Traveling Vocation Icon*

This week, **Brittany & Chris Molda** will receive the Icon of Jesus Knocking at the Door into their home and intercede in a special way for Joe, Mike, Dan, and all in formation, for those discerning, and for many vocations to rise up from our community.



Sanctuary Lamp & Votives

The sanctuary lamp will burn in memory of Irene Arata and Anne E. Timmons, requested by Frances Lebel.

The votives at the Mary altar will burn this week for Glenn MacDonald, as requested by Paul Edson.

At the St. Joseph altar, the votives will burn in memory of Tuyet Nguyen, requested by her family.

Hey! I Was Wondering...



Adult Faith Enrichment

Join us Monday at 6:30 PM as we continue our "Hey, I Was Wondering..." weekly opportunity to explore various teachings, practices, and ways of living out our Catholic faith. The topics for each week will come from ideas submitted by parishioners. You can come any or every week, as each evening is independent, unless otherwise noted. A presentation by Fr. Gary will be followed by some Q & A. We will wrap up by 7:45 PM. Yellow sheets are at the church door to submit your topic ideas.

Upcoming topics:

- September 18:** Beyond the Externals – getting at the heart of the Mass and more than just spoken words
- September 25:** Redefining Marriage? Rights of various groups in society
- October 2:** NO SESSION/PARISH MISSION
- October 9:** The Rosary: more than repetition of words? Distractions? How to stay focused in prayer
- October 16:** The restored order of the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist

40 Days for Life

October is Respect Life Month. Once again, we will have the opportunity to unite with others all over the country in 40 Days for Life, prolife campaign of prayer, fasting, and witness! To date, 13,305 babies have been saved and 86 abortion clinics have closed.

The campaign runs from September 27th through November 5th. Consider joining us for sidewalk witness and prayer in front of the Lovers Health Center, 559 Portsmouth Ave. in Greenland, where abortions are performed in our area. You can go anytime between 7AM and 7PM that day or any day. Our parish has been assigned to pray there on Mondays.

In order to attract more young adults, 18 and older, a college scholarship in the amount of \$4040 is being offered to those who participate in the campaign. To apply for the scholarship they must download the 40DFL App. Contact our parish campaign co-coordinator Jackie McCoy at 603- 531-1662 or Joe Gagnon at 603- 373-0094 if you have any questions.

Families Living the Good News
Bring It Home!
 A Corpus Christi Parish Program

Sessions begin September 24/25!

Have you registered? Forms are available at the entrance to the church or register online at www.bringithomeccnh.org. Brochures with additional information are available at the entrance to the church or call Brenda or Brittany at 436-4555.



Children's Dismissal begins next Sunday, September 24th, during the 8:30 AM Mass

Dismissal sessions provide an opportunity for young children, Pre-K – Grade 2, to get to know Jesus through age-appropriate scripture readings, activities and discussions. After the Opening Prayer, Fr. Gary invites the children to come forward along with their Dismissal Leaders to go downstairs for the session. They return to their parents after the Prayer of the Faithful. *Parents are welcome to go downstairs with their child anytime, especially if the child is anxious at first.* For more information, contact Brenda at 436-4555, X20.

Bookmark the Date!



**Friday, September 29th ~ 4:00 PM Arrival
 Sunday, October 1st ~ 1:00 PM Departure**

Camp Fatima

32 Fatima Road, Gilman Iron Works, NH 03837

Look for the green flyer with all the details at the church doors!



Check out Online Giving (OLG), a convenient way to donate, with the option of using credit/ debit cards. You also have the opportunity to donate to other funds, such as the special collections this month: **Catholic University, NH Diocesan Priest Retirement, and Hurricane Harvey Special Relief** for those affected in Texas. Even if you usually use offering envelopes, you may wish to give online to a particular collection. For details, just visit the homepage of our parish website: www.corpuschristinh.org and look for the link!



Save The Date!!!

*We're changing it up!
 Our annual fair will be new and improved!
 Fellowship, food, and fun for all ages!*

FALL FUN DAY



**Raffles
 Games
 Fair Food
 Face Painting
 Prizes**



How can YOU plug in to make this a great parish FUN and FUNdraiser?

-  The biggest profit from this event is from the Grand Cash Raffle. Raffle ticket packets are available at the church door! We ask every household to sell one packet of 25 tickets, and more if you can!
-  We're asking for donations of gift cards for restaurants/services/stores. Multiple cards in small denominations are better than one card for a large amount. Could you donate one or more? Just drop into the collection basket in an envelope marked with your name and "Fall Fun Day"!
-  Are you crafty? We need people to sort, organize, and "merchandise" our Fall and Christmas church surplus items.
-  Our jewelry table is in need of donations of quality used jewelry. Items should be dropped off at the parish office by 10/20 (Please, NO books, electronics, or other "yard sale" type items!)
-  Can you lend a hand? As the date draws near, we will be looking for people to donate baked goods, to help with setup and cleanup, and to work the tables and games. Can you spare a few hours?

Saturday, October 28

9AM-2PM

St. James Hall



Community Postings



RISING OF THE MOON

Join us! All are invited on **Friday, October 27th**, to the Community Campus in Portsmouth at 6:00 PM for a FUN night out that will support Catholic education!

For the first time ever, Saint Patrick Academy will host **The Rising of the Moon Auction & Raffle**. This incredible night out will include games of chance, fantastic prizes, entertainment, and NBA star Paul Ryan, who will give a witness to the Catholic Faith.

Tickets are just \$25, and include great food. Raffle Tickets for a \$500 prize are just \$10 each. Both are available now by calling (603) 436-0739 or online at www.SaintPatrickAcademy.org. We hope to see you there!



SAINTPATRICKACADEMY.ORG
(603) 436-0739

Saint Patrick Academy is a Catholic school that fosters a love for the good, the true, and the beautiful. Students in Preschool through Eighth Grade receive a truly joyful and holistic education.

NEW! Wedding Anniversary Celebration

Bishop Libasci invites all couples who are celebrating their 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th or beyond Wedding Anniversary (anytime during the year 2017), to attend a special Anniversary Mass, to be celebrated on **October 15th** at 2:00 PM at St. Joseph Cathedral, Manchester. If you are celebrating a “milestone” anniversary this year, please contact the parish office **by September 22nd**. We will need your last names, first names, and a mailing address. Please also indicate your special anniversary year. By signing up, you will be registered and receive an invitation. There is no need for the couple to RSVP.

NEW! David Haas and Lori True in Concert

All are invited to an evening of music and prayer for all on **Friday, September 22nd**, at 7:00 PM at St Patrick Church in Milford, NH. David has composed such favorites as *You Are Mine* and *Blest Are They*. Lori's *Magnificat* is sung here at Corpus Christi. There will be a workshop for ministry on September 23. For more information, call 603-673-1311

NEW! Catholic Divorce Healing Program

The Parish of the Ascension in southeast Maine is pleased to announce a new session of divorce ministry for men and women who have suffered from divorce: *The Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide*. The twelve-week program features discussions and thirty minute DVD presentations each week which cover topics of shock, denial, anger, grief, guilt, forgiveness, money, the courts, the kids, the ex-spouse, annulment, dating, sexuality, spirituality, remarriage or staying single, and much more. Experts in the series include some of the best and brightest teachers, counselors, and authors in Catholic media. The DVD series also includes Catholic men and women who share gut-wrenching but inspiring stories of their divorce and recovery. You will cry, laugh, and be encouraged. Please join us, beginning on **Thursday, September 28th**, at 6:30 PM in the Parish Center (upstairs) of St. Raphael Church at 6 Whipple Road in Kittery. The program continues every Thursday for twelve weeks (except for Thanksgiving). Pre-registration is required to ensure that we have enough Personal Study Guides and to ensure the program is right for you. For more information, please contact Frank at 207-467-3868 or f.h.patch@gmail.com.

NEW! 3 Day Vigil

One of the greatest concerns we all face is sadness and concern over our family members and friends who have wandered away from our faith. St. Ignatius of Loyola and St. Mary Parishes will host a 3-day vigil, beginning with a Mass on **Tuesday, September 26th**, at 6:30 PM at Holy Trinity Church in Somersworth for all those in our families and lives who have fallen away from the Church. Following the Mass we will light a candle for each soul, for each family member or friend, to lift up to the Lord in prayer for their return to our faith. The candles will burn throughout the night and through the entire 3-day Vigil in front of the Blessed Sacrament. Holy Trinity Church will remain open as the hundreds of candles burn before the Lord while volunteers keep vigil twenty four hours a day until a closing Mass is celebrated on **Thursday, September 28th**, at 6:30 PM. All in our faith community are welcome to join us during this time of prayer for those who are away from our faith.