

The Seven Deadly Sins:

Gluttony, part 5

The reason for gluttony is not simply found on the natural level; bad eating habits and an over-abundance of salt and sugars is not its only cause. That would be easy to deal with! Gluttony is a spiritual illness, which is what a habitual deadly sin is. If untreated, habitual deadly sins can lead to hell. Thus Dante, who describes hell as nine concentric circles of misery, says that the third circle of hell is for those who were unrepentant gluttons while on earth. In this third circle, the gluttonous wallow in a vile, putrid slush produced by ceaseless, foul, icy rain, “a great storm of putrefaction,” as punishment for subjecting their reason to a voracious appetite for food and drink. Cerberus, the monstrous three-headed beast of hell, guards the gluttons lying in the freezing mire, mauling and flaying them with his claws as they howl like dogs. Wow. Dante could write! The surrender to sin, which began with mutual indulgence, leads by and imperceptible degradation to solitary self-indulgence. Fasting, even very modest fasting one day a week, curbs this appetite and restores us to sanity. A fast need not be total (nothing but liquids all day); in fact for many people it could harm them. We all know what level of self-denial in food and drink is possible and yet challenging for us, and we should embrace it to overcome this terrible deadly sin.

Job Posting

The Diocese of Fall River is standing on the threshold of a life-changing chapter in its 113-year history, and is currently seeking to fill its newly created full-time position of Executive Director for The Catholic Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts. This fundraising leader will broaden, deepen, and expand the relationship with current and future donors, and will work closely with Bishop da Cunha and the Board of Directors to ensure the appropriate strategies are developed and implemented. This once in a lifetime opportunity will be both challenging and rewarding. For a full description of the position, please go to www.fallriverdiocese.org and click on “Employment Opportunities”, or contact Peter Powers, Executive Director of Human Resources and Administration, at (508)985-6507, or by e-mail at powers@dioc-fr.org

From the Pastor

Saint of the Week

10 January

Saint William of Bourges

William’s father, Baldwin, wanted him to become a knight like his brother, but while studying under his uncle Peter, the archdeacon of Soissons, he felt the call to the priesthood. In time, he was ordained and became a canon at Soissons and then Paris. He entered the Benedictines at Grandmont and then, desiring a stricter rule, he entered the Cistercian Abbey of Pontigny. In 1187, he was elected abbot of Chalis; in 1200, to his dismay, he was made Archbishop of Bourges. Upon taking office, William doubled his normal penances for the sake of his new flock. The people sought him out, especially the poor, the downtrodden, and those who needed the healing of the confessional. William also took over the construction of the new Gothic cathedral of Saint Stephen, overseeing the design and installation of the statuary and the stained-glass windows. Though personally austere, William wanted only the best for God’s house. The church was sufficiently completed in 1208 for him to offer Christmas Mass there. William died soon after and was laid out as he had directed, in a hair shirt covered in ashes. The number of miracles that followed drew many pilgrims to the church and led to his speedy canonization nine years later. The beautiful cathedral he completed still stands and is a UNESCO world heritage site.

Saint William of Bourges, pray for us!

Bible Study

There will be Bible Study in the Parish Hall of January 6th at 6:30pm

Good Shepherd Parish Food Pantry

Donations of non-perishable food items are always welcome.

The food pantry is available to anyone in need while the parish office is open or by appointment.

From the Pastor Cont..

Respect Life Ministry

The Magi... are a living witness to the fact that the seeds of truth are present everywhere, for they are the gift of the Creator, who calls all people to acknowledge him as good and faithful Father. The Magi represent the men and women throughout the world who are welcomed into the house of God. Before, Jesus, all divisions of race, language and culture disappear: in that Child, all humanity discovers its unity.

~Pope Francis, Homily, Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, 2016

Respect Life Prayer Intention:

For our nation; that we honor God as our Creator and recognize His image in every human life.

Save the Dates

The next Respect Life Prayer Service will be on Saturday, February 3rd at 8:45am. All are welcome.

The US bishops annual novena 9 Days for Life takes place Thursday, January 18-Friday, January 26. Pray for the respect and protection of all human life with new intentions, brief reflections, and more each day.

Download the novena online, or participate through Facebook, email, text message or an app.

Join today at www.9daysforlife.com

The Pro-Life Apostolate is sponsoring its Annual Essay Contest to focus on the upcoming anniversary date of Roe vs. Wade and Doe vs. Bolton, the decisions which legalized abortion-on-demand in this country. Our theme this year is "BE NOT AFRAID" which calls us to reflect on the constant presence of Jesus in our lives through whatever storms or trials we have to face. We are not alone.

Essays will be grouped and judged in two categories according to grade level: Grades 6,7,8 comprise the first category and Grades 9 through 12 comprise the second category. First prize winners will be awarded \$150.00 cash and Second prize winners will be \$75.00 cash.

Call the parish office at 508-678-7412 for further information.

The deadline for submission of entries is February 9, 2018

Camp Fatima for boys and Camp Bernadette for girls are now accepting registrations for the 2018 summer season. The camps, located in the Lakes Region of NH, offer 2-week overnight sessions for children, ages 6-15. For more information or to request a brochure, contact Brendan Stackhouse at 603-364-5851 or email Brendan@bfcamp.com or visit and register online at www.bfcamp.com Please don't wait as sessions fill up quickly.

Catholic Social Services, a non-profit, Approved Housing Counseling Agency, is offering financial capability workshops and one-to-one counseling to all, including homeowners and renters facing financial difficulties.

Fall River	New Bedford	Cape Cod
508-674-4681	508-997-7337	508-771-6771

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

"Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay and you the potter; we are all the work of your hands." As we begin the waiting of advent, let us strive to become the work of his hands by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next weekends are Jan 19-21, 2018 in South Kingston, RI and Mar 9-11, 2018 in Duxbury, MA. For more information, call Stephen & Michelle O'Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit them at <https://wwmema.org/>.

The La Salette Retreat Center in Attleboro is the location for a new bi-weekly support group for separated and divorced persons. Our next meeting will be Tuesday December 19th from 7pm-8:30pm and subsequent meetings will be held every other Tuesday evening. For more information or for directions, please contact Dottie at 508-642-1928 or dojale@icloud.com

2018 Women and Men's Conference *"Save the Date"*

The Fall River Diocese 2018 Women and Men's Conference will take place on Saturday, March 10, at Stonehill College in Easton. Building on last year's first-ever such Conference in the Diocese, the one-day Lenten program will include keynote talks by noted speakers, prayer, music, fellowship, Mass, and new for next year, a separate track for young adults, ages 18 to 30. Please mark your calendar now and look for details on the 2018 Women and Men's Conference in coming months.

Start off the new year by doing good. Volunteer to play with homeless children at a Horizons for Homeless Children Playspace in one of more than 90 family friendly shelters. We have a high need for volunteers in Fall River & New Bedford. A commitment of 2 hours a week for 6 months and training are required.

Upcoming volunteer training:

Tuesday, February 6 from 6:00-9:00pm Brockton, MA

To find out more, view other training dates, or to apply, call 508-510-3250 or visit horizonschildren.org/playspace