

From the Pastor

The Seven Deadly Sins:

Gluttony, part 2

The most dangerous type of sin is that which takes a normal human appetite and makes it sinful. Gluttony is like that. Indeed, not only is the appetite for food normal, it is very good, since it is necessary for continued existence. Lack of appetite is one of the prime indicators of sickness. But it seems that we, and indeed our culture, have gone far beyond the normal appetite for food. Obesity is a terrible problem in our country: we are wealthy and we seem to have turned that wealth into excess pounds. There used to be “cooking shows” on TV, starting decades ago with Julia Child, God rest her soul. Now there is an entire “Food Network” that allows us to glut our senses all day and night long. Food has become an idol; the kitchen is, if I may put it this way, the new pagan temple at which we, or at least our bellies, worship. What to do?

Saint of the Week

18 December Saint Samthann

When Samthann was young, her foster father betrothed her to a man, even though she did not wish to marry. Samthann begged God to come to her aid. On her wedding night, a fire broke out in the town and her husband was called from the wedding bed. No one was hurt, and when he returned, Samthann was able to convince him that that had been a sign from God and she should be allowed to enter religious life. She convinced him, and entered the monastery of Ernside in Donegal. Eventually she became abbess of Clonbroney Abbey in County Longford, Ireland. Like other early Irish saints, Samthann is remembered as a worker of miracles. She was having a chapel built and one of the workmen, having labored long, wished silently for bread and butter, cheese and milk. Through the prayers of Samthann, the food suddenly appeared. “The thought of your heart is fulfilled, is it not?” she asked the workman. Samthann gave wise, good-humored advice to the clergy of her day. When asked in what position one ought to pray, she said any position is good. Another time, a monk told her that he was going to stop studying in order to pray more. Samthann told him he would not be able to focus his heart on prayer if he were to neglect his studies. Another shared his plan to go away on pilgrimage. She told him, “The Kingdom of Heaven can be reached from every land.” She died in 739.

Saint Samthann, pray for us!

Saint of the Week

29 December

Saint Marcellus Akimetes

In the year 402, a nobleman from Syria named Alexander renounced the world and founded a monastery on the banks of the Euphrates. The distinctive character of this monastery was the never-ending chanting of the monks. Divided into several choirs, the monks took turns to sing the divine office perpetually. They came to be called, in Greek, *Akoimetai*, the Sleepless Ones. Alexander eventually moved the monastery to Eirenaion, which means the City of Peace, across the Bosphorus from Constantinople. To this house came Marcellus, a devout young scholar who had renounced his family’s wealth. He quickly rose to become the third abbot of the monastery. Under Marcellus’ firm guidance, the monks embraced a deeper love of poverty. He had them keep only ten days’ worth of food in store and instilled in them a love of manual labor. The monastery thrived, and was the motherhouse of many new foundations. In time, Marcellus came to be called “the Righteous” for his firm stand against heresy. He condemned the heretic Eutyches and he attended the Council of Chalcedon, which defined the person and nature of Jesus Christ. The prayers of Marcellus were said to have saved the city of Constantinople from complete destruction by fire in 465. He died in 485.

Saint Marcellus Akimetes, pray for us!

Bible Study

No Bible Study until January 6th

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

Today the Church once more experiences the wonder of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph and the shepherds of Bethlehem, as they contemplate the newborn Child laid in a manger: Jesus, the Saviour. On this day full of light, the prophetic proclamation resounds:

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.

And the government will be upon his shoulder; and his name will be called "Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Is 9:6)

The power of this Child, Son of God and Son of Mary, is not the power of this world, based on might and wealth; it is the power of love. It is the power that created the heavens and the earth, and gives life to all creation: to minerals, plants and animals. It is the force that attracts man and woman, and makes them one flesh, one single existence. It is the power that gives new birth, forgives sin, reconciles enemies, and transforms evil into good. It is the power of God. This power of love led Jesus Christ to rise from the dead. It is the power of service, which inaugurates in our world the Kingdom of God, a kingdom of justice and peace.

~Pope Francis, "Urbi et Orbi", Christmas 2016

Respect Life Prayer Intention:

For new parents; May family and friends provide ongoing support as they welcome their child.

Save the Dates

The next Respect Life Prayer Service will be on Saturday, January 6th at 8:45am. All are welcome.

Sincere thanks to all who came caroling at Southpointe. You brought much Christmas joy to the residents!

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.