

From the Pastor

The Seven Deadly Sins: Lust, fifth and final part

It is important not to make a mistake: to over-spiritualize, that is, to think that the only response to lust must be a strictly spiritual one. Lust has its beginnings in natural urges (good ones, as I said) and specifically in the eyes. So to Christianize, to purify the eyes, we must give them something sensory to delight in: Great Catholic art and literature and music. Replace the trash and filth with true beauty. Remember our rule: Replace, don't just root out. I began by saying that we all know what lust is. So too, we all know who Mary is. Her value and power in the life of a Christian is precognitive, instinctive. It doesn't have to be analyzed to be understood because Mary is our Mother and we all know what motherhood is without studying and analyzing it. As we approach the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, let's give ourselves to Jesus through Mary. Unleash one precognitive force in our life against another. Let Mary annihilate lust in our lives.

Christmas Mass Schedule

12/24

8:15am at Good Shepherd

10:00am at Saint Stanislaus and at Good Shepherd

11:30am at Good Shepherd (Portuguese)

4:00pm at Saint Stanislaus

5:30pm at Good Shepherd

12:00am at Good Shepherd (bilingual)

12/25

7:00am at Saint Stanislaus

8:00am at Good Shepherd

10:00am at Saint Stanislaus and at Good Shepherd

Sunday Vespers

Sunday, December 10th

4:00pm at Saint Stan's

We will sing the official prayer of the Catholic Church, the Liturgy of the Hours, or the Divine Office.

Come and experience the beauty of singing Evening Prayer with the Universal Church!

Saint of the Week

9 December Saint Gorgonia

She was the sister of a famous bishop and theologian, Saint Gregory Nazianzen. In his funeral oration for her, he praised her, a wife and mother of five, for her fervor in prayer, here serenity in the face of suffering, and her attention to the needy and forsaken. She drew her husband into prayer and fasting, and taught her children by word but above all by example. She was modest and hospitable. Twice Gorgonia faced death with total trust in God's power. He answered her prayers after she was seriously injured in a carriage accident. And when she was in the grip of a severe illness, having been left for dead by her physicians, she dragged herself before the altar of God, begging for the healing he alone could give. It was granted. Like many Christians of her time, Gorgonia delayed baptism until late in life, remaining a catechumen and receiving the sacrament only when she was already a grandmother. Her husband, sons, and grandsons were baptized with her on the same day. When she was near death in 372, Gorgonia's family gathered around her. They saw her die serenely, praying with the Psalmist, "I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at once." Her brother Gregory wrote, "Nothing did she leave behind on earth but her body. She bartered everything for the hopes above."

Saint Gorgonia, pray for us!

Bible Study

Saturday at 6:30pm in the Good Shepherd Hall. It will be the First Sunday of Advent. Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37(2)

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

“When we encounter Christ, experience his love, and deepen our relationship with him, we become more aware of our own worth and that of others.”

~USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, “How to Build a Culture of Life,”

Respect Life Prayer Intention:

For those who feel lonely or abandoned; may their hearts be consoled by the genuine and loving care of others.

Save the Dates

All are invited to the following:

The next Respect Life Prayer Service is December 2nd at 8:45am

There will be a planning meeting on December 4th at 6:30pm

We will be singing Christmas carols at Southpointe on December 17th at 2:00pm

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

Youth Group Schedule

Dec 4th 6:00pm Respect Life planning meeting at Saint Stan’s (all who are coming to March for Life in Washington please attend)

Dec 6th 5:30-6:30pm meeting

Dec 17th 2:00pm Caroling at Southpointe Nursing Home

MASS INTENTIONS

On Monday, December 4, the Mass Book will be open for both Mass and candle intentions from January-June 2018. Please remember out of fairness to all parishioners, each parishioner may reserve up to three weekend Mass intentions in a six-month period. Intentions are always taken for Community Masses. To schedule intentions, you may call or visit the Parish Office Monday-Thursday 8:30-2:30 or email them to gfallriver@gmail.com

The Catholic high schools in the Diocese of Fall River will accept applications and administer an Entrance/Placement Examination for new students on Saturday, December 2nd with the make-up exam on Saturday, December 9th. Students wishing to enter any of these schools next September should report to the school of their choice by 7:45am. Testing begins at 8:00am.

Bishop Connolly High, Fall River
Bishop Feehan High, Attleboro
St. John Paul II High, Hyannis
Bishop Stang High, No. Dartmouth
Coyle and Cassidy High, Taunton

The application and examination procedure will last until approximately 11:30am. There will be a \$20.00 fee, payable at the time of application. The students need bring no records with them, nor do the parents have to accompany them. Information regarding courses, activities, and financial aid etc. will be given at the time of the examination, or can be obtained by contacting the school at any time.

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 Kingstown, 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 5th form 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.