

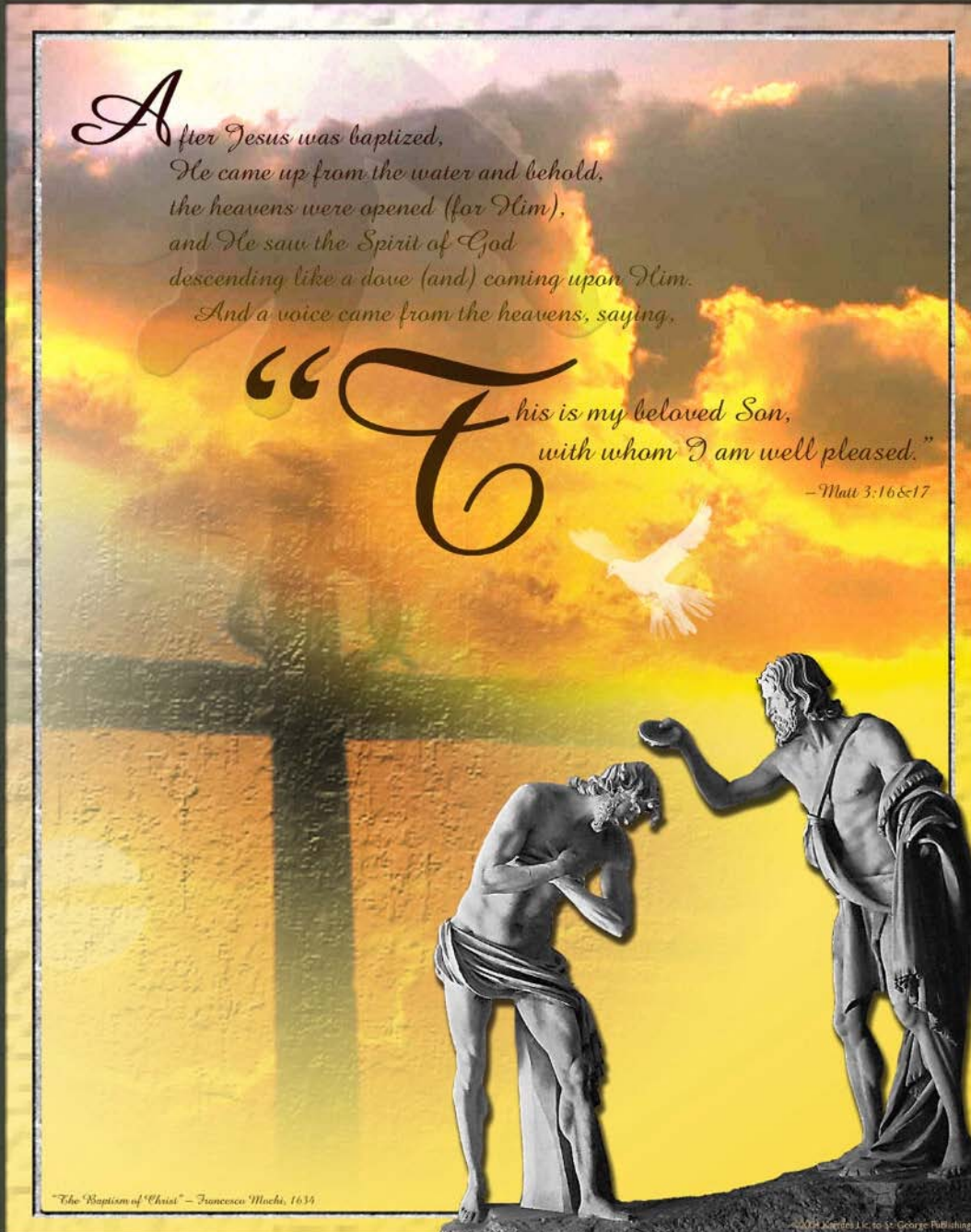
Saint Margaret's Parish

Burlington, MA

*After Jesus was baptized,
He came up from the water and behold,
the heavens were opened (for Him),
and He saw the Spirit of God
descending like a dove (and) coming upon Him.
And a voice came from the heavens, saying,*

*“This is my beloved Son,
with whom I am well pleased.”*

—Matt 3:16&17



"The Baptism of Christ" - Francesco Mucci, 1635

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Baptism Of The Lord

January 11, 2009

St. Margaret's Parish

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Parish Staff

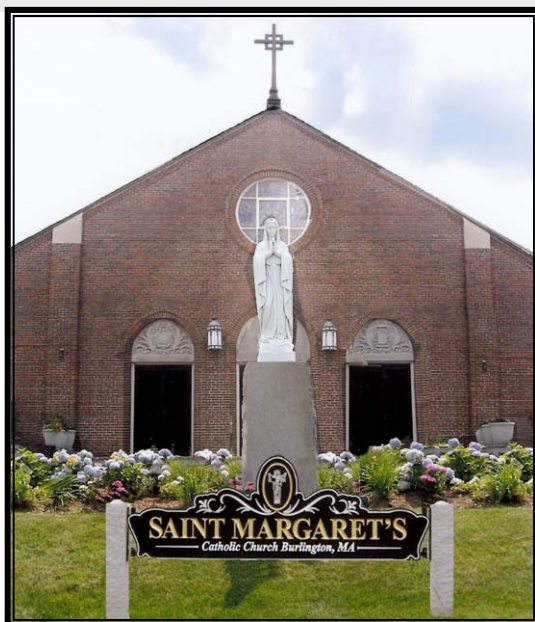


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Deacon Dick Bilotta
Mrs. Peg Kelly
Mrs. Tina Braceland
Mrs. Mary Murgio
Ms. Mary Meehan
Mrs. Marge Fusco
Ms. Christine Field
Mr. Sonny Dirienzo
Mr. John Reale
Mrs. Maureen Crowe

Pastor
Permanent Deacon
Business Manager
Parish Secretary
Director of Religious Education
Music Director and Soloist
Choir Director
Cantor
Facilities Manager
Asst. Facilities Manager
Housekeeper

Finance Council

Rev. Joseph Robinson
Beverly Broderick
David Cox
Dick Donovan
Carl Humphreys
Arthur Huse
Peg Kelly
Jack O'Keeffe
Nick Rosato
Warren Russell



Pastoral Council

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George Vallas

Lectors & Eucharistic Ministers

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Helping Hands

Peg Kelly

Ushers

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Altar Servers

Judy Hanafin
Matthew Hanafin

Bulletin

Deacon Dick Bilotta
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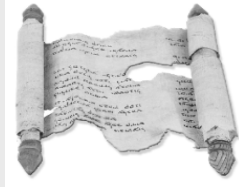
Dear Parishioners:

This week-end we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord by his cousin John the Baptist, who himself was sent by God to prepare the way for the coming of the long-awaited Messiah. Baptism was a critical moment in Jesus' life because it marked the inauguration of His public ministry as servant, preacher and healer. Baptism was His "coming out" into the world & accomplishing the "mission" for which He was sent. Our Baptism into Christ means sharing in His mission by serving and not by being served. Baptism is very much like life itself; it either grows and matures, or it shrivels up & dies.

All the gift giving associated with the "Giving Tree" has finally been concluded. St. Margaret's gift-wrapped some three hundred presents for inner city children and families, for single moms associated with "Heartbeat", and for local parishioners and townsfolk involved with "People helping People" and the Burlington Food Pantry. In addition, gift certificates for clothing and food amounted to over \$11,000. That is an incredible amount of giving, and we can presume that it brought an equal amount of joy to all who benefited from your generosity. The sponsors of these programs thank you wholeheartedly and they assure us the recipients are most worthy.

Fr. Robinson

Eternal Truths



Absolute Principles

- S The true republic: men, their rights and nothing more:
women, their rights and nothing less.*
- S The soul should always stand ajar. Ready to welcome the ecstatic
experience.*
- S Too slow for those who Wait,
Too swift for those who Fear,
Too long for those who Grieve,
Too short for those who Rejoice,
But for those who Love - Time is not.*
- S No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.*



Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil	4:30 pm 7:30 pm
Sunday	7:30 am 10:00 am (Upstairs) 10:00 am (Downstairs) 12:00 noon
Weekday	6:45 am 9:00 am
Saturday	9:00 am

Sacraments

- Baptism** On the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 2:00 p.m. Please call for an interview with any priest at the rectory to fill out the baptismal form. If you have a priest coming for the Baptism, you are most welcome to schedule the Baptism at your convenience.
- Confirmation** Begins in the Ninth Grade and concludes in the Tenth Grade. Attendance includes class, liturgy, and ministry.
- Penance** Every Saturday in the lower church from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Marriage** Congratulations on your engagement ! Please schedule an appointment with a priest at least 6 months prior to the wedding. Engaged couples contemplating marriage are required to take a marriage preparation course. Available programs may be found on the Family Life website (www.familylifeboston.com) or by calling 617-746-5801.
- Anointing** Please call the rectory and we will visit at home. If anyone is confined to the house and would like to receive a Communion visit, please call us. Our eucharistic ministers assist us in these visits.
- Funerals** Arrangements are made through the funeral directors. They are most compassionate and experienced, and will be of great assistance to you at this particular time in your life. A priest from St. Margaret's will lead a prayer service at the wake and graveside, as well as preside at the Funeral Mass. Our parish hall is available after the funeral, if needed.

Private Devotions

- Rosary** – Daily after the 9:00 a.m. Mass in the upper church.
- Eucharistic Adoration** – Every first Friday after the 9:00 a.m. Mass until 5:00 p.m. at which time there is Benediction.
- Holy Hour** – Wednesdays from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. in the upper church. We pray to Our Lady of Fatima for the sick, the elderly, and the homebound.
- Bible Study** – Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. in the Rectory.

Mass Intentions

Saturday	Jan.	10	9:00 am	Natalina Presti (9th Anniversary)
			4:30 pm	James Reynolds
			7:30 pm	Special Intention
Sunday	Jan.	11	7:30 am	Rev. James Shaughnessey
			10:00 am (u)	Robert Sheehan (6th Anniversary)
			10:00 am (d)	Karen Vick (6th Anniversary)
			12:00 noon	Nicola Francescucci
Monday	Jan.	12	6:45 am	Ray & Yolanda Valla
			9:00 am	Alicia Reyes (Month's Mind Mass)
Tuesday	Jan.	13	6:45 am	Monty & Pearl Coolidge
			9:00 am	Michael Collins
Wednesday	Jan.	14	6:45 am	Michael & Wanda Ostrowski
Saturday	Jan	17	9:00 am	Michael Duggan (5th Anniversary)
			4:30 pm	Callahan & Orrino Families
			7:30 pm	Evie Balkan (Month's Mind Mass)
Sunday	Jan	17	10:00 am (u)	Lolly Gilgun
			12:00 noon	Dorothy A. Ryder

Memorial Prayers: Anthony Puleo, James Ponnusamy, Mr. & Mrs. Massillamani



Prayers for the Sick



Jack Pessotti	John O'Connor
Brian Joseph	Donald Welch
Spike Lawless	Robert Menzies
Sis	Bella Russo
Tony Sulfaro	Sandra Davis
Helen Boyle	Fr. Richard Brady
Audrey Christiansen.	Dick Butler
Irene Grace	Scott M.
Baby Hannah	Nicholas
Chandra	John Nagle
Joyce Munger	Baby Haley
Brandina	John Presti
Stephen	Ollie Muir
Jean Simpson	Elizabeth Walsh
Robbin Durney	Alice Welch
Rebecca	Helen Feehan
Cathy Fichtner	Michael Munafo
Connie Tedesco	Ann Martin
Carl Christiansen	Paul Donovan
Fr. Ryan	Peggy McGarry
Patrice Guanci	
Chuck Hanafin	



Prayers for Protection



PFC Paul Marchese	Army	Afghanistan
Ens. Stephen Dutton	Navy	At Sea
PFC Rebecca L. Marion	Army	Iraq
Sgt. Joseph P. Surette	Army	Korea
CPL Richard Schaufus	Marines	Okinowa
Major Adam Boyd	Army	Iraq
MA-3 James Marchese	Navy	Italy
Tech Sgt. Jeremy Brooks	A.F.	Iraq
Rct. Steven Colombo	Marines	USA
Staff Sgt. Eric Leverone	Army	Afghanistan
Lt. Vince Lynch	Army	Germany
STS2 Kyle J. Marchese	Navy	At Sea
Capt. Chris Brooks	Army	Afghanistan
CW02 Scott Munger	Marines	Hawaii
Lt. Jennifer M. Delaney	USN	USA
LCPL Patrick Harrington	Marines	Iraq



Announcements

Funerals - This past week St. Margaret's has presided at the funeral of Anthony Puleo. Please remember Anthony and his family in your prayers .

Bulletin Sponsor - Accurate Automotive in Burlington services cars and sells tires. Maximum Image at the Woburn Mall is a hair salon, spa, and wellness center. T. J. Lynch in Burlington is a general contractor specializing in kitchens, bathrooms, and all additions.

The Pilot - At the entryway to the church are subscription cards for home-delivery of our archdiocesan newspaper, The Pilot. We also leave a number of copies weekly on the tables at the entryway.

Teacher Needed - we are in need of one eighth grade C.C.D. teacher on Monday evenings from 7:00-8:00 p.m. If you can help us, please call Pat Moreno at 781-272-5375

Confessions - Our penance room has worked out just fine. Just remember to leave the door open when you finish. The room is spacious, well-lighted, and comfortable. If your children are with you, please explain to them the option of the kneeler or the chair.

St. Irene's, Carlisle - Jan.15th at 7:30 p.m., 187 East St. Carlisle. Theologian and popular author Michael O'Laughlin, Th.D. presents The Institutional Church-Our Anchor or Our Millstone?

Careful - Please watch your comings and goings between the parking areas and the church. Drifts and ice are spotty. Everyone needs to be extremely cautious. We do the best we can, but it isn't perfect!

Juniors & Seniors - Meet Sunday night (January 11, 2009) at 6:15 p.m. in the church.

Open House - St. Charles School in Woburn Tuesday and Wednesday, January 27 and 28 from 9 - 11 a.m. Call (781) 273-0885 with questions.

Archdiocesan Baby Shower- Please bring baby gift to Mass on Jan.17 & 18. Items needed: baby bottles, newborn or size 1 disposable diapers, diaper bags, sweaters, crib sheets, socks nightgowns, blanket sleepers, baby powder, receiving blankets, pacifiers. All proceeds benefit Pregnancy Help Office. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please make check payable to Fund for the Unborn or Heartbeat.

Please Note (Nota Bene)! - Anyone who uses the hill behind the church does so at their own risk and the risk of their children. It is a dangerous place to sled. St. Margaret's does not give permission to anyone to use that hill for any purpose.



Religious Education



Mary Murgo – Director

School Phone: 781-272-5810

Stmargccd@hotmail.com

ALL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TEACHERS must complete a **CORI** form every year. Please see your grade coordinator or the Religious Education Director to get your CORI form. If you completed a CORI form at St. Margaret's last year, you need to complete a **WHITE** form. If you are a **NEW** volunteer, you need to complete a **BLUE** form. CORI forms must be *personally verified* by a grade coordinator or the Religious Education Director. **Identification** must be presented. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

TAT Training for Grades 1-3 will be offered on February 2 & 3, 2009 from 8 am to 4 pm (both days) at Saint Catherine's Parish in Westford. TAT Training will also be offered on February 7 & 8 from 8 am to 4 pm (both days) at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center in Braintree. Registration and breakfast begin 1/2 hour before the starting time. Lunch will be provided on both days of training. Please send an email to STMARGCCD@HOTMAIL.COM if you are interested in registering for a two day TAT training class. *St. Margaret's is required to include the TAT curriculum in our religious education classes for grades 1-3.*

SECOND GRADE ORAL PRAYER TESTS have begun. Please help your son/daughter practice the Hail Mary, Glory Be, Our Father, and Act of Contrition at home. See www.schoolnotes.com for copies of the required prayers. Children receive certificates and a small prize when they pass their oral prayer test.

HOME SCHOOL: Please contact your grade coordinator if you need to pick up a book. **Grade 1:** Jim Brine at 781-272-1113; **Grades 2, 3, 4, and 5:** Mary Murgo at 781-272-5810; **Grade 6:** Margie Joyce at 781-221-5661; **Grade 7:** Tom Shannon at 781-229-2254; **Grade 8:** Pat Moreno at 781-272-5375.

ALL REGISTRATION FORMS and FEES ARE NOW DUE! Please send in a check if you have not already paid. Checks may be dropped off at the rectory or at the CCD office. Maximum family payment is \$175. For grades, 1 and 3-8, fee is \$50 per child. For grades 2, 9 and 10, fee is \$75 per child. If you are experiencing financial difficulty, please pay what you can afford. Registration must be complete for students to remain on our mailing list.

10th Grade Parochial School Religious Education Students - A reminder that students attending Parochial School must start attending class at St. Margaret's on January 4th. Any questions, please contact Lydia Brown at (781) 272-3391.



Altar Ministries – Jan 10/11



Saturday
4:30 PM
Celebrant: Father Robinson
Cantor:
Reader: Janet Fitzgerald
EMHC(s): Tom Bova, Judy Curtin
Server(s): Nichole Scola, Jake Hanafin

Saturday
7:30 PM
Father Robinson

Ron Kurtz
Mary Lou McQuinn
Matt, Mike & Rob Ackerman

Sunday
7:30 AM
Celebrant: Father Robinson
Cantor: ---
Reader: Carl Humphreys
EMHC(s): Arthur Hughes, Brian Walsh
Server(s): August Kaminski, Jillian Ghio

Sunday
10:00 AM Upper Church
Father Butera
Christine Field
Laurie Glasser
Dick Donovan, Donna Donovan
Marie Fazio, Riley Feller

10:00 AM Children's Mass
Celebrant: Fr. Robinson
Cantor: April Healy, George Vallas
Reader: ---
EMHC(s): Nicole Griffin, Mary Rigby, Jolene Fogarty
Server(s): Paige Brand, Kevin Cox

12:00 Noon
Father Butera
Christine Field
Paul Blanchard
Kathleen Blanchard
Joe & Sean Maguire

Our friends and neighbors above will be serving at the Lord's Table this weekend. We are always in need of Readers and/or Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) at Mass. If you are interested, please contact Dick Donovan at 978-670-2660. Assignments above are subject to change.

January 4, 2009
Latest Financial Figures

\$2054 - Holy Day Collection
\$7075 - Weekly Offertory Collection
\$11,099 - Weekly Amount Banked
\$345,989 - Amount Banked YTD
\$303,750 - Budget Year to Date
\$42,239 - Budget Surplus Year to Date

Upcoming Second Collections

January 11 - Building Fund
January 25 - Latin America

MASS APPEAL

The Catholic Mass is a liturgical service that is rich with meaning and symbolism; a place where the faithful can go to speak to God and to hear what God has to say; an opportunity to receive God in a very intimate way; a gateway through which the faithful can reach back and make contact with our spiritual ancestors and relive the greatest event in human history. Perhaps, most important of all, it is an opportunity to come together and be who we are holy people of God. For all of that, then, it is a tragedy that only 20 - 30% of Catholics attend weekend Mass on a regular basis.

The Catholic Church requires that its members attend weekly Mass, not because it wishes to impose an extra burden on our already too busy lives, but because it knows that regular Mass attendance is necessary for our spiritual health. What follows is a brief look at why regular Mass attendance is so important.

Holy Obedience

Let's begin with the basics – we should go to Mass in obedience to God's will and respect for the authority of His Church. The Third Commandment tells us to "keep holy the Sabbath Day." Since earliest times, in keeping with the spirit of this commandment, Christians have observed Sunday as a day of worship and rest in order to honor the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus. We have a serious responsibility to worship the God who has created us and given us everything we have. By participating in the Mass we are honoring him and recognizing our need for a Savior in our lives. The church teaches that Catholics have a serious obligation to participate in Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days of Obligation. Such a rule can be helpful to us weak human beings. Reverent obedience can bring wonderful blessings to our lives. To those who ignore this rule and choose not to attend Mass on a regular basis, I would simply ask: What, then, are you doing to "keep holy the Sabbath Day."

Spiritual Health

Many say that they don't need to attend Mass because they can pray by themselves. That's all well and good. Private prayer should be an important part of our regular daily routine. But, private prayer is not enough. Just as our bodies need to be properly fed in order for them to be healthy, so do our souls. At Mass, we do a lot more than just pray and worship God. At Mass, we also hear God speaking to us. We hear him speak to us in the readings, the Psalms, the Gospel and the homily. Regular attendance at Mass will, over time, help us to grow spiritually and deepen our knowledge and understanding of God and of ourselves. A person who does not attend Mass regularly remains spiritually starved. A person who does not get enough to eat will weaken physically and have less resistance to disease. A person who is spiritually starved will weaken and have less resistance to temptation and sin in their lives.

The Eucharist

In the Holy Eucharist, Jesus gives us the greatest gift that God can offer to a human being – the gift of Himself. The Eucharist is the source and the summit of Christian life. Regular reception of the Holy Eucharist is essential for our spiritual health and well being – and, except for unusual circumstances, you only receive it at Mass.

Community

The concept of being part of a community is at the heart of what it means to be Christian. Our faith is not an individual or private thing – it is meant to be practiced “in community.” There are many ways to understand this. First, there is God’s basic desire for union with us. The Church teaches us the concept of the Mystical Body of Christ in which we are all united in intimate union with Christ and, through Christ, with each other. Another way to understand the issue of community is by the metaphor of the family. We are all children of God, united as His family. Christ instructed the Church to “go and teach all nations.” This reflects Christ’s desire that we work to build a Christian community. By being part of a Christian community, we can support each other in our spiritual growth and development as we walk the road to salvation together.

If we are going to be the community that God wants us to be, then we have to function as a community. Part of that means that we have to come together and be a community from time to time. Mass, therefore, is the prime means by which our Christian community comes together to worship and express itself as a people of God. A very important part of what it means to be Christian is to be an active part of a Christian community. And, what do Catholics “do” when they come together in community? They “do” Mass. Regular Mass attendance is a critically important part of an individual Catholic’s obligation to the community and to God. It’s a way to be spiritually in touch with the millions of other Catholics around the world who are attending Mass on a given weekend. One young woman stationed in Germany in the Army said that going to Mass helped her to feel spiritually connected to her family, knowing that they, too, were at Mass many miles away in Missouri.

A Privilege

We should be grateful that we are living in a time and place where church doors are open and we are free to express our religion and attend Mass. That has not always been the case for every Catholic. It is not the case for some Catholics today in other parts of the world. Having Sunday Mass so readily available is a privilege we often take for granted. Every Catholic should make the effort to get to weekend Mass. Given all that God has done for us, given all that he wants to do for us, it really is hard to justify not being willing to spend some time each week in praise of Him. Many say that Mass is boring or that they don’t get much from it. Mass is like anything else – the more you put into it, the more you seek to become a part of it, the more you will get from it. And, remember, Jesus is always there for you.

Two thousand years ago, God walked among us in the person of Jesus Christ. In His life and death He made a commitment to us that will remain throughout eternity. As Catholics, we have an obligation to recognize and respect that commitment; we have an obligation to remain committed to Him. At the end of the day, Mass is not for the priest nor for the institutional church; rather, it’s for each one of us. Attendance at Mass is an opportunity to take our place at the Lord’s table and share in the bounty which He has prepared for us.

Deacon Dick