



LAUDATO SIE, MI SIGNORE,  
CUM TUTTE LE TUE CREATURE...



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## Mary Immaculate of Lourdes Parish

270 Elliot Street

Newton, MA 02464

### Parish Staff

TO CONTACT THE PARISH BY E-MAIL:

[miolpastor@gmail.com](mailto:miolpastor@gmail.com)

PASTOR: FATHER CHARLES JEREMIAH HIGGINS

PAROCHIAL VICAR: FATHER STEPHEN ROBERT LEBLANC

VISITING ASSISTANT PRIESTS: FR. JUAN CARLOS RIVERA

CASTRO, S.J., FR. DESIRE SALAKO, S.M.A.

DEACON: REV. DEACON SERMED ASHKOURI

BUSINESS MANAGER: SHARON HOGAN

PARISH & CEMETERY SECRETARY: MARGIE BIBBO

SUNDAY SACRISTAN: FRANCIS GALLAGHER

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: JEAN JOHNSON (DIRECTOR)

FATTI STROM (LATIN MASS CHILDREN'S CATECHISM)

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: MRS. BOBBIE HOFFMANN

### Telephones

Parish Office: 617-244-0558 / FAX 617-965-4815

### WEBSITE ADDRESS:

[www.maryimmaculateoflourdesnewtonma.org](http://www.maryimmaculateoflourdesnewtonma.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/miolnewton](https://www.facebook.com/miolnewton)



Parish Cemetery of  
Saint Mary's,  
Needham

**GUARDIAN  
ESTATE  
MANAGEMENT  
INC.**

Mr. Ron Goguen, Superintendent .  
Guardian Staff on-site for service hours Mon.-Fri.,  
9 AM—3 PM, April through November.

The Cemetery Office is located at the parish  
rectory on 270 Elliot St, Newton Upper Falls and is  
open Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Telephone: 781-235-1841

[saintmaryscemetery.org](http://saintmaryscemetery.org)

## Mass Schedule

### Sunday:

*Novus Ordo*

Saturday 4:00 PM (*Anticipated Sunday Mass*),  
7:30 & 9:00 AM

*Traditional Latin*

11:00 AM & 5:30 PM

### Weekdays:

*Novus Ordo*

Mon-Tue-Thu-Fri 7:30 AM

*Traditional Latin*

Mon-Wed-Fri 12:30 PM; Thu 5:30 PM

Saturday 9:00 AM

### Holy Days

(Mass Timetables, as announced close before  
the occurring Feast)

*December 8th, The Immaculate Conception of  
Our Lady (Patronal Feast of the USA)*

*December 24th/25th, Christmas*

*January 1st, Octave Day of Christmas-Mary  
the Mother of God*

*Ascension Thursday (40 days after Easter)*

*August 15th, The Assumption of Our Lady*

*November 1st, All Saints*

# ABOUT OUR PARISH

## Welcome, New Parishioners and Sunday Visitors:

Mary Immaculate of Lourdes Parish is a canonically open parish of the Archdiocese of Boston, which has a Traditional Latin Mass Apostolate as a major part its parish mission, under the auspices of the Archbishop of Boston. We encourage new parishioners to please register in the parish and to introduce yourselves to the Pastor. We are always glad to welcome Sunday visitors here to our beautiful, historic church. We look forward to your coming again.

**PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO FILL OUT A PARISH REGISTRATION FORM, EITHER ON-LINE OR BY USING THE PAPER REGISTRATION FORM IN THE PAMPHLET RACK IN THE FRONT VESTIBULE OF THE MAIN CHURCH.**



### Parish Mission Statement

“What then is a parish? It is the smallest section of the one universal flock which has been entrusted to Peter by the Lord.

Under the authority of a responsible priest who has received the care of souls from his bishop, the parish is, within the Church of Jesus Christ, the first community of Christian life; it is a community cut to human dimensions, in which the shepherd can know his flock and the flock can know their shepherd ... At the heart of this area, we find the parish church with its bell-tower, its baptistery, its confessional, its altar and tabernacle, a symbol of unity and the centre of community life.”

**(Pope Saint Paul VI, reigned 1963-1978)  
Raised to the Altars October 14th, 2018**

**Mary Immaculate of Lourdes**  
(Formerly St. Mary's Parish, 1870-1910)  
Newton/Needham, Massachusetts  
Newton & Needham's Oldest Roman  
Catholic Parish

**Immaculate Conception  
Chaldean-Rite Mission**  
at Mary Immaculate of Lourdes Church:  
Mass offered according to the  
Chaldean-Rite on designated Sundays at  
1:30 P.M.  
Deacon Sermed Ashkouri

## SACRAMENTS

**BAPTISM:** The Sacrament of Baptism for infants and children under 7 years of age is scheduled upon request. Please contact the Parish Office (617-244-0558) to request a date.

**PENANCE:** Confessions regularly heard —  
SUNDAY, 10:00-11:00 A.M., 5:00-5:30 P. M.  
MONDAY-WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY, before and  
after the 12:30 P. M. Mass.  
THURSDAY, before and after the 5:30 P.M.  
Mass.  
SATURDAY, 8:00-9:00 A. M./ 3:30-4:00 P. M.

**MATRIMONY:** Engaged couples should make arrangements with the parish church so as to allow for adequate sacramental preparation (six months), including a Pre-Cana program.

### Pastoral Care of the Sick

**SACRAMENT OF THE SICK, also known as  
EXTREME UNCTION**

**Communion of the Sick for the Homebound**

Please contact Father Higgins at the Parish  
Office (617-244-0558)

**+ NOVEMBER IS THE MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS+**



**THANKSGIVING DAY  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27th, 2025**

**Parish Masses: 7:30 AM (Novus Ordo)**

***Mass of Thanksgiving Day***

**9:00 AM (Traditional Latin Mass)**

***Feast of the Dedication of Mary Immaculate of  
Lourdes Church***

**(N.B.: There will be no 5:30 P.M. Mass on  
Thanksgiving Day)**

**Blessing of Food for the Thanksgiving Table**

**You are invited to bring food for your  
Thanksgiving Table to be blessed at the end of  
Mass.**

***Adventide  
Gift & Bake Sale:  
Sunday, November 30th***



**Please support our  
Adventide Gift & Bake Sale  
on the First Sunday of  
Advent. The sale will take  
place after each of our  
Masses, beginning with the  
4:00 P.M. Mass on  
Saturday, November 29th.  
Can you help us by donating  
a baked good for sale? All  
proceeds will go to the  
support of our parish.  
Please contact Margie Bibbo  
at the rectory office  
(617-244-0558) during the  
work-week or speak with  
Patti Strom or Jean Johnson.**



***PHOTO above: The three new bells for Mary  
Immaculate of Lourdes Church, before they were  
hoisted up into the bell-tower, 1910. This year is the  
115th Anniversary of our Church Dedication.***

**EUCCHARISTIC  
ADORATION**



**Weekly Holy Hours:  
Fridays, 6:30-7:30 AM  
11:30 AM-12:30 PM  
Saturdays, 8:00-9:00 AM**



**"GRATITUDE IS THE THING  
THAT BRINGS US THE MOST  
GRACE...I HAVE LEARNT THIS  
FROM EXPERIENCE; TRY IT  
AND YOU WILL SEE. I AM  
CONTENT WITH WHATEVER  
GOD GIVES ME, AND I SHOW  
HIM THIS IN A THOUSAND LITTLE  
WAYS."—ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX (+1897)**



PARISH CHRISTMAS GIVING-TREE  
PROJECT FOR 2025:

*For the benefit of St. Francis House and  
Julie's Family Learning Center*

**Three Sundays: November 23rd,  
November 30th & December 7th**

Please join us in buying requested  
gift-donations from the tags on our parish  
"Giving-Tree", which will be set up beginning  
Sunday, November 23rd.

ALL GIFTS SHOULD BE NEW, UNUSED  
ITEMS. THEY SHOULD BE UNWRAPPED  
IN PLAIN BAGS AND MUST BE RETURNED  
**BY DECEMBER 7th, 2025.**

GIFT CARDS SHOULD BE PLACED IN THE  
SUPPLIED ENVELOPE AND PUT IN THE  
COLLECTION BOX OR BROUGHT TO THE  
RECTORY.

St. Francis House aims to provide  
comprehensive care for the homeless, including  
meals, clothing, showers and medical care. St.  
Francis House also offers mental health  
counseling, substance-use recovery support, case  
management services, permanent  
housing, and workforce development.

Julie's Learning Center provides single mothers  
with an education program to finish their High  
School degree and thus earn them a space in the  
job market. The Giving Tree will supply the  
mothers with items they need for their families.



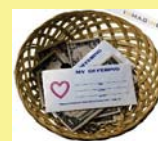
**"IF YOU ARE WILLING TO  
SERENELY BEAR THE TRIAL  
OF BEING DISPLEASING TO  
YOURSELF, THEN YOU  
WILL BE FOR JESUS A  
PLEASANT PLACE OF  
SHELTER."—ST. THERESE OF  
LISIEUX (+1897)**

## STEWARDSHIP



SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS FOR THE SUPPORT  
OF OUR PARISH AND THE WIDER CHURCH MISSION  
*"What return can I make to the Lord for all His  
kindness to Me?"*

**OFFERTORY for the TWENTIETH SUNDAY  
after PENTECOST/30th SUNDAY of the YEAR,  
October 26th, A.D. 2025, \$7,470.00 + OTHER  
OFFERINGS, \$1,915.00:  
= \$9,385.00**



### SECOND COLLECTION TODAY: SICK & RETIRED RELIGIOUS SISTERS

*"Glorify the Lord generously, and do not stint  
the first fruits of your hands. With every gift  
show a cheerful face, and dedicate your tithe  
with gladness. Give to the Most High as He  
has given, and as generously as your hand has  
found. For the LORD is the One who repays,  
and He will repay you sevenfold."—Sirach 35*

# Calendar of Masses

(Intention of the Mass—Special Remarks—Requested by)

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Maria Botsolis</b>	<b>Special Intention</b>	<b>Botsolis Family</b>
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>			
<b>23rd</b>	<i>(Anticipated Sunday Mass)</i>			
<b>LAST SUNDAY after PENTECOST</b>	<b>7:30 AM</b>	<b>Pro Populo</b>		
<i>Commemorations:</i>				
<i>Pope St. Clement I, St. Felicity</i>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>+Ralph Goguen</b>	<b>Memorial</b>	<b>Slifka Family</b>
	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>For the Preservation of the Free Exercise of the Latin Mass in the Life of the Church</b>	<b>Special Intention</b>	
<b>OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE</b>		<b>Pope/Priests/Bishops</b>	<b>Special Intention</b>	<b>MPA</b>
		<b>Divine Will/Peace on Earth</b>	<b>Special Intention</b>	<b>MPA</b>
		<b>Christ the King</b>	<b>In Thanksgiving</b>	<b>Choy Family</b>
		<b>Kathleen Nicolero</b>	<b>Birthday Intention</b>	<b>Nicoloro Family</b>
		<b>All Seminarians</b>	<b>Special Intention</b>	<b>Donor</b>
		<b>+Alex. M. Barboza (11/12)</b>	<b>Memorial</b>	<b>Susanna Barboza</b>
		<b>"All Those In Need" (12)</b>		<b>MPA</b>
		<b>+All Souls (13/50)</b>	<b>Memorial</b>	<b>Barbara Opielowski</b>
		<b>Kang-Min, Kim (10/12)</b>	<b>Special Intention</b>	<b>Haley Lee</b>
		<b>+John J. Nicolero (9/30)</b>	<b>Memorial</b>	<b>Nicoloro Family</b>
		<b>+Hel. Wysocka (10/10)</b>	<b>Memorial</b>	<b>Maria Jaber</b>
		<b>Eliza. Wysocka (5/10)</b>	<b>Healing</b>	<b>Sister</b>
		<b>Tanal Jaber (5/5)</b>	<b>Special Intention</b>	<b>Wife</b>
		<b>+Maria Ter. Djevalikian</b>	<b>Memorial</b>	<b>DiDuca Family</b>
		<b>+Catherine MacNeill</b>	<b>Memorial</b>	<b>DiDuca Family</b>
		<b>+William Vo</b>	<b>Memorial</b>	<b>Duong Family</b>
		<b>Anna Maria Botsolis</b>	<b>Birthday Intention</b>	<b>Botsolis Family</b>
		<b>+William Basile</b>	<b>Month's Mind</b>	<b>Christine Quagan (20 NOV)</b>
		<b>+Gabriel Augustine Hall</b>	<b>Mass of the Angels</b>	<b>Christine Quagan</b>
		<b>+David Donald Morais</b>	<b>Memorial</b>	<b>Bennett Family</b>
		<b>+Clare Sullivan</b>	<b>Memorial</b>	<b>Meegan Family</b>
		<b>+Rev. Donald P. Clifford</b>	<b>3rd Anniv. Mem.</b>	<b>Tyler C. Molisse</b>
		<b>Peter Vincent Casey</b>	<b>Health of the Sick</b>	<b>Casey Family</b>
		<b>Patti Strom</b>	<b>Special Intention</b>	<b>DiDuca Family</b>
		<b>Maria</b>	<b>Special Intention</b>	<b>Maria Tran</b>
		<b>+Dominique/Jean Pierre</b>	<b>Living &amp; Deceased</b>	<b>Geraldine Jean Pierre</b>
		<b>+Boscarino Family (1/2)</b>	<b>Memorial</b>	<b>McCarthy Family</b>
		<b>Stephen Pollard (1/3)</b>	<b>Special Intention</b>	<b>Laura Harvey</b>
		<b>Neal Steinkrauss</b>	<b>Birthday Intention</b>	<b>Kwash Family</b>
		<b>Intention of the Donor</b>		<b>Kwash Family</b>
		<b>Gary Tetrault, Jr.</b>	<b>Health of the Sick</b>	<b>Reynolds Family</b>
		<b>+Robert Joseph Wassmer</b>	<b>Memorial</b>	<b>Reynolds Family</b>
		<b>Gloria Jean McDonald</b>	<b>Birthday Intention</b>	<b>Reynolds Family</b>
		<b>+Jenice Cox</b>	<b>Memorial</b>	<b>Reynolds Family</b>
		<b>Laureen Cronin</b>	<b>Special Intention</b>	<b>Reynolds Family</b>
		<b>Stephen J. Mitchell</b>	<b>Special Intention</b>	<b>Reynolds Family</b>



November 23rd, 2025 A.D.

Last Sunday after Pentecost/Christ the King  
Mary Immaculate of Lourdes, Newton/Needham, Massachusetts



<b>SUNDAY</b> <b>NOVEMBER</b> <b>23rd</b>	11:00 AM	Bishops & Priests	Courage/Fidelity/ Perseverance	Donor
<i>LAST SUNDAY</i> <i>after PENTECOST</i>	5:30 PM	+Carolyn Ward	Memorial	Hobbib Family
<b>MONDAY</b> <b>November 24th</b> <i>SS. Andrew Dung-Lac</i> <i>&amp; Companions/ St.</i> <i>John of the Cross</i>	7:30 AM	Purgatorial Society of Mary Immaculate of Lourdes	Memorial	
	12:30 PM	+Francis McCarthy	Memorial	Mary McCarthy
<b>TUESDAY</b> <b>November 25th</b> <i>St. Catherine of</i> <i>Alexandria, Virgin &amp;</i> <i>Martyr</i>	7:30 AM	+James Morgan	Memorial	Michael J. Wiseman
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> <b>November 26th</b> <i>St. Sylvester, Abbot</i>	12:30 PM	Sean Goguen Will Goguen	Birthday Intention Birthday Intention	Goguen Family
<b>THURSDAY</b> <b>November 27th</b> THANKSGIVING DAY/ FEAST OF THE DEDICATION OF MARY IMMACULATE OF LOURDES CHURCH	7:30 AM 9:00 PM	Our Nation, the USA Pro Populo	<i>ARCHIVE PHOTO:</i> <i>Mary Immaculate of</i> <i>Lourdes Church at the</i> <i>time of its dedication,</i> <i>Thanksgiving Day,</i> <i>1910 A.D.</i>	
				
<b>FRIDAY</b> <b>November 28th</b> <i>St Catherine Labouré,</i> <i>Virgin</i>	7:30 AM <i>Health of the</i> <i>Sick</i> 12:30 PM	Sean Goguen Will Goguen Manlio & Elaine DeGrandis	Birthday Intention Birthday Intention Special Intention	Goguen Family Goguen Family Elaine DeGrandis
<b>SATURDAY</b> <b>November 29th</b> <i>Vigil of St. Andrew,</i> <i>Apostle</i>	9:00 AM	All Souls (3/10) Eric Procopio & Sarah Carden Pope/Priests/Bishops Divine Will/Peace On Earth Dan & Melissa (11/12) Driscoll Family (9/10) Special Intention (5/7) Mary, Mediatrix (1/10) +William Vo +Shelley Frontiero	Memorial Special Intention Special Intention Special Intention Special Intention Special Intention Special Intention Special Intention Living & Deceased Memorial	Maria Mike & Annie Procopio MPA MPA Donor Richard Driscoll Goguen Family Donor Duong Family Michael Kent
		4:00 PM (Anticipated Sunday Mass) Robert & Helen Noviello	Memorial	Kurt & Anne Pollander

November 23rd, 2025 A.D.

Last Sunday after Pentecost/Christ the King  
Mary Immaculate of Lourdes, Newton/Needham, Massachusetts

# Music Programs for this Sunday's Mass

## Mass of Pope Paul VI (Novus Ordo)

Saturday 4:00 PM (*Anticipated Sunday Mass*),

7:30 & 9:00 AM

### Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

#### Prelude Christus Vincit!

(Aymé Kunc, published 1956 in *Magnificat*,  
coletanea de cantos liturgicos, No.282)

*Christ conquers, Christ reigns, Christ commands. Christ the King of glory, everlasting Lord. To Him alone be honor and dominion. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. May Christ our King defend His Church and keep her in peace and unity throughout the world. May He rule over the hearts of the faithful and bind all nations beneath His gentle scepter. Let every knee bend before Him, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. To Him be glory and power forever and ever. Amen. Christ conquers, Christ reigns, Christ commands. Christ the King of glory, everlasting Lord.*

#### Introit: Revelation 5:12; 1:6

##### **Dignus est Agnus**

*How worthy is the Lamb that was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honor. To Him belong glory and power for ever and ever.*  
(TODAY'S MISSAL, Page 7)

**(7:30 AM & 9:00 AM)**

#### **Ordinary Prayers: Mass XI, Orbis Factor**

Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus-Benedictus, Agnus Dei:

*Parish Book of Chant, no. 78ff./pp. 91-93*

#### **Credo I (English)**

#### Offertory Jesus, King Most Wonderful

(Roger Clairvaux, first published in 1972)

*1. O Jesus, King most wonderful, O Conqueror all-renowned, O fount of peace unspeakable, in whom all joys are found: 2. When Thou dost visit hearts made dark, then truth begins to shine; then earthly vanities depart, and kindles love divine. 3. O Jesus, Light of all below, the spring of life and fire, surpassing every joy we know, all that we can desire. 4. May every heart confess Thy Name, and Thee for ever adore; and seeking Thee, itself enflame to seek Thee more and more. 5. Do Thou our tongues for ever bless; Thee may we love alone; and in our lives for ever show Thine image as our own. Amen.*

**Mysterium Fidei (The Mystery of Faith): Mortem tuam annuntiamus, Domine, et tuam Resurrectionem confitemur, donec venias.**

*("We proclaim Your death, O Lord, and profess Your Resurrection until You come again.")*

#### Communion: Psalm 28(29):10-11

##### **Sedebit Dominus**

*The Lord sits as King forever. The Lord will bless His people with peace.*

## Mass of St. Gregory the Great (Usus Antiquior)

11:00 AM (5:30 P.M.)

### Last Sunday after Pentecost

#### Prelude (11:00 AM) Cantantibus Organis

##### **Motet for St. Cecilia**

(Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, first published in 1575)

*1. While the instruments sounded, the virgin Cecilia, glorious, sang in her heart to the Lord alone, saying: Let my heart, O Lord, and my body be made immaculate, that I be not put to shame. 2. With fasts of two and three days, praying, she commended unto the Lord that which she feared: Let my heart, O Lord, and my body be made immaculate, that I be not put to shame.*

#### **Choir Hymn (11:00 Mass) Dum Aurora (Chant)**

*When the dawn was giving place to day, the blessed Cecilia said: "Up, ye soldiers of Christ; cast off the works of darkness, and put ye on the armor of light. Alleluia."*

*Asperges me, Parish Book of Chant, no. 22/pg. 34*

**Introit: Jeremiah 29:11, 12, 14** *Dicit Dóminus: Ego cógito cogitationes pacis, et non afflictiónis: invocábitis me, et ego exáudiam vos: et reducam captivitátem vestram de cunctis locis.*  
(Psalm 84: 2) *Benedixísti, Dómine, terram tuam: avertísti captivitátem Jacob. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spíritui Sancto, sicut erat in princípio, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Dicit Dóminus ...*

**(11:00 AM)**

#### **Ordinary Prayers: Mass XI, Orbis Factor**

Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus-Benedictus, Agnus Dei:

*Parish Book of Chant, no. 78ff./pp. 91-93*

**Credo I:** *Parish Book of Chant, no. 117/pg. 110*

**Gradual: Psalm 43:8-9.** *Liberásti nos, Dómine, ex affligéntibus nos: et eos, qui nos odérunt, confudísti. In Deo laudábimur tota die, et in nómine tuo confitébimur in sæcula.*  
**Alleluia: Psalm 129:1-2.** *Allelúja, allelúja. De profúndis clamávi ad te, Dómine: Dómine, exáudi oratiómem meam. Allelúja.*

**Offertory: (11AM) Psalm 129:1-2.** *De profúndis clamávi ad te, Dómine: Dómine, exáudi oratiómem meam: de profúndis clamávi ad te, Dómine.*

**Communion: Mark 11:24.** *Amen dico vobis, quicquid orántes pétitis, créдите quia accipiétis, et fiet vobis.*



Mass of Pope Paul VI (Novus Ordo)

Saturday, 4:00 PM (*Anticipated Sunday Mass*),

7:30 & 9:00 AM

**Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**

**Communion Meditation (9:00AM)**

Sicut Cervus

(Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, first published in 1587)

**Recessional Hymn**

All Creatures Of Our God And King

(Worship II, No. 8)

**Postlude**

(4:00 PM & 7:30 AM )

How Great Thou Art

(Swedish folk melody, 19th century)

(9:00 AM)

LXVIII: Hallelujah, Amen

**HWV63**

(George Frideric Handel, composed in 1746)

Mass of St. Gregory the Great (Usus Antiquior)

11:00 AM (5:30 P.M.)

**Last Sunday after Pentecost**

**Communion Meditation (11:00AM)**

Sicut Cervus

(Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, first published in 1587)

1. As the hart longeth for the fountains of water, so longeth my soul for Thee, O God. 2. My soul hath thirsted for the mighty and living God; when shall I come and appear before the Face of God? 3. My tears have been my bread day and night, while it is said unto me continually: Where is thy God?

**Recessional Hymn**

All Creatures Of Our God And King

(Worship II, No. 8)

*Angelus*

**Postlude (11:00AM)**

LXVIII: Hallelujah, Amen

**HWV63**

(George Frideric Handel, composed in 1746)

***Requiescat in pace. Amen.***

The following Letter to the Editor from Prof. Peter Kreeft was published in the Wall Street Journal on November 14, 2025

**The Catholic Case for Purgatory in Scripture**

Carl Trueman accuses Joseph Bottum of arguing that Purgatory must be true because the thought of it makes our lives happier and more hopeful (Letters, Nov. 11). That would be a fallacy, but Mr. Bottum didn't commit it. To say that it is true that a certain belief makes our lives happier and more hopeful isn't to say that the belief must be true because it does so.

The argument for purgatory "works" only for Catholics, and the argument from the few passages in the Bible that seem to imply it are pretty thin. But there is a stronger argument from three premises that are clear in Scripture: that in this life we are all sinful; that Heaven is "wholly holy," that nothing sinful can enter it to pollute it; and that there is a great gap between sinfulness and holiness. Since sin is in the soul, not the body, we don't lose our sinfulness when we lose our body at death.

God said to His chosen people: "You cannot see My face and live." To think we can simply sashay into Heaven as we are without some serious heart surgery is to have a shallow view of both God's holiness and our sinfulness and selfishness.

God could of course snap His fingers and erase our debt legally. But that would be like a presidential pardon: The criminal is still a criminal; he merely got a "get out of jail" card free. Alternately, God could override our free will so that we no longer have the power or capacity to sin. But that would be like a frontal lobotomy and reduce us to happy animals.

True love wants more than that: It wants love in return. If our soul's deepest desire is for God, for total truth and total love, but our actions, choices, feelings, and habits aren't wholly in line with that deepest desire, He takes us at our word and gives us what we most deeply desire by giving those other parts of us a painful scrubbing and a hot shower. We usually die half-baked, so He finishes the cooking, turning up the heat.

That's nowhere near a proof, but it is a reasonable analogy. Why would God settle for anything less for us? And if our prayers can somehow really make a difference and help our friends on earth, why should they be impotent to help our friends in Purgatory?

**PROF. PETER KREEFT**  
Boston College  
Chestnut Hill, Mass

*"It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins."  
(II Machabees 12:46)*



## LATIN MASS PROPERS: LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**INTROIT:** *Jeremias 29: 11, 12, 14* The Lord saith: I think thoughts of peace, and not of affliction: you shall call upon Me, and I will hear you; and I will bring back your captivity from all places. *Psalm 84: 2* Lord, Thou hast blessed Thy land: Thou hast turned away the captivity of Jacob. V. Glory be to the Father.

**COLLECT** Stir up the wills of Thy faithful people, we beseech Thee, O Lord: that more earnestly seeking the fruit of good works, they may receive more abundantly the gifts of Thy loving kindness. Through Our Lord.

**EPISTLE:** *Colossians 1: 9-14.* Brethren: We cease not to pray for you, and to beg that you may be filled with the knowledge of the will of God, in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of God, in all things pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might according to the power of His glory, in all patience and long suffering with joy; giving thanks to God the Father; who hath made us worthy to be partakers of the lot of the saints in light; who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the remission of sins. **GRADUAL:** *Psalm 43: 8-9*

Thou hast delivered us, O Lord, from them that afflict us: and hast put them to shame that hate us. V. In God we will glory all the day: and in Thy name we will give praise for ever. **ALLELUIA:** *Psalm 129: 1-2* Alleluia, alleluia. V. From the depths I have cried to Thee, O Lord: Lord, hear my prayer. Alleluia.

**GOSPEL:** *Matthew 24: 15-35* At that time, Jesus said to His disciples: When you shall see the abomination of desolation, which was spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place; (he that readeth, let him understand) then they that are in Judea, let them flee to the mountains; and he that is on the house-top, let him not come down to take anything out of his house; and he that is in the field, let him not go back to take his coat. And woe to them that are with child, and that give suck, in those days. But pray that your flight be not in the winter, or on the sabbath: for there shall be then great tribulation, such as hath not been found from the beginning of the world until now neither shall be: and unless those days had been shortened, no flesh should be saved; but for the sake of the elect, those days shall be shortened. Then if any man shall say to you: Lo, here is Christ, or there; do not believe him; for there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders, insomuch as to deceive (if possible) even the elect. Behold I have told it to you beforehand: if therefore they shall say to you: Behold He is in the desert, go ye not out; behold He is in the closets, believe it not. For as lightning cometh out of the east, and appeareth even into the west, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Wheresoever the body shall be, there shall the eagles also be gathered together. And immediately after the tribulation of those days, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of heaven shall be moved; and then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven, and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn; and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with much power and majesty; and He shall send His angels with a trumpet and a great voice, and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest parts of the heavens to the utmost bounds of them. And from the fig-tree learn a parable: when the branch thereof is now tender, and the leaves come forth, you know that summer is nigh. So you also, when you shall see all these things, know ye that it is nigh even at the doors. Amen I say to you that this generation shall not pass till all these things be done. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away.

**OFFERTORY:** *Psalm 129: 1-2* From the depths I have cried out to Thee, O Lord; Lord, hear my prayer: from the depths I have cried out to Thee, O Lord. **SECRET** Be favourable, O Lord, to our supplications, and accepting the offerings and prayers of Thy people, convert the hearts of all to Thee: that being delivered from earthly desires, we may pass on to heavenly desires. Through our Lord. **COMMUNION:** *Mark 11: 24* Amen I say to you, whatsoever you ask when you pray, believe that you shall receive and it shall be done to you.

**POSTCOMMUNION** Grant us, we beseech Thee, O Lord, by this sacrament which we have received, that whatsoever is corrupted in our souls may be restored by the gift of its healing power. Through our Lord.





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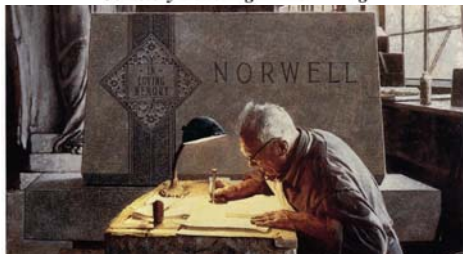
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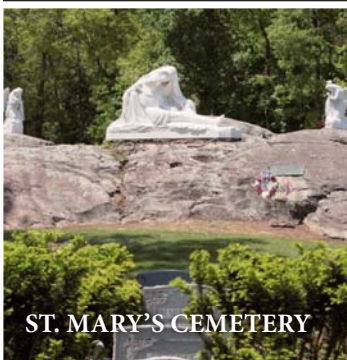
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