

## THE CHRIST INITIATIVE:

Saint Agnes Parish, Middleton Saint Rose of Lima Parish, Topsfield

**WELCOME!** New to our parish or just visiting for the day? Thank you for joining us! Just before the end of Mass, we welcome visitors and new parishioners. We are eager to meet you. Welcome

**Mass Intentions Week of:**

May 30, – June 7, 2015

**Saturday:** 4:00PM - (Fr. Medas)

Leslie R. Bacon 27th Anniv.

by John Bacon

**Sunday:** 7:30AM - (Fr. Hollis)

Maria Mancini by The Goodwin Family

10:00AM - (Fr. Medas)

Louise M. Doherty by Frank Leary

**Tuesday:** 9:00AM

Gulia Ad Maetino by Lucy

**Thursday:** 9:00AM**Saturday:** 4:00PM (Fr. Cadin)

Nellie Muzichuk by Agnes Jones

**Sunday:** 7:30AM (Fr. Tocci)

Rev. Jose S. Ferreira by A parishioner

10:00AM (Fr. Tocci)

Edith Altieri Ferdinand

by Carol D'Agosta &amp; family

**Contact Us****Our Priests:**

Reverend Michael B. Medas

FrMichael@thechristinitiative.org

Reverend Laurence Tocci

FrRen@thechristinitiative.org

Our Secretary:

djones@thechristinitiative.org

Coordinator of Mission:

lpowers@thechristinitiative.org

**Reconciliation:****Saint Agnes:**

Wednesday, May 27th &amp; June 10th

7:00PM - 8:00PM.

**St. Rose of Lima:**

Wednesday, June 3rd &amp; June 17th

7:00 - 8:00PM

**Last Week's Parish Support:**

\$3,602.00

**Catholic Communications:**

\$500.00

**People of Gratitude:** Over the last several months, I have often thought of Fr. Tom MacDonald's homily during our Lenten Parish Mission. Remember? Father Tom said that every prayer should start from a feeling, from a heart of gratitude. In that way, Father told us, we will be at peace. Why? Our lives will be marked by a Christ-like humility that has thankfulness as its gift. How easy it is to be thankful for the priests we have had minister to us in recent years: Msgr. McDonough, Fr. Hobson, Fr. Riley, Fr. Tom, Fr Charles, and presently Fr. Keith and Fr. Ren. Tuesday evening, I learned that Father Ren was being called to a new assignment: parochial vicar at the Collaborative of Saint Mary Parish and Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Chelmsford. It is a new collaborative that will begin in June. Each parish is substantially larger than either of our parishes (combined Sunday Mass attendance of 2136, 159 Funerals annually). As those parishes begin their collaborative journey, Father Ren will bring the positive experience and learnings of our beginning as The Christ Initiative, to his new ministry at Saint Mary's and Saint John's. I hope that knowledge will make you all proud that the work we have been doing is being recognized and seen to be of essential help to another collaborative that will begin its work. I commend Fr. Ren for the generous way he has responded to this call to a new assignment. As priests, we know that no assignment is forever. We are ordained to serve wherever, and whenever, we receive the call. Change is not easy. For us, we need to keep in mind Fr. Tom's encouragement to be a people of gratitude for having Fr. Ren as a priest with us. For him, we are asked to pledge our prayers that this new beginning will be one of great joy and deepening service to God and God's people. On the weekend of June 13 / 14, we will have the opportunity to thank Father Ren for all that he has brought to our two parishes during this past year. Please join us after the 4:00PM Mass on Saturday, June 13th, to thank him and wish him well as he begins this new moment in his life as a priest.

**New Beginnings:** I couldn't have asked for a better community than The Christ Initiative to celebrate my first anniversary of priesthood this last weekend. This past year has been a sheer delight for me; you all have been patient with me as I learned how to be a priest, supportive of me in my ministry and in my growth, and an absolute pleasure to simply spend time with. I want to thank you all for being such a fantastic community to begin my priesthood with. For all of these reasons, and many more, it's with a heavy heart that I have to announce that the archdiocese has decided to re-locate me. The Cardinal often has to make difficult decisions in consideration of the larger landscape of the diocese and with a far-reaching view, and he has determined that the archdiocese would be better served with me in one of our newly formed collaboratives. So, as of June 15<sup>th</sup> I will begin as parochial vicar of the collaborative of St. Mary's and St. John the Evangelist in Chelmsford. This means my last day with The Christ Initiative will be the weekend of June 14<sup>th</sup>. I hope to be able to say good-bye to all of you personally between now and then. Please know how special you all are to me, and be assured of my constant prayers for you. Please pray for me, too. God bless you all. ~ Father Ren.

**Hello everyone:** My name is Americo Santos. I am from El Salvador, but I am studying for the Archdiocese of Boston at St John's Seminary in Brighton. That means my purpose is to become a priest to serve in the Archdiocese of Boston. I have been assigned to these parishes - the Christ Initiative - to have a pastoral experience first for the summer, and then for a year of internship serving you, as well as learning a lot from your Christian life. I am personally happy to be here because I am already having a very positive experience in many ways, along with the Pastor, Father Michael, the vicar Father Ren, the staff, and all of you that I have met. I would like to say that in me you have a friend and brother in the faith available to you any time. Keep that in mind. Keep me in your prayers that I might configure my life to Jesus' s will and project. At the same timem I will have you in my prayers. God bless you. *Americo Santos*

**Rest in Peace:** A couple of months ago I mentioned in my column that two pastors in the Archdiocese recently died: Fr. Jack Gentleman who was in his mid-fifties and Fr. Dick Mehm was 66 years old. As of three weeks ago a third pastor, Fr. McLellan, passed away just as he was beginning the Sunday 11:00AM Mass at his parish. He too was in his mid-sixties. Please remember the repose of the souls of these priests in your prayers. Also, please pray for vocations to the priesthood. As priests retire (retirement age is 75 years), experience health problems with age, and pass on in death, there are less priests to serve in the parishes of the Archdiocese. God is calling young people to priesthood. Let's pray that more young people will respond to this call.

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