

Mother's Day ~ May 10, 2015



Prayer to the Mother of the Lord for all mothers

Mary, on this day when we honor all mothers, we turn to you. We thank the Lord whom you serve for the great gift of motherhood. Never has it been known that anyone who sought your intercession was left unaided by grace. Dear Mother, thank you for your “Yes” to the invitation of the angel which brought heaven to earth and changed human history. You opened yourself to God’s word and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

Dear mother, intercede for all mothers. Ask your Divine Son to give them the grace of surrendered love so that they could join with you in giving their own “Fiat.” May they find daily strength to say yes to the call to sacrificial love - the very heart of the vocation of motherhood. May their love and witness be a source of great inspiration for all of us called to follow your Son. On this Mother’s day, Mother of the Word Incarnate, pray for us who have recourse to you!

Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish ~ Igreja São Tomé, O Apóstolo

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH
3 MARGIN ST.
PEABODY, MA 01960**



Our Mission as a parish is:

- To reach out to everyone with the joyful gospel of God’s saving love.
- To form one another as disciples who encounter Jesus Christ deeply through word, sacrament and service.
- To live as a Spirit filled, multicultural community of mercy, justice and compassion within the Catholic Church.

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Cantors

Mr. Michael Beaulieu
Worship and Praise Band Director

Parish Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 9am-12pm

Telephone: 978 531 0224

Fax: 978 531 6517

Website: saintthomasparish.net

Email: stthomas344p@comcast.net

Mass Intentions...

Saturday 4:00PM	May 9 Anthony & Genevieve Kolodziej & Families + Hilda & Joseph Prata +
Sunday 8:30AM	May 10 Anastasia Miaskiewicz + Dennis King +
10:30AM	For the Parish Community
Saturday 4:00PM	May 16 Arthur Moreau, Jr. + Marie Dedrick + William Dedrick +
Sunday 8:30AM	May 17 Mieczyslaus Miaskiewicz+ Lois Caron +
10:30AM	Joseph Medina +

Mass cards are available in the Parish Office after all Sunday Liturgies and during the week Mon.- Fri., 9:00 am-12:00 pm

Scripture for the week of May 10, 2015

10	SUN	Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/1 Jn 4:7-10/Jn 15:9-17
11	Mon	Acts 16:11-15/Jn 15:26-16:4a
12	Tue	Acts 16:22-34/Jn 16:5-11
13	Wed	Acts 17:15, 22-18:1/Jn 16:12-15
14	Thu	Acts 1:1-11/ Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13/Mk 16:15-20
15	Fri	Acts 18:9-18/Jn 16:20-23
16	Sat	Acts 18:23-28/Jn 16:23b-28
17	SUN	Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26/1 Jn 4:11-16/Jn 17:11b-19

Scripture Reading
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Schedule for Weekend Mass
Please join us often!

St. Thomas the Apostle	St. John the Baptist
Saturday, 4:00 PM Sunday, 8:30AM, 10:30AM, 7:00PM Brazilian Mass	Saturday, 4:00PM Sunday, 8:00AM, 10:00AM, 11:30AM(Spanish), 5:00PM
Weekday Masses: Monday & Friday, 8:30 AM	Weekday Masses: Monday - Saturday, 6:45AM
Reconciliation: Saturdays, 3:15PM	Reconciliation: Saturdays, 3:00-3:30PM

Parish Activities


Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 11	8:30AM Mass—Chapel
May 12	6:15PM Girl Scouts Troop#361 7:00PM Liturgy Committee Mtg
May 13	6:15PM Girl Scouts Troop#233 7:00PM Bible Study—S.L.C.
May 15	8:30AM Mass—Chapel

 **Upcoming Dates to Remember**

May 16	Yard Sale
May 21	Living Faith
June 11	Parish Pastoral Council Mtg-7PM





Please remember Philip L'Heureux, the deceased of our Parish and those who were buried from St. Thomas Parish during the past weeks. May their souls and the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen



Liturgy Memorials

The Altar wine & hosts have been donated for the month of May for the honor and glory of God in memory of Fr. David Bartley, The Sanctuary Lamp has been donated in memory of David & Mary Gabriel by the Gabriel family and the Candle Oil in memory of Donald & Hazel Carlin from Paul Carlin.

Thank you to all those who have donated Wine & Hosts, Candle Oil, Sanctuary Lamps and flowers for our Liturgy.



St. Thomas Children's Closet

We are in need of boys & girls slacks, dungarees, jerseys, blouses sizes 5 to 16. Donations may be dropped off at the closet between 1-3pm on Saturdays.



Green Thumbs

The Green Thumbs are cleaning up our church property. Anyone can join, just bring gloves and see John. He will show you where you can help out. No special training is needed. The Green Thumbs meet every Monday on the church property from 4pm to 6pm.

If you can't make it on Monday's and would like to help give John Hayes a call at 978-745-0505 and he will give you your own area to spruce up. Come on down and meet your fellow parishioners and get to enjoy the sun, fun and fresh air.



This week, May 10, 2015

The First collection will be for the parish.

The second collection will be for
Flowers for Pentecost.

May 3rd Collection: \$5,780.00
Flowers for Pentecost: \$1,113.00

Next week the first collection will be for the parish.

The second collection will be for
The Seminarians

Thank you for your generous sacrifice.

Thrift Shop

**The Thrift Shop will be closed on
Saturday, May 16th**

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Thrift Shop. We need Jewelry, pots, pans, kitchen wares, small appliances, toys, old tools, rugs, men's toiletries, just about anything you don't need. As usual you can drop things off on Saturdays between 9am to 1pm or call Bob & Sylvia at 978-977-9672 to arrange a time. God's blessing to all of you. Please remember we cannot accept T.V.'s, microwaves, etc.



SAVE THE DATE!

Our next session of **Living Faith** will be held on Thursday, May 21st in the Fr Dan Sheehan Spiritual Life Center from 6:30-8:30 PM. We will have information on the topics being offered in the next bulletin.

Upcoming Liturgical Ministers Schedule

May 16 - May 17: 7th Sunday of Easter	4:00 PM	8:30 AM	10:30 AM
Eucharistic Minister	Kevin Shea - 1-Plate Linda Cavallon - 2-Cup Rafael Bautista - 3-Cup	Sheila Lynch - 1-Plate Dawn Henderson - 2-Cup Paul Carlin - 3-Cup	Mark Harrison - 1-Plate Judith Grondin - 2-Cup Patricia Cronin - 3-Cup
Lector	Pauline Bautista Maria O'Toole	Danise Mendonca Eloise Gabriel	Mike Beaulieu Bob Burke
Altar Server	Brandon Thompson Thomas Baez	Joshua Mendonca Ed Mendonca	-volunteer needed -volunteer needed



**The Saint Thomas Yard Sale is
Saturday May 16th
from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

As you are doing your spring-cleaning will you please look for items we could use at the yard sale. We will take and appreciate anything you can give us except TV's, monitors and printers. Without items to sell there will be no yard sale.

You may drop off items on Saturday May 9th from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Sunday May 10th from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Monday May 11 through Friday May 15th from 4:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

We can really use your help, sign up sheets will be at the back of the church the weekends of May 2nd & 3rd and May 9th & 10th

Bakers we need your help because we will be serving coffee and pastries the day of the Yard Sale, there is a sign up sheet for you too.

Thank you!!!!

**Congratulations to our
2015 First Holy Communicants**

- Kelen Albuquerque
- Kelvin Albuquerque
- Jonathan Brown
- Olivia Brown
- Gregorio Burgos
- Breno DaSilva
- Nicholas DaSilva
- Ana Luiza Machado de Oliveira
- Kayla Gentleman
- Tyler Gomes
- Natalia Machado
- Allison MacLeish
- Nolan MacNeil
- Alice Melo
- Vania Paiva
- Kevin Santos
- Colin Schrader
- Courtney Silva
- Aidan Walsh



ACTS

Join us for our next ACTS Retreat! It is a weekend to enrich your faith journey or maybe begin one. Give yourself or a teen you know, the gift of getting closer to our God by saying “yes” to joining us on an ACTS weekend. Applications are available at the doors of the church or for more information contact:

John Stueve @ 978-857-7185
or
Trish Stueve @ 978-979-7271.

Men’s Weekend – June 4-7
Women’s Retreat – June 11-14
Teen Retreat – June 25-28

Weekly Envelopes

Anyone who does not currently receive St. Thomas the Apostle Parish offertory envelopes and would like to have them for donations, please call the parish office, Monday– Friday 9AM-12PM.

A Mother's Love

Last week when parents were taking photos of their children after a First Communion Mass, one parent came up to me and asked if I would have a picture taken with her son. I gladly agreed and stood beside her seven year old in his white suit and tie. This happens quite a bit, as you might suspect. But this was different in a very touching way that I found very endearing. If that mom reads this letter I hope she realizes what a good mom she is. Most parents try to get their child to stand still, face the camera, and smile by saying just that. "Stand still!" "Look at the camera!" "Smile!" This mother had a better way. She just kept calling to her little boy: "I love you. I love you." And he couldn't help but look at her, smile, and reply back: "'I love you too.'" "I love you too." A mother's love is hard to resist. It is a cherished gift to every child. How could you not hear her telling you she loves you. How could you not smile to hear it. How could you resist looking at her and telling her you love her too!

You don't have to be a child psychologist to know that a mother's expression of love – or the lack thereof – can have a lifetime of consequences for a person. It shapes and nurtures our ability to trust, to bond, and to become a nurturing adult. Even though my mother passed away over 40 years ago when I was a young priest, her love is still real to me. Rummaging through some letters she wrote to me when I was a seminarian living in Rome made me aware of how life-giving these memories of her can be.

So it seems to me that Mother's Day is much more than a Hallmark greeting card invention (not that Walgreens and florists and restaurants don't score big sales this day!). I would hope that everyone reading this letter was aware of this day and took time to say or do something nice to their mother, or paused to lovingly remember the mom who was not longer with them. Of course I realize that not every child bearing woman fulfills this special role and relationship in the life of their child. Some children hardly ever knew their mother. Others suffered from an abusive or negligent mother. It's hard for me to think that in these cases one could offer the saying "you never miss what you never had." When I read about children losing their mother at a young age, as Pope St. John Paul II did, my heart aches. To hear about mothers who abandon or neglect or abort their child seems even far more tragic because this is a choice someone makes, a decision not to love.

Much as thinking about loving mothers evokes happiness and contentment, so too thinking about the lack or failure of a mother's love prompts me to want to pray for moms and for children who lack a mother's love. I think of women who were only mothers for a short while and never even saw their child be born. Burying a stillborn child, as I have had to do, is terribly sad. At the same time it convinces me about what we *believe* – and I have to say, yes, what we in fact *know*. Even a tiny life in a mother's womb is a child, a child worth loving, worth saving, worth even risking one's life for. How encouraging it is to learn that more women are keeping their unborn children, not just making a choice but the right choice. How encouraging it is to see so many young people walking to save lives in the March for Life.

Mother's Day is a beautiful day to be grateful for the gift of a mother's love. Let's remember all our mothers, living or dead. Let's also ask ourselves how we can renew in our families, our church and our world an appreciation for the uniqueness of a mother's gift of love for her child. Our Catholic moral teaching makes this clear: being a mother and carrying a child is a gift to be welcomed, not a disease to be eliminated. The Church also teaches this: having a mother and knowing a mother's love is a gift we owe to all children. Children need loving mothers and fathers. How can we fabricate a personal 'right' to be a parent that ignores or nullifies the rights of children to grow up with the unique gifts of a mother's love and a father's love?

Pray with me to Jesus, son of Mary, through the intercession of his Blessed Mother, to bring our families, our church and our world to a renewed respect for and commitment to the role of mothers today. Ask Mary to strengthen and support single moms and to fill the void in homes where there is no mother. Help those who shape our culture and our laws to empower women and men to preserve, protect and defend the special gift of motherhood. Guide the Synod on the Family this year in their efforts to speak boldly and clearly about true marriage and about what enables married men and women to be faithful to their vocation to love, not so as to please themselves but to fulfill their mission: to be united in body, mind and spirit and to radiate to our world the image of a loving God who created us 'male and female' for a plan greater and wiser than our own.



Priest, Deacons & Youth Ministers Familiarization Trip

If you enjoy traveling and want to see how you can immerse your church community in helping children in need while transforming their own lives through service, visit a Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (NPH, Spanish for "Our Little Brothers and Sisters") home with us. Your life may never be the same!

Visit the *Pequeños* at NPH Guatemala August 24th-28th, 2015

Come experience first-hand how NPH transforms the lives of the children it supports. We invite you to visit Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (NPH, Spanish for "Our Little Brothers and Sisters") Guatemala with us. You will meet the amazing children, staff and volunteers of NPH and learn the ins and outs of their daily lives. If you are new to NPH, visiting a home is the best way to see what we do in action. If you are a longtime supporter or sponsor, come catch up with old friends and see how your godchildren are growing and flourishing. Join us – your life may never be the same!

About NPH Guatemala

Opened in 1996, NPH Guatemala is home to 335 children. It is located in San Andres, 16 miles from Antigua and an hour northwest of Guatemala City, the capital. It has approximately 25 acres of land, kinder through junior high school, a computer lab, vocational workshops, a clinic, gardens and a solar water heating system.

Trip Highlights

- Discover first-hand the effects that love, caring, and acceptance have on children who once struggled to survive
- Experience life as the children of NPH do each day with chores, school, sports, and sharing meals
- Develop meaningful relationships where language and culture have no boundaries
- Meet the leadership, staff and volunteers of NPH Guatemala
- See how your church can make a difference by introducing them to NPH whether it be with a future service trip, sponsorship drive, hosting a pequeño tour, or an NPH speaker!



Cost: \$250.00*

Includes:

- Accommodations at NPH Guatemala
- Local transportation
- Meals while at NPH
- NPH USA interpreter and guide
- Travel insurance and background check
- Airfare to and from Guatemala City

Not included:

- Outside meals
- Airport fees

Reservation Schedule

- Reserve a spot with a \$250 non-refundable deposit due June 10, 2015

*We would love to cover the cost of your airfare (approximately \$700.00 value) for the opportunity to be welcomed into your church this year!

*One representative per church.

Register online at www.nphusa.org/maneguatemala2015

For more information, please contact **Monica Henry: mhenry@nphusa.org or 617.206.4943**



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Rachel mourns her children; She refuses to be consoled, because her children are no more. Thus says the Lord: "Cease from your cries of mourning. Wipe the tears from your eyes...There is hope for your future."
Jeremiah 31:15-17



Project Rachel
Archdiocese of Boston

Project Rachel is a confidential Catholic outreach ministry offering hope and healing to women and men hurting from past abortions. **Trust in the tender embrace of God's merciful love.**

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