



221 Main Street, Warren, RI 02885  
 401.245.6369  
[www.saintalexanders.com](http://www.saintalexanders.com)  
[parishoffice@saintalexanders.com](mailto:parishoffice@saintalexanders.com)



Rev. Joseph R. Upton, Ph.D.  
*Administrator, Saint Alexander*  
*Pastor, Saint Mary of the Bay*



### MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday at 9am  
*Saint Alexander*  
 Saturday Vigil at 4pm  
 (Preceded by Confessions at 3pm)  
*Saint Mary of the Bay*  
 Sunday at 8am, 10:30am and 6pm  
*Saint Mary of the Bay*  
 Monday-Friday 8am  
*Saint Mary of the Bay*  
 Holy Days as Announced



### TRUSTEES & AUDITORS

Nancy Urban, Trustee  
 John Saviano, Trustee  
 Patricia Dugan, Auditor  
 John Flynn, Auditor

## Padre's Ponderings

Dear Parishioners,

It is hard to believe that Labor Day weekend is already upon us! I hope that you'll be able to enjoy time with family and friends this weekend as we (regrettably) bid the summer farewell.

Looking ahead this week, I hope that you'll consider joining us at Saint Mary of the Bay this coming Wednesday at 7pm for a Traditional Eucharistic Holy Hour. We pray the Holy Rosary, we reflect on Scripture and we have some silent time for prayer. Spending time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is an invaluable opportunity to have our faith recharged and to recenter ourselves in the midst of so much busy-ness. Please consider joining us.

Speaking of the Blessed Sacrament, you may have read in the *Rhode Island Catholic* that the bishops of the United States have launched a three-year Eucharistic revival in the American church. The first phase is focused on the diocesan level, while the second year will focus on the parish level. The third will culminate in a nation Eucharistic Congress.

There's no doubt that we need this kind of revival in our nation. Polls indicate that many people—even those who attend church regularly!—have not been fully formed in the rich teaching of the Church on the Eucharist. Jesus is truly present to us in the Blessed Sacrament, under the appearance of bread and wine. What appeals to bodily sense remains: the elements still look and taste like bread and wine. But the spiritual sense perceives through faith that the entire substance of the bread and wine have been transformed into the substance of Christ's Body and Blood.

This is the mystery of Christ's "real presence" in the Eucharist. What we receive each week at Mass is not a *symbol* of Jesus' Body and Blood. What we receive each week at Mass is *truly* the Body and Blood of Jesus. As the great Southern Catholic author Flannery O'Connor once wrote, if the Eucharist is only a symbol, "then to hell with it!" Strong words!

This belief is absolutely central to our Catholic faith, so we should welcome an opportunity over the next few years to be reminded of it and to reflect on it more deeply.

Until next week,

*F. Joe*

## ☞ MASS INTENTIONS ☞

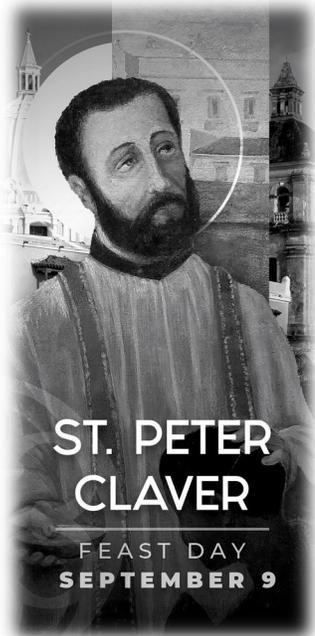
September 4, 2022

9am: Barbara & John Karcz  
*Requested by Barbara Krzyzck*

September 11, 2022

9am: Matthew DePasquale  
*Requested by Nancy Urban*

## ☞ SAINT OF THE WEEK ☞



Born in Catalonia Spain in 1580, Saint Peter Claver studied at first at the University of Barcelona and then joined the Jesuits. He became friends with fellow brother Saint Alphonsus Rodriguez who encouraged him to be a missionary in the New World. Accordingly, Saint Peter went to Cartagena, a city in present-day Columbia where he was ordained in in 1615.

Cartagena was a center for the slave trade, and the young missionary knew where he could best serve God. He proclaimed himself, "the slave of the Negroes forever." As ships would arrive with their human cargo, Saint Peter and a group of interpreters would rush into the hold with food and medicines. When the slaves were moved to pens to await sale, the saint continued to work among them, communicating God's love with acts of generosity and teaching the Catholic faith.

He also led missions in the interior, refusing the hospitality of plantation owners and preferring to stay in the slave quarters. He organized charitable societies and is said to have baptized and catechized more than 300,000 enslaved persons.

Saint Peter Claver died on September 8, 1654. He was canonized with his friend Saint Alphonsus Rodriguez in 1888, by Pope Leo XIII. He is the worldwide patron saint of African Americans and of enslaved peoples.

## ☞ LIVING THE SCRIPTURES ☞

Today's Readings:

Wis 9:13-18b/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17/  
Phlm 9-10, 12-17/Lk 14:25-33

From today's First Reading:

*Who can know God's counsel, or who can conceive what the LORD intends? (Wis 9:13)*

Consider: **Our Jewish sage teaches us that the mystery of God can only be understood through wisdom provided by the "Holy Spirit." When do you pray for the gift of wisdom?**

From today's Second Reading:

*Perhaps this is why he was away from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a brother. (Phmn 9:15-16)*

Consider: **Paul urges his partner Philemon to see Onesimus no longer as a slave but as a "brother" now that Onesimus is a believer in Christ. When has your faith provoked an examination of conscience?**

From today's Gospel:

*"Anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple." (Lk 14:33)*

Consider: **Jesus teaches the crowds that true discipleship demands one to "renounce all (your) possessions." In other words, one's ultimate concern should be solely the possession of the gift of salvation. Why do you think this is not self-evident to many?**

# DISCIPLE

"Anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple."

LUKE 14:33