The Congregation of St. Athanasius
A Parish of the Archdiocese of Boston Serving the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter
https://congregationstathanasius.com

COVID-19 UPDATE
Transmission of the Covid virus is now at a low level in the Boston metropolitan area. The Archdiocese of Boston is lifting the restriction on communion in both kinds, effective for Masses on Corpus Christi, June 10-11,2023. Starting on June 11th we will offer the Chalice for those who wish to receive the Precious Blood. This means all Covid protocols will now be lifted in the Archdiocese of Boston.

THIS NAME MUST BE PROCLAIMED

The name of Jesus is the glory of preachers, because, the shining splendor of that name causes his word to be proclaimed and heard. And how do you think such an immense, sudden and dazzling light of faith came into world, if not because Jesus was preached? Was it not through the brilliance and sweet savor of this name that God called us into his marvelous light? When we have been enlightened, and in that same light behold the light of heaven, rightly may the apostle Paul say to us: Once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light.

So this name must be proclaimed, that it may shine out and never be suppressed. But it must not be preached by someone with sullied mind or unclean lips, but stored up and poured out from a chosen vessel.

That is why our Lord said of Saint Paul: He is a chosen instrument of mine, the vessel of my choice, to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel. In this chosen vessel there was to be a drink, more pleasing than earth ever knew, offered to all mankind for a price they could pay, so that they would be drawn to taste of it. Poured into other chosen vessels, it would grow and radiate splendor.

For our Lord said: He is to carry my name.

When a fire is lit to clear a field, it burns off all the dry and useless weeds and thorns. When the sun rises and darkness is dispelled, robbers, night-prowlers and burglars hide away. So when Paul’s voice was raised to preach the Gospel to the nations, like a great clap of thunder in the sky, his preaching was a blazing fire carrying all before it. It was the sun rising in full glory. Infidelity was consumed by it, false beliefs fled away, and the truth appeared like a great candle lighting the whole world with its brilliant flame.

By word of mouth, by letters, by miracles and by the example of his own life, Saint Paul bore the name of Jesus wherever he went. He praised the name of Jesus at all times, but never more than when bearing witness to his faith.

Moreover, the Apostle did indeed carry this name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel as a light to enlighten
all nations. And this was his cry wherever he journeyed: *The night is passing away, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves honorably as in the day.* Paul himself showed forth the burning and shining light set upon a candlestick, everywhere proclaiming Jesus, and him crucified.

And so the Church, the bride of Christ strengthened by his testimony, rejoices with the psalmist, singing: *O God, from my youth you have taught me, and still proclaim your wondrous deeds.* The psalmist exhorts her to do this, as he says: *Sing to the Lord, and bless his name, proclaim his salvation day after day.* And this salvation is Jesus, her savior.

**Saint Bernardino of Siena**

Saint Bernardino (1380-1444) was a Franciscan missionary and famous preacher. He is considered “the apostle of Italy” for his evangelizing efforts in his native land. This extract is from one of his sermons.

**HOW HIGHLY IS OUR NATURE DIGNIFIED**

*All bend* their knees at this Holy Name and acknowledge that the Incarnation and cruel death of the Son of God, instead of derogating from, do rather conduce to, the glory of God the Father. For it is indeed to the glory of the Father, that man, created and afterwards lost, should be found again; and should be snatched from death and given life once more, and should become the very temple of God. How highly is our nature dignified since the Son of the Most High God is adored Incarnate! Angels and archangels and all the heavenly host now sing those praises to the blessed Jesus, which before they had always sung to God the Word. And so after this, it will not be a matter of such great surprise to the heavenly host to see such bodies as ours, of the same nature and form as our Lord’s, admitted and welcomed into those glorious mansions. ... For this would not have happened unless he, who is in the form of God, had taken upon himself the form of a servant, and had been pleased to humble himself to suffer the cruel death of the cross.

Behold, then, what men considered unworthy of the wisdom of God, namely, the infamy of the death of the cross, has become of all things the most glorious! For the certainty of our resurrection entirely hinges upon this. For it follows from his having a body of the same nature as ours, that we become the temples and the sons of God, so that even in us the Lord is now worshiped, and they who behold us may cry out in the words of the Apostle, that God is really in your midst (1 Cor 14:25). As John also says in his Gospel, “As many as received him, to them gave the power to become the sons of God.” (Jn 1:12) ... And this is an instance of his great goodness towards us that he has thus exalted our human nature by personally uniting it with his divine nature.

**Saint Athanasius**

Saint Athanasius (d. 373) was Bishop of Alexandria and one of the Four Greek Doctors of the Church. This selection is from his Orations Against the Arians. Athanasius is our patron saint and his feast day is Tuesday, May 2nd.
A PRAYER FOR MOTHERS

Lord Jesus Christ, who wast born of a human mother and didst care for her upon the cross: We commend to thee the mothers of our nation. May their children be nurtured in thy discipline and instruction, and their home be a haven of peace and love, made fragrant with thy presence; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit ever livest and reignest, one God, world without end.

John R. W. Stott

Dr Stott (1921-2011) was an Anglican cleric and leader of the worldwide Evangelical movement. Time magazine once counted him among the 100 most influential people in the world. He spent most of his life and ministry at All Souls Church, Langham Place, London.

MAY IS MARY’S MONTH

May is “Mary’s Month” in the Church. Your prayers are especially asked as follows:

- May 1-7 for all girls and young women
- May 8-14 for mothers and grandmothers
- May 15-21 for expectant mothers
- May 22-31 for working women and Christian witness among women

SHORT NOTES

✞ Many thanks to Fr Patrick Armano, and our servers, cantors, and readers, and organist for their participation in the extra services of Holy Week. On Good Friday we were joined by tenor Fausto Miro for the singing of the Saint John Passion.

✞ Congratulations to Jonathan and Corinna (Brech) Bradford united in Holy Matrimony on April 22nd in St Lawrence Church. The officiant was Fr Charles J. Higgins, pastor of Mary Immaculate of Lourdes Parish in Newton and a long-time friend.

✞ An altar flower chart will be available for sign up on May 28th. You may bring flowers to adorn the altar during the summer growing season.

✞ Congratulations to Fr Jurgen Liias on occasion of his tenth anniversary of ordination as a Catholic priest. He offered the Sunday Mass on April 16th and a reception was held in his honor. Ad multos annos.

✞ Our friend Susan Muldoon will make a profession of vows as a consecrated hermit at a service in St Anthony of Padua Church, Fallmouth, on May 13th. The Bishop of Fall River will preside. Blessings and best wishes to Susan on this important day.

✞ Saint John’s Seminary has opened registration for eight weeks of summer classes May-July in the graduate theology degree programs for laity, professed religious and deacons. Website: www.sjs.edu/lay-formation-programs

✞ There is no Mass offered Saturday, May 6th, and again on May 20th, when Fr Bradford is away from Boston.

✞ Listen to Catholic Radio, 1060 AM Boston. Website: www.thestationofthecross.com

✞ A service of Evensong and Benediction will be held on The Solemnity of Corpus Christi, Sunday, June 11th at 5:00 PM.

SOLEMN EVENSONG & BENEDICTION

Sunday, May 7, 2023
5:00 o’clock

Motets and Evening Canticles for Small Choir
under the direction of Dr Janet Hunt
A reception follows this service
ONE OF THE EARLIEST experiences of deep loss in my life was the expulsion of our entire parish of St. John’s from its beloved property by the notoriously liberal Episcopal diocese of my hometown. We could not, in good conscience, cooperate with a multitude of grave moral evils, and so, both clergy and people were turned out and forced to hand over the keys, following the final service on Pentecost Sunday, 2001. As a sensitive eighth grader, whose whole family life was bound up in this special place, my heart broke leaving my second home, a place filled with an abundance of joyful memories and enduring blessings.

Among the many vivid memories of that day, I distinctly remember my dad, the organist and choirmaster, playing a postlude that was a variation on the hymn entitled, “When we walk with the Lord.” The familiar refrain echoes in my mind to this day: “Trust and obey, for there’s no other way To be happy in Jesus, But to trust and obey.” This line incisively conveys the whole of our baptismal commitment to Christ and his message, and 2) the free and joyful surrender of our hearts to his loving will in our lives.

Of this two-fold lesson in faith that my pious and orthodox family and parish gave me, the first is one that was likewise essential for St. John Henry Newman: doctrine matters, for it contains and communicates the reality of Christ himself. Therefore, fidelity to the Gospel trumps everything, no matter the cost. The Scriptures and the Saints show this to us repeatedly in noble and inspiring ways. It is due to this constant seeking after Christ and his truth from boyhood that I became a Catholic with joy and enthusiasm in 2009, thanks be to God. For us, to know Christ and to make him known is the very essence of our love for the Church, his Bride. Newman’s great hymn, “Firmly I believe and truly,” has a wonderful verse concerning the Church that has caused my eyes to well up with tears in the past: “And I hold in veneration, for the love of him alone, Holy Church as his creation, and her teachings as his own.” Dynamic conviction on this point is what it means to be a Catholic.

The second lesson in faith learned from my family and parish, perhaps more difficult, is surrender to God’s loving providence. This is where the penetrating, yet gentle light of God’s grace must kill “the heart’s idolatry,” to quote another beloved classic hymn, St. Patrick’s Breastplate. This has been the focus of my Lenten reading and prayer this year—and not a moment too soon(!)—for this has been a difficult Lenten period for our joint-parish community of St. Athanasius and St. Gregory.

Prior to the beginning of Lent, the canonical entity of our community belonging to the Ordinariate was suppressed. There are a multitude of ways we might conduct the “post-mortem” of this unhappy decision, some of them helpful, but most of them, I suspect, unhelpful and spiritually unfruitful. Whatever befalls us, however, we must accept what God’s providence allows, not fight it. All we must do is be faithful and seek to please him, indeed, to desire and seek nothing above him.

If we are attentive, the lessons from our past can be instructive in moments of struggle. My own sorrow at the loss of my home parish, devastating as it was 22 years ago, led to many other blessings and fruits I could not have possibly foreseen at the time. This lesson continues to hold true, without fail. For example, I know dear people in the Ordinariate whose journey to Rome was forged by the exact same experience as my own and in the very same diocese. “God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform.” Thus, we now must submit ourselves to this new loss, so that we can open ourselves to fruits and blessings we cannot yet envision.

For my wife and me, this already includes a new blessing independent from, albeit concurrent with, these events. We have been given new opportunities for employment at a local parish, for which reason we are moving on from St. Athanasius this Eastertide. We heartily thank Fr. Bradford, Mrs. Bradford, and our fellow parishioners for all their goodness and kindness to us over the past two and a half years (and several years prior to us joining). We will not
be strangers to St. Athanasius and hope to return for Evensong as our schedule permits. Undoubtedly, good Christian friendship endures, even when parishioners must part ways over the course of years. God, Our Lady, St. Joseph, and our patron saints are always taking care of us. May they help us to find joy and to give thanks in all circumstances (cf. 1 Thes 5:16-18).

David E. Allen

In the short time David and Ellen Allen have been regular members of our congregation they have contributed in so many ways to our parish program. David has been an altar server, cantor, and served on our parish finance committee, and Ellen has been one of our lay readers at Mass. We will hope to see them from time to time and send blessings and best wishes for all good things in the days ahead.

ASCENSION DAY
Thursday, May 18, 2023
Holy Day of Obligation
Solemn Mass & Sermon
7:30 pm
Father Patrick Armano, celebrant

SEPARATE AND UNITED

One of the comparisons or likenesses I am speaking of is taken from the most glorious object which our eyes see, the sun. That ball of light and heat, which we call most properly the Sun, may be compared to the Father, from whom both the Word and the Spirit come. From this sun the light issues, and is as it were a part of it, and yet comes down to our earth and gives light to us. This we may compare to the Word, who came forth from the Father, and came down on earth, and was made man, and who, as St John tells us, is ‘the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.’ But beside this there is the heat, which is a different thing from the light: for we all know, there may be heat without light; and so may there be light—moonlight for example, and starlight—without any perceivable heat. Yet the two are blended and united in the sun; so that the same rays, which bring us light to enlighten us, bring us heat also to warm us, and to ripen the fruits and herbs of all kinds which the earth bears. This heat of the sun may not un fitly be compared to the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, as the Creed calls him, for heat is the great fosterer of life: as we see, for example, in an egg. As that is hatched by the warmth of the parent bird, sitting on it lovingly, and brooding over it, until it is quickened into life; just so does the Holy Spirit of God brood with more than dove-like patience over the heart of the believer, giving it life and warmth; and though he be driven away again and again by our backslidings, he still hovers round our hearts, desiring to return to them, and to dwell in them, and cherish them forever. Moreover, if any seed of the Word has begun to spring up in any heart, the Spirit descends like a sunbeam upon it, and ripens the ear, and brings the fruit to perfection. Thus have we first the sun in the sky, secondly, the light, which issues from the sun, and thirdly, the heat, which accompanies the light - three separate and distinguishable things; yet distinct as they are, what can be more united than the sun and its rays, or than the light and heat which those rays shed abroad?

Augustus William Hare

This British writer (1792-1834) was author of a history of Germany. Late in his short life he became an Anglican clergyman. Two volumes of his sermons were published posthumously. This extract is from THE ENGLISH SERMON Vol. 3 (1750-1850) edited by Robert Nye, Car canet Press, Manchester, England 1969.

Augustus William Hare
THE MYSTERY OF SUFFERING

WHY IS IT that he [Jesus] will not keep his sufferings to himself?

He will not keep his sufferings to himself, because that would be avarice in one who was so prodigal of pain. As he covets suffering for himself, so he will allow his best friends to share it; their watchfulness, their sighs, their tears shall be privileged to co-operate with him in the work of the world’s redemption. And hers most of all who alone was privileged to co-operate in the work of the Incarnation. She is allowed to feel the sword of martyrdom, because for her as for him suffering is something to be desired and to be embraced.

Before her eyes,
Her, and the whole world’s joys,
Hanging all torn she sees, and
in his woes
And pains, her pangs and throes;
While with a faithful, mutual flood
Her eyes bleed tears, his wounds weep blood.

She too was sinless; she too had deserved nothing of Eve’s curse; in her, then, as in him the mystery of suffering is made plain to us—she accepts it, not for herself but for us.

Ronald Knox

¶ Father Knox (1888-1957) was an important convert to Catholicism and was much honored as a theologian, author and broadcaster. C. S. Lewis called Knox “the wittiest man in Europe.” This excerpt is from A Retreat for Lay People originally published by Sheed & Ward and currently available from Ignatius Press.

COMING BACK FOR THOMAS

THE GOSPEL AT MASS today reminds us life is not always neat and tidy! On Easter Sunday night all the remaining Apostles were present and accounted for except one! If the Lord Jesus could die on a cross on Friday and then be conversing and dining with His friends on Sunday it is certainly within His means to have everybody present when He wanted them! But in the affairs of God Incarnate we have come to know nothing happens by chance. Almighty God coming back for Saint Thomas was not a mopping-up operation! There is a much better explanation!

The Lord once solemnly told His followers to think of Almighty God as a Good Shepherd. The image Jesus gave us is of a shepherd who leaves the ninety-nine sheep that are safe and seeks out the one that is lost. One week after the Resurrection the Good Shepherd was doing just that: He sought out the one Apostle who had not been present on Easter Sunday evening. This incident rings true as a consistent character trait in our Blessed Lord: His concern and love for all never diminishes His care for each. That is good news for you and me.

There is a second message as well. In coming back for St Thomas, the Risen Lord revealed how essential apostolic witness is for the life of His Church. St Paul would pick up on the apostolic nature of the Church, saying it is “built upon the foundation of the twelve apostles, Christ Jesus Himself being the chief cornerstone.” That would be St Paul’s later reflection. But for one whole week after Easter Day, think how difficult it was for St Thomas to face all the excitement and earnestness with which his colleagues urged upon him the Gospel good news that Christ is Risen! The Lord had given these men the power of the Holy Spirit to do this very thing.

Thomas was facing men who, like him, would later be responsible for the creation of whole national churches. Yet the power of that witness did not work on this one apostle. And there is a reason it did not work. The Lord Jesus had called Thomas to be an Apostle, and the Lord Himself had set the conditions: the apostles must be eyewitnesses to the resurrection. So by Divine direction, Thomas must see the Risen Lord for himself.

Just as redemption once upon a time awaited the simple word yes from a young Jewish girl named Mary, so too there is something of the mystery of God’s condescension, His loving kindness and involvement in human affairs, that not only made the Risen Lord come back for Thomas but also made the Gospel proclamation wait for Thomas. “For now we see through a glass, darkly, but then face to face.” (1 Corinthians 13:12) So said St Paul. But when you and I no longer look through a glass darkly, we shall realize the involvement of Jesus Christ in His Church is far closer and more intimate than we can now imagine.

The Apostles understood very little about the power the Risen Lord conferred upon them. It would be a joyful surprise, and an ongoing
Contra Mundum

THE SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST
Sunday, May 28, 2023
Solemn Mass & Sermon
11:30 AM
Acts 2:1-11 Lesson read in foreign languages
Wear RED clothing to Mass
Pentecost is one of the three principal feasts of the church year.

source of strength for the Apostles, that when they told about the Lord, men and women worldwide would be ready to believe because of their testimony. The power of this apostolic ingredient would not be of their own making, of course, but it would continue from their day right down to our very own. It would be as St Paul once said “I have planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.” (1 Corinthians 3:6)

St Thomas had to see for himself. But he wasn’t making conditions! He was asking for contact with His Lord. Whatever might come as a result of that contact was the Lord’s business. Thomas wanted Jesus and only Jesus, and the Lord, of course, knew that. And this is very close to the blessedness Christ then said would be the condition of “those who have not seen and yet believe.” Which is where you and I come in! We also ask for contact with the Lord.

A very long time ago Almighty God had declared to unfaithful Israel: “Behold, I have graven you on the palms of my hands.” (Isaiah 49:16). One week after Easter Day St. Thomas was invited to look at the hands of the crucified-and-now-risen Lord. And Thomas saw his name in the mark of the nails. And your name and my name are written there too.

Father Bradford
¶ This sermon was preached in St Theresa of Ávila Church, West Roxbury, on the Second Sunday of Easter, April 16, 2023.

THE CONGREGATION OF SAINT ATHANASIUS
The Revd.
Richard Sterling Bradford, Chaplain
Saint Lawrence Church
774 Boylston Ave.
Chestnut Hill, Mass.
(Parking lot behind the church)
Sundays 11:30 AM
Fellowship and Coffee in the Undercroft after Mass
(Fellowship suspended for now)
Rectory:
767 West Roxbury Pkwy.
Boston, MA 02132-2121
Tel/Fax: (617) 325-5232
congregationstathanasius.com

SATURDAY MASS IN THE ORDINARIATE FORM
Celebrated each week at 8:00 AM at the Marian altar in St Theresa of Ávila Church, 2078 Centre St, West Roxbury.
Enter the main church via the pavilion or the St Theresa Avenue side doors. There will be no Mass on May 6th or May 20th.

CONTRA MUNDUM
The name of our parish paper comes from the Latin phrase, “Athenasius contra mundum,” meaning “Athenasius against the world.” Our patron saint stood firmly for the fullness of the faith. Fr Bradford and the Congregation of Saint Athanasius have published this paper monthly since 1998. To receive it by mail, send your address to the editor, Susan Russo, at sjrusso@icloud.com or write to Fr Bradford at the rectory. All issues are on our website under Parish Paper.
St. Lawrence Church
774 Boylston Street (Route 9)
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

Parking is in the church parking lot behind the Church. Use 30 Reservoir Road, Chestnut Hill 02467 for your GPS.

Directions by Car from the North or South:
Route 128(95) to Route 9 east. At the signal for Reservoir Road, take the right; the Church parking lot is a short distance on the left.

Directions by Car from Boston:
From Stuart/Kneeland St, turn left onto Park Plaza. Drive for 0.2 miles. Park Plaza becomes St James Avenue. Drive for 0.3 miles. Turn slight left onto ramp. Drive for 0.1 miles. Go straight on Route 9. Drive for 3.5 miles. Turn left onto Heath Street. Drive for 0.1 miles. Go straight on Reservoir Road. Drive for 0.1 miles. The parking lot is on your right.

Directions by Public Transportation:
From Kenmore Square station, board Bus #60, which stops in front of the Church. Alternatively, the Church is a 15-minute walk from the Cleveland Circle station on the Green Line C branch.