

**WELCOME
TO
BLESSED TRINITY PARISH**



National Catholic Church
1340 Plymouth Avenue
Fall River, MA 02721

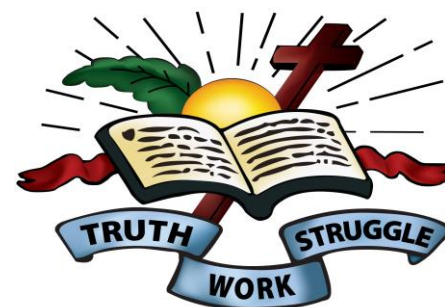
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Our Church Symbol



TRUTH WORK STRUGGLE

The symbol of the National Catholic Church summarizes in its outward form the substance of Christianity.

THE BOOK – represents the revealed Word of God.

THE SUN – is the sign of religious freedom and fervor.

THE CROSS – is the mark of suffering and consecration for others.

THE PALM – is the symbol of well-earned peace.

We are to incorporate these Christian principles in our lives by
“Truth, Work and Struggle.”



***YOU ARE WELCOME TO VISIT AND WORSHIP WITH US.
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO
CONTACT US. MAY GOD BLESS YOU!***

What is the National Catholic Church?

It is a Catholic and Apostolic Church, preserving the faith of the Apostles and having apostolic succession with an unbroken line of bishops from the Apostles of Jesus Christ, to the present-day bishops and priests.

IT IS A CATHOLIC CHURCH – rooted in Scripture, based on tradition and accepting the decisions of the first Seven Councils of the undivided Church.

IT IS AN APOSTOLIC CHURCH – preserving the Apostolic Succession and teachings of the Apostles.

IT IS A SACRAMENTAL CHURCH – which acknowledges Seven Sacraments: Baptism and Confirmation - The Word of God – Penance - Holy Eucharist - Anointing of the Sick - Holy Orders and Matrimony



IT IS A WELCOMING CHURCH - our doors are open to all. Jesus Christ called all to be His followers. He said: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.” (*Matthew 28:19-20*) Everyone is welcome.

IT IS A RESPONSIVE CHURCH - meeting the religious needs of our faithful and our local community through Mass, the Sacraments and other services and their social needs through various service organizations.

CAN A DIVORCED PERSON REMARRY?

Each Diocese has a commission, which studies each request for marriage by persons who have been divorced. Under certain conditions marriages may be annulled or dissolved and permission granted for Sacramental marriage. Each case is treated on an individual basis. The Church tries to be as understanding and helpful as possible.

I AM PREVIOUSLY DIVORCED.

CAN I RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION?

No one is denied the freedom to worship. Those who believe in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

BIRTH CONTROL

The position of the Church regarding birth control: It is a personal matter between husband and wife.

HOW IS AUTHORITY EXERCISED IN THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH?

We are a non-Papal Catholic Church. The head of the National Catholic Church (our Prime Bishop) is elected by the church members and clergy together at a synod. In other words, we have a democratic process where the members (congregation) have a voice and vote in the material church matters.

CAN OUR PRIESTS MARRY?

Our priests can marry. The Bible states that many of the Apostles were married including St. Peter. We believe our priests should be able to enjoy married life and raising a family.

IT IS A TEACHING CHURCH – having Communion and Confirmation classes for children and youth: School of Christian Living – a Sunday School for all ages to teach the faith. We also offer annual diocesan and acolyte retreats for our youth.

IT IS A DEMOCRATIC CHURCH - clergy and church members meet together at local, diocesan and national synods (conventions). Each parish sends elected delegates and their pastors, to decided church policies. Individual parishes are governed by a parish committee that is elected annually by the parishioners. This committee, together with the pastor, oversees the management of the parish.

IT IS AN ECUMENICAL CHURCH - cooperating with other churches to make our community a better place in which to live. Now official dialogue is established between representatives of Anglican, Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches and the National Catholic Church.

IT IS A COUNSELING CHURCH - we are available to help people who are having personal, spiritual or family problems. Parishioners offer moral and spiritual support.

IT IS A WORSHIPPING CHURCH - regular Mass attendance is encouraged on Sundays and holy days of obligation. Other Services also call us to give praise and honor to God.



ANSWERS TO SOME OF YOUR QUESTIONS?

Our church is made up of members with many ethnic backgrounds. Although our Church has its roots in the 19th Century Polish immigration, today the church is made up of members with many ethnic backgrounds. Mass, the homily and services are celebrated in English.

WHY SHOULD I GO TO CHURCH?

I CAN PRAY AT HOME!

You are absolutely right when you say that you can pray at home and we should, however because Jesus said: "Do this in remembrance of me." We are to attend Mass and receive Holy Communion. We should go to church because Jesus founded a community of believers to gather in His Name. We also attend church for our moral discipline and to share in fellowship with our parish family.

HOW DOES THE CHURCH WORSHIP?

The center of our worship is Holy Mass celebrated in the language of the people. Mass is the Sacrifice of the New Testament offered by the priest in which bread and wine are consecrated as the mystical Body and Blood of Christ. Mass is the perpetual commemoration of Christ's Sacrifice upon the Cross, offered once for all time. Contemporary services, vespers, stations of the cross, lamentations, devotions and litanies are also a part of the liturgical practice of the Church during the appropriate seasons.



HOW DO I RECEIVE THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE?

The Church administers two forms of penance. General confession is given during the Penitential Rite of each Mass. You are expected to have made an examination of conscience prior to Mass. At the appropriate time, you confess your sins silently to God, then the priest will administer absolution.

Private confession is given to anyone requesting it and to young people from the time of their first penance until they are 16 years of age. Advent and Lenten Penitential Services are held during the respective seasons.

*THE EUCHARIST
HOW IS IT ADMINISTERED?*

Holy Communion is given under two forms: the Consecrated Bread and Wine, which is the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. The Eucharist is given by Intinction, which means the Sacred Host is dipped in the Consecrated Blood and placed on the tongue.



Worship - Sacramental Information

Sunday Mass - 8:30 A.M.

Sunday School (SOCL) - 9:30 A.M.

Baptisms – any Sunday, call for arrangements

Marriages – call for information and arrangements

Visitation of the Sick – anytime, call in case of an emergency

Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them.