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St. John is a Stewardship Parish

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August 3, 2014  
18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, August 2, 2014

4:00 – Jeanette Lavoie – 9<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Sunday, August 3, 2014

10:30 – Deceased members of Gill Family

Saturday, August 9, 2014

4:00 – Kay Grazado, Albert Ialongo  
Linda Lynch

Sunday, August 10, 2014

8:00 - Anne Biagi – 19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
10:30 – John & Marguerite Flaherty- Mem

*Important Dates*

- Fri. 8/8 – Fireside Friday – 7 pm
- Sun. 8/3 – Thurs. 8/7 – Leadership Retreat
- Sun. 8/10 – Mass for College-bound students – 10:30
- Fri. 8/15 – Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Holy Day of Obligation

***Please keep the following in your prayers:***

*Pam Adornato, Mei Connelly, Dottie & Eddie Younis, Lillian Wedge, Richard Cerci, MacDonald Family, Susan Lynch, Roy Conrad, Mark DeLuca, Michael Terry, Harvey Day, Audrey Ribero, Bill Maloney, John Gomes, Jon Olson, Pat Sweet, Bill Clements, Rita Orr, Nancy Porter, Dawn Bono, David LaRosa, Bill Monaghan, Nancy Belisle, Ann Storti, Karen Debenedictis, Manuel Amaral, Gerald Ahl, Henry "Harry" Wedge.*

*The residents of Sachem & Westview.*

*If you know of anyone in who is need of a Pastoral visit from either our Eucharistic Ministers or Fr. Paul (in the case of the Sacrament of the Sick), please call the rectory.*



Registration began July 1<sup>st</sup>.

The deadline for registering is August 31<sup>st</sup>.

You can register on-line in our website or in person in the Religious Education Office located in the basement of the church between the hours of

9:00 AM & 4:00 PM Tuesday – Thursday

Payments this year may be made in cash, check, credit or debit cards through one-time payments or on the installment plan.

*Our Shared Treasure*

*July 27, 2014*

Collection: \$ 3988.00

Grand Annual to Date: \$27,759

Grand Annual Budget: \$40,000 = **Short \$12,241**

**Thank you for your continued generosity.**

**Summer Vacation**

We hope that everyone has a wonderful summer vacation. But remember that the church bills do not go on vacation. Please try to “make up” the weeks that you will be away when you return or before you go away. Thanks!!

**FIRESIDE FRIDAY**

**August 8, 2014**

**From 7:00 – 9:00 PM**

Casual conversations around the fire in the backyard of the rectory.

All are welcome to come roast marshmallows, share stories and get to know each other.



**Send-off to College**

Next Sunday 8/10, the 10:30 Mass will be celebrated for all our College Students – those going off for the first time to college and those that are continuing their studies. As they leave East Bridgewater to their respective colleges, we wish them well and hope they will return frequently to say “Hello.” Remember we are always here for you. We are truly blessed to have so many wonderful young adults in our Parish and in our community.



JOHN CHURCH = Friend  
ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST EB = Page

My Dear Friends in Christ,

“Back in the day”, as they say, one of my favorite bands was the Grateful Dead (yes, I am a “Deadhead”, the collective name ascribed to devotees of this band). One of my favorite songs of theirs is “I Need A Miracle (Every Day)”; in this tune, the singer speaks of the fact that he needs a miracle (in this song, in the form of a relationship with a woman)...every day.

In today’s gospel, Jesus performs the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes. There are some modern-day theologians who will say that Jesus didn’t *really* perform a miracle, but that the people were so moved by Jesus that they shared what they had with others and thus, all were fed. I tend to go the “traditional” route and believe that Jesus actually took the five loaves and two fish (the amounts vary between the gospels) and blessed them, multiplying them in such number that all walked away satisfied. Did Jesus really multiply a handful of bread and fish? I believe so, but that’s not the point of the story, really. The key of this biblical event is that Jesus has such power, he has the ability to take a little and multiply it into a lot; if we trust in Jesus, He has the ability to take our little faith and multiply it to do great things.

We live in a culture skeptical of miracles. We live in a society that wants answers to all things, and they want them **now**. They’re not a group to believe in miracles because it takes the control out of their hands and puts it in the hands of an entity that they can’t control – God. I, personally, like the fact that I don’t always have to be in control, in charge, have all the answers. I like the fact that we have a God who can take a few loaves of bread and a couple of fish and feed a multitude. It shows to me that God cares for all of our needs: emotional, spiritual and physical.

Miracles happen in our lives every day. This is how saints come about in our faith tradition. For one to be declared “blessed” two miracles have to be attributed to them; for “sanctification” to occur, three miracles have to be attributed to them (this is sometimes “waived”, as it was in the case of Saint John Paul II). The challenge in this is that all physical, scientific and temporal explanations have to be exhausted. For a miracle to occur, no earthly reason can exist. This is the “driving force” behind the miracles of Jesus – no earthly power can explain them, because they are not rooted in this reality...and neither are we.

My friends, we are God’s greatest miracle. Let us have the courage to live this way. Let us come to realize that we are walking miracles, and that the best way that we can live up to this reality is by giving God glory in our words, deeds and lives.

Have a Blessed Week,

Fr. Paul

### Leadership Retreat

Our 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Leadership Retreat at Craigville Beach will be this coming week (8/3 - 8/7). Please pray that our teens and adults will have a terrific time and come back renewed and ready to serve our parish as peer ministers. The teens attending are Emily Bonner, Elizabeth Brown, Molly Casey, Stephanie LeBlanc, Mikayla Pantano, Paige Donahue, Delaney Patterson, Rachel Hardy, Erik Marchant, Shane Smith, Jonathan Hamilton & Brendan Connelly. Our adult leaders and speakers are: Fr. Paul Ring, Deacon Joe Hopgood, Rich Ferioli, Lorraine Hopgood, Melissa Hannan, Paige Hussey, Kevin McPartlin, Jake Buck and Bill Pellegrino. Please pray for good weather!!!!!!

### *We are having a Cash Raffle to raise money for our Parish*



Tickets are \$25 each and you can purchase as many as you want. Our goal is to sell **2000** tickets and give a 1<sup>st</sup> prize of **\$10,000** and a 2<sup>nd</sup> prize of **\$7,500** and the 3<sup>rd</sup> prize of **\$2,500**. The prizes will be adjusted if we sell more or less than 2000 tickets. The prizes will be awarded at our Annual Parish Picnic on **Sunday, September 21 at 12:00**. To purchase tickets call the office at 508-378-1521 or stop by the Religious Ed office or Rectory any Monday – Friday from 9:30 – 4:30. Fliers will also be available at the doors of the church for you to take one. You will be notified by email your ticket numbers so make sure to give us your email address when purchasing tickets.