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**St. John is a Stewardship Parish**

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**February 12, 2012  
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Saturday, February 11, 2012**

4:00 -- Katherine Tobin – 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**Sunday, February 12, 2012**

8:00 – Robert & Rita Farrell – Memorial

10:00 – Mass for the People of St. John's

**Saturday, February 18, 2012**

4:00 – Alfred Sousa – 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**Sunday, February 19, 2012**

8:00 – Mass for the People of St John's

10:00 – Rose Rodricks – 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary

**Monday, February 20, 2012**

9:00 -- Chuck Thomas—7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**March Baptisms will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday-March 18**

**Important Dates**

2/12 – Freshman/Sophomore Retreat Planning Meeting – 4 PM

2/12 – TEEN MASS 6:00 PM

2/12 – Lollipop Sales after Masses

2/15 – PPC Meeting – 7 pm in the Chapel

2/22 – ASH WEDNESDAY – Masses - 9 AM & 7 PM

2/26 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Gr. Commitment Mass – 10:00 AM

2/26 – Coffee & Conversation after 10:00 AM Mass

2/26 – RCIA Rite of Election Mass – 6 PM

KEEP THE DATE OPEN FOR THE:  
PARISH IRISH NIGHT  
FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2012  
7:00 P.M.

CORN BEEF & CABBAGE DINNER  
AT THE COMMERCIAL CLUB

\$45 PER PERSON

\$80 PER COUPLE

\$5 DISCOUNT FOR TICKETS PURCHASED  
BEFORE MARCH 1

NOEL HENRY'S IRISH SHOW BAND  
IRISH STEP DANCERS

50/50 RAFFLE – CASH BAR

LOTS OF FUN!!!!

TICKETS NOW ON SALE

CALL THE RECTORY

508-378-4207



*LOLLIPOPS SALES AFTER MASSES  
This weekend  
Proceeds to help Family Life Ministry*

***Our Shared Treasure***

**February 5, 2012: \$6640**

**GRAND ANNUAL COLLECTION: \$42,439**

***Thank you for your continued generosity.***

*2<sup>nd</sup> Collection Next Week for Religious Education*

***Please keep the following in your***

***prayers:*** Pam Adornato, Dorothea Delano, Cecilia Chapman, Baby Isabella, Joseph A. Hurley, Cittadino Family, Nora Savoy, Frank McCarthy, Mary Saikin, Steve & Evelyn Mason.

**Grand Annual Collection**

**We are very grateful for the generosity shown by 230 (12%) of our 2,000 families to our Grand Annual Collection. To date, these families have contributed \$42,439. We need you and all our parishioners to be there for St. John so that we may reach our goal of \$46,000. May God Bless your generosity.**

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. The following fasting and abstinence regulations are observed:

Abstinence from meat is observed on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all the Fridays of Lent by all Catholics 14 years of age and older.

Fasting is observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59 years of age. Those bound by this rule may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted as necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.

During Lent, the Church encourages attendance at daily Mass, self-imposed times of fasting, and generosity to local, national, and worldwide programs of sharing.

A VOLUNTEER IS NEEDED TO HELP WITH GROCERY SHOPPING FOR THE RECTORY. PLEASE CALL THE RECTORY IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP FR. WALLY WITH THIS.

☺ PLEASE KEEP THE CHURCH CLEAN ☺

CELEBRATE VALENTINE DAY AT MIRAMAR  
RETREAT CENTER



Enrich your marriage at an elegant dinner!! Miramar Retreat Centre, 121 Parks St. Duxbury, will honor married and engaged couples at a Wine and Dine evening **on February 11 at 6:00 p.m.** The evening includes a wine and cheese social, an elegant dinner prepared by Chef Frank Lachimia and dessert. Between dinner and desert Fred and Diane L'Ecuyer and Fr. Tom Griffith, SVD will offer a short presentation: **"Have I Told You Lately that I Love you?"** **The price is \$75.00 per couple.** For reservations or more information, call Ann at 781-585-2460 ext. 312.



Dear Friends

Last weekend you saw an insert in the bulletin from Cardinal Sean. I hope that you read it as it addressed a very

important issue that will impact all of us as Catholics and me in a very specific way as a leader not only here at St. John's but as a chaplain in a Catholic High School. The issue is health insurance. As was reported in Cardinal Sean's letter to the faithful last week, "The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced last week that almost all employers, including Catholic employers, will be forced to offer their employee's health coverage that includes sterilization, abortion-inducing drugs, and contraception." This is a direct assault by the Obama administration on the Catholic Church and all religious institutions. In its ruling, "the Obama Administration has cast aside the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, denying to Catholics our Nation's first and most fundamental freedom, that of religious liberty."

To highlight how serious an affront to the religious liberty of Catholics this new law is, Bishop David A. Zubik of Pittsburgh wrote the following regarding HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, who is supposed to be a Catholic, and President Obama saying that these two people have said: "To hell with your religious beliefs, to hell with your religious liberty, to hell with your freedom of conscience." If the Obama Administration forces its way on Catholic Institutions, which have for more than two centuries served the people of the United States in many important ways, we will be left with an impossible choice, namely, how do you violate your conscience as a member of the Catholic Church and how do you disobey the teaching of the gospel.

In my 31 years of being a priest and 18 years of being a pastor I have never thought that I would have to write such a letter. I am frightened as to what is next.

Let me give you a frightening glimpse as to what might be coming. Each bishop wrote a letter regarding this Freedom of Religion issue, as did Cardinal Sean, to be either read at Mass or made available to the faithful, which was my approach. The United States Military is also served by a bishop who also wrote a letter to be read by the chaplains to the faithful that they serve, namely, soldiers. The military chaplains decided to read the letter at their various Masses at the military bases around the United States. They were prevented from doing so by the government. The government allowed a version that they edited to be read by the chaplains at the Masses which they celebrated for our soldiers around the country.

This is not an issue regarding health services for women. This is an issue of Freedom of Religion, a cherished right that allows churches to govern themselves without the intrusion of the state. These health services are readily available to women if they wish to avail themselves of them. But the government does not have the right to force the Church to pay for these health services that are in some case morally questionable and in other cases sinful. This law must be changed. How? Visit the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website, [www.usccb.org/conscience](http://www.usccb.org/conscience) to learn more about this assault on religious liberty, and how to contact Congress in support of legislation that would reverse the Administration's decision.

God bless, Fr. Wally

#### DOCTOR-PRESCRIBED SUICIDE

You will find in your pew a green laminated card in both Spanish and English regarding doctor-prescribed suicide and you will also find a blue pamphlet on the ushers tables that deals with the same topic, namely, doctor-prescribed suicide. Suicide is always a tragedy. Please read both documents so that you will be aware of this important issue that we will have a chance to vote on in November. Almost all Churches are opposed to this assault on the dignity of human life as is the American Medical Association, the American college of Physicians and the Massachusetts Medical Society.

Cardinal O'Malley has written: "Our society will be judged by how we treat those who are ill and the infirmed. They need our care and protection, not lethal drugs. Suicide is always a tragedy. A vote for assisted suicide would be a vote for suicide." Once again, read the information and be well informed.

Fr. Wally

#### 300 Club Winners

Paul Cevolli

MaryAnn Sullivan

Hoitt Family

Linda McNally