
St. John is a Stewardship Parish

February 15, 2015
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, February 14, 2015

4:00 – Tom Harbinson – 3rd Anniversary

Sunday, February 15, 2015

8:00 – Parishioners of St. John

Friday, February 20, 2015

9:00 – Patrick W. Sullivan – Birthday

Saturday, February 21, 2015

4:00 – Mark Cosgrove – 4th Anniversary

Sunday, February 22, 2015

10:30 – Robert DeCosta – 1st Anniversary
Bonnie DeCosta – Birthday

Important Dates

Mon. 2/16 – 3/23 - Bible Study – 7 PM

Wed. 2/18 -ASH WEDNESDAY Mass – 7 PM

Thu. 2/19 – Panera Bread Fundraiser – 4 to 8

Fri. 2/20 – Simple Supper – 5:30 to 6:30

Wed. 2/25 – Confession – 6:30 to 8:00

Fri. 2/ 27 – Divine Mercy Chaplet – 6:00pm

The Light Is On For You

During Lent, Fr. Paul will be available to hear confessions on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 – 8:00 in the Reconciliation room located in the back of the Chapel. The first one will be Wednesday, February 25th and will continue until March 25th.

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Pam Adornato, Mei Connelly, Bill Monaghan, Nancy Belisle, Ann Storti, Karen Debenedictis, Harry Hewins, Floyd Weaver, Barbara O’Hear, Christopher MacDonald, Kim Santagata, Ann Sullivan, Jean Lavin, Elaine McKeon, Teresa Barris, Joseph Recco, The Shearing Family, Bill Osborne, Alex Hankey, Bob Cass, Edie & Howard Lincoln, Jean Tilden, Dorothy Romano, Chris Golden, Joe Zbinski, Paul Martin, Anna Foy, Sophie Costantino, Tom Farley, Robert Panza, Steven Lacey & The residents of Sachem & Westview. If you know of anyone who should be included or taken off the prayer list, please let the Rectory know.

*Our Shared Treasure
February 8, 2015*

Collection: \$ 3,810

Budgeted: \$ 5,784

Collection for Religious Education: \$ 890

Thank you for your continued generosity

Lent begins Wednesday 2/18

Abstinence -- Catholics over 14 years of age are bound to the obligation of abstinence. Abstinence is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays of Lent. On days of abstinence, meat may not be used at all.

Fast -- Catholics over 18 and up to the beginning of their 60th year are bound to the obligation of fasting. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are the days of fasting. On these days, only one full meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one’s needs, but together they should not equal another full meal.

Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices are allowed. Regarding other weekdays of Lent, participation in daily Mass and the voluntary observance of fasting is recommended.

Almsgiving -- Commendable, particularly during Lent, is generosity to local, national and world programs of sharing our abundance, the traditional Lenten Devotions and all the self-denial summed up in the Christian concept of “mortification.”

Thank you to all the parishioners who generously donated to the Pro Life Baby Shower in January. All of the items were donated as part of the Pregnancy Help Program, which provides needed assistance to the women and children of the Boston Archdiocese.

Help our Youth & Family Ministry program raise some much needed funds for their upcoming events by enjoying a meal at Panera Bread on 1301 Belmont St in Brockton on February 19th from 4:00-8:00. (A flyer must be presented to receive credit for the sale. Flyers are on the bookcase at the side door)

**Sacred Relics of The Saints
Treasures of The Church at Holy Ghost Church in
Whitman**

Holy Ghost Parish presents a teaching and exposition of Sacred Relics on Sunday February 22 at 2:00 pm. Father Carlos Martins of the Companions of the Cross will be here with his very special ministry to teach about these holy objects. He will bring with him over 150 relics, some as old as 2000 years. Among the treasures will be relics of St. Maria Goretti, St. Therese of Lisieux (the "Little Flower"), St. Francis of Assisi, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Thomas Aquinas, and St. Faustina Kowalska. In addition, there will also be present a portion of the veil of Our Lady, as well as one of the largest remaining pieces of the True Cross in the world. Those in attendance will be able to examine and venerate each relic. In the Church's history many miracles and healings have been worked in the presence of relics, and many have been healed through this ministry. Please do not miss this opportunity. You are encouraged to bring your articles of devotion (such as rosaries, holy cards, etc.) and pictures of ill friends/family members which you will be able to touch to the reliquaries as a means of intercession.

**P J ANDERSON is COMING MARCH 14 & 15
More details in next week's bulletin**

**SAVE THE DATE
Saturday, March 21st at 5:00pm
St. Patrick's Day Dinner**



SIMPLE SUPPERS

Friday Evenings in Lent

Feb. 20th, Mar. 6th & Mar. 20th

5:30 – 6:30

Menu: Soup, Salad, Bread, Mac n' Cheese

Good-Will Offering – All are welcome!

Great food and Great company!!

**If you would like to help us with the meal,
please contact Lorraine at 508-378-4207.**

A message from our Pastor

My Dear Friends in Christ,

Illness, in ancient times, was often seen as a reflection of one's relationship with God. If one was healthy, one was "right with God"; conversely, if one was ill (say, with leprosy as seen in today's readings) one was seen as "unfavorable" to God. It was in this light that today's readings present a contrast as to how the revelation and presence of Jesus makes such a large difference in our lives.

In today's first reading, Moses sets forth the steps one would take if they found themselves leprous. They are to first present themselves to Aaron, or one of the priests, for inspection. If they are found to be with leprosy, they are declared "unclean" and are to announce themselves as such. The person with leprosy would then separate themselves from the community until such time as the leprosy leaves them (something which would be highly unlikely, since they couldn't get medical treatment). The members of the Israelite community (including the leprous person themselves) would not find this unusual, since it came from the priest.

Jesus, by contrast, takes a radically different approach to one with leprosy. Rather than follow the Mosaic Law, Jesus chooses a different "tack" by opting to unite Himself with the person with leprosy. This is radical not only in that it stands in contrast to Mosaic Law, but also in the fact that Jesus actually *touches* the person with leprosy. Even if one had sympathy for such a person, one would never actually choose to come into physical contact with that person. This is where Jesus shows us a "new way". Jesus is "moved with pity" (Mk 1:41) at the plight of the man with leprosy. He has been separated from the community by his condition; he is also seen as being "in sin", for the illness has to have a cause and the people automatically think it is because the man is not "right" with God. Jesus sees beyond all of this, choosing to align Himself with the man by not only physically touching the man, but also uniting the man back with the community through the Mosaic Law ("go, show yourself to the priest..." (Mk 1:44). In this way, Jesus once again shows Himself to be the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets.

Where is it in our lives that we need to, in humility, approach Jesus for healing? Perhaps we have a "broken" relationship which needs God's healing touch. Perhaps we have a physical malady in which we need to "align" our suffering to that of Christ who, Himself, knew what it meant to suffer. Perhaps we need to be an "agent" of healing, not being healed but bringing God's healing touch to someone. In whatever way healing needs to take place, let us be "vessels" of God's healing presence. May we know God's healing, and may we be unafraid to bring it to those who need it. May we look to God to heal us, bring His healing touch into the world, and celebrate this healing with all whom we meet.

Have a Blessed Week,

Fr. Paul