***************** St. John is a Stewardship Parish *******************

July 1, 2012 Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, June 30, 2012

4:00 – Ken Slifer - 2nd Anniversary

Sunday, July 1, 2012

8:00 - James Clancy - Memorial

10:00 - Parishioners of St. John

Saturday, July 7, 2012

4:00 - Parishioners of St. John

Sunday, July 8, 2012

8:00 - John & Ellen Barry - Memorial

10:00 - Wilfred & Louise Duffany - Memorial

Important Dates

6/30 - Last Blood pressure clinic until September 7/4 - Independence Day - Rectory office closed 7/7 - Jr./Sr. Retreat Car Wash - 9:00 to 2:00

Save the date: Sunday, 9/9 Our 7th Annual Parish Picnic after the 11:30 Mass

Prison Ministry

Volunteers/Participants needed You are invited to join an amazing Catholic Bible Study program at Bridgewater State Hospital. Deacon Joe Hopgood hosts this group every Thursday evening from 7:00 to 8:15. The participants are a small group of men who are very eager to learn more about their faith despite their struggles with mental illness and incarceration. Deacon Joe would like to invite some volunteers, men and/or women, to join the group. No knowledge of scripture is needed – just a willingness to share faith and walk with Iesus. If you would like more information or would like to visit the State Hospital, please call Chaplain Peg Newman at 508-279-4764 or email Deaconjoeh@comcast.net

CCD Registration for September 2012

We emailed the registration forms to all families whose children are currently enrolled in our CCD program. Registrations are now taking place. Please mail your registration forms back to us or you can come to the CCD office on Wednesdays & Thursdays from 9:30 to 4:30. We are offering a payment plan to anyone who needs help. Classes will begin the end of September. If you would like to volunteer to help us – call the CCD office at 508-378-1521or email repstjohn@verizon.net

Our Shared Treasure

Sunday, June 24, 2012 Weekly Offertory: \$4,952.00 Peter's Pence: \$1,101.00

Remember we need a **minimum** of \$6000/wk to run and maintain our parish. 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!!

Please keep the following in your prayers: Pam Adornato, Carah Finn, Nora Savoy, John & Steven Webb, Daniel LaRusso, Richard Dolan, Albert Federico, Mary Saiken, Ruth Russell, George Cunningham, Bill Neyman.

Society for the Propagation of the Faith

A Sister of the Holy Child will be visiting our Parish the weekend of July 7-8. Since 1930, Sisters of the Holy Child have been serving as missionaries in Africa - Chad, Ghana and Nigeria. There they teach from the primary grades to the universities and seminaries, provide formation programs for lay leaders, catechists and future religious sisters, and work in health and prison ministries. Their latest project is an integrated agricultural center in an underdeveloped area in Southwestern Nigeria where thousands of lives are being changed for the better. Sister Margaret Rogers spent many years as a missionary in Africa before her present assignment in the Mission office. She can boast of having visited 25 African countries in her 22 years of missionary service.

A collection will be taken up at all the Masses that weekend. Please help these Sisters continue their important missionary work.

St. Vincent de Paul

Our food pantry works because of your generosity. We have all felt a crunch in our personal budgets. That's why your food and cash donations are more deeply appreciated at this time. We help provide food to an average of thirty families each time we are open. This means we need to restock our shelves regularly. We are always in need of paper towels, toilet tissue, and kleenex. At this time canned fruit, brownie, cookie, and cake mixes are needed. Thank you again for your prayers and support.

Eucharistic Ministers

We are in need of more Eucharistic Ministers. If you are interested in servicing at Mass once a month contact the rectory and we will be happy to welcome you to this wonderful ministry.

Church cleaners needed

Anyone interested in helping to clean the church once every 4-6 weeks, please call the Rectory 508-378-4207.

Join us for our 9th annual VBS "SKY"

"Everything is possible with God!"

July 30th - August 3rd

9:00am - 12:00pm

Our program is designed for children starting at age 3 up to children finishing the 5th grade.

https://www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/stjohnvbs2 012

Visit our Parish Web-Site to register your child and come back often for updates about our great program or stop by the CCD Office Wednesdays or Thursdays 9:30 to 4:00.

Last year we did have to close registration. Register early and let your friends know. Our program did have to increase the registration fee for the first time in years to \$43. If the cost is an issue, please call us \sim we have scholarships for those in need.

Any questions please call Nancy Smith at 508-378-4290 or nhenn71@hotmail.com

Vacation Bible School Donations

There are posters at the doors of the church with "Eagles". Each eagle tag has an item that is needed for our program. Please consider taking an eagle tag and purchasing the item to help us keep this parish event affordable for our families. You can drop off the item (in the baskets at the door) after any of the Masses or bring it to the rectory Monday – Friday 9:00 to 4:00 before July 25th. Cash or Gift cards to local grocery stores are also welcome for perishable items that can not be purchased ahead of time.

As we prepare to celebrate Independence Day, let's take a moment to think about this...

We are Catholics. We are Americans. We are proud to be both, grateful for the gift of faith which is ours as Christian disciples, and grateful for the gift of liberty which is ours as American citizens. To be Catholic and American should mean not having to choose one over the other.

Our allegiances are distinct, but they need not be contradictory, and should instead be complementary. That is the teaching of our Catholic faith, which obliges us to work together with fellow citizens for the common good of all who live in this land. That is the vision of our founding and our Constitution, which guarantees citizens of all religious faiths the right to contribute to our common life together.

Catholics in America have been advocates for religious liberty, and the landmark teaching of the Second Vatican Council on religious liberty was influenced by the American experience. It is among the proudest boasts of the Church on these shores. We have been staunch defenders of religious liberty in the past. We have a solemn duty to discharge that duty today.

We need, therefore, to speak frankly with each other when our freedoms are threatened. Now is such a time. We address an urgent summons to our fellow Catholics and fellow Americans to be on guard, for religious liberty is under attack, both at home and abroad.

What is at stake is whether America will continue to have a free, creative, and robust civil society—or whether the state alone will determine who gets to contribute to the common good, and how they get to do it. Religious believers are part of American civil society, which includes neighbors helping each other, community associations, fraternal service clubs, sports leagues, and youth groups. All these Americans make their contribution to our common life, and they do not need the permission of the government to do so. Restrictions on religious liberty are an attack on civil society and the American genius for voluntary associations.

This is not a Catholic issue. This is not a Jewish issue. This is not an Orthodox, Mormon, or Muslim issue. It is an American issue.

What we ask is nothing more than that our God-given right to religious liberty, be respected. We ask nothing less than that the Constitution and laws of the United States, which recognize that right, be respected.

To all our fellow Catholics, we urge an intensification of your prayers for a new birth of freedom in our beloved country. We invite you to join us in an urgent prayer for religious liberty.

Almighty God, Father of all nations, For freedom you have set us free in Christ Jesus (Gal 5:1). We praise and bless you for the gift of religious liberty, the foundation of human rights, justice, and the common good.

Grant to our leaders the wisdom to protect and promote our liberties; By your grace may we have the courage to defend them, for ourselves and for all those who live in this blessed land.

We ask this through the intercession of Mary Immaculate, our patroness, and in the name of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with whom you live and reign, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Excerpts from USCCB, Our First, Most Cherished Liberty, 4/12/2012

50/50 Raffle

Tickets are Available

WIN \$15,000 or \$10,000 or \$5,000.

Tickets are only \$25 each. The more tickets you buy the better your chances are to win!

Our goal is to sell 2000 tickets. Help us reach it.

We have raised \$9200 to date.

Drawing will be on September 9th at the Parish Picnic Call 508-378-4207 if you want tickets