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St. John is a Stewardship Parish

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March 15, 2015

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Saturday, March 14, 2015

4:00 – Francis Barry – Memorial

Sunday, March 15, 2015

10:30 – Peggy Callahan- 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Edmund Callahan – Memorial

Saturday, March 21, 2015

4:00 – Elias Merianos – 17<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Sunday, March 22, 2015

10:30 – Martin J. Hanley – 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

*Important Dates*

Mon. 3/16 – 3/23 - Bible Study – 7:00pm

Wed. 3/18 – Confession – 6:30 to 8:00pm

Fri. 3/20 – Simple Supper – 5:30 to 6:30pm

Sat. 3/21 – St. Patrick’s Dinner – 5:00pm

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

*Pam Adornato, Bill Monaghan, 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, Joe Bosse & 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.*

**Holy Week and Easter Mass Schedule**

Holy Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Mass @ 7:00pm

Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> -“Seven Last Words”@ 3:00pm

Good Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> – Service @ 7:00pm

Saturday Vigil, April 4<sup>th</sup> – Mass at 8:00pm

Easter Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> – Mass at 8:00, 9:30 & 11:30am

*Our Shared Treasure*

*March 8, 2015*

Collection: \$ 5,227

Budgeted: \$ 5,784

Special Snow Removal: \$ 1,629

*Thank you for your continued generosity*

*The 2015 Catholic Appeal*

Dear Parishioners,

Last weekend, our parish launched the 2015 Catholic Appeal. I would like to thank all of you who have given so generously to support St. John the Evangelist Parish. If you were unable to attend Mass last weekend and wish to make a pledge to the Catholic Appeal, please take a pledge form and fill it out. You can also make a gift or pledge online at [www.bostoncatholicappeal.org](http://www.bostoncatholicappeal.org). Thank you for your support and for helping us to reach our parish goal.

God bless,

Fr. Paul

**CHOIR ANNOUNCEMENT**

Children’s Choir rehearsals for Easter Sunday will take place Monday evenings from 6-7 pm during lent. Teen/Adult Choir Rehearsals for The Paschal Triduum/Easter will take place Monday evenings during Lent from 7:15-8:30 pm in the church. This is a wonderful opportunity for those who are unable to make a year-long commitment but would still like to participate in a choir! Contact Paul Hoffman, Music Director, for more information.

**Easter Flower Envelopes are in the pews, please return them by Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>.**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:00pm**

**St. Patrick’s Day Dinner**

**Tickets are \$20 p/p or \$35 per couple**

**Tickets will be sold after all the Masses**

### **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 25<sup>th</sup> and will continue until March 25<sup>th</sup>.



#### **SIMPLE SUPPER**

**Friday Evening 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.**

#### **DIVINE MERCY HOLY HOUR**

**From  
6 – 7 PM**

**Friday evening - March 27,  
An hour of adoration and Divine Mercy Chaplet**

### ***A message from our Pastor***

My Dear Friends in Christ,

I was speaking to some folks the other day about the various churches in which I've celebrated Mass. The one thing that stands out for me in each of these buildings is the Cross; it tends to stand out as the most prominent feature in most churches. I've seen all different styles, types and interpretations, but what tends to "link" them is the power to move one's heart towards union with Christ. One of the most beautiful crosses I've seen in recent memory is the Franciscan cross found in the Basilica de Santa Croce (Church of the Holy Cross) in Florence, said to have been founded by St. Francis of Assisi himself. The cross present in this church was such a powerful manifestation of Christ that it literally brought me to tears.

The Cross of Christ stands before us as a stark reminder not only of the sacrifice of Christ, but the sacrifice which we (as followers of Jesus) are called to make. It also brings to mind the love we are called to have for our brothers and sisters in Christ. It is in the name of Jesus that we do, as Christians, what we do. It is His love – a selfless, emptying (or "kenotic", as the Greeks would say) love - which we bring into the world. This is not unique to Christians, for there are many who do not share in the Christian faith who give of themselves beyond measure without expectation of recompense. What makes Christian love unique is that it is not mere altruism (giving for the sake of giving, giving because it "feels good"); Christian love is what it is because of the source and end result of that love – Jesus and His Kingdom. It is a love which the world cannot or will not understand, because there is (seemingly) nothing in it for the giver. There's no "what's in it for me" or "looking out for #1", because what's "in it for us" is intangible and the "#1" for whom we're looking out is Jesus!

The gospel passage from today contains what is, arguably, the most famous line in scripture: "For God so loved the world, that He gave us His only Son so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life" (Jn 3:16). It is so well known due not only to being seen at sporting events throughout the world, but also because it points to the Cross, which is a "stumbling block" for some but which is the vehicle of salvation for so many who believe in the sacrifice of Jesus. It is we who bring this scriptural passage into the world for whom this message is meant. It is not for us alone, however – it is meant for all who "have ears to hear", and are open to the message. May we have the courage to not only hear, but listen, that Jesus is calling us to conversion, such that when we Jesus is lifted high on the Cross that we are with Him. May we know His transforming love, and share it with all whom we meet!

Have a Blessed Lent,

Fr. Paul

*Our 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation candidates will be having their retreat this weekend. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue their faith formation and preparation for Confirmation. The 10<sup>th</sup> grade candidates will be receiving the sacrament of Confirmation on April 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> by Bishop John Dooher.*