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St. John is a Stewardship Parish

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July 27, 2014  
17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, July 26, 2014

4:00 – Marie Ponte – 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary

Sunday, July 27, 2014

8:00 – Parishioners of St. John Parish

10:30 – Irene Souto – Memorial

Saturday, August 2, 2014

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

Sunday, August 3, 2014

10:30 – Deceased members of Gill Family

Important Dates

Fri. 8/1 – Fireside Friday – 7 pm

Mon. 7/28 – Fri. 8/1 – VBS – 9:00 – 12:00

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 20, 2014

Last Wk

Year to Date

Collection

\$ 4602.00

\$ 14,720.00

Grand Annual to Date: \$27,759

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

**Thank you for your continued generosity.**

*The second collection next weekend is for the Catholic Relief Services*

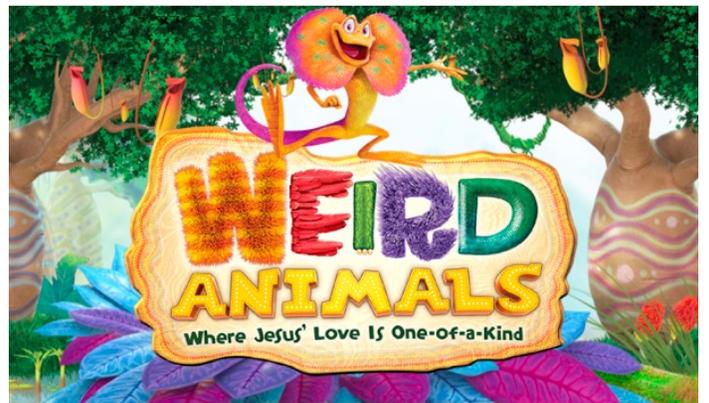


FIRESIDE FRIDAY

August 1, 2014

From 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Casual conversations around the fire  
Roasting marshmallows, Sharing stories and getting to know each other.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL  
BEGINS MONDAY, JULY 28<sup>TH</sup>  
THROUGH FRIDAY, AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup>.  
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

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JOHN CHURCH = Friend  
ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST EB = Page

My Dear Friends in Christ,

One often hears of someone having the “wisdom of Solomon”. Often times, it is a judge, a teacher, a parent or, in the case of the man himself spoken about in our first reading, a ruler. When Solomon assumes the kingship of Israel (following the death of his father, David), he is visited by God in a dream. When given the opportunity to receive anything he wishes to make his rule successful, he doesn’t opt for the “quick fix” or the “easy out”. In recognizing an apparent shortcoming in being “a mere youth” (1 Kgs 3:7), he opts for “an understanding heart to judge...people and to distinguish right from wrong” (1 Kgs 3:9). Solomon starts off on the “right foot” with God by not being concerned with himself, but with his people.

This gift of **discernment** is a key element to having true wisdom, the God-given variety which we attribute as a Gift of the Holy Spirit. What is it that makes us successful and happy? Surely the world would say “riches” or “power” or “prestige”; this flies in the face, of course, of the life God wants for us. We would do well, like Solomon, to ask (in prayer) for those things (attributes, behaviors, mindsets) which will help us to grow in faith, hope and love. In looking at not merely what we *want* but what we *need*, we grow in the eyes of God. We grow in the gift of Wisdom (a Gift of the Spirit given at Confirmation, free for our use) by discerning, in union with God’s plan for us and for the world, by separating out the wants (which we can pray for, but not necessarily rely on getting) from our needs, that which helps us truly grow in the Spirit. It all works together for our good and the good of the world

It is in the gifts of discernment and wisdom that help us to determine that which is of true and lasting value, that which will bring to life and light the Kingdom (both the Kingdom awaiting us, as well as the Kingdom in our midst (which, when discerned properly, are one and the same!). In the gospel, the “treasure in the field” (Mt 13:44) and the “pearl of great price” (Mt 13:46) are images of that Kingdom. These images are used because, like the Kingdom, they are only found by discerning what is lasting from what is fleeting, what is finite from what is infinite. This “separating” is like the “dragnet” (see Mt 13:47) which is cast into the sea and collects fish of all kinds (the fish, in this passage, being an image of humankind); the good (godly) and the bad (worldly) are separated, and the bad is thrown away. In that same way, we will be separated at the end of time with those who have striven to follow God’s way welcomed into the Kingdom.

May we always strive to discern God’s will for us, for our brothers and sisters and for the world. May we look to God for all things which help us to grow in faith, hope and love. Finally, may we continue to (like Solomon) ask (in prayer) for those things which will build up the Kingdom, serve the needs of ourselves and our brothers and sisters, and usher forth the greater glory of God!

Have a Blessed Week,  
Fr. Paul

### **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!!

***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 **\$2,000**. 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.