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St. John is a Stewardship Parish

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December 14, 2014  
Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 13, 2014

4:00 – Mary & John Barry -- Memorial

Sunday, December 14, 2014

8:00 – Charles Matthews – 16<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

10:30 – Parishioners of St. John

6:00 – Parishioners of St. John

Saturday, December 20, 2014

4:00 – Suzanne Shepard – 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Sunday, December 21, 2014

8:00 – Christopher Thompson -- Memorial

10:30 – Ewa Morawski – 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

6:00 – Emily Harrington – Month’s Mind

Important Dates

Wes. 12/17 – Fin Com Mtg. – 7 pm.

Sat. 12/20 – Trip to La Salette – 5 PM

Sun. 12/28 – Skating Fundraiser – 5-7 pm

Thurs. 1/1/15 – Solemnity of Mary – Holy Day of

Obligation – Masses at 9:00 am & 7 pm

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

*Pam Adornato, Mei Connelly, Bill Monaghan, Nancy Belisle, Ann Storti, Karen Debenedictis, Henry “Harry” Wedge, Harry Hewins, Floyd Weaver, Barbara O’Hear, Christopher MacDonald, Kim Santagata, Ann Sullivan, Jean Lavin, Jeannette Shalginewicz, Gary Saccocia, Elaine McKeon, Kirra Lee Callahan, Teresa Barris, Joseph Recco, The Shearing Family, Bill Osborne, Alex Hankey, Bob Cass, Edie & Howard Lincoln, Jean Tilden, Dorothy Romano, Chris Golden, Joe Zbinski & 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.*

**December Events in the Parish**

Skating Fundraiser – Dec. 28

5:00 - 7:00

Bridgewater Ice Arena

20 Bedford Park, Bridgewater, MA

Admission \$5, Skate Rentals \$3

Family 5-pack \$30\*

\*Includes: adults and children from the same family for admission and skate rentals

Snacks & goodies will be on sale!

*Our Shared Treasure*

*December 7, 2014*

	<i>Last week</i>	<i>Yr-to-date</i>
Collection	\$ 6,606.00	\$120,948.72
Budgeted:	\$ 5,784.31	\$133,039.18
Excess/Short	\$ 821.69	\$ 12,090.45

St Vincent de Paul \$935

*Thank you for your continued generosity.*



*Christmas Mass Schedule*

*Christmas Eve:*

*4:00 upstairs w/  
Childrens’ Choir*

*4:00 downstairs w/  
Cantors*

*6:00 pm w/ Teen Choir  
MidNight w/ Adult Choir*

*Christmas Day:*

*10:30 am w/ Cantor*

**A Mass and Healing Service will be held at:**

**The Church of the Blessed Sacrament**

10 Diamond Street

Walpole, MA 02081

**Sunday, December 28th at 2:00 pm**

**& January 25, 2015**

**With Fr. Joseph P. McDermott.**

All those who have physical illnesses, as well as those burdened, or suffering emotionally, mentally, spiritually, psychologically, or financially are cordially invited to come and pray with us. You may pray for your own needs or the needs of others.

If you would like a list of all the healing services, usually being held on the last Sunday of the month, please call 508-668-4700.

## St. John's Christmas Choir



Christmas Choir rehearsals will begin Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. The children will rehearse at 6 pm and the Adults at 7:15. The Teen Choir will rehearse on Tuesday afternoons at 4:45 beginning Dec 2. The Children will sing at the 4pm Christmas Eve Mass, The Teens at 6 pm and the Adults/Teens at midnight Mass. Please contact Paul Hoffman if you are interested in joining a choir.



My Dear Friends in Christ,

I cannot look at our First Reading, taken from the Book of (the Prophet) Isaiah, without thinking back to my Ordination to the Priesthood some 19.5 years ago. This reading was proclaimed at my ordination ceremony, and it is dear to my heart. It speaks eloquently of how a priest is to “tend his flock”. The priest is, indeed, meant to “bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the Lord, and a day of vindication by our God” (Is 61:1-2A). I’ve always striven to do this; admittedly, I haven’t always “hit the mark” but it wasn’t for lack of effort!

This first reading is a “clarion call” to all, as well, who are baptized into the faith. It is by virtue of the “baptismal call”, placed on our hearts at Baptism, in which we are to respond to the needs of our brothers and sisters. It is to them that we are to “bring glad tidings...heal...proclaim” and “announce” (ibid). In undertaking these actions, we model ourselves after the many men and women of faith who have gone before us. John the Baptist is one of those who stand before us as a model of faith.

In today’s gospel, John is once again featured. While he eschews claims to be the Christ (n.b. Jn 1:20), he does not shy away from his missionary duties. He proclaims himself to be that “voice of one crying out in the desert” (Jn 1:23); in doing so, John fulfills that prophetic call for which he was born, for which he was chosen. We, ourselves, are called to speak a prophetic word, again by virtue of our baptismal call. If we are worried about what that word is, or how it is to come out, we need not worry! Jesus has promised us that when we are to speak on His behalf, we will be given the words to say. It is the Holy Spirit that will be speaking, using us as a “vessel” for that prophetic word. So if you feel that “tug” on your heart to offer a word of comfort, consolation or correction, let the Holy Spirit “take the wheel” and all will be well.

May we have the courage to be that “voice of one crying out in the desert” (ibid). May we know that it is the Holy Spirit of God which is directing us to speak. May we trust that the word being offered will bring peace to the hearer. May we use this Advent Season to further our relationship with Jesus, who will come “soon and very soon”.

A (Continued) Blessed Advent Season to All,

Fr. Paul

*A special thank you to the Catholic Women's Club and to all who helped to make this year's Craft Fair so successful. God Bless!*

### **STRUGGLING IN YOUR MARRIAGE? YOU ARE NOT ALONE!**

If your marriage is tearing the two of you apart, if there is little or no meaningful communication, if you are considering separation or divorce, we believe Retrouvaille can help. You are NOT alone! Our peer ministry is led by couples who have lived through the honeymoon phase often followed by deep disillusionment before finally finding resurrection in their marriages using the tools taught in this program. Rediscover a loving marriage with Retrouvaille (pronounce re-tro-vy) weekend.

The 2014-15 New England Retrouvaille marriage renewal weekends will be held on:

January 9-11, 2015

April 10-12, 2015

September 11-13, 2015

To register or for more info, call 800-470-2230

### **Tri-Parish Advent Mission December 14, 15, 16, 17**

**At**

**St. Edith Stein Parish  
71 Main St., Brockton**

**Exciting news!! Starting Sunday evening Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> and ending Weds. Night Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> we are having a Tri-Parish Mission led by Catholic Lay Evangelist Bill Wegner of Good News International who will conduct the mission. The thrust of the mission is to bring us into a closer walk with Our Lord Jesus. Plan to be there....and bring a friend.**