
St. John is a Stewardship Parish

Dec 25, 2011

Saturday, December 31, 2011

4:00 – Mike Lombardi, Sr. – 19th Anniversary

Important Dates

1/8 – TEEN MASS –6 PM

1/13-15 – SKI TRIP 8

SPOTS STILL AVAILABLE

CALL FR. WALLY IF INTERESTED

1/18 – PPC MEETING 7 PM IN CHAPEL

Please pray for the repose of the soul of William Hill who passed recently and is the brother of Bob Hill.

The Rectory Office will be closed Dec 24 & 25



We wish you a very Merry Christmas—God Bless



A special thanks to all the parishioners who help out throughout the year. No matter how you serve, your efforts are appreciated and your service to the parish of St. John's is invaluable. May God bless you on this special day and throughout the coming year!

The Staff at St. John's

Grand Annual Collection

We are very grateful for the generosity shown by 172 (9%) of our 2,000 families to our Grand Annual Collection. To date, these families have contributed \$27,372. If you haven't had an opportunity to return your donation, please do so as soon as possible. The Parish Finance Council has recommended a donation in the amount of \$250. Perhaps you do not worship with us on a regular basis, but count on St. John's to be there when you need us. Now we need you and all our parishioners to be there for St. John so that we may reach our goal of \$46,000. May God Bless your generosity.

Our Shared Treasure

December 18, 2011: \$6447

GRAND ANNUAL COLLECTION: \$27,372

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Please keep the following in your

prayers: Rita LoCicero, Fedela Nuovo, Patricia Polcaro, Pam Adornato, T.J. Herlihy, Dorothea Delano, Holly Benson, Cecilia Chapman, Susan Collins

****Due to the ever growing number of names in our prayer list, we will be removing names after one month's time to make room for more people in need of our prayers. The complete list of names can be found on our website:***

www.stjohnsb.org

-Bans of Marriage-

Agnes Duarte & Richard P. Byrnes

**The CatholicTV® Network
Christmas Programming**

It's that time of year again! CatholicTV will intersperse Advent and Christmas programming with their regular schedule throughout December and especially from Monday, December 19th until New Year's Eve. Then all Day Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and December 26, CatholicTV will become ChristmasTV for 72 hours of non-stop specials.

Comcast Ch 268

Verizon Ch. 296

Or Watch LIVE online at

www.CatholicTV.com



The members of St. Vincent de Paul want to thank all of the parishioners for your incredible generosity. We are very grateful for your food donations, your financial gifts and your prayers. Each gift, no matter how small, helps us to serve those in need. We wish you all a blessed and merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and



Dear Friends,

YOU HAVE ALL HEARD THIS BEAUTIFUL STORY MANY TIMES BEFORE. HOW THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND DWELT AMONG US AND THE WORD THAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT WAS GOD HIMSELF. I WONDER WHY IT HAPPENED THAT WAY. I WONDER WHY HE CHOSE A TEENAGE GIRL WHO WAS UNMARRIED TO CONCEIVE THE KING OF KINGS. I WONDER WHY HE CHOSE PEOPLE WHO WERE SO POOR TO BE THE PARENTS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD. I WONDER WHY HE PLANNED THIS MOMENTOUS EVENT AT A TIME THAT THE MOTHER OF GOD WOULD HAVE TO TRAVEL A GREAT DISTANCE ON A DONKEY AT THE SAME TIME THAT SHE WOULD GIVE BIRTH. I WONDER WHY THE BIRTHING ROOM WOULD BE A COLD, DARK AND SMELLY CAVE--THE HOME OF ANIMALS.

THE SAVIOR'S BIRTH WOULD BREAK INTO THE WORLD AS THE WORLD WAS. THE MIDDLE EAST WAS NO MORE AT PEACE THEN THAN IT IS NOW. IT WAS THIS POOR, VIOLENT AND OPPRESSED WORLD THAT WELCOMED JESUS THAT FIRST CHRISTMAS DAY. IT WAS THE SAME WORLD THAT WELCOMED EVERY OTHER BOY OR GIRL THAT WAS BORN THAT DAY. JESUS SHARED IN THE SAME CIRCUMSTANCES THAT EVERYONE EXPERIENCED THE DAY HE WAS BORN. HE SO IDENTIFIED WITH THE PEOPLE OF HIS TIME THAT HIS BIRTH WENT LARGELY UNNOTICED. I WONDER WHY IT HAPPENED THAT WAY. THE ONLY PEOPLE THAT NOTICED WERE A FEW SHEPHERDS. THE WISE MEN WOULD NOT ARRIVE FOR QUITE SOME TIME. THE HOLY FAMILY WOULD THEN RETURN HOME TO NAZARETH AND BEGIN THEIR LIFE AND IT WOULD BE A FAMILY JUST LIKE ALL THE OTHER FAMILIES IN NAZARETH. RECALL THAT WHEN JESUS STARTED PREACHING AND BECOMING FAMOUS PEOPLE SAID, ISN'T HE JOSEPH'S AND MARY'S SON, DIDN'T HE COME FROM NAZARETH? CHRIST WAS KIND OF UNKNOWN TO JUST ABOUT EVERYONE BUT HIS PARENTS AND A FEW COUSINS.

HIS BIRTH DIDN'T CHANGE THE WORLD THAT HE WAS BORN INTO AND THIS IS HOW GOD WANTED IT BE.

YOU KNOW, IN SOME WAYS IT WILL BE THAT WAY TONIGHT (TODAY) FOR MANY PEOPLE. WE WILL PACK THIS BUILDING, SING THE CHRISTMAS SONGS, HEAR THE SCRIPTURE READINGS, ENJOY THE BEAUTIFUL DECORATIONS, RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION AND THEN RETURN HOME PERHAPS NO DIFFERENT THAN WE WERE BEFORE, JUST AS IT WAS 2000 AGO.

THE LITURGICAL AND FESTIVE RETELLING OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST WILL NOT CHANGE EAST

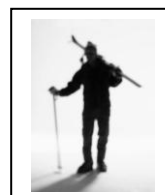
BRIDGEWATER OR ANY OTHER PLACE. IT WILL FIND SEVERAL FAMILIES GRIEVING WHO HAVE SUFFERED THE LOSS OF LOVED ONES. IT WILL FIND SEVERAL FAMILIES WONDERING HOW THEY ARE GOING TO MAKE THE NEXT MORTGAGE PAYEMENT OR WHERE THEY ARE GOING TO LIVE AFTER THEY LOSE THEIR HOUSE. IT WILL FIND SEVERAL FAMILIES STILL WORRYING ABOUT THEIR SON OR DAUGHTER, MOM OR DAD WHO ARE IN IRAQ OR AFGANISTAN. JESUS' BIRTH DIDN'T CHANGE BETHLEHEM AND IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO.

JESUS WAS PRESENT AMONG HIS PEOPLE. NOTHING MORE- SIMPLY PRESENT. THE JOY OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON COMES FROM KNOWING JESUS IS PRESENT AMONG PEOPLE AND CAN WORK THROUGH THEM. THE JOY OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON COMES FROM KNOWING THAT GOD, IN JESUS CHRIST, BECAME ONE OF US. JOY ARISES FROM THIS CERTAINTY: GOD IS NEAR, HE IS WITH ME, HE IS WITH US IN JOY AND SORROW, IN HEALTH AND SICKNESS, AS A FRIEND AND FAITHFUL SPOUSE.

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST 2000 YEARS AGO GAVE THE WORLD AN OPPORTUNITY--A RARE OPPORTUNITY TO PUT ON CHRIST--TO BE CHRIST-LIKE. HIS BIRTH GAVE US, EACH OF US, THE POWER TO BE CHRIST-LIKE; IF WE BUT CHOOSE TO. DO YOU CHOOSE TO BE CHRIST-LIKE? DO YOU CHOOSE TO HELP OTHERS AS CHRIST DID? DO YOU CHOOSE TO BE GENEROUS AS CHRIST WAS GENEROUS? DO YOU CHOOSE TO BE FORGIVING AS CHRIST WAS FORGIVING? DO YOU CHOOSE TO SOW HOPE AND NOT NEGATIVITY AS CHRIST DID? DO YOU CHOOSE TO BE A FAITHFUL FOLLOWER AS CHRIST WAS A FAITHFUL LEADER? DO YOU CHOOSE TO SPREAD PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP AND HAPPINESS AS CHRIST DID?

IN SHORT, WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN A RARE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE CHRIST PRESENT IN OUR LIVES, OUR FAMILIES, OUR PARISH AND OUR WORLD. CHRISTMAS IS SIMPLY A REMINDER THAT CHRIST IS STILL PRESENT, HE HAS NOT GONE AWAY.

God, Bless,
Fr. Wally



8 SPOTS LEFT ON THE SKI TRIP—CALL FR. WALLY IF INTERESTED 508-378-4207