
St. John is a Stewardship Parish

December 28, 2014

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Saturday, December 27, 2014

4:00 – Parishioners of St. John

Sunday, December 28, 2014

8:00 – Parishioners of St. John

10:30 – Parishioners of St. John

6:00 – Parishioners of St. John

Saturday, January 3, 2015

4:00 – Parishioners of St. John

Sunday, January 4, 2015

8:00 – Parishioners of St. John

10:30 – Addison Barrett – 6th Anniversary

6:00 – Parishioners of St. John

Important Dates

Sun. 1-4-15 – TEEN MASS

Wed. 1/7/15 – PPC Meeting – 7 PM

Sat. 1/10/15 – Christmas Pageant – 5 PM

Thurs. 1/1/15 – Solemnity of Mary – Holy Day of Obligation – Masses at 9:00 am & 7 pm

Sun. 1/11/15 – Prayer Shawl Mtg. – 3 PM

Fri. 1/16/15 – Ski Trip to Waterville

Sun. 1-25-15 – 4th Gr. Mass for Class – 10:30

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.



St John's Parish Presents
The Nativity Story Christmas Pageant

Saturday, January 10th
5:00 – 6:00
In the Hall

Presented by members of our new Youth Ministry

*Our Shared Treasure
December 21, 2014*

	<i>Last week</i>	<i>Yr-to-date</i>
Collection	\$	\$
Budgeted:	\$ 5,784.31	\$138,823.49
Excess/Short		

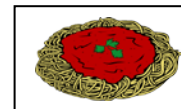
Due to printing deadlines, the Dec. 21 numbers will be reported next week.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

*New Year's Day
(A Holy Day of Obligation)
Masses at 9:00 AM & 7 PM*



Meal Train



- We are organizing a meal train for a parishioner who is very ill with two small children.
- A meal train is the act of organizing meal-giving around significant life events. When a friend is in need, everyone says "What can I do to help out?" The answer is usually to help them with a meal. When many friends give a meal, this is a meal train.
- The purpose is to lend a helping hand to a parishioner who is battling a serious illness. **If you would like to join our Meal Train, please contact Debbie at the Rectory.**

Bible Study Group

Opening up Scripture on a regular basis is so important for the growth in our faith life. We listen to the Word being unfolded for us when we attend Mass but how often do we take the time and discuss that readings amongst ourselves. St. John the Evangelist is starting a Bible Study group that will meet Monday evenings from 7 to 8PM in the Religious Education office which is located in the basement of the church. The group will be facilitated by Deacon Joe Hopgood and is open to anyone who wishes to attend. Don't worry about the depth of your scriptural knowledge, this is a discussion group, come and explore God's word with us. The first meeting is Monday January 5 at 7PM and we will be exploring the "Gospel according to Mark". If you are interested in attending just send an email to "deaconjoeh@comcast.net"

The Pro-Life Committee will host the annual parish Baby Shower from Tuesday, December 28th through Sunday, January 25th. All donations will assist mothers in need within the Archdiocese who have chosen life for their babies. Items needed are listed below:

Disposable diapers	Diaper bags
Crib Sheets	Baby towels
Sleep n Play sleepers	Nightgowns
Baby Bottles	Blanket Sleepers

Receiving Blankets
Rattles, Pacifiers, Teethers
Toiletries ie...Wipes, rash ointment,

baby shampoo
Baby soap, baby lotion,
powder,
Baby nail clippers,
Baby thermometers.



**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.

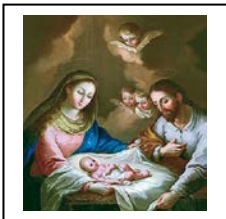
The 2014-15 New England Retrouvaille marriage renewal weekends will be held on:

January 9-11, 2015

April 10-12, 2015

September 11-13, 2015

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



My Dear Friends in Christ,

Robert Frost once wrote that “home is the place, that when you go there, they have to take you in”. A rather wry statement, it should “ring true” for most (if not all) of us. I know that at the end of my day, when I come home I have at least one who is happy to see me – my dog. Oscar. Oscar and I are, for all intents and purposes, family. When I had my picture taken a few years back for a parish photo

directory, more than one person asked if Oscar was going to be in the photo; I said, “Of course – he’s family!” This may be stretching what one thinks of as family, but when I think of the qualities which Oscar has – unconditional love, loyalty, a sense of belonging – it fits what I think of when I reflect on family life

This day, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family (of Jesus, Mary and Joseph), a celebration of what, and who, God calls us to be. The Holy Family is for us the most perfect image we have here on earth of what it means to be a family. When one thinks of the sacrifices they made to maintain the “family unit”, it boggles the mind! They endured long journeys, unsettled accommodations and (for Mary and Joseph) the loss of an only child. I look at the families of our parish and see the struggles they endure in this day and age – an unsettled economy which threatens the livelihood of one (or both) of the adults, the assault of conflicting, often vulgar, media images on our children and the stress of balancing family life with the many commitments the world puts upon them (parents and children alike). I often wonder how the Holy Family would have handled it, and I keep coming back to one answer – trust in God. It is only through trust, born of faith that kept the Holy Family intact. The same is true for us; the main thing which will keep the “family unit” whole and undivided is faith – faith in God, faith in one another. This is certainly not an easy thing to achieve or maintain. It takes hard work, day in and day out. It takes a level of commitment that the world neither understands nor appreciates. We have “glimpses” of the family unit being honored and celebrated, but by and large the family is often held up to ridicule. Just look at how the media portrays most families – fathers are all too often portrayed as overbearing tyrants or lame simpletons, mothers are often seen as either lazy or manipulative, and children are seen as either greedy or entitled. This may happen at times but it is not (thank God) the norm, nor should it be celebrated as such.

The Feast of the Holy Family gives us a better perspective of how family life should be. It is not without challenges, as we see in the lives of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. It is not without work, as we reflect upon our second reading regarding how we are to conduct our lives. And it is not without God, as we see throughout the scriptures. If we are to model ourselves after the Holy Family, let us put on our hearts all the things of which St. Paul speaks – “compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience” (Col 3:12). Let us not waste a moment to ponder, as did the Holy Family, all the good things the Lord has done for us!

A Blessed Christmas Season to One and All,

Fr. Paul