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St. John is a Stewardship Parish

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**February 22, 2015**  
**First Sunday of Lent**

Saturday, February 21, 2015

4:00 – Mark Cosgrove – 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Sunday, February 22, 2015

10:30 – Robert DeCosta – 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary

Bonnie DeCosta – Birthday

Saturday, February 28, 2015

4:00 – Parishioners of St. John

Sunday, March 1, 2015

10:30 – John Albanese – 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary

*Important Dates*

Mon. 2/23 – 3/23 - Bible Study – 7 PM

Wed. 2/25 – Confession – 6:30 to 8:00

Fri. 2/ 27 – Divine Mercy Chaplet – 6:00pm

Sun. 3/1 – Teen Mass -6:00pm

*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>.

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

*Pam Adornato, Bill Monaghan, Nancy Belisle, 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 & 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.*

*Our Shared Treasure*  
*February 15, 2015*

Collection: \$ 1,464

Budgeted: \$ 5,784

*Thank you for your continued generosity*

**Lenten Guidelines**

**Abstinence** -- Catholics over 14 years of age are bound to the obligation of abstinence. Abstinence is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays of Lent. On days of abstinence, meat may not be used at all.

**Fast** -- Catholics over 18 and up to the beginning of their 60th year are bound to the obligation of fasting.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are the days of fasting. On these days, only one full meal is allowed.

Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one’s needs, but together they should not equal another full meal.

Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices are allowed.

Regarding other weekdays of Lent, participation in daily Mass and the voluntary observance of fasting is recommended.

**Almsgiving** -- Commendable, particularly during Lent, is generosity to local, national and world programs of sharing our abundance, the traditional Lenten Devotions and all the self-denial summed up in the Christian concept of “mortification.”

**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**

**Cardinal Spellman High School presents**

**MARY POPPINS**

Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> - 7:30 pm,

Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm,

Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> - 2:00 pm

Tickets are: General: \$10 - Reserved: \$12

For more ticket information, please call: 508-

583-6875 or online at [www.spellman.com](http://www.spellman.com)

**Sacred Relics of The Saints  
Treasures of The Church at Holy Ghost Church in  
Whitman**

Holy Ghost Parish presents a teaching and exposition of Sacred Relics on Sunday February 22 at 2:00 pm. Father Carlos Martins of the Companions of the Cross will be here with his very special ministry to teach about these holy objects. He will bring with him over 150 relics, some as old as 2000 years. Among the treasures will be relics of St. Maria Goretti, St. Therese of Lisieux (the "Little Flower"), St. Francis of Assisi, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Thomas Aquinas, and St. Faustina Kowalska. In addition, there will also be present a portion of the veil of Our Lady, as well as one of the largest remaining pieces of the True Cross in the world. Those in attendance will be able to examine and venerate each relic. In the Church's history many miracles and healings have been worked in the presence of relics, and many have been healed through this ministry. Please do not miss this opportunity. You are encouraged to bring your articles of devotion (such as rosaries, holy cards, etc.) and pictures of ill friends/family members which you will be able to touch to the reliquaries as a means of intercession.



**SIMPLE SUPPERS**

**Friday Evenings in Lent**

**Feb. 20th, Mar. 6<sup>th</sup> & 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.**

**The weekend of March 14 & 15 is going to be a great time for people of all ages. PJ Anderson (a popular Christian singer) will be coming to St. John's to share his faith and music with us. He is giving a concert at 7:00pm on 3/14 in the Parish Hall. All are welcome to come & enjoy.**

***A message from our Pastor***

My Dear Friends in Christ,

HAPPY LENT! To many, these two words seem mutually exclusive; after all, what is there to be "happy" about during Lent? Fair enough. If we look at the full definition of the word, however, beyond a sense of being "joyful" or "merry", we can look at Lent in the sense of being "satisfied", "fortunate" or "prosperous". Lent is a time when we "take stock" of how we are living in relationship to how God wishes us, and calls us, to live. In this sense, when we fulfill who and what God is calling us to be, we can truly be "happy".

When we look at Noah, he should be happy. He has been spared from the flood because of his faithfulness to God, and he is rewarded with a new covenant. It is in this covenant that God re-establishes His bond with us, a bond which was broken by the sin of Adam and Eve and is further damaged by the actions of the people of Noah's time. God comes to regret having made humanity and He seeks, through the flood, to "wash away" the sin of humanity and start again with a new relationship, a new covenant. It is in this that humanity gets a "spiritual 'do-over'" and, once again, has a relationship with God based not on fear, but on love.

It is in this light that St. Peter writes to the early Christian communities of his day. He writes to the people about Christ's obedience to the will of the Father. Peter contrasts this with the disobedience which brings about the flood, a flood by which all but Noah and his kin are destroyed. This action, Peter tells the people, prefigures baptism and establishes Jesus as the One who brings a new covenant to the people. This covenant, formed in the blood of Christ, is one in which the people are saved from their sins. It is by the death and resurrection of Jesus that we are saved, Peter tells the people. It is by our baptism, which is "not a removal of dirt from the body but an appeal to God for a clear conscience" (1 Pt 3:21), that we are joined to Jesus.

It is in this same sense of union that we hear of Jesus in the desert in today's gospel passage. After Jesus' baptism, He is led into the desert by the Spirit. Jesus is tested, but does not succumb to this temptation; Jesus remains faithful. Jesus then, after John's arrest, proclaims the appearance of the Kingdom. It is not merely something which we await, Jesus reminds us, but is something in our midst. May we have the courage to recognize the presence of the Kingdom at work in our lives, and may we have the boldness to proclaim the appearance (and future fulfillment) of the Kingdom to all whom we meet.

A Happy Lent to All,

Fr. Paul