
St. John is a Stewardship Parish

February 8, 2015
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, February 7, 2015

4:00 – Parishioners of St. John

Sunday, February 8, 2015

8:00 – Parishioners of St. John

10:30 – Christopher Thompson – 18th Anniv.

6:00 – Wendel Harrington – 8th Anniversary

Saturday, February 14, 2015

4:00 – Tom Harbinson – 3rd Anniversary

Sunday, February 15, 2015

8:00 – Parishioners of St. John

Friday, February 20, 2015

9:00 – Patrick W. Sullivan – Birthday

Important Dates

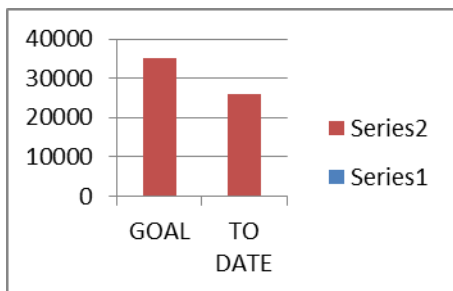
Mon. 2/9 – 3/23 - Bible Study – 7 PM

Wed. 2/18 – **ASH WEDNESDAY Mass – 7 PM**

Fri. 2/20 – Simple Supper – 5:30 to 6:30

Fri. 2/27 – Deep Freeze Retreat

GRAND ANNUAL = Goal \$35,000



Mass Intentions are available for all daily and Weekend Masses. An offering of \$25 is usually given.

An individual may ask a priest to offer a Mass for several reasons: for example, in thanksgiving, for the intentions of another person (such as on a birthday), or, as is most common, for the repose of the soul of someone who has died. One must never forget the infinite graces that flow from the Sacrifice of the Mass which benefit one's soul.

Call the Rectory to schedule a mass for your loved ones.

Our Shared Treasure

February 1, 2015

Yr-to-date

Collection:	\$ 6,144	\$159,789
Budgeted	\$ 5,784	\$178,529
Excess/Short	\$ 360	\$ 18,739

Snow removal - \$900.00

GRAND ANNUAL = Goal \$35,000 To-date \$26,993

2nd Collection - February 8 - Religious Education

Lent begins Wednesday 2/18

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.

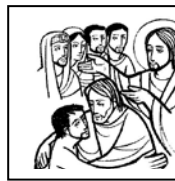
Almsgiving -- Commendable, particularly during Lent, is generosity to local, national and world programs of sharing our abundance, the traditional Lenten Devotions and all the self-denial summed up in the Christian concept of "mortification."

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, 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, 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.

Help our Youth & Family Ministry program raise some much needed funds for their upcoming events by enjoying a meal at Panera Bread on February 19th – see insert for details



My dear friends in Christ,

**P J ANDERSON is COMING MARCH 14 & 15
(see insert for more details)**

**TAX FORMS AVAILABLE FROM THE RECTORY
JUST CALL 508-378-4207**

**SAVE THE DATE
Saturday, March 21st at 5:00pm
St. Patrick's Day Dinner**

Sickness can take many forms: one can be physically, emotionally or spiritually sick. One form of sickness can bring about another form of sickness. For example, one who is physically sick with a chronic illness can develop emotional illnesses (such as depression or anxiety), or even spiritual maladies (such as despair and doubt of God's presence). We are, by nature, holistic beings – our minds, bodies and souls are intrinsically linked, one to the other. This is how God made us; we cannot discount anything about our “makeup”, for it all works toward the whole of life. I am very blessed, I feel, to have a good spiritual director, therapist and chiropractor – they all work, independent of one another, to keep me “together” (the “jury is out” as to how they're doing, but I think they're doing pretty well!).

In today's readings, illness abounds. In our first reading, Job is despairing about the state of his life, and who could blame him?! Throughout his trials and tribulations, Job curses many things, including his very life – but he never curses God. He still holds out hope that God's plan is at work in his life. Ultimately, Job is vindicated for his trust and belief in God. All about him, his family and friends urge him to “curse” and be done with it, move on with his life. Job cannot bring himself to do this, for he knows deep down that God is still there. How often in our lives have we questioned God (even doubted, on some level) in the “low points” of our lives? How often have we wondered, if only to ourselves, where God is in these challenging moments of our lives? This is only natural, human. As long as we don't bring it to the point of abandoning God's plan for us and His existence in the world, we are fine.

In our gospel, after curing the illness of Simon's mother-in-law, the ill and possessed are brought to Jesus for healing. It was thought in Jesus' day and age that illness and sin were related – the sicker you were, the more “steeped” in sin you were. We know this not to be the case now, for sin is a result of our relationship with God and others and not our physical selves (although sin can impact us physically, impacting our corporal beings). Many of our brothers and sisters in faith still hold on to this misconception, that of sin and illness being related. It is a notion of which we must disavow ourselves, for this is not how God operates. This is not to say that God is absent from these moments. His allowing of these things is part of the “permissive will of God”. It is true that evil exists and “bad things happen to good people”. To say that God is absent from those moments couldn't be further from the truth. If anything, God is in the midst of those events, leading us from “darkness” to “light”, a light that breaks through the darkness of tragedy, illness or even death itself.

Ultimately, Job never loses hope and neither should we. Our God is one who calls us from brokenness to wholeness, from pain to healing, from death to life. In those moments when God seems furthest away, look around – God may be closer than you think. He may just be right there beside you, or more likely carrying you (n.b. the “Footprints” story). May we trust that God is always at work in our lives, especially in the dark and challenging moments. May we trust that God will see us through those times, leading us to the Light that is Himself.

Have a Blessed Week,
Fr. Paul



SIMPLE SUPPERS

**Friday Evenings in Lent
Feb. 20th, Mar. 6th & Mar. 20th
5:30 – 6:30**

**Menu: Soup, Salad, Bread, Mac n' Cheese
Good Will Offering – All are welcome!
Great food and Great company!!**

AN AT-HOME BUSY PEOPLE RETREAT FOR LENT: Do you desire to deepen your relationship with God during Lent this year? The week of Mar. 8-12, St. Joseph's Retreat Center, Cohasset, is offering an opportunity for busy people to experience a directed retreat in the midst of their daily lives. You would pray 30-60 minutes each day at home (or work etc), meet individually at the Retreat Center for 45-60 minutes a day for four days with an experienced spiritual director to share about your prayer and relationship with God. Meeting times would be scheduled at your convenience. The retreat will begin with a gathering of all interested people on Sunday afternoon, March 8, at St. Joseph Retreat Center. To register, or for more information, please contact www.csjretreatcenter.org (click on Busy Person's Retreat on the left side of the Home Page.) or call 781-383-6024