
St. John is a Stewardship Parish

**March 11, 2012
Third Sunday of Lent**

Saturday, March 10, 2012

4:00 – Pizzi Family – Memorial Mass

Sunday, March 11, 2012

8:00 – John & Mary Doherty – Memorial

10:00 – Mass for the People of St. John

Tuesday, March 13, 2012

**9:00 – Luddy, Tokan, Olshaw Families –
Memorial Mass**

Saturday, March 17, 2012

4:00 – Francis Barry -- Memorial

Sunday, March 18, 2012

8:00 – James Clancy – Memorial

10:00 – Mary Doyle – 17th Anniversary

6:00 - Mass for the People of St. John

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Dorothea Delano whose funeral Mass was celebrated on February 25th.

Important Dates

3-11 – Freshman Retreat – 2:30 – 6:00 PM

3-14 – Catholic Women’s Club – 7:00 PM

3-15 – March Baptisms – 10:00 Mass

3-15 – 1st Penance – 6:30

3-17 – IRISH NIGHT – 7 PM – COMMERCIAL CLUB

3-18 – Sophomore Retreat – 2:30 – 6:00

3-20 – PPC & Fin Com meet @ St. Thomas Aquinas

3-22 – FINAL MEETING WITH ARCHITECT – IN CHURCH – 7 PM.

3-25 – Sophomore Retreat – 2:30 – 6:00 PM

3-26 – VIRTUS TRAINING – 6:30 PM

3-28 – CONFESSIONS – 7 PM

3-31 – 2ND Grade Retreat—10:30 – 12:30



As Christians, we have the call to reflect the love of Christ in our own lives. Your support of the 2012 Catholic Appeal helps countless people through 50 ministries of the Archdiocese of Boston. Thank you to all who pledged their support of the 2012 Catholic Appeal at Mass last Sunday. If you have not yet participated in the 2012 Appeal, you can make your pledge by completing one of the forms available at the back of the Church. You may also pledge to the parish campaign at www.BostonCatholicAppeal.org

*Catholic Women’s Club
CWC will resume at 7 PM at Riddell Hall,
Weds., March 14th
Very important--Need all to attend.*

Our Shared Treasure

**March 4, 2012: \$6983
GRAND ANNUAL COLLECTION: \$46,489
*Thank you for your continued generosity.***

2nd Collection March 18th – Church Maintenance

Please keep the following in your prayers: Pam Adornato, Cittadino Family, Nora Savoy, Frank McCarthy, Mary Saikin, Steve & Evelyn Mason, Annette Tarentino, Ronald Federico, MaryLou Marks

Grand Annual Collection

We are very grateful for the generosity shown by 237 (12%) of our 2,000 families to our Grand Annual Collection. To date, these families have contributed \$46,489.

Lenten Regulations

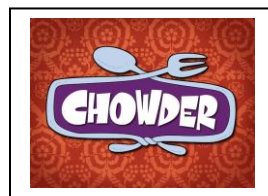
Abstinence from meat is observed on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all the Fridays of Lent by all Catholics 14 years and older.

LENTEN MASS SCHEDULE

Mon - Fri - 9:00 AM Mass in the Chapel
Weds – 6:30 PM – Divine Chaplet of Mercy
Weds – 3/28 & 4/4 – The Light is on for You (Evening Confessions) 7-8 PM
Thurs. – 6:30 PM Mass
Fri – Stations of the Cross – 6:30 PM

HOLY WEEK

Thurs., Fri., & Sat. Mass at 7 PM -- No afternoon Stations.
EASTER SUNDAY – 8, 9:30, & 11:30 AM -- Easter Egg Hunt to follow 9:30 Mass



CHOWDER FEST
To follow Stations of the Cross – 7 p.m.
Fridays: March 23 & 30th
\$3 per person
\$10 max per family

PROJECT RACHEL POST-ABORTION HEALING RETREAT

“Come to the Water of Healing” post-abortion retreat on Saturday, March 17. Location is confidential. For more information and registration, contact **Project Rachel** at 508-651-3100 or help@projectrachelboston.com
Trust in the tender mercy of God!

300 Club Winners — Mary McKinnon, Dianne Engren, Kim & Greg Barrett, & Charles Engren

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR
Parish Irish Night
 SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 2012
 7:00 P.M
 TICKETS NOW ON SALE
 CALL THE RECTORY
 508-378-4207



Kiwanis Club of East Bridgewater
 Annual Pancake Breakfast
 & Charity Food Drive

Pancakes—Bacon—Eggs—Toast—
 Juice—Milk, Tea & Coffee

Sunday March 27th 7am - Noon

Gordon Mitchell Middle School

Seniors & children \$4; Adults \$5 - Family \$15

Proceeds to Benefit Kiwanis Scholarships and Charities
 "Bring Can Goods - Help a Family"

Archdiocese of Boston Mandatory
VIRTUS TRAINING
"Protecting God's Children"

MONDAY, MARCH 26TH @ 6:30 p.m.

**Required of all employees and volunteers
 of the parish who were not trained in last
 year's program**

news." First the good news--we have reached and surpassed our goal for the Grand Annual Collection which was \$46,000. As of this date we have raised \$46,489. That certainly is great news, especially during this economy. I am profoundly grateful to you for being so generous to this financial lifeline, without which we would not be able to balance our budget. However, the weekly offertory collection has been going down for the past two years and these are the figures and they are from July -January:



2009-10-\$187,900-----2010-11- \$169,176 and
 2011-12 - \$162,793

This represents a 14% decline (\$25,000) in income over the past two years and is a cause for concern. All of the funds collected for the Grand Annual Collection have been spent in just three months on salaries, vendors, utilities and a few improvements to the buildings. What concerns me is that we spent \$46,000 in three months and there are four months-March, April, May and June left in this fiscal year and we have only \$18,000 in the savings account. And the summer months usually bring in a smaller offertory collection. So what to do? Answer - not sure.

I can't ask the parishioners who have been so very generous to the parish to be more generous. I think that the first step to fixing this problem is to realize that it is OUR problem and not someone else's problem or the pastor's problem. For example, the \$46,000 raised in the GAC was raised by 13% or about 240 of our 2,000 registered families. This problem can't be solved by 13% of our families. What would we have raised if 50% of our families contributed to the GAC? Another example would be that of the 2,000 registered families only 449 request the weekly envelopes. Last Sunday, only 167 envelopes were turned in which is about the average number of envelopes that are turned in each week.

Everyone needs to make it a priority to attend Mass. That would completely solve our problem. And every individual or family needs to use the parish envelopes for their donation. Every gift that you give that means something to you - you "gift wrap" it. If your gift to the church really means something to you, I would suggest that you do the same and place it in the envelope. Please call the rectory and ask to be placed on the weekly envelope system or pick up one of the forms which can be found on the ushers' tables.

In the short term, there are a few things that we can all do to help solve this problem. Please buy a ticket to the St. Patrick's Day Party. The fund raising committee has worked very hard on this and the response has been poor. Remember that it is a parish "fund raiser" and not just a "get together". Also, please become a member of the 300 club. This \$5.00 monthly donation really helps us out and you might also win something.

As I said in the beginning, about 13-20% of our families contribute to the parish. It is unfair for the 80% who do not attend Mass or contribute to the parish to expect that the 20% who do should pay for the upkeep of and salaries of those who work so hard to make sure that this parish is here when you need it; such as at First Holy Communion, Confirmation, Baptism, CCD classes, Funerals, Weddings and all the other times when our services are requested. It is everyone's problem and it will take everyone, or at least more than 15-20% of our people, to solve it.

I am sure that fees will have to increase - fees particularly for CCD, funerals and weddings as well as for other services. But these increases will not solve the problem. It will take us all to solve the problem.

God bless,
 Fr. Wally