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St. John is a Stewardship Parish

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March 1, 2015  
Second Sunday of Lent

Saturday, February 28, 2015

4:00 – Parishioners of St. John

Sunday, March 1, 2015

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

Saturday, March 7, 2015

4:00 – Paul Luddy – 31<sup>st</sup> Anniversary

Sunday, March 8, 2015

8:00 – Parishioners of St. John

10:30 – Lori Hannan - 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary

*Important Dates*

Mon. 3/2 – 3/23 - Bible Study – 7:00pm

Wed. 3/4 – Confession – 6:30 to 8:00pm

Wed. 3/4 – PPC Meeting – 8:00pm

Fri. 3/6 – Simple Supper – 5:30-6:30pm

Fri. 3/13 – Divine Mercy Chaplet – 6:00pm

Sat. 3/14 – PJ Anderson Concert – 7:00pm

*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 22, 2015*

Collection: \$ 6,345

Budgeted: \$ 5,784

Snow removal: \$ 1,308

*Thank you for your continued generosity*

*The 2015 Catholic Appeal*

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

As we enter the Season of Lent we are also entering the time for The Catholic Appeal for 2015. We must nourish and build our community of faith here at St John Parish, and so must we nourish and encourage our larger Archdiocesan ministry. As we support this larger ministry, we are casting our bread upon the waters and it does come back to us in many ways.

The Catholic Appeal helps to fund many central ministries that directly affect our parish that we could not afford without their help: our Deaconate Program, Human Resources for the Rectory and CCD Staff, Pastoral Care for our priests, and various Property Management/Improvement Programs, to list a few.

Next weekend is Pledge Sunday, will you prayerfully consider helping with the good work that does come back to St John Parish by pledging as much as you can possible afford to further the good works of our Archdiocese?

**CHOIR ANNOUNCEMENT**

Children’s Choir rehearsals for Easter Sunday will take place Monday evenings from 6-7 pm during lent. Teen/Adult Choir Rehearsals for The Paschal Triduum/Easter will take place Monday evenings during Lent from 7:15-8:30 pm in the church. This is a wonderful opportunity for those who are unable to make a year-long commitment but would still like to participate in a choir! Contact Paul Hoffman, Music Director, for more information.

**Easter Flower Envelopes are in the pews, please return them by Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>.**

**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**  
**Tickets will be sold after all the Masses**

**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)



**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.**

**DIVINE MERCY HOLY HOUR**

**From**

**6 – 7 PM**

**Friday evenings - March 13 & 27,**

**An hour of adoration and Divine Mercy  
Chaplet**

***A message from our Pastor***

My Dear Friends in Christ,

I've never been a firm believer that God does things to "test" us. Today's readings, however, seem to be an "exception to the rule". Our reading from the Old Testament speaks of the encounter Abraham has with God in relation to his son, Isaac. God appears to be testing Abraham to see to what lengths he will go in showing his love and fidelity to God. In the end, however, it is less about the test than it is about the fidelity. God ultimately rewards Abraham for going so far as to be willing to sacrifice his only son (sound familiar?), promising to make his descendants as "countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore" (Gn 22:17). Such are the lengths that we are to go in showing our faithfulness to God.

In our second reading, we are reminded that in sacrificing His Son for us, God shows us that He will give us all the things we need to grow in faith, hope and love. It may seem at times, however, that we are "tested" in this exchange (God giving us life, we giving ourselves) by trusting that God has the "big picture" in His mind and heart, keeping us safe from charges and condemnation from the world. We are to always realize that we owe the world nothing – it is God to whom we owe everything, including our very lives.

In the gospel passage from Mark, we are given the encounter of the Transfiguration on Mt. Tabor that Jesus has, first with His disciples and then Elijah and Moses. The disciples that are with Jesus are given charge "not to relate what they had seen to anyone" (Mk 9:9) until the Resurrection. What a test this is! How could they not tell anyone and everyone of what they had seen, heard and felt? How challenging it must have been for them! When we reflect on this encounter, we must ask how it is that we encounter Jesus. Do we see Him as "transfigured" (as the disciples did that day), or do we take Him for granted thinking that we can always "have" Him? The challenge in the Transfiguration, for the disciples and for us, is to see the mission of Christ without losing sight of the power and majesty of Christ. Jesus came as the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets (this is the reason for the presence of Moses (Law) and Elijah (Prophets)).

May we always know that when we feel "tested" by God, that there is a good reason for this. We should do our best to see the "big picture" that God has in mind for us and for the world. We must never lose sight that Jesus constantly reveals Himself to us, in Word and deed, pointing the way to the Kingdom. May the Christ we encounter today be the Christ we encounter every day, in His promise, power and peace.

A Blessed Lent to you all,

Fr. Paul