
St. John is a Stewardship Parish

March 8, 2015
Third Sunday of Lent

Saturday, March 7, 2015

4:00 – Paul Luddy – 31st Anniversary

Sunday, March 8, 2015

8:00 – Parishioners of St. John

10:30 – Lori Hannan - 2nd Anniversary

Saturday, March 14, 2015

4:00 – Francis Barry – Memorial

Sunday, March 15, 2015

10:30 – Peggy Calloghan- 15th Anniversary

Important Dates

Mon. 3/9 – 3/23 - Bible Study – 7:00pm

Wed. 3/11 – Confession – 6:30 to 8:00pm

Wed. 3/11 – PPC Meeting – 8:00pm

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

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

Sun. 3/15 – Retreat for Gr. 9 & 10 – 9:00am

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 25th and will continue until March 25th.

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, Joe Bosse & 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
March 1, 2015*

Collection: \$ 7,185

Budgeted: \$ 5,784

Thank you for your continued generosity

The 2nd collection next weekend is for our Youth Ministry program

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.

This 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 29th.

SAVE THE DATE
Saturday, March 21st 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



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!!

**If you would like to help us with the meal,
please contact Lorraine at 508-378-4207.**

Next weekend, 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,

This Third Sunday of Lent marks the “halfway point” of our Lenten journey. Oftentimes on a journey of any kind, the halfway mark is good time to reflect we're one has been, as well as looking ahead to where one hopes to be. In the Lenten season, we've seen the temptation of Jesus in the desert (First Sunday) and the

Transfiguration of Jesus, a vision given to Peter, James and John (Second Sunday).

On this Third Sunday, we have options. If there are to be candidates or catechumens for the RCIA, then there is an option to read the scriptures from “Cycle A”, which give us the the work of Moses in the desert, giving the Israelites water from the rock, as well as the encounter of Jesus with the woman at the well. Both of these readings are meant to “spark” in the listener the image of Baptism. It is in and through the waters of Baptism that we are brought into the Church, whether as children or adults. This image is useful for those who are seeking to enter into the Church at Easter through the RCIA process, primarily because it gives them hope, something to strive for in their prayer and study.

The other option we are given is the readings from “Cycle B”, those used in the normal course of the liturgical year. In these readings, we have three distinct, yet “linked” images: the Commandments, the Cross, and the Cleansing of the Temple. In the first reading, Moses is given the Ten Commandments to help the Israelite community stay focused. They are useful for us so as to give us guidance and a set of opportunities to grow in faith, hope and love. While they are “Commandments” and are to be followed (after all, they aren't the “Ten Suggestions”, as I read on a bumper sticker a while ago), they are more than just “dos and don'ts” – they are ways of living, living in God's love.

In Paul's bringing to mind the Cross, in our second reading, we have the image of that “tool of salvation” that Christ's Cross is for us. What was (and still is by the world) seen as an image of torture and death, is seen by Christians as the way to the Kingdom. It is on the Cross where Christ, once and for all time, opened the “gates of salvation”. All we need do is follow!

In our gospel passage, Jesus cleanses the temple for He sees it being used as a “marketplace” and not the house of prayer that it is meant to be. He feels compelled and commanded to so out of love for the Father. It is this same fervor and zeal with which we must live our faith.

May these days and weeks of Lent give us opportunities to grow in grace. May we take advantage of every opportunity given us, so that we may grow not only in grace, but in faith, hope, love and, ultimately, Easter joy!

Have a Blessed Lent,

Fr. Paul