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**St. John is a Stewardship Parish**

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**September 15, 2013  
24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Saturday, September 14, 2013**

4:00 – Richard Venesky – 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**Sunday, September 15, 2013**

9:30 – Parishioners of St. John

11:30 – Edward Williams – Memorial

**Saturday, September 21, 2013**

4:00 – Deceased St. Vincent de Paul Members

**Sunday, September 22, 2013**

8:00 – Jennie Kucinski – 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

9:30 – Robert Sullivan – 9<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

11:30 – Parishioners of St. John

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Jessica Thurston whose funeral Mass was celebrated September 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Important Dates**

Sun. 9/15 – Annual Picnic following 11:30 Mass

Sun. 9/15 – Cori Forms at Picnic

Tues. 9/17 – CCD Teacher Meeting – 7:00 PM

Sat. & Sun 9/21 & 22 – St. Vincent de Paul Food Drive

Sat. 9/21 – EB Business Expo 10 – 2 PM

Sat 9/21 – CCD Open House – 3- 6 PM

Sun. 9/22 – Gr. 9 & 10 Parent Mtg. – 6 PM

**Tues. 9/24 – CCD Program Begins**

Sun. 9/29 – Teen Mass & Dinner – 6 PM

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

*Pam Adornato, Christopher Berlo, Penny Walsh, Juan Botta, Irene Kimball, Nancy Thomson, Ann P. Katilus, Joseph Pompeo, Bob Marx, David Robichaud, Mei Connelly, Dottie & Eddie Younis, Lillian Wedge, Richard Cerci, Nikki Bosse, Alison LaLond, Joe Bosse, Michael MacDonald, Ann Storti, Susan Lynch, Roy Conrad, Mark DeLuca, Aline Clish, Bobby Marx, Fr. Ed McLaughlin.*

St. John's Youth Ministry is embarking on a **Mission Trip to Nashville, TN next summer, from June 28 to July 5.**

The trip is open to Jr's, Sr's & College Freshmen who have been confirmed and are parishioners of St. John. There are a few spaces left.

An \$85 deposit will be due within the next two weeks to secure your spot. The trip will cost \$350 plus travel expenses, but many fundraisers are planned to offset these expenses.

***Our Shared Treasure***

*September 8, 2013*

Offertory Collection: \$5794

Catholic University: \$771

*Thank you for your continued generosity.*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Collection – Sept 15 – Rectory Maintenance*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Collection – Sept 22 – Clergy Benefit Trust*

**BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC DATES**

**2013**

**2014**

**September 28**

**October 26**

**November 30**

**December 28**

**January 25**

**February 22**

**March 29**

**April 26**

**May 31**

**June 28 ???**

**PLEASE SAVE**

Project Rachel Retreat for Hope & Healing after Abortion

Fall 2013 Dates:

Saturday, September 21, 2013

Saturday, October 26, 2013

November 23, 2013

9:00 – 5:00 PM

This one day retreat is designed to help women hurting from past abortions, experience the personal love of Christ and find hope for healing. It will offer a loving confidential environment.

For more information call 508-651-3100



Food Pantry Donations Needed

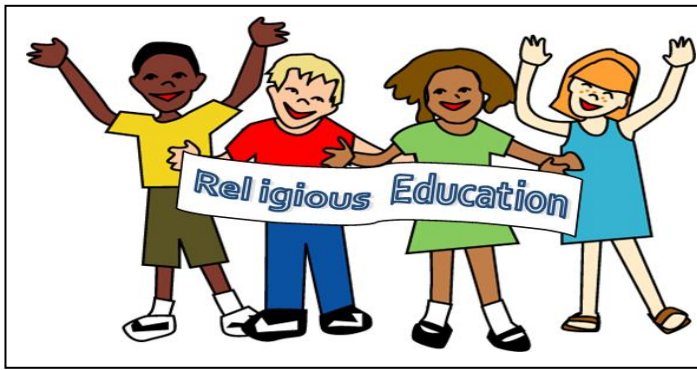
**SAINT VINCENT dePAUL FOOD DRIVE IS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup> & 22<sup>ND</sup>.**

**Bags will be provided the weekend of Sept 14/15**

**300 CLUB WINNERS**



Sheila McLaughlin  
Christine Cassidy  
Linda Painten  
Erica Wasil



### TEACHERS NEEDED

CLASSES START -- Tuesday, September 24.

Tues: Gr. 3, 4, & 5

Weds: Gr. 3 & 4 - 2 = Gr 5's

Thurs: Gr. 3 & 6

Sat: 2, 5, 6

Sun: 2 = Gr. 9's, Gr. 10

Call Lorraine at 508-378-1521 if you can help

#### St. John's Choirs Bulletin Notice: Fall 2013

The Adult Choir sings at the 11:30 am Mass beginning Sept. 15. Rehearsals take place before Mass at 10:30 am. The Children's Choir first rehearsal is Monday, Sept. 23 at 6 pm. The first Children's Choir Mass is Sunday, Sept. 29 at the 9:30 Mass. The first Teen Choir Mass is Sunday, Sept. 29 at 6 pm. We will rehearse before Mass at 5 pm. Please contact Paul Hoffman for information about our music program or if you are interested in joining a choir!



CATHOLIC SCHOOL FAIR

Sunday, September 22

11:00AM - 1:00PM

Explore your options for grades 7-12!

Call Williams for a list of schools participating.



#### My Dear Friends in Christ,

Today's gospel offers us three parables. Parables were storytelling "tools" that the speaker used to convey a greater point. While Jesus was not alone in using parables, He certainly is known for using them, relating these images to greater realities such as salvation and the Kingdom of God. In today's gospel, Jesus is speaking of the "sin and repentance" aspect of our faith by speaking of "The Lost Sheep", "The Lost Coin" and "The

Prodigal Son". The first two parables "set up" the third, which brings the point home.

The story of the "Prodigal Son" can be looked at in many different ways. While we tend to look at the "wayward" son as the center of the story, we can also take the tale from the perspective of the father or even of the second ("faithful") son. Depending where we are on our journey of faith, we may be able to relate to any one of these three characters. Some may focus on the "prodigal son", insofar as his journey from sin to forgiveness. The prodigal son gives us a vivid picture not only of the perils of sin, but also the power of forgiving love. The prodigal son, coming to his senses and realizing the error of his ways, goes to the father not expecting anything more than to be treated like a hired hand. The treatment he receives "mirrors" the treatment we receive from God when, with contrite hearts, we approach God seeking – and receiving! – forgiveness. It is a riveting image of the power of God's forgiving love.

We can also look at this story from the perspective of the father. Perhaps in our life there is someone who has "wronged" us, and they approach seeking forgiveness. The father in today's story is a model for us, a way of approaching that encounter. We can hold back that forgiveness, "lording over" the offending party the transgression committed; this is not, however, how God wishes us to act. The father in today's gospel shows us that "to err is human, to forgive, divine". When we forgive, we bring God's grace into the moment, raising it up so that God may bless BOTH parties, healing the wounds of sin and division.

Finally, we can look at the story from the viewpoint of the son. Perhaps we have been faithful to God's teaching, yet we don't feel that we have been given our "due" (i.e. the "young goat" that the "faithful" son feels that he deserves). We might become resentful when we see others who have transgressed getting "rewarded", forgetting that God sees all and will deal with them accordingly (probably affording them far more mercy than we would!). We should come to realize that God will reward us – in His own time and His own way. May we have the patience to wait for that reward.

It has been said that "whoever brings a sinner back from the error of his way will save his soul from death and cover a multitude of sins" (Jas 5:20). May we have the courage to seek out the "lost" and bring them back into God's good grace by inviting them back into relationship with God. May we know the grace God has waiting for us and may we share that grace with all whom we meet.

**Have a Blessed Week,  
Fr. Paul**