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St. John is a Stewardship Parish

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March 9, 2014  
First Sunday in Lent

Saturday, March 8, 2014

4:00 – Luddy, Tokan, Olshaw Families -- Memorial

Sunday, March 9, 2014

9:30 – Elizabeth Cahill – 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

11:30 – Eva Lepine – 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary

Saturday, March 15, 2014

4:00 – Francis Barry -- Memorial

Sunday, March 16, 2014

11:30 – Martin J. Hanley – 24<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

6:00 – John H. Smith – 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary

Important Dates

Wed. 3/12 – Confessions – 6:30 – 8:00

Fri. 3/14 – Divine Mercy Hour – 7 – 8 PM

Sun. 3/16 – TEEN MASS – 6 pm.

Fri. 3/21 – Simple Supper – 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Wed. 3/26 – Confessions – 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Wed. 3/26 – Finance Committee Mtg – 8:00 p.m.

Fri. 3/28 – Divine Mercy Hour – 7 – 8 PM

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

*Pam Adornato, Mei Connelly, Dottie & Eddie  
Younis, Lillian Wedge, Richard Cerci, Michael  
MacDonald, Susan Lynch, Roy Conrad, Mark  
DeLuca, Michael Terry, Harvey Day, Audrey  
Ribero, Toni McGrail, Scott Zabrek, Bill  
Maloney, Jerry Paluch, Mark Schatzl, Shane  
Thompson, John Gomes, Frank McCarthy.*

The Catholic Women's Club will resume on Wed the 12th of March at Riddell Road Hall at 1 p.m. The agenda will be **chair yoga** and should be a lot of fun. This is a very important meeting! We hope to see everyone!

The rosary makers of St. John are in need of funds to keep up with the demand for rosaries. A bake sale is planned for the week-end of the 15th and 16th of March in the chapel after all the Masses, We are asking everyone that can to make something for the sale. Also if anyone would like to join us or is need of a rosary, please come to the sale. Thank you all,  
"The Family that prays together, stays together."  
Mary Ann Boyle

*Our Shared Treasure*

*March 3, 2014*

**\$7392**

Grand Annual: \$25,639

Weekly Collection Budgeted: \$5,882.00

Above budget: \$1510 ☺

Catholic Appeal: 2,755 prior to Appeal Weekend

***Thank you for your continued generosity.***

*2<sup>nd</sup> Collection March 16 for Church Maintenance*

**CONGRATULATIONS!!!**

**300 Club Winners**



**\$1000 – Bob & Bobbie McCarthy**

**\$500 – Pam McDermott**

**\$250 – Jean Berrigan**

**\$250 – Winniefred Hutchins**

**\$250 – David Robichaud**

**Lenten Regulations**

**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."

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



St. John's Peer Minister's invite you to a  
St. Patrick's Dinner Dance Fundraiser

When: Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>  
St. John's Hall

Social Hour beginning at 5:00 pm with Dinner to follow

Cost: \$20.00 per person or \$35.00 per couple

The evening will include a Boiled Dinner, Dancing, raffles and a lot of fun and laughs  
The Peer Ministers are raising money to help lower the \$800 per person cost of the trip and make it more affordable for everyone.

Please contact the CCD Office for tickets  
508-378-1521  
[repstjohn@stjohnrep.net](mailto:repstjohn@stjohnrep.net)

A sincere thank you to all who participated in The Catholic Appeal last weekend. Your commitment to this good work is very much appreciated. To all parishioners who pledged during this campaign, a big thank you for going forward in hope as we support the ministries that bring life to the Gospel message across the Archdiocese of Boston. If you have yet to make a pledge to the 2014 Catholic Appeal, there are pledge cards at the end of the pews and at the doors of the church. You may also pledge online at [BostonCatholicAppeal.org](http://BostonCatholicAppeal.org). We will be updating totals in the Bulletin and hope to reach our goal of \$27,288 within a few short months.



## DIVINE MERCY HOLY HOUR

From  
7-8 PM

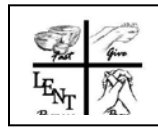
Friday evenings - Mar, 14, 28, & April 11  
An hour of adoration and Divine Mercy  
Chaplet



## SIMPLE SUPPERS

Friday Evenings in Lent  
March 7<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, + April 4  
5:30 - 7:00

Menu: Soup, Salad, Bread, Mac n' Cheese  
Good Will Offering - All are welcome!



My Dear Friends in Christ,

Oscar Wilde, the late 19<sup>th</sup> c. Irish poet and writer, was once quoted as saying "I can resist anything but temptation". There is a lot of truth in that statement when it is looked at critically. One of the hardest things to avoid is temptation which, once given into, often (more often than not, truthfully) leads to sin. But while it is hard to avoid, it is not impossible for "nothing is impossible with God" (Lk 1:37). Therein lays the key for us as Catholic-Christians: God.

We begin our Lenten journey through the Sunday readings with the temptations of Jesus in the desert by Satan. Jesus is coming off of a forty day fast and is, understandably hungry (keeping in mind the humanity of Jesus). This is why the first temptation that Satan presents is centered on food; the devil knows how to attack someone, in presenting sin in the form of something "good" - in this case, food. We all need food to live, and Jesus is no exception. In giving into this temptation, however, Jesus would be denying a greater good - in this case, "every word which comes from the mouth of God" (Mt 4:4). We are "fed", spiritually, by the Word of God, and it is this "food" which will sustain us when we are tempted to give in to worldly desires. The second temptation, security, is another "good". We all want to be safe and secure, to know that we will make it through the day. That "good" goes away, however, when we "push our limits" beyond what is safe, believing that we can do anything we want and God will take care of us. While it is true that, as a Deacon friend of mine once said in a homily, that "God 'has our back'" and we would be foolhardy to take liberties with this security, to "put God to the test" (Mt 4:7, paraphrased).

The third temptation, power, is another thing which is "good". It is good to be in control, to have one's destiny figured out, to have the "road ahead" mapped out. This "good" becomes challenging, however, when we think that we do it all, that we have the power. True power, Jesus shows us time and time again, comes from service - serving those ends which God has designed for us (for our own good), serving the needs of our brothers and sisters (and, thus, putting ourselves second to those needs). The beauty of this thinking is that there is a "freedom" to serving God; we don't have to have all the answers, we don't have to have everything all figured out. When we give ourselves over to God, and His Divine Will, we experience a "power" which only God can give: the power to see the gift of Eternal Life which God has awaiting us.

Jesus' temptations are not unlike ones which we face each and every day. If we model ourselves after the person of Christ, we will have mastery over sin and temptation, we will be free to see the good God has in store for us and we will know the fullness of love God has awaiting us - and that is the greatest "good" of all.

Have a Blessed Lent,  
Fr. Paul