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| Greetings! |
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I remember as a young person when I was trying to make a ‘big’ decision in my life that at the time almost seemed to be the ‘end of the world’ (of course, it wasn’t a prophecy but rather a reflection of my ‘youthful inexperience’). The good advice I received at the time from a friend was pretty simple and straightforward: “If you get off the fence on the wrong side, you can change it; if you don’t, you’ll never know”. Not knowing what the near future would be for me, I made the difficult decision and only later clearly understood ‘God’s hand was guiding me all the time’ and that decision was the best decision for all.

A few short years later, when I was considering another major decision to enter the seminary, I received advice from an older and wiser priest, again, rather simple and straight forward: “If you think it’s the right thing, then go after it with all your heart. If it’s not, the Lord will let you know.” I always held that advice in my heart until the day of my ordination knowing if the Lord chose otherwise, I would accept it. (Obviously, He didn’t!)

By now, many of you have heard that ‘our’ seminarian Mammias Habtegiorgis is departing from the seminary formation program, and will not be continuing his pastoral year here at St. Joseph Parish. I am sure I can speak for all of us when I say to him he will be greatly missed! So many times Mammias has told me, “I am so very happy here” and that is a great reflection on you, the people of St. Joseph Parish & School Community. Mammias and I thank you for welcoming him so much, and now letting your prayers follow him and assist him in his future decisions. I will certainly pass on any ‘updates’ he sends me, and truly believe the Lord is guiding him.

For Mammias, for me, for all of us sometimes we can’t always see the Lord’s guiding hand in our lives at the time, and yet we still (try to) step out in faith. But, the Lord has never abandoned us, especially when we are struggling to do the right thing.

This past week, many of us endeavored to make some ‘New Year’s resolutions’, some we’ll keep and some we’ve probably already broken (in two short days), but what a great time to make some resolutions that will strengthen our relationship with the Lord and allow us to ultimately ‘know’ His will for us more fully.

For the New Year, might I suggest adding more time to your daily prayer? Taking up some brief daily reading of the Scriptures and meditate for a few minutes on what Christ is speaking to you personally, and then act on it. (Several different parishioners have recently asked where to begin reading the Scriptures as they feel a little unfamiliar with the Bible. I suggest beginning with one of the four Gospels, and reading just a few lines or a small story and spending 3-4 minutes asking yourself what is God saying to me through His Word.) The Lord has much to say to us in the New Year, and I thank you for endeavoring to make the time in your life to ‘hear’ His voice – you will always be grateful!

Happy New Year!
God bless!

Mass Intentions for the Week


Saturday, January 2nd

4:00PM Dennis J. Sullivan, Jr. Memorial Mass

Sunday, January 3rd

11:30AM Parishioners of St. Joseph Parish

Monday, January 4th

9:00AM Mass of Thanksgiving

Friday, January 8th

9:00AM Monthly Parish Eucharistic Society

Saturday, January 9th

4:00PM Kara LaPlaca 5th Anniversary

Sunday, January 10th

7:30AM Catherine Stinson 9th Anniversary

9:30AM James Hoover Memorial Mass

11:30AM Assetta, Domenico and Lucia Ventura
Memorial Mass

Christmas Collection

Although it is too soon to give you an update on this year’s Collection from Christmas because the bulletin had to be sent early, I wish to sincerely thank everyone who was able to give to this very important collection for the healthcare and retirement of our priests. *Thank you!*

Thank You

The following letter was received from Food for the Poor:

Dear Fr. Riley,

We wish to express our sincere gratitude for your help in improving the lives of those who often have nowhere else to turn. Despite these difficult economic times, your parishioners were especially generous in helping to build sustainable futures for families in the developing countries that we serve. All of us at Food for the Poor thank you for partnering with us in this ministry to bring good news to those living in abject poverty. You and your church will be remembered in a special “Thankful Thursday” prayer service on January 7, 2010.

Robin Mahfood, President

Our Homebound

Any homebound parishioner wanting to be visited or to receive the weekly bulletin should contact the rectory at 781-767-0605.

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

COMPREHENSIVE YOUTH MINISTRY PROGRAM

WE HAVE A WISH LIST!!! Do you have (or know someone who does) an LCD projector or plasma TV that can be donated to our youth group? We also find ourselves in need of a multi passenger van or bus. There are many times we take trips and the cost of renting transportation is quite high. We would like to partner with someone who can help lower the cost of our transportation needs. Please contact Fr. Ed or Maura Burke at 781 767 0563 if you are able to help.

Pro Life Rally: The Pro Life Rally in Washington DC is scheduled for January 20-22nd and we will be traveling by bus with other parishes in the Archdiocese. If anyone - teenager or up - is interested in attending, please let Fr. Ed know ASAP.

Save the Date!

Do you remember the priest who baptized you? Gave you First Holy Communion? Married you? Visited your dying family member? In this *Year of the Priest*, what better way can we show our love for priests assigned to this parish over the years than 'An Evening of Appreciation'. Please save the date: **Saturday, March 20th** for an *Evening of Appreciation of Our Priests* here at St. Joseph with Cardinal Sean! More information to follow (and an invitation for you to help make this evening one to remember for our whole parish)!

Parish Giving

I am very thankful for every gift that helps us do all that we do here, and I am grateful that some parishioners are able to help by increasing their weekly giving knowing a good number of families in our parish have been greatly affected by the loss of jobs and income. The first collection for the week of 12/20 (snowstorm!) was **\$1,842**. The Second Collection for the Capital Improvement Fund was **\$685**. Next weekend's second collection is for Fuel.

Parish Grand Annual Collection

Thank you! We look to complete this collection, and if you can help us reach our goal of \$38,000, I would be very grateful. We are now at \$30,503. Certainly, your pledge may be paid over any period of time you wish. Whatever offering each individual or family might make will be used to renovate the lower and upper Church this year to provide more space for our adult and youth activities.

Prayer for Vocations

Jesus, we ask you to bless our parish and all those living their commitment to you as married couples, singles, sisters, priests, deacons and brothers. We pray that our young people may know their vocation and respond with enthusiasm and generosity of spirit. Increase the faith life of our parish and strengthen our family life. Bless our parish with many vocations. Grant, Lord, that faithfully sharing your mission in this life, we may come together to share your eternal life in heaven.



For the Month of January

The Hosts and Wine have been donated
in memory of
Ruth, Alice and Helen Huxley
by John Huxley

Memorial Offerings in memory of a deceased relative or friend are available monthly for the Hosts, Wine, Sanctuary Lamp and Missalettes. Please call the Parish Office for further information.

Tax Laws for Contributions

Just a reminder that due to changes in the federal tax laws for charitable contributions beginning in 2007, parishioners who itemize deductions on Schedule A of their tax returns will no longer be able to deduct contributions to the parish unless they maintain a bank record or receive a written contribution statement from the parish. Cash contributions that are not in a parish envelope **cannot** be tracked by the parish and will not be included in the year-end contribution statement. To ensure tax deductibility the following payments are recommended: use of parish envelopes or written check made payable to the parish.



The following children were baptized in December:

Isabella Leonah O'Brien
Vicci Annabel St. Louis

Congratulations! We are ever thankful to the parents of these children who promise to teach them the ways of Jesus and lead them in the Catholic faith! We support you always.

Ramblewood Mass

There is a Mass at Ramblewood at 11AM on January 12th.

Advertiser of the Week

Thank you for patronizing the services of our bulletin advertisers! This week we *thank Kerr Contracting, Inc.* for advertising with us!



Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." - Mt 2:1b-2

JANUARY 3, 2010

To Contact Us!

Parish Office (781) 767-0605
153 South Franklin Street
Monday – Friday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Edward M. Riley, **Pastor**
Rev. Matthew M. Williams, **In Residence**
Deacon John Boyle, **Senior Deacon** john_boyle@msn.com
Sr. Catherine Joseph McDonough, **Pastoral Visitation**
Sr. Paula Mayer, **Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul**

Office Staff

Anne Moriarty, **Business Manager** anne.moriarty@comcast.net
Marilyn Kearney, **Secretary** mkearney.sjp@comcast.net
Sr. Mary Agnes O'Neil, **Receptionist**
Daniel Raeke, **Director of Facilities**
Music Ministry stjmusic@comcast.net

Religious Education Office

(781) 767-0563
Mrs. Maura Burke, **Director** st.joseph.re@comcast.net
Mrs. Gidgette Farrell, **Assistant**

School Office

(781) 767-1544
Mrs. Anne F. Clough, **Principal** clough.sjs@comcast.net
Mrs. Rosa Hutchinson, **Secretary**

Please submit information for the bulletin for the parish office or by email bulletin.sjp@comcast.net by Monday for the following weekend.

Sacramental Life

Baptisms

Third Sunday of each month at 1:30 PM. Preparation Classes the Saturday evening *before* at 6:30 PM. Please call the parish office in advance.

Confirmation

Please contact a priest if you are an adult or the Director of Religious Education if you are a youth.

Confessions

Saturdays from 3:00-3:45 PM or by contacting a priest.

Eucharist

Saturday 4:00 PM Vigil
Sunday: 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 AM
Monday – Saturday 9:00 AM

Marriage

Please make arrangements with a parish priest six months prior to wedding.

Holy Orders

If you or someone you know is thinking about priesthood (*or religious life*) please contact a priest or religious sister.

Anointing of the Sick

Please call the rectory if you or someone you know is sick, homebound, preparing for surgery, unable to participate in Sunday Eucharist, or would like a visit by a priest.

JANUARY 3, 2010

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

TENTH GRADE CONFIRMATION CLASS: The second part of our two year Confirmation class begins this Sunday, January 3rd. This class is a Prayer Service with St. Michael's Parish and will be held at 2pm at St. Michael's in Avon. Most other classes will be at 5pm. Remember, you must reregister for the second part of the program. No student will be accepted into the program after January 10th.

There is NO Religious Education classes for Grades 1 - 8 on January 3rd but there is class for Grades 9 and 10.

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

St. Joseph School Registration 2010-11

Registrations for the 2010-11 school year are now being accepted. On Monday, February 1st, from 9:00-11:00 AM, there will be an *Open House* for new parents. St. Joseph School offers a full day pre-K **4 year old** program and a full day **kindergarten** program. Aftercare is available. For more information about the school please visit the school website at www.stjosephholbrook.com. To register your child, please call the school office at 781-767-1544.

First Penance

First penance for St. Joseph School grade 2 students will be Saturday, January 9th at 10:30 am.

Skating Party

The St. Joseph School Parent Organization will host a skating party, Sunday, January 10th from 12:00-2:00 at the Carousel Family Fun Center in Whitman. Admission is \$3.00 with a skate rental fee of \$3.00. All are welcome - so tell your friends!

New...Stop & Shop A+ Bucks Program

Please register and help support St. Joseph School by going to www.stopandshop.com/aplus and register for the A+ Bucks Program. After a series of questions including the first letters of your last name and your 15-digit card code, the question where do you live will appear. When Holbrook is entered a school list will drop down with St. Joseph School. Thank you for participating and helping our school!

Shaws Supermarket Neighborhood Rewards Program

This holiday season please help support St. Joseph School by registering online at: <http://www.albertsons.com/cp/shaws/> and follow the steps to join by logging on as a *Shopper*. Next you will be prompted to enter your Rewards Card Number and Phone Number. To support St. Joseph's the eleven-digit number to enter is **49001018952**. Thank you!

Team III under the direction of Tracy Callahan will volunteer at Bingo on Friday, January 8th.