

<b>Greetings!</b>
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***“But my words will not pass away!”***

It still catches me by surprise sometimes and occasionally sends a shiver or two up my spine when I hear someone say, “*Father, I’m ready.*” Granted, it’s often spoken by someone who has suffered greatly or lived a ‘long’ life and has a deep faith in God but it’s not always easy for everyone else who will ‘*remain behind*’ to hear these words. It’s natural that we want our loved ones to live forever or at least often longer than they have or might do so. Yet, this is what we believe and what we want our children to believe: *Heaven is our goal!*

Recently, when I had the privilege to meet with the parents of children preparing to receive Holy Communion for the first time and the parents of our teenagers entering our two-year preparation program for the Sacrament of Confirmation, I asked them if they would share with me what they wanted for their children. Can I share just some of their responses (*in no particular order*)? *A strong moral compass; to see God in others; to love Jesus; to believe in God; to attend Mass; to know God is always with them; to be educated about the faith and be able to defend being Catholic; to want them to continue to be part of the Catholic Church even after they leave home; to understand the love Jesus has for us all.* When I then asked the parents to share with me what they expected of St. Joseph Parish to help their children achieve these desires they offered some of the following: *make Mass more friendly for young kids; teach that it is healthy to have a good relationship with God; give them the knowledge of the faith; help them understand the Word of God; teach them right from wrong; love them; reinforce values taught at home.*

Like all of us, young people seek to be happy and healthy (*and I add ‘holy’*). They want safe places to hangout, to establish healthy relationships, and find answers to *their* questions. And so, when I ask young people what questions they have (*after we get past: Why do I have to go to school? and Why do we have to do homework?*), I often hear such responses as: *Why am I here? What’s the purpose of life on earth? Why can’t God just make everyone get along?* Certainly there are answers to their questions, not all of which are ‘*quick*’ or ‘*easy*’, but I believe the many efforts of both our *Adult Faith Formation Team (working on programs for adults)* and *Youth Steering Committee (spearheading our youth programs)* are helping us, young and old (*and I just came a bit closer to the later*), to seek the answers to the most important questions in life.

After all, since we too will one day draw closer to ‘*being ready*’ to leave this world (*even though we know not the day or the hour*), it is good that we can know that we have helped the next generation be unafraid to build the Kingdom of God here on earth – *beginning right here at St. Joseph Parish & School!* And, ‘*may all the souls of the faithfully departed rest in peace*’ for ‘*one day, we shall see them again.*’

God bless!

## Mass Intentions for the Week

### Saturday, November 14th

4:00PM Parishioners of St. Joseph Parish

### Sunday, November 15th

7:30AM Robert Currie 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary

9:30AM Daniel, Winnifred, John and Danny Lynch Memorial Mass

11:30AM James McInerney, Sr. and James McInerney, Jr. Memorial Mass

### Monday, November 16th

9:00AM Kay Stevens 13<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### Friday, November 20th

9:00AM Bertony Ritchie, Elcia Louis, Maurice Bordes, Marie Rose Joseph Memorial Mass

### Saturday, November 21st

9:00AM Kathy Bryan Funeral Mass

4:00PM Billy Powers 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### Sunday, November 22nd

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Joseph Parish

9:30AM Gerald Shea Memorial Mass

11:30AM Joseph Davis Memorial Mass

### *Health Care Reform*

We have been hearing and reading with greater concern about the legislative proposal for national Health Care reform. The Bishops of the United States have strongly supported both a reform and greater coverage of healthcare for more Americans, especially a preferential treatment for ‘*the sick, the poor, the orphan and the widow*’ and persons immigrating to the United States.

Yet, there is a grave injustice written into this legislation that includes mandated coverage for abortion (*the innocent killing of a child*). This legislation also imposes grave limitation on the conscience of healthcare providers: both individuals and institutions. This will certainly have a grave effect on the numerous Catholic healthcare workers and institutions, many that provide for care in the poorest areas of our country.

Please take time to be informed about what this legislation mandates and communicate to our legislators your concerns. As Catholics, we have the civil right and responsibility to be engaged in the public forum as every citizen does. Below you will find a helpful link for more information. There certainly are times when we are called to speak up for the rights of others, and I agree with many that this is one of those times. Thank you. For more information, please go to: [www.usccb.org/healthcare](http://www.usccb.org/healthcare).

# Holiday Bazaar



Our *Parish Bazaar* takes place next Saturday, **November 21** from 10AM to 5PM. Stop by!! There are food tables, knit goods, baked goods, basket raffles, children's room and our annual grand raffle and shopping spree!

Items for the **White Elephant Table** and books, DVDs and videos for the **Book Table** can be dropped off this weekend before and after the Masses on Saturday and Sunday.

Unopened bottles of cheer are needed for the *Wheel of Cheer* and the *Basket Raffle* needs theme baskets or you can make a donation towards the baskets. Please drop these off at the Rectory during business hours.

We are **desperately** in need of items for our *Craft Table*. If you have a craft you do well and can make some for the Bazaar, please call the rectory.

The *Lucky Star Roll-Up Table* needs **your** help. We need any new or never used items. Large or small doesn't matter as long as it is **New or Never Used**. We also need people to work the table the day of the Bazaar. If you have any items and/or can help, please call Maryann at 3244.

The *Religious Goods Table* needs items such as rosaries, pictures, statues and books. Items may be left at the Rectory or call Terry Grzybinski at 767-4937 if they need to be picked up.

Fresh baked goods are needed for our *Baked Goods Table*. They can be dropped off in the School Lobby from 3 – 5PM on Friday or at the Bake Table on Saturday morning.

There are chances on the *South Shore Polar Express* for Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> in Kingston. There are 4 tickets for the 1:30PM train and 4 for the 4:00PM train. Chances are 1 for \$5 & 3 for \$10. The winners will be drawn at the bazaar.

### *Parish Grand Annual Collection*

*Thank you!* With a total of **\$26,910**, we are drawing closer to our goal of **\$38,000!** If you are in a position to make a gift but have not as yet, will you please consider one? I am asking each household to prayerfully consider what contribution they can make toward our parish needs and to use our envelopes (*so I can thank each family personally*).

### *Parish Giving*

The first collection for last week was **\$3,973**. The second collection for the Capital Improvement Fund was **\$1,631**. Next week's second collection is for the Campaign for Human Development. Thank you for your financial commitment to our parish life!

**COMPREHENSIVE YOUTH MINISTRY PROGRAM**  
Thank you to Laura Grant and her team for a very successful COSMIC BOWLING event last Friday. This was a fundraiser for the Youth Group and a fun time was had by all families. Well done!!

**LIFT** goes on the road: The energetic praise and worship program LIFT will be at St. Thomas Aquinas in Bridgewater on Wednesday December 2 from 7-9 pm. We invited ALL students and their parents grade 7 and up to join us as well as any interested parishioner. This is a unique opportunity for adoration, dynamic speakers and uplifting music, all geared to our young people. We will have a bus leave from St. Joseph and it will be first come, first served. Please call Maura Burke at 781 767 0563 ASAP so you may get a spot on the bus.

### Bringing Teens and Youth to Christ

The following is a list of activities within the next month that will help bring our young people and teens to Christ. We need YOU to be with US.

**November 9<sup>th</sup>** Continued collaboration meeting with Office of New Evangelization

**November 10<sup>th</sup>** Pottery Night for all ages (call Kelli O'Leary 781 767 0971)

**November 16<sup>th</sup>** World Youth Day Information Sessions

**November 21<sup>st</sup>** Parish Bazaar (Confirmation students assisting with all activities)

**November 22<sup>nd</sup>** Instructional Mass/Class for grades 7, 8, 9 and families (4-5:30 pm). All family members are strongly encouraged to attend

**November 25<sup>th</sup>** Mass of Gratitude 6pm - All ages participate in this Liturgy

**November 30<sup>th</sup>** 7pm CYM Steering Committee Meeting

**December 2<sup>nd</sup>** Trip to LIFT Night (see below)

**December 6<sup>th</sup>** Grades 7 & 8 (9-noon) student and parent trip to Jason Everett Presentation.

### RESPECT FOR LIFE ROSARY

(with Scripture Based Narration)

*Wed. Nov. 18, 2009 at 7pm*

*in the CONVENT CHAPEL*

*We Sing!!and We Pray!!*

**Please join us, no experience required.**

**EVERY VOICE COUNTS!**

### St. Joseph's Men's Group

The Men's Group is proud to have Gary Machaby address our group Saturday, November 21st from 7:30AM to 8:50AM (in time for morning Mass). Gary will talk about being Catholic Men and Fathers. His knowledge of Scripture and his gentle way will get us God's message to carry on our journeys. We have a great group of guys so if you haven't joined us before – come the 21st and bring a friend. Coffee PLUS will be served.

NOVEMBER 15, 2009

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

**Coats for Kids**

Once again Saint Joseph School students are collecting coats for Anton Cleaner's, Coats for Kids. We appreciate your donation of quality winter coats for kids, adults and babies. No tears, rips, missing buttons or zippers please. Donation boxes are set up in the school lobby. The coats are distributed by community agencies to those in need. Your generosity will keep someone warm this winter!

**Veteran's Wall of Heroes**

Once again, Saint Joseph School lobby has been transformed into a Veteran's Wall of Heroes. Photos will be on display through the month of November.

**Thanksgiving Food Drive**

The St. Joseph School community will be collecting food for the Holbrook Food Pantry. Food will be collected November 16<sup>th</sup> through November 20<sup>th</sup>. Anyone wishing to contribute may do so by dropping it off at the school. Thank you!

**Natures Classroom**

St. Joseph's fifth and sixth grade students will be participating in a week long learning experience, *Natures Classroom*. This year students will be with Sr. Paula Mayer at the Charlton, MA, *Natures Classroom's* site, from December 7<sup>th</sup> through December 11<sup>th</sup>.

**School Library Book Donation Program**

Please consider making a donation to the Saint Joseph School library. Each \$15 donation purchases a hardcover book with a commemorative bookplate and if requested, the name of the honoree and the donor. We appreciate your donation at any time throughout the year.

**Team IV** under the direction of Lori O'Leary will volunteer at Bingo on Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>.

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**SHAWS NO LONGER NEEDS REGISTER RECEIPTS TO REWARD ST. JOSEPHS SCHOOL FOR THEIR FUNDRAISING EFFORTS.**

Every time friends and family use their rewards card, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at Star Market or Shaw's, 1% of eligible purchases will go back to St. Joseph's. For more information or to register your rewards card, go to <http://www.albertsons.com/cp/shaws/> St. Joseph's rewards ID is 49001018952.

***Advertiser of the Week***

Thank you for patronizing the services of our bulletin advertisers! This week we thank **Menlo Landscaping & Paving Inc.** for advertising with us!

*NOVEMBER 15, 2009*

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**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**SAVE THE DATE:**

The annual Mass of Gratitude the night before Thanksgiving will be held on Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> at 6pm with our students and the adult choir leading us in song. We hope you and your families take time out of your busy schedules and give thanks and glory to God at this beautiful Liturgy.

**GRADES 7, 8 AND 9:** Sunday November 22<sup>nd</sup> class will be at 4-5:30 pm for ALL students in grades 7, 8 and 9. This class is an actual Mass with instruction and explanation given throughout the Mass. We encourage all family members to attend as well.

**Coming Soon:** The Religious Education Program hopes to soon establish a program for special education (ages 6-22). If you know of a student who may be interested or are an adult who can volunteer, please call Maura Burke at 781 767 0563.

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**SING TO THE LORD!**

The Music Ministry of St. Joseph Parish is in the process of creating a Children's Choir for the boys and girls in our parish who are in grades 3-6. There will be an informational meeting for interested children and their parents on **Sunday, November 15 at 12:30pm** in St. Charles Hall. The first rehearsal will be **Monday, November 16** from 4 to 5pm in the church choir loft. Please contact Mrs. Laura Grant with questions at 781-767-1469.

**Paint Your Own Pottery - Family Nights**

Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup> from 5:30 - 9:30 at South Shore Pottery, Route 18, Abington. Great for all family members! Work on your holiday gift list or just a holiday decoration for yourself. Price is \$12.00. This includes light refreshments, paint, supplies, firing of piece and a chance to win the door prize. This does not include the price of the piece. They range from \$4 to \$50. You can pay for the ticket that evening, but you **MUST RSVP** due to a limited number of seats available. Please contact Kelli O'Leary at 781-767-0971 or [kelliolary@verizon.net](mailto:kelliolary@verizon.net). This event is helping to support the St. Joseph Comprehensive Youth Ministry. Have fun while supporting a great cause for the young people of our community.

***Bishop James Augustine Healy Award Dinner***

The Office of Cultural Diversity is pleased to invite you to the 2009 Bishop Healy Award Dinner Saturday, November 21, 2009 at The Lantana, 43 Scanlon Drive, Randolph, MA. A reception will begin at 6:00pm with dinner to follow at 7:00pm. For more information please contact Lorna DesRoses, Coordinator of Black Catholic Ministries, Office of Cultural Diversity at 617-746-5810 or 5794.