

## ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, HOLBROOK

### Greetings!

#### *“For Three Years Now...”*

With the visit of Cardinal Sean to Haiti this past week (*representing the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*), we are beginning to see more pictures again of life after the devastating earthquake that struck there on January 12<sup>th</sup> (see [www.flickr.com/photos/bostoncatholic](http://www.flickr.com/photos/bostoncatholic)). Certainly, Cardinal Sean brings not only the spiritual and financial care of our Archdiocese of Boston but that of the whole Catholic family of the United States. (*I'm sure he will write more to us in his weekly blog when he returns home: [www.cardinalseansblog.org/](http://www.cardinalseansblog.org/).)* And now we are reading about the destruction and loss of life in Chile due to an even greater earthquake there. Add in the circumstances of man-made disasters, and you have not just a few persons asking, “*Why does God allow such devastation?*” and “*Does He make bad people?*” But even to ask such heart-wrenching questions does at least posit that we believe in God in the first place. (*Even though such painful realities do lead some people to posit that there is no God.*)

Often, we are frightened by the reality that we don't have control over everything and that natural disasters, accidents, cancers and violence can happen most anytime without regard to age, color, race, sex or, yes, creed. As a priest, many persons have come seeking the answers to make sense out of their lives when similar or different circumstance prevail upon them (*and in fact, several persons have come back to the Church or inquired about becoming Catholic under such circumstances*). It can often be such life-changing circumstances as early widow-hood, marital-separation, over-dosing or unemployment pushes us to ask questions like: *Where is God in all of this? Does he have a purpose for my life? Can I still find him in my life? When will he answer my prayers?*

During Lent, we keep our focus on the Passion of Jesus. We even take time to ‘walk’ the Stations of the Cross (*as so beautifully led by some of our children this past Monday*) and reflect upon Christ's sufferings from *beatings, whippings, mocking, bruising, being spit-upon, a crowning with thorns, complete stripping and being nailed to the cross*. What have you thought about his mother watching all of this torture inflicted upon her only son? How could she walk so silently by his side in the midst of such violence? What could keep her from acting out in despair or rage? What did she feel in her heart when she realized they would not stop until he was crucified? How could she simply hold his lifeless, bloody body without losing hope in God?

In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus correct the notion of his disciples that acts of misfortune only fall upon ‘bad’ people. He then went on to assure them that the value of our lives is measured rather in how we choose to live each day. Do we spend our days walking with others who suffer? Do we reach out to the less fortunate or needy? Have we welcomed the disabled or stranger? Have we given up so

that others may have? Did you know every week such brothers and sisters are sitting next to you in Church?

Our Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving do not ‘earn’ us our way into heaven but rather ‘strip’ us of our reliance on the things of this world and so lead us to place our complete trust in the One who is Lord. In a way, we seek to be so united with him that we begin to become like him. In turn, though we may not readily be able to ‘turn back’ the forces of nature that cause such destruction, we can begin to let him ‘use’ us to be his presence in this world until He comes again!

God bless!

### Mass Intentions for the Week

#### **Saturday, March 6th**

4:00PM Catherine Doyle 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

#### **Sunday, March 7th**

7:30AM Michael Wells 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary  
9:30AM Mr. & Mrs. J. Newman Memorial Mass  
11:30AM Andrew Locke Memorial Mass

#### **Monday, March 8th**

9:00AM Parishioners of St. Joseph Parish

#### **Wednesday, March 10th**

9:00AM Mario Livorsi Memorial Mass

#### **Saturday, March 13th**

9:00AM Jack Emord and Olivia George Memorial Mass  
4:00PM Francis Ciarfella 18<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

#### **Sunday, March 14th**

7:30AM Richard & Margaret Cummings Memorial Mass  
9:30AM John Callahan 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
11:30AM Richard Carney 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Anne Carney Riordon 16<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

#### *Penance Service*

**Next Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>** we are hosting a Penance Service for the entire parish as well as our Confirmation Students and their families beginning at 5pm. There will be a brief witness talk and the opportunity to receive reconciliation. All are invited to attend.

#### **COMPREHENSIVE YOUTH MINISTRY PROGRAM**

Are you a middle schooler looking to do something fun and helpful for a few hours on Friday nights? Please consider volunteering to help sell popcorn at Bingo. We need you (at least 3 students per night with 2 adults) each Friday night from 4:30-7:15. Please contact Mike Reith at [rmike66@comcast.net](mailto:rmike66@comcast.net) for scheduling.

## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

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### ♪♪ Sing to the Lord for Easter! ♪♪

Were you ever in or have you ever considered joining the Adult Choir but singing all year is too much of a commitment?

Please join the Adult Choir this year for Holy Week and Easter!  
Rehearsals are at 7pm

Thursday March 11, 18 and 25 and Wednesday March 31  
All in preparation for Holy Thursday 7pm Mass  
Good Friday Services 3pm and 7pm  
Easter Vigil Saturday 8:15pm and  
Easter Sunday 11:30am!

Please join us in the Choir Loft Thursdays at 7pm  
Contact Choir Director Steve Williams with questions  
[stjmusic@stjosephholbrook.org](mailto:stjmusic@stjosephholbrook.org)

### *Parish Giving*

Yes, we're making it and I am very grateful to all who give, especially all who have deeply reflected upon what their sacrificial gift to our parish life should be. Many give \$10 and \$20 per week. But may I invite anyone who has not made this conscious decision on what he or she should be giving to support our parish life, to do so? If you have been giving a \$1 a week, can you give \$5? This amounts to an *annual* gift of \$260 towards the tremendous needs of our parish. If you regularly give less than \$5 per week can you consider increasing your gift to \$10 per week? So much more do we want/need to do in our parish life, and your increased giving would help us get there!

Our weekly first collection is just paying for our daily costs (*utilities, lights, plumbing & electric maintenance, salaries, medical benefits, insurance on buildings, snow removal, yard work, religious education & adult faith programs, liturgy, outside vendor contracts for the elevator, copy machines, phone systems, regulatory building-code inspections, fire & security monitoring systems, office supplies, telephone & internet, truck & expenses, etc.*). Quite honestly, we are not building a 'rainy day' fund or an opportunity to expand any of our programs or tackle the capital expenses on the four buildings we own and operate.

This past weekend's First Collection was **\$4,572**, and our Second Collection for Support of the School was **\$1,171**. Thank you for your commitment to our parish life!

*Please remember St. Joseph Parish and School in your future estate planning, memorials or wills ... for the future of our 'young' Church!*

### *New Ways to Give?*

Some parishioners have already found it very beneficial to make arrangements with their own bank to have direct withdrawal and direct deposit to St. Joseph Church. As well, we have been asked by some parishioners and our Finance Council to look into other electronic giving methods for you. We will try to make that available to you as soon as possible. Please call me at the rectory if you need more information.

### *Daughters of Charity in Haiti ... continued*

The Daughters of Charity at St. Joseph's have heard from our sisters in Haiti and we have learned the following:

The Provincial House was destroyed and will have to be rebuilt. Sections of the School will have to be demolished and replaced. The new house in Periere is uninhabitable as the ground has sunken considerably. The other two houses near Port-au-Prince Cite Soleil and Marie Madeleine withstood damage but other buildings will need to be demolished. The sisters will continue to live out in tents for many months but they thank God for their lives so that they can continue to serve those in need.

The sisters who are volunteering from other countries are helping out wherever possible. They are continuing the usual services such as consultation and care of malnourished children, day care centers and primary schools and seeking out persons in great distress – visiting homes and bringing needed food and supplies. They are also sharing donations with the poor and other religious congregations in need. During the early days immediately following the earthquake they searched with great anguish for Sister Brigitte who was found dead in the rubble of the University. They had a Mass for her and buried her in the garden of the Provincial House.

Some sisters served in the immediate days after the quake at the Hospital of Peace caring for patients with severe wounds as well as to their families and the local or foreign health care personnel. They all felt that having escaped death left them with a sense of having had an experience with God, of having received a mission, a call to put out into the deep. We are all confiding these days to St. Vincent our founder, the universal patron of charitable works and to St. Louise, Co-foundress, the patroness of social workers of the universe.

### *Preparing for New Life*

This weekend, our two Catechumens (*non-baptized persons*) will begin the first of their three scrutinies (*one each week on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of Lent*). This period of purification and enlightenment leads them to a more intense spiritual preparation to receive the three Sacraments of initiation. Please continue to pray for George Burt & Kane Currey, as well as Luis Gonzalez and Tanya Keegan, who as baptized Catholics will receive Eucharist and Confirmation.

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Cardinal Sean has established the initiative The Light Is On For You by requesting that every parish Church have priests available for confessions each Wednesday evening of Lent from 6:30pm-8:00pm. We will also have confession available here at St. Joseph Church on the Sundays of Lent in-between the Sunday morning Masses (8:30am-9:15am and 10:30am-11:15am). Of course, you may always speak to Fr. Ed for another time convenient for you.

**ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL**

**Did you know...**

that six St. Joseph School eighth grade students joined Fr. Ed and Fr. Matt in Washington DC for the "March for Life"!

**Currently Enrolling for 2010/2011**

St. Joseph School has limited openings for the 2010-2011 school year. Registrations are still being accepted for: Pre-K, Kindergarten, and grades 3, 4, & 5. St. Joseph School offers a full day pre-k (4 year old) program, a full day kindergarten program, and aftercare is available. Please call the school office at 781-767-1544 for an appointment.

**School Liturgy**

The next school liturgy will be the 9:00 Mass Friday, March 19th led by the students in Mrs. Connolly's 7th grade class.

**Virtue of the Month**

The virtue of the month for March is *kindness*. Students will study the lives of St. Isadore, St. Martin de Porres, and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

**School Testing**

St. Joseph School's standardized testing will be administered the week of March 22<sup>nd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> in grades 2 through 8.

**Skating Party**

The St. Joseph School Parent Organization will host their last skating party Saturday, March 13th from 5-7 pm. The skating party will take place at the Carousal Family Fun Center in Whitman. Admission is \$3 and skate rental is \$3. Everyone is invited! We hope to see you there!

**Stop & Shop A+ Bucks Program**

Please register and help support St. Joseph School by going to [www.stop&shop.com](http://www.stop&shop.com) 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.

**Shaws Supermarket Neighborhood Rewards Program**

Please help support St. Joseph School by registering online. Go to <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, enter **49001018952**.

**Box Tops for Education Points**

The St. Joseph School Parent Organization is asking you to collect "Box Top for Education" points and bring them to the school office. Thank you for your help!

**Team IV** under the direction of Lori O'Leary will volunteer at Bingo on Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup>

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> there will be **NO** CCD classes for grades 3-6 due to the Holbrook Public Schools half day. All other classes will be held as scheduled.

Thank you to our student readers and all those who came to our first Stations and Supper event last Sunday. Our next Stations and Supper will be held on **Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:15**. Please join us in this family Lenten tradition with a wonderful Italian dinner to follow. Thanks also to Gene Santorelli and his team for a great feast.

**On Sunday, March 14 at 5pm** there is a parish Wide Prayer Service and our 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders will attend. We strongly encourage our Confirmation students to bring their families and sponsors to this service. We will have a light supper available after the prayer service.

**MARCH  
DANCE**

Grades 6, 7 & 8

St. Joseph & St. Michael Youth Groups

Saturday, March 13th  
7:00PM – 10:00PM

St. Charles Hall  
Holbrook  
Admission \$5.00

**Advertiser of the Week**

Thank you for patronizing the services of our bulletin advertisers! This week we thank **Cartwright Funeral Homes** for advertising with us!

**Holbrook Knights of Columbus  
Fundraiser Comedy Night**

When: March 27th at 8pm.  
Cost: \$20.00 - donation includes a light Buffet.  
\$120 for a table of 8. Limited Seating.  
Doors open at 7pm. Prizes and raffles!!!

For more information and for reservations please call Lenny at 781-767-4514. Come out for a night of comedy and support our scholarship funds.

**Please join us on  
WEDNESDAY, March 10th  
at 7:00 pm  
for the next**

"Life is Good in the Holy Spirit" Prayer Night  
followed by Mass!

St Malachy Parish, 99 Bedford St., Burlington  
For further information contact Lauren Hardegen at [youngadults@rcab.org](mailto:youngadults@rcab.org) or 617-746-5812.

## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

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### **Priest Appreciation Celebration!**

Thank you! Already we have begun to sell both raffle and dinner tickets for our *Evening of Priest Appreciation* on **Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>** in honor of the priests who have served at St. Joseph Church over the years. Please plan to join in the celebration beginning with the Vigil Mass at 4:00pm with Cardinal Sean followed by a reception and dinner at the School hall.

Tickets for the raffle and dinner will be sold after all of the Masses this weekend, and are available at the rectory. Please consider inviting a neighbor or friend who has not been with us recently but may enjoy reminiscing with the priests who baptized them, gave them their First Holy Communion, confirmed or even celebrated their marriage. Thank you for making this a successful evening!

### ♪♪ **Music Ministry** ♪♪

♪♪ Invitation to all former choir members! ♪♪

Please join the Adult Choir for a special 4pm Mass on  
March 20, 2010

Honoring all priests who have served here at  
St. Joseph Parish!

This involves only 2 rehearsals:

7:30pm Thursday March 11 and 18

Please join us in the Choir Loft

Thursday March 11th

at 7:30pm

Contact Choir Director Steve Williams with questions  
[stjmusic@stjosephholbrook.org](mailto:stjmusic@stjosephholbrook.org)

### **Old Pictures!!**

We are looking for pictures of the priests at past events that we can make into collages for the Evening of Appreciation. If you have any pictures you can lend please bring them to the rectory and please mark the back of your photos so we can return them.

### **World Youth Day**

It's never too early to plan! We will hold an Informational Meeting at the end of March for all youth (*who will be 16 years of age by 8/2011*). *World Youth Day* was begun by the late John Paul II and has gathered over 10 million youth around the world. This is one of the most powerful opportunities for our youth to experience the Universal Church who will gather in Madrid, Spain in August 2011. Check it out @ [www.madridwyd2011.com/](http://www.madridwyd2011.com/)

### **Can you help?**

Several groups of parishioners have been formed to help continue the 'building' up of our parish. One group has formed to work on the buildings & grounds. We are in need of volunteer carpenters, electricians, plumbers, decorators, painters, etc., as well as donated materials. Please give Fr. Ed a call if you can offer any of these skills in the next two months.

### **Parish Bazaar**

Yes, we are looking ahead already! We have set a meeting for Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm to review last year's success and look to plan next year's Annual Bazaar. Please mark your calendar to help us with this great parish-wide event!

### **PRE-CANA PROGRAM**

The Archdiocese is offering a Pre-Cana Pilot Program at the Pastoral Center in Braintree on Saturday, March 27 and Sunday, March 28. The program runs from 8:30AM to 5:00PM and includes Sunday Mass. For registration and cost information contact Kari Colella at [kcolella@rcab.org](mailto:kcolella@rcab.org) or 617-746-5801.

### **Project Rachel**

Many men and women suffer the effects of aborting a child, and deserve (*and need*) healing and renewal in their lives. If you know of a family member or friend, please tell them about *Project Rachel*. Their next retreat is Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. For more confidential information, please call them directly at (508) 651-3100.

### **Did you know?**

**Q:** Some time ago, I heard a priest make the following statement: "God created the world. God is in control of the world. Whatever happens in the world happens only because God wills or permits to happen what does happen." If this is correct, it seems to me that nothing happens by chance. Am I right?

**A:** *Yes, you and the priest you quoted are right. God is the Lord of the universe and nothing happens in the world that is not part of His plan. (Read sections 268-274 and 302-314 in the Catechism of the Catholic Church for more insights into God's omnipotence and divine providence.) For example, article 269 says: "Nothing is impossible with God, who disposes his works according to his will. He is the Lord of the universe, whose order he established and which remains wholly subject to him and at his disposal. He is master of history, governing heart and events in keeping with his will. (For more, read Catholic Replies 2, James J. Drumme.)*

### **Saints, Our Friends**

This Tuesday (3/9), we celebrate the feast day of St. Frances of Rome. Born to a wealthy family in 1384, she inherited her mother's quiet manner and her father's strong will. Only 13 years old when she was given away in an arranged marriage, Frances who only wanted to be a religious sister since the age of 11 began to accept her difficult lot because of the goodness of her new husband and the good counsel of her spiritual director who simply asked, "Are you crying because you want to do God's will or because you want God to do his will?" Read more about her very numerous challenges and trials as a wife, mother, daughter-in-law and, yes, religious sister (*see: [www.catholic.org/saints/](http://www.catholic.org/saints/)*).