

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, HOLBROOK

Greetings!

“It is good that we are here!”

It's not too often now a days that I get the question from a niece or nephew because they certainly know that Uncle Eddie is a priest. But, on the way home from the ski slopes with some of the 22 nieces and nephews who were with me the week of winter vacation, my 11-year old niece Shannon, sitting in the front seat of the minivan, simply asked out of the blue, *“When did you know you wanted to be a priest?”*

Well, although it goes back a few years now, I surely was not *‘young’* when I discerned my vocation to be a priest. I think they would call me a *‘delayed’* vocation (*because of my age!*). But, I do love being a priest and can't imagine now not being a priest. It is *‘a wonderful life’!* But, I think my niece was tapping into something a little deeper than simply a *‘date’* as anyone who knows her knows she's a beautiful thinker. I think she was rather trying to tap into my *‘experience’* of God and how was it that I could *‘know’* from God that my vocation was to be a priest.

I don't find it unusual at all that young people even children can yearn for encounters with our living Lord. (*Just last Sunday, our 10th grade students preparing for Confirmation enjoyed the first discussion of our ‘Theology of the Body’, and they were most enthralled with learning about how and why God made us as sexual beings, and how a priest could live celibately.*) Though in this day in age, the culture would rather sometimes dismiss such an *‘experience’* as psychological or emotional at best (*and ‘crazy’ at worst*), an encounter with the living God is readily available to all those who desire to *‘know’* the Lord. In fact, it very well might be that many, young and old, who struggle with addictive behaviors are either looking to fill the void or kill the pain that such an absence of this *‘experience’* creates.

As one privileged to walk with persons who have such struggles, and when time allows us to enter below the surface of the circumstances (*drinking, drugs, promiscuity, violence, pornography*), I find it is rather the person's search for an *‘experience’* of God that they long for. Quite simply, it is that every person is looking to know that they were created intentionally by Him, fully *‘known’* by Him and unconditionally loved by Him.

In the Gospel today, Jesus allows Peter, James & John to see him *‘as he is’*. This *Transfiguration* scene was the first moment the three disciples came to *‘see’* that Jesus is truly God, and to have the *‘experience’* of *‘knowing’* Him. (*Of course, they were just overwhelmed – as we will be one day!*) We, too, yearn for such a moment in this lifetime when we can hear the heavenly Father's voice, *“This is my chosen Son; listen to him”*. And, we can!

Every encounter with Jesus in a Sacrament (*Baptism, Eucharist, Confession, Confirmation, Holy Orders, Marriage & Anointing*) is such an encounter. Times in prayer, fasting, Adoration, almsgiving or works of Charity are encounters with the Living God. During this Lent, we

particularly have an increased opportunity available to us to *‘experience’* Jesus in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Cardinal Sean's initiative *The Light Is On For You* is a request that every Church in the Archdiocese be open on the six Wednesdays of Lent from 6:30-8:00pm with a priest available for Confessions. No doubt, the Lord has allowed a great grace for all of us to find new life in our lives. Quite a few persons did not want to even wait until the first Wednesday, and have taken it upon themselves to call me and ask for an individual confession: *they want to return to the Church!* This is a sure way to *‘experience’* Jesus' healing love and *‘hear’* his loving voice: *I absolve you of your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. WOW! “Do not be afraid,”* come and meet the living Lord, who loves you dearly!

God bless!

Mass for the Intentions *Week*

Saturday, February 27th

4:00PM Mary McGuire 3rd Anniversary

Sunday, February 28th

7:30AM Teresa A. Cummings 3rd Anniversary

9:30AM Joanne McSweeney Month's Mind Mass

11:30AM Mildred O'Connor 20th Anniversary

Monday, March 1st

9:00AM Vincent, Dorothy & James Riley
Memorial Mass

Tuesday, March 2nd

9:00AM Vocations to Religious Life

Wednesday, March 3rd

9:00AM Parishioners of St. Joseph Parish

Thursday, March 4th

9:00AM Catherine Mayer 100th Birthday Memorial

Friday, March 5th

9:00AM Monthly Parish Eucharistic Society

Saturday, March 6th

9:00AM Vocations to the Priesthood

4:00PM Catherine Doyle 8th Anniversary

Sunday, March 7th

7:30AM Michael Wells 3rd Anniversary

9:30AM Mr. & Mrs. J. Newman Memorial Mass

11:30AM Andrew Locke Memorial Mass

Ramblewood Mass

There is a Mass at Ramblewood on Tuesday, March 2nd at 11AM. All are welcome.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Parish Giving

Many parishioners have been asking lately how we're doing. We certainly are doing okay, but I would always invite each of us to make a conscious decision on what we should give to support our parish life. Our weekly first collection is just paying for our significant daily costs (*utilities, lights, 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, etc.*). Quite honestly, we are not building a 'rainy day' fund or an opportunity to expand any of our programs. Soon, I hope to put together a more comprehensive informational packet for you, and certainly invite any questions that you may have.

This past weekend's First Collection was **\$4,219**, and our Second Collection for Capital Improvement was **\$1,792**. The second collection next weekend is for the Capital Improvement Fund. *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.

Women's Group

Based on the feedback we received at our first event, the St. Joseph's Women's Group will hold another informal gathering on this Sunday, February 28 from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm at St. Charles Hall. The focus of our gathering will be "Preparing Ourselves and Our Families during Lent." We will show a brief video presentation and will also share information on what we can do as women to get the most out of the Lenten season as we prepare for Easter. We are looking for volunteers to bring their favorite soup or stew to share with the group. Kindly RSVP to womensgroup@stjosephholbrook.org to let us know you can attend!

In Memoriam

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.

Save the Date!

Thank you! Already there has been great enthusiasm for the upcoming *Evening of Appreciation* on **Saturday, March 20th** in honor of the priests who have served at St. Joseph Church over the years, and several of the priests have already confirmed their desire to be with us. We are hoping you will be able to join in the celebration beginning with the Vigil Mass at 4:00pm with Cardinal Sean. In this *Year of the Priest*, we hope to honor our priests by dedicating much needed future renovations to the interior of the Church in their name, and so we have initiated a fundraiser to help. Please let me know if you did not receive a raffle ticket in the mail. We will begin to sell dinner tickets after all of the weekend Masses March 6/7 and March 13/14. Tickets for the dinner are \$30 each. Reserved tables are available for 8 or more. We ask you to reach-out to parishioners who may not be able to come regularly. Thank you!

Evening of Appreciation

There will be a meeting on Tuesday, March 2nd at 7PM in St. Charles Hall for all parishioners interested in helping out at the Evening of Appreciation on March 20th. We need assistance setting up on that Saturday morning and serving that evening. If you are able to help, please come to the meeting or call the Rectory office and leave your name. Thank you.

ST JOE'S MEN'S GROUP

ALL (MEN) ARE WELCOME

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, March 6th

7:30 am – 8:50 am

Saint Charles Hall

Please join us for socialization, coffee & donuts and engaging (no pressure) conversation about our faith in a relaxed environment. For any questions email Mike Reith at: mensgroup@stjosephholbrook.org.



The following children were baptized in February:

Glen Paul Mallett

Leah Elaine Provencher

Kristina Marie Quigg

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.

STATIONS AND SUPPER: Join us on Monday, March 1st at 5:15 in the church for Stations of the Cross followed by a free family dinner at 5:45. This is a wonderful way to expand your prayer life as a family during Lent. We hope to see you there!

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

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 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

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 the eleven-digit number is 49001018952. Thank you!

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 III under the direction of Tracy Callahan will volunteer at Bingo on Friday, March 5th

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Today is the first day of our newly formed Religious Education Special Education Program which begins at 4pm. We ask your prayers as we begin to bring the love of the Lord to a new group of students. Any student with special needs is welcome into our program - you need not be a parishioner, a Holbrook resident or Catholic, to participate-just a desire to love the Lord! Please contact Deb Kelly at 781 767 1370 or Maura Burke at 781 767 0563.

STATIONS AND SUPPER: Please join us at our annual Family Stations and Supper event on Monday, March 1st at 5:15 in the church. We will read and walk the stations followed by a light Lenten supper. If you can't be with us on Monday, we will be doing this again on Tuesday, March 23rd. This is a wonderful way to increase your prayer life this Lent.

UPCOMING RECONCILIATION OPPORTUNITIES: On March 14th, we are hosting a Penance Service for the entire parish as well as our Confirmation Students and their families. There will be a brief witness talk and the opportunity to receive reconciliation. We invite ALL our Confirmation families to join us.

During the Wednesday March 23 Confession time, we welcome ALL CCD FAMILIES to join us at 6:30 for a Penance Service.

Confirmation Class tonight at 5pm - topic: Alcohol, Drugs and Depression.

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 for scheduling.

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

Welcome to Saint Joseph Parish

Name: _____

City: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Please check:

- New Registration
- Change of Address
- Want envelopes

Please cut out and drop this form in the collection basket or mail to the Rectory.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

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.

Parish Bazaar

Yes, we are looking ahead already! We have set a meeting for Tuesday, March 23rd 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 or 617-746-5801.

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/

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 13th. For more confidential information, please call them directly at (508) 651-3100.

Employment Opportunities

Sacred Heart Parish in Weymouth is looking for a Parish Business Manager and a Parish Secretary. For further information go to www.bostoncatholic.org and check employment.

St. Patrick's Dance

St. Thomas Aquinas, Bridgewater will be holding their annual St. Patrick's Dance on Saturday, March 6th from 7 – 11PM in the Parish Center. Music will be provided by the Noel Henry Irish Show Band. Tickets are available at the Rectory located at 103 Center St., Bridgewater for \$15 per person. For further information, please call 508-697-9528.

Did you know?

Q: We believe that God created time, the stars, the planets, animals, and man. But before God created these things, what did He do for trillions of years? A: There were not years before God created time. Before the creation of the world, God existed as a spiritual, substantial, personal Being who never had a beginning and will never have an end. He “*created the world to show forth and communicate his glory. That his creatures should share in his truth, goodness, and beauty*” (CCC). For more, read *Catholic Replies 2*, James J. Drummey.

Saints, Our Friends

This Thursday, 3/4, we celebrate the feast day of St. Casimir (*patron of the former St. Casimir Church, Brockton, where we received several Church items, including beautiful Stations of the Cross that we are having refinished for our own Church*).

A young man born into royalty in 1458, he was particularly known for his charm, just character, and chastity. He would often kneel for hours before the locked doors of churches, regardless of weather, to honor Christ truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. Preferring to remain single even though his father sought to arrange his marriage to the daughter of the emperor of Germany, he fell ill with a severe lung infection complicated by his severe fastings and mortifications. Only 25 when Casimir died, he was soon venerated as a saint because of the miracles attributed to his intercessions.

Preparing for New Life

This past Sunday, four adults from our parish went into the Cathedral of the Holy Cross and joined Cardinal Sean and over 600 other adults from our Archdiocese who celebrated the *Rite of Election*. These are all men & women who are *not* Catholic or baptized Catholic and not raised in our faith, but are preparing to be fully-initiated into the Catholic Church in our Easter Vigil celebration this year. Please continue to pray for George Burt, Kane Currey, Luis Gonzalez and Tanya Keegan!

Advertiser of the Week

Thank you for patronizing the services of our bulletin advertisers! This week we *thank Colonial Federal Savings Bank* for advertising with us!

Fontbonne Academy Hosts 11th Annual Evening of Stars on March 27th

Fontbonne Academy, a Catholic secondary school for young women located in Milton, MA, will be holding its 11th Annual Evening of Stars fundraiser on Saturday, March 27, at 6 p.m. at Lombardo's in Randolph. Tickets are \$100 per person and include dinner, auction and music. To purchase tickets or make a donation, please call 617-615-3009 or visit www.fontbonneacademy.org. For questions, please email eveningofstars@fontbonneacademy.org