

<b>Greetings!</b>
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I write to you from Ars, France while on retreat with several brother priests. It is here that St. John-Marie Vianney, the affectionately called Curé of Ars, ministered for 41 years until his death - 'worn out' from a lifetime of love for his parishioners. The Curé was named this past year by Pope Benedict XVI as the patron saint for all priests of the world.

A man in love with the Lord from an early age, John-Marie knew early in life that he wanted to be a priest, having been nourished by the great example of his parents (especially his mother though his father would not initially consent, preferring his son to help the family by working on the farm).

John-Marie was born on the 'eve' of the French Revolution, a reign of Terror at the end of the 18th century that sought to end the life and influence of the Catholic Church with the exile or death of thousands of priests and usher in an 'Age of Reason' where the mind of man would supplant the need for any moral or spiritual life. (Interesting that this same 'Age' produced some of the greatest saints in the life of the Church.)

St. John-Marie received his Baptism, First Confession and First Holy Communion during this period when priests would risk their lives to celebrate Mass in secret. Nevertheless, after years of struggle in his Latin studies, being dismissed from the seminary by a faculty who thought he was too simple, and a general concern whether he could take on the great responsibilities of priesthood, John-Marie Vianney was ordained a priest at the late age of 29 with the feeble consent of his bishop, "very well, I summon him to come up for ordination and the grace of God will do the rest".

After three years, Fr. Vianney was sent to the small village of Ars far from the city with the slight encouragement "there is not much love of God in that parish, you will bring some into it". And, so he did!

The Curé was known to visit every one of his parishioners often (a little easier to do when there are less than 300), provide greatly for the poor, and spend up to 17 hours in his confessional (with over 100,000 people coming in the single year before his death. The Curé was known to be able to 'read' the hearts of his penitents.

Fr. Vianney also began an orphanage and school for poorer children where these children could get a good education instead of working the farms. But most especially, the Saint was known for his piety and love for the Most Blessed Sacrament. He would often preach by simply pointing to the Tabernacle and saying, "He is there"!

This Sunday we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. It reminds us of our baptismal call to holiness. So often we might think that Sunday comes too quickly and we forget to spend time in prayer. But since we're most likely thinking of some serious resolutions for 2010 (sounds like the title of a

movie), might I suggest two 'new' resolutions in the spirit of St. John-Marie Vianney?

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is so 'rich' a grace of healing and forgiveness (and all of our Second Graders so beautifully received it for the first time this weekend), will you consider coming each month for this year? Second, will you consider spending one hour a week before Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament? This could certainly be done in the beginning by coming 15 minutes before Mass on Sunday for quiet prayer or staying after Mass for prayers of thanksgiving. (Generally, the Church is open during the mornings of Monday - Friday, and all day Saturday and Sunday for you to visit when you're out & about.)

Certainly, a New Year is wonderful for many reasons, and offers the thought of new beginnings. Please let me know what new things might assist our parish to grow and accomplish the work our Lord has given us, and may you have a most Blessed and Happy New Year!

God bless!

*Mass Intentions for the Week*


**Saturday, January 9th**

4:00PM	Kara LaPlaca	5 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary
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**Sunday, January 10th**

7:30AM	Catherine Stinson	9 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary
9:30AM	James Hoover	Memorial Mass
11:30AM	Assetta, Domenico and Lucia Ventura	Memorial Mass

**Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup>**

9:00AM	Parishioners of St. Joseph Parish
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**Saturday, January, 16th**

9:00AM	Dennis J. McCarthy, Jr.	Memorial Mass
4:00PM	Harry Spieler	2 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary

**Sunday, January 17th**

7:30AM	Parishioners of St. Joseph Parish	
9:30AM	Alfred Day	12 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary
11:30AM	Rita Isaac	2 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary

***Christmas Collection***

The Christmas Collection for the Priests' retirement and healthcare fund netted **\$5,372**. 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!*

***Parish Council Meeting***

There will be a meeting of the Parish Council on Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:30PM in St. Charles Hall.

## BAPTISM OF THE LORD

### COMPREHENSIVE YOUTH MINISTRY PROGRAM

**REMEMBER:** Help is still needed from middle schoolers and adults for our youth group on Friday nights selling popcorn for one hour at Bingo. Also, can you help organize an adult social fundraiser? Please contact Fr. Ed or Maura Burke at 781 767 – 0563.

**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.

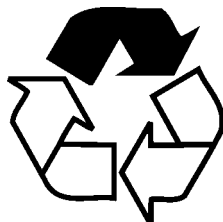
**Pro Life Rally:** The Pro Life Rally in Washington DC is scheduled for January 20-22<sup>nd</sup> and we will be traveling by bus with other parishes in the Archdiocese. If anyone - teenager or up - is interested in attending, please let Fr. Ed know ASAP.

### *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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 **12/27** was **\$4,686**. The second collection for Support of the School was **\$1,328**. Thank you for your financial commitment to Parish life.



**RECYCLE**

Please remember our recycling receptacles for bottles and cans located behind the church. They are an additional way to raise funds for our parish. **Please recycle!!**

### *Thank you!*

The Christmas Season ends today with the Baptism of the Lord. Therefore, this is an appropriate time to say 'thank you' to so many persons who have made our celebrations these last two weeks so beautiful! Please join me in thanking our three choirs - the 'new' Children and Teen choirs, and our Adult choir, organists, cantors, ushers, greeters, altar servers, lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, deacon and staff of the parish and school!

### *ALPHA!*

Alpha is coming again. Alpha is a great way to explore the basics of Christianity in a relaxed, non-threatening environment. Do you have questions about your faith? Do you wonder how your faith applies to your daily life? Come and see what Alpha is all about. If you know of someone who might benefit from Alpha, invite them to come with you! More information will follow....

### *Thank You*

Dear St. Joseph Parish,  
We just can't thank you enough. Words cannot express how the families felt when we gave them their gifts. Many blessings to all in 2010. Peace & Joy!

Sister Esther  
Haitian Center

### *Prayer Vigil for Life*

Cannot go to Washington in January to join the Pro-Life March for Life? Come to our *Prayer Vigil for Life*, January 21<sup>st</sup> beginning at 6:30PM and join us for one or several prayer offerings throughout the evening. Participants can join in one or all three of the prayer activities which include a film, prayer and meditation of the Mysteries of the Rosary and a Holy Hour. These will be repeated in three locations throughout the evening though 8:30PM in the Father Peyton Center, 518 Washington St., N. Easton. This is open to the public and is free. For additional information call Holy Cross Family Ministries at 508-238-4095.



*After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove.*

*Lk 3:21-22a*

*JANUARY 10, 2010*

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Congratulations to our second graders in our school and religious education program who received The Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time yesterday. We offer our continued prayers to these wonderful children as they grow in their faith and continue to prepare for their First Communion in the spring.

**Ninth Grade:** Last class tonight from 4-6 with a healing service and pizza party.

**Tenth Grade:** Class tonight at 5pm for students and their parents in the church at 5pm.

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**JANUARY  
DANCE**

Grades 6, 7 & 8  
St. Michael & St. Joseph Youth Groups

Saturday, January 16th  
7:00PM – 10:00PM

St. Charles Hall  
Holbrook

Admission \$5.00

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***Please Remember*** the Holbrook Food Pantry receptacle located in the rear of the Church. The Food Pantry is always in need of donations.

*JANUARY 10, 2010*

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**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](http://www.stjosephholbrook.com). To register your child, please call the school office at 781-767-1544.

**Skating Party**

The St. Joseph School Parent Organization will host a skating party, Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup> 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!

**Make a Book Donation**

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Saint Joseph School library. All donations are used to improve the reading and research opportunities for our students. Each \$15 donation purchases a hardcover book with a commemorative bookplate that notes the name of the honoree and the donor. What a wonderful gift an honorary book would make. Thank you for making a lasting educational gift to the school for our students. We appreciate your donation!

**New...Stop & Shop A+ Bucks Program**

Please register and help support St. Joseph School by going to [www.stopandshop.com/aplus](http://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**

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 IV** under the direction of Lori O'Leary will volunteer at Bingo on Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup>.