

Greetings!

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me!”

What a difference a day makes! I remember numerous times as a young boy looking forward to some event or occasion, celebration or expected visit by a relative or friend. I couldn't wait for that day to come. It seemed as if the anticipation was greater than the moment itself. But I also remember too as a young boy hearing a thousand times the wisdom of elders (*yes, parents, priests and teachers*), *“Don't wish your life away” (not that my sisters & brothers or I were literally 'wishing our life away' but rather simply, just 'couldn't wait' for 'such and such'.)* The point was that everyday counts and everyday is special in itself, and that you never know what tomorrow brings.

Certainly, all of us realize that everyday is precious and, in fact, so much can happen in a day: *good and not so good*. I think of our brothers and sisters in Haiti and how in just the blink of an eye such a natural disaster changed millions of lives and ended hundreds of thousands of lives (*which is why the prayer of the Church is always constant: 'and may the souls of these faithfully departed rest in peace*). And, I am very grateful for the generosity of our parishioners & friends of St. Joseph, as over **\$5,564** was collected in 24 hours and sent to Catholic Relief Services, including **\$911** from the patrons of our Bingo.

I think too about this past week's special election here in our Commonwealth and how things changed significantly in what seemed only a day and (*by many accounts*) will have a lasting effect on our nation when our new senator *'goes to Washington'*. It is here that so many decisions are made for the people of these United States of America and why we truly pray with our children, *'God bless America'*.

And, so I think about these last few days in our nation's capital where nine of our own teenagers joined hundreds of thousands of Americans marching through the streets of Washington DC (*with over 250 other young people from the Archdiocese of Boston with Fr. Matt's Office for the New Evangelization of Youth and Young Adults*) to make known their voice that Life is precious, especially in the womb of its mother!

For 37 years, men, women & children have taken up their civil right to demonstrate peacefully (*and with youthful vigor and great joy, I might add*) with the hope that *'one day'* every child born and unborn will have all the rights enshrined in our nation's founding documents. These are not just religious rights but fundamental rights that our founders (*mostly Christian believers*) took great care to craft to ensure that every person could attain *'life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness'*. I can't help but believe that *'one day'* hearts and minds will embrace the truth that every child is precious, and that one day all of the men and women elected to public office will defend this right.

So, why do I have such hope for this day? Well, it begins right here at *'home'* – our home, St. Joseph Church!

This weekend 60 teenagers will attend the 11:30am Mass and make a public witness to freely commit themselves to the Christian life and prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on May 8, 2010. (*Please keep them in your prayers!*)

Likewise, at the 9:30am Mass this weekend, four adults (*two never baptized*) will stand and profess their desire to be fully initiated into the Catholic Church (*joining some 500 adults from around the Archdiocese of Boston who will be fully initiated into the Catholic Church in the Easter Vigil*). Each of them and all of them are reason for my hope in the future of our nation and our Church, for they will be anointed in the Spirit of the Lord. You know, I just can't wait for that day!

God bless!

Mass Intentions  *for the Week*

Saturday, January 23rd

4:00PM Richard, Sr., Rita & Elizabeth DeRoy
Memorial Mass

Sunday, January 24th

9:30AM Parishioners of St. Joseph Parish
11:30AM Fausto Rames Memorial Mass

Monday, January 25th

9:00AM Cristina Todino Memorial Mass

Tuesday, January 26th

9:00AM Mary & Bowden Holmes Memorial Mass

Friday, January 29th

9:00AM Marie Rose Graham & Pierre-Paul Suly
Memorial Mass

Saturday, January 30th

4:00PM Victor Morad 1st Anniversary

Sunday, January 31st

9:30AM William Teevens 1st Anniversary
11:30AM Parishioners of St. Joseph Parish

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!*)

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

COMPREHENSIVE YOUTH MINISTRY PROGRAM

SKATING PARTY!!!! Friday, January 29 from 5-7 pm at the Carousel Family Fun Center in Whitman!!! We have reserved the skating rink from 5-7 pm exclusively for the St. Joseph Youth Group. Public Skating will follow the event from 7-10 (you can stay and not have to pay extra!!!) Chaperones are always needed and all are welcome. Please contact Nancy Murphy at 781 767 5982 or nmurphy626@comcast.net.

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, we still are in need of adults to help with evening activities for our youth as well as chairing a social fundraiser for the adults. Please speak with Father Ed or call 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.

KNITTING GROUP

An information meeting will be held 1/26/10 at 7:00 pm in St. Charles Hall for anyone interesting in joining a knitting group. Patterns will be available for "Prayer Shawls" for cancer patients, Wool Hats for the "Warmth for Warriors" program and Hats and Mittens that will be donated to My Brother's Keeper. Directions for each of these projects are also available for crocheting. All skill levels are welcome. If you want to learn how to knit, basic instructions and practice yarn will be available.. Why not stop by and see what it's all about?

Vocation Awareness Week

Last week (January 10 to January 16) we celebrated this year's National Vocation Awareness Week. It was a special week of thanking God for the gift of religious and priestly vocations to the religious life and priesthood. Please join us in praying for more women and men to be open to God's call to "Come, Follow Me," and for the grace to answer this call with a resounding "Yes, Lord." (For more information about your sisters – the Daughters of Charity – please go to our website at: www.dc-northeast.org.)

Parish Giving

I am very grateful for every gift that helps us do all that we do here. The first collection for last week was **\$4,290**. The second collection for Haiti was **\$4,653**. Thank you for your financial commitment to Parish life.

Coming Soon ... ALPHA

Do you sometimes wonder why you believe what you believe?

Do you have trouble telling your children what your faith means to you?

Do you doubt that Jesus has any relevance in your day-to-day life?

If you've answered yes to any of these questions, then **ALPHA** is for you! Come join us for dinner, a video presentation, and some great group discussions (talking is not required!!!). Alpha has been enjoyed by over 13 million people world-wide. Come and learn more about your faith in a relaxed, non-threatening environment and even have some fun at the same time.

ALPHA will begin with an Introductory Dinner on Wednesday, February 10th at 6:30 pm. Dinner will be served and you will get the chance to sample a typical Alpha evening. At this point, you can decide whether you would like to attend the course. No pressure! If you decide to attend, the course will be held each Wednesday evening from 7-9 pm for 10 weeks and each session will focus on a different topic. There is no obligation to attend all 10 sessions. If you are interested in attending the dinner, please call the rectory at 781-767-0605 or send an email to alpha@stjosephholbrook.org. We look forward to seeing you on the 10th!

Baby Blankets for Charity

Looking for a morning of inspiration, laughter, community, and service? Join our group, Blanket Bundles, as we make baby blankets for pregnant women and women with babies living in local area shelters. We'll be making baby quilts, as well as fleece tie blankets. Instructions and material packets already cut and ready to piece together, will be provided. We simply need volunteers to sew, tie, or even just press! **No sewing experience needed.** Please join us on Sat. Feb 6th from 9-1, in St. Charles Hall. For more information contact Judy Berry at: blanketbundles@gmail.com or 781-885-2082 or visit www.BlanketBundles.org.

Hospice Volunteers Needed

Are you looking for a rewarding, unique volunteer experience? Perhaps you have musical, artistic or creative gifts that can be shared with individuals that would enhance their quality of life as they journey to end of life. Or perhaps you would simply like to be a quiet presence and companion to a hospice patient. Allegiance Hospice is looking for volunteers to visit patients under hospice care in nursing homes in the **Rockland** area. Volunteers are formally trained and are a valued part of the interdisciplinary team in serving patients at end of life. If you are interested, please call Karen Spangler at 800-792-5808 x 2608 or email kspangler@allegiancehospice.com.

JANUARY 24, 2010

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

Did you know...

that St. Joseph School students practice a specific virtue each month? Students who do an outstanding job practicing that virtue are chosen by their teachers and peers as Student of the Month, and receive an award at our monthly school liturgy!

2010 CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

"Dividends for Life:

Faith; Knowledge; Discipline; & Morals":

OPEN HOUSE & SCHOOL REGISTRATION

New parents interested in enrolling their child at Saint Joseph School are invited to an Open House, Monday, February 1st from 9:00 – 11:00 AM. On Monday, new parents will take a guided tour of the school building. Parents of current students will be conducting the tours and answering any questions that prospective parents might have. Refreshments will be served at the end of the tour! St. Joseph School offers a full day pre-K **4 year old** program and 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 at Open House, a copy of the child's baptismal and birth certificates are needed. Recent report cards, school testing results, and nursery school evaluations are also needed at this time. If your child is currently in a pre-school program a copy of his/her progress report is necessary for our kindergarten program. A \$150 deposit applied towards your 2010-2011 tuition is also required at the time of registration.

Open registration for new parents continues Tuesday February 2nd through Thursday, the 4th from 9:00 – 11:00 AM. After this time, please call the school office at 781-767-1544 to set up an appointment to register your child.

School Liturgy- Catholic School's Week concludes with a school liturgy Friday, February 5th at 9:00 AM led by the students in Mrs. Blount's eighth grade class.

Team II under the direction of Michele DeFalco will volunteer at Bingo on Friday, January 29th

Advertiser of the Week

Thank you for patronizing the services of our bulletin advertisers! This week we *thank Stikeleather Real Estate* for advertising with us!

JANUARY 24, 2010

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The MASS OF COMMITMENT for Confirmation Students and their sponsors or parents is at the 11:30 Mass this Sunday. We ask all parishioners to keep these young adults in your prayers as they approach the final preparations for their Confirmation in May.

There will still be class at 5pm as scheduled.

Discernment Retreats for Men

Know of a man who may be called?

On the weekend of February 5-7, 2010, Cardinal Sean will lead two retreats for men to experience seminary life, pray and reflect upon the Priesthood, meet other men like themselves and discern God's call in their life. The Discernment Retreat at Blessed John XXIII Seminary for men age 40 and older will be held on February 5-6, 2010 and the Discernment Retreat at St John's Seminary and Connors Family Retreat Center for men ages 18-40 years will be held on February 5-7, 2010. The Vocation Office invites you to submit names of men you think might have a vocation to the Priesthood to be considered for this retreat. Please send their names and contact information to the Vocation Office at 66 Brooks Drive, Braintree, Ma. 02184 or by email at Dfortin@rcab.org For more info call 617-746-5949. One of the priests from the Vocation Office will contact the men to see if this retreat is right for them.

Vera Cruz K of C Randolph presents MISGIVINGS

A "Divine" Comedy of bellylaughs, blessings, blarney and bingo. Join Father Patrick Aloysious Misgivings for this divine presentation of stories and one liners about growing up Catholic. From miracles and marriage counseling to bazaars, nothing escapes the good father's razor sharp wit. This hilarious, interactive comedy includes a collection, a raffle and even an actual Bingo game.

When: Saturday	February 27
What: Cocktails	6PM
Spaghetti Dinner	7PM
Show time:	8:30PM
Cost:	\$20

For reservations call 781-963-9803

Employment Opportunity

St. Michael Cemetery is looking for a retired man or a person who works the second shift who could be on call to assist at St. Michael Cemetery. The job would consist of assisting with the coordination of burials. If you are interested in the position, please contact St. Michael Rectory office at 508-586-7210.