

Greetings!

“Put out into the Deep!”

Certainly, everyone knows that good education and catechesis involves study & research, questions & answers, and often enough just the plain old need to “*think about it*”. But the more children ask me questions about one thing or another, the more I’ve come to believe that there is a natural intuitiveness and curiosity for them to seek the truth (*except reading, writing and arithmetic, of course*)! Yes, I know most parents are kindly thinking right now, “*Father, we could’ve told you that!*” but that’s not the end of my ‘*thinking*’ (*even though I don’t blame you if you’re wishing it were*). Even more so, when it comes to questions of moral issues, our children want to hear from their parents, teachers, priests and every adult the truth and why we believe it and live it. But I think, herein lies the rub, many of us adults respond often with fear and trepidation, hesitation and reservation. For many reasons that would be worthy to discuss, we just prefer that we wouldn’t have to and so our ‘*curious*’ teens are receiving much of the information from the ‘*culture*’.

This past week, our tenth grade youth preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation had a wonderful presentation by a biology teacher on *Sexuality*. I have heard this presentation several times and in different parishes, and it is beautifully well done: *clear, concise, accurate and compassionate*. The presentation and following Q&A revealed that many of our young people are *not* hearing the beautiful truth about the gift of their sexuality, its purpose and power, and the related issues of conception, contraception, pregnancy and abortion. I didn’t say that our teens have *not* heard about these issues (*such issues are quite liberally spoken about today on primetime television, music videos, U-tube, Facebook, Twitter and during just plain old ‘chilling out time’*) but rather I said they are not hearing the *truth*. What becomes clear to me after each time I hear this presentation is that many of our teens are hearing the truth for the very first time! And, their questions are direct, “*If abortion kills a child, then why is it legal?*” (*I realize this area of our lives is sometimes uncomfortable to address with our teens but today there are tremendous amounts of resources available to you, for example check-out: www.chastity.com/, www.christopherwest.com/, www.theologyofthebody.com/.)*

In today’s Gospel, we hear St. Peter utter the heart-breaking words, “*Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man*”. Peter instantly recognized that Jesus truly was the Messiah everyone was anticipating, and he felt completely unworthy to be in His presence. Though he was saying that he realized he was not living a holy life and completely unworthy to be a follower of Christ, the redeeming words of the Lord were uttered with mercy and forgiveness, “*Do not be afraid!*” Peter instantly felt the non-judgmental words of Christ enter his heart, renew his desire to ‘*begin again*’ and

gave him the humility to stand up and ‘*follow*’ him! Can each of us do the same?

If our parish & school community is to be a haven in the greater community and a source of life for all ages (*young and old*) then we must hear the words of Christ: be unafraid of our past, seek forgiveness for sins, and begin again to proclaim Jesus Christ is Lord in our lives! I assure you, you will see our young people being proud of who they are, looking up to their elders for greater guidance, and there will be real growth in all of us! “*Do not be afraid!*”

God bless!

Mass Intentions  *for the Week*

Saturday, February 6th

4:00PM Ruth Tangney 2nd Anniversary

Sunday, February 7th

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Joseph Parish
9:30AM Marilyn O’Neil 23rd Anniversary
11:30AM Patricia & Alfred Peters and Laurie McCabe
Memorial Mass

Monday, February 8th

9:00AM Alyce Barry Memorial Mass

Tuesday, February 9th

9:00AM George & Zelda Riley Memorial Mass

Thursday, February 11th

9:00AM Sick of the World

Friday, February 12th

9:00AM Jocelyn, Alicia, and Alourdes Pierre
Memorial Mass

Saturday, February 13th

4:00PM Joseph & Phyllis Parrish Memorial Mass

Sunday, February 14th

7:30AM Barbara Tynan 1st Anniversary
9:30AM Theresa Collins 11th Anniversary
11:30AM James Bonner Memorial Mass

World Day for Consecrated Life

This weekend, the Church universal celebrates the consecrated life of all religious men and women in the Church. This day calls for prayer and support for men & women who have dedicated their lives to serving Christ through the celibate and virginal life. Please remember our six Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul who serve so beautifully in our parish and surrounding communities, as well as the young women & men in our parish who already have been ‘*called*’ by Christ to serve in this vocation!

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ALPHA

Make your reservation NOW!! **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. Each evening will include dinner, a video presentation, and small group discussion (talking is NOT required). There is no obligation to attend all 10 sessions. Alpha is a great way to share your faith - invite a friend or two to the dinner and come with them! 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!

ARISE

Season 4 of **ARISE** will begin the week of **Sunday February 14th** for six weeks. Sign up sheets will be at the back of the Church. Present members wishing to continue need **not** sign up again. **NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME**. Please know that it is not necessary that you have attended any of the past **ARISE** sessions in order to sign up for this Season.

Groups are scheduled for:

- Sunday Evening (Women)
- Monday Morning (Mixed Group)
- Wednesday Morning (Moms)
- Wednesday Evening (Mixed Group)
- Thursday Evening (Men)
- Friday Evening (Mixed w/babysitting)

Please contact Donna Wells at 781-767-2213 after 7pm with questions.

Weekend of Feb. 6/7 will be Prayer Commitment Weekend.

COMPREHENSIVE YOUTH MINISTRY PROGRAM

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.

Save the Date!

Thank you! Already there has been great enthusiasm for the upcoming *Evening of Appreciation* on **Saturday, March 20th** in honor of all of the priests who have served at St. Joseph Church over the years. We are hoping many of the priests will be able to return, especially for the celebration of the Vigil Mass at 4:00pm with Cardinal Sean. In this *Year of the Priest* as designated by Pope Benedict XVI, we also 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 us do so. I know every registered parishioner has received a letter inviting them to participate in a major raffle, but please call the rectory if you have not received this letter (*as it simply means we do not have a registered address listed for you*). More information with ticket information for the dinner will be forthcoming!

Baby Blankets for Charity

Do You Like to Knit or Crochet? Join us on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 in St. Charles Hall as we work on projects for newborn babies, soldiers and cancer patients. Patterns provided in either knit or crochet. Lessons on how to knit also provided. Come by and check us out!

Ramblewood Mass

There is a Mass at Ramblewood on Tuesday, February 9th at 11AM. All are welcome.

Catholic TV

The Boston Catholic TV Mass on Thursday, February 11 at 9:30AM (re-broadcast at 7:00PM), will be offered for those who are sick or frail. The Liturgy will include an anointing of the sick.

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 **\$5,183**. The second collection for Support of the School was **\$1,578**. The second collection next weekend is for Snow Removal. Thank you for your financial commitment to Parish life.

Ash Wednesday Schedule

Ash Wednesday is February 17th
Mass and Distribution of Ashes

St Joseph: 9:00AM and 4:00PM

St. Michael, Avon: 9:00AM and 7:00PM

Advertiser of the Week

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

FEBRUARY 7, 2010

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

Did you know...

that St. Joseph School students collected \$2000 to send to the sisters of the Daughters of Charity serving in Haiti?

Currently Enrolling for 2010/2011

St. Joseph School is currently accepting 2010/2011 registrations for all grades. Please call the school office at 781-767-1544 for an appointment.

Team IV under the direction of Lori O'Leary will volunteer at Bingo on Friday, February 12th

Daughters of Charity – Province of Haiti

The Daughters of Charity started their work in Haiti in January, 1973. At the time of the earthquake there were 31 sisters from 10 different countries, 14 of whom were Haitian, serving in the area. There were five houses, four in Port-au-Prince and one in Gonaives. The Sisters served in schools, dispensaries, social service centers and parishes. After the earthquake the sisters became homeless due to damage to their residences. They are sleeping outside under tents and are giving basic care and serving wherever needed. One of our younger sisters, Sister Brigitte, who was attending classes at the university, was killed in the earthquake. 2 Haitian Daughters lost family members. Daughters serving in Santo Domingo and Puerto Rico went to assist them. They sent food, medicine and other means of help via small planes from Miami and truck from Santo Domingo.

The Provinces all over the world have put together assistance teams to go to Haiti and serve for 3 month periods. Four sisters have gone from the USA. Our Mother General from Paris went to visit the sisters and see the situation February 2nd. Our community is now assessing how to care for the new forms of poverty that will be present in Haiti.



Astonishment at the catch of fish they had made seized him and all those with him, and likewise James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners of Simon. Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." - Lk 5:9-10

FEBRUARY 7, 2010

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

There will be **NO** classes February 14, 15, 16 or 21st for grades **1 – 6** due to February School vacation. Classes resume for grades 1 -6 on Monday, February 22nd.

SCHEDULE CHANGE: Confirmation Class this Sunday, February 7th will be held at 12:30 in St. Charles Hall. There is no class on February 14th due to school vacation. **Classes will resume for Confirmation on February 21st at 5PM.**

We are very pleased to announce the creation of a Special Needs CCD Program here at St. Joseph's. This program is open to any school aged student with special needs. We will meet Sunday afternoons from 4-5pm in the cafeteria of St. Joseph school beginning on Sunday February 28th. If you are interested - either in sending a student or volunteering, please call Deb Kelly at 767 1370 or Maura Burke at 767 0563.

Anointing

This weekend after all of the Masses we will be offering the *Sacrament of the Sick* to all who are in need of Christ's healing grace. Often called the *Anointing of the Sick*, this Sacrament assures us that Christ is ever present in our suffering and comes to heal us, particularly in our souls. Please come even if you are only able to come for the Sacrament at the end of Mass. Please come if you are having any medical procedure in the near future. Also, please consider providing transportation to anyone you know who is not able to come on their own.

**VALENTINE
DANCE**

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

Friday, February 12th
7:00PM – 10:00PM

St. Michael's Church Hall
Avon

Admission \$5.00