

<b>Greetings!</b>
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**“Not on Bread Alone”**

How did we get here so fast? Wasn't it just Christmas and New Year's resolutions (*broken or not*) that were on our minds? Well, we must have blinked a few times more than we thought, and here we are: *First Sunday of Lent!*

I'm sure a few of us are thinking Lent is much longer than Advent, so if we haven't thought about it too much or made any plans for our Lenten practices (*fasting, prayer, daily Mass, corporal works of mercy, daily rosary, etc.*), we still have time. And, of course, it is only the first Sunday. And, yet it is that every Lent is a new period of *grace (gift of God's self)* for us with new opportunities for renewal, conversion, reconciliation and healing. And, I know you know I know Jesus knows that I could use a little *grace (and clarity of mind)*!

It isn't too surprising that when we look at life around us, we might wish we could make a few changes, maybe even a U-turn and yet, it can seem over-whelming or just too much to believe it can happen. It could be at home, at work, at school or at Church. It just seems like sometimes we're too far into it or too far down the road. But, is it so? Is it true that we can't make changes or that changes can't happen? Isn't it the case that we believe in *conversion*? Isn't it true that our God is a God of Love?

It's never the case that we can't begin again or that no sin is unforgiveable. In fact, it is the reason that the Son of God began His three years of ministry allowing himself to be tempted. So we know that he knows that we know we too are tempted. In short, Christ knows our lives! And, extends to us the *grace* to overcome both our sins and temptations.

For the next six Wednesdays of Lent, every Church in the Archdiocese of Boston will have confessions available from 6:30pm-8:00pm under an initiative called, *The Light Is On For You*. It is an opportunity for *grace*, and for you and for me to find new beginnings. Not to worry if it's been a year or twenty years, or if one does not know where to begin. It is rather that we simply desire to begin again. I think we can agree, there's nothing like a new resolution: *renewal, conversion, reconciliation and healing!* Please consider receiving God's grace through the Sacrament of Reconciliation in any Church you wish. Consider inviting a friend, a spouse, a child, or a co-worker to join you. And, consider how new beginnings can forever change our lives!

God bless!

**RESPECT FOR LIFE ROSARY**

**(with Scripture Based Narration)**

*Wednesday, Feb. 24th at 7pm*

*in the CONVENT CHAPEL*

*We Sing!!and We Pray!!*

**Please join us, no experience required.**

**EVERY VOICE COUNTS!**

*Mass Intentions for the Week*


**Saturday, February 20th**

4:00PM Christopher Murray 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**Sunday, February 21st**

7:30AM Robert Andrea 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
and Patricia Andrea DelVecchio Memorial Mass

9:30AM Parishioners of St. Joseph  
11:30AM Helen Molling 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**Monday, February 22nd**

9:00AM Tom Hegerty 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary

**Thursday, February 25th**

9:00AM William West Memorial Mass

**Saturday, February 27th**

9:00AM Thomas Fuss Memorial Mass  
4:00PM Mary McGuire 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary

**Sunday, February 28th**

7:30AM Teresa A. Cummings 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary  
9:30AM Joanne McSweeney Month's Mind Mass  
11:30AM Mildred O'Connor 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**ALPHA**

The **ALPHA** dinner has been rescheduled for Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM. If you are interested in attending the dinner, please call the rectory at 781-767-0605 or send an email to: [alpha@stjosephholbrook.org](mailto:alpha@stjosephholbrook.org). We look forward to seeing you on the 24<sup>th</sup>!

**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.

**COMPREHENSIVE YOUTH MINISTRY PROGRAM**

There will be a board meeting of the Comprehensive Youth Ministry Steering Committee on Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> in the Teacher's Room at St. Joseph School.

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.

## *FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT*

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### ***Lenten Practices***

This week begins Lent, a penitential season for Christians when we look towards the celebration of the Passion of the Lord, Good Friday, and His Resurrection, Easter Sunday. Like all worthwhile events, preparation bears the fruit necessary for growth. For Christians, we try to both give up, make-up and do more. When speaking with the children, we try to preface that our practices are not *empty, old fashioned traditions* but rather *life-giving changes* that help us become new people. Whether we will give up food or video, read the Bible daily, make amends with a family member, or make sandwiches for a homeless shelter, we are looking to let Jesus Christ change our lives.

Nowadays, there are many resources available on-line when you are looking for ways to live out these 40-days of transformation. Check-out such sites as: [www.bostoncatholic.org/leave\\_a\\_Candle.aspx](http://www.bostoncatholic.org/leave_a_Candle.aspx), [www.ewtn.org](http://www.ewtn.org), [www.crossroadsinitiative.com/](http://www.crossroadsinitiative.com/); [www.new.catholicmom.com/](http://www.new.catholicmom.com/). As well, we have our Lenten booklets available in the rear of the Church for each family. Please take one for a neighbor!

### ***Save the Date!***

There has been great enthusiasm for the upcoming *Evening of Appreciation* on **Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>** 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 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. Tickets for the dinner are \$30 each and may be purchased at the rectory. Reserved tables are available for 8 or more.

### ***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 **\$4,495**. The second collection for Snow Removal was **\$2,132**. The second collection next weekend is for Support of the School. Thank you for your financial commitment to Parish life.

### ***Rite of Election***

This Sunday, four adults from our community who will be fully initiated into the Catholic Church in the Easter Vigil, will join hundreds of other adults from around the Archdiocese of Boston in the Rite of Election. This celebration presided over by Cardinal Sean will begin the immediate preparation for these adults who began their journey back in September to become fully Catholic. Please keep George Burt, Kane Currey, Luis Gonzalez and Tanya Keegan in your prayers!

### ***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 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](mailto:womensgroup@stjosephholbrook.org) to let us know you can attend!

### ***Visit of the Statue of Immaculate Heart of Mary***

A wonderful international religious community called the *Heralds of the Gospel* who will be visiting our parish this weekend with a statue of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This Community looks to nurture a devotion to Our Lady and is a great help in spreading the Message of Fatima. They will be available after the Masses and during the week if you would like to learn more about this great devotion or have them visit your family.

### ***Boston Catholic Men's & Women's Conference***

The Women's Conference will be on **Saturday, February 27, 2010 at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston** (snow date is 3/6/10). It will be from 9am - 5:30pm and will feature as speakers Patti Mansfield, Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle, Leah Darrow, and Sr. Olga of the Eucharist. The BCWC will also include confession, adoration, Mass with Cardinal Sean O'Malley, and a great opportunity to gather with other Catholic women of faith. Tickets will be \$20 (\$30 including lunch). For more information, go to [www.catholicboston.com](http://www.catholicboston.com).

The Men's Conference will be on **Saturday, April 17, 2010 at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston**. It will be from 9am - 5:30pm and will feature the team from EWTN's Crossing the Goal as speakers (Danny Abramowicz, Curtis Martin, Peter Herbeck and Brian Patrick). The BCMC will also include confession, adoration, Mass with Cardinal Sean O'Malley, and fun fellowship. Tickets will be \$20 (\$30 including lunch). For more information on either conference, go to [www.catholicboston.com](http://www.catholicboston.com).

### ***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!

*FEBRUARY 21, 2010*

**ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL**

*Did you know...* that St. Joseph School students are hard at work practicing the musical production “Seussical the Musical”? The performance will take place April 10 & 11<sup>th</sup>. 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. 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!

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**March 5-7: A Retreat for All Young Adults**

Young Adults need Jesus Christ Today! If you are seeking truth, joy and love, they are found in the heart of Jesus. Join with other young adults in their 20's and 30's for a weekend to open up, rekindle or deepen your relationship with Christ. The retreat will combine Mass and Adoration, inspiring Talks and Witnesses, Personal Prayer and many opportunities to meet other young adults throughout the Greater Boston area. The retreat is co-presented by the Antioch Retreat Group and y.H.o.p.e (Young Heralds of Pauline Evangelization) and will be held at the beautiful Daughters of St. Paul Retreat House in Billerica. It begins on Friday evening and ends Sunday afternoon. For more information or to register for the retreat email Bernadette Michaud at [Bmich777@hotmail.com](mailto:Bmich777@hotmail.com) or Fr. Michael Harrington at [Mharrington527@gmail.com](mailto:Mharrington527@gmail.com)

***Advertiser of the Week***

*Thank you* for patronizing the services of our bulletin advertisers! This week we *thank Deacon Plumbing & Heating* for advertising with us!

*FEBRUARY 21, 2010*

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

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

**Confirmation Classes will resume on February 21<sup>st</sup> at 5PM.**

Religious Education for Special Needs students begins on Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 4pm in the cafeteria. Any special needs student-including non-Catholics and non Holbrook residents are most welcome.

**STATIONS AND SUPPER:** There will be two evenings this Lent where we will offer our Stations of the Cross followed by a free family dinner. Please join us on Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup> or Tuesday March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:15 in the church with 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.

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*Mass & Healing Service*

A Mass and Healing Service will be held at Immaculate Conception church, Route 27, Stoughton on Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 2PM with Fr. Joseph McDermott. At 12:15PM the Sacrament of Reconciliation is available.

*St. Patrick's Dance*

St. Thomas Aquinas, Bridgewater will be holding their annual St. Patrick's Dance on Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup> 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.



*The devil said to him, "All this will be yours, if you worship me." Jesus said to him in reply, "It is written: You shall worship the Lord, your God, and him alone shall you serve." - Lk 4:6a, 7-8*