

Greetings!

“If anyone wishes to be first...”

Of course, it's a sign of great parenting (*and probably not a little nagging*) that you see children holding the door for others, teen drivers stopping to let another car enter into traffic from a side-street, a young person passing a plate of food first to the left before he or she takes some or a college student say, “*pay it forward*” (*the idea that instead of being paid back a person would ask the beneficiary of a kind act to do so for another*). And, although it's not always the case that someone is not being kind when those things don't happen (*someone's 'running late' or 'running after someone'*), I do find it's probably more often the case that someone's either not paying attention or just not mature enough yet.

But, yes, it's also simply true that some persons are just inconsiderate of others or think others less worthy of their time. And, we could probably talk or write more (*though I'm trying to be good*) about how much the culture has changed, family life has changed and practice of religion has changed so as to account for this growing trend (*and not just a few sociologists say it is growing*), but the greater question and challenge is how do we address it? How do we turn it around so that we can become the people we're supposed to be: *Christians!*

I love to watch the interactions of siblings (*or even cousins*) when they are together. This past week an older brother was walking his little sister to her kindergarten classroom hand-in-hand. You could almost sense both the certain pride the elder sibling had and the sense of security the younger one had as they walked together. I'm sure not a few such kind acts have brought on a lot of ribbing for such a show of tenderness (*which could be talk for another day on peer pressure and bullying*). Yet, both children were growing in respective virtues: the older in courage or guardianship as he practiced being a ‘*young man*’ and the younger grew in self-esteem or self-worth knowing she was being tenderly loved as a ‘*little girl*’ (*and every child should*).

Jesus makes very clear to the disciples and to us: greatness will be measured not in acquisitions or superiority but in humility and service to others. In fact, Christ is firm that if we are not so we will not enter the kingdom of heaven (*ref. Mt 18:3*). And as I often remind newly engaged couples (*and happily quite a few have been calling – must be something in all that rainwater*), your primary goal is just that, to help your spouse get to heaven. (*Any 'success' short of that and you may have gravely 'failed'.*)

So, what might correct the often misplaced goals for our children of aggressiveness on the soccer field, superiority in the classroom or obtaining more material goods that rather only teach our children that ‘*it's all about them*’ than a ‘*love for God and neighbor*’ as the greatest virtues? Could both happen? Certainly! (*Though honestly, sociologists and a few too many parents in the stands think*

otherwise.) I believe the best start for us will be in bringing our children more often to the weekly Eucharist, getting involved in our Comprehensive Youth Ministry program and many of us re-committing unabashedly to raising our children to be thoroughly in love with Jesus Christ and participating fully in the Catholic Church Christ founded for the salvation of the world. And, there really is no better life!

Always, God bless!

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, September 19th

4:00PM Parishioners of St. Joseph Parish

Sunday, September 20th

7:30AM LeBrecque & Decoste Families
Memorial Mass
9:30AM Leslie (Nicki) Anderson
10th Anniversary
11:30AM William Keegan
33rd Anniversary

Monday, September 21st

9:00AM Ira Charles
Memorial Mass

Thursday, September 24th

9:00AM Brian Powilatis
Memorial Mass

Saturday, September 26th

4:00PM Brian Alpert
10th Anniversary

Sunday, September 27th

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Joseph Parish
9:30AM William Ellis
8th Anniversary
11:30AM Paul Felock
2nd Anniversary

St. Joseph's Men's Group

The Men's Group will be hosting a prominent speaker on Saturday the 26th at 7:30 AM. David Thorp will be discussing what it means to be a Catholic Man in Today's World. All men are welcome to attend - **save the date!**


2009 CatholicTV TELETHON

Friday September 25 and Saturday, September 26
9AM to 9PM both days

Please tune in (Comcast Ch.268, Verizon Ch. 296)
Call and support this very important work of the Church.

Parish Giving

Thank you to our many parishioners who sent their weekly offering in regularly while they were away for the summer. Last weekend's collection was **\$4,742**. Next weekend's Second Collection is for Support of the School. Thank you for your generosity!

Wedding  Banns

- II Christopher Barbaro and Amy Dieso
- III. Michael Robins and Erin Duffy

Congratulations! And let us joyfully pray for all our engaged-couples as they prepare for their marriage in Christ!

Thinking about it?

Several parishioners and a few non-Catholics have inquired about learning more about the Catholic faith. In September we will begin formal class instruction for any adults who would like to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, Penance or Confirmation. Please call Fr. Ed for more information.

ARISE begins Again!

We will begin our third season of six-week prayer groups later this month. Every parishioner is invited to form or join a small faith-group prayer group that will meet once a week for 60-90 minutes with the desire of growing in relationship with Jesus through the members of their group. Please look for more information in the rear of the Church.

If you would like to become a facilitator for your group, please contact Fr. Ed at the rectory or Donna Wells @ 767-2213 to find out about the upcoming Leaders Training.

Grand Annual Collection

Soon, you will receive in the mail our June 30, 2009 Parish Financial Statement. I hope it will assure you of how your financial support is being used. I will also include a letter asking each parishioner to prayerfully consider what gift you can make toward our Grand Annual (*more in the letter to come*). Please know I respect your family needs, and ask every family to pray for the great work we are trying to achieve with this annual collection on the weekend of October 2nd & 3rd. *Thank you!*

****** ALPHA ******

We had a great summer Alpha session and now it's time to conclude the course with a celebratory Alpha Dinner which will be held on Tuesday, September 22nd, at 6:30 pm. Pizza and dessert will be served. We invite all who attended Alpha this summer to return and bring along someone who might enjoy Alpha. This is also a great way for all parishioners to reach out to someone who may need to know that God is alive and well and that He loves them! Please consider coming to the dinner and bringing along a friend or two. What a great (and easy) way to share the gift of faith that has been given to you! Flyers are available at the rear of the church. There is no pressure to attend Alpha by coming to the dinner. It's a great way to see first-hand if Alpha is for you! If you are interested in attending or have any questions, please contact Terry Grzybinski at alpha-josephholbrook.org or the Rectory at 781-767-0605.



St. Mammas, a Martyr of the 3rd Century

On September 2nd in the Catholic Church we celebrated the feast of St. Mammas. In the Catholic Church, we have two different liturgical calendars, the Roman Rite and the Eastern Rite. In the Eastern Rite we celebrated the feast of St. Mammas on September 2 and in the Roman Rite it is celebrated on August 17. Many people have not heard of him and asked me to share with them the story of his life. St. Mammas was born in 259 in prison to parents who were jailed because they were Christian. Mammas soon became an orphan as his parents were martyred. After his parents' death, Mammas was raised by a rich widow named Ammia who died when Mammas was 15 years old. St. Mammas was tortured for his faith by the governor of Caesarea and was then sent before the Emperor Aurelian who tortured him again. His legend states that an angel liberated him and ordered Mammas to hide himself on a mountain near Caesarea. He was later thrown to the lions, but managed to make the beasts docile. He preached to animals in the fields and a lion remain with him as a companion. Accompanied by the lion he visited Duke Alexander who condemned him to death. He was struck with a trident (3 pronged) to the stomach. Bleeding, Mammas dragged himself to a spot near a theater before his soul was carried into heaven by angels in 275. He is the Patron of babies who are breastfeeding and Protector of sufferers from broken bones and hernias.

Mammas Habtegiorgis

COMPREHENSIVE YOUTH MINISTRY PROGRAM

SAVE THE DATE: Middle School Youth Rally on October 17th at Xaverian Bothers High School in Westwood. This fun filled enriching day for middle schoolers is an excellent way for our youth to grow in their prayer life and experience their faith in a new and exciting way. **We strongly encourage all middle school students to take advantage of this fantastic opportunity.** Please contact Maura Burke at 781 767 0563 for more details.

Paint your own Pottery!

When: Monday, October 5
Time: 5:30 – 9:30PM – You can come and go
Where: South Shore Pottery Shop, Abington
Cost: \$12 plus cost of piece you are painting

This event is to help support St. Joseph's Youth Program. Further information to follow or you can contact Kelli O'Leary at 781-767-0971 or kelliolarey@verizon.net

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!

SEPTEMBER 20, 2009

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

“Play for the Playground” Saint Joseph School will be hosting their annual Golf Tournament on Friday, October 2. The tournament will be held at D.W. Field Golf Course in Brockton, Ma. Dinner, raffle, and silent auction will follow at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Holbrook. If you would like to sponsor a hole the cost is \$100. If you would like to play, the registration fee is \$125. A 6:30 dinner will follow at the K.F.C. Holbrook and costs \$25. Come enjoy a day of golf or simply come for dinner with friends! All proceeds go toward updating the playground at St. Joseph School. Registration forms can be found at the rear of the church. Please make checks payable to Saint Joseph School and send them to the school office. For more information or to donate to the event, please call Sue McCabe at (781) 767-2642 or visit our website www.stjosephholbrook.com.

Box Tops for Education Points

The Parent Organization asks your help collecting **Box Top for Education** points. Thank you!

School Library Book Donation Program

Please consider making a donation to the St. Joseph School Library. All donations are used to improve the reading and research opportunities of our students. Each \$15 donation purchases a hardcover book with a commemorative bookplate. Suggestions for making donations: in honor of a friend or family member; to celebrate a new baby; gifts in memoriam; and in honor of a teacher. These books make a lasting educational gift to the school for our students. We appreciate your donation at any time throughout the year.

Team IV under the direction of Lori O’Leary will volunteer at Bingo on Friday, September 25th.

Catholic Pastoral Visitors

The Catholic Pastoral Care Office of Signature-Healthcare Brockton Hospital invites you to become part of the Catholic Pastoral Visitors program. We minister to the sick through prayer, visitation and /or the offering of daily Eucharist. The chill of sickness can often be a challenge for patients and their families. Your presence incarnates the warmth of Christ and the care of the local parish community. Please consider joining us in this ministry. Contact Sr. Barbara Harrington at 508-941-7000 x 2550.

Holbrook Public Library’s Annual Book Sale

Friday, September 25, 3 to 8PM

Saturday, September 26, 9AM to 3PM

Sale is located downstairs in the Meeting Room. Proceeds will support children & adult programs for the community.

SEPTEMBER 20, 2009

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

CCD Start Dates

All classes meet in St. Joseph Cafeteria

Tuesday, September 22 Grades 3 – 6, 4pm

Sunday, September 27 Grades 3 – 6, 10:30am

Grades 7 & 8, 6:15pm

Monday, September 28 Grade 2, 4pm

Please call Maura Burke at 781-767-0563 for more details.

There will be a meeting of the St. Joseph Retreat Team this Sunday at 6:30pm in the Conference Room. The Comprehensive Youth Ministry Steering Committee will meet on Monday, September 28th at 7pm.

COME JOIN YOUR FELLOW CATHOLICS ON THE COMMON:

The Archdiocese of Boston is hosting its annual Pro Life Walk on Sunday, October 4th. We would like to send a bus filled with students, families and anyone else interested in joining us for a 2 mile walk around Boston Common in support of Pro Life. We plan to leave the St. Joseph parking lot by noon and return home by 4pm. Confirmation students may receive Christian Service hours for this fundraising endeavor. We need to fill the bus in order to do this, please contact Maura Burke at 781 767 0563 or speak to Fr. Ed. The first 50 people will be guaranteed a seat on the bus.

LIFT – Catholic Worship for a NEW Generation

Join us for LIFT - an exciting monthly worship event which includes vibrant praise and worship music, dynamic, challenging speakers and Eucharistic Adoration. LIFT is for all ages - from young adults to adults to teens to entire families. Be with us Tuesday, September 22nd from 7 - 9pm at Fontbonne Academy, Milton as we welcome Artie Boyle as our guest speaker. Come join in worship with hundreds of Catholics from around the Boston area!

World-Class Choir

Gloriae Dei Cantores, the 40-voice choir from Cape Cod returns to Boston to begin their Fall, 2009 tour with a concert at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, 1400 Washington St., Boston on Thursday, September 24 at 8:00PM. The choir joins the Archdiocese of Boston to celebrate Cardinal Sean O'Malley's 25th Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination. The concert is free and open to the public. Donations to support the choir will be accepted.

Fall/Winter Tag Sale

When: Saturday, September 26 8AM – 12:30PM

Where: St. Christine Church, Route 3A Marshfield

Seaside Mothers of Multiples (SMOMs) is holding its huge semiannual Tag Sale with gently used items for children newborn to age 16. Great value, great selection. Cash only.