

Greetings!

“And His disciples began to believe in him”

Well, we're off to a great start this year! No (courtesy of several weekend snowstorms and their great expense), I can't say our financial situation is off to a great start, but I truly know for many families in our Parish & School Community that this is not the case in their personal situations either (and we continue to pray for better economic conditions for all families this year). What I am thinking of is rather a different way to measure the vitality of our parish life: *weddings!*

This weekend, two young engaged-couples will meet with me for the first time to begin their *immediate* preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage, and another engaged-couple has asked a priest previously assigned here to return to celebrate their wedding (which I like to see as it demonstrates how much this priest was a part of their youth). I say *immediate* preparation in that the late John Paul II wrote in his letter *Familiaris Consortio* (addressed to all the Church) an outline of how important it is that persons have both a *remote* preparation (when they are children with simple positive catechesis about the beginning of family life as appropriate to their age) and *proximate* preparation (such as instruction for teens and young adults on how to form healthy relationships) so that when they are more *immediate* to marrying-age they are best prepared to actually discern who they are called to marry. (So far, we have 5 weddings scheduled for 2010.)

Since the beginning of time, the spousal love of a man and a woman has been the bedrock of both family and society, and why neither the Church nor the State can impose its own definition on the institution of married-life but rather must support and defend it. The Church has enjoyed calling the family the 'Domestic Church' because it is here where children first learn about the faith given them in baptism, and where the example of their parents helps them grow in healthy and lively ways! (Who wants a sleepy faith?)

Though it is true in the last twenty-years that the Church has seen a significant decrease of engaged-couples coming forward to give themselves to each other in a sacramental marriage (approximately a 60% decrease in the Archdiocese of Boston during the years of 1986-2006), I am excited about the good things we (together) are trying to do to turn this around. For example (and for the first time), inserted into the second year of our Confirmation preparation program are several presentations from what is called *Theology of the Body* (for which there are numerous resources also available for adults). I'm sure it sounds crazy to some that the 'body' has a 'theology' (yes, a knowledge of God through the study of the body), but undoubtedly the late great John Paul II (now Servant of God), who dedicated significant time to writing this body of work, will be remembered in the centuries ahead for this work.

In today's Gospel, Jesus reveals His great love for family life, and married-life in particular by performing His first public miracle at Cana. It is here that Scripture scholars have read into the simple yet powerful exchange between Jesus and His Mother, that if He performs this miracle He will begin to approach His suffering & death on the Cross of our Salvation. Fascinating to ponder: *Jesus' first miracle was performed for a wedded-couple and He was willing to suffer & die for married-life!*

God bless!

Mass Intentions  *for the Week*

Saturday, January 16th

4:00PM Harry Spieler 2nd Anniversary

Sunday, January 17th

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

Monday, January 18th

9:00AM Mary & Bowden Holmes Memorial Mass

Tuesday, January 19th

9:00AM All the Holy Souls in Purgatory

Friday, January 22nd

9:00AM Pro-Life

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

Holy Hour for Life

Deacon John Boyle will be celebrating a Holy Hour for Life that includes exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on January 21st at 7PM. All are welcome to attend.

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!)

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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, we still are in need of adults to help with evenings 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.

PRO LIFE RALLY AND MARCH IN WASHINGTON

D.C. NEXT WEEK: We ask your prayers for the eight students from our parish who will be attending the Pro Life Rally in D.C. with Fr. Ed, Fr. Matt and thousands of other teens. What a wonderful witness for life these young people are!

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?

Thank You

Dear Parishioners,
Thank you very much for the gift cards and stamps that you donated to our Giving Tree. Because of your generosity some of our elderly parishioners had a little extra for Christmas. May God bless each of you and your families for your kindness.

Sister Catherine Joseph

Parish Giving

I am very grateful for every gift that helps us do all that we do here. The first collection for the week of January 2/3 (another snowstorm) was **\$2,479**. The second collection for the Capital Improvement Fund was **\$1,091**. The first collection for last week was **\$5,023**. The second collection for Fuel was **\$2,070**. Thank you for your financial commitment to Parish life.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

There will be **NO CCD** on Sunday January 17th or Monday January 18 due to the Martin Luther King Holiday weekend. Classes resume on Tuesday, January 19th.

The Mass of Commitment for Confirmation Students will be held on Sunday January 24th at 11:30 for all students and their sponsors and/or parents.

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, January 19th from 7 - 9pm at Fontbonne Academy, Milton as we welcome Father John Gerth as our guest speaker. Come join in worship with hundreds of Catholics from around the Boston area!

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...

St. Joseph's Men's Group

The Men's Group will meet on Saturday, January 23rd at 7:30AM in St. Charles Hall. All men are welcome to attend.

Holbrook-Randolph Ultreya

Ultreya Mass 7pm Friday January 22, 2010

St. Mary Church, Randolph

Call Laura Grant for more info 781-767-1469

Boston College School of Theology and Ministry

FREE workshop for lectors, catechists, children's liturgy teams, and all who proclaim the Word

Bringing the Word to Life:

A Workshop for Lectors and Other Proclaimers

Saturday, February 6, 2010, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

(Snow Date: Saturday, March 13)

Presenter: Douglas Leal

Location: Boston College School of Theology and Ministry
9 Lake St., STM Chapel, Brighton Campus
(the former St. Williams Hall)

Free of charge **Registration is essential**

Register online or call 617-552-6501

www.bc.edu/stmce

JANUARY 17, 2010

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

Did you know...

that St. Joseph School students scored 50% higher than the national average on the Terra Nova Standardized Test?

2010 CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

"Dividends for Life: Faith; Knowledge; Discipline; and 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 certificate 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 and 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.

January Virtue

During the month of January the students at Saint Joseph School will be studying the virtue of *peace*. Examples of people who exhibited this virtue are St. Catherine of Siena; Pope John Paul II; President Jimmy Carter; and Martin Luther King Jr.

Team I under the direction of Jean Elliott will volunteer at Bingo on Friday, January 22nd

Advertiser of the Week

Thank you for patronizing the services of our bulletin advertisers! This week we thank **Twinbrook Insurance Brokerage, Inc.** for advertising with us!

JANUARY 17, 2010

**MESSAGE from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
Tell Congress: Remove Abortion Funding & Mandates
from Needed Health Care Reform**

Congress is preparing to debate health care reform legislation on the House and Senate floors. Genuine health care reform should protect the life and dignity of all people from the moment of conception until natural death. The U.S. bishops' conference has concluded that all committee approved bills are seriously deficient on the issues of abortion and conscience, and do not provide adequate access to health care for immigrants and the poor. The bills will have to change or the bishops have pledged to oppose them. Our nation is at a crossroads. Policies adopted in health care reform will have an impact for good or ill for years to come. None of the bills retains longstanding current policies against abortion funding or abortion coverage mandates, and none fully protects conscience rights in health care. As the U.S. bishops' letter of October 8 states: "No one should be required to pay for or participate in abortion. It is essential that the legislation clearly apply to this new program longstanding and widely supported federal restrictions on abortion funding and mandates, and protections for rights of conscience. No current bill meets this test. If acceptable language in these areas cannot be found, we will have to oppose the health care bill vigorously." For the full text of this letter and more information on proposed legislation and the bishops' advocacy for authentic health care reform, visit: www.usccb.org/healthcare. Congressional leaders are attempting to put together final bills for floor consideration. Please contact your Representative and Senators today and urge them to fix these bills with the pro-life amendments noted below. Otherwise much needed health care reform will have to be opposed. Health care reform should be about saving lives, not destroying them.

ACTION: Contact Members through e-mail, phone calls or FAX letters. To send a pre-written, instant e-mail to Congress go to www.usccb.org/action. Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at: 202-224-3121, or call your Members' local offices. Full contact info can be found on Members' web sites at www.house.gov or www.senate.gov

MESSAGE to SENATE:

"During floor debate on the health care reform bill, please support an amendment to incorporate longstanding policies against abortion funding and in favor of conscience rights. If these serious concerns are not addressed, the final bill should be opposed."

MESSAGE to HOUSE:

"Please support the Stupak Amendment that addresses essential pro-life concerns on abortion funding and conscience rights in the health care reform bill. Help ensure that the Rule for the bill allows a vote on this amendment. If these serious concerns are not addressed, the final bill should be opposed."

WHEN: Both House and Senate are preparing for floor votes now. **Act today! Thank you!**