

*J*esus did this as the beginning of his signs in Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him.

John 2:11 (NAB)

*St. John the Baptist Parish, Haverhill, MA  
January 17, 2010*

*Father of all, we pray to You for those whom we love, but see no longer. Grant them Your peace; let light perpetually shine upon them; and in Your loving wisdom and almighty power work in them the good purpose of Your perfect will through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. This week the Sanctuary Lamp is given as a loving remembrance of **John & Helen Riley and Mary Petell** by their family.*



## Mass Intention

|                       |          |   |
|-----------------------|----------|---|
| Saturday, January 16  | 4:00 PM  | <b>Christopher Ducharme</b> (Living Intention for Safe Keeping by Grandparents)                 |
| Sunday, January 17    | 8:30 AM  | <b>Alice &amp; Louis Grieco</b> (Wedding Anniversary Remembrance by Daughter)                   |
| Sunday, January 17    | 10:30 AM | <b>James A. Croteau</b> (1st Anniversary Mass)  |
| Monday, January 18    | 9:00 AM  | <b>Intention of the Celebrant</b>   |
| Tuesday, January 19   | 9:00 AM  | <b>Deceased Members of St. John the Baptist Parish</b>  |
| Wednesday, January 20 | 9:00 AM  | <b>Mass of Thanksgiving</b>   |
| Thursday, January 21  | 9:00 AM  | <b>Prayer service</b>   |
| Friday, January 22    | 9:00 AM  | <b>Intention of the Celebrant</b>   |
| Saturday, January 23  | 9:00 AM  | <b>All the Departed Souls in Purgatory</b>  |
| Saturday, January 23  | 4:00 PM  | <b>Gerard T. Armitage, Ret. Colonel USMC</b> (Memorial Mass by friend, Dick Vass & Dion Family) |
| Sunday, January 24    | 8:30 AM  | <b>Adam Hartshorn</b> (Mass of Remembrance by Family)   |
| Sunday, January 24    | 10:30 AM | <b>Intention of the Celebrant</b>   |

### Mass Schedule

**Saturday** ~ 9 AM, 4 PM;  
**Sunday** ~ 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM Family Mass  
**Monday to Friday** ~ 9 AM  
**Eve of Holy Days; Holy Days** ~ As announced

### Sacraments

**Reconciliation** ~ Saturday 3 to 3:45 PM; also by appointment; **Marriage** ~ Couples are asked to call the parish office at 978-372-2780 at least 6 months prior to the planned wedding date; **Baptism** ~ 2nd Sunday of each month @ 1 PM Contact the parish office at 978-372-2780 for more information

### Religious Education

**Grades K to 4:** Sunday, 9:00 AM to 10:25 AM  
**Grades 5 to 10:** Sunday, 5:30 PM to 6:55 PM  
*Classes meet every other week in the lower Church hall*  
**Phone:** 978-521-4557  
**Administrator:** Renee Barrick (rbarrick@parishmail.com)  
**Safety Coordinator K to G3:** Kim Shapiro (kshapiro@parishmail.com) **Safety Coordinator G4 to 6:** Jennifer Connolly **Safety Coordinator G7:** Deacon Tom Anthony

### Parish Contact Information

**Address:** 110 Lincoln Ave, Haverhill, MA 01830  
**Phone:** 978-372-2780 **Fax:** 978-469-0947  
**Website:** www.stjohnhaverhill.org  
**Pastor:** Fr. Keith LeBlanc (stjohn@parishmail.com)  
**Permanent Deacon:** Tom Anthony (978-973-0437; razorsedge1970@aol.com) **Secretary:** Diane Forte (dforte@parishmail.com) **Pastoral Council:** Deacon Tom Anthony, Bill Bibeau, Donna Bibeau, Joann Corthell, Linda LeBlanc, Celeste McCusker, Joan Pechnik, Mary Peel & Anne Six **Finance Council:** Deborah Conner, Bill Dale, Mary Duchemin & John Stevens **Activities Committee** (stjohnactivitiescommittee@parishmail.com) ~ Roberta Alicata, Deacon Tom Anthony, Donna Bibeau, Sue Brewster, Betty Burrill, Don Clough, Pauline Clough, John Connor, Kathy Connor, David Corthell, Joann Corthell, Mary Duchemin, Celeste McCusker, Barbara O'Shea, Joan Pechnik, Mary Peel, Frank Perra, Joan Perra, Margaret Pflifferling, Anne Six & Bill Vlahos **Youth Group** ~ Leslie Crowe (stjohnyouthgroup@parishmail.com) **Health Ministry** ~ Donna Bibeau (dbibeau@parishmail.com) **Prayer Shawl Ministry** ~ Donna Bibeau, Diane Forte, Celeste McCusker, Barbara O'Shea, Norma Pappas, Kay Poole, & Marsha Tartaglia

Welcome to St. John the Baptist. We're glad you are here to celebrate Mass with us today. If you are new to our parish or haven't been here in awhile, *WELCOME*. If you would like to register as a parish family, registration forms can be found at the back of the Church. You can either mail it to the Rectory or drop it in the collection basket. God Bless.



*From the desk of Father Keith...*

*My Dear Parishioners:*

If we cannot protect life in its simplest forms, then we cannot protect it in any form. This week we honor those things that remind us life that is so precious to all of us. This Sunday the Church asks us to participate in the World Day of Prayer for Christian Unity, Monday is Martin Luther King, Jr., Day. Friday is the anniversary of the Supreme Court *Roe v Wade* decision, and the American Bishops have declared Friday as a "Day of Penance" to help us atone for sins against life. There is so much being offered to us in this coming week. How do we approach it with the eyes of faith?

Two priests went to the Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tenn., the old Lorraine Motel where Martin Luther King was murdered April 4, 1968. They were impressed and moved by the exhibits, most marking events within their own memories. The atmosphere was quiet and very respectful, especially in the area that was Martin Luther King's room the night he was killed. The museum told well the story of black Americans seeking their rights and dignity. At the very end of the tour there was film that chronicled the life of Dr. King and the Civil Rights movement, but the film also looked ahead at remaining issues of civil rights. The priests were shocked when the film declared that abortion was a civil right for which we must fight. The priests did not know who sponsored the film, but they could not get over the fact that ending a human life was declared a civil right.

In many ways our national politics are conditioned by the Right to Life debate which splits parties and people.

Not only is the nation split over the issue of life, so is the Christian Community. Many Christians do indeed see abortion as a civil right even though the Church teaches otherwise. Unfortunately many Catholics believe the same thing. Others try to escape being pinned down on the topic saying that they are personally opposed to abortion but do not think we should force our views on others. How do we approach this week? First, we should never give up hope about the issue of life or any of the issues that continue to violate human rights. Second, we must remember that God remains present in our world.

Perhaps it is fitting that this is the World Day of Prayer for Christian Unity. Just as we hear in the first reading of Isaiah who tried to reunite the people with God, so too we Christians, divided as we are, should seek to find its common ground in Jesus Christ. Mary at the wedding feast in today's Gospel is a good model for all Christians as we are called to bring Christ to all people. Mary's only purpose at the wedding was to bring honor to the embarrassed groom. Having run out of wine would, in Jesus' day, have been shameful. The purpose here was not really for a miracle, for Jesus' hour had not yet come, but was instead used to bolster the disciples and make them true followers and disciples of Jesus. This miracle is a sign for us—the power of God can accomplish anything. Our task is to look for opportunities to increase the honor of God. That simply is the mission of every Christian.

*God Bless, Father Keith*

Readings for the Mass begin on page 64 of the *Breaking Bread Missal 2010*. Proper parts of the Mass begin on page 3.




Last weekend's collection was \$3,031. The special monthly collection was \$742. Both collections totaled \$3,773.

This weekend there will one collection. Next weekend there will be two collections—our regular Sunday offertory and an RCAB collection for the Church in Latin America.

**Sunday, January 24**  
 Grades 3 & 4; RCIC ~ 9 to 10:25 AM  
 Grade 5 to 7 ~ 5:30 to 6:55 PM


**Sunday, January 31**  
 Grades K to 2 ~ 9 to 10:25 AM  
 Grade 8 to 10 ~ 5:30 to 6:55 PM

*Grades 7 & 8 meet in the basement of the Rectory.  
 All other classes are held in the lower church hall.*



**Protecting God's Children training** will be offered here at St. John's for all CCD teachers and aides, on Monday, January 18 at 7 PM and will last approximately 2 hours. If you have any questions, please contact Reneé in the CCD office at 978-521-4557 or [rbarrick@parishmail.com](mailto:rbarrick@parishmail.com). Please RSVP with Reneé by Sunday, January 17.

This training is mandated by the Archdiocese and must be taken by **all CCD teachers and aides**. If you have already received this training, please confirm that Reneé has a copy of your certification on file. Thank you.



**Thank You** to our Altar Society for help in decorating the church on Christmas Eve Day and for helping take down the decorations last Sunday. And a special Thank You to the Confirmation Class for cleaning the main Sanctuary—dusting and polishing all the pews.

*The church looked beautiful! Thank you very much for all your help.*

**Celeste McCusker & Father Keith**

Memorials for the **Sanctuary Light** that burns before the Tabernacle are available. Please contact the Rectory for further information.

Call your **Prayer Intentions** into St. John's Rectory at 978-372-2780 or email them to [stjohn@parishmail.com](mailto:stjohn@parishmail.com)


Join Deacon Tom Anthony for **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** followed by **Evening Prayer** on **Tuesdays at 6:30 PM.**



**Morning Prayer Service** with Deacon Tom will be every **Thursday at 9 AM.** All are welcome.

**Please pray** for all those who are sick or in need and especially for...

**Fr. Carroll, Alex, Boris, Celeste, Cristine, Crystal, Dawn, Dick, Eileen, Ernest, Fr. Fred, Gail, baby Jayden, Jeanne, Jim, John, Kim, Leo, Louise, Mary, Mary R., Mary Z., Mike, Nancy, Rita, Russell, Sheila, Sophie, Stephen, Sue, William & Yvonne**



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**Please pray** for all those in the United States Armed Services who are serving our country at home and abroad and especially for...

**Alan, Allan, Angela, Christopher, Colin, Douglas, Eric, Joshua, Michael, Patrick, Rick & Rob**

Please pray also for their families and loved ones.

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The Archdiocese of Boston is sponsoring a **St. Andrew Dinner** on **Wednesday, January 27** at St. Sebastian High School, Needham from 5:30 to 8 PM. The dinner is a gathering of **young men grades 7 and up** for an informal dinner with Cardinal Sean. The evening consists of Evening Prayer, dinner, conversation with seminarians and vocation witness stories. For more information, please **contact Deacon Tom** at 978-9783-0437.



The Knights of Columbus Council 202 **Annual Basketball Free Throw** is scheduled for **Sunday, January 31** at St. Joseph's School Gym, Broadway, Haverhill from 1 to 3 PM. Pizza will be served.

**Boys and girls from ages 10 to 14** are invited to participate. This will be a qualifier for district, regional and state tournaments. Please contact Deacon Tom to register.

On **Thursday, January 28**, Knights of Columbus Council 202 is hosting a **Family Bowling Night** at All Saints/St. Joseph Bowling Lanes, Broadway, Haverhill from 7 to 9 PM. Cost will be \$7 per person and will include 3 strings of bowling, shoe rental and refreshments. Prizes will be awarded for the top bowlers. Families, children, and friends are all invited to participate.



Please RSVP with Deacon Tom at 978-973-0437 ASAP so he can give the bowling alley a "head count."

**St. Mary's Parish, Georgetown/Rowley** is looking for **someone to help with maintenance and custodial duties** two weekday mornings a week (days are flexible.) Duties include weekend help with snow removal before Mass. Applicant needs to be able to shovel and lift approximately 60 pounds, must be 18 years or older and have reliable transportation. VIRTUS and CORI are requirement for hire.

If you or someone you know is interested, please call Nan Hadley, at St. Mary's Rectory—978-352-2024. **Help is needed immediately!**

**HUNGER KNOWS NO SEASON** Due to a **shortage of food** at the local food pantry we support, **St. John's will be accepting donations every weekend.** Please leave your non-perishable items at the back of the church.



Thank you.

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OUR ADVERTISERS



The bishops of the United States have established January 22 as a particular day of penance "for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion, and of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee to the right to life." *General Instruction of the Roman Missal, no. 373.*

St. John the Baptist will participate in the 2010 Archdiocese of Boston **Holy Hour for Life** on **Friday, January 22, 2010, from 6:30 to 7:30 PM.** All those faithful to the inherent dignity of all human life from conception to natural death are invited to participate.

On Saturday, February 6, St. John's Youth Group will be playing laser tag at **LaserCraze**, North Andover starting at 12 noon. **All CCD students in grades 4 through 8 are welcome to join us. Parents and siblings, too!**

We need a **show of interest** from students and parents **by Sunday, January 24** so we can contact LaserCraze for their discount rate. Please email the Youth Group Coordinator, Leslie, at [stjohnyouthgroup@parishmail.com](mailto:stjohnyouthgroup@parishmail.com), or Diane in the Rectory at [dforte@parishmail.com](mailto:dforte@parishmail.com) or you can leave a voice mail with Deacon Tom at 978-973-0437 by Sunday, January 24.

Once we have determined the cost per person, we will let everyone know. Final registration information and a deposit must be made by Sunday, January 31. Pizza and refreshments will be included in the cost of the ticket.

### ***Readings of the Week***

#### **Sunday, January 17**

Is 62:1-5/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11

#### **Monday, January 18**

1 Sm 15:16-23/Mk 2:18-22

#### **Tuesday, January 19**

1 Sm 16:1-13/Mk 2:23-28

#### **Wednesday, January 20**

1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/  
Mk 3:1-6

#### **Thursday, January 21**

1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Mk  
3:7-12

#### **Friday, January 22**

1 Sm 24:3-21/Mk 3:13-19

#### **Saturday, January 23**

2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27/Mk 3:20-21

#### **Sunday, January 24**

Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/1 Cor 12:12-30 or  
12:12-14, 27/Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21 62:1-5/1 Cor  
12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11



### **In the Wedding**

*By Scott Hahn*

Think of these first weeks after Christmas as a season of "epiphanies." The Liturgy is showing us who Jesus is and what He has revealed about our relationship with God.

Last week and the week before, the imagery was royal and filial—Jesus is the newborn King of the Jews who makes us co-heirs of Israel's promise, beloved children of God. Last week in the Liturgy we went to a Baptism.

This week we're at a wedding. We're being shown another dimension of our relationship with God. If we're sons and daughters of God, it's because we've married into the family.

Have you ever wondered why the Bible begins and ends with a wedding—Adam and Eve's in the garden and the marriage supper of the Lamb (compare Genesis 2:23-24 & Revelation 19:9; 21:9, 22:17)?

Throughout the Bible, marriage is the symbol of the covenant relationship God desires with His chosen people. He is the Groom, humanity His beloved and sought-after bride. We see this reflected beautifully in today's First Reading.

When Israel breaks the covenant she is compared to an unfaithful spouse (see Jeremiah 2:20-36; 3:1-13). But God promises to take her back, to "espouse" her to Him forever in an everlasting covenant (see Hosea 2:18-22).

That's why in today's Gospel, Jesus performs His first public "sign" at a wedding feast. Jesus is the divine Bridegroom (see John 3:29), calling us to His royal wedding feast (see Matthew 22:1-14).

By His New Covenant, He will become "one flesh" with all humanity in the Church (see Ephesians 5:21-33). By our Baptism, each of us has been betrothed to Christ as a bride to a Husband (see 2 Corinthians 11:2).

The new wine that Jesus pours out at today's feast is the gift of the Holy Spirit given to His bride and body, as today's Epistle says. This is the "salvation" announced to the "families of nations" in today's Psalm.

*A service of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology*  
[www.SalvationHistory.com](http://www.SalvationHistory.com)