

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has  
anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.*

Luke 4:18 (NAB)

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*St. John the Baptist Parish, Haverhill, MA  
January 24, 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 **Peter DiVincenzo** by Marlene FitzGerald.*



## Mass Intention

|                       |          |   |
|-----------------------|----------|---|
| 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>   |
| Monday, January 25    | 9:00 AM  | <b>All the Departed Souls in Purgatory</b>  |
| Tuesday, January 26   | 9:00 AM  | <b>Deceased Members of St. John the Baptist Parish</b>  |
| Wednesday, January 27 | 9:00 AM  | <b>Mass of Thanksgiving</b>   |
| Thursday, January 28  | 9:00 AM  | <b>Prayer service</b>   |
| Friday, January 29    | 9:00 AM  | <b>Intention of the Celebrant</b>   |
| Saturday, January 30  | 9:00 AM  | <b>Victor Cassano</b> (1st Anniversary Mass)  |
| Saturday, January 30  | 4:00 PM  | <b>Virginia A. Czerepak</b> (Month's Mind Mass)   |
| Sunday, January 31    | 8:30 AM  | <b>John Rago</b> (Living Intention for Health & Healing by Ducharme Family)                     |
| Sunday, January 31    | 10:30 AM | <b>Yvonne Comeau</b> (Birthday Remembrance by Family)   |

### 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 Pfifferling, 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:*

In today's readings we hear a simple theme that God is the Lord of Today. In ancient times in Israel the people were told through Moses that God was proclaimed as "I AM." The eternal one exists in an everlasting state of No, which is why God expects things of us today more than any other day. As for most of us, trapped in the limited perspective of human living, we often get stuck in the past. We're overcome by waves of nostalgia for a world that was: for youth, strength, ability, beauty, and opportunity come and gone. We're caught up by grievance and indignation for what others have done or failed to do. We're mired in loss and can't seem to break free from remorse.

We also must remember we live in the future, counting on what is yet not real. We spend money we don't yet have. We live for dreams that haven't materialized and may not ever. We imagine ourselves to be better than we are and presume (with little evidence) that we're heading in a righteous direction. But because we don't live in the present, we miss the opportunities that arrive in every moment to bring the future we want so much.

So the people of Jerusalem weep at the Water Gate, listening to Ezra proclaim the law of God. They don't hear its benevolence, only the dreaded shortfall of their past actions. They also hear what they must do in the future to attain the standards God has set for humanity. What they don't hear is the very thing Ezra exhorts them to consider: God's good word is reason to celebrate *now*. Forget what was (God is willing to do so) and what will be (it's not guaranteed) and rejoice in the Holy NOW because that's where God is to be found.

Today and now are the only points in time when God can be encountered, so they are the only moments where grace operates and change can take place.

Jesus demonstrates the same allegiance to the present hour when He reads the scroll Isaiah, ancient prophet of Israel long dead, and declares: "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing." Does Jesus simply mean that these words of prophecy have been on cold storage for six centuries and are finally being realized in the year 30 A.D.? Is He proposing that the school of Isaiah the produced the Servant Songs foreknew the coming of Jesus, incarnate word of God? We can't know the mind of Isaiah or his admirers. What is clear is that Jesus views prophecy as an organic word that lives now or not at all.

We are encouraged from these reading today to live in the now. Today act as if you truly believe this Gospel, that God is here among us loving us unconditionally. It's impossible not to want to do great things out of sheer gratitude that God chose to be with us. Take time to spread the good news today. Assure a grieving friend that they will be comforted. Remind a loved one in pain that their suffering will be redeemed; muster the courage to ask someone you hurt for forgiveness. Like Jesus, speak and act with confidence that God's promises will be fulfilled and that your best self is who you were meant to be. Live now God will do the rest.

*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.





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.

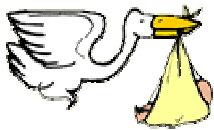


Cost will be \$7 per person and will include 3 strings of bowling, shoe rental and refreshments. Prizes will be awarded for the top bowlers. Families, children, and friends are all invited to participate.

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!**



A **Pro-Life Baby Shower** will be held here at St. John the Baptist Church on two consecutive weekends—**February 6/7 and February 13/14.**

Requested items are: New UnWrapped disposable diapers (newborn to size 1), baby bottles, diaper bags, sleep & play sets, sweaters, crib sheets, socks, blanket sleepers, baby powder, receiving blankets & pacifiers as well as monetary donations (case or checks made payable to "Fund for the Unborn.")

For more information or if you would like to help, please call Gerald & Ann Marie Johnston at 978-372-3824.

## St. John the Baptist's new ministry devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary



will offer the Rosary every Saturday morning at 10 AM in the main church beginning January 30.

Coffee and light refreshments will follow in the lower church hall.

Everyone is welcome.

Rosaries and handouts will be available for those who are unfamiliar with this beautiful devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Come and pray with us.



*As we come together in this new year, this new decade and this new ministry, help us to welcome the changes that come into our lives and the lives of those we love.*

*O, Blessed Virgin Mary,  
O, Mary, Mother of God  
O, Queen of Heaven,  
Pray for us.*



## New Day Dawns

By Scott Hahn

The meaning of today's Liturgy is subtle and many-layered. We need background to understand what's happening in today's First Reading.

Babylon having been defeated, King Cyrus of Persia decreed that the exiled Jews could return home to Jerusalem. They rebuilt their ruined temple (see Ezra 6:15-17) and under Nehemiah finished rebuilding the city walls (see Nehemiah 6:15).

The stage was set for the renewal of the covenant and the re-establishment of the Law of Moses as the people's rule of life. That's what's going on in today's First Reading, as Ezra reads and interprets (see Nehemiah 8:8) the Law and the people respond with a great "Amen!"

Israel, as we sing in today's Psalm, is rededicating itself to God and His Law. The scene seems like the Isaiah prophecy that Jesus reads from in today's Gospel.

Read all of Isaiah 61. The "glad tidings" Isaiah brings include these promises: the liberation of prisoners (61:1); the rebuilding of Jerusalem, or Zion (61:3-4; see also Isaiah 60:10); the restoration of Israel as a kingdom of priests (61:6; Exodus 19:6), and the forging of an everlasting covenant (61:8; Isaiah 55:3). It sounds a lot like the First Reading.

Jesus, in turn, declares that Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled in Him. The Gospel scene, too, recalls the First Reading. Like Ezra, Jesus stands before the people, is handed a scroll, unrolls it, then reads and interprets it (compare Luke 4:16-17, 21 and Nehemiah 8:2-6; 8-10).

We witness in today's Liturgy the creation of a new people of God. Ezra started reading at dawn of the first day of the Jewish new year (see Leviticus 23:24). Jesus, too, proclaims a "Sabbath" a great year of Jubilee, a deliverance from slavery to sin, a release from the debts we owe to God (see Leviticus 25:10).

The people greeted Ezra "as one man." And, as today's Epistle teachers, in the Spirit the new people of God—the Church—is made "one body" with Him.

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

### Readings of the Week

#### Sunday, January 24

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

#### Monday, January 25

Acts 22:3-16 or 9:1-22/Mk 16:15-18

#### Tuesday, January 26

2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Mk 3:31-35

#### Wednesday, January 27

2 Sm 7:4-17/Mk 4:1-20

#### Thursday, January 28

2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29/Mk 4:21-25

#### Friday, January 29

2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17/Mk 4:26-34

#### Saturday, January 30

2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17/Mk 4:35-41

#### Sunday, January 31

Jer 1:4-5, 17-19/1 Cor 12:31—13:13 or 13:4-13/Lk 4:21-30

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