



Grebber, Pieter de 1630

And He said,
Amen I say to you,
no prophet is *accepted*
in his own native place...

Elisha *cured* no other leper
than *Naaman* the *Syrian*.

Luke 4:24, 27

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St. John the Baptist Parish, Haverhill, MA
January 31, 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 **Lily & Alfred Marzioli and Rose & Vincent Dirago** by family.*



Mass Intention

Saturday, January 30	4:00 PM	Virginia A. Czerepak (Month's Mind Mass)
Sunday, January 31	8:30 AM	John Rago (Living Intention for Health & Healing by Ducharme Family)
Sunday, January 31	10:30 AM	Yvonne Comeau (Birthday Remembrance by Family)
Monday, February 1	9:00 AM	H. Marie Higgins (Month's Mind Mass)
Tuesday, February 2	9:00 AM	Deceased Members of St. John the Baptist Parish
Wednesday, February 3	9:00 AM	All the Departed Souls in Purgatory
Thursday, February 4	9:00 AM	Prayer service
Friday, February 5	9:00 AM	E. Leo LeBlanc (Anniversary Mass by Son)
Saturday, February 6	9:00 AM	Intention of the Celebrant
Saturday, February 6	4:00 PM	Laura Foote (9th Anniversary Mass by Daughter & Family) and Arthur Foote (21st Anniversary Mass by Daughter & Family)
Sunday, February 7	8:30 AM	Joseph & Dora LaBranche (Birthday Remembrance by Family)
Sunday, February 7	10:30 AM	Peter G. Lesiczka (9th Anniversary Mass 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 & Bill Vlahos **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 Deacon Tom...

Brothers & Sisters in Christ:

"The Word of the Lord came to me, saying: 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you'."

What a beautiful passage from the beginning of the Book of Jeremiah. It has a special meaning to me because there was a time when I was discerning my vocation to the Permanent Diaconate when I read it. The words spoke directly to my heart and from then on, I knew exactly what Christ wanted me to do. His love enveloped me and cradled me. It was a moment of experiencing Christ's Grace that I will never forget. What is even more wonderful about this passage is the fact that it calls to all of us in the same way. God does in fact know each and every one of us and has claimed us as His own. He is there from the very beginning, cradling us in His loving arms and holding us closely to His breast. He is constantly around us and walking with us, during the good times and during times of crises. We just need to take a moment and realize that He is there.

Being a creation of Christ, we are called to love Him. Christ is what love is. And it can be argued that the perfection of that Love is the vision of that little child: pure innocence helpless and pure in the womb. Envision that state: totally dependent on the one who created you and who has the responsibility to protect and nurture you. In our lives, Christ is the nurturer and we are that child.

We are commissioned by Christ to keep this love within our hearts and spread this love through our actions and our words. We are all prophets spreading the Living Word of our Lord Jesus Christ. Recall those moments of joy when we all celebrate together, be it the Eucharist or some sort of occasion that brings this Christian Family together.

What happy, unforgettable moments I myself can recall. And how many more are yet to come. Why? Because all the times we come together, it is because of Love. It isn't for a moment of enjoyment or something that will be easily forgotten. It is always because we all feel that closeness, we all feel that overabundance of Love this is Christ. And when we feel it, we want it all the more.

Through these moments, Saint Paul's words ring all the more true: "Love never fails." It has that distance ability to overcome all obstacles. It is not a coincidence that, in times of trial and tribulation, people flow back to the Church and the Eucharist for comfort and guidance. What also happens, though, is that when the crisis subsides, there are those who turn their backs on that same Love which carried them through. Many times, it is very easy to do this. That is our human nature. The world around us tends to drown out even something as great and resounding as Christ's Love. But it is still there, crying out in the distance, waiting for us to respond to the call. It can also be felt deep within our hearts, tugging at our conscious. Temptation is always there, urging us to ignore our very own Creator. What a tug o' war this can easily become, especially with all of the worldly goods society offers. To fight this, we must realize where this world comes from and why we were created: because GOD LOVES US.

When you are living your life, going through your day, keep the fact that you are not alone in the back of you mind. And silently thank those around you for being a part of your foundation.

Yours in Christ, Deacon Tom

Readings for the Mass begin on page 69 of the *Breaking Bread Missal 2010*. Proper parts of the Mass begin on page 3.



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.

All parishioners of St. John the Baptist Parish and those residents living near and around our church are cordially invited to an informational meeting on Monday, February 1 and Tuesday, February 2 at 7 PM in the lower church hall.

This meeting will present to all in attendance the possible purchase and development of a parcel of church property to Pentucket Bank.

Legal representatives from the Bank and the Archdiocese of Boston will be present to answer any and all questions concerning the purchase of this property.

The next meeting of the **Activities Committee** will be **Thursday, February 4** at 6 PM in the Rectory. All parishioners are invited to attend and help plan upcoming events for our parish.

Meetings for the **Prayer Shawl Ministry** will be postponed until the first Wednesday of March.

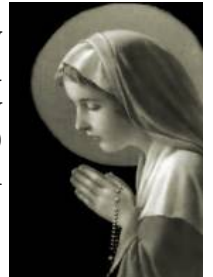
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Join Deacon Tom Anthony for **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** followed by **Evening Prayer** on **Tuesdays at 6:30 PM.**

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

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. Everyone is welcome.



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

*"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
before you were born I dedicated you."*

**Mother Mary, you know me
and you love me,
Please guide me and
protect me all of my days.
But most of all,
please show me that love.**

**Express that love as I pray
for your intercession
on my behalf and on those
who are most important to me.**

**Call upon your Son
to forgive my transgressions,
Call upon your Son to touch my soul,
Let His light shine brightly in my life,
To show me the way to true happiness.
Amen.**

World Marriage Day

The 2nd Sunday of February has been designated as **World Marriage Day** ~ a day the Church encourages us to celebrate with married couples who live out God's special grace of the union of a man and a woman each and every day in the covenant of the sacred love of Marriage.

To help celebrate this day as a parish, we wish to invite all married couples who will be celebrating a special anniversary this year (5, 10, 20, 25, etc.) to the **4 PM Mass on Saturday, February 14**. Special reserved seating will be held for those couples and a renewal of the marriage vows and a blessing will occur after the homily. At all the other Masses that weekend, all married couples will be invited to do the same at the conclusion of Mass. For those of you who are considering attending this special celebration on February 14, please fill out the form below and drop it in the collection basket, or drop it off at the Rectory before Thursday, February 11.

Couple's name: _____

Marriage date: _____

Place/Parish of Marriage: _____

Readings of the Week**Sunday, January 31**

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

Monday, February 1

2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13/Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday, February 2

Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

Wednesday, February 3

2 Sm 24:2, 9-17/Mk 6:1-6

Thursday, February 4

1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/Mk 6:7-13

Friday, February 5

Sir 47:2-11/Mk 6:14-29

Saturday, February 6

1 Kgs 3:4-13/Mk 6:30-34

Sunday, February 7

Is 6:1-2a, 3-8/1 Cor 15:1-11 or 15:3-8,
11/Lk 5:1-11

**Prophet to the Nations**

By Scott Hahn

God's words in today's First Reading point us beyond Jeremiah to Jesus. Like Jeremiah, Jesus was consecrated in the womb and sent as a "prophet to the nations" (See Luke 1:31-33).

Like the prophets before Him, Jesus too faces hostility. In today's Gospel, the crowd in His hometown synagogue quickly turns on Him, apparently demanding a sign, some proof of divine origins—that He's more than just "the son of Joseph."

The sign He gives them is that of the prophets Elijah and Elisha. From their colorful careers Jesus draws two stories. In each, the prophets bypass "many...in Israel" to bestow God's blessings on non-Israelites who had faith that the prophets were men of God (see 1 Kings 17:1; 2 Kings 5:1-14). "None...not one" in Israel was found deserving, Jesus emphasizes.

His point isn't lost on His audience. They know He's likening them to the "many...in Israel" in the days of the prophets. That's why they try to shove Him off the cliff. As He promised to protect Jeremiah, the Lord delivers Jesus from those who would crush Him.

And as were Elijah and Elisha, Jesus is sent to proclaim God's gift of salvation—not exclusively to one nation or people, but to all who realize in faith that from the womb God alone is their hope, their rescuer, their "rock of refuge," as we sing in today's Psalm.

Prophecies, Paul tells us in today's Epistle, are partial and pass away "when the perfect comes." In Jesus, the word of the prophets has been brought to perfection, fulfilled in those who have ears to hear, as He declares in today's Gospel.

Greater than the gifts of faith and hope, Jesus shows us who to love as He loved, to love God as our Father, as One Who formed us in the womb and destined us to hear His saving Word.

This is the salvation, the "mighty works of the Lord," that we, as the Psalmist, are thankful to proclaim daily in the Eucharist.

A service of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology
www.SalvationHistory.com