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*St. John the Baptist Parish, Haverhill, MA
February 7, 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 anniversary remembrance of **James H. Connors** by family.*



Mass Intention

| | | |
|------------------------|----------|---|
| 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) |
| Monday, February 8 | 9:00 AM | Intention of the Celebrant |
| Tuesday, February 9 | 9:00 AM | Rebecca Saylor (Memorial Mass by Family) |
| Wednesday, February 10 | 9:00 AM | All the Departed Souls in Purgatory |
| Thursday, February 11 | 9:00 AM | Prayer service |
| Friday, February 12 | 9:00 AM | Deceased Members of St. John the Baptist Parish |
| Saturday, February 13 | 9:00 AM | James Hawley Mann, Jr., & James Hawley Mann, III (Memorial Mass by Barbara Mann) |
| Saturday, February 13 | 4:00 PM | Robert Richard (Memorial Mass by Family) |
| Sunday, February 14 | 8:30 AM | Stephen Ducharme (Living Intention for Health & Healing by Family) |
| Sunday, February 14 | 10:30 AM | Sally Deimantas (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

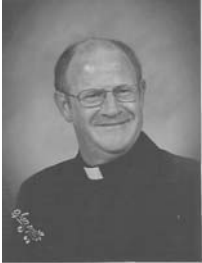
Religious Education

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 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...

Brothers & Sisters in Christ:

Lent is only a week and a half away. There is no preparation for Lent; it just arrives. It literally interrupts the course of the Sundays in Ordinary Time. As Lent is itself a time of preparation, a time to prepare ourselves for the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, it would be a little strange to have a preparation time for a preparation time. In saying this, though, we should start thinking about Lent. Is it going to make a difference this year?

One of the best operatic tenors in the world was Luciano Pavarotti. He was from a poor family, his father was a baker, and he had to rely on free singing lessons and part-time work to learn how to sing. He worked hard, but he had not met with any success. Frustrated, Pavarotti told his fiancée that he would sing his last scheduled concert and then give up his hoped-for singing career. Believing it to be his last concert, Pavarotti did not care about the rules of singing. Instead, he followed his heart, letting himself go to simply experience the music. He surrendered everything he had hoped for in this, his last concert. It ended up being the best performance he had ever given. The audience was beside itself. This critical moment of "letting go" changed everything for Pavarotti.

In some ways Lent is like that very experience that Pavarotti experienced. Lent is about letting go of things that keep us from singing the praises of God. In the first reading we hear about how God changed Isaiah.

At first Isaiah was fearful because, knowing himself to be sinful, he felt he had no place before God; however an angel touched Isaiah, making him worthy to be in God's throne room.

With all fearfulness set aside, Isaiah felt his love for God. When he heard God ask, "Whom shall I send?" without hesitation or fear Isaiah responded before any other creature had a chance: "Here I am. Send me!" Isaiah was able to respond so quickly because it was a response of love. He finally let go of all other things and trusted that God would be his help and guide in life. It was a true response of desire to change, to be renewed in the eyes of faith. Isaiah desired now to serve God.

Jesus himself tells us "Do not be afraid," but somehow we still remain afraid. As we approach Lent, what is it that keeps us from leaving things behind, that is, "letting go" in order to follow Jesus Christ? We have a week and a half to start asking for the grace to begin a season of sacrifice, of letting go. What are the things or who are the people that stand between God and me? Can I trust Jesus' words to not be afraid, to let go and to follow? What keeps me from practicing my faith? Isaiah let go of his fears simply out of love. Pavarotti had nothing left to loose. Perhaps we should think about our love for God by simply "letting go."

God Bless, Father Keith

Readings for the Mass begin on page 71 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.

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 13.** 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: _____

The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will be Sunday, February 14 at 6 PM in the Rectory.



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. **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.



"I have called you by your name, giving you a title though you knew Me not. I am the Lord and there is no other. There is no God besides Me." Isaiah 45:4-5

O, My dear Blessed Mother you know that I love you. Continue to watch over me.

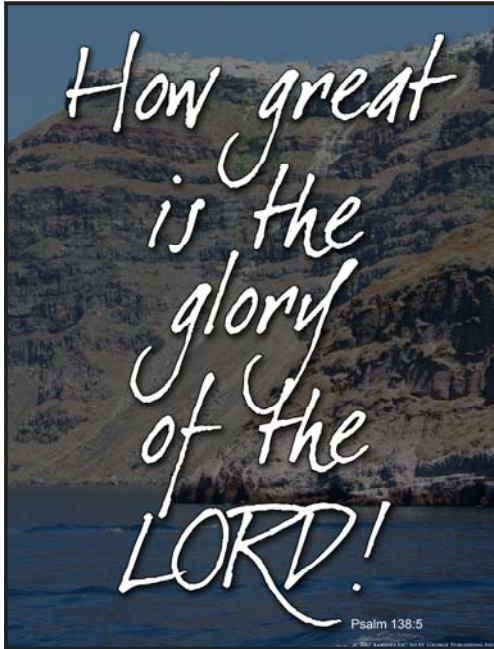
Through your intercession ask that I continue to be that living tabernacle and that I may receive His constant grace to help bring me the strength and courage to withstand this pain that I so endure.

I ask that you bless all those around me.

Please lead me on my journey to everlasting happiness, peace, and tranquility as I continue to serve Him every hour of the day with love and devotion.

I ask this through His holy name, your Son, my Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.



Readings of the Week

Sunday, February 7

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

Monday, February 8

1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13/Mk 6:53-56

Tuesday, February 9

1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30/Mk 7:1-13

Wednesday, February 10

1 Kgs 10:1-10/Mk 7:14-23

Thursday, February 11

1 Kgs 11:4-13/Mk 7:24-30

Friday, February 12

1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19/Mk 7:31-37

Saturday, February 13

1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34/Mk 8:1-10

Sunday, February 14

Jer 17:5-8/1 Cor 15:12, 16-20/Lk 6:17, 20-26



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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Into the Deep

By Scott Hahn

Simon Peter, the fisherman, is the first to be called personally by Jesus in Luke's Gospel.

His calling resembles Isaiah's commissioning in the First Reading: Confronted with the holiness of the Lord, both Peter and Isaiah are overwhelmed by a sense of their sinfulness and inadequacy. Yet each experiences the Lord's forgiveness and is sent to preach the Good News of His mercy to the world.

No one is "fit to be called an apostle," Paul recognizes in today's Epistle. But by "the grace of God," even a persecutor of the Church—as Paul once was—can be lifted up for the Lord's service.

In the Old Testament, humanity was unfit for the divine—no man could stand in God's presence and live (see Exodus 33:20). But in Jesus, we're made able to speak with Him face-to-face, taste His Word on our tongue.

Today's scene from Isaiah is recalled in every Mass. Before reading the Gospel, the priest silently asks God to cleanse his lips that he might worthily proclaim His Word.

God's Word comes to us as it came to Peter, Paul, Isaiah, and today's Psalmist—as a personal call to leave everything and follow Him, to surrender our weaknesses in order to be filled with His strength.

Simon put out into deep waters even though, as a professional fisherman, he knew it would be foolhardy to expect to catch anything. In humbling himself before the Lord's command, he was exalted—his nets filled to overflowing; later, as Paul tells us, he will become the first to see the risen Lord.

Jesus has made us worthy to receive Him in the company of angels in God's holy Temple. On our knees like Peter, with the humility of David in today's Psalm, we thank Him with all our hearts and join in the unending hymn that Isaiah heard around God's altar: "Holy, holy, holy." (See also Revelation 4:8).

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