

*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 10th anniversary remembrance of **Arthenese McGirr** by her husband & family.*



Mass Intention

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)
Monday, February 15	9:00 AM	Stephen Palermo (10th Anniversary Mass by Mary Belanger)
Tuesday, February 16	9:00 AM	John F. Clark (Birthday Remembrance by daughter, Mary Peel)
Wednesday, February 17	9:00 AM	Louise LaBranche (3rd Anniversary Mass by husband Dr Victor LaBranche)
Wednesday, February 17	3:00 PM	Prayer Service & Distribution of Ashes
Wednesday, February 17	6:00 PM	Intention of the Celebrant
Thursday, February 18	9:00 AM	Prayer service
Friday, February 19	9:00 AM	Deceased Members of St. John the Baptist Parish
Saturday, February 20	9:00 AM	Gloria Card (1st Anniversary Mass)
Saturday, February 20	4:00 PM	Geno & Steven Pelosi (Memorial Mass by Family)
Sunday, February 21	8:30 AM	Arthenese McGirr (10th Anniversary Mass by Husband & Family)
Sunday, February 21	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

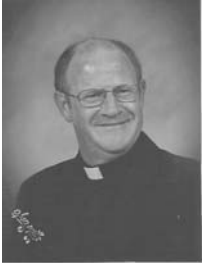
(stjohnyouthgroup@parishmail.com) **Health Ministry** ~ Donna

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:

This coming Wednesday, Ash Wednesday, we begin our annual Lenten Retreat. It requires focus if it is to affect us, if it is to bring us closer to Christ. We have let too many Lents go by without focus. Too often we stumble into Lent only to realize that we've given no thought to how we might make Lent more meaningful, more effective and affective. We have a few days to ponder and decide what it is we would like to accomplish with our Lent. We a few more days to focus our purpose, so that come Easter, we might realize a change in our lives, a deeper relationship with our God. Our Gospel today provides a hint to help us to determine our focus.

In Luke's version is not really what we would call "The Sermon on the Mount", but Luke is not talking about a place nor is he speaking about the poor having all their needs met; he is teaching about a way of living. Ultimately he is speaking of a culture. With Jesus' teaching there is a new way and that way is through Jesus. It is a culture just as prevalent today as it was in the time our Lord. It is a culture that stands opposed to the culture of society in which the disciples were living and in which we live as well. Luke is simply teaching us how to live "in" the world as it is right now. We live in it by helping build up the kingdom as brothers and sisters in Christ.

In one sense the people think they are all rich because they are well fed. For the most they did not worry where they would lay their heads at night or where they would get their next meal.

Luke is passing judgment and at the same time throwing down the gauntlet that Christ threw down. For the disciples being "rich" was viewed as being an outward sign that a person was blessed or favored by God. Being poor was a sign of being outside of God's family. It seems that this attitude has not changed in our current culture in which we live in. What we should all realize from this wonderful sermon by Christ that it is just the reverse. It is the poor who have the kingdom, and they have it now.

This can help us as we prepare for Lent toward the culture of God and what society deems as prudent. In our culture, the poor serve the rich, or more commonly said, those who don't have work for those who do. In God's culture, in God's kingdom, the rich work for the poor. To be rich is to be blessed, but it is be put into a position by God to help and to serve the poor. People even today value position and social recognition and those in need are left to themselves. This is not part of God's culture. In God's culture He uses the phrase, "well done good and faithful servant." Our reward is not recognition, it is know that we have served and pleased God instead.

God Bless, Father Keith

Readings for the Mass begin on page 74 of the *Breaking Bread Missal 2010*. Proper parts of the Mass begin on page 3.

PLEASE PATRONIZE
OUR ADVERTISERS

9 AM ~ Mass & Distribution of Ashes
3 PM ~ Prayer Service & Distribution of Ashes
6 PM ~ Mass & Distribution of Ashes



Come Join a Great Church Tradition as we celebrate the beginning of our Lenten Journey with the offering of a **24-hour Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**. The Eucharist will be exposed **beginning Tuesday, February 16** at 10 AM. Benediction will be Wednesday, February 17 just before the 9 AM Mass on Ash Wednesday. Sign-up sheets are available at the main entrance to the church.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will also be **every Friday during Lent** (except Good Friday) immediately **following the 9 AM Mass**. Sign-up sheets can be found at the main entrance to the church. Stations of the Cross and the Rosary will be at 6 PM and concludes with the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Beginning Friday, February 19 and every Friday evening during Lent, the ministries of St. John's will host **Lenten Suppers** from 5 to 6 PM in the lower church hall. At-will donations will be accepted on the evening of the supper. All are welcome to attend.



Please join us in for this fellowship as we observe Lent and prepare for the Easter season.

The **2010 Lenten Mission** for the Haverhill Collaborative Catholic Parishes will be here at **Saint John the Baptist**. Father Sean McGillicuddy of the Redemptorist Fathers will be conducting this Mission **beginning Sunday, February 21** and concluding Tuesday, February 23. Services begin at 7 PM each evening and will be about one hour each night.

Light refreshments will be served in the lower church hall following the Tuesday evening service. **Donations** of finger-type desserts are needed. Please bring your donations to the lower church hall during the day **on February 23**.

Catholics over 14 years of age are bound to the **obligations of abstinence**. Abstinence is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent. On days of abstinence, meat may not be used at all. Meat is considered to be the flesh of mammals and fowl. Also forbidden are soups or gravies made from them. Salt and freshwater species of fish, and shellfish are permitted, as are animal-derived products such as margarine and gelatin which do not have any meat taste.

Catholics over 18 and up to the beginning of their sixtieth year are bound to the **obligation of fasting**. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are the days of fasting. On these days, only one full meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices are allowed.

Those who are excused from fast or abstinence, besides those outside the age limits are those of unsound mind, the sick, the frail, pregnant or nursing mothers according to their need for meat or nourishment, manual laborers according to need and those who have been diagnosed with an eating disorder (such as diabetes).

Catholics are encouraged to pray more during Lent especially with Scripture. Lent is also an ideal time to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for the celebration of Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection.

Moved by the sacrifice of Christ, many Christians combine almsgiving with fasting, giving to the poor the money they saved by eating, drinking or buying less as they rely more upon God's abundant grace. There are "rice bowls" and explanatory materials at the back of the church. Rice Bowl materials will also be distributed to children in our CCD program.



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.

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

St. John the Baptist's new ministry devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary will offer the Rosary every Saturday morning at 10 AM 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.

*Blessed Mother, as my mother and our family
Prepare for the final journey of her life,
Pray for us and all families who face this difficult time.
Give us acceptance and strength.*

*Take her hand as she slips from the earthly bonds
Her mind and body have become and
Gently guide her into the loving arms
Of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.*

"Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with you. Blessed are you
among women and blessed is the fruit
Of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners now,
and at the hour of our death. Amen."

Readings of the Week

Sunday, February 14

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

Monday, February 15

Jas 1:1-11/Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday, February 16

Jas 1:12-18/Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday, February 17

Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20—6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday, February 18

Dt 30:15-20/Lk 9:22-25

Friday, February 19

Is 58:1-9a/Mt 9:14-15

Saturday, February 20

Is 58:9b-14/Lk 5:27-32

Sunday, February 21

Dt 26:4-10/Rom 10:8-13/Lk 4:1-13



Rich in Poverty

By Scott Hahn

The blessings and woes we hear in today's Gospel mark the perfection of all the wisdom of the Old Testament.

That wisdom is summed up with marvelous symmetry in today's First Reading and Psalm: Each declares that the righteous—those who hope in the Lord and delight in His Law—will prosper like a tree planted near living waters. The wicked, who put their "trust in human beings," are cursed to wither and die.

Jesus is saying the same thing in the Gospel. The "rich" and "poor" are, for Him, more than members of literal economic classes. Their material state symbolizes their spiritual state.

The rich are "the insolent" of today's Psalm, boasting of their self-sufficiency, the strength of their flesh, as Jeremiah says in the First Reading. The poor are the humble, who put all their hope and trust in the Lord.

We've already seen today's dramatic imagery of reversal in Mary's "Magnificat." There, too, the rich are cast down while the hungry are filled and the lowly exalted (see Luke :14-55; also 16:19-31).

That's the upside-down world of the Gospel: in poverty we gain spiritual treasure unimaginable; in suffering and even dying "on account of the Son of Man," we find everlasting life.

The promises of the New Testament were promises of power and prosperity—in the here and now. The promise of the New Covenant is joy and true freedom even amid the misery and toil of this life. But not only that. As Paul says in today's Epistle, we're to be pitied if our hope is "for this life only."

The blessings of God mean that we'll laugh with the thanksgiving of captives released from exile (see Psalm 126:1-2), feast at the heavenly table of the Lord (see Psalm 107:3-9), "leap for joy" as John the Baptist leapt in his mother's womb (see Luke 6:23; 1:44-44), and rise with Christ, "the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep."

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