

*St. John the Baptist Parish, Haverhill, MA
February 21, 2010*



And Jesus answered and said to him, "It is said,
'YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.'"
-Luke 4:12

*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 for the health & healing of **Dolph Dufresne** by his family.*



Mass Intention

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	William Poole (Anniversary Mass by Wife, Children & Grandchildren)
Monday, February 22	9:00 AM	Louise Kelleher (Birthday Remembrance by Mary Belanger)
Tuesday, February 23	9:00 AM	Mass of Thanksgiving for Favor Received
Tuesday, February 23	6:30 PM	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Evening Prayer
Wednesday, February 24	9:00 AM	Mass of Thanksgiving
Thursday, February 25	9:00 AM	Prayer service
Friday, February 26	9:00 AM	Deceased Members of St. John the Baptist Parish
Saturday, February 27	9:00 AM	Janet Willette (1st Anniversary Mass)
Saturday, February 27	4:00 PM	Elphège A. Dubois (37th Anniversary Mass by Family)
Sunday, February 28	8:30 AM	Intention of the Celebrant
Sunday, February 28	10:30 AM	Andre Dubus (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

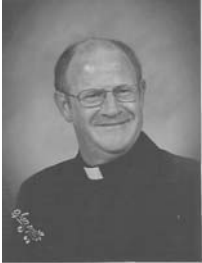
Religious Education

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: Reneé Barrick (rbarrick@parishmail.com)
Safety Coordinator K to G 3: Kim Shapiro (kshapiro@parishmail.com)
Safety Coordinator G 4 to 6: Jennifer Connolly
Safety Coordinator G 7: 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 Pffferling, 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:

Starting today with this first Sunday of Lent we all have a chance, through the Liturgy, to hear the inspired word of sacred scripture. When the Israelites recall the history of their salvation and when St. Paul exhorts us to "confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord," we are being called to our creed, our confession of faith. Such faith opens up the deliverance, liberation, and salvation of God's believing people, open to all who call on the name of the Lord. In thanksgiving, we make our sacrifice, our Eucharist. No one who believes will be put to shame – a hugely comforting message and a simple but profound statement of what it means to be Christian. It starts with acknowledging Jesus, and if we do so seriously and deeply, such a confession will order the rest of our lives.

All of us this Lent will have the opportunity to reflect on how our lives are and how it can change for a renewal of our faith and of our lives. Cardinal Sean O'Malley has asked all parishes in the Archdiocese to implement a program to help us in reconciling ourselves to God during our season of Lent. **The Light Is on for You** is such a program. In every parish the sacrament of reconciliation will be offered every Wednesday evening from 6:30 – 8:00 PM. This is simply an invitation for all Catholics to experience Christ's healing love through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is also an opportunity for some individuals to return and receive the grace of God's love in the power of forgiveness and healing. I know that there may be some who will hesitate and say "I haven't been in a while I not sure what to do."

If you notice with this bulletin is an insert to act as guide in preparation for you to come to confession. Children in our CCD program will also receive a separate guide to aid them in preparing for the sacrament as well.

We as a local parish, like all others in the Diocese, are just asking you to make an effort or opportunity to come back, to be healed, and to reconcile yourself to God. You are welcome to come to St John the Baptist or the three other parishes in the city of Haverhill. They too will be open every Wednesday evening to hear confessions during the season of Lent. All priests of the Diocese are encouraging all people of the parish to take advantage of this opportunity to make a good Lenten confession. You can also help us out by reaching out to other Catholics you know that have been away from the regular practice of our faith and invite them to seize this chance to begin again this Lent.

Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice of love by dying for us. On this First Sunday of Lent we hear once again how He went out into the desert to pray for forty days and nights. While there He was tempted by Satan. By the strength and power of the Father and the Holy Spirit He won the battle and defeated the ultimate power of evil. He now asks you to walk with Him and let Him help you win the battle too. A simple phrase I have found very helpful to begin in this journey is as follows:
Have Mercy On Me O God A sinner!

God Bless, Father Keith

Readings for the Mass begin on page 79 of the *Breaking Bread Missal 2010*. Proper parts of the Mass begin on page 3.

St. John the Baptist Parish



Last weekend's collection was \$2,621. The Special Monthly Collection was \$530. Both collections totaled \$3,251. This weekend there will be one collection. Next weekend there will be one collection as well.

Sunday, February 28

Grades K to 2 ~ 9 to 10:25 AM

Grade 8 ~ 5:30 to 6:55 PM

Confessions during regular class time

Grades 9 to 10 ~ 5:30 to 6:55 PM
(regular class)



Sunday, March 7

Grades 3 & 4 ~ 9 to 10:25 AM

Confessions during regular class time

RCIC ~ 9 to 10:25 AM

Grades 5 to 7 ~ 5:30 to 6:55 PM

Grade 7 meets in the basement of the Rectory
All other classes meet in the lower church hall.



The Youth Group will be hosting a **Bake Sale** after all the Masses **this weekend**. Please stop by for some homemade goodies and support our Youth Group.

Thank you to all the students in our CCD program who participated in helping to stock the shelves of the local food pantry with our **SouperBowl Food Drive**. Your generosity goes a long way towards making a difference. Also a special *thank you* to **Mary Peel** for the inspiration.



On Sunday, February 14th, the drawing for those students in Grades K to 2 & 8 to 10 was held. And the winner was...Brian Mitchell who won a \$25 gift certificate to Olympia Sports. Congratulations, Brian!

The students in all grades of our CCD program have shown thoughtfulness and generosity when called upon to serve those less fortunate. For this I am extremely proud and appreciative.

Reneé

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1st Sunday in Lent ~ February 21, 2010

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**.

As we prepare for the Easter Season, Cardinal Sean has directed each parish in the Archdiocese of Boston to offer the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** on **Wednesday evenings** during Lent from 6:30 to 8 PM. The Sacrament will also be offered on **Saturday afternoons** from 3 to 3:45 PM and upon request.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will 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.



Come and spend an hour with our Lord Jesus Christ from whom all good things come!



Lenten 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.

Brochures for the **Lenten/Easter schedules** for all the **Haverhill Catholic parishes** can be found at all entrances to the church. Please take one home with you.

St. John the Baptist Parish

St. John the Baptist's 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.



O Virgin Mother of God, Mary Immaculate, We dedicate and consecrate ourselves to you under the title of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal. May this Medal be for each of us a sure sign of your affection for us and a constant reminder of our duties toward you. Ever while wearing it, may we be blessed by your loving protection and preserved in the grace of your Son.

O most powerful Virgin, Mother of our Savior, keep us close to you every moment of our lives. Obtain for us, your children, the grace of a happy death; so that, in union with you, we may enjoy the bliss of heaven forever. Amen.

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you (repeat 3 times.)

Readings of the Week

Sunday, February 21

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

Monday, February 22

1 Pt 5:1-4/Mt 16:13-19

Tuesday, February 23

Is 55:10-11/Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday, February 24

Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32

Thursday, February 25

Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Mt 7:7-12

Friday, February 26

Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26

Saturday, February 27

Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48

Sunday, February 28

Gn 15:5-12, 17-18/Phil 3:17—4:1 or 3:20, 4:1/Lk 9:28b-36



1st Sunday in Lent ~ February 21, 2010

Forty Days

By Scott Hahn

In today's epic Gospel scene, Jesus relives in His flesh the history of Israel.

We're already seen that like Israel, Jesus has passed through water, been called God's beloved Son (see Luke 3:22; Exodus 4:22). Now, as Israel was tested for forty years in the wilderness, Jesus is led into the desert to be tested for forty days and nights (see Exodus 15:25).

He faces the temptations put to Israel: hungry, He's tempted to grumble against God for food (see Exodus 16:1-13). As Israel quarreled at Massah, He's tempted to doubt God's care (see Exodus 17:1-6). When the Devil asks His homage, He's tempted to do what Israel did in creating the golden calf (see Exodus 32).

Jesus fights the Devil with the Word of God, three times quoting from Moses' lecture about the lessons Israel was supposed to learn from its wilderness wanderings (see Deuteronomy 8:3; 6:16; 6:12-15).

Why do we read this story on the first Sunday of Lent? Because like the biblical sign of forty (see Genesis 7:12; Exodus 24:18; 34:28; 1 Kings 19:8; Jonah 3:4), the forty days of Lent are a time of trial and purification.

Lent is to teach us what we hear over and over in today's readings. "Call upon me, and I will answer," the Lord promises in today's Psalm. Paul promises the same thing in today's Epistle (quoting Deuteronomy 30:14; Isaiah 28:16; Joel 2:32).

This was Israel's experience, as Moses reminds his people in today's First Reading: "We cried to the Lord...and He heard." But each of us is tempted, as Israel was, to forget the great deeds He works in our lives, to neglect our birthright as His beloved sons and daughters.

Like the litany of remembrance Moses prescribes for Israel, we should see in the Mass a memorial of our salvation, and "bow down in His presence," offering ourselves in thanksgiving for all He has given us.

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