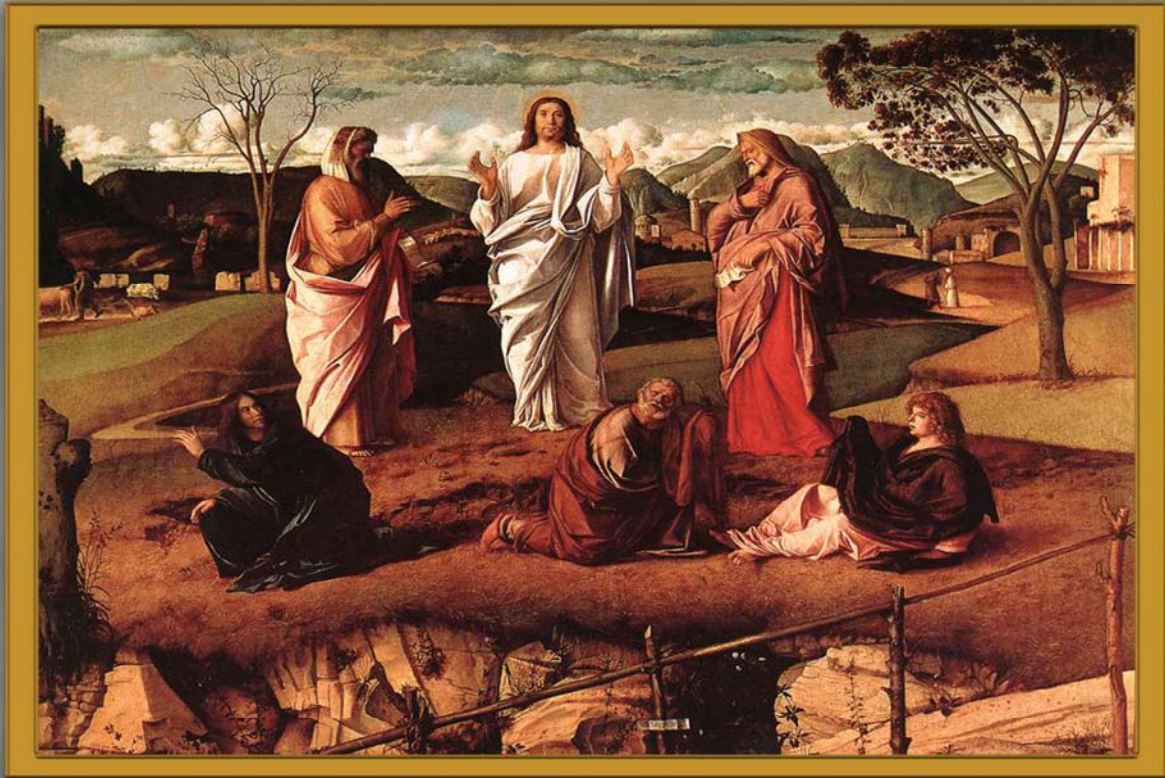


THIS IS MY CHOSEN  
SON



LISTEN TO  
HIM  
LUKE 9:35

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*St. John the Baptist Parish, Haverhill, MA*  
*February 28, 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 for the health & healing of **Dolph Dufresne** by his family.*



## Mass Intention

Saturday, February 27	4:00 PM	<b>Elphège A. Dubois</b> (37th Anniversary Mass by Family)
Sunday, February 28	8:30 AM	<b>Intention of the Celebrant</b>
Sunday, February 28	10:30 AM	<b>Andre Dubus</b> (Anniversary Mass by Family)
Monday, March 1	9:00 AM	<b>All the Departed Souls in Purgatory</b>
Tuesday, March 2	9:00 AM	<b>Mass of Thanksgiving</b>
Tuesday, March 2	6:30 PM	<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament &amp; Evening Prayer</b>
Wednesday, March 3	9:00 AM	<b>Intention of the Celebrant</b>
Thursday, March 4	9:00 AM	<b>Prayer service</b>
Friday, March 5	9:00 AM	<b>Mary Elizabeth Bostwick</b> (Birthday Remembrance by husband, Frank)
Saturday, March 6	9:00 AM	<b>Deceased Members of St. John the Baptist Parish Family</b>
Saturday, March 6	4:00 PM	<b>Alma Richard</b> (Memorial Mass by Family)
Sunday, March 7	8:30 AM	<b>Frances Gaudette &amp; Mary Giuntini</b> (Memorial Mass by Family)
Sunday, March 7	10:30 AM	<b>Intention of the Celebrant</b>

### 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 Deacon Tom...*

*Brothers & Sisters in Christ:*

"Come now, let us set things right, says the Lord: "Though your sins be like scarlet, they shall become white as snow; Though they may be crimson red, they may become white as wool. If you obey, you shall eat the good things of the land."

A wonderful way to experience the season of Lent is to reintroduce yourself to Holy Scripture. Isaiah is the perfect place to start. From its beginning, comes imagery and foreshadowing of the coming of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It was written between 742 BC and 600 BC by the Greatest Prophet in Israel's History and his disciples. God spoke to Isaiah, delivering a message of repentance, forgiveness, and a dire warning of the events that were to come which eventually came true. Through these prophecies, God also brings forth the coming of the Messiah, Our Lord Jesus Christ. This is one of the first times in the Bible that it can be read that, "He is coming."

As is always the cases in Sacred Scripture, it being the Living Word, what is written is as important now as it was back then. God himself calls us to repentance and reconciliation. He invites us into a renewed relationship with Him. The words used in this invitation are simple and powerful: "Come now, let us set things right." These words are simply beautiful and could of easily come from the mouth of a friends, let alone our creator. God is asking us to turn to him, throw the past behind us and enter into His warm embrace. With that comes a promise: "You will be forgiven... just listen to me."

Even more, God is not instructing us to do this alone but together WITH HIM: "Let US set things right." How magnificent that Our Creator would give us this opportunity to walk with Him. We are not alone in this. He is with us all the way from the beginning to the end.

At some points within the writings, God is almost pleading to us. He wants us to do good, He wants us to succeed, and He wants to forgive us so badly. And He waits so patiently for this to happen. 2800 years later, the promise of forgiveness still stands.

We are sixteen days into the Season of Lent and we are now truly walking with Christ. Christ, our best friend and companion on this journey. Christ our mentor. Do not be afraid to realize that He is with us throughout this journey. Sometimes, we get so wrapped up in our lives that we forget that He is right beside us. There are times when we even forget that is talking to us. When we stumble, He catches us. When we hurt, He hurts. When we succeed, He is the first one to smile and hug us with an immeasurable pride.

Take a quiet moment to withdraw and feel His presence. He is there. Open yourself up to Him. Ask for forgiveness and ask Him into your heart. Ask Him to bath you in the waters of the Holy Spirit and make you "white as snow." He is standing above you right now with that cleansing water reminiscent of your baptism. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS ASK.

Together, in this Christian Family we call Saint John the Baptist we are all looking for the same thing: To Let Go and welcome Jesus more deeply and more lovingly into our lives. Knock down the barriers, remove the obstacles, and step forward as a Child of God. That is what we are. That is who we are.

As Christ says, "Do not be afraid, I am with you always."

Yes, He most certainly is.  
"Come, let us set things right."

*Yours in Christ, Deacon Tom*

Readings for the Mass begin on page 82 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 \$3,415. This weekend there will be one collection. Next weekend there will be two collections—our regular Sunday offertory and the kick-off collection for the annual Catholic Appeal.

As a Catholic community, we are called during this season of Lent to love and share our blessings with our brothers and sisters in Christ. We do so by continuing to participate as fully as we are able in the building up of His kingdom. This month, Cardinal Seán is asking every Catholic household to participate in the **2010 Catholic Appeal**, which funds the many central ministries and services of the Archdiocese of Boston. The Appeal is to our parish—so your participation and support are critical. Because of the economic downturn, support of the Catholic Appeal is even more urgent this year.

We encourage you to take home an information packet from Mass (at all entrances to the church) so that you can prayerfully consider how you will participate. Those of you who gave to the Appeal last year should also receive a letter this week from Cardinal Seán. Please bring your completed pledge card and pledge envelopes to St. John next week to place in the collection basket. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration. God bless.

**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.*



**Sunday, March 14**

Grades K to 2 ~ 9 to 10:25 AM

*All classes meet in the lower church hall.*

Grades 8 to 10 ~ 7 to 9 PM

**Please note the change in time**

Haverhill Parishes Youth Mission  
Sacred Hearts Gymnasium, Bradford

*Grades 8 & 9 are to attend the first night  
in lieu of their regular meeting*

**Grade 10 is to attend BOTH nights as this  
is their MANDATORY Confirmation Retreat**

PLEASE PATRONIZE  
OUR ADVERTISERS

2nd Sunday in Lent ~ February 28, 2010

Call your **Prayer Intentions** into St. John's Rectory at 978-372-2780 or email them to [stjohn@parishmail.com](mailto:stjohn@parishmail.com)

Memorials for the **Sanctuary Light** that burns before the Tabernacle are available. Please contact the Rectory for further information.

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.

Please pray for all those who are sick or in need and especially for...

*Fr. Carroll, Alex, Barbara, Betty, Boris, Celeste, Cristina, Dolph, Elizabeth P., Ernest J., Evy, Francis D., Fr. Fred, baby Jayden, John C., Leo, Lorraine, Louise, Mary, Mary R., Mary Z., Mike, Peggy, Reneé, Rita, Russell, Sheila, Sophie, Stephen, Sue, Tom, William & Yvonne*

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

☆ ☆

Please pray for all those in the United States Armed Services who are serving our country at home and abroad and especially for...

*Alan, Allan, Angela, Christopher, Colin, Douglas, Eric, Joshua, Michael, Patrick, Rick & Rob*

☆ Please pray also for their families and loved ones. ☆

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

On **Saturday, February 27, Protecting God's Children training** will be offered at St. Mary's Parish, Rte. 133, Georgetown, at 11 AM.

All teachers, and aides in our CCD program and any volunteers of our parish whose ministry interacts with the children of our parish and who have not received this one-time training are encouraged to attend .

The training will be held on the bottom floor of the Rectory in the Chapel. Attendees should drive around the back of the church to the back door of the Rectory which is right next to the church. For more information, please speak to Reneé in our CCD office or Maureen at St. Mary's at 978-352-2024.



In addition to our Saturday schedule for confessions, on **Wednesday, March 3 from 6:30 to 8 PM** and on all Wednesdays in Lent, we will be offering **confessions** here at St. John the Baptist, together with all the Catholic parishes and chapels in the Archdiocese of Boston. This outreach is called "The Light is On For You," and is an effort on the part of the Archdiocese to highlight the importance of the Sacrament of Confession in the life of Catholics and to make it as easy as possible for every Catholic to come to or return to this great source of God's mercy and healing love. You are welcome to come here or to any other Catholic parish or chapel.

The Archdiocese has set up a website, [www.TheLightIsOnForYou.org](http://www.TheLightIsOnForYou.org) with lots of great material and videos to help you prepare. Please make plans to come yourself and to invite others to take advantage of this great opportunity to be reconciled and begin anew your journey in faith this Lent. Copies of the guidelines are available at the entrances to the church.



**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.

**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!**

The next meeting of the **Prayer Shawl Ministry** will be Wednesday, March 3 at 6 PM in the Rectory.



We are in need of donations of dark-colored yarn to support our Troop Cap ministry. If you can help, please leave your yarn at the back of the church or drop it off at the Rectory any weekday.



Something new at St. John the Baptist—a **Passion Play** will be presented on Good Friday, April 2 at 7 PM.

**Any member of our CCD program grade 3 to 8 is invited to join us at a meeting on Monday, March 1 at 6:30 PM** in the lower church hall to begin preparations. Questions? Contact Deacon Tom or email [stjohnyouthgroup@parishmail.com](mailto:stjohnyouthgroup@parishmail.com).

**Thank you** to all who supported our **Youth Group Bake Sale** last weekend. Your kindness is a blessing and an inspiration to the youth of our parish. Thank you.



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 and the Parish Finance Council** will be Sunday, **March 7** at 5:30 in the Rectory.

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.

**Have you been called to serve Christ?** Do you want to help your parish and church?



If you answer "**yes**" to either of these questions, take a moment out of your day and have a cup of coffee and a conversation with Deacon Tom Anthony. Call him anytime at 978-973-0437.

## 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.



*Remember...*

*O most gracious Virgin Mary,  
that never was it known  
that anyone who fled to thy protection,  
implored thy help  
or sought thy intercession  
was left unaided.  
Inspired with this confidence,  
I fly to thee,  
O Virgin of virgins, my Mother;  
To thee do I come, before thee I stand,  
sinful and sorrowful,  
O Mother of the Word Incarnate,  
Despise not my petitions,  
but in thy mercy hear  
and answer me. Amen.*

### **Readings of the Week**

#### **Sunday, February 28**

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

#### **Monday, March 1**

Dn 9:4b-10/Lk 6:36-38

#### **Tuesday, March 2**

Is 1:10, 16-20/Mt 23:1-12

#### **Wednesday, March 3**

Jer 18:18-20/Mt 20:17-28

#### **Thursday, March 4**

Jer 17:5-10/Lk 16:19-31

#### **Friday, March 5**

Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/ Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

#### **Saturday, March 6**

Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

#### **Sunday, March 7**

Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15/1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12/Lk 13:1-9



2nd Sunday in Lent ~ February 28, 2010

## **The Glory in Sight**

*By Scott Hahn*

In today's Gospel, we go up to the mountain with Peter, John and James. There we see Jesus "transfigured," speaking with Moses and Elijah about His "exodus."

The Greek word "exodus" means "departure." But the word is chosen deliberately here to stir our remembrance of the Israelites' flight from Egypt.

By His death and resurrection, Jesus will lead a new Exodus—liberating not only Israel but every race and people; not from the bondage to Pharaoh, but from slavery to sin and death. He will lead all mankind, not to the territory promised to Abraham in today's First Reading, but to the heavenly commonwealth that Paul describes in today's Epistle.

Moses, the giver of God's law, and the great prophet Elijah, were the only Old Testament figures to hear the voice and see the glory of God atop a mountain (see Exodus 24:15-18; 1 Kings 19:8-18).

Today's scene closely resembles God's revelation to Moses, who also brought along three companions and whose face also shone brilliantly (see Exodus 24:1; 34:29). But when the divine cloud departs in today's Gospel, Moses and Elijah are gone. Only Jesus remains. He has revealed the glory of the Trinity—the voice of the Father, the glorified Son, and the Spirit in the shining cloud.

Jesus fulfills all that Moses and the prophets had come to teach and show us about God (see Luke 24:27). He is the "chosen One" promised by Isaiah (see Isaiah 42:1; Luke 23:35), the "prophet like me" that Moses had promised (see Deuteronomy 18:15; Acts 3:22-23; 7:37). Far and above that, He is the Son of God (see Psalm 2:7; Luke 3:21-23).

"Listen to Him," the Voice tells us from the cloud. If, like Abraham, we put our faith in His words, one day we too will be delivered into "the land of the living" that we sing of in today's Psalm. We will share in the Resurrection, as Paul promises, our lowly bodies glorified like His.

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