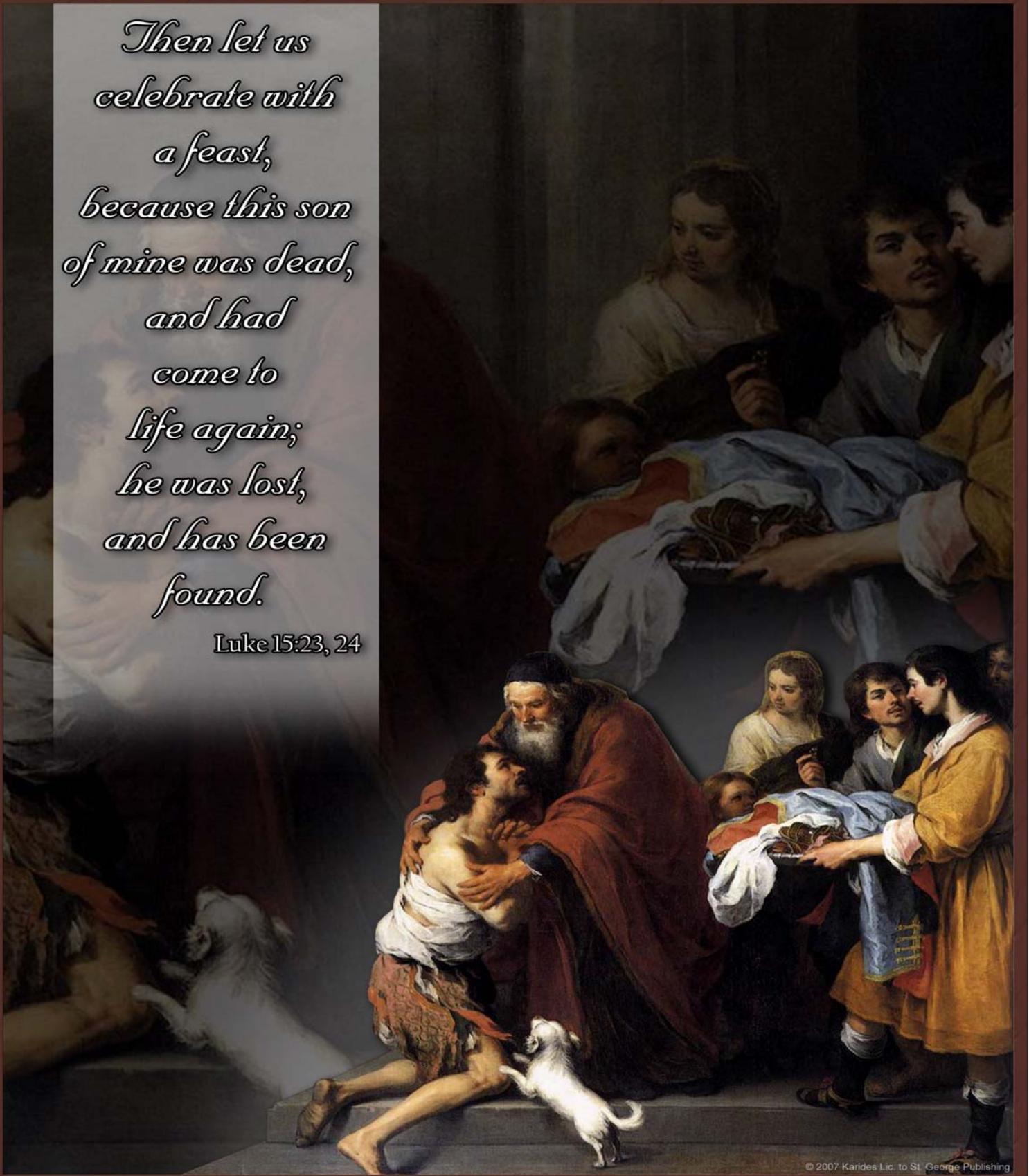


*Then let us
celebrate with
a feast,
because this son
of mine was dead,
and had
come to
life again;
he was lost,
and has been
found.*

Luke 15:23, 24



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*St. John the Baptist Parish, Haverhill, MA
March 14, 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 in remembrance of **Elizabeth Hayes** by her husband, **Eddie Hayes** & friend, **Mary Belanger**.*



Mass Intention

Saturday, March 13	4:00 PM	Alice Grieco (Birthday Remembrance by Daughter)
Sunday, March 14	8:30 AM	Suzanne LeBlanc (Memorial Mass by Family)
Sunday, March 14	10:30 AM	Lionel Sevigny (Anniversary Mass by Family)
Monday, March 15	9:00 AM	Thomas Darby (Memorial Mass by Ronald & Rita Sanville)
Tuesday, March 16	9:00 AM	Milton P. Lavallee (Memorial Mass by Friend)
Tuesday, March 16	6:30 PM	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Evening Prayer
Wednesday, March 17	9:00 AM	All the Departed Souls in Purgatory
Thursday, March 18	9:00 AM	Prayer service
Friday, March 19	9:00 AM	Deceased Members of St. John the Baptist Parish Family
Saturday, March 20	9:00 AM	Marjorie Eileen Descoteaux (1st Anniversary Mass by Family)
Saturday, March 20	4:00 PM	Joseph Richard (Memorial Mass by Family)
Sunday, March 21	8:30 AM	Joseph LaBranche (Memorial Mass by Family)
Sunday, March 21	10:30 AM	Al Raymond (2nd 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

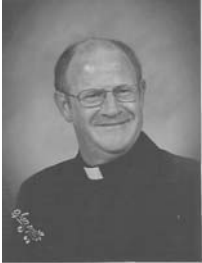
Grades K to 4: Sunday, 9:00 AM to 10:25 AM
Grades 5 to 10: Sunday, 5:30 PM to 6:55 PM
Classes meet every other week in the lower Church hall
 Phone: 978-521-4557

Administrator: Renee Barrick (rbarrick@parishmail.com)
Safety Coordinator K to 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 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:

We all know that Lent is an important time to be forgiven and one way the church offers it to us is through Reconciliation.

The root of the word "reconciliation" is the Latin word *cilia*. It is like fine hair. It is like an eyelash. Literally, reconciliation could be said to mean, "eyelash to eyelash." It probably does not occur to us that when we go to Confession, the proper name of the sacrament is the Sacrament of Reconciliation; therefore, it is a sacrament in which we look into the eyes of God closely enough to say we are eyelash to eyelash.

During the celebration of First Confession for his parish second graders, a priest asked the children why they thought God had made us. There were many answers, some serious and some funny, but one striking: "God made us so He would not have to be alone." Though it sounds good, the second grader's answer was not really correct. God has never been alone and will never be alone. He lives in the community of persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, so it is impossible for Him to be alone. God is always in a relationship of love that we can only guess about and that human imagination cannot fathom. Simply put, God made us as an act of love. God has to express love, and so we have been created. He did everything He could to make the first man happy. Very quickly, however, God made a discovery. Though God is never alone, the man was alone. Since the man was made in God's image and likeness, he was not made to be alone.

Therefore, as part of the original act of creation, God made a partner so that man would not be alone. But then the sin of Adam and Eve led to their being cast out of the garden, and then they were alone. They had each other, but from then on it was difficult for them to relate to God because of sin.

How many times have we heard the wonderful Gospel story today of the Prodigal Son? How many times have we tried to understand that the younger son was being stubborn and tried to do things his own way? How many times did we all realize that when the younger son was all alone he had no one to go to except his father who would love him completely? The story of Luke's Gospel is one of Reconciliation. Yes, those who have strayed, and even those who have strayed badly, should be welcomed back. In fact, as is often the case when we see the word "house" in a Gospel passage the house stands for the Church. The Forgiving Father left the house and went to meet the Prodigal to welcome him and restore him to the house, that is, the Church.

Our Sacrament of Reconciliation is God's gift to us. It is given not so that God could be reconciled to us, but so that we might be reconciled with God. Sin can make us very lonely. It can even destroy us. We have been reconciled to God through Christ so that we will never be apart from God. Reconciliation leads to a better relationship, and ultimately it leads back home to His Church.

God Bless, Father Keith

Readings for the Mass begin on page 89 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 \$2,815. This weekend there will be two collections—our regular Sunday offertory and the special monthly collection.

Cardinal Seán sends his thanks to everyone from St. John the Baptist who responded to his request for participation in the 2010 Catholic Appeal.

"The Gifts we Have, We Are given to Share." Success in the eyes of God is not about quantity or quality of our material goods. Instead, it's about how we use those goods: do they move us closer to God, or are they an obstacle? God calls us to share what we have to help others. By providing support for many ministries of the Church, the Catholic Appeal offers everyone a chance to practice Christian stewardship.

Information packets are still available at all entrances to the church. Please consider how you will participate in the Catholic Appeal this year. Thank you to everyone who has pledged thus far!

4th Sunday in Lent ~ March 14, 2010

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

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

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

Alex, Ann S., Barbara, Betty, Bill B., Boris, Cathy, Celeste, Connie, Cristina, Dolph, Elizabeth P., Ernest J., Evy, Florence L., Francis D., Fr. Fred, baby Jayden, Jeannette S., Fr. Jim, Joan, John C., Jon, Karen, Kathleen, Leo, Linda, Lorraine, Louise, Mary, Mary R., Mary Z., Mike, Noreen, Peggy, Reneé, Rita, Russell, Sheila, Sophie, Stephen, Sue, Deacon Tom, 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.



Please remember in your prayers—

James Carr

whose funeral was Saturday.



May God grant him peaceful rest with the Saints and the reward of a good and faithful life. Pray also for the consolation of his loved ones.

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 March 14

in lieu of their regular meeting

Grade 10 is to attend BOTH March 14 & March 15 as this is their MANDATORY Confirmation Retreat

Monday, March 15

Grade 10 ~ 7 to 9 PM

Haverhill Parishes Youth Mission

Sacred Hearts Gymnasium, Bradford

Grade 10 is to attend BOTH March 14 & March 15 as this is their MANDATORY Confirmation Retreat

Sunday, March 21

Grades 3 & 4 & RCIC ~ 9 to 10:25 AM

RCIC Confession during regular class

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

Confession during regular class

Grades 7 & 8 meet in the basement of the Rectory

All other classes meet in the lower church



PLEASE PATRONIZE
OUR ADVERTISERS



In addition to our Saturday schedule for confessions on **all Wednesdays in Lent** from **6:30 to 8 PM**, 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 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.



Lenten Suppers 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 to support the hosting ministry. All are welcome to attend. The supper on Friday, March 19 will be hosted CCD Grades 3, 4 & RCIC students, parents and teachers.

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!

Thank you to Colin O'Neil for his direction in our Spring Clean-Up and also those students in Grades 9 & 10 who chose to participate. And a special thanks to the Parsons Family for all their help!



**Renee
CCD Administrator**

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.



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.

Beginning this weekend, there will be **Easter eggs** available at the front of the church. Please take an egg (or two) home with you and purchase the items listed on the eggs to help support our Youth Group in putting together **Easter baskets for the children of St. Charles' Home**, Rochester, NH. Monetary donations will also be accepted and can be placed in the basket. Please make checks payable to St. John the Baptist Church.



Purchased items and the Easter egg need to be **returned by Sunday, March 27**. Thank you.

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 glorious Virgin Mary!
Queen of Carmel, Mother of God,
And of poor sinners;
special Protectress
Of all who wear your holy Scapular,
I beseech you,
By the glory that has been accorded you
By the Incarnate Word
in choosing you for His Mother,
to obtain for me the pardon of my sins,
amendment of my life,
salvation of my soul,
consolation in my pains,
and in particular grace I now ask,
provided it be the will of your divine Son.
Amen.*

Readings of the Week

Sunday, March 14

Jos 5:9a, 10-12/2 Cor 5:17-21/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32,

Monday, March 15

Is 65:17-21/Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday, March 16

Ez 47:1-9, 12/Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday, March 17

Is 49:8-15/Jn 5:17-30

Thursday, March 18

Ex 32:7-14/Jn 5:31-47

Friday, March 19

2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22

Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Saturday, March 20

Jer 11:18-20/Jn 7:40-53

Sunday, March 21

Is 43:16-21/Phil 3:8-14/Jn 8:1-11



4th Sunday in Lent ~ March 14, 2010

Found Alive Again

By Scott Hahn

In today's First Reading, God forgives "the reproach" of the generations who grumbled against Him after the Exodus. On the threshold of the promised land, Israel can with a clean heart celebrate the Passover, the feast of God's first-born son (see Joshua 5:6-7; Exodus 4:22; 12:12-13).

Reconciliation is also at the heart of the story Jesus tells in today's Gospel. The story of the prodigal son is the story of Israel and of the human race. But it is also the story of every believer.

In baptism, we're given a divine birthright, made "a new creation," as Paul puts it in today's Epistle. But when we sin, we're like the prodigal, quitting our Father's house, squandering our inheritance in trying to live without Him.

Lost in sin, we cut ourselves off from the grace of sonship lavished upon us in Baptism. It is still possible for us to come to our senses, make our way back to the Father, as the prodigal does.

But only He can remove the reproach, restore the divine sonship we have spurned. Only He can free us from the slavery to sin that causes us—like the prodigal—to see God not as our Father but as our master; One we serve as slaves. God wants not slaves but children.

Like the father in today's Gospel, He longs to call each of us "My son," to share His life with us, to tell us: "Everything I have is yours."

The Father's words of longing and compassion still come to His prodigal children in the Sacrament of Penance.

This is part of what Paul today calls "the ministry of reconciliation" entrusted by Jesus to the Apostles and the Church.

Reconciled like Israel, we take our place at the table of the Eucharist, the homecoming banquet the Father calls for His lost sons, the new Passover we celebrate this side of heaven. We taste the goodness of the Lord, as we sing in today's Psalm, rejoicing that we were dead and are found alive again.

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