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*St. John the Baptist Parish, Haverhill, MA*  
*April 11, 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 Birthday Remembrance for **John Costa** by Ronald & Rita Sanville.*



## Mass Intention

Saturday, April 10	4:00 PM	<b>Albert Berube</b> (Memorial Mass by Family)
Sunday, April 11	8:30 AM	<b>Eleanor B. Linehan</b> (Memorial Mass by Family)
Sunday, April 11	10:30 AM	<b>John Costa</b> (Birthday Remembrance by Wife & Family)
Monday, April 12	9:00 AM	<b>Robert Buckley</b> (Memorial Mass by Ronald & Rita Sanville)
Tuesday, April 13	9:00 AM	<b>All the Departed Souls in Purgatory</b>
Tuesday, April 13	6:30 PM	<b>Evening Prayer Service</b>
Wednesday, April 14	9:00 AM	<b>Mass of Thanksgiving</b>
Thursday, April 15	9:00 AM	<b>Prayer service</b>
Friday, April 16	9:00 AM	<b>Deceased Members of St. John the Baptist Parish Family</b>
Saturday, April 17	9:00 AM	<b>Florence McCusker</b> (Month's Mind Mass by Family)
Saturday, April 17	4:00 PM	<b>Madeline Richard</b> (Memorial Mass by Family)
Sunday, April 18	8:30 AM	<b>James &amp; Ruth Mahoney</b> (Anniversary Mass by Family)
Sunday, April 18	10:30 AM	<b>Patricia Sevigny</b> (Birthday Remembrance 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

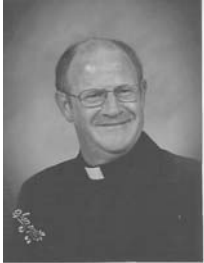
**Reconciliation** ~ Saturday 3 to 3:45 PM; also by appointment; **Marriage** ~ Couples are asked to call the parish office at 978-372-2780 at least 6 months prior to the planned wedding date; **Baptism** ~ 2nd Sunday of each month @ 1 PM Contact the parish office at 978-372-2780 for more information

**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 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 Second Sunday of Easter has been designated as Divine Mercy Sunday. Divine Mercy Sunday invites us to ponder the notion of mercy, offering forgiveness and letting someone out of a particular consequence of their sin—that is, a separation from us. This is precisely what God did for us in the person of Jesus Christ. Unfortunately it is a struggle for us to show mercy. No wonder so many comments were added saying, “Me too!” regarding letting things go and “Why is mercy so important?”

Pope John Paul II, in his homily at the beatification of Sister Mary Faustina said, “The message of Divine Mercy is ... implicitly a message about the value of every human being. Each person is precious in God’s eyes; Christ gave His life for each one; to everyone the Father give His Spirit and offers intimacy.” This consoling message is addressed above all to those who, afflicted by a particularly harsh trial or crushed by the weight of the sins they committed, have lost all confidence in life and are tempted to give in to despair. To them the gentle face of Christ is offered. How many souls have been consoled by the prayer ‘Jesus, I trust in you’?

Pope John Paul II instituted the Feast of the Divine Mercy in 2001. It arises out of a series of apparitions (appearances of Jesus) that a Polish nun, Sister Mary Faustina, received. She was a member of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy for 13 years, living in several religious houses and working as a cook, gardener and porter.

She contacted tuberculosis and accepted it as a voluntary sacrifice for sinners. Sister Faustina wrote prolifically in a diary, and in that diary she expressed the belief that Jesus wanted us to celebrate Him under the title of “Divine Mercy.”

Many people have a difficult time with the notion of apparitions of Jesus, or of Mary or one of the saints. Such things are sticking points for many who are not Catholic. Fortunately, though the Catholic Church will sometimes say that certain apparitions are worthy of attention, it has never been said that believing in them is essential to our faith. The Church concentrates far more on the insight that often comes from alleged apparitions. The most important test put to an apparition is the question “Is it consistent with Scripture and Tradition”? No matter what our personal thoughts on apparitions may be, all Christians are faced with the visions like the one John describes in today’s reading from the book of Revelation.

We are called to give the gift that has been given to us. It is hard, but our offer of mercy is a testimony that Christ’s mercy has changed us and has changed the world. That simply may be the only apparition that all of us ever really need.

*God Bless, Father Keith*

Readings for today’s Mass begin on page 155 of the *2010 Breaking Bread Missal*. Proper parts of the Mass begin on page 3.



## St. John the Baptist Parish

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.



On Saturday, **May 22**, our **Youth Group** will host a **Yard Sale** in the church parking lot. Sites will be available at \$10 for a single space; \$20 for a double—please bring your own tables. Vendors are welcome! Contact our coordinator, Leslie at [stjohnyouthgroup@parishmail.com](mailto:stjohnyouthgroup@parishmail.com) or Diane at the Rectory for more information.

We will also be accepting gently-used donations—no stuffed animals, please. Donations can be left

**Divine Mercy Sunday** will be celebrated at **All Saints Parish**, Bellevue Avenue, Haverhill, on **Sunday, April 11**, starting at 1:30 PM and ending at 4:30 PM. The afternoon will include: Eucharistic Adoration, the Chaplet, veneration of the relic, a talk given by Fr. Michael Harvey, confession and Benediction. (Mass will NOT be offered.) For more information, please call or email Gerald & Ann Marie at 978-372-3824 or [gerannjo@yahoo.com](mailto:gerannjo@yahoo.com).



## Divine Mercy Sunday ~ April 11, 2010



This summer, bring your kids to **SonQuest Rainforest Vacation Bible School**—an experience of discovery they'll never forget! Best of all,

SonQuest Rainforest will take your kids beyond what they can explore with their senses to discover a living spiritual relationship with Jesus Christ, the Son of God: “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16).

St. John's VBS will be the **week of August 2 through 6** from 9 AM to 12 noon for children pre-K to grade 4. Tuition is \$25 per child with a family cap of \$50. Please contact the Rectory or the CCD office for more information or to reserve a space!



In celebration of our 55th Anniversary, the **2010 Annual Parish Picnic** will be a two-day event this year—**Saturday June 26** after the 4 PM Mass and **Sunday, June 27** after the 10:30 AM. This is a family, fun-filled event and all are welcome. Visit our website at [www.stjohnhaverhill.org](http://www.stjohnhaverhill.org) or watch this bulletin for upcoming details. Tickets go on sale soon!

### *Readings of the Week*

#### **Sunday, April 11**

Acts 5:12-16/Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19/  
Jn 20:19-31

#### **Monday, April 12**

Acts 4:23-31/Jn 3:1-8

#### **Tuesday, April 13**

Acts 4:32-37/Jn 3:7b-15

#### **Wednesday, April 14**

Acts 5:17-26/Jn 3:16-21

#### **Thursday, April 15**

Acts 5:27-33/Jn 3:31-36

#### **Friday, April 16**

Acts 5:34-42/Jn 6:1-15

#### **Saturday, April 17**

Acts 6:1-7/Jn 6:16-21

#### **Sunday, April 18**

Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41/Rv 5:11-14/Jn 21:1-19 or  
21:1-14



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.



*Prayer of St. Faustina to Our Lady*

*O Mary, my Mother and My Lady,  
I offer you my soul, my body, my life  
and my death and all that will come after it.  
I place everything in your hand, O my Mother,  
Cover my soul with your virginal mantle  
And grant me the grace of purity  
of heart, soul and body.*

*Defend me with your power against all enemies  
And especially those who hide their malice  
Behind the mask of virtue.*

*Fortify my soul that pain may not break it.  
Mother of grace, teach me to live by God's power.*

*O Mary, a terrible sword has pierced your holy soul.  
Except for God, no one knows of your suffering.  
Your soul does not break, it is brave,  
Because it is with Jesus.*

*Sweet Mother, unite my soul to Jesus,  
Because it is only then that I will be able  
To endure all trials and tribulations  
and only in Union with Jesus*

*will my little sacrifices be pleasing to God.  
Sweetest Mother, continue to teach me  
About the interior life.*

*May the sword of suffering never break me.  
O pure Virgin, pour courage into my heart  
And guard it. Amen.*

## **Breath of New Life**

*By Scott Hahn*

The prophet Daniel in a vision saw “One like the Son of Man” receive everlasting kingship (see Daniel 7:9-14). John is taken to heaven in today’s Second Reading where he sees Daniel’s prophecy fulfilled in Jesus, who appears as “One like a Son of Man.”

Jesus is clad in the robe of a High Priest (see Exodus 28:4; Wisdom 18:24), and wearing the gold sash of a King (see 1 Maccabees 10:89). He has been exalted by the right hand of the Lord, as we sing in today’s Psalm.

His risen body, which the Apostles touch in today’s Gospel, has been made a life-giving Spirit (see 1 Corinthians 15:45).

As the Father anointed Him with the Spirit and power (see Acts 10:38), Jesus pours out that Spirit on the Apostles, sending them into the world “as the Father has sent Me.”

Jesus “breathes” the Spirit of His divine life into the Apostles—as God bless the “breath of life” into Adam (see Genesis 2:7), as Elijah’s prayer returned “the life breath” to the dead child (see 1 Kings 17:21-23), and as the Spirit breathed a new life into the slain in the valley of bones (see Ezekiel 37:9-10).

His creative breath unites the Apostles—His Church—to His Body, and empowers them to breathe His life into a dying world, to make it a new creation.

In today’s Gospel and First Reading, we see the Apostles fulfilling this mission, with powers only God possesses—the power to forgive sins and to work “signs and wonders,” a biblical expression only used to describe the mighty works of God (see Exodus 7:3; 11:10; Acts 7:36).

Thomas and the others saw “many others signs” after Jesus was raised from the dead. They saw and they believed.

They have been given His life, which continues in the Church’s Word and Sacraments, so that we who have not seen might inherit His blessings, and “have life in His name.”

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