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*St. John the Baptist Parish, Haverhill, MA
April 18, 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 remembrance for **Elizabeth Hayes** by husband **Eddie Hayes** & cousin **Mary Belanger**.*



Mass Intention

Saturday, April 17	4:00 PM	Madeline Richard (Memorial Mass by Family)
Sunday, April 18	8:30 AM	James & Ruth Mahoney (Anniversary Mass by Family)
Sunday, April 18	10:30 AM	Patricia Sevigny (Birthday Remembrance by Family)
Monday, April 19	9:00 AM	Intention of the Celebrant
Tuesday, April 20	9:00 AM	All the Departed Souls in Purgatory
Tuesday, April 20	6:30 PM	Evening Prayer Service
Wednesday, April 21	9:00 AM	John F. Clark (Anniversary Mass by Daughter)
Thursday, April 22	9:00 AM	Prayer service
Friday, April 23	9:00 AM	In Remembrance of the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Edward & Elizabeth Hayes (by Mary Belanger)
Saturday, April 24	9:00 AM	Peter P. Czerepak (1st Anniversary Mass)
Saturday, April 24	4:00 PM	Janet Violet (Memorial Mass by Family)
Sunday, April 25	8:30 AM	Intention of the Celebrant
Sunday, April 25	10:30 AM	Josephine M. Clark (Birthday Remembrance by Daughter & 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

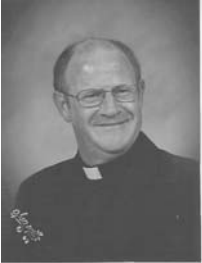
Administrator: Renee Barrick
 (rbarrick@parishmail.com)

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

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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, 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 Pffifferling, Eileen Sarcone, Joe Sarcone, 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, 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:

Have you ever looked in the mirror and wondered, "Who is that person?" Or have you looked at a spouse, a sibling, close friend, or loved one and momentarily wondered, "Who is that stranger?" Confusion of this sort is most likely to happen in times of tremendous stress or great change. Our notion of reality is mediated through the parts of our brains that make sense of the external stimuli that come our way. Often, the problem is not the stimuli; it's our process of making sense of it that goes awry, due to the stress or the great change. It's only when we reintroduce a well-worn behavior, like sitting down to a meal together, that the stress is relieved and the confusing effects of the change clear away and we once again see the essence of ourselves, our loved one, our Lord.

The disciples in similar fashion have that same quandary in the post-Resurrection of the early church. The original Peter was a problematic figure as the Gospel stories make no attempt to hide. That he had leadership skills like Jesus is beyond question. Peter was selected as one of the three inner-circle disciples with the "sons of thunder", James and John. A group of simple men, chosen by Christ, participated in private retreats with Jesus and was clearly being nurtured for greater things. That they expected they might sit on either side of Jesus in the coming reign demonstrates that it was obvious to everyone how well-placed they were. That the favored seats had to be bid for also indicates that there was an active suspicion that such a chair might go to Peter.

It seems quite clear from our vantage point the conclusion is a simple one. Peter is portrayed in the records of subsequent generations as the initiator of all decisive movement within the community. "I am going fishing" is all he has to say, and the rest chime in, "We will come to." While Thomas demonstrates an ability to think for himself, his contrariness doesn't bode well for group unity. Nathanael is characterized as negative and untrustworthy. Zebedee's sons too are grasping and eager for power. The other two disciples in the story are not even named; they just seem to be on the outside looking in.

What is most crucial about Peter is revealed in what we read in today's Gospel. In a wonderful dialogue with Jesus he states that he loves Jesus. Three times he swears allegiance, canceling those shameful, fearful denials. Peter now embraces the need for the Cross; the certainty that he will be led to places he wouldn't go and outcomes he'd rather not reach. He is willing now, truly prepared at last, to follow Jesus. As the perfect follower, he is ready to be the chosen leader. Like Peter we too are asked by Jesus, "Do you love Me?" three times just to make sure. Our response like Peter's should be the same. "You know Lord that I love You for You have the words of everlasting life."

God Bless, Father Keith

Readings for today's Mass begin on page 158 of the *2010 Breaking Bread Missal*. Proper parts of the Mass begin on page 3.

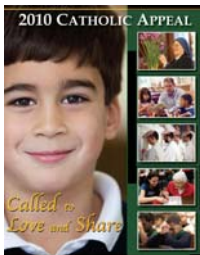
St. John the Baptist Parish

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.



St. John the Baptist has raised \$23,517 from 114 households for the 2010 Catholic Appeal, reaching 68% of our goal. We are pleased that we have several new contributors this year. Welcome and thank you! We ask every Catholic family to participate—every gift matters. For more information, please visit their website at www.BostonCatholicAppeal.com or call 617-779-3700.

Readings of the Week

Sunday, April 18

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

Monday, April 19

Acts 6:8-15/Jn 6:22-29

Tuesday, April 20

Acts 7:51—8:1a/Jn 6:30-35

Wednesday, April 21

Acts 8:1b-8/Jn 6:35-40

Thursday, April 22

Acts 8:26-40/Jn 6:44-51

Friday, April 23

Acts 9:1-20/Jn 6:52-59

Saturday, April 24

Acts 9:31-42/Jn 6:60-69

Sunday, April 25

Acts 13:14, 43-52/Rv 7:9, 14b-17/Jn 10:27-30



3rd Sunday of Easter ~ April 18, 2010

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 or Diane at the Rectory for more information.



We will also be accepting gently-used donations—no stuffed animals, please. Donations can be left in the garage attached to the Rectory. Thank you.



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 or watch this bulletin for upcoming details. Tickets go on sale soon!

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 \$35 per child with a family cap of \$60**. Please contact the Rectory or the CCD office for more information or to reserve a space!

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.



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.



*Hail, Holy Queen,
Mother of Mercy!
Our life, our sweetness
And our hope!
To thee do we cry,
Poor banished children of Eve;
To thee do we send up our sighs,
Mourning and weeping
In this valley of tears.
Turn, then, most gracious Advocate,
Thine eyes of mercy toward us;
And after this our exile
Show unto us the blessed
Fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
O clement,
O loving,
O sweet Virgin Mary.*

**Sing praise
to the
LORD,
you faithful;
give thanks
to God's
holy name.**
Psalm 30:5

3rd Sunday of Easter ~ April 18, 2010

Fire of Love

By Scott Hahn

There are two places in Scripture where the curious detail of a “charcoal fire” is mentioned.

One is in today's Gospel, where the Apostles return from fishing to find bread and fish warming on the fire. The other is in the scene in the High Priest's courtyard on Holy Thursday, where Peter and some guards and slaves warm themselves while Jesus is being interrogated inside (see John 18:18).

At the first fire, Peter denied knowing Jesus three times, as Jesus had predicted (see John 13:38; 18:15-18; 25-27).

Today's charcoal fire becomes the scene of Peter's repentance, as three times Jesus asks him to make a profession of love. Jesus' thrice repeated command “feed My sheep” shows that Peter is being appointed as the shepherd of the Lord's entire flock, the head of His Church (see also Luke 22:32).

Jesus' question: “Do you love Me more than these?” is a pointed reminder of Peter's pledge to lay down his life for Jesus, even if the other Apostles might weaken (see John 13:37; Matthew 26:33; Luke 22:33).

Jesus then explains just what Peter's love and leadership will require, foretelling Peter's death by crucifixion (“you will stretch out your hands”).

Before His own death, Jesus had warned the Apostles that they would be hated as He was hated, that they would suffer as He suffered (see Matthew 10:16-19, 22; John 15:18-20; 16:2).

We see the beginnings of that persecution in today's First Reading. Flogged as Jesus was, the Apostles nonetheless leave “rejoicing that they have been found worthy to suffer.”

Their joy is based on their faith that God will change their “mourning into dancing,” as we sing in today's Psalm. By their sufferings, they know, they will be counted worthy to stand in heaven before “the Lamb that was slain,” a scene glimpsed in today's Second Reading (see also Revelation 6:9-11).

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