



Saturday, February 7

5:00pm John Prescott 8th Anniversary

Tuesday, February 10

9:00am Joseph Sullivan Month's Mind

Wednesday, February 11

9:00am Prudence Young Birthday Memorial

Saturday, February 14

5:00pm Florence Vanderwater 5th Anniversary; also
Anointing of the Sick

Sunday, February 15

10:00am Catherine Smyth 1st Anniversary

11:30am Mass for the Sick

IN OUR PRAYERS...John Cadice, Nancy Clifford, Lawrence Karle, John McDonough, Ray Boudreau, Denice Guanci, Francis Nelson, Dottie Meehan, Rita Boyd, Thomas Donnelly, and Paul Snell who are ill.



He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come." So he went into their synagogues, preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole of Galilee. - Mk 1:38-39

Readings for the Week of February 8, 2009

Sunday: Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/Mk 1:29-39

Monday: Gn 1:1-19/Mk 6:53-56

Tuesday: Gn 1:20---2:4a/Mk 7:1-13

Wednesday: Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17/Mk 7:14-23

Thursday: Gn 2:18-25/Mk 7:24-30

Friday: Gn 3:1-8/Mk 7:31-37

Saturday: Gn 3:9-24/Mk 8:1-10

Next Sunday: Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/1 Cor 10:31-11:1
Mk 1:40-45

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

Offertory: February 1, 2009	\$6,781.50
Weekly Electronic Transfer:	\$505.38
Total:	\$7,286.88
Maintenance and Repairs:	\$2,455.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

NEXT WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION:
UTILITY AND ENERGY COLLECTION

THIS WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION, the Peter's Pence Collection, enables the Holy Father to respond with emergency financial assistance to requests for aid to the needy throughout the world – those who suffer as a result of war, oppression and natural disasters. Please visit www.usccb.org/ppc for more information.

SPECIAL ENERGY COLLECTION: The second collection at all of the Masses next weekend will be our bi-annual Utility and Energy Collection to help us defray the ever-rising costs of heating our church and property. In an effort to take a bite out of our heating costs, we ask for your generosity in this special second collection. Thank you.

OLD PALMS: With the approach of Ash Wednesday, you are invited to bring your old palms to the church over the weekends of February 14-15 and February 21-22. There will be baskets in the vestibule into which you may deposit your palms. These palms will then be burned to make the ashes for Ash Wednesday.

ASH WEDNESDAY is February 25. Blessed Ashes will be imposed **during** Masses at 6:30am, 9:00am and 7:00pm. Ashes will also be imposed **during** our Liturgy of the Word starting at 4:15pm.



SAVE THE DATES: We will be hosting a Lenten program on the Thursdays of Lent from 7:30-9:00pm in the parish hall. The program is entitled, "Renewing our

Faith...Shaping our Future." The presenter for each evening will be Dr. Bernard Swain, a highly regarded speaker of the Archdiocese. We'll have further details in future bulletins, but for now, hold your Thursday nights open, beginning February 26.

**From the
Pastor's Desk**



Have we all had enough snow? Well, living in New England, we'll just have to take whatever God sends us! One thing which we know God sends us every year is the season of Lent. It truly is a great gift, and it's just around the corner. Our major undertaking here in the parish for the season will be a six evening program presented by Dr. Bernie Swain on the Thursday nights of Lent, beginning the day after Ash Wednesday. Dr. Swain is a highly regarded and very well received speaker in the Archdiocese of Boston, and I hope that many of the adults of our parish will put those nights aside on your calendars right now. We'll have further details later. Wednesday of this week, February 11, is the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. Pope John Paul II designated this feast as World Day of the Sick, "a special time of prayer and sharing, of offering one's suffering for the good of the Church and of reminding us to see in our sick brother and sister the face of Christ who, by suffering, dying and rising, achieved the salvation of humankind." We shall certainly remember and pray for the sick on that day, but we shall offer special Masses for the Sick next Saturday and Sunday, February 14-15 at the 5:00pm and 11:30am Masses. Following those Masses, we shall offer the Sacrament of the Sick (anointing) for those who are ill. Please check elsewhere in this bulletin for further details... Thursday of this week, February 12 is, as we older folk will remember, Lincoln's Birthday. Along with Washington's Birthday on the 22nd of this month, we used to mark these birthdays as something special. But now we throw these two great presidents in with all our other presidents and celebrate the rather bland "President's Day." This February 12 is the 200th birthday of Lincoln, and so despite the disservice we regularly do him, perhaps this year we would benefit from reflecting upon some of his words which seem fitting for our time. In 1863 Lincoln wrote the following: "It is the duty of nations as well as of men to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in Holy Scripture, and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord... We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which has preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and

virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made Us. It behooves us, then, to humble ourselves before the offended power, to confess our national sins and to pray for clemency and forgiveness." Now that's something to think about!

Father Maguire

THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK (ANOINTING) will be offered next Saturday, February 14 following the 5:00pm Mass and next Sunday, February 15 immediately following the 11:30am Mass. This is in recognition of World Day of the Sick which is observed on February 11. Perhaps a few "teachings" are of value. First, the sacred anointing of the sick was instituted by Christ. It is particularly recommended to us by the apostle James. Over time, the Anointing of the Sick was more and more conferred exclusively on those at the point of death and became known as "Extreme Unction." While there was always the possibility of recovery, this was not the true meaning of the sacrament. In the reform of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick in 1972, Pope Paul VI wrote that "The Sacrament... is given to those who are seriously ill..." The "seriously ill" can be a bit vague, so the Congregation for the Sacraments and Divine Worship says that "those of the faithful whose health is seriously impaired by sickness or old age (should) receive the sacrament." The Congregation says, "elderly people may be anointed if they become notably weakened even though no serious threat is present." If you feel that you or a loved one fits into this understanding of the sacrament, we invite you or them to receive the Sacrament.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT: Due to the several snowstorms of December and January which happened to fall on weekends, the weekend collections were obviously lower than usual. If it is at all possible, we would ask those of you who may not have been able to attend Mass on a weekend or two, to do what you can for those missed collections. Thank You!



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Every Wednesday, from 9:30am to 5:00pm, our church celebrates the adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. This is a great opportunity for Catholics to come and worship Our Lord in the Eucharist quietly and privately. We are in need of parishioners to commit to an hour during this time, at your convenience, so that Our Lord is never alone. Do you have one hour to give to Jesus on Wednesday? Please call Myra Doran at 781-659-4882 for further information.

OPEN HOUSE: Sacred Heart Elementary School, 329 Bishops Highway, Kingston, MA 02364 on this Sunday, February 8, 2009 from 2-4pm: Kindergarten (at the Early Childhood Center) and Grades 1-6 (at the Elementary School).

LIFT – Catholic Worship for a new Generation: LIFT is an exciting monthly worship event for all ages which includes vibrant praise and worship music, dynamic, challenging speakers and Eucharistic Adoration. Their next event is Tuesday, February 17 from 7-9pm at Fontbonne Academy, 930 Brook Road, Milton, MA as they welcome Cardinal Sean O'Malley as the guest speaker. For more information, visit their website: www.liftedhigher.com.

MARRIED COUPLES – WANT TO GIVE A GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING? Register for the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend – it's the best gift you'll ever give to each other and your marriage! The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends in New England are February 13-15 and March 6-8. For more information call Ralph and Jane Becker at 1-800-710-WWME or visit our webpage at www.wmwMA.org.



HELPING HANDS is a group of parishioners who want to reach out to others in need. This group is willing to help anyone within St. Helen's who has a sudden need for: meals, rides to appointments, errands, household chores, babysitting etc... It is important to know that in a crisis, there are people you can turn to in your church. We are here. Please call if you need assistance or if you know of anyone in need: Leann Kelly 659-7456, Marjorie Mahoney 659-4189 or the rectory at 659-2993.

MOMS AND TOTS: An informal gathering of mothers and their young children gathers on Monday mornings at St. Helen Parish Hall from 9:30-11:00am. Any mothers, or fathers, and their young children are cordially invited to drop by any Monday.. This might be an especially good way for new residents of Norwell, whatever the faith, to get to know their fellow townspeople.

NEW PARISHIONERS!

Are you new to St. Helen Parish? If so, we hope that you find us a welcoming and inviting family of faith. If you would like to register with us, please fill out this form and return it to the Rectory (by collection basket or the mails). We'll then be happy to send you a parish registration form.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone number _____

**Q
A**

What were some twentieth-century church developments which influenced Pope John XXIII to convene an ecumenical council?

The 1900s saw the Catholic Church struggle with the violence of two world wars, as it continued its practice of warding off new and different insights that challenged or were critical of its teachings and practices. Even before Angelo Roncalli became Pope John XXIII, he was caught up in this turmoil and change as he struggled to be a pastor in his service of God and Church.

In the first half of the twentieth century three major movements impacted the church and the future pope. These would eventually influence his felt need for an ecumenical council. The movements centered around Christian unity or ecumenism, biblical studies and liturgical reform.

The movement toward Christian unity begun in 1908 by the Graymoor Fathers is still alive today, highlighted by the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Angelo Roncalli became sensitized to ecumenism in his work and travels as a Vatican diplomat.

The historical critical approach to biblical studies was found acceptable by Pius XII in his 1943 encyclical, *Divino Afflante Spiritu*. John XXIII's council would enshrine such approaches as the church's official teaching.

Beginning in the 1920s, the liturgical movement saw experimentation and development, primarily in European monasteries and underground movements. Roncalli wanted these movements to be part of the updating of the church.

John XXIII, always open to the signs of the times and attuned to the workings of God, was inspired to convene a council to renew the church. Thank God for such visionary leaders.

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IMPORTANT DATES AND INFORMATION:

February 8: GRADE 3 will host the 10am Mass. GRADES 7 and 8 (Sunday PM) will meet per schedule.

February 10: NO GRADE 2 classes due to Teachers Meeting from 4-5pm. There will be a **mandatory** Parent Communion meeting at either 10am or 7pm in the Parish Hall.

February 11 and 12: GRADES 4 and 5 will be working on Project Linus quilts again these dates. Children should bring needle and thread to class. Any parent wishing to be of help to their child's teacher is invited to come to class.



February 15-February 22: NO classes due to February vacation.

February 24: GRADE 2 resumes.

February 25: GRADES 3, 4, 5 and 6 have class but we will be going over to the church for the Ash Wednesday service. Drop off and pick up at the Hall.

February 27: High school students who will be traveling to New Jersey for service in August are hosting a Game Night including video game tournaments for grades 6-8. Time: TBA. Save the date!

March 1: GRADE 5 will host the Family Mass at 10am. GRADE 9 (Sunday evening) have class at 6pm.

March 8: GRADES 7 and 8 (evening) have class at 6pm in the hall.

March 10: GRADE 2 has NO Religious Ed class. GRADE ONE has class in the hall from 4-5pm. Units 3 and 4 are due.

March 28: GRADE 2 Retreat from 8:30am-12noon. Parent needed to cook bread dough crosses. Please call Religious Ed Office at 781-658-7344.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES:

- Looking for students willing to be Offertory Collectors (passing the basket) and student lectors at the Family Masses. Please call to be put on the list. If you are on last year's list, please call 781-657-7344 to let us know that you wish to remain on the list or removed. Thank you.
- Volunteers for Father Bill's (see below).
- February 22: 9th graders are needed to sign up as cooks to prepare the meal for Father Bill's. (Recipe provided and very easy). Food cooked at home and brought to Hall by 4pm.
- Looking for a babysitter on Tuesday from 4-5pm for grade 2 teachers during class starting in March. Thank you.
- Helpers needed for GRADE 2 Retreat on March 28 from 8:30am-12noon.

FATHER BILL'S UPDATE: We need cooks and bakers. (Menu is simple, and recipe provided). If you have questions or want to add your name to the helper's list, please call Danielle Palzkill at 781-829-9369, or e-mail to d.palzkill@comcast.net.



MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY PROGRAM scheduled for Tuesday, February 3 has been cancelled due to a lack of interest. We received very few responses for the event. We will try one more time on Tuesday, March 10. If you are interested in participating, please contact the Religious Education Office at 781-659-7344 or reled@sthelenchurchnorwell.org or call

PROJECT LINUS: All 4th and 5th graders are working on their class quilt for Project Linus. Project Linus is a national organization named for the Peanuts comic strip that sends handmade blankets and quilts to children's cancer centers, hospitals and orphanages to offer comfort to children in need. We are looking for parishioners with sewing machines to straight stitch the children's quilt squares together. If you can help, please call the Religious Ed Office at 781-659-7344. Thank you in advance.

CONGRATULATIONS to all second graders who received the Sacrament of Penance. It was a wonderful visual to see them put their "found sheep" on the Reconciliation Altar Banner.

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