



And raising his eyes toward his disciples he said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours. Blessed are you who are now hungry, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who are now weeping, for you will laugh. Lk 6:20-21

Readings for the Week of February 11, 2007

Sunday:	Jer 17:5-8/1 Cor 15:12, 16-20/Lk 6:17, 20-26
Monday:	Gn 4:1-15, 25/Mk 8:11-13
Tuesday:	Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10/Mk 8:14-21
Wednesday:	Gn 8:6-13, 20-22/Mk 8:22-26
Thursday:	Gn 9:1-13/Mk 8:27-33
Friday:	Gn 11:1-9/Mk 8:34-9:1
Saturday:	Heb 11:1-7/Mk 9:2-13
Next Sunday:	1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23/1 Cor 15:45-49/Lk 6:27-38

Religious Education News

Question of the Week

Adults: What in my personal or professional life am I willing to risk in order to gain the joy of life everlasting with God?

Children: How can I help those who are poor, sad, or insulted this week?

CHILDREN'S CATECHUMENATE: This weekend at our 4 p.m. Liturgy we welcomed the following children who are preparing separately from their peers for the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation:

**Stephania D'Maio
Cassidy Donahue
Taylor McNamara
William McNamara
Anthony Sardo
Nicholas Vient**

SCHOOL VACATION: No Religious Education Classes on Sunday Feb. 18th & 25th and on Wednesday, Feb. 21st & 28th (Just a reminder that Ash Wednesday takes place during Vacation week!)

STUDENTS & PARENTS: Our St. Vincent de Paul food kitchen is low in soups and sauce. You have been very supportive all year in your contributions and the St. Vincent de Paul Society is grateful. Please consider these needs at this time.

CONFIRMATION PICTURES are in and can be picked up in the parish office during business hours.

TEEN BIBLE STUDY: We are looking to begin a Teen Bible Study program. In order to do this we need an adult team to gather and begin praying about having one. Then we will look for group leaders and begin putting it in place. If you would be interested in doing this with Mrs. Martha Geraghty, please call or e-mail Dawn Alves at the parish office (978) 281-4820, x0119. dalves@holycapann.org.

YOUTH GROUP

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Friday, Feb. 16th, 7 to 8:30 p.m. in St. Ann School Gym. What will we be doing? Evolution and Skit-in-a-Bag.

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS: Let's go to a Boston Bruins Game! **Thursday, Mar. 1st** is an evening game. Cost is \$40/per person plus the cost of the train. Call Dawn Alves by Feb. 18th for permission slips and ticket reservations.

Reflections by Father Bullock

A simple act of kindness in a busy New York restaurant:

After church one Sunday, some friends stopped for lunch at a busy neighborhood restaurant. As they were enjoying their meals, one of the friends noticed a man who had taken great care to make his tattered clothes look spiffy. He had finished his simple sandwich and coffee and was searching one pocket after another for enough dollar bills to pay for his lunch. He was becoming increasingly frantic as he came to realize that he did not have enough money to cover the check.

The friend got up quietly as if going to the restroom. In passing the man's table, he leaned down, pretending to find a \$10 bill on the floor. It was done so naturally that when he offered the bill to the distracted man, the man's whole body language changed.

"Thank you, thank you," he said, "I was sure I had that bill."

The poor man was beaming. The friend smiled warmly and walked away.

The others at the table were deeply moved by what they had witnessed. Their friend had done a great kindness, not because of the \$10 gift, but because the poor man was treated with gentleness, caring, and respect, and not given charity.

The Gospel speaks of Jesus healing lepers – those considered "unclean" to be kept at a distance. But Jesus does more than physically heal them. By going out to them, by touching them, Jesus performs another healing. He restores a measure of dignity and respect to those who have long since lost all sense of dignity and self-respect. This is what happens in the story of the diner and the \$10 bill. Not the size of the bill itself but the way it was given; an act of creative charity.

You may find precedents in Deuteronomy, listing the commandments followed by ways to put these commandments into practice in real life:

- When you make a loan, do not enter the house to receive the pledge; wait outside (no embarrassment!)
- If a poor man's mantle is the pledge, return it by evening (so that he may have something to sleep in that night).
- When reaping, don't go back for left behinds; when knocking down fruit from the tree, don't shake it twice (so the poor can collect it)!

Today leprosy is a contained disease physically, but not socially, economically, or psychologically. Many are made to feel they are unclean outcasts; some are pushed aside by others to prevent contamination of their world. Sometimes the manner of giving charity can still intimate aversion. Sometimes the needy and poor are not great on manners or gratitude because they are too busy surviving. Politeness is often a casualty of poverty.

In general, this is a reminder that our charity must extend beyond the writing of a check or donation of clothes, etc. We must also enhance the other by our manner – respect shining through. It is a constant struggle, but a necessary one!



Living Stations

Rehearsals have begun for the Living Stations of the Cross. We are in need of students from grades 3-12 for various parts. This live presentation is presented to the parish community on Palm Sunday evening, April 1st (time to be announced later). Rehearsals are



every Thursday 6 to 7:30 p.m. in St. Ann Church. This is very touching and spiritual event for those presenting it and the parish community. **For more information, please call Sue Demetri or Dawn Alves in the parish office (978) 281-4820, x0119.**



Memorials & Donations

Holy Family Parish gratefully acknowledges the following donations in memory of:

- Frank Aloï, Margaret Gillie, Francesca Carini, Stephen Ruta, MR. & MRS. SALVATORE FERRARA, PHYLLIS (O'MALEY) CURCURU, MR. & MRS. NINA DANNA, MR. & MRS. SALVATORE TAORMINA, MARY CIARAMITARO

RCIA

RCIA will meet Monday, Feb. 12th at 7 p.m. in the parish office.

World Day of the Sick

Today, Feb. 11th we celebrate the annual feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and the International World Day of the Sick at the 10 a.m. Mass in St. Ann Church. We will celebrate the Anointing of the Sick and we will also offer a blessing for all health care workers: physicians, nurses, chaplains, pharmacists, therapists, administrators, housekeepers, maintenance workers, office workers and all those who care for the sick in their homes. We take this day to honor and thank all those who serve the sick.

Art & Environment

There will be an Art & Environment meeting Tuesday, Feb. 13th at 7 p.m. in the parish office.

Liturgy Committee

A Liturgy Committee meeting will be held in the parish office at 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 18th.

In Loving Memory. We commend into God's care our deceased brothers and sisters who were buried from our Parish recently: Emily Lamb, Richard Martell, Cheryl Walsh

Eucharistic Adoration

Mondays - 7 to 9 p.m. (St. Joachim Church) 7:30 p.m. - Chaplet of Divine Mercy 8 p.m. - Rosary Thursdays - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (St. Mary Chapel)

Has your Email Changed?

Many parishioners have had their e-mail changed to "comcast.net" in the past and still others may in the future. Please use the registration form at the back of your bulletin to let us know your new email address and/or any new contact information.

Bulletin Deadline

Please have all items for submission to next week's bulletin in our office by 12 noon on Tuesday. Items submitted after that time will be considered for the following week. Thank You!

Eucharistic Ministers

Eucharistic Ministers who help with the distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday (to the homebound, hospital patients, nursing home and senior housing residents) will meet Tuesday, Feb. 13th at 7 p.m. in the parish office.

Please note that the scheduled meeting Tuesday, Feb. 20th has been cancelled. Any questions or concerns, please call Anna Maturro at the parish office (978) 281-4820, x0103.

2nd Annual Irish Dinner

The Guild is hosting this popular parish fundraiser on Saturday, Mar. 10th and has invited the G.H.S. Docksidiers to provide musical entertainment. Please contact Bea Ciaramitaro (978) 283-2691 or Grace Hagstrom (978) 546-1619 for more information.

Food Pantry Needs

The St. Vincent de Paul Society needs your help! We are looking for the following items for our food pantry:



- canned meat, cereal, pasta sauce, soup, tuna fish

Any donations may be placed in the receptacle in the church foyer. Thank you for your support!

The St. Vincent de Paul Society will meet at St. Ann School Wednesday, Feb. 14th at 7 p.m.

Strengthening Families Program

Cape Ann Families, a program of Wellspring House, is offering a community opportunity. This program, Strengthening Families 10-14, offers parents and youth a way to learn the skills to develop better relationships. Parents build on their strengths in showing love and setting limits. Youth develop skills in handling peer pressure and building a positive future. How does the program work? The group meets for seven weeks in the evenings starting in February. The group meets for two hours. During the first hour, parents and youth meet in separate groups. During the second hour, everyone meets together as a family. A healthy snack is provided. You need to have at least one child between the ages of 10-14 that will participate in the program. Childcare is provided for children under age ten. If you are interested in receiving more information about this FREE opportunity, please contact Pat Goehrlert, Program Coordinator (978) 281-7856 or pgoehrlert@wellspringhouse.org.

Host & Wine

Memorial donations are still being accepted for the Host & Wine for the month of February. If you'd like to remember a loved one with this special gift, please call the parish office (978)-281-4820.

Blessed



Young Adult Mass

The Young Adult Mass for the Archdiocese will be hosted by The Mission Church (Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help) Sunday, Feb. 25th at 6:30 p.m. (1545 Tremont Street, Boston MA). For directions, go to: www.themissionchurch.com. For more information, please contact (617) 746-5850.

