



*Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and when they were over he was hungry. – Lk 4:1-2*

**Readings for the Week of February 25, 2007**

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Sunday:      | Dt 26:4-10/Rom 10:8-13/Lk 4:1-13                        |
| Monday:      | Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Mt 25:31-46                            |
| Tuesday:     | Is 55:10-11/Mt 6:7-15p                                  |
| Wednesday:   | Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32                                  |
| Thursday:    | Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Mt 7:7-12                        |
| Friday:      | Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26                                  |
| Saturday:    | Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48                                  |
| Next Sunday: | Gn 15:5-12, 17-18/Phil 3:17-4:1 or 3:20-4:1/Lk 9:28b-36 |

## Religious Education News

**Question of the Week**

**Adults:** How does my faith in God's presence with me help me deal with struggles to live my life in Christ?

**Children:** What can I do this week to remember that God is always with me as I try my best to live as a disciple of Jesus?

**SCHOOL VACATION:** Religious Education Classes have been cancelled this Sunday, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> and next Wednesday, Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>.

**CLASSES RESUME** for Grades 1-9 next weekend, Mar. 3/4 and Wednesday, Mar. 7<sup>th</sup>.

**CONFIRMATION & FIRST COMMUNION PICTURES** for 2004, 2005, & 2006 are in and can be picked up in the parish office during business hours.

**9TH GRADE CONFIRMATION RETREAT:** Coming up Tuesday, Mar. 20<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 9 p.m. in St. Ann School Gym. Students mark your calendars!

**FIRST COMMUNION RETREAT:** Also coming up Saturday, Mar. 31<sup>st</sup> from 10 a.m. to 12 noon in the parish hall. Parents must accompany children to this event.

**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](mailto:dalves@holycapann.org).

## YOUTH GROUP

**MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

Let's go to a Boston Bruins Game!

**Thursday, Mar. 1<sup>st</sup>** is an evening game.

Cost is \$40/per person plus the cost of the train.

Call Dawn Alves by Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>

for permission slips and ticket reservations.

## Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who provided gifts of financial donations, school and medical supplies for our parish mission in the Dominican Republic. Please pray for the students' safe return on Tuesday, Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>.

## RCIA

RCIA will meet **Monday, Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>** at 7 p.m. in the parish office.

## Reflections by Father Bullock

The psalmist says of God: "Out of the mouths of infants you have fashioned praise..." And sometimes the sayings of infants can be marvelous; and sometimes mystifying; and sometimes haunting in the questions they leave unanswered – and the possibilities they point to...

A Priest was told by a couple of their 3 year old son awaiting the birth of a baby sibling. When a baby brother was brought home, the 3 year old began pestering his parents to be alone with the baby. Citing many reasons, the parents repeatedly put the boy off, but his requests continued. After many months, they finally agreed to allow him to be alone with the baby, but with a "baby-listener" in the room. After a long and fretful silence, they heard the 3 year old say, "Tell me about Jesus. It is so long I have almost forgotten." He offered no further explanation, but his parents swore to these exact words ("Tell me about Jesus...!"). Whatever your reaction to it, however it affects and leaves you; a couple of possible ideas are suggested.

One: we speak of ourselves as a pilgrim Church – people on a journey. And I suppose we take for granted that the journey starts when and where we are born, and then progresses throughout our lives until death ends the journey with its passage to a God to whom we have been aspiring directly/indirectly all our lives.

For some, perhaps, that journey can be better seen as a trip – from God and back to God. Like many earthly vacations/trips, this trip takes us through a foreign land that strongly reminds us of our true home. Along the way we find reminders that we cannot pin-point concretely of course, but that are there; that strike vague but strong cords of associations. For one with such a view, life is sacramental, and the scenery of life and the people we meet and interact with are, or can be, symbols of something deeper that we are bound to. In such an outlook, God's footprints are all around us and evidences of his presence are constantly cropping up, consistently nibbling at our consciousness.

The other consideration: as someone pointed out, we presume that we are born human, and then struggle to become spiritual. But it is the opposite. We are born spiritual and then spend the rest of our lives on earth struggling to become truly human beings; to realize the human potential and to fulfill it as perfectly as we can. From this point of view, our common human nature is not a burden or a drag, but the talent that is the foundation to make our humanity a perfect fit, like a well tailored suit! All other talents are the underpinning. Christ took a human nature and raised it to its heights; the filling of our humanity remains our essential task.

Whatever our reactions or thoughts, the words must resonate somehow in our lives which should be lived in the shade of that request, "Tell me about Jesus..."



## Food Pantry Needs



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

- baked beans
- cereal
- canned meat
- soup

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

## Marriage Encounter

"You shall worship the Lord, your God, and him alone shall you serve." (Today's Gospel) Modern society is not supportive of a Christ-centered marriage. Attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend and receive tools to keep your marriage Christ-centered. Upcoming dates are March 2-4 and April 13-15, 20-22, and 27-29. For more information call Ray & Beth Ginepro (800) 710-WWME or visit [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org).

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



### Memorials & Donations

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

*Francesco Carini*

MR. & MRS. SALVATORE COSTANZO

*Luana DiMercurio*

MR. & MRS. SALVATORE COSTANZO

*Amorosa Scopa*

FRANCESCA PIRAINO

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> (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.**



*We are happy to announce recent Baptisms at Holy Family Parish:*

*Giacamo Martell Faith Ashley Brooke Rivera*

*Austin James Story*

## Support St. Ann Jr. High School!

Come to our annual spaghetti supper on **Saturday, Mar. 3<sup>rd</sup>** to enjoy homemade spaghetti, meatballs, and salad. Jr. High students will serve you **in the parish hall after the 4 o'clock Mass** – limited tickets will be sold. We will cook from 5 to 7 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased between 8 a.m. & 2 p.m. at the school office for \$6 each – children 5 and under eat free. First come, first served! All of the money earned will profit our spring class trip to New York. Please support our school!

## Cursillo Ultreya & Pot Luck

The Cape Ann Cursillo community will be sponsoring their March Ultreya/ Pot Luck Supper on **Saturday, Mar. 3<sup>rd</sup> following the 4 p.m. Mass. at St. John the Baptist Church in Essex, MA** (across from the Village Restaurant). The Pot Luck Supper will start at 5 p.m. and the Ultreya at 6 p.m. All are welcome and need not have been on a Cursillo Encounter Weekend to attend. **Please call Marcia Savory (978) 768-7886 or Al Mitchell (978) 281-0536 for more info.**

## Art & Environment

There will be an Art & Environment Committee meeting **Thursday, Mar. 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in the parish office.**

## 🕒 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!*

## Lent – A Sense of the Season

The word *Lent* means springtime. This word comes from the same root as *lengthen*. Daytime lengthens during Lent. The northern hemisphere turns toward the sun, the source of life, and winter turns into spring. In Hebrew, the word *repentance* is the same as the word that means *to turn*, like the turning of the soil before planting.

"Even now, says the Lord, turn to me." (Joel 2:12) The word *sin* means separation. We are called to turn from our separate selves, from our sin, to come together in community. Self-denial is the way we express our repentance. In the lengthening brightness from Ash Wednesday until Holy Thursday afternoon, our holy Lent, we turn to God as our source of life.

Self-denial is threefold, advises Matthew's gospel. We pray: "Go to your room, close your door, and pray to your Father in private." We fast: "No one must see you are fasting but your Father." We give alms: "Keep your deeds of mercy secret, and your Father who sees in secret will repay you." Through the Lenten exercise of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, we spring-clean our lives, sharpen our senses, put tomorrow in its place and treasure the day at hand.

Why are there forty days in Lent? It took forty days for sinfulness to drown in the flood before a new creation could inherit the earth. It took forty years for the generation of slaves to die before the freeborn could enter the promised land. For forty days Moses and Elijah and Jesus fasted and prayed to prepare themselves for a life's work.



At the beginning of Lent the bishop calls out the names of the catechumens who seek to be baptized at Easter. Their names are written in the book of the elect, the chosen. God has chosen them, and they have chosen to turn to God. Lent is the forty days before the baptism of the catechumens. The already baptized can share the excitement and the struggles of the elect and rediscover the meaning of baptism in their own lives. During the forty days, both catechumens and the faithful journey together to the holy font.

We keep Lent together. We put aside our business-as-usual to support each other in prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. We turn to God to enlighten us and purify us throughout the lengthening brightness of our holy season of Lent.

"For now is the acceptable time! Now is the day of salvation!"

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## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Irish Dinner



The Guild is hosting this popular parish fundraiser on **Saturday, Mar. 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the parish hall.** The G.H.S. Docksidiers will provide musical entertainment. Tickets are \$12/adults and \$5/children and should be purchased in advance after all Masses, or at the parish office. You may also call Bea Ciaramitaro (978) 283-2691 or Grace Hagstrom (978) 546-1619 for tickets and/or more information.

## Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus are holding a membership drive for local Catholic Men 18 and older interested in joining the organization. The initiation ceremony will be held on Monday, Mar. 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in the parish hall. Knights will be around this weekend after some Masses to answer questions and receive applications. Come join our group of Catholic men doing God's work through the Church. Applications can also be picked up and dropped off at the Building Center contractor desk.

Questions can be directed to **Joe Parisi (978) 283-4304** or days **(978) 283-3060** or email: [jparisi@bcgloucester.com](mailto:jparisi@bcgloucester.com).



February 24-March 4, 2007

- Saturday, Feb. 24, 2007**  
 4 p.m. (St. Ann Church).....**Giuseppe & Rose Favazza and Family**  
*From Daughters*
- Sunday, Feb. 25, 2007**  
 8 a.m. (St. Ann Church).....**Rosalind Hopkins**  
*From Husband & Family*  
 9 a.m. (St. Joachim Church)  
 10 a.m. (St. Ann Church).....**Mary Frontiero**  
*From Family*  
 11 a.m. (St. Joachim Church).....**Pro Populo**
- Monday, Feb. 26, 2007**  
 9 a.m. (St. Mary Chapel).....**Nunziata & Stefano Maloney**  
*From Family*
- Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2007**  
 9 a.m. (St. Joachim Church)
- Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2007**  
 9 a.m. (St. Mary Chapel).....**Rose & Capt. Joseph Palazola**  
*From Family*
- Thursday, Mar.1, 2007 – NO MASS SCHEDULED**
- Friday Mar.2, 2007**  
 9 a.m. (St. Joachim Church)
- Saturday, Mar.3, 2007**  
 4 p.m. (St. Ann Church).....**Rosaria & Giuseppe Cambria**  
*From Daughter & Family*
- Sunday, Mar.4, 2007**  
 8 a.m. (St. Ann Church).....**Samuel Curcuru**  
*From Family*  
 9 a.m. (St. Joachim Church)  
 10 a.m. (St. Ann Church).....**Paul Ciaramitaro, Jr.**  
*From Mother*  
 11 a.m. (St. Joachim Church).....**Pro Populo**



### Stations of the Cross



During Lent the Stations of the Cross will be held in St. Joachim Church on Friday mornings after the 9 a.m. Mass and on Friday afternoons at 3 p.m. in St. Mary Chapel.

### Divine Mercy Service

A Divine Mercy Service is planned for Sunday, Apr. 15<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. in St. Ann Church. In preparation, we will meet in the parish office **Tuesday, Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.** Anyone wishing to help, please come and join us! **For more information, contact Angela Favaloro (978) 283-5701.**

### Lenten Evening Prayer

Sundays, Mar. 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in St. Joachim Church

### Nursing Home Mass Schedule

Golden Living Center (formerly Greycliff) – 3 p.m. Monday, Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>

### 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)

### Last Weekend's Collection

| Mass  | Attendance | Collection                                  |
|---|------------|---|
| 4 p.m.  | 268        | \$1,631.25                                  |
| 8 a.m.  | 150        | 1,232.00                                    |
| 9 a.m.  | 132        | 1,045.75                                    |
| 10 a.m.   | 168        | 1,279.75                                    |
| 11 a.m.   | 163        | 1,224.39                                    |
|   | <b>881</b> | <b>\$6,413.14</b>                           |
| <b>Office</b>                                       |            | <b>353.00</b>                               |
| <b>Total Weekly Offertory:</b>                      |            | <b>\$6,766.14</b>                           |
| <b>Feb. 2006 Average Collection:</b>                |            | <b>\$5,639.00</b>                           |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Collection (Cevicos Mission):</b> |            | <b>\$3,858.00</b>                           |
| <b>Grand Annual Total (as of Feb. 21st):</b>        |            | <b>\$61,974.20</b>                          |
|   |            | <b>This is 82.63% of our \$75,000 goal!</b> |

*Your contribution helps the parish continue its mission!*

### Easter Flower Envelopes

Easter flower envelopes are in the back of both worship sites. These envelopes are provided for you to make a donation for flowers in memory of a loved one.

### Charitable Contributions

Due to recent changes in federal tax laws for charitable contributions, beginning in 2007, parishioners who itemize deductions on Schedule A of their tax returns will no longer be able to deduct offertory contributions to the parish unless they maintain a bank record or receive a written contribution statement from the parish. Offertory contributions that are not in a parish envelope cannot be tracked by the parish and will not be included in the year end contribution statement. To ensure tax deductibility for 2007 contributions to our parish, the following methods are recommended:

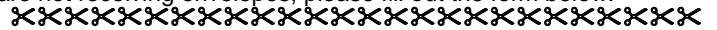
1. Use of parish envelopes provided to you by the parish
2. Written check made payable to the parish
3. Direct deposit
4. Payroll deduction

Our parish will track offertory contributions made using the parish envelope system, and will, upon request, produce a written statement of contributions made during 2007. This information will include the name of the parish, name of parishioner, and total contributions for the year. Our parish cannot track offertory contributions, regardless of the amount, that are not part of our parish envelope system.

Please note that this does not change the requirement that a taxpayer receive an acknowledgement from our parish for each deductible contribution of \$250 or more. If you have any additional questions, please consult with your tax advisor.

### Tracking Contributions

As mentioned above, one of the easiest ways to track your offertory contribution is to participate in the parish envelope system. If you are not receiving envelopes, please fill out the form below.



### Holy Family Parish Registration

If you wish to register as a member of Holy Family Parish, please print the following information and deposit in the offertory.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

*We look forward to hearing from you!*

**END OF BULLETIN  
ANY TEXT OR GRAPHICS ENTERED ON THIS PAGE  
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CHURCH NAME: **Holy Family Parish**

CHURCH CITY: **Cape Ann, MA**

ROUTING CODE: **Y**

RUN NUMBER: **15**

FILENAME: **03-0571.13b**

PHONE NUMBER: **978-281-4820**

FAX NUMBER: **978-281-4964**

EDITOR/ CONTACT: **Laura L. Trainor**

**CURRENT FORMAT: EBSWUN**

**Comments:**

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