



"He said to him, 'My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.'"

Lk 15:31-32

Readings for the Week of March 18, 2007

Sunday: Jos 5:9a, 10-12/2 Cor 5:17-21/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
 Monday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
 Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Jn 5:1-16
 Wednesday: Is 49:8-15/Jn 5:17-30
 Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Jn 5:31-47
 Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
 Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Jn 7:40-53
 Next Sunday: Is 43:16-21/Phil 3:8-14/Jn 8:1-11

Religious Education News

Question of the Week

Adults: When I act like a prodigal child of God, how does my trust in God compare to that of the prodigal son's trust in his father?

Children: When I hurt someone, how quickly and sincerely do I say I am sorry?

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: Tuesday, March 20th from 5 to 9 p.m. in St. Ann School Gym. Students mark your calendars!

FIRST COMMUNION RETREAT: Saturday, March 31st from 10 a.m. to 12 noon beginning in the body of St. Ann Church (up front at the sanctuary). Parents must accompany children to this event.

WHOLE PARISH CATECHESIS: Resurrection Cantata is a musical drama of Simon Peter's experience of the love, joy, and forgiveness of our Lord and Savior. The drama will be performed here at Holy Family Parish **Saturday, March 24th** by parishioners from St. Patrick's Parish in Watertown, MA. Sponsored by the Confirmation Class, the event begins with a soup and bread dinner at 6 p.m. in our parish hall with the Cantata to follow at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will also be served after the presentation.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE NEEDED! Today at the 11 a.m. Mass we will celebrate a scrutiny with Michaela Hillier. This scrutiny is a penitential rite that marks her second step toward initiation. Michaela is a 4th Grader who is preparing to be received into the Church at the Easter Vigil. She will receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist during the Easter Vigil. This is an opportunity to pray for Michaela as she prepares for this most important celebration. Please also keep Lois Couch in your prayers as she continues to prepare to enter the Church at the Easter Vigil.

YOUTH GROUP

SNOW TUBING AT AMESBURY SNOW TUBING PARK: Jr. High & High School students are invited **Friday evening, March 30th**. \$30/person includes two slices of pizza, tubing, and cost of the bus. Sign up by calling Dawn Alves at the parish office (978) 281-4820, x 0119. The bus leaves St. Ann Church at 5 p.m. *sharp* and returns by 11 p.m. We must have a minimum of 25 students for a group rate.

Reflections by Father Bullock

Consider a possible notion: Concerning any vocation, the question could be asked, "Is it hard to be.....a doctor.....a crane operator.....a religious.....a manager?" You could get a variety of answers, according to the subject matter and personal appreciation, but there is one answer that could be given for each and every instance, and be correct. "Yes, it is hard, there are difficulties, BUT, it is not as hard as it is to be a good human being!" That's the universal foundation of every vocation/endeavor. One can be a skilled doctor, a marvelous crane operator, a learned religious, a hands-on manager, but if one is not a good human being, one can never be a good doctor, crane operator, religious, or manager in the truest sense of the word.

And the same is true in regards to what is for millions of people their basic calling. "Is it hard to be a Christian?" "Yes, but again, not as hard as it is to be a good human being." I can obey all the rules, observe all the practices, but I will not be truly a good Christian unless I am a good human being.

Nor is there a one-fits-all definition of "good." In many ways we know it when we see it. We can sense goodness, or the striving for goodness, in others. And, for us, it is going to come down to that. Are we really trying, in spite of failures and faults of character – are we really trying to be a good human being? If so, then our credentials will pass muster in the only evaluation that matters in the long run!

**Lord, your love of us staggers the imagination;
 You invested in us your own beloved son.
 May our struggling efforts at goodness
 Be surety for our attempts to live up to
 that confidence.**



Lenten Reconciliation Service



Please join us on **Tuesday, March 27th at 7 p.m. in St. Ann Church** for the Holy Family Lenten Reconciliation Service. This is an opportunity to prepare for Easter in a special way through the sacrament of penance. After a communal time of prayer, individual confession will be offered. Please join us for this wonderful celebration of God's forgiving grace during this Lenten season.

Living the Paschal Mystery

Our Lenten penance calls us to go beyond where we are (like either the younger son or elder son) to the compassion and generosity of the father. Every day in countless ways we are faced with a choice to repent and make stronger our relationships with others. Only by choosing to repent can we feast. Ultimately, our Lenten (and life) journey is one of reconciliation which brings healing and restored relationship. Reconciliation implies a letting go of whatever binds us or hinders us or turns us in on ourselves and a "passing over" to receiving the compassion and mercy which can only be celebrated in the abundance of a feast.

Lent tends to pass all too quickly. We cannot let it go by and be satisfied only with "giving up" something. Lent also offers us a positive opportunity to reflect on our many relationships, especially with those closest to us (family, parish community, colleagues at work). Repentance challenges us to look deeply into our own selves and root out whatever self-centeredness keeps us from receiving God's mercy and compassion and from offering forgiveness to (or seeking it from) others.

Living Liturgy, Spirituality, Celebration, Catechesis for Sunday and Solemnities 2007, @ 2006. Liturgical Press, Collegeville, MN

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



Memorials & Donations

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

Nancy Ercolani
SARINA FAVAZZA

Mildred Zeher
ADELE KELLY

Rose Seniti
MR. & MRS. THOMAS LINQUATA

Vitorino Senos
SARINA FAVAZZA
JOHN & JOANNE SENOS

Marion Stone
MARY & JIM CONTRI

Memorial Donations

We are inviting people to make a donation in memory of loved ones for the new paschal candles that will be blessed and used at the Easter Vigil. We also will be accepting donations for a new Alleluia banner for Easter. **If you are interested in making a donation for any of these items, please call or stop by the parish office (978) 281-4820.**

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 a 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.**

Host & Wine

The Host & Wine for March was donated
in loving memory of:

Giuseppe Cusumano

By *Joseph & Grace Brancaleone & Family*
Giuseppe & Audrey Brancaleone
Salvatore & Brenda Brancaleone
Lucia & Mike Taormina
Thomas & Carmela Brancaleone
Anthony & Christina Brancaleone
Mario & Joanna Brancaleone

Cemetery Update

The cemetery crew will begin spring cleanup next week. Please remove all Christmas decorations by Friday, March 23rd. Anything left after this date will be disposed of by the cemetery workers

RCIA

RCIA will meet **Monday, March 19th at 7 p.m. in the parish office.**

Liturgy Committee

A Liturgy Committee meeting will be held **Tuesday, March 20th at 7 p.m. in the parish office.**

Evening of Prayer, Sharing, & Reflection

Eucharistic Ministers/Pastoral Visitors to the Homebound, Nursing Homes, Addison Gilbert Hospital, and Senior Nursing Complexes will meet **Tuesday, March 20th from 7 to 9 p.m. in the parish office conference room.** Please call Anna Maturro at the parish office (978) 281-4820 x0103 if you cannot attend.

PACE

PROGRAM OF ALL-INCLUSIVE CARE FOR THE ELDERLY

The Elder Service Plan of the North Shore's PACE program will soon be in Gloucester. PACE programs coordinate and provide all needed preventive, primary, acute and long term care services so that older individuals can continue to live in the community. PACE is an innovative model that enables individuals who are at least 55 years old, and certified by their state to need nursing home care, to live safely and independently in their homes with support services.

Although PACE will not be opening its doors on Emerson Avenue in Gloucester until spring, Marketing & Enrollment Coordinator Teresa Gove Arnold will be available at the Rose Baker Senior Center each Friday beginning in January to provide information regarding this model of care. Teresa will be happy to answer your questions as this exciting new alternative to care is introduced to Cape Ann. **To schedule an appointment, call (978) 281-9765.**

In Loving Memory

We commend into God's care those
who were buried from our Parish recently:

Catherine Powers *Marion Stone*
Kathleen Shutt *Fred Wonson*

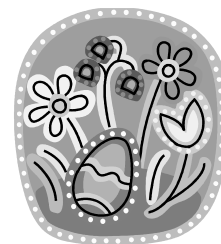
Annual Spring Gala

Don't miss Catholic Charities North's 41st Annual Spring Gala, which will be held from **7-9:30 p.m. Thursday, May 3rd at the Hawthorne Hotel in Salem.**

Themed "Color Our World," we invite you to "Discover the Work of Catholic Charities" while enjoying gourmet food in the different colored rooms of this elegant, historic venue.

Proceeds from the gala will allow Catholic Charities North to continue responding to the needs of the poor and working poor, strengthen families, provide children with opportunities they deserve, and help immigrants and refugees become active participants in our communities. This makes it possible for the agency to continue its mission of building a just and compassionate society rooted in the dignity of all people.

For more information about Catholic Charities North's Spring Gala, contact Sarah Bartley (781) 593-2312 or Sarah_Bartley@ccb.org.



Communal Anointing

REMINDER: There will be no Communal Anointing during Lent, nor on Easter Sunday. The next Mass to offer **Communal Anointing will be Sunday, May 13th at the 11 a.m. Mass in St. Joachim Church.**

Parish Council Elections

Although elections for the 2007-2008 Parish Council will not be held until May, the nominating process will begin shortly after Easter. It is not too soon to begin to think prayerfully about parishioners who are able to envision a strong future for Holy Family Parish and would be good candidates for membership on the Parish Council.

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

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