

ST JOHN CHURCH – DARIEN FEBRUARY 19, 2012

The Pastor's Column



February 19, 2012

Thank You to All For the Raffle!!!

The entire parish is grateful for the success of the raffle. Everyone should be proud and be thanked for their involvement from those who prayed for its success, to ticket buyers, stores that helped with sales, committee, parish council, reception volunteers and more. Many helped raise the money that will now allow for our repairs and renovations.

A little summary: The 797 tickets sold for \$100 made 79,700. Expenses including cost of the car, other prizes, promotion costs, let the parish net 40,033. Plus a parishioner after the raffle drawing donated a \$1,000, which brings our total amount to \$41,033!

As announced, the proceeds will be dedicated to repair of the little church bell cupola that needs new tile, carpentry and painting. Church roof tiles that are broken need replacing. It will be costly because contractors require special equipment to reach the difficult high areas. Also, we hope to use some of the money for upgrading the kitchen in the Blanchard Center. If there is any left over, we will work on the rectory kitchen used by staff and priests. It needs painting, wallpaper, new exhaust hood and a better window for light. Finally, we may be able to put some away for the eventual replacement of the parking lot.

Many thanks to the following:

Sam Vail, Chair; Nunsio Masone, Communications, Ticket Sales and Moral Support; Peter Clark, Raffle Application, State Compliance, Ticket Sales, Whale Hunter; Susan Byrne, Raffle Reception went off without a hitch; Chief Alan Hyatt, NFD and Ass't Chief Ray Buxton, NFD, Good Raffle Experience, Ticket Sales and great support for the details; Colleen Amirsakis, Ticket Sales; Ana Clark, Ticket Sales; Marilyn Vojta, Ticket Sales; Lois Palguta, Ticket Sales

We are also grateful to the stores that helped us with allowing sales to occur at their locations: Tri-S Mobile Tom Sniffin, Nielsen's Florist, Darien Sport Shop, Puritan Stationary, Mama Carmella's, Papa Joe's, Elegance Salon of Beauty, Salon Louis, Darien Seafood Market, Frate's Wines & Liquors.

Congratulations to the winners: Donna Lashendock (Car), Jackie Kardoz (TV), Nora Fay (iPad), Bill Frazier (Bicycle).

PS Most important, Lent is here. Wednesday is Ash Wednesday. Please see the Lenten Schedule on this page.

God Bless You

Msgr. McGrath

MASSES

During Lent we will have a 12:15 PM daily Mass as well as our regular 8:00 AM Mass Monday through Friday and our 8:30 AM Saturday Mass. Please try to join us.

WEEKLY LENTEN CONFESSIONS

Confession is a wonderful opportunity to set aside our sinful ways and to draw nearer to the Lord. If you have been hesitant to come to the Sacrament or have been away from the Sacrament, this is a good time to reconnect with Christ and His Church. Experience the blessing of this healing sacrament **each Tuesday beginning February 28 from 7:00 – 9:00 PM** heard in our Confessional, which is in the Narthex close to the sacristy.

LEAP INTO THE CATHOLICISM SERIES! EPISODE #6

"The Mystical Union of Christ And The Church"

On Leap Year day, February 29th, Weds evening @ 7:30 PM, the 6th episode of "Catholicism" will be shown in the Blanchard Center.

(Note there will NOT be a screening on Ash Weds., 2/22). It is titled: "The Mystical Union Of Christ And The Church". This episode deals directly with the question: "What is the Church?" The episode features Father Barron presenting the reality of "one, holy, catholic and apostolic" and explaining the Catholic conviction that Christ continues to embrace humanity in all of its joys and sorrows through the Church. Come join us for this 50-minute screening and a brief discussion led by Msgr. McGrath.

The "Catholicism" episodes are scheduled as follows:

- 2/22- **ASH WEDS.** There is NO screening this week!
- 2/29 The Mystical Union Of Christ and Church
- 3/7 "Bread Of Heaven"-- The Mystery Of The Eucharist
- 3/14 "Company Of Witnesses"-- Communion Of Saints
- 3/21 "The Fire Of His Love" -- Prayer
- 3/28 "World Without End" --- The Last Things

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Please pray The Stations of the Cross with us each Friday of Lent at 7:30 PM in the church.

LENTEN FASTING REGULATIONS

1) Abstinence on all the Fridays of Lent, and on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. No meat may be eaten on days of abstinence. Catholics 14 years and older are bound to abstain from meat. Invalids, pregnant an nursing mothers are exempt.

2) Fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Fasting means having only one full meal to maintain one's strength. Two smaller, meatless and penitential meals are permitted according to one's needs, but they should not together equal the one full meal. Eating solid foods between meals is not permitted. Catholics from 18 through 59 are bound to fast. Again, invalids, pregnant and nursing mothers are exempt.

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VIGIL

4:30PM Larry Maul - by Nicole and Eric Stimpson
SUNDAY February 19
 7:30 AM Parishioners of St. John
 8:30 AM Marjorie Meyer - by Claire DeLuca
 10:00 AM James Santaguida -
 by The Dolcetti Family
 11:30 AM Raffaella & Peter Cullen - by Linda Molnar
 5:00 PM Michael Fucile - by the Turner Family
MONDAY February 20 PRESIDENTS DAY
Office Closed
 8:00 AM Algernon Middleton -
 by John M. Wilson, Jr.
TUESDAY February 21
 8:00 AM Santa Amigo - by Barbara & Mike Ramsey

Please remember all our parish members and family serving our country.

Lt. Denis Campbell of the Noroton FD.
 We also remember all those injured or have sacrificed their lives for our country.
 (Contact B Connolly at 203 655.1145 or stjohnb@optonline.net if you wish to add a parish member who is serving or has served our country)

St. John Prayers for the Sick

Grace Wohlberg, Doris Hueston, Joan and Vic Labozzo, DonnaMarie Rotante, Winnie Raffaele, Terry Laird, Alex Newton, Pat Rimaldi, Jack Kelly.

WEDNESDAY February 22 ASH WEDNESDAY

..7:00 am Clement & Vera Asher
 8:00 AM Mary Jo Rutledge - by Her Family
 12:15 PM Algernon Middleton –
 by Mary & Michael Moore
 5:00 PM Gerry Van der Plas –
 By Robert & Marisa Viola

The Week Ahead

SUNDAY, February 19

4:00 PM Teen Choir Rehearsal
 6:00 PM Youth Group

MONDAY, February 20 Office Closed

TUESDAY, February 21

10:00 AM Sewing Group – Room 108
 7:30 PM Prayer Group – Room 108

WEDNESDAY, February 22 Ash Wednesday

9:30 AM Healing the Passages of Life
 7-8 PM Intercessory Prayer – Church
 7:00 PM Bible Study Room 108

THURSDAY, February 23

9:30 AM Bible Study – Room 108
 7:00 PM St. John Choir
 7:30 PM Joyful Praise Choir
 7:30 PM RCIA – Room 108

FRIDAY, February 17

5:30 PM AA Meeting – Room 108

SUNDAY, February 19

4:00 PM Teen Choir Rehearsal
 6:00 PM Youth Group

THURSDAY February 23

8:00 AM Marjorie Zareski
 by Bill Zareski & Carol Howard
 12:15 PM Raymond Daigle
 by Mary & Sal Giarratana

FRIDAY February 24

8:00 AM William Patrick Baynham –
 by Dan Rosa
 12:15 PM Sal Giarratana
 by Jacqueline & Ray Pace

SATURDAY February 25

8:30 AM Agnes Poubia
 by Gail & Warren Matthews

VIGIL

4:30PM Larry Maul
 by Donny & Theresa Carlucci
SUNDAY February 26
 7:30 AM Anthony Guarino II – by His Family
 8:30 AM Parishioners of St. John
 10:00 AM Margaret Reichelt
 By Tony & Sandy Kwedar
 11:30 AM Howard Pierpont by Dorothy Pierpont
 5:00 PM Jean Grega by Bil Grega

Readings for the Week of February 19, 2012

Sunday: Is 43:18-19, 21-22, 24b-25/2 Cor 1:1-22/Mk 2:1-12
Monday: Jas 3:13-18/Mk 9:14-29
Tuesday: Jas 4:1-10/Mk 9:30-37
Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20--6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Lk 9:22-25
Friday: Is 58:1-9a/Mt 9:14-15
Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/Lk 5:27-32
Next Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-

Rose for Life

“In celebration of Michael Sutherland Greene’s 50th b-day”
 From Mom, Julie Rikert

Blood Pressure

The Parish Nurses will be taking blood pressures on Sunday, February 26th, downstairs in the conservatory from 11:00 AM until after the 11:30 mass. Everyone is welcome to come, have your pressure checked and discuss any health questions with the nurses.

St. John Prayers for the Sick

Grace Wohlberg, Doris Hueston, Joan and Vic Labozzo, DonnaMarie Rotante, Winnie Raffaele, Terry Laird, Alex Newton, Pat Rimaldi, Jack Kelly.

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Person-to-Person

St. John's Church Lenten Food Drive
Please take this list to the grocery store with you
and fill a bag!

Parmalat Milk
100% Fruit Juice
Hot & Cold Cereals
Pancake Mix & Syrup
Peanut Butter & Jelly

SoupCrackers
Canned Fruit &
Vegetables
Canned Meat & Tuna

Dried Beans
Rice
Pasta & Sauce
Jell-O/ Pudding
Coffee & Tea
Please No Expired Food

Please return this filled bag by February 26th
www.p2pdarien.org

LifeNotes – together to Celebrate Life

Wash, DC, Feb 10 – The US Conf of Catholic Bishops:
“We will continue to press for the greatest conscience
protection we can secure from the Exec
Branch...stepping away from the particulars, we note
that today's proposal continues to involve needless
government intrusion in the internal governance of
religious institutions, and to threaten government
coercion of religious people and groups to violate their
most deeply held convictions. In a nation dedicated to
religious liberty as its first and founding principle, we
should not be limited to negotiating within these
parameters. The only complete solution to this religious
liberty problem is for HHS to rescind the mandate of
these objectionable services.
<http://www.usccb.org/news/2012/12-026.cfm>

† You are Cordially Invited to
Christ Renews His Parish
A women's retreat weekend for
St. John Parish Women

March 10-11, 2012
8:00 AM Saturday - 4:00 PM Sunday

Divine Compassion Spirituality Center
52 N. Broadway
White Plains, NY 10603

Come prepared to renew your heart. The
weekend is centered around prayer and
reflections by the St. John women's retreat team,
with emphasis on small group discussion and
activities.

Sharing dialogue is stimulated by a liturgical,
scriptural, and prayerful atmosphere.

The cost of the weekend is \$160, private room
and meals included.

Retreat Contact: Jean Benitez
at 203-655-5122
benitezjean@sbcglobal.net

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Emergency Contact : Name _____

Emergency Contact Phone # _____

Emergency Contact Email: _____

Or Register On Line at

<http://tinyurl.com/2012CRHP>

* Please mail or drop check off made out to
St. John's Church, 1986 Boston Post Road, Darien CT,
06820. Reference CRHP in memo

St. John Cookbook

Great gift for your Valentine

Cookbooks (\$20.00) may be purchased in the
Parish Office during business hours
Monday – Friday 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

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Please consider remembering St. John Church in your Will.

February 12, 2012

2012 Weekly Offertory \$11,755
2011 Weekly Offertory \$11,476

If you would like to make your weekly or monthly offertory donation by credit card or online banking, please call the parish. You may also visit our website for Online Giving.

SHEETS FOR ROSARY HILL HOME

The St. John Sewing Group makes pads for the terminally ill at Rosary Hill Home. If you have old sheets, they would appreciate them. The Sewing Group meets every Tuesday morning at 10:00 AM in Room 108 in Blanchard Center and would be happy to welcome you.

NO SEWING SKILLS ARE REQUIRED.

Please stop in on Tuesday morning and see what we do. For information call Clare Joy at 203.348.8145.

Bible Study - The Gospel of St. John Continued

Come pray, study and discuss the Bible with other inquiring Christians. Read the last and the most theological of the four gospels, where Jesus is realized as the Word of God.

Content: We are continuing our study of the Gospel of John, picking up with the second half, known as the "Gospel of Glory", Chapters 13-21. This includes the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus, as well as His post-resurrection appearances. Read the "Priestly Prayer" of Jesus at the last supper. We relate the Jesus of the fourth gospel to the Johannine community of the Epistles known as 1, 2 and 3 John.

When: Wednesdays from 7 PM to 8:30 PM
Thursdays from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM

Where: Blanchard Center - Room 108

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

On Wednesdays from 7-8 PM the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed so that we have the opportunity to adore, visit, silently pray and intercede for the renewal of our parish in the visible presence of the Eucharist.

No reservations are necessary; come visit with the Lord, join in intercessory prayer on behalf of our parish, and watch what happens!

Theology at Knight –

The Knights of Columbus will be holding 'Theology at Knight – A Catholic lecture series at the Knights of Columbus' on Thursday February 23 at 7:30 pm at the Knights of Columbus Center, 507 Shippan Avenue, Stamford. This program picks up where 'Theology on Tap' left off. For more information, please email theology_knight@optonline.net.

ST. JOHN
CHRISTIAN FORMATION PROGRAM
203.655.8020

Elementary Program

Grades 1-5

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday Classes will **NOT** meet (February 20, 21, 22) for instruction in the Parish Center.

Middle Grades Program

Grades 6, 7, 8

Sunday Classes meet **MARCH** 4, 11, 18, 25 - 8:30-10:00AM

*Sunday Classes **will not meet February 19, 26.**

Tuesday Classes meet February 28 and MARCH 6, 13, 20, 27 - 5:45-6:45PM and 7:00-8:00PM

*Tuesday classes **will not meet February 21.**

PROGRAM FOR 4/5 YEAR OLDS

Class Sessions - Sunday March 4, 18 - 9:45-10:00AM - Parish Center

TO THE PARISH FAMILY - Please continue to pray for the Candidates for First Holy Communion - Class of 2012 - and to encourage them with a kind word when you see them. They may be identified by the round "I Am God's Child" badge with the attached white ribbon imprinted with the words "Communion 2012" which they are asked to wear to church. All members of the parish play a vital role in the faith formation of our parish children. Thank you.

FIFTH GRADERS SELECT AND SHARE A PRAYER FROM THEIR PRAYER JOURNAL

"Dear Lord, Please heal all of my church members who are in need and help me and everyone have a good 2012. Please help me to do well in school and bless my friends, family, teachers, priests, and anyone else in need. Lastly, forgive me of my sins and help me to be closer to you. Amen."

"Dear Lord, Thank you for letting me be where I am today. I am blessed to have a mom and a dad to take me down the right path. Angels are near me and I know it. Thank you for letting me see, speak and hear. But, thank you, most of all, for letting me be me."

"My God, When I get a lot of special treats I always think of those who don't - starving children or children who never get anything special. I pray that they will one day live a peaceful life."

FOURTH GRADERS CELEBRATE THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS - AND REFLECT ON THEIR FAVORITE STATION

(The Fifth Station - Simon Helps to Carry Jesus' Cross) - "The fifth station made me think about when people helped me. I also realized how I helped them back when they got hurt. I thought about how kind Simon was to help Jesus even when he wasn't so sure."

(The Sixth Station - Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus) - "My favorite station is the sixth station because all during Jesus' life Jesus showed that he cared and loved people by giving food to the hungry and giving the blind sight...and, a woman came out of the crowd to wipe Jesus' face to make him feel better."

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1986 Post Road, Darien, CT 06820
203.655.1145

Pastor: Msgr. Frank C. McGrath ext 24
fmcgrathstjohn@optonline.net

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Frank Gomez ext 23
frfrankstjohn@optonline.net

Deacon Bill Rowe (Deacon Emeritus)

Bookkeeper: Mrs. Michelle Leville ext 11
stjohn2@optonline.net

Secretaries: Mrs. B Connolly ext 10
stjohnb@optonline.net
Ms. Rose Lotocky ext 10

Office Hours: Monday – Friday
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Mr. Richard Slagle 203.966.8928
r.slagle@AttysBentley.com

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

Mr. Peter Clark 212.984.2947
clarkpl@sbcglobal.net

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Director: Mr. John Cunningham 203.655.8020
religiousedsi@optonline.net

PRE SCHOOL

Director: Mrs. Lisa Ioli 203.656.0548
lisaiolistjohn@optonline.net

MUSIC MINISTRY

Choirmaster: Mr. W. Ogden Booker
203.655.0777

JOYFUL PRAISE CHOIR

Director: Mr. Frank Porretta

YOUTH MINISTRY

Kristen Richards 203.662-1217
Kristenlecomptestjohnyg@gmail.com

PARISH CENTER

Manager & Sexton Mr. Kevin Donnelly

PARISH WEB SITE

www.stjohndarien.com

Please visit our parish website. We have information on many opportunities for spiritual growth and community involvement, to give and receive assistance, enjoy crafts

and take pleasure in companionship with luncheons, teas, trips.

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ADORATION & BENEDICTION

Every First Friday after the 8:00 AM Mass until
12 Noon except July and August

MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA

Every Monday after the 8:00 AM Mass

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM Saturdays or anytime by appointment.

ROSARY

Immediately following the daily 8 AM Mass

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Couples should contact a parish priest at least six months
prior to the desired wedding date.

COMMUNION CALLS

If you know of anyone who is homebound, in a nursing
home or hospital, and would like communion from a priest,
deacon or eucharistic minister brought to them or have a
visit, please call the parish secretary. Oftentimes this is the
only way we know of the need.

BAPTISM WORKSHOP

Prior to the Baptism of a first child, both parents must
attend a Baptism Workshop. The next baptism class is
March 4, 2012 at 12:45 PM in the Pierre Room. Please call
the office for more information, 203.655.1145.

THE CELEBRATE LIFE COMMITTEE

We look forward to your insights and energy. Please
contact Msgr. McGrath at 655.1145 or Jessica Couri at
203.656.3696 (jacpacouri@yahoo.com) or Celebrate Life
Committee (celebratelife@live.com) for more information.

VIRTUS TRAINING

If you are involved in any volunteer work in the parish, you
need to attend a Virtus Training Class. For those who have
not attended a class, please visit www.virtusonline.org to
see the list of training sessions that are available.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

We meet every other week to make comfort shawls for
those in need of prayer. If you would like to make, receive
or send a shawl (or prayer square for our troops), please
contact Anne van Geldern at anne.vangeldern@gmail.com
or 203.585.2302. See the Parish website for info and
pictures.

MOM'S SUPPORTING MOM'S

is an informal support group for moms with children of any
age, facilitated by Marilyn Dolcetti, LCSW. 203.655.9481.
The group meets twice a month in the Pierre Room from
9:15 to 10:15 AM.

SENIOR CITIZENS

Chat & Chew meets monthly on the 3rd Wednesdays from
May through November, beginning with Mass at 12:00 PM.
They have, pizza parties, with speakers / entertainment, a
day of retreat, luncheon in nearby inns. See us next year.

HEALING PASSAGES

We do not need to be trapped by patterns of behavior learned
in childhood, not be on guilt trips if we've hurt someone else.
By bringing Jesus' love into memories, hurts can be
transformed into gifts. Please contact Marilyn Dolcetti, LCSW
at if you would like further information on this.