

*The Pastor's Column*  
*March 14, 2010*

The Seven Capital Sins: Lust

Understanding the seven capital sins, which are also called the seven deadly sins, or as Bishop Fulton J. Sheen once stated, "the seven pallbearers of the soul," will help us see how sin conspires and works in our life to bring us to misery, death and possibly hell. This deeper spiritual understanding can lead to healthy change, repentance, renewed love for God and neighbor, and actually good health. The Capital Sins are *Pride, Covetousness (avarice), Lust, Anger, Envy, Gluttony* and *Sloth*.

**Below are some of the quotes that I used in last weekend's sermon on lust, also know as avarice.**

We are inclined to lust for power, material goods and sex. Covetousness most often deals with the first two, power and material goods. Lust, known as sexual impurity of mind or action, is opposed to chastity. It is illicit and excessive sexual gratification outside the covenant of marriage, done either alone, with another not our spouse, or with someone of the same sex.

The Lord, the creator, has given to the human race a beautiful gift of sexual life and love for people in the married life. One of the most beautiful presentations by John Paul II in his work, *The Theology of the Body*, presents to us God's perfect plan regarding love and sex for true happiness of humanity. However, being faithful to the Lord in our sexual lives takes great faith in His help, discipline and self-control. We are strongly and negatively influenced by our hedonistic culture, media, and peer society.

When we surrender to our passions, our reason and self-control are compromised. The results of lust are destructive: pornography (magazines, websites), rape, date rape, abuse of children, adultery, infidelity and divorce are a few of the results.

The Evil One is very much behind the influence to undermine our chastity. The Lord has given us the beautiful gift that opens to deep personal conjugal union—love, conception, childbirth and family joy. However, the Evil One hates humanity and God. Satan works to influence and convince us that sin in this area is for our benefit and fulfillment. He, of course, is "the liar." He uses the same corrupt strategy with us that he used in the story of Adam and Eve's fall from grace.

The scriptures state the following:

1 Corinthians 6:9: *Do you not know that the unjust will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators nor idolaters nor adulterers nor boy prostitutes nor sodomites nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor robbers will inherit the kingdom of God. That is what some of you used to be; but now you have had yourselves washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.*

Romans 1: 24ff: *God handed them over to impurity through the lusts of their hearts for the mutual degradation of their bodies. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie and revered and worshiped the creature rather than the creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.*

*Therefore, God handed them over to degrading passions. Their females exchanged natural relations for unnatural, and the males likewise gave up natural relations with females and burned with lust for one another. Males did shameful things with males and thus received in their own persons the due penalty for their perversity. And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God handed them over to their undiscerning mind to do what is improper. They are filled with every form of wickedness. Although they know the just decree of God that all who practice such things deserve death, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.*

To fight the good fight and win in the area of purity we should avoid those who do not value true chaste married life. It is wise to avoid entertainment, movies, web sites, conversations, evil humor, etc. that open the door to temptation and sin of mind and body. Honor our Lady, Mary. Pray often. Keep our minds open to the Lord and his way. Make a good confession and clear up our whole life.

When the Lord comes again may he rejoice in our chaste lives. The Good News is that through Christ, God has a better life for us now and in heaven. We can trust him!

**Lenten Confessions are on Tuesday night from 7 PM to 9 PM and every Saturday from 3 PM to 4 PM.**

Msgr. McGrath

*Pilgrimage to the Holy Land*

Msgr. McGrath will serve as chaplain on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land this October 17-27. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to follow in the footsteps of Jesus with Msgr. and fellow parishioners.

At the sites of Jesus' life and ministry we will celebrate Mass each day and will read Scripture together, letting the scenes from the Gospels come alive for us in a deeper way.

We will also have a local guide who will provide local interpretation of the sites, and meet some Christians of the Holy Land to experience their welcome and learn about their efforts to be faithful to the call of Christ.

Kevin Perrotta, a friend of Msgr. McGrath's and author and editor will be the group leader. Msgr. and Kevin have led previous pilgrimages to the Holy Land.

If you are interested, copies of the itinerary are available at the Narthex books shelves near the church entrance.

There are 39 places available, so please contact Anton Salah at Adriatic Travel, (310) 548-1446,

anton@adriatictours.com as soon as possible.

The trip will be spiritually and personally rewarding and much fun.

**Christ Renews His Parish Men's Retreat**

I am praying that the Holy Spirit will inspire you to attend the "Christ Renews His Parish Retreat" on the 20th and 21st of March in Monroe.

The retreat team, of which I am a part, has worked very hard the past 6 months putting together a program of spirituality which I know will change your relationship with Jesus and The Holy Spirit and help to bring an even greater renewal to our Parish.

The program is run entirely by lay members of the Church and is structured around the testimony of how The Holy Spirit has changed and directed their lives.

The St. John's Men's Group is making available the fee of \$150, for those who may not be able to participate because of the cost and so I urge you to consider attending.

Won't you please consider taking advantage of this most wonderful spiritual experience?

Call Don Smith at 655-4787 for a registration application and further information

**2010 Winter/Spring Bible Study Series**

**The Messiah: From King David of Israel to Jesus**

The Story of David in the Books of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel  
 in the Hebrew Bible

Wednesday Evenings 7 PM to 8:30 or  
 Thursday Mornings 9:30 AM to 11:00

Location: Parish Center, (Room 108)

Meeting Dates:

Wed. Group: Mar. 10 Apr. 7, 14, 21, 28; May 5, 12 & 26; June 2

Thurs. Group: Mar. 11; Apr. 8, 15, 22, 29; May 6, 13 & 27; June 3

All are welcome—Bible beginners to Bible scholars. ●No registration, just come with your Bible.



<b>VIGIL</b>	
4:30 PM	Michael Fay by Helen and John Jordan
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>March 14</b>
7:30 AM	Nancy Eldredge by Dan & Marilyn Dolcetti
8:30 AM	Larry Reilly by Virginia & Andy Aoyama
10:00 AM	Paul Andrew Lang, Sr. by The McCabe Family
11:30 AM	Robert Cossette by The Eng Family
5:00 PM	Parishioners of St. John Parish
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>March 15</b>
8:00 AM	Nora, Patrick & Barbara Tracey & Patsy Boulle' by The Tracey Family
12:15 PM	Al Hanson by Kirslys Conditto
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>March 16</b>
8:00 AM	Mina DeLuca by Claire DeLuca
12:15 PM	Jesse Lee Woodward by The Carlo Family
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>March 17</b>
8:00 AM	Ursula Glashan by Ghislaine & Richard LeMieux Helen & Peter Mannion
12:15 PM	
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>March 18</b>
8:00 AM	James, George & Wanda Long by Mary Long
12:15 PM	Robert Wilson by John Hatchl
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>March 19</b>
8:00 AM	Patricia Mason by Her Brother-in-law
12:15 PM	John O'Toole by His Family
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>March 20</b>
8:30 AM	Barbara Hladis by Her Uncle
<b>VIGIL</b>	
4:30 PM	Rose Mason by Her Brother
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>March 21</b>
7:30 AM	Nancy Eldredge by Pam and Tom Oborski
8:30 AM	Vincent Mason by His Brother
10:00 AM	Hanrahan & Riley Family by Mr. & Mrs. Shillinglaw
11:30 AM	Parishioners of St. John Parish
5:00 PM	Margaret Gavigan by Beatrice Connolly

### Living our Faith Annual Bishop's Appeal

There are presently 92 active deacons and 15 men in formation for the Diaconate in the Diocese of Bridgeport. Deacon Tim Bolton, from St. James Parish, was ordained three years ago through the Permanent Diaconate Program. Funding from the Annual Bishop's Appeal helped Deacon Tim complete the program for which he is very grateful.

"The desire of my heart is to strive to integrate my faith and Diaconate into every aspect of my life; my marriage with four children, my work in two family businesses, my parish community, and beyond. Untold opportunities emerge for a Deacon when ministry happens beyond the walls of our Church, finding its way into people's homes and the surrounding community. One of the greatest joys of being a deacon is to help make the Church real for people so they can touch and feel it impact their daily lives. When people participate at this level they begin to see their faith as much more than just going to church once a week, and are empowered to be Church where they live," says Deacon Tim.

This is the work of the Church and the Permanent Deacon in humble service to our Lord's Church in building the Body of Christ. Thank you for your gifts to the Annual Bishop's Appeal.

### PARISH NURSES – BLOOD PRESSURE CHECK TODAY

The Parish Nurses will be having a blood pressure screening today, Sunday, March 14th downstairs in the conservatory from 11:00 AM until after the 11:30 AM Mass. Everyone is welcome to come, have your pressure checked and discuss any health concerns with the nurses.

### THE WEEK AHEAD

#### SUNDAY, March 14

3:30 PM Catholicism 201 "encore": Holy, Catholic & Apostolic - Pierre Room

5:00 PM Mass and Youth Group meeting

#### TUESDAY, March 16

10:00 AM Sewing Group – Room 108

10:30 – 12:30 PM Craft Group - Conservatory

7:00 – 9:00 PM Confession – Church confessional

7:30 PM Prayer Group – Blanchard Center

#### WEDNESDAY, March 17

6:30 PM Catholicism 201/Dinner-DVD-Discussion - Pierre Rm.

#### THURSDAY, March 18

9:30 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry

7:00 PM Choir Practice

7:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry

7:30 PM Joyful Praise Choir

#### FRIDAY, March 19

5:30 PM AA Meeting – Room 108

7:30 PM Stations of the Cross

#### Readings for the Week of March 14, 2010

Sunday: Jos 5:9a, 10-12/2 Cor 5:17-21/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Monday: Is 65:17-21/Jn 4:43-54

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: 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

Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Jn 7:40-53

Next Sunday: Is 43:16-21/Phil 3:8-14/Jn 8:1-11

### AIR HOCKEY TABLE DONATIONS and more:

St. John's Youth Ministry is looking for gently used pool tables, Air Hockey tables, Foosball tables, Ping-Pong tables, and video game systems for an upcoming game room for kids. We are also looking for standing basketball nets for outside use. If you, or anyone you know can help in donating these to us, please contact Bryan Mercier: 203-662-1217 or at sjchurchyg@yahoo.com. We thank you in advance, and we appreciate it very much.

### TEEN MUSICIANS

Do you sing? Play an instrument? St. John's youth choir is looking for teens who sing and play instruments (bass, flute, trumpet, etc) for the 5pm Mass. If you, or anyone else you know is interested in joining, please contact, Bryan Mercier: 203-662-1217 or at SJChurchYG@yahoo.com. Thank you.

### CRAFT GROUP

The first sign of spring – our Craft Group has returned! They meet on Tuesdays at 10:30 AM-12:30 PM in the Conservatory. If you like to do crafts or would like to learn, please join them this Tuesday.

### NEW LIGHTHOUSE CD'S

See our selection of new CD's in the narthex.

The Passion of Christ Applied to Your Life

The True Meaning of Easter

How to Apply Our Faith to Our Families

Pursuing Holiness: Lessons from St. Francis de Sales

The Sacrament of Penance

**MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARIES**

Bishop William Edward Lori, S.T.D., will celebrate a Mass, in which the commemoration of significant marriage anniversaries will occur, at **Saint Theresa Church, Trumbull, on Sunday, April 25, 2010, at 3:00 P.M** Couples who have or will be celebrating (during the months of **January-June**) one of the following wedding anniversaries--- **15TH, 20TH, 25TH, 30TH, 35TH, 40TH, 45TH, 50TH AND 50 PLUS YEARS**---are invited to participate with family and friends. Interested couples should register with B Connolly at the parish office 203.655.1145 as soon as possible. The deadline for registration is **Monday, April 12, 2010.**

**ST. JOHN RCIA NEWS**

We congratulate Dorothy Murray who was enrolled recently by Bishop Lori as one of the "ELECT" who will be Baptized, Confirmed and receive the Eucharist at the Easter Vigil Mass. Please keep Dorothy in your prayers as she continues her preparation for these Sacraments of Christian Initiation.

**SAVE THE DATE  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CRISIS CENTER  
2010 VOICES OF COURAGE LUNCHEON  
STAMFORD MARRIOTT**

Wednesday, May 12, 2010  
11:00 AM-1:30 PM

For more information please contact:  
email: [SpringLuncheon@dvccct.org](mailto:SpringLuncheon@dvccct.org)  
Telephone: 203.588.9100  
[www.dvccct.org](http://www.dvccct.org)

Attorney and Victim Advocate  
Michael G. Dowd, Esq.  
Honoree and Featured Speaker  
Honorary Chair: Linda Fairstein

**THANK YOU**

We received a very nice note from Sister Mary John, L.s.p. of the Little Sisters of the Poor thanking the parishioners for their very generous support in the amount of \$4,718.

**2011 MASS BOOK  
OPENS THURSDAY, APRIL 1**

We will accept requests for 2011 Masses beginning on Thursday, April 1. You may email or come to the office and request up to 6 Masses for each family.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

March  
17, 24, 31 Catholicism 201 – Dinner-DVD- Discussion  
Pierre Rm. 6:30 PM  
13 St. Patrick Parish Party - Dinner & live Irish  
music  
20-21 Christ Renews His Parish - Men  
May  
1 Homefront Project



**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.

**CONFESSION**

Experience the blessing of this healing sacrament each Tuesday from 7:00 – 9:00 PM heard in our Confessional, which is in the Narthex close to the sacristy.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

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

**CATHOLICISM 201**

**Catholicism 201-New start time**

This week's video is particularly appropriate for Lent: The Healing Sacraments-Reconciliation & Anointing of the Sick. Where else can you hear a good presentation of these vital lifelines & have *your* questions answered in a small group setting? "Soup & Salad" are served at 6:30PM and the video starts at 7:00. Arrive when your schedule permits & go home with a greater understanding and love for these uniquely Catholic Sacraments. The new start time allows more time for questions and discussion.

For more info, See the parish web site, [www.stjohndarien.com](http://www.stjohndarien.com) & click on the violet text or call Pete Wray at 203-972-0209

**FAST AND ABSTINENCE**

- Catholics who have celebrated their 14th birthday are bound to **abstain** from meat on Ash Wednesday and each Friday of Lent.
- Catholics who have celebrated their 18th birthday, in addition to abstaining from meat, should **fast**, that is, eat only one full meal on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 17) and Good Friday (April 2). Smaller quantities of food may be taken at two other meals, but no food should be consumed at other times during those two days. The obligation of fasting ceases with the celebration of one's 59th birthday.

**HEALING MASS**

Saturday, March 20 - Bus Trip to Spiritual Luncheon with  
Father Ralph DiOrio

Day of Healing & Restoration in the Holy Spirit -  
Southbridge, MA - 10:00 AM Seminar, 12 PM Lunch 2:00  
Seminar & conclude with 4:00 PM Mass Bus Picking up at  
St Ann Church in Milford (7:00 AM), North Haven (7:30 AM)  
& Cromwell (8:00)

Bus accommodates wheelchairs. Cost is \$95.00 (\$55.00  
tickets/\$40.00 bus). For reservations call Rose 203.878.6427  
or MaryAnn 203.407.1448. Info on Fr. DiOrio- visit  
[RDOhealingministry.org](http://RDOhealingministry.org).

# Church Staff

## PARISH OFFICES

Pastor: Msgr. Frank C. McGrath ext 24  
[fmcgrathstjohn@optonline.net](mailto:fmcgrathstjohn@optonline.net)

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Frank Gomez ext 23  
[frfrankstjohn@optonline.net](mailto:frfrankstjohn@optonline.net)

Deacon Wayne E. Malloy  
[dmmalloy@diobpt.org](mailto:dmmalloy@diobpt.org)

Deacon Bill Rowe (Deacon Emeritus)

Bookkeeper: Mrs. Michelle Leville ext 11  
[stjohn2@optonline.net](mailto:stjohn2@optonline.net)

Secretary: Mrs. B Connolly ext 10  
[stjohnb@optonline.net](mailto:stjohnb@optonline.net)

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

## FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Mr. Richard Slagle  
203.966.8928

## PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

203.656.0231  
Mr. Doug McKay

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

655.8020  
Director: Mr. John Cunningham  
[religiusedsi@optonline.net](mailto:religiusedsi@optonline.net)

## PRE SCHOOL

656.0548  
Director: Mrs. Lisa Ioli  
[predarienstjohn@optonline.net](mailto:predarienstjohn@optonline.net)

## MUSIC MINISTRY

655.0777  
Choirmaster: Mr. W. Ogden Booker

## JOYFUL PRAISE CHOIR

Director: Mr. Frank Porretta

## YOUTH MINISTRY

662.1217  
Director: Mr. Bryan Mercier  
[sjchurchyg@yahoo.com](mailto:sjchurchyg@yahoo.com)

## PARISH CENTER

Manager & Sexton: Mr. Kevin Donnelly

## PARISH WEB SITE

[www.stjohndarien.com](http://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.

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

## 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

## 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.

### *Are you or a friend:*

### *Catholic but not confirmed? Christian but not Catholic?*

- *Unbaptized but interested in learning about the Catholic faith?*

There are several paths to becoming a fully initiated Catholic and you can find out which one best suits your situation by contacting either of our priests (655-1145) or Pete Wray (972-0209) to learn more about your options through our programs.

## BAPTISM WORKSHOP

Prior to the Baptism of a first child both parents must attend a Baptism Workshop. Our next class is April 11<sup>th</sup> at 12:45 PM. Please call the office for more information, 203.655.1145.

## WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS

The priests of St. John Church look forward to meeting our new parishioners. Please introduce yourselves after Mass or call for an appointment. Registration cards are available at the rear of the Church or in the office during the week.

## THE CELEBRATE LIFE COMMITTEE

We look forward to your insights and energy. Please contact Msgr. McGrath at 655.1145 or Jessica Couri at 656.3696 ([jacpacouri@yahoo.com](mailto:jacpacouri@yahoo.com)) or Celebrate Life Committee ([celebratelife@live.com](mailto:celebratelife@live.com)) for more information.

## VIRTUS TRAINING

If you are involved in any volunteer work in the parish you must attend a Virtus Training Class. For those who have not attended a class, there is a class at St. Roch Parish, Greenwich on March 12, 2010 at 8:30 AM.

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

meets every other week to make comfort shawls for those in need of prayer. If you would like to make or receive or send a shawl (or prayer square for our troops), please call Anne van Geldern at 585.2302 or [anne.vangeldern@gmail.com](mailto:anne.vangeldern@gmail.com). See the Parish website for info and pictures. The next meeting will be Thursday, March 18 at 9:30 AM or 7:00 PM

## MOM'S SUPPORTING MOM'S

is an informal support group for moms with children of any age, facilitated by Marilyn Dolcetti, LCSW. The group meets twice a month in the Pierre Room from 9:00 to 10:30 AM. The next meetings will be March 23<sup>rd</sup> and March 25<sup>th</sup>. The subject will be **Building Blocks of Self Worth**

## HEALING THE PASSAGES OF LIFE

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. The group will meet on Wed, March 31<sup>st</sup> 9:15-11 AM in Room 108.



Please consider remembering St. John Church in your Will.

MARCH 6/7 OFFERTORY

Weekly Offertory 2010	\$ 10,776
Total Monthly 2010	\$ 5,995
Weekly Offertory 2009	\$ 12,463
Total Monthly 2009	\$ 5,995

The second collection today is for Catholic Relief Services. Thank you for your continued generosity.

We are receiving many requests for Electronic Banking and Credit Cards donations. If you would like to make your weekly or monthly offertory donation by credit card or online banking, please call the parish. We also welcome stock donations. Please contact the parish office for information.

**LifeNotes**

*together to defend and celebrate life*

**Bishops Call for Bipartisan Action to Advance Health Care Reform That Protects Human Life and Dignity** - In their February letter to Congressional leadership the U.S. Bishops urged Congressional leaders 'to commit themselves to enacting genuine health care reform that will protect the life, dignity, consciences and health of all.' The bishops urged the House and Senate to adopt legislation that ensures access to quality, affordable life-giving health care for all; retains longstanding requirements that federal funds not be used to elective abortions or plans that include them; effectively protects conscience rights; and protects the access to health care that immigrants currently have and removes current barriers to access. 'We hope and pray that the Congress and the country will come together around genuine health care reform that protects the life, dignity, consciences and health of all,' said the bishops.

Please call your Congressmen and ask them to retain the dignity of the person and protect life when considering the vote for the health care reform bill:

Sen Chris Dodd	(203) 224-2823
Sen Joe Lieberman	(203) 224-4041
Rep Jim Himes	(203) 225-5541

**Rose for Life** 'For the full recovery and health of Michael Labozzo' – Donated by Jessica, Peter, Ella and Stephen Couri

**ROSE FOR LIFE**

If you wish to donate to the Rose for Life initiative please call us at 203.656.3696 or 917.415.1427. The cost is \$10 per donation. Please make checks out to St. John Church with Celebrate Life 'Rose for Life' in the memo and drop off in Parish office. Please title envelope 'Rose for Life.'

**ST. JOHN WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP**

Are you interested in exploring and deepening your faith through reading Christian books and discussing them in an intimate group of St. John's women? We will meet the last Tuesday of each month conveniently after school drop off. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 AM the rectory living room. We are reading Captivating by John and Stasi Eldredge. Please call Sheri Hone at 324-7318 or [hhone@gmail.com](mailto:hhone@gmail.com) if interested.

**ST. JOHN**

**CHRISTIAN FORMATION PROGRAM**

**Elementary Program**

GRADES 1-5 - Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday Classes will meet March 15, 16, 17 - 4:00-5:15PM for instruction in the Parish Center.

**Middle Grades Program**

GRADES 6, 7, 8 - Sunday Classes meet March 14, 21 - 8:30 AM Parish Center

GRADES 6, 7, 8 - Tuesday Classes meet March 16, 23 - 5:45 PM and 7:00 PM - Parish Center

**PROGRAM FOR 4 AND 5 YEAR OLDS** - Next Class Sessions - Sunday March 14, 21 - 9:45-11:00A.M. Parish Center. Diane Barston: Coordinator. \***Special Presentation** by the children - **March 21** at the conclusion of class.

Families most welcome, and encouraged, to attend.

**PARKING REGULATIONS** - For the safety of all children attending Christian Formation Program classes please observe parking regulations - sent at the beginning of the year to all families of enrolled children.

**Sincere thanks.**

**TO THE PARISH FAMILY**

Please continue your support of the candidates of St. John First Holy Communion Class of 2010. Your role their faith formation is important and vital. Kindly encourage them with a kind word when you see them at church with their families and please keep them in your prayers as they prepare of the reception of this special sacrament. They may be identified by the special round badge, with an attached white ribbon imprinted with the words: Communion 2010", they are asked to wear to **church**. Thank you so much!

**SOCKS FOR SOLDIERS AND THE HAITI/CHILE EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS**

Donations of "tube" type white socks (other colors are fine, too) are most welcomed, gratefully appreciated and accepted by our 7<sup>th</sup> Graders (Sunday Classes) as they reach out to others. Kindly place donations in the special boxes located in the Parish Center. Thank you sincerely!

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION FOR GRADES 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8**

Thank you to Monsignor McGrath, Father Frank and other priest guests for helping the children last week receive the grace and blessings from celebrating during Lent the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We are grateful to them for arranging their busy schedules so the children may experience The Lord's loving forgiveness.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO "SUNDAY" 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS...**

Sixth Graders under the direction of their Catechist: **Deanna Molnar** sponsored a Bake Sale Sunday March 7 after the 10:00AM Mass the Conservatory. The parish family kindly responded helping the class to realized approximately \$250. Proceeds will benefit the earthquake victims of Haiti and Chile. Sincere thanks to all for reaching out in faith to those in need.

**STUDENTS SHARE THOUGHTS AFTER HAVING CELEBRATED THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

(Grade 3) "Station 15 (the Resurrection) (impressed me) because somehow it tells me no matter what God is with me."

(Grade 3) "The station that impressed me the most was station number 4 (Jesus meets his mother) because Mary was being very nice to Jesus."

(Grade 5) "(I liked) the fifteenth station. This station describes Jesus in his risen form. This is one of the glorious mysteries of the rosary. And, I liked this station because in resurrection Jesus destroyed death."

(Grade 5) "The (14<sup>th</sup>) station impressed me the most because he (Christ) died and his friends were nice enough to put him in a clean sheet and to put him in a tomb. He has just suffered and died for us."