

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

**Alcoholics Anonymous – Is it For You?**

Some of the happiest and most peaceful people in the world are those who participate in Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.). They have recognized and dealt with a very serious problem in their lives that was ruining their family, their personal relationships, their career, their soul ... They are now relying on that wonderful higher power, Jesus Christ. They are aware of his unconditional love for them.

Often problems with anger, sexuality, health, personal relationships and faith are closely connected with a serious addiction to alcohol or other substance. Not too long ago while I was visiting a police headquarters where I serve as chaplain, the detectives pointed out that lack of sobriety is most often the cause of the crimes, domestic quarrels and crisis that they are called to solve.

Is A.A. for you? You might find the answer in a little pamphlet, *Is A.A. for You? 12 Questions that Only You can Answer.* It can be read at [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org). Here is a quote:

*Only you can decide whether you want to give A.A. a try — whether you think it can help you.*

*We who are in A.A. came because we finally gave up trying to control our drinking. We still hated to admit that we could never drink safely. Then we heard from other A.A. members that we were sick. (We thought so for years!) We found out that many people suffered from the same feelings of guilt and loneliness and hopelessness that we did. We found out that we had these feelings because we had the disease of alcoholism.*

*We decided to try to face up to what alcohol had done to us. Here are some of the questions we tried to answer honestly. If we answered YES to four or more questions, we were in deep trouble with our drinking. See how you do. Remember, there is no disgrace in facing up to the fact that you have a problem.*

And, here are the first questions:

1. Have you ever decided to stop drinking for a week or so, but only lasted for a couple of days?
2. Do you wish people would mind their own business about your drinking — stop telling you what to do?
3. Have you ever switched from one kind of drink to another in the hope that this would keep you from getting drunk?
4. Have you had to have an eye-opener upon awakening during the past year?
5. Do you envy people who can drink without getting into trouble?
6. Have you had problems connected with drinking during the past year?
7. Has your drinking caused trouble at home?
8. Do you ever try to get "extra" drinks at a party because you do not get enough?
9. Do you tell yourself you can stop drinking any time you want to, even though you keep getting drunk when you don't mean to?
10. Have you missed days of work or school because of drinking?
11. Do you have "blackouts"?
12. Have you ever felt that your life would be better if you did not drink?

Did you answer YES four or more times? If so, you are probably in trouble with alcohol.

An A.A. meeting is held at St. John Church every Friday evening beginning around 5 PM. Also, you can attend an A.A. meeting in another town. Google A.A. and find a list of meetings. The Lord

will help you. If I can be of help, please feel free to contact me. Also, check out AA.org.

Many blessings,  
Msgr. Frank McGrath

**THE WEEK AHEAD**

**SUNDAY, November 14**  
5:00 PM Youth Group Meeting - Conservatory

**MONDAY, November 15**  
6:30 PM Christ Renews His Parish

**TUESDAY, November 16**  
10:00 AM Sewing Group – Room 108  
10:30 AM Craft Group – Conservatory  
7:30 PM Prayer Group – Room 108

**WEDNESDAY, November 17**  
5:30 PM Alpha Group – Pierre Room  
7:00 PM Bible Study – Room 108  
7:30 PM Healing Passages of Life - Conservatory

**THURSDAY, November 18**  
9:30 AM Bible Study – Room 108  
9:30 AM Prayer Shawl – Pierre Room  
7:00 PM Choir Practice  
7:00 PM Prayer Shawl – Pierre Room  
7:30 PM Joyful Praise Choir

**FRIDAY, November 19**  
5:30 PM AA Meeting – Room 108

**SATURDAY, November 20**  
7:00 AM Men's Breakfast – Pierre Room  
BLANCHARD CENTER FACELIFT



**ADVENT WREATHS**

**Join in this Catholic Tradition  
Sunday November 28, 8:30 – 12:30  
Parish Center**

Join us to make an Advent Wreath for your home while enjoying some coffee and refreshments and Advent music.

Come participate in this Catholic tradition after each Mass on November 28, all wreath materials will be provided. Cost of \$20 payable at the door to cover materials. Advance Signup preferred to reserve your wreath materials. Call or email Anne van Geldern at 585-2302 or [anne.vangeldern@gmail.com](mailto:anne.vangeldern@gmail.com) or fill out form in Narthex.

**Volunteers** also needed to help on the day of our event. Let us know if you can spare an hour Sunday to help or could help set up on Saturday.



**SENIOR TEA  
At the Rectory  
Friday, December 15  
2:30 PM**



<b>VIGIL</b>	
4:30 PM	John Mason by His Son
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>November 14</b>
7:30 AM	Special Intention
8:30 AM	Dr. Richard Quick by Virginia and Andy Aoyama and Family Parishioners of St. John
10:00 AM	Antonio and Nancy Conte Tuccinardi by Yolanda and Phyllis
11:30 AM	Bill Perley by The Donoghue Family
5:00 PM	
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>November 15</b>
8:00 AM	Nora, Patrick, and Barbara Tracey and Patsy Boullé by The Tracey Family
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>November 16</b>
8:00 AM	Al Hanson by John and Dolores McCormack
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>November 17</b>
8:00 AM	James, George, and Wanda Long by Mary E. Long
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>November 18</b>
8:00 AM	Loretta Nellner by Joanne Amodeo
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>November 19</b>
8:00 AM	Putspera Benson
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>November 20</b>
8:30 AM	Paul Capone by The Galgano Family
<b>VIGIL</b>	
4:30 PM	Ida Brady by The CCD Children and Catechists
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>November 21</b>
7:30 AM	Parishioners of St. John
8:30 AM	Thomas and Marjorie Griffin by Their Family
10:00 AM	Don von Liebermann by Tina Bothe
11:30 AM	Frank Esposito by Jane Maikish
5:00 PM	Jimmy Martin by Melissa and David Hepburn

**Readings for the Week of November 14, 2010**

Sunday:	Mal 3:19-20a/2 Thes 3:7-12/Lk 21:5-19
Monday:	Rv 1:1-4; 2:1-5/Lk 18:35-43
Tuesday:	Rv 3:1-6, 14-22/Lk 19:1-10
Wednesday:	Rv 4:1-11/Lk 19:11-28
Thursday:	Rv 5:1-10/Lk 19:41-44 or Acts 28:11-16, 30-31/Mt 14:22-33
Friday:	Rv 10:8-11/Lk 19:45-48
Saturday:	Rv 11:4-12/Lk 20:27-40
Next Sunday:	2 Sm 5:1-3/Col 1:12-20/Lk 23:35-43



Please consider remembering St. John Church in your Will.  
November 6/7 OFFERTORY

Weekly Offertory 2010	\$13,957
Monthly Offertory 2010	\$ 6,628
Weekly Offertory 2009	\$10,181
Monthly Offertory 2009	\$ 4,123

There will be a second collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development next week.  
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**.



**Can you volunteer for a few hours to help give the Blanchard Center a facelift?**

One more Saturday left - **Nov 20<sup>th</sup>** - we'll work with the Men's Group to clean and paint the hallways and ladies room of the Parish Center.  
**Email or call Kris Wray to sign up.**  
[kwray@optonline.net](mailto:kwray@optonline.net) or 203 972-0209

**ST. JOHN BOSCO CHILDREN'S CENTRE IN KENYA**

Msgr. McGrath wishes to thank all who made donations to the St. John Bosco Children's Centre in Kenya. We received the following letter from Russ Brine, Maryknoll Lay Missionary.

"I enjoyed my recent visit to St. John's Parish. Thank you so much for supporting children at St. John Bosco Children's Centre in Kenya. Please pray for all the children and we will do the same for the members of St. John's Parish."  
The donations that have come will send 15 of the 23 sponsored children back to their boarding schools in January, when the new school year begins. We are hoping to continue with the sponsorship of the remaining eight - so please give whatever you can - now or sometime before January. We want to give these disadvantaged children hope of becoming self-reliant.  
Sponsoring a child takes \$400. Please make your check out to St. John Church - Charitable Giving Committee - and on the memo line, put Bosco Kenya. We want to help these good children.  
If you have questions, please send an e-mail to Russ - [rbrine@africaonline.co.ke](mailto:rbrine@africaonline.co.ke) - or to Marilyn Parker - [parkerma@juno.com](mailto:parkerma@juno.com)

**SPECIAL THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON FOR SENIORS CURTIS HOUSE OLDEST INN IN CT.**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2010**

Cost: \$15 - includes lunch and transportation

The bus which has been donated by the Darien Lions Club leaves St. John parking lot at 10:00 AM and returns at 3:30 - 4:00 PM.

Complete the reservation below and return to St. John Rectory, 1986 Post Rd., Darien, CT 06820 by November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Enclose a check for \$15.00 to St. John Church and mark it "Thanksgiving Luncheon."

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

**ST. JOHN CHRISTIAN FORMATION PROGRAM**

**Elementary Program Grades 1-5**

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday classes meet November 15, 16, 17, 4:00-5:15 PM for instruction in the Parish Center.

**Middle Grades Program**

**Grades 6, 7, 8** Tuesday Evening Classes meet November 16, 30 from 5:45-6:45 PM and 7:00-8:00PM in the Parish Center.

Sunday Morning Classes meet November 14 from 8:30-10:00AM in the Parish Center.

**Program for 4/5 Year Olds**

Classes meet November 14 - 9:45-11:00 AM in the Parish Center.

Diane Barston, Coordinator.

Special Presentation - Sunday December 12 - at the conclusion of the 10:00 AM Mass - in church.

**THIRD GRADERS COLLECTIVELY CREATE A PRAYER**

"Dear Lord,

Please pray for us. We need your love to guide our families keeping our parents strong. Give us your blessings to feed our poor and hungry. Keep us safe with world peace so our troops may come home. Help us learn more so we may be what we long to be. We ask this through your son, Jesus. Amen."

**A THIRD GRADER OFFERS A PRAYER**

**"I MADE UP BY MYSELF"**

"Peaceful and nice,

Reading to people.

Asking questions to God -

Yelling does not help.

Everyone

Raking for people."

**A FIFTH GRADER ALSO OFFERS A PRAYER**

**"I MADE UP BY MYSELF"**

"People are blessed by you,

Remember me every day.

All Christians believe in you,

You are so special.

Every day I will pray to you...

Receive our prayers."

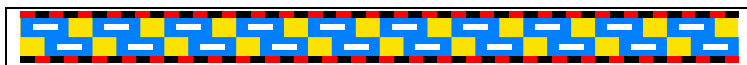
**TO THE PARISH FAMILY**

Please keep in your prayers, and encourage with a kind word, members of the First Holy Eucharist Class of 2011. They were officially enrolled as candidates for this important sacrament Sunday October 17. During their Enrollment Mass they received, and may be identified by, a round "I Am a God's Child" badge with an attached white ribbon imprinted with the words "Communion 2011". **They are asked to wear this badge to church.** Members of the Parish Family play an important role in the faith formation of parish children and even though some may currently have no children enrolled as students in St. John Christian Formation Program their role is still **vitaly** important. Simple prayers for, and thoughtful words to, First Communion Candidates, mean so much and are sincerely appreciated. Thank you.

**THANK YOU**

I would like to thank all the volunteers who participated in Fr. Bowering's reception and for the Memorial Mass. What a wonderful group of people. You all help to bring the joy and comfort of Our Lord to our parishioners.

- Allison Dolcetti



**Youth Corner**

**Craft Night!**

The Craft Ladies will join the Youth Group on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010 and we will work on creating Christmas decorations. If you would like to participate in this event and learn how to make a very meaningful gift for the Christmas season please join us! From 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M in the Conservatory.

**Sister Act!**

The Youth Group will be hosting its Annual Thanksgiving dinner at the Convent of St. Brigitta on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010. All High School Students are welcome! It will be a great night with the Sisters in a very nice, peaceful and fun atmosphere. If you are interested and would like to join us please contact the office at (203)655- 1145.



**Leaf Raking**

On Saturday November 27<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 A.M to 1:00 P.M the Youth Group is going leaf raking and we would like you and your family to join us! Please consider helping our senior members of our Parish Community and come and have a relaxing morning serving others.



**SAVE THE DATE**

**Sept – Nov 17**

**Alpha** at Church of Saint John

Wednesdays 6:30 - 9 PM

**Nov 28**

**Advent Wreath Making**

**Dec 2**

**Senior Luncheon Curtis House**

**Dec 15**

**Christmas Tea**

**Dec 19**

**Breakfast with St. Nick**

**BLOOD PRESSURES**

The Parish Nurses will be checking blood pressures on **Sunday, November 21st** downstairs in the Conservatory from 10:00 AM until after the 11:30 Mass. Everyone is welcome to come have your pressure checked and/or discuss any health questions with the nurses.

**Pre Thanksgiving Dinner with Entertainment at**

**Senior Center**

**Nov 17 @ 12pm**

Darien Senior Center master chef, Tom Mirto, will prepare our annual Thanksgiving feast with all the fixings. This is a wonderful opportunity to break bread with friends and family members, share great traditional food, good conversation, good humor and at 12:30pm a special musical program by singer Karen Wagner, all for the cost of \$4! Make reservations in advance by calling the Center at 203-656-7455. The Center is open to all Darien residents 55 years of age or older.

## THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Church Staff

203.655.1145

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

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

In Residence: Rev. Terrance W. Klein

Deacon Wayne E. Malloy  
[dnmalloy@diobpt.org](mailto:dnmalloy@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**

Mr. Peter Clark 212.984.2947  
[clarkpl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:clarkpl@sbcglobal.net)

#### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Director: Mr. John Cunningham 203.655.8020  
[religiusedsi@optonline.net](mailto:religiusedsi@optonline.net)

#### **PRE SCHOOL**

Director: Mrs. Lisa Ioli 203.656.0548  
[lisaolistjohn@optonline.net](mailto:lisaolistjohn@optonline.net)

#### **MUSIC MINISTRY**

Choirmaster: Mr. W. Ogden Booker 203.655.0777

#### **JOYFUL PRAISE CHOIR**

Director: Mr. Frank Porretta

#### **YOUTH MINISTRY**

Fr. Frank Gomez. 203.655.1145 ext.23  
[frfrankstjohn@optonline.net](mailto:frfrankstjohn@optonline.net)

#### **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 December 19<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 will be a class at Assumption Parish in Westport, CT on November 19, 2010 at 6:15PM.

#### **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

We will meet every other week to make comfort shawls for those in need of prayer. The next meetings will be Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM and 7:00 PM in the Pierre Room. 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](mailto: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. The group meets twice a month in the Pierre Room from 9:00 to 10:30 AM.

#### **HEALING THE EIGHT STAGES PROGRAM**

The next meeting will be November 17<sup>th</sup> 7:30 -9:00 PM in the Conservatory. You 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.

**LifeNotes - together to defend and celebrate life**

**ROSE FOR LIFE** To Deacon Wayne Malloy, Our Prayers are with You for a Full Recovery. From Celebrate Life

**A New Feminism to Transform the Culture** - In Evangelium Vitae, John Paul II shows his empathy with women who have had an abortion. He writes about a 'New Feminism to Transform the Culture': "I would like to say a special word to women who have had an abortion. The Church is aware of the many factors which may have influenced your decision, and she does not doubt that in many cases it was a painful and even shattering decision....The wound in your heart may not yet have healed....But do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope....The Father of mercies is ready to give you His forgiveness and His peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation...you can become the most eloquent defenders of everyone's right to life....Through commitment to life, whether by...other children or by welcoming and caring for those most in need of someone to be close to them, you will become promoters of a new way of looking at human life....it is indispensable...for an authentic cultural change." Evangelium Vitae, 99 (The Gospel of Life)

**LIFE FACT** - At least 48% of women who have an abortion return to have at least one more - in large part due to the abortion industry's well-concealed and ruthless marketing strategies that target very young women and adolescent girls. We pray their tactics are soon brought into the light.

**Birthright of Greater Stamford** – seeks volunteers to help women bring unplanned pregnancies to term. Volunteers provide pregnancy tests, listen to client concerns and connect women to medical, financial, legal and other resources. Ability to committee 3 hours per week in the office is desirable. Flexible schedules. Training provided working with an experienced volunteer. Please call Stamford office at 203-348-4355 (388 Summer St). [www.birthright.org](http://www.birthright.org)

Rose for Life – please call Jessica Couri at 203-656-3696 or email [jacpacouri@yahoo.com](mailto:jacpacouri@yahoo.com)

**OFFICE OF THE BISHOP**

For 40 years, the CCHD has embodied Catholic social teaching in action through the pursuit of justice and the upholding of the dignity of the human person. The CCHD funds community groups that work to change the systems that keep people in poverty. It has helped secure funding for low income day care centers, legal advocacy to enforce fair wages, programs that emphasize education, and affordable housing in low-income neighborhoods. In addition, CCHD continues to do everything possible to ensure that organizations receiving grants in no way violate Catholic teaching. You can contribute to this important collection with confidence in its integrity.

Faithfully yours in Christ

Most Reverend William E. Lori Bishop of Bridgeport

**TURNING LOVE INTO POWER**

St. John Parishioners, Deb and Seth Wohlberg, with their children Michael and Grace continue their journey of hope. Our St. John community has been inspired over the past two years by the Wohlberg's story and their daughter Grace's heroic efforts in battling Rasmussen's Encephalitis or RE . Rasmussen's Encephalitis is a rare debilitating disease that causes intractable epileptic seizures, cognitive deficits and paralysis of 1/2 the body. The only known cure is a hemispherectomy or removal of half the brain. Grace Wohlberg was diagnosed with RE two years ago and to date has undergone two courageous surgeries to remove the half of her brain affected by RE. Inspired by the recent successful efforts of Seth Wohlberg in developing plans for research to find a less invasive cure for RE, twenty women in the community are launching a first ever fundraiser to benefit the RE Children's Project (see [www.rechildrens.com](http://www.rechildrens.com)). With Grace in their hearts, the committee is hopeful that the St. John's community will embrace this effort by donating theater or sporting event tickets, a vacation home or even sponsorship of the event. Contact Cece Donoghue at [cecedono@aol.com](mailto:cecedono@aol.com)/203-6563195 with auction items, or Susan Ballard at [ballard@optonline.net](mailto:ballard@optonline.net)/(203) 656-6629 to learn about sponsorship levels of the benefit. The event, **Turning Love into Power**, will be held on February 12 at Woodway Country Club in Darien. Please also contact Cece Donoghue or Susan Ballard if you are interested in receiving an invitation to this event which promises to be an uplifting evening full of hope and a moving testament to the power of love.

**CAN YOU HELP?**

The Labozzo Family sends their heartfelt thanks to all who have assisted with donating their time; meals, visits, gifts of all proportions. Victor (79) and Joan (77 and handicapped herself on a walker) care for their son, Michael. Michael has Muscular Dystrophy and is on a ventilator, oxygen and feeding tube and is confined to his bedroom. Lisa (daughter) does all that she can. If you can volunteer your time and/or help the family in any way, that would "HELP" greatly. Some needs; homemade meals or take out, errands, donations for gift certificates, leaf raking. In addition, Michael needs volunteers to read to him, play games, assist with his computer, etc. If you can assist this family please contact. Lisa at 203-219-7846 (Cell Phone) or (email) [Lisalabozzo@aol.com](mailto:Lisalabozzo@aol.com);

**ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH IN DARIEN** invites you to "**Salt for the Earth, Light for the World: Vatican II...Fifty Years Later,**" an enlightening presentation by Sr. Maureen Sullivan, O.P. on Thurs., Nov. 18th at 7:30pm. Sr. Maureen, 2010 recipient of the *Sapientia et Doctrina Award* from Fordham University, is an Associate Professor of Theology at St. Anselm College in NH and author of *The Road to Vatican II: Key Changes in Theology*. She will explore questions such as: What have we accomplished? Where are we now? What is the legacy of the 21st century Church? Join us on Nov. 18th in the STM Parish Hall! For more information, please visit [www.stmdarienct.org](http://www.stmdarienct.org) or call 203-655-3303.