

MASSES THIS WEEK



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27

6:30 am Frank & Janie Patak ++

12:05 pm Brodwynne Patak +

Confessions before and after 6:30 pm Mass

6:30 pm Elizabeth & Kenneth Holland ++

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

6:30 am Frank and Jay Felcman ++

12:05 pm Tom F. Valek +

Confessions before and after 6:30 pm Mass

6:30 pm (Spanish) Rosa Diaz +

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29

6:30 am Julia Pochobradsky +

12:05 pm Anton F. Galetka +

6:30 pm Victorino L. and Rafael G. Hernandez ++

THURSDAY, MARCH 1

6:30 am Rose Ann Vrana +

12:05 pm Terry Lamkin +

6:30 pm (Spanish) Juan Perez +

FRIDAY, MARCH 2

6:30 am Edwin C. Trojacek +

First Friday Devotions after the 12:05 pm Mass

12:05 pm Paul Carrillo +

7:00 pm Stations of the Cross (English)

7:45 pm Stations of the Cross (Spanish)

SATURDAY, MARCH 3

First Saturday Devotions after the 8:00 am Mass

8:00 am Eugene & Mary Lou Novy ++

5:00 pm Kathy Toth +

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT, MARCH 4

7:00 am Ysidro Castillo +

11:00 am Emily Valek +

1:00 pm Kevin Landeros +

5:00 pm Life Teen Mass

Charlie L. Dlabaj +

MASS INTENTIONS FOR EPIPHANY CHURCH

Sunday, Feb. 26, 9:00 am Albert & Catherine Elfrink ++

Sunday, March 4, 9:00 am Cyrill & Christine Svrcek ++

STAFF TO ATTEND ADORATION ON WEDNESDAYS

Every Wednesday, the St. John parish staff will attend an hour of adoration from 3:00-4:00 pm in the church. Therefore, the business office will be closed from 3:00-4:00 pm every Wednesday. Please join them for prayer and meditation and Divine Chaplet.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK: TRIPLE L CONCRETE

✠ Pastor's Notes

Dear Saint John and Epiphany Parishioners,

“Repent, and believe in the Gospel.” We all heard these words as the ashes were imposed on our foreheads this Ash Wednesday. This short sentence, these six words, says everything we need to hear, believe and do!

Turn away from our selfish, sinful ways and begin living the Gospel life through the power of the Holy Spirit we received at our Baptism, was strengthened at our Confirmation, and is continually renewed and fortified in the Confessional and at the Altar. This is our life as Catholic Christians. First, Baptism, then Confirmation followed by a life of continuous Confession and Holy Communion.

As we begin our Lenten Journey to a new level of holiness we must first be willing to look at our lives measured against the Gospel and Church teaching. Then we must “Repent,” which means to admit to ourselves there are things we need to change in our lives. As we examine our lives we should pray to the Holy Spirit to let us see our lives clearly and honestly. Make a good examination of conscience.

This process of repentance includes the humble acknowledgment that these sins are what are messing up our lives. We need to change these parts of our life.

Then we ask God for the gift of faith to realize and believe that He has the answer to our lives. We need to truly “believe” that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.

When we have this gift of faith, and truly believe, then we can begin the process of conversion. Using the Sacraments of Confession and Eucharist our lives can grow more joyful and peaceful. This peace and joy of Christ permeates every part of our life when we open our hearts to Him. See you in Church! Have a Blessed and Fruitful Lent!

Fr. John

BAPTISM CERTIFICATES FOR SACRAMENTS

Baptismal certificates for children who will receive sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist **are due now. Outstanding fees for Religious Education need to be paid up now also.**

FIRST FRIDAY & SATURDAY DEVOTIONS

Devotions to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Benediction will follow the 12:05 pm Mass on Friday, March 2. Devotions to Our Lady of Fatima, the Rosary and Benediction will follow the 8:00 am Mass on Saturday, March 3.

First Confession will be on Saturday, March 10, at 9:00 am in church.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

IN OUR PARISH THIS WEEK

Sunday, February 26

8:30-10:30 am Religious Education Classes
8:30-10:45 am St. John Library Open/Rm106 Compound
5:00 pm Life Teen Mass and Life Night

Monday, February 27

7:15 pm Theology of the Body/Cafeteria

Tuesday, February 28

5:00-7:00 pm St. John Library open/Compound
6:00-7:00 pm Winter Walkers in St. John Gym
7:00 pm Apologetics Class/Rm 301 High School Bldg.

Wednesday, February 29

6:30 am Life Teen *Food for the Soul* after Mass
6:30-8:30 pm Religious Education Classes
6:00-7:00 pm Winter Walkers in St. John Gym
7:00 pm Seven Steps to Financial Freedom/Room 101
7:00 pm D-NITE/Cafeteria(Discuss Theology of the Body)

Thursday, March 1

7:00-8:15 pm EDGE/Cafeteria
7:00 pm *That Man Is You*/Room 103 compound

Friday, March 2

First Friday Devotions after the 12:05 pm Mass
7:30 pm RCIA/Room 104

Saturday, March 3

7:00 am *That Man Is You*/Room 103 compound
 First Saturday Devotions after the 8:00 am Mass
9:00-12:00 Home Bible Study Test/Room 202-204 School
3:30 pm Confessions/Church

Sunday, March 4

8:30-10:30 am Religious Education Classes
8:30-10:45 am St. John Library Open/Rm 106 Compound
 Rite of Sending and Rite of Election for RCIA Members today
5:00 pm Life Teen Mass and Life Night

HYMNS FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

411 Forty Days & Forty Nights
 405 Hosea 401 Tree of Life
 416 Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

SANCTUARY LIGHT THIS WEEK

Sanctuary light is in memory of Rudy, Emily and Gary Valek donated by Lorane, Patsy, Jackie & their families for the week of February 25 through March 2.

THANK YOU FROM RUBEN MONREAL FAMILY

“During a time like this we realize how much our family and friends really mean to us. Your expressions of sympathy will always be remembered. Thank you for your flowers, food and most of all, your prayers.”
 Ruben Monreal Family

COLLECTIONS FOR FEBRUARY 18 & 19

St. John Church Support Collection	\$ 18,786.34
Central & Eastern Europe Collection	740.40
Epiphany Mission Collection	620.53
Central & Eastern Europe Collection	392.50

FIRST COMMUNION SCHEDULE

Sign up for a First Communion Mass now. Parents have a choice of five different Sundays (3 English & 2 Spanish) for their children's sacrament. The English Masses so far will be: April 15, 11 am; April 29, 11 am; and May 13, 11 am. More Masses may be added if needed.

Dates and times are on the handout given at Religious Education and posted online at stjohnc.net You can sign up by calling the RE office, **972-875-9650**, or during RE class times, or by email to stacyg@stjohnc.net Space will be limited to 20 children per Mass, so please make plans now.

CEMETERY CLEANUP ON MARCH 10

The annual **Spring Cleanup at St. Joseph Cemetery** will be on March 10, 2012, from 9:00-11:00 am. At this time **ALL** items on the ground will be picked up and thrown away. All Christmas flowers and wreaths will also be disposed of to make room for Easter and spring flowers. If you have Christmas flowers there you want to keep, please take them home. The cleanup will include the Mausoleum also. Volunteers to help with the cleanup are appreciated. Bring gloves, and rakes or hoes to get to the leaves around the fences. A pizza lunch will be served in the cafeteria for volunteers. A notice of the cleanup will be sent to the Ennis newspaper also.

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL 2012

The Bishop's Annual Appeal provides an important portion of the funding for ministries and services of the diocese, including Catholic Charities, the seminaries and Chaplain services to the hospitals. If you haven't already done so, please make a pledge to help make a difference. Our parish goal is \$76,000 and Epiphany's is \$3,000. With your support we can meet and exceeds our goals.

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL REPORT

St. John Goal	\$76,000	Epiphany Goal:	\$3,000
Pre-pledges	18,686	Pre-pledges	320
Pew pledges	31,911	Pew pledges	3,327
Total pledged	50,597	Total pledged	3,647
# of families:	311	# of families	46

Thank you to those who have already pledged, and for those who haven't, there is still time to do so to meet our goal.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Please pray for: Millie & Leslie Trojacek, Dawn Ashley, Logan Bastor, David Trojacek, Coye Logan Ferguson, Hilario Robledo, Rick Sparkman, Shelly Keilers, Norma Juricek, Don Tubbs, Janie Langley, Hannah Rejcek, Wanda Slovak, Stanley J. Liska, Helen Patak, Betty Rogala, Inosencia Jimenez family, Wilma Zhanel, Brandi Schlottman, Leo Rejcek, Frances Maliska, Diana Chapman, Deanna Massey, Matthew Tacker, Heather Hadash, Patsy Blazek, Frankie Joe Patak, Beto Perez, Helen Blackerby, Emily Holland, Joshua Meachum, Betty Schlottman, Helen Barak, Lori Hearn, Bob Scancelli, Ninfa Carrillo, Maria Manriquez, Raul Monjarez Sr., Mildred Wickliffe, Gertrude Langley, Rosie Mach, Ruphine Patak, Inez Fira, Edwin & Dorothy Langer, Lauren Moran, Senaida Arreola, Christian Marente, Helen Matous, James Pustejovsky, Robert Martinez Sr., Alfred Martinez, Rosa Sanchez, Helen Zmolek, Gary Kidder, Jerry Dolezal, Tony Alvarez, Josie, Ray & Cynthia Castillo, Steve Betik, Raul Partida

BEGINNING APOLOGETICS CLASS

Attention those who are committed to learning more about explaining our faith to others: a Beginning Apologetics Class is being held on Tuesday nights. Attendance every week is not mandatory. This is an introductory level class, so you can attend whatever your level of knowledge of the faith. Classes are held in room 301 in the high school building from 7:00-8:30 pm.

Endow Study – Pope John Paul II's Letter to Women

Ladies, This Lent do you want to deepen your spiritual life? You are invited to join other women in our parish to learn more about what it means to be a **woman** created in God's image.

To learn more about the Endow program and this opportunity you may visit www.EndowGroups.org.

This study is limited to 12 women and will begin Wednesday, March 21st (7:15 p.m. -8:45 p.m.) and last for eight weeks. The fee is \$80.00 and is payable when you register online.

For more information, contact Sharon Kudrna @ 972-875-8157 or skk72aol.com.



Come learn about God's wonderful plan for you!
Mondays, 7:15 PM, Cafeteria

RCIA

This Sunday at the 11 AM Mass, we will celebrate the **Rite of Call to Continuing Conversion**. This rite is for those who have been Baptized but are not yet fully initiated into the Catholic Church. In this rite they are called to continue their journey with God as they approach the reception of the Eucharist and of Confirmation at the Easter Vigil. Please pray for them throughout this period of Lenten preparation.

Christ
Renews

St. John's Men's CRHP Retreat

His
Parish

We would like to invite all men at our Parish to come and join us for our next Retreat, the weekend of March 17-18. It will be a weekend retreat for all men ages 18 and up. We will be hosting the retreat at the St. John's compound area.

Registration Forms will be available after each Mass.

The cost is FREE!!!

Thank you & God Bless You!!

Lenten Mini-Retreat

Theme:

Living a Fully Human Life

Saturday, March 10

10:00 AM—3:00 PM

Rooms 103 and 104 in the Compound

Contact Seth Wright at the Parish Office for more details.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON DC 20017-1194 • 202-541-3103 • FAX 202-541-3166

Sweeping HHS Mandate Stands, Violating Conscience Rights and Religious Liberty Congress Must Act to Fix the Problem

On January 20, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) reaffirmed a rule that virtually all private health care plans must cover sterilization, abortifacients, and contraception. The exemption provided for "religious employers" was so narrow that it failed to cover the vast majority of faith-based organizations—including Catholic hospitals, universities, and charities—that help millions every year. Ironically, not even Jesus and his disciples would have qualified for the exemption, because it excludes those who mainly serve people of another faith.

On February 10, the Obama Administration made this rule final "without change"; delayed enforcement for a year against religious nonprofits that were still not exempted (our charities, hospitals, and colleges); and promised to develop more regulations to "accommodate" them by the end of that additional year. But, as explained below, that promised "accommodation" still forces them to pay for "services" that violate their religious convictions.

The original rule that violated our religious liberty so severely has not been changed, but finalized.

After touting meaningful changes in the mandate, HHS instead finalized the original rule that was first issued in August 2011 "without change." So the offensive definition of "religious employer"—which excludes our charities, hospitals, and colleges because they serve people of other faiths—is still in place, and those institutions are still subject to the mandate.

HHS has promised some kind of "accommodation," but only after the election.

HHS said it would take an additional year to develop more regulations to "accommodate" religiously-affiliated charities, schools, and hospitals that still fall outside the "religious employer" exemption. The impact of these additional rules will not be felt until after the election, the only point of public accountability for the Executive Branch. This eliminates an important incentive for HHS to provide the best protection for religious liberty.

The promised "accommodation"—even at its best—would still force our institutions to violate their beliefs.

Under the proposed "accommodation," if an employee of these religious institutions wants coverage of contraception or sterilization directly from the insurer, the objecting employer is still forced to pay for it as a part of the employer's insurance plan. Since there is no other source, the funds to pay for that coverage must come from the premiums of the employer and fellow employees, even those who object in conscience.

There is no exemption for objecting insurers, secular employers, for-profit religious employers, or individuals.

The U.S. bishops defend religious liberty for all, and so have repeatedly identified all the stakeholders in the process whose religious freedom is threatened by the mandate—all employers, insurers, and individuals, not just religious employers. Now, all insurers, including self-insurers, must provide the coverage to any employee who wants it. In turn, all individuals who pay premiums have no escape from subsidizing that coverage. And only employers that are both non-profit and religious may qualify for the limited "accommodation."

We urgently need legislation to correct the mandate's threats to religious liberty and conscience rights. The Respect for Rights of Conscience Act has been introduced in Congress (H.R. 1179, S. 1467) to ensure that those who participate in the market for health insurance "retain the right to provide, purchase, or enroll in health coverage that is consistent with their religious beliefs and moral convictions."

ACTION: Contact your U.S. Representative by e-mail, phone, or FAX letter:

- Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at: 202-224-3121, or call your Members' local offices.
- Send your email to Congress through www.usccb.org/conscience.
- Additional contact info can be found on Members' web sites at: www.house.gov and www.senate.gov.

MESSAGE: "Please co-sponsor and support the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act (H.R. 1179, S. 1467). The Obama administration's decision to mandate coverage of sterilization and contraceptives, including drugs that can cause an abortion, makes passage of this measure especially urgent. Please ensure that the religious liberty and conscience rights of all participants in our nation's health care system are respected."

WHEN: Now is the time to build co-sponsors and support. Please act today! Thanks!

QUESTIONS? CONTACT JOEY AT 972-878-8336 OR JOEYS@STJOHNCC.NET

LIFE TEEN



PICTURES FROM DIFFERENT
EVENTS THIS YEAR. HOPE YOU
JOIN US FOR FUTURE EVENTS!

LIFE TEEN EVENTS

Feb 26- LIFE TEEN Mass & Life Night

March 4- LIFE TEEN Mass & Life Night

Feb 29 & March 7- Food for the soul 6:30am Mass & D-Nite 7pm



THE EDGE!

EDGE SCHEDULE

March-1st
March 8-No EDGE
March 15-No EDGE

7pm-8:15pm on
Thursdays in the
Cafeteria

Confirmation Schedule:

Our Next Super Sunday is
April 1st at 3pm

Contact Joey for Questions

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

HOME BIBLE STUDY TEST

The test for the Home Bible Study will be on Saturday, March 3, from 9-12. You will not be eligible to take the test if you are not signed up.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES RICE BOWLS

Operation Rice Bowl is the Lenten program of Catholic Relief Services, the international humanitarian agency of the Catholic Community in the United States. Rice Bowls will be available in the back of church and annex for you to use to make your Lenten sacrifices. Your support helps families around the world through CRS' development projects, through agricultural, water, health, education and medical projects. Please use the Rice Bowls. Rice Bowls have been handed out in Religious Ed classes. The extra bowls will be put in church. This is a great way to teach children about giving to those in need. We will collect the Rice Bowls in April when Lent is over. Thank you for your support.

CONCLUSION OF WINTER WALKERS PROGRAM

Winter Walkers will conclude for the season on Wed., March 7.

ALTAR CARE FOR MARCH 3 & 10

Betty Macalik

Joan Johnson

CHRISTMAS PLAY DVD

Are you afraid you missed out on the memories of the Christmas play? Don't worry! Christmas Play DVD's are still on sale for \$10. You can pick one up at the parish office during office hours or at the front desk during Religious Ed classes.

THAT MAN IS YOU

That Man Is You men's program sessions are at 7:00 pm on Thursdays and at 7:00 am on Saturdays. Both in Room 103. All men ages 18 and older are invited to participate in this excellent program designed to show men how to live our Catholic faith in today's world. More information about the program can be found on our parish website or at: www.thatmanisyou.org

TAX STATEMENT LETTERS

You are very welcome to call the office if you want a Tax Statement of your donations for income tax purposes, 972-875-2834 or 972-878-2834.

ALTAR SERVERS FOR WEEKEND LITURGIES

Saturday, March 3

5:00 pm Austin Spaniel/Josh Zapletal

Sunday, March 4

7:00 am Tyler Novy/Zachary Matous/Matthew Zajic

11:00 Chris Trojacek/Tyler Gilmore/Dylan Fisher

5:00 pm Life Teen Mass Tyler Dennie/Joseph Baird