

Mass Intentions

Saturday April 24
4:00 PM Mary Ann McLaughlin

Sunday April 25
9:00 AM In memory of the Marron Family
11:30 AM John & Nora Shea
5:00PM Parishioners

Monday April 26
12:30 PM In Honor of Our Mother of Good Counsel

Tuesday April 27
12:10 PM In memory of the Marron Family

Wednesday April 28
12:10 PM Open Hearts
Florence Faucher

Thursday April 29
12:10 PM

Friday April 30
12:10 PM

Saturday May 1
4:00 PM

Sunday May 2
9:00 AM
11:30 AM Donald Warren Sherwood
5:00PM Parishioners

Parish Support

April 17-18

\$2,568



**Sanctuary Lamp -
In Memory of Mary Ann McLaughlin**



There will be a Parish Council meeting on **Monday, April 26**, at 7:00pm in the Parish Hall.

BOSTON CATHOLIC DIRECTORY

Copies of the 2010 edition of the Boston Catholic Directory, which now includes Web site and E-mail addresses for all parishes in the Archdiocese, are available in the rectory; cost is \$25.



"My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one can take them out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."
Jn 10:27-30

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

OUR GRAND ANNUAL APPEAL

We are pleased to report a total of \$65,090 in pledges and donations to our Grand Annual Appeal. To date we have received 93% of our goal of \$70,000 and 39% of our parish population has participated. Pledge cards and envelopes are available in the back of the church. Thank you for your faith, love and generous support! Through your kindness Jesus' work continues.

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

We can't approach the highly symbolic language of the Book of Revelation with logical thinking. If we try to do so, we will falter, and miss out on the richness of the images that are presented to us. In today's selection, John--not the writer of the fourth Gospel, but another John--sees a vast crowd. One of the elders tells him that these are the ones who have survived the time of trial. This makes eminent sense, since Revelation was written at a time when the church was undergoing great persecution from both the Jewish leaders who were expelling the Jewish followers of Jesus from the synagogues, and from Roman officials who saw Christians as disruptive apostates since they did not acknowledge the Roman gods. The ones who have survived "have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (7:14).

Here is where logic fails. Every laundry detergent bottle and stain-fighting additive will tell you that you don't make something white by washing it in blood. But when we immerse ourselves in the symbolism, we understand what the writer intends. Through the shedding of his blood on the cross, the Lamb of God (Jesus) cleanses us from sin. Like the white garment given at baptism to symbolize new life, those who have remained faithful during trial and persecution share in the victory of the One who conquered sin and death.

The message for us today is that Christ has brought us into the fold, and that we are called to be faithful no matter what may beset us in life. It is unlikely that any of us will face overt persecution for what we believe. But we must also guard against the subtle denials of Christ that sometimes creep into our daily lives.



Alleluia

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REFLECTIONS FROM
FATHER CHARLES SHEEHY

“At the appointed time” covers an enormous ground, much of which we tend to take for granted. We expect our programs on TV, the time a train will arrive, the hour of work, and endless others.

To our belief “appointed time” means both the coming of Jesus Christ and His great love for us as though there were no other.

God has given each of us our own life. Only in death and everlasting life shall we see it in its totality. Sacred Scripture presents us some who lived and died close to Jesus Christ, therefore beyond question close to God. The Virgin Mary obviously comes first; John the Baptist and John the Evangelist are certainly included, as would be Mary Magdalen. We think also of those close to Jesus as He died on the Cross.

The daily life of each of us is unique. We all have our ups and downs, ins and outs. Our efforts to please God would surely include some time for prayer, a willingness to help one another, and a readiness to forgive.

May we be true children of God.

FIRST PENANCE AND HOLY COMMUNION

On April 26th Lily Olson, Kate Wilson, Daniel Gillis and Conor Downey will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and on May 9th they will receive the Holy Eucharist. We congratulate them and their families. Please keep them in your prayer as they take these important steps in their spiritual journey.



FIRST COMMUNION PRAYER

Dear Jesus, through bread and wine at the Last Supper, and by your holy word, you gave the Eucharist to your church. You transformed common food and drink into your Body and Blood, and offered us a share in your life in ways we still cannot fully understand. Grant now that these young people will always treasure the gift they have in you. Give them the grace to be faithful to you and to remain in communion with your church. As they receive their first Communion, the Bread of Life and Cup of Salvation, make them always aware of the hope they have for eternal life in you. Amen.



First Communion

PLANNING BAPTISM INSTRUCTION



We are embarking on setting up a new program that will assist couples in understanding the importance and beauty of the sacrament of Baptism. We are looking for a few couples who might be interested in being

trained to share the fundamentals of Baptism with newer couples to our parish. The role of this new Baptism team would be to provide catechesis based on our understanding of Baptism, and also an understanding of the Baptismal Rite itself and its symbols. This will provide a positive experience of the parish community for the parents and provide teaching and witness by lay catechists on the duties and opportunities in Catholic parenting. In doing so our St Joseph Parish Community would be able to connect the family with the parish community by explaining and inviting participation in ongoing parish services and activities, e.g., schedule of Liturgical Worship, Adult Spiritual Education, Religious Education, etc. If interested please call the rectory or see Father Dan after Mass.

GOLF TOURNAMENT—Monday, May 24

The 18th annual Blessed John XXIII National Seminary Golf Tournament is scheduled for Monday, May 24, at the Weston Golf Club. Tuition covers only half the cost of educating a seminarian, and the proceeds from this premier charity event will help bridge the gap. The \$250 entry fee includes lunch at the Club, 18 holes of golf with cart, and door prizes, followed by a social hour, silent auction and dinner at the Seminary for each golfer and a guest. To register, call Kate Folan at 781-899-5500, or visit www.blessedjohnxxiii.edu.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Looking to take a beautiful Spring getaway trip to reenergize your relationship? We have just the weekend location in Contoocook, NH, on the May 21-23 WWME Weekend. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend in New England will be June 11-13. For more information call Ralph & Jane Becker at 1-800-710-WWME, or visit the Web page at www.wwmeMA.org.

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

The next meeting of our Parish Council will be on Monday, May 10, 2010 at 6:30pm in the Parish Hall.

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