

## TIDINGS

OF HOLY NAME OF JESUS NATIONAL CATHOLIC PARISH

A Monthly Newsletter of Information and Events

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### Ours is not to question why ... Why?

Back in February of this year we began our discussion of the sacrament of the Word of God because 2009 marks its centennial anniversary. It is now time to bring this series to an end as in November we will celebrate Word of God Sunday, which is a fitting conclusion to this anniversary observance. The title I have been working with is used again above. It points to the belief that Christians must be engaged in the subject of their faith not just subjected to it. What we teach must be backed by sound reasoning, and what we believe must be able to pass the test of “Why?” The Word of God invites collaboration in this way among all the members of the church so that our faith may be continuously open to the Holy Spirit, which is the remedy for a passive, disenfranchised and mechanical worship.

Next year our Bible study group will begin reading Second Corinthians. This will be our 23<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year of together reading and studying the written Word of God. 2 Cor. 6:7 reads in part: “...truthful speech, and the power of God.” In the commentary on this verse, Murray Harris writes: “In the present context the operation of God’s power is associated indirectly with the Holy Spirit and directly with the task of preaching.” (*New International Greek Testament Commentary*, p. 476) The Word of God as preaching is inspired by the Holy Spirit and it conveys the very power of God in its proclamation. In the Acts of the Apostles we are told of the church’s first and tentative steps out into the Gentile world. Peter was surprised by this course of action and its accomplishments. It is an action directed by God’s will, reflecting what was written above in 2 Corinthians. The power of God, however, does not stop once the Word is proclaimed. We read in Acts: “While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word.” (10:44) The Word of God is proclaimed through the power of God, and it is heard and received through the grace of God. The Word of God transforms both those who offer and those who receive it worthily. It shares the reality of God among believers. This is sacrament.

That the gospel proclamation begins with Jesus is an unchallenged profession of our faith. That the Word of God is “instituted by Christ for our sanctification and salvation,” therefore, defines the Bible and its homiletic exposition authentically as sacrament. Jesus may or may not have baptized anyone (cf. John 3:22 and 4:1-2) although the resurrected Jesus does command His followers: “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them ...” (Matt. 28:19) Likewise, the reason the wedding at Cana (John 2:1-11) is read at so many marriages, even though Jesus is only a guest, is that at least the miracle of water into wine takes place in the context of a wedding. This is about all there is to offer in the Gospels on the sacrament of Matrimony. Thirdly, Ordination is simply not a concept linked with the historical Jesus. This was made abundantly clear in 1976 when the Pontifical Biblical Commission determined that there is no scriptural reason to prohibit women’s Ordination because it is not biblically defined. The Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith immediately intervened and overturned the commission’s judgment and instead wrote its own statement (*Inter Insigniores*, 1976) that women do not image Jesus as male. The latter decision verifies the former because it must rely on the weak theology of Jesus’ maleness instead of any counter-argument based on the biblical text itself. These three rites are all sacraments defined by the church, and in comparison with them the Word of God has a much clearer sacramental provenance in the life of the historical Jesus.

I would not dwell on the incidentals of the sacramental definition such as “outward and visible sign” (I do not wear a wedding band anymore. Am I still married?) as much as the fundamentals of the direct experience of the power of God, an origin in the ministry of Jesus, and the sacrament’s ability to introduce the non-believer to the truths of faith while simultaneously bringing the believer to sanctification and salvation. This is the “how” of the sacrament by which we close our discussion on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our unique sacrament.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS  
MONTH OF NOVEMBER**

- November 1, 2009 – All Saints Day. Polish Mass will be recited at 7:45am; English Mass will be celebrated at 9:00am.  
All Souls Day Cemetery Service will be held at 2:00pm.
- November 2<sup>nd</sup> – All Souls Day. Mass of the day at 7:00pm, with the reading of the Memorial List.
- November 4<sup>th</sup> – Mass for Health at 6:30pm.
- November 6<sup>th</sup> – Monthly visitations to the sick and the shut-in of the parish.
- November 7<sup>th</sup> – Confession for the youth of the parish at 10:30am.
- November 8<sup>th</sup> – Parish trip to see the opera *Carmen* in Boston.
- November 10<sup>th</sup> – Monthly meeting of the Parish Committee at 7:00pm.
- November 11<sup>th</sup> – Veteran’s Day Mass at 9:00am.
- November 15<sup>th</sup> – **Word of God Sunday**. Mass at 11:00am.  
**Annual Thanksgiving Dinner** in the parish hall at noon.
- November 18<sup>th</sup> – Fr. Calvo will be leaving to attend the annual diocesan Clergy Retreat at the Genesis Center in Westfield, and will return on the evening of the 19<sup>th</sup>.
- November 22<sup>nd</sup> – **Thanksgiving Ecumenical Prayer Service** at Holy Family Church in So. Deerfield at 4:00pm, followed by a reception at the John Paul II Center.
- November 25<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving Eve Mass at 7:00pm.
- November 28<sup>th</sup> – Fr. Calvo will attend Cleric Chet Stafford’s Ordination as a deacon in Norwich, CT at 11:00am.
- November 29<sup>th</sup> – **First Sunday of Advent**. Prior to Mass the Advent Wreath and the Christmas Wafers will be blessed.  
Monthly meeting of the Adoration Society at 10:00am.

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“The Religion and public Liberty of a People are intimately connected.” - Samuel Adams

**NEW MEMBERS**

On behalf of the parish, I wish to welcome Bill and Theresa Girardi to Holy Name of Jesus. If you know someone who does not worship actively anywhere else, please invite them to come with you to Mass here at our church.

**ALL SAINTS & ALL SOULS DAYS**

All Saints Day falls on a Sunday this year. The Mass schedule will follow our usual Sunday schedule for the first Sunday of the month with Polish Mass recited at 7:45am and the English Mass celebrated at 9:00am. All Saints Day is the joyous celebration of Christ’s promise of eternal life with Him in heaven. The saints are all those souls who have entered into the heavenly glory. We rejoice in their victory and in the promise of our own.

That afternoon we will conduct our annual Cemetery Prayer Service, rain or shine. At this time, we process along the perimeter of our cemetery blessing all of the graves of our dearly departed. The final prayer is offered at the cross at the center of our cemetery. For all of those who have loved ones buried in our cemetery this is a time to come together to pay our respects and to remember those who have passed on to their eternal rewards.

The following day, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, is All Souls Day. On this day we again concentrate on those who have passed from this world to the next, but we do so not in celebration, but as a Requiem Mass. Even our hopes of eternal life cannot remove the sadness we feel when someone we love has died. All Souls Day is the other reflection of physical death from that of All Saints Day. When observed together, they offer the faithful the full spectrum of emotions from hope to sadness that we experience when a loved one dies in Christ. I hope you will make the time to join with the church as we observe these two Holy Days.

And finally, on All Souls Day, the liturgy concludes with the reading of the Memorial List. These are the names submitted by parishioners of friends and relatives for special commemoration. The names will be read individually at the conclusion of this day’s Mass. If you would like to have names included in the reading of the Memorial List, All Souls Day envelopes may be found in the church vestibule. Fill out the envelope and return it directly to Fr. Calvo or drop it in the Sunday collection basket.

**THANKSGIVING DINNER**

Our annual Thanksgiving Dinner will be held on Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at noon. It will be preceded by the celebration of Mass at the special

time of 11:00am. A separate ticket mailing will be distributed at Sunday Mass for all parishioners, and for those not in church the tickets will be mailed to their homes. This is an important fundraiser for the parish and we hope that all members will purchase their tickets.

This is also a labor intensive dinner. A good number of volunteers come together to make this dinner possible. We are, however, always looking for new people to come and help. If you can help with preparations before the dinner, work on the day of the dinner, or help with the clean-up, please speak with Don Skroski or Fr. Calvo. If you would like to help by making a monetary donation, this also would be appreciated. Thank you.

#### **THANKSGIVING ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE**

This year's Thanksgiving Ecumenical Prayer Service will be hosted by Holy Family Roman Catholic Church here in South Deerfield. This is the only time throughout the year when all of the churches from our local communities of Conway, Deerfield, Sunderland and Whately gather together outside of our denominational settings. As the nation pauses to offer thanks to God for the blessings bestowed upon us, we gather together as people of faith in the spirit of thanksgiving. I hope that many from our church will be in attendance that day.

A collection will be accepted at the Service for a charity to be named at a later date. Following the Service, a reception will be held in the Pope John Paul II Center. If any of our members wish to sing in the ecumenical choir, they are asked to contact the rectory for further information about rehearsals and song selections.

#### **SEASON OF ADVENT**

The beginning of the church year arrives at the end of November. The First Sunday of Advent falls on November 29<sup>th</sup>. The four weeks of Advent represent the symbolic 4,000 years that the world awaited the coming of the Messiah. Advent is our time of expectation for the coming of Christ both at Christmas and also, sometimes surprisingly, at the end of time. These four weeks serve as our spiritual time of preparation before the celebration of Christmas. In a society that rushes to celebrate Christmas as soon as Halloween candy is off of store shelves, we need the church's season of Advent to slow us down so that we can prepare for the great mystery and promise of

God's entrance into our world in Jesus of Nazareth. For this reason I pray that all of our members will be in church for the four Sundays of Advent. Otherwise, the commercialism of the season can sweep us away so that the manger is replaced by Rudolph and Frosty.

Prior to Mass on the 29<sup>th</sup>, the Christmas Wafers (Oplatki) will be blessed. These may be obtained after Mass for a small donation to defray the church's cost. The Wafers are shared on Christmas Eve with gathered friends and relatives, and also through Christmas cards mailed to those farther away. Please remember that they have been blessed and should be treated respectfully.

#### **UYA CALENDAR SALES**

The Parish United Youth Association is taking orders for the *God's Creation 2010* wall calendar. The calendars come in cartons of 25. We will honor the first 25 orders placed. Subsequent orders will be filled only if we can order a second full carton. The cost is \$7 each, and checks may be made payable to "Holy Name of Jesus UYA." The order deadline is November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **PARISH MISSION TEAM**

Ten parishioners are heading to Boston on November 8<sup>th</sup> to see the opera *Carmen* at the Shubert Theater. Because music is such an important part of the Christmas celebration, the Mission Team is also looking into again hiring outside musicians to add to the beauty and inspiration of our Christmas Eve Shepherds' Mass. If you have any ideas to share with us for the good of the parish and also our outreach, watch for the announcement of our next Mission Team meeting. We would love to have you come and share your thoughts with us.

#### **VIDEO PROJECT**

Frontier Public Access Television for Conway, Deerfield, Sunderland and Whately is carried on Channel 12 via our local cable provider. All local congregations have been invited to tape their worship services for airing. Five parish volunteers have agreed to tape our Sunday Masses. These will then be replayed on Channel 12 at a set time each week. More information will be shared in the Weekly Bulletin when details have been finalized.

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**If someone you know needs a hospital visit, please notify the rectory.**