

Stewardship in Action

St. Mary of the Hills Parish
29 St. Mary's Road

Milton, Massachusetts
617.696.0120

www.saintmaryofthehills.org

“As Christian stewards, we receive God's gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them lovingly in justice with others, and return them with increase to the Lord.”

From the Pastor's Desk

My Dear Parishioners,

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: “Behold, I send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Make ready the way of the Lord, Make his paths straight.’”

These words taken from Mark's Gospel are as real and relevant today as ever. The Liturgical Season of Advent is one marked by waiting and preparation for the Savior. What a wonderful opportunity the coming weeks give us to be ready for Our Lord. Even in this busiest of seasons, let us put aside some time for Him – in quiet prayer, spiritual reading and contemplation. And we can bring home the message of preparing for the Lord by adding a prayer before the family meal or lighting the candles of the Advent wreath together.

The parish offers Bible Study on Saturday mornings at the rectory – a new session begins December 3. Come to all six sessions or as many as you are able to attend. Materials will be provided. Take advantage of the grace and healing of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Confessions are heard on Saturdays, 3:00-3:45 all year round. And, on December 21, 6:30-8:00, *The Light Is On For You* returns to churches and chapels all over the Archdiocese. There is more information on these programs in this newsletter – or call the rectory.

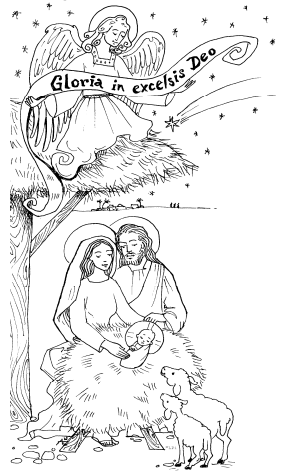
Of course, there is nothing more meaningful than attendance at Mass, perhaps even daily Mass when possible. Advent and the beginning of the Liturgical Year welcome the New Roman Missal. Let us be patient with one another (even your pastor!) as we learn the new prayers for the Mass.

Wishing you and yours an Advent of patience and hope followed by the glorious Season of Christmas as we welcome again the babe in Bethlehem, who is Christ the Lord.

Peace & Love,

Fr. Arthur F. Wright, pastor

Holy Days Worship Schedule



Christmas Eve

4:00 Family Liturgy
Children's pageant
6:00 Choir Mass

Christmas Day

8:00 AM
10:15 AM – Choir Mass
12:00 Noon – Youth
Mass

The Milton Interfaith Clergy Association will hold the Annual Thanks for Giving celebration on Sunday, December 4 at St. Mary of the Hills Church. The service will begin at 4 p.m. with a soup and bread reception afterward. Please join us and bring a non-perishable food donation for the Milton Food Pantry.

Bible Study

On Saturday, December 3rd, we will begin our Winter Bible Study series. It will be six sessions studying the Epistles of James, Jude and the two epistles of St. Peter. The format will consist of a reflection, sharing of the assigned readings, and a background of the reading. A Commentary and study guide will be provided. If you know the scriptures quite well, come and share. If you don't know them well, come and learn.

These words of James - “Be doers of the word and not hearers only” sum up his whole letter - the need to live out one's faith by works. First Peter aims to strengthen the faith of Gentile Christians. Influenced by the theology of baptism, he assures his readers that they share both the dying and rising of Jesus. Jude's letter and Second Peter encourage Christians to remain faithful to the teachings of Peter and Paul and to warn them against novel heresies.

The Word of God is a light showing us the path to heaven. Come and be enlightened!

Contact **Harry Feldmann, Pastoral Associate**
617-696-0120 or harmadf@msn.com

Stewardship in Action

Cinema Divina

By Harry Feldmann, Pastoral Associate

December 14 - SAVE THE DATE! More information will be forthcoming. Hopefully, it will be an Advent experience that places the human story before us in a way that opens our minds and hearts to deeper realities. Please plan to be with us.

CINEMA DIVINA – Sacred Viewing – watching a movie for a spiritual message was first suggested by a Benedictine Monk, Matthias Neuman in 1977. He wrote in an article for the REVIEW FOR RELIGIOUS: “Beyond the written word, the giant visual image of the modern movie screen may provide the impetus for an authentic lection (lesson).” In 1991 Fr. Benedict Auer, OSB wrote in the same publication: “Video Divina requires a set disposition which says, “This evening, I wish to get closer to God, so I’m going to watch this film, which might give me better insights into myself or why my neighbor acts as she or he does.” Cinema Divina can be done alone or with a group. It follows this framework:

LECTIO: What is the story? What words and images, characters, for genre and structure does the filmmaker use to tell the story?

MEDITATIO: For a group, after some reflection someone shares the part of the film that chose him/her and why.

ORATIO: Spontaneous prayer may flow from this reflection.

CONTEMPLATIO: This means to rest with the film; to relish it; to savor the memory of the film as a spiritual exercise, especially the part that chose me as it played back in my imagination, and to praise God for it.

ACTION: To discern some course of action beyond oneself into the world is the fruit of the practice of cinema divina as prayer.

Film can provide a common ground creating a safe space for dialogue, opening minds and hearts, uncovering fears and prejudice and strengthening relationships. In other words, in the sharing of God’s Word broken open in the film, we consider these questions: What moment in the film chose you? What is your emotional response? What are your observations, connections and spiritual questions?

On December 14th at 7:P.M. the Collaborative Book Club will present the opportunity to experience Cinema Divina with the showing of THE JUGGLER OF NOTRE DAME. The story goes back to at least the 12century in France as one of the “miracle plays” of the medieval period in which God rewards devout commoners through acts of wonder. Barnaby, a street juggler, despairs over having nothing to offer until he discovers a most profound truth about the meaning of Christmas and giving.

Winter, 2011

Religious Education News

Why the Mass

I have often heard friends say that they don’t need to go to Mass to be with God. They believe that they experience God just as much by taking a walk in the woods or sitting by the ocean. The woods may be a great place to talk to Jesus, but at Mass we really experience His TRUE PRESENCE in the Eucharist. God is present with us! How great is that? There’s no earthly way to get closer to Him than this.

This year in Religious Education I am trying to excite the children with the mystery, the wonder and the glory of the Mass. We have had a number of classes discussing the parts of the Mass, the objects used for the Mass, Catholic traditions, and even an explanation for the new translation. But classes on the Mass can only take the children so far. My prayer this Advent is that more families will join us in the pews at Sunday Mass and that the children will come to really and truly know the Lord and to feel His True Presence. Now that will be exciting!

Contact Joan Regan, Religious Education Coordinator smhjregan@yahoo.com
or 617-696-6117

80th Anniversary Celebration

The Parish 80th anniversary celebration in October was a great success. There are so many people to thank who played special roles in the joyful celebration of community. But, first and foremost we must thank the planning committee whose love for the parish shone through every detail of the day. Lorraine Tower and Virginia Hannigan were the chairpersons. Also on the committee – Harry and Madeline Feldmann and:



Pictured (l-r) Mary McA’Nulty, AnneMarie McCarthy, Ann Bony, Dotty Smith, Joan McCuen, Janet Dever and Carol Naughton. Our thanks to all of you.

Stewardship in Action



"Only by living as generous stewards of ...their parishes can Catholics of the United States hope to make them the vital sources of faith-filled Christian dynamism they are meant to be."

**From Stewardship: A Disciple's Response
Pastoral Letter on Stewardship from the US Catholic Bishops**

Thank You

The response to the 2011 Grand Annual Collection has been very generous. We have reached \$71,500 of our \$80,000 goal. As you know, this will help with much needed maintenance and improvements to our church property. We are so grateful to all who have responded to date and welcome additional pledges. Thank you.

We are appreciative of the many ways our parish is lovingly supported – through the time, talent and treasure of its community. ***Giving electronically, at www.parishpay.com or through your own bank helps your parish to meet expenses year-round. Call the rectory for more information.***

A Note from the School Principal

Dear Parishioners,

I recently served as an Assistant Chair of a Visiting Committee for the reaccreditation of a school in Rhode Island with the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. As I walked through the hallways of this small Catholic school I was thankful for the gifts we at St. Mary of the Hills School have.

We have our identity, mission, and culture all which guide our school. Without them we would not have the high values, significant curriculum and valuable lessons from skilled and devoted teachers, assessment to make informed decisions, the resources to meet the needs of diverse learners, and parental involvement to achieve academic excellence.

St. Mary of the Hills School is continually planning for the future of our school community with *spiritual growth, personal academic achievement and social development* at its forefront. I thank the Parishioners of St. Mary of the Hills for their dedication and commitment to supporting our school in fulfilling its mission.

Sincerely

Lisa M. Fasano

Contact Lisa smhfasano@yahoo.com
or 617-698-2464

Winter, 2011



This Advent on
Wednesday, December
21 from 6:30-8:00pm,
St. Mary of the Hills and

all the parishes and chapels of the Archdiocese of Boston will be open for individual confessions. Visit www.TheLightIsOnForYou.org to find videos on the Sacrament of Reconciliation, sheets on how to make a good confession, FAQ's and more.

On December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, we will have two special guests – Fr. Anthony Cardone, who served our parish while a deacon and Ivan Dragicovic, the visionary from Medjugorje. Our Lady has appeared to Ivan every day since June 24, 1981, and has, to date, confided nine secrets. Ivan married a local woman in 1994 and has four beautiful children. Ivan and his family spend May-September in Medjugorje and the rest of the year in the US spreading Our Lady's messages in parishes around the country. The evening will run 6:00-9:00 PM. There will be prayers, recitation of the rosary, Mass for the Holy Day at 7:00 PM and Ivan will receive his apparition. We have gotten many calls from people from other states planning to be here. We expect the church to be very crowded. We will get more details to you after we meet with Ivan's representative.

hopeFound Outreach

We need your help once every 6 weeks! St. Mary of the Hills Parish's major outreach is directed toward the homeless of hopeFound (formerly the Shattuck Shelter) in Jamaica Plain. Each Friday evening from **September to June**, one of six groups of volunteers visits the shelter to serve ice cream, donated by Shaw's in Mattapan and desserts that are prepared by parish bakers.

We are currently in need of **bakers** for the shelter program. Bakers are assigned to a team and **prepare baked goods (or purchase them at your favorite bakery or supermarket) once every six weeks. Each baker bakes for approximately 10 guests.** The baked goods are dropped off at the rectory in a bin on the back porch on **Friday afternoon by 6:00 PM** of your scheduled week.

Please consider helping with this ministry. It is personally rewarding and means so much to the guests of the shelter. **Remember it is only 1 time every 6 weeks from September through June!** For more information, call the Rectory (617-696-0120) or

Contact Joan Fawls (617-698-2309)
Or Email joanfawls@gmail.com

St. Mary of the Hills Parish
29 St. Mary's Road
Milton, Massachusetts 02186

NON-PROFIT
Organization
PAID
Boston, MA
Per. No. 56986

*Stewardship in Action is brought to you by your parish ministry leaders and the Stewardship Committee.
Please address any comments or questions to Paula Murphy 617-696-0120 or smbrectory@aol.com.*