

THE CROSS OF JESUS

The perception of a cross changed dramatically after Jesus' crucifixion. Before that event, death on a cross was not only horrible, it was degrading. It was a penalty reserved only for the most wretched of criminals. The word "glory" would not have found its way into the same sentence containing the word "cross." But all that changed with Jesus. Over time, believers began to venerate and honor the cross. They painted, sculpted, and carved images of it. Many lost their own lives for their association with it. Today our reverence for and relationship with the cross recalls little of the contempt originally associated with it. As it has been through the ages, it is our perception of the cross that determines how we follow Jesus.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading -- The name of the LORD has become like fire burning in Jeremiah's heart (Jeremiah 20:7-9).

Psalm -- My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God (Psalm 63).

Second Reading -- Be transformed; renew your mind; discern what is good (Romans 12:1-2).

Gospel -- Those who lose their lives for Jesus' sake will find them (Matthew 16:21-27).



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Married Couples Retreat: A retreat is a break from our everyday lives and a chance to restore our connection to God, our ultimate source of strength. Married couples' retreats offer prayer services, workshops especially for couples, private conferences and free time to reflect, rest, pray and reconnect with your spouse. The date is September 23-25. For more information contact **Holy Family Passionist Retreat House** at 860-521-0440.

Fr. Brennan 60th Birthday Celebration:

Come join us in celebrating Fr. Brennan's 60th Birthday on **Sunday, August 28, 2011**. The celebration will be held in the parish center immediately following the 10:30 a.m. Mass and will continue until 1:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. We hope to see you there.

Attention Catholic Ladies of Agawam

We would like to invite you all to join us for the September meeting of the Agawam Catholic Women's Club. Our guest-speaker will be Connie Motroni, the reigning Ms. Senior Massachusetts. Connie is a lovely, gracious woman and a role-model for women of all ages. The Catholic Women's Club is a group of women who work to promote Catholic Activities in our town. We welcome women of all ages. We raise money to help the needy, we visit shut-ins and nursing homes, we award scholarships to Catholic students. We run the Fashion Show, the Tag/Craft Sale, host the Church Bazaar and so many other things throughout the year. We also have a party at our December meeting, and we have the best entertainment show in March every year. Ladies, if you join us, you will find something else, too—a sense of community and friendship. And, some of the best women you will ever meet. (Of course, we always have refreshments! So, join us in the St. John's Parish Hall on September 12, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. We look forward to meeting you!

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CLUB

**Will hold a Fashion Show on
September 29th at 8:00 p.m.**

at

833 Main Street

Agawam, MA. 01001

**Tickets are \$12.00 and can be
purchased from**

**Angela Beaudry at 786-5408
or Paula Raiche at 789-0244**

**Wine, cheese, crackers,
Refreshments, Raffles, Door Prizes**

Fashions by Dress Barn

Doors Open at 7:15 p.m.

**Proceeds to benefit needy families of
St. John's**

**Please come and help make this a
huge success.**

Sanctuary Light: Aug. 28th - Sept. 3rd.

Will be lit in Memory of: James & Mary Corcoran

By: Family

A prayer for inner peace and for world peace will be said at 8:40 a.m. each Wednesday during the Eucharistic Adoration.

CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY - Encourage souls to say the Chaplet which I have given you (1541)... Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death (687)...When they say this chaplet in the presence of the dying, I will stand between My Father and the dying person, not as the just Judge but as the Merciful Savior (1541)...Priests will recommend it to sinners as their last hope of salvation. Even if there were a sinner most hardened, if he were to recite this chaplet only once, he would receive grace from My infinite mercy (687)...I desire to grant unimaginable graces to those souls who trust in in ...Through the Chaplet you will obtain everything, if what you ask for is compatible with My will (1731).

Doors open to the church at 7:45 each week day. Also on Wednesday's the **Divine Mercy Prayers** are said after Mass.

Rosary will be recited **after Mass** on Monday, Thursday and Friday.

Adoration is also held every Wednesday after the 8:00 a.m. Mass. If you are interested in spending one hour in **Eucharistic Adoration**, please call the rectory office.

"In My Mother's Arm Prayer Line"
Betty at 786-3630-for your request

Nocturnal Adoration Society will be held at Sacred Heart Church in Feeding Hills, MA, on September 2nd. It will be from 7-8 p.m. Please come and pray with us. For more information contact Betty Foley at 732-7004.

First Meeting of St. John the Evangelist Guild will be on Tuesday September, 13, 2011. It will start at 6:30 p.m. in the Fr. Joyce Room. It will be a "Game Night" Hope to see you there and we welcome new members.

RELIGION DEFINED

I do not know how philosophers may ultimately define religion; but from Micah to James it has been defined as service to one's fellow human rendered by following the great rule of justice and mercy, of wisdom and righteousness.

--Theodore Roosevelt

The Catholic Church Welcomes You! Do you know of someone who has an interest in learning more about the catholic faith? Is there someone in your family, or a friend or colleague who may be interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith? Many people are drawn to explore the Catholic Faith? Many people are drawn to explore the Catholic faith for many different reasons. Perhaps they experienced a Catholic Mass at the time of a wedding or funeral and were attracted by the prayer and ritual. They may have witnessed the source of hope and comfort a Catholic friend or relative found in their faith in time of difficulty or crisis. Someone may be married to a person of the Catholic faith and would like to become a catholic themselves.

Any of these experiences, and many others, may have started someone thinking about the Catholic faith. Where would some start and how would he or she go about finding out?

If you or someone you know would like more information about the Catholic Church, an inquiry session will begin on Sunday, September 25, 2011 following the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

The Inquiry Sessions are open to adults:

- Who have never been baptized and recognize a need for spirituality in their lives.
- Those who have been Baptized and raised in another Christian tradition but are interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith.
- Who have been Baptized in the Catholic faith or another Christian tradition, but never received any formal religious training.

To register for the Inquiry Session or to seek more information, please call the rectory office at 786-8105 leaving your name and contact

St. John's Annual Tag/Craft Sale-Vendors Wanted

Once again we are having our annual tag/craft sale on September 10th in the church parking lot from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (It will be held in the parish hall if it rains.) Spaces are available on a first come/first serve basis. The cost is \$20.00 per space. To reserve your space, please send you check, made payable to the Agawam Catholic Women's Club, sent to Theresa Barlow, 969 Shoemaker Lane, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

We are looking for 'White Elephant Table Donations.'-Please bring in your slightly used, clean, good condition items to the Parish enter from July 18th-August 31, 2011. Baked goods & refreshments will be available. Please join us on September 10th for our Tag/Craft Sale and make this day a huge success.

The Shawl Ministry/Happy Knitters

Meets every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in the Fr. Joyce Room. The group has given out over 200 prayer shawls. All are welcome to the group. Children are also

Pastoral Ministry hours are Monday-Thursday from 9-5. I am available for some groups during those evenings. Anyone in the parish who is hospitalized, placed in any rehab or Nursing facility, please notify Mary Scannell (Pastoral Minister) 786-4499. I also want to be available for anyone home bound. The Eucharist can be brought to your home.

The Bereavement Group will be starting up again on September 13th at 10 am., in the foyer. If anyone needs to speak with me before then, please call me at 786-4499. Mary Scannell LICSW Pastoral Minister

The **Cancer Group** meets on the first Tuesday of every month. The September meeting will be on the 6th at 10 a.m. in the Parish Foyer.

Anyone wanting to join the visitation group or be a Eucharistic Minister for Heritage can come for Training on Mondays at 10 a.m. Both are wonderful ministries. *Mary Scannell, Pastoral Minister*

The Visitation Group at present has seven women who are visiting some of our homebound. If you are interested in joining the group. Trainings are held in the foyer on the 2nd Tuesday of month at 10 a.m. Mary Scannell.

Eucharistic Adoration is held on Wednesdays from 8:30-4:00 p.m. We need more people to spend some time with the Lord. Please call the office at 786-8105 to sign up. The Lord thanks you!

Food Vouchers: If you can assist please leave vouchers in the collection basket with my name on the envelope. Thank you. *Mary Scannell*

PLEASE USE EXTREME CAUTION WHILE DRIVING AS YOU ARE ENTERING AND EXITING THE CHURCH & PARISH CENTER PARKING LOT BEFORE AND AFTER MASS. THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE WALKING TO THEIR CARS. Thank You

Mary Scannell will be on vacation from **August 29 till September 1**. If you need to speak with her, please call 786-4499 and leave a message. She will be checking her answering machine.

Rotini & Meatball Dinner sponsored by **Friends of the Agawam Senior Center** to be held on September 7, 2011. Serving time is from 4:30-6 p.m., at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street. This is open to the public. Donation is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children 10 and under. Advanced ticket sales by Friday, September 2, 2011 For more information contact Senior Center at 789-3838. Bake sale will be held during dinner.

Adolescent Religious Education - St. John the Evangelist Church adolescent faith formation is in need of teachers for the 2011-2012 catechetical year. "A teacher affects eternity: he can never tell where his influence stops." (Henry Adams) Sharing your faith with our youth can be a most rewarding ministry. A program information session will be held on **Monday, August 29th at 7:00 pm** in the Father Joyce Room. A one day diocesan Catechist training program for junior and high school catechists is available on **Saturday, September 24th** from 10 to 2, lunch will be provided.

Teachers are needed for **Grades 7th, 8th and 9th. 2011-2012 Catechetical Season Begins**

Grade 7 & 8 - Class start date is September 18, 2011 at 8:45 all students, parents and teachers will meet in the parish center. There will be a parent meeting following opening prayer.

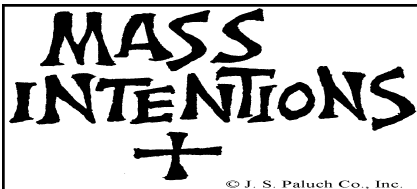
Grade 9 & 10 - Class start date **January 8, 2012** at 8:45 all students and teachers will meet in the parish center. There will be a parent meeting on **September 25th** in the parish center at 11:30 am. Students are welcome to attend.

2011-Confirmation Schedule - Class begins **September 11th** in the parish center from 6:30 pm-8:30 pm. Confirmation sponsors are encouraged to attend.

The Over 60 Club will meet on September 15, 2011 at 12:00 noon for a picnic in the Fr. Joyce Room. The telephone committee will be calling you. We will be collecting dues at this meeting. The committee decided to raise them from \$7 to \$8 dollars. Look forward to seeing all of you

LOVES & FISHES are in need of beans and beef hot dogs for their monthly meal to feed the less fortunate. They are in need of people once a month, to help cook from 1-4, and serve the food from 4-6., the first Tuesday of each month. Please bring your donation to the parish center. Thanking you in advance for all that you do for the parish. If interested in helping out, please call Gerry at 896-2884.

MASS INTENTIONS



Monday, August 29

8:00 AM - Carl Novak
by Mother

Tuesday, August 30

8:00 AM - Henry C. Shuman
Phil & Joan Shuman & Family

Wednesday, August 31

8:00 AM - Jeannette & Claude Quellette
by Daughter

Thursday, September 1

8:00 AM - Communion Service

Friday, September 2

8:00 AM - M/M Frederick Dacey
by Son, Thomas

Saturday, September 3

5:00 PM - Potkai Family
by Niece & Family

Sunday, September 4

8:00 AM - Catherine & Maurice
McKenna & Dan Rourke
by Family

10:30 AM - Thomas & Catherine Cotter
by Family

Please Remember in Your Prayers

Please pray for the sick and dying of our parish. Remember all who are in hospitals, nursing homes and homebound. For all who have died: Theresa J. Buck, Carmella Bacon, Joann L. Fenton, Helena M. Melaney, Stefan Lecko, Judith Ann Morrissey, Andre A. Paquette, and members of our parish. May the Lord welcome them into His Heavenly Kingdom.

Faith Formation-For Summer Hours Mary Ellen will be in her office on Monday, Tuesday & Thursday from 5-8 p.m. Fee is \$50 for one child and \$90 for two or more.

August 21, 2011



Regular (Env.)	\$4,974.00
Maint. (Env.)	1940.00
Fuel	122.00
Loose	<u>540.00</u>
Total	\$7,576.00

Parish Center Weekly Meetings

Lower Parish Center

Time	Contact	Phone
7:00—8:30 pm		
Sunday <u>NA</u>		
7:00—8:15 pm		
Monday <u>AA</u>	Dick	221-7806
7:30—9:00 pm		
Tuesday <u>AA</u>	Stephen	250-9203
7:30—9:00 pm		
Wednesday <u>NA</u>		
8:00—9:00 pm		
Thursday <u>AA</u>	Jim	782-2941
8:00—9:00 pm		
Saturday <u>NA</u>		
7:15—9:30 pm		
Saturday <u>AA</u>	Richard	949-8296

For the public at large the number for the NA is 1-800-481-6871.

FLIP FLOPS FOR HAITI:

Collections for Flip Flops for Haiti started on August 21st. If you can donate a pair or two it would be greatly appreciated. Usually these children and adults have nothing for their feet so we thought we could collect flip flops so they will have some protection for their feet. We will send them over to Haiti to be distributed. There will be a collection box in the parish center to drop them off. Many thanks for your generosity.

Upcoming Flu Clinic

Will be held in the Parish Center on Saturday, September 17, 2011 from 3:30 pm-7:30 p.m., sponsored by CVS pharmacy. Medicare B participants covered at no charge. Other insurance plans the prices may vary. No prescription cost is \$29.95. If you have any questions, please call CVS pharmacy at 789-3339.