

# St. John the Evangelist

833 Main Street — Agawam, MA 01001

## **PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday — Thursday  
9:00 - 12:00 / 1:00 - 3:00  
Friday - Closed

### **Office Phone**

786-8105

### **Fax**

789-6266

### **Pastor**

Fr. John J. Brennan

### **Deacon**

Deacon Paul Briere  
Deacon Michael Lingham

### **Pastoral Minister**

Mary Scannell  
786-4499

### **Sexton**

Mr. Steven Payeur

### **Organist & Musical Director**

Mr. Wayne Ball

### **Finance Council**

Mr. Philip Shuman, Chairman

### **Parish Council**

Mr. Steven Payeur

### **Secretaries**

Barbara Quaglini  
Paula Raiche

### **Religious Education**

Mary Ellen Fydenkevez  
789-2484

## **A STEWARDSHIP PARISH**



We, the family of St. John the Evangelist, a Roman Catholic Church of Agawam, MA., are a community of faith striving to be united in God's Love and sharing in a commitment to worship together. As a multi-ethnic parish, we seek to evangelize by loving others as we are loved by God. We engage in special ministries to: Our Youth and Elderly, Families and Singles, The Joyful and Grieving, Nursing Home Residents and Shut-ins. We prayerfully endeavor to comfort all God's people with a deep pastoral concern and give hope to all.

**Parish E-Mail Address:** [info@stjohnevangelistchurch.org](mailto:info@stjohnevangelistchurch.org)

**Web Site:** [www.stjohnevangelistchurch.org](http://www.stjohnevangelistchurch.org)

### **SCHEDULE OF MASSES**

Saturdays 4:00 & 6:00 pm (Labor Day to Memorial Day)

Saturdays 5:00 pm (Memorial Day to Labor Day)

Sundays 8:00 am & 10:30 am

Holy Days - **To be announced**

Reconciliation - Saturdays 3:15 pm to 3:45 pm - or by appt.

Weekdays - Mon-Tue-Wed & Fri - 8:00 am

Thursday - Communion Service

Eucharistic Adoration - Wednesdays 8:30 am - 5:30 pm

Beginning of September 8:30 - 4:00 p.m.

### **BAPTISM**

Baptisms are scheduled on the last Sunday of every month for parishioners registered 3 month prior to baptism. Please call the office to schedule.

### **MARRIAGES**

To be arranged at least one year in advance.

### **NEW PARISHIONERS**

Please call the office to register as soon as possible.

**THE HEART OF CONVERSION**

Today's scriptures bring us to the heart of the meaning of the Christian journey of conversion. Saint Paul sums it up beautifully: "Whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away" (2 Corinthians 5:17). The Gospel passage, the parable of the prodigal son, shows us just what this new creation is like. It is all about reconciliation. Just as God removes the yoke of slavery from the shoulders of the Israelites--see today's first reading--so, too, does the father in the Gospel remove the yoke of guilt and shame from the shoulders of his wayward son. That son first needed to turn away from his sin and seek out and ask forgiveness of his father. That is precisely what we have been doing during this season of repentance. We can only begin to imagine the kind of reconciliation feast that awaits us when we are embraced by our forgiving God.

**TODAY'S READINGS**

**First Reading** -- God's people enter the promised land, observe the Passover, and eat of the produce of the land (Joshua 5:9a, 10-12) or 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a.

**Psalm** -- Taste and see the goodness of the Lord (Psalm 34) or Psalm 23.

**Second Reading** -- We are now ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17-21) or Ephesians 5:8-14.

**Gospel** -- We must rejoice when our brother who was dead in sin repents and comes back to life (Luke



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**SAINT JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

**March 19**

Joseph, someone once joked, was indeed the perfect husband: the only major character in Jesus' story who never utters a word! But the Gospel recounts and the liturgy celebrates his silent witness of faith-filled deeds: "With a husband's love he cherished Mary, the Virgin Mother of God; with fatherly care he watched over Jesus" (Preface of Saint Joseph, Sacramentary). Catholic devotion, therefore, hails him as patron-protector of the universal Church. Some cultures set a festive "Saint Joseph's Table," welcoming the poor and strangers to feast with family and friends. Tradition keeps today as the anniversary of his death, which we presume was peaceful, with Jesus and Mary present. Thus, Catholics invoke Joseph as "patron of a happy death." Descended from David's house, which God finished "building" through Joseph's provision of a home for Mary and Jesus, he was, fittingly, a carpenter by trade; thus, patron of workers. Spring, nature's rebirth, begins between his feast and Annunciation (March 25), appropriately, since Joseph's silent obedience and Mary's "Let it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38) usher in humanity's spiritual rebirth.

**Fourth Week of Lent** - The story of the Prodigal Son helps us refocus on the meaning of Lent. This is a time to change our ways, to turn back to God our Father, and to appreciate and share the gifts we have received. As we begin the second half of our journey with Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl, we remember that we are called to be stewards of what God has given us, and we connect our prayers and fasting with our giving.



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**Sanctuary Light: March 14th - March 20th  
Will be lit in Memory of: Darlene Rosati Shea  
By: John & Margaret Rosati**

**"In My Mother's Arms Prayer Line"  
Betty at 786-3630 – for your request.**

**Mass Notice - Effective immediately there will no longer be Masses for more than one intention on Saturday at 4 p.m. and Sunday at 10:30 p.m. All previously booked Masses with multiple intentions will be honored.**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

During the Season of Lent we are encouraged to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for the great feast of Easter. Several opportunities for confession will be available in the local area in the upcoming weeks.

**St. Thomas the Apostle Church, W.S.**

**Monday, March 15, 2010 @7:00 p.m.**

**St. Mary's Church, Westfield, MA**

**Wednesday, March 17, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Holy Family Church, Springfield, MA**

**Tuesday, March 23, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.**

In addition to the above times, Fr. Brennan will be available on the following Wednesday evenings from 6-7 p.m. in St. John's Church. Wednesday, **March 24 and March 31st.** The Sacrament of Reconciliation is also available every Saturday afternoon from 3:15 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Appointments are also available for Confession.

**From Slavery to Sainthood—Celebration of the Life of St. Patrick,** Tuesday, March 16, 2010 from 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Registration 8:30-9:30. Coffee and Pastry with registration. Mass will be offered by Msgr. Chris Connelly. This will be held at Jericho Fr. Wagner Celebration Center, 537 Northampton St., Holyoke, MA. For more information call Jean at 452-0652.

**Office of Lay Ministry -** Anyone wishing to join the Lay Ministry Certificate Program in Introductory Leadership Training which begins on March 23, 2010, please see the information at the back of the church if you are interested or call The Office of Lay Ministry Formation at 452-0824..

**The Annual Catholic Appeal** supports several diocesan programs through your generous support. Media such as "Real to Reel," *The Catholic Observer*, and the diocesan news web site, iObserve.org, are just a few of the Catholic Communications services funded through ACA support. If you have already made your donation or pledge, thank you. If you have not yet made your donation, please do so by mail, online or credit card by phone.

**Life in the Spirit Seminar**

Six Mondays: **March 22, 2010-April 26, 2010**

7-9 p.m., St. John the Evangelist Parish Center

Agawam, MA. The seminars are a series of talks

designed to lead people through the basic message of salvation and help them to yield to the action of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Seminars conclude with

prayer for Baptism in the Holy Spirit. For more

information call Susan 786-6307. Registration forms

at each door of the church.

**Cancer Support Group**-Will meet on March 9th and every other Tuesday following at 10:00 a.m. in the foyer. All are welcome.

**The Bereavement Group** will not be held on March 22nd. I will be attending a workshop. Mary Scannell

**Friends of the Agawam Senior Center-Fund Raiser**

**HIGH TEA-COFFEE**

**Friday April 9th, 2010 from 4-7 p.m.**

**Agawam Senior Center**

**954 Main Street**

**DONATION \$12.00**

**RAFFLES AND DOOR PRIZES**

**MENU**

**COFFE, TEA, PUNCH**

**Variety Tea Sandwiches**

**Hand made Chocolates**

**Variety of Desserts**

**Call for Tickets: 786-3091**

**THE SMALL PLANET DANCER**

**Show Begins at 7:30PM**

**Funding for the Show provided by a Grant from the Agawam Cultural Council**

**CLOSER THAN YOU THINK**

Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.

--Thomas Edison

**Good Friday Services at Heritage Hall** will be held at 10:30 a.m. in every building. Co-coordinators Meeting will be held on March 25th at 10 a.m. in the foyer to go over Good Friday Service. Please attend! Thank You, Mary Scannell

On Thursday, **March 11, 2010**, Visiting Angels will be holding a Caregiver Open House in our offices located at: 34 Robbins Road, Springfield, Springfield, MA and 507 Southampton Road, Westfield, MA. Please, stop in 9-4 p.m. at either of these locations to learn about employment opportunities for CAN's and HHA's. For more information, please call 733-6960.

**US CENSUS** - The public often expresses concerns over sharing their personal information with the US Census Bureau. You should know that the US Census Bureau is required by federal law to keep all of the information they collect confidential. The Census Bureau cannot share their information with any other federal agency, law enforcement agency or any other entity. When the Census concludes, the local offices are closed and all of the data is transferred to the federal government and fully protected. The data is used in its' collective form to determine Congressional seats in the United States; those districts then dictate a percentage formula for the use of federal dollars on behalf of all of the people living in a given geographic location. For questions and answers visit [www.2010Census.gov](http://www.2010Census.gov).

**Springfield Turnverein**-Will be having Dinner, consisting of Goulash with noodles and carrots, dessert, coffee or Tea. Dinner will be served from 6-7:30 p.m. Cost is \$8.00 per person and \$4.00 for children. For reservations call STV by 3-16-2010.

**Weston Irish Open House** -Weston Center for Women at Mont Marie, Holyoke, will offer an Open House from 9-3, Saturday, March 6, to introduce a wide array of Irish apparel for St. Patrick's Day. Each year new designs have been added to long-sleeve t-shirts, sweatshirts, hooded sweatshirts, and gift items. In this tenth year of production these include Hooligan Hoodies for toddlers and kids, a black shirt with Irish design for adults, and an embroidery line of mock turtlenecks and knit caps. The store at Weston is open Monday-Friday from 8 till 3. For more information call 533-3022.

**March Movie** - On March 16th at 1:30 p.m. we will be showing the movie "**The Miracle of Marcelino**" in the Fr. Joyce Room. All are invited to come and enjoy.

**The Rosary** after morning mass will be suspended during the winter months. Doors open to the church at 7:45 each week day. Also on Wednesday's the **Divine Mercy Prayers** are said after Mass. 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.

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

**The Bereavement Group** meets Monday at 10 a.m. in the parish foyer. It is an open group to support anyone who has experience a major loss. For more information contact Mary Scannell at 786-4499.

**The Shawl Ministry/Happy Knitters**  
The Prayer Shawl group will be meeting on Wednesday morning from 10-11:30. Up to this date the group has given away **eighty-three prayer shawls** to the sick in the parish. What a wonderful ministry they are doing! Come and join the fun!

**Pastoral Ministry hours** are Monday-Thursday from 9-5. I am available for some groups during those evenings. Please keep me informed of anyone homebound or hospitalized. Supportive counseling can also be given for anyone unemployed. Please call 786-4499 and speak with Mary Scannell.

**THE ST. PATRICK'S OVER 60 MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 18, 2010 AT 12:00 P.M.**  
We will be having corn beef sandwiches, and fixings, ice cream and entertainment by Vera Conway. Hope to see you there. The committee will be calling to ask if you are coming. There will be a small cost. Hope to see you there!

**The Friends of St. George and The Friends of St. Patrick will hold an Irish Night on March 17, 2010 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Elder Council 69 Knights of Columbus Granby, Rd., Chicopee. Corned beef or turkey sandwiches, potato salad, or chips and beverages will be served. Desserts will be available for purchase. All proceeds benefit the appeals to keep these two churches open and keep a Catholic presence in Chicopee Falls. (Adults \$7 or senior/student \$6) please call Renee at 413-594-4457 or Peggy at 598-8466.**

# Mass Intentions



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- Monday, March 15**  
8:00 AM - Sid Harvey  
by Wife & Family
- Tuesday, March 16**  
8:00 AM - Parish
- Wednesday, March 17**  
8:00 AM - Lawrence Plasse  
by The Family
- Thursday, March 18**  
8:00 AM - Anita Drewes  
by Robert Gibson
- Friday, March 19**  
8:00 AM -
- Saturday, March 20**  
4:00 PM - Peter Longo  
by The C.W.C. Bowling League
- 6:00 PM - Robert Schilling  
by Daughter, Geraldine
- Sunday, March 21**  
8:00 AM - Shirley Cormier  
by Husband, Robert
- 10:30 AM - Marie Collette, 2nd Anniversary  
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: Louise Payne, Donald Campbell, Robert Johnson, George Twine, Brenda Gifford and members of our parish. May the Lord welcome them into His Heavenly Kingdom.

March 7, 2010



Regular (Env.) 423)	\$6,483.00
Maint. (Env.) (239)	2,214.00
Fuel	250.00
Loose	786.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,733.00</b>

## Parish Center Weekly Meetings

### Lower Parish Center

<u>Time</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Phone</u>
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>	Gary	783-5641
7:00—8:15 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.

## TAX CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS for 2009

If you would like a tax statement mailed to you for your 2009 contribution to St. John's Church, please call St. John's at 786-8105 and ask to speak to Paula Raiche and she will mail it out to you. Thank you!

**LOAVES & FISHES** are in need of beans and beef hot dogs for their monthly meal to feed the less fortunate. Please bring your donation to the parish center. Thanking you in advance.

**SAVE THE DATE: The Catholic Women's Club** will be hosting a fashion show on Thursday evening April 22, 2010. Doors will open at 7:00 p.m. The fashions will be from **Cold Water Creek**. The proceeds are for the needy families in the area. Please come and support this enjoyable evening with all the other wonderful ladies from our church.