

Established 1866

20 Church Street Hopkinton, MA 01748

Telephone: 508-435-3313 for all parish offices

E-Mail: stjohnshopkinton@verizon.net Web Page: www.stjohnhopkinton.com

WELCOME TO NEW PARISHIONERS Please introduce yourselves. We hope to know and serve you. We hope you become an active part of our

Parish Community.

PASTOR Very Rev. Richard E. Cannon, V.F. 508-435-3313x21 rec55xp@outlook.com

> SENIOR DEACON Deacon Anthony C. Sicuso

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

508-435-3313x22 Mary Pawela, 1-6 Debbie Lysik, 7-10 Ken Lysik, 9 & 10

PARISH CENTER Parish Center Manager Catherine Kniaz 508-435-3313x25 parishhallstjn@gmail.com SUNDAY MASSES: Saturday 4:00 PM Sunday 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM and 6:30 PM

WEEKDAY MASSES: Monday through Friday at 9:00 AM Saturday 8:00 AM

HOLY DAY MASSES: See inside bulletin for Holy Day Mass schedule

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday 8:30-9:15 AM in the lower chapel

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: Second and fourth Sundays of the month at 11:30 AM Please call for information

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: Arranged at least 6 months in advance

ORGANIST/MUSIC DIRECTOR Bernadette Nadeau

momandberni@gmail.com

PARISH "NEWS" DEADLINE

All copy must be submitted in writing no later than Monday noon. (Holiday weeks may require a longer lead time.)

ST. JOHN'S ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

For those that need a little help, please call: 508-435-3313x27

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST



to him. Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But his father ordered

his servants, 'let us celebrate with a feast because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again."" - Lk 15:21-22a, 23b-24a

> Readings for NEXT Sunday, April 6, 2025: Is 43:16-21/ Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 (3)/ Phil 3:8-14/ Jn 8:1-11

The readings for this weekend's Masses begin on page 122 in the pew missal.



INTENTIONS	
29	
Parishioners of St. John's	
Ola Brackenbush	
Our First Communion Candidates	
William & Mary Jane Rogers	
MONDAY, MARCH 31	
George W. Thibeault	
For the conversion of sinners	
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2	
Ernie & Rita Fecteau	
April G. Fitzgerald	
(living birthday)	
Special Intention	
All the Holy Souls in Purgatory	
Kenneth & Deborah Lysik	
(50th Wedding Anniversary)	
Parishioners of St. John's	
For the Persecuted Church in China	
For our Confirmation Candidates	
This Week	

11:00 AM **TUESDAY, APRIL 1** 6:30 PM **SUNDAY, APRIL 6** 5:15 PM

Grade 2 mini retreat

Grades 7 & 8

Grade 10

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated 8:30-9:15AM in the lower church THIS Saturday, April 5.

Lenten Reflection with Fr. Lacombe

We are Pilgrims of Hope: Lenten Reflections for the Jubilee Year THIS Wednesday, April 2, 7PM in the lower chapel

LENTEN CONFESSIONS

In addition to the regular Saturday morning confessions from 8:30-9:15AM, confessions will also be heard Monday, April 7 and Monday, April 14, 6:30PM-7:30PM in the lower chapel.

<u>Please Remember in Prayer</u>

All confined, all in need of healing...Please pray for all deceased and their families...Our servicemen and women. and their families, and all who suffer in embattled countries.

Divine Mercy Prayer Group

There will be a holy hour of Divine Mercy every Monday from 6:30-7:30PM in the lower church. All are welcome.

Holy Hour for the Conversion of Sinners and Prayers for the Dying

There is a holy hour here at St. John's parish for the conversion of sinners and prayers for the dying on Thursdays at 6:30PM in the lower church.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During Lent we will have Stations of the Cross and Benediction every Friday evening beginning at 7PM in the upper church. Join us as we engage in a Lenten pilgrimage to the Cross with Jesus.

First Saturday Devotion

All are invited to attend the First Saturday Devotion THIS Saturday, April 5, at 7:15AM in the lower chapel. The rosary will be prayed followed by the Fatima prayers and 15 minutes of private meditation, prior to the celebration of Mass at 8AM. Confession will be available following Mass.

Presentation of the Turin Crucifix

The Presentation of the Turin Crucifix is coming to St. John's THIS Thursday, April 3, 7-8PM in the parish hall. The Turin Crucifix is the most accurate crucifix based on the Relics of Christ's Passion. The 1-hour presentation describes how the Shroud of Turin was used in making the Turin Crucifix, and replicas of the Crucifixion Nails, Roman Flagrum, and the Lance are displayed. A Question-and-Answer period follows the presentation, and all attendees receive a free hard copy of the book, Turin Crucifix - A Description of the Elements used in the Creation of the Turin Crucifix Sculpture. This presentation has been described as Amazing, Epic, Powerful, Marvelous. Don't miss it! Visit https://stjohnhopkinton.com for more details.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament follows the 9AM Mass in the lower church every Tuesday and Friday, beginning with the Litany to our Blessed Mother. The Chaplet of Divine Mercy is recited at

11:45AM followed by Benediction. Please feel free to drop in for a visit.



WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS

If you are new to the Parish, please introduce yourself. We want to know and serve you. We hope you will support your parish with your prayers, your presence and your talents. Please call the Parish Office (435-3313x203) to register.

The Veiling of Crosses and Statues

According to the Roman Missal, the practice of covering crosses and images in the church may be observed, beginning on the Saturday before the fifth Sunday of Lent. In 1988, the Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship, in Paschale Solemnitatis, encouraged the practice, though it is not mandatory. This practice was obligatory in the Church for centuries, up until 1970. Why does the Church encourage this practice? To heighten our Lenten awareness and sharpen our spiritual focus on the great mysteries of our faith that Holy Week makes present: the passion, death, and resurrection of our beloved Savior. In the words of the noted Benedictine liturgist Abbot Dom Gueranger, "The presentiment of that awful hour of our Savior's passion leads the afflicted mother, the Church, to veil the image of her Jesus: the cross is hidden from the eyes of the faithful. The statues of the saints, too, are covered; for it is but just that, if the glory of the Master be eclipsed, the servant should not appear."

St. John the Evangelist Pro-Life Initiative

"From Christendom to Apostolic Mission" by Monsignor James Shea

"It will be seen that the key battles our culture faces are intellectual ones. This fact can be hidden by the obvious moral character of some of them, but it is true nonetheless. Every age has been sorely tempted to sexual immorality; it has been left to our age to construct a sophisticated intellectual justification for sexual profligacy. All times have known the temptation to be cruel to children whose existence was inconvenient for the adults who cared for them; only our age has devised a way of thinking that has made the murder of children [in the womb] acceptable and even an act of moral goodness when enlisted in the campaign for personal autonomy." A well-known national speaker, and now author, Monsignor Shea is the President of the University of Mary in North Dakota, Check out his book on Amazon.

Troop 4 Pancake Breakfast

St. John's sponsored Scouting America Troop 4 Hopkinton (formerly BSA) will hold its <u>Annual Pancake Breakfast</u> on **Saturday April 5** from **7:30AM until 11:30AM** in the parish center. While you're there, take time to bid on the amazing silent auction items donated by our generous sponsors! General admission is \$10, \$5 for senior citizens and our veterans eat free. Tickets are available in advance from your local scouts (<u>pancake-breakfast@troop4hopkinton.com</u>), or at the door. Proceeds from the Pancake Breakfast will support community service projects, and outdoor adventures for Troop 4 scouts including hiking in our National Parks, camping, and biking opportunities. It is programs like these that provide Hopkinton youth with a quality scouting experience and builds model leaders in our community. We hope you will join us for breakfast!



Religious Education Reminders

Sunday, March 30: Grade 2 Mini Retreat at 11AM Tuesday, April 1: Grades 7 & 8, 6:30-7:30PM Sunday, April 6: Grade 10, 5:15PM Monday, April 7: Grade 9, 7-8PM Tuesday, April 8: Grade 7 & 8, 6:30-7:30PM

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Confirmation rehearsal	Tuesday, April 29, 7PM
	Friday, May 2, 6PM
1st Communion rehearsal	Wednesday, April 30, 4:30PM
First Communion	Saturday, May 3, 11AM

Donations for Mustard Seed

As we have entered this Lenten Season, we would like to ask our parish families to think about donating an item or two that will be brought to the Mustard Seed Soup Kitchen in Worcester. Items such as: adult socks, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, chapstick, hand sanitizer, tissues and mouthwash. Travel size is perfect for most items. This time of year it is a huge need. A box for donations is in the hallway by the Religious Education Office. Your generous help is always so appreciated. Thank you, The Religious Education Staff

K of C Food for Families Lenten Food Drive

The Knights of Columbus will be distributing food collection bags for the Food for Families Lenten Food Drive at the weekend Masses of March 22nd and 23rd. **Donated food** and supplies will be collected at the weekend Masses of March 29th and 30th and April 5th and 6^h. The Hopkinton Food Pantry is need of healthy cereal; breakfast bars; pancake mix; pastas; beans; nuts; canned soups, stews, tomatoes, and vegetables; canned tuna. chicken and meats; mac and cheese; non-perishable milk and juice; toilet paper; diapers; tissues; cleaning supplies; storage bags and trash bags. Since our supply of food donation bags is limited, we ask that you only take a bag if you plan on donating food and supplies and return it along with the donated items. You may also use your own bag. Please be sure to check the expiration date on all items. If you prefer to make a cash or online donation, there are several options for giving: You can send in a check. Please make out your check to Project Just Because. Please put in the memo section: K of C 4822 FFF Food Drive. You can either drop off the check in an envelope marked K of C Food for Fami*lies Food Drive* in the regular collection basket at St John's or mail it to: St John the Evangelist, 20 Church Street, Hopkinton, MA 01748, ATTN: K of C Food Drive. Purchase an Amazon-eGift-card and have it emailed to: piboffice@comcast.net. Please add "K of C FFF Drive" in the message box. Gifts can also be made through donoradvised charitable funds by selecting Project Just Because in Hopkinton (Tax ID 06-1728553) and specifying in the use or note area that it is for the K of C Council 4822 Food for Families Food Drive. Kindly give what you can. No amount is too small!

MARCH 30, 2025

CROSS ROADS By Deacon Tony Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 34:2-7; 2 Corinthians 5:1-3, 11-32; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

It is Laetare Sunday. As the Hebrews in the first reading rejoiced and celebrated their arrival in the promised land by celebrating the Passover, we are to rejoice that our reconciliation with God through Christ (who is our Passover) is at hand. Look up to the Lord and be radiant with joy. Whether we are in distress, or poor, or distracted, the Lord hears us, knows what we need, and reconciles us through Christ. Through our baptism we become a new creation in Christ. Like Saint Paul, we are no longer just living, but Christ lives in us. Christ's mission of reconciliation and forgiveness has been entrusted to us. We are to carry on that mission. We do this when we forgive and reconcile with others. In so doing we become, as Christ intends, ambassadors for Christ.

In today's gospel, Jesus is being criticized by the Pharisees for welcoming sinners and eating with them. Jesus responds with the parable of the prodigal son. That younger son wanted his share of what would have been his inheritance so that he could leave. He left his father and older brother, went to a faraway land and squandered everything in his carousing. He gave new meaning to the phrase "striking out on his own." He struck out big time. In trying to survive his poverty and famine, he had to work tending to swine. Coming to his senses he rehearsed his apology and started for home. His father must have been at the gate every day looking and hoping to see his younger son. And one day the father saw his son from a long way off. How did the father recognize him. The son's appearance must have been different. He must have lost weight and must have been dirty.

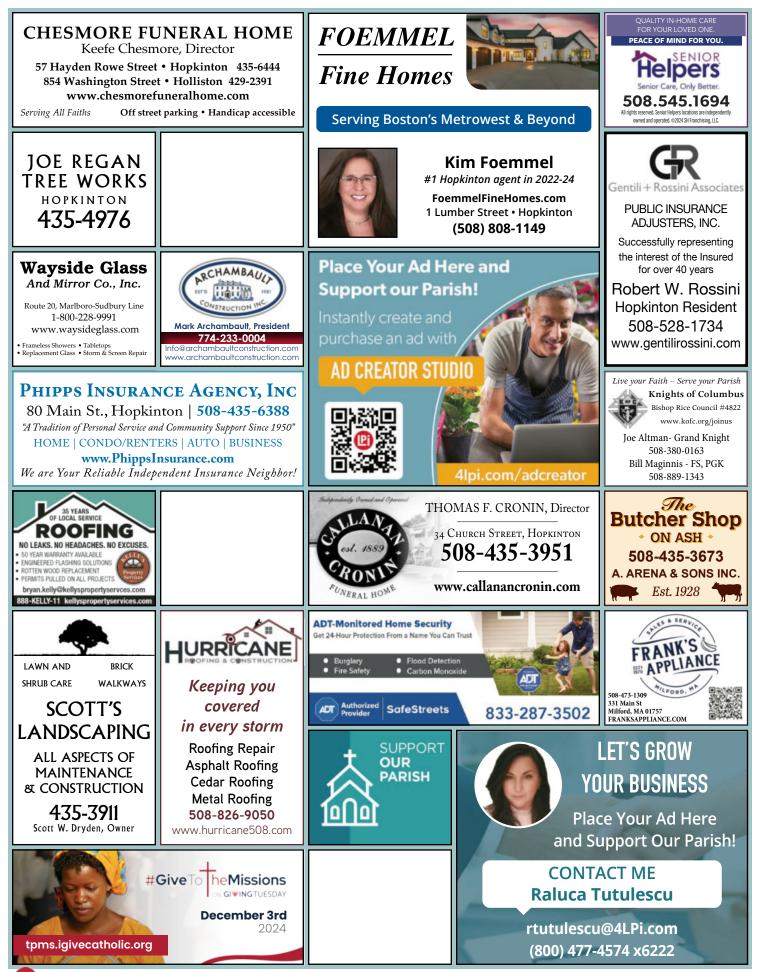
The father ran out to greet his son with love and compassion. The son gave his rehearsed apology, and the father called for clean clothes, a ring, sandals, and ordered a party to celebrate. When the elder son found out, he refused to go into the party. In so doing he squandered an opportunity to forgive and be reconciled with his brother. Did the older brother ever forgive his younger brother? Did the prodigal younger brother learn from his mistakes, and stay to help his father? Lesson: The Lord knows us. He loves and watches for us to look up and move toward him to repent from our sinfulness. And as much as sinfulness can disfigure us spiritually, the Lord always will recognize us, always look for us, and greet us with love and compassion in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

DIVINE MERCY AND THE CONVERSION OF SINNERS

God doesn't want any of His wayward children to be lost, but truly rejoices when they repent of their sins, turn back to Him, and are saved. (Luke, Chapter 15)

I have come to call sinners, not the self-righteous. Mark 2:17





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