

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

*Church of St. Isidore*

*Stow, MA*

*January 10, 2010*

*A*nd a voice came from heaven,  
"YOU ARE MY BELOVED SON;  
*with you*  
I AM WELL PLEASED."

Luke 3:22 (NAB)



**Parish Finances**

**Thanks**

**December 27, 2009**

<b>Offertory in envelopes (90) or by checks (19)</b>	<b>\$3,991.00</b>
<b>Offertory in loose cash</b>	<b>\$366.00</b>
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$4,357.00</b>

**St. Vincent de Paul** **\$24.73**

**Grand Annual Collection to date** **\$18,925.00**

**Christmas offertory (12/24-12/25)  
(for Clergy Benefit Trust)** **\$6,013.00**

**St. Vincent de Paul (12/24-12/25)** **\$374.15**

**NEW YEARS DAY** **\$787.00**

**January 3, 2010**

**Offertory in envelopes  
(34) or by checks (18)** **\$2,579.00**

**Offertory in loose cash** **\$ 121.00**

**Total Offertory** **\$2,700.00**

Our thanks to all who have increased their support of the parish. Our hope is that all who can, will heed the invitation given by the parish finance council

- for those who give, to give \$5 extra
- those new to the system to become part of the team.
- for all to give regularly using the weekly envelopes, sending offering by mail, or transferring electronically.

**From the Pastor...**

Today we celebrate our Lord's baptism by John at the Jordan. This, another of Christ's Epiphany telling us he is God's servant and son.

We also have a calling in life through baptism to be God's servant and adopted son or daughter. We must respond to this calling by our own abilities through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

What is your calling in life, and how do you fulfill it in Christ and his Church?

*Fr. David A. Doucet*

**Saint Michael School Open House**

Sunday, January 10, 2010 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and Tuesday, February 2, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Saint Michael School is introducing a new Pre-school three year old program to start the 2010-2011 school year. Saint Michael School has exceptional values ~ developing students with strong intellect, confidence, and conscience. Please visit us at 198 Main Street, Hudson, [stmichaelschoolhudson.org](http://stmichaelschoolhudson.org), or call us at 978-562-2917.



**Join Us for  
HOSPITALITY  
SUNDAY TODAY!**

**Please join us in the parish hall for coffee & donuts after the 8:00AM and 10:30AM masses.**

## Children's Liturgy of the Word



We will be celebrating Children's Liturgy of the Word each Sunday at the 10:30 AM Mass. The exceptions to this will be most holiday week-ends and school vacation week-ends. CLOW is age

appropriate for children who are already in Kindergarten through Grade 5. Following the Christmas vacation and holiday week-ends CLOW will resume with the following schedule:

January 10, 24 & 31	February 7 & 28
March 7, 14, 21 & 28	April 11

## Year for Priests Spiritual Adoption

During this Year for Priests, The Vocation Office is happy to announce that Serra Boston Vocation Club is initiating the "Adopt-a-Priest Apostolate" where parishioners spiritually adopt a priest of the Archdiocese of Boston for one year. Parishioners are given the name of a priest of the Archdiocese, prayer cards and a prayer booklet and asked to pray for the particular intentions and ministry of that priest. If you are interested in more information or being assigned a priest of the Archdiocese to pray for on a daily basis, please call 978-462-1057 or go to [www.serraboston.org](http://www.serraboston.org) or <http://www.vocationsboston.org/Resources.aspx>.



### The mission statement of St. Isidore Parish.

St. Isidore Parish is a Catholic faith community committed to helping people deepen their relationship with Christ. The cornerstones of our mission are:

- the celebration of the Eucharist,
- Christian service,
- evangelization, and
- religious education for every person.

These are the foundations through which we help people to grow and sustain the excitement of their relationship. We are committed, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to welcoming all to our faith community, seeing Christ in one another and growing in our commitment to be more like Christ, especially in our daily prayer life.

Goal 1 - It is the goal of this parish to strengthen the faith commitment of the parishioners, both children and adults, by involving them in opportunities that will allow them to experience a growth in their faith.

Goal 2 - It is the goal of this parish to develop a plan to reach out to other parishes within our cluster. This outreach can be on an informal and/or formal basis.

### Welcome New Parishioners

Please introduce yourself to Father Doucet, Deacon Bob or Deacon Charlie. Call or visit the rectory to fill out a registration card to be included in our database.

### Baptism Preparation

Our quarterly Baptismal preparation meeting for parents of children to be baptized will be held on Wednesday January 13, 2008 at 7:30 P.M.

**Catholic Chaplain at Emerson Hospital**

Our parish, along with other parishes in our vicariate, provides a Catholic chaplain to meet the pastoral/spiritual needs of any one hospitalized at Emerson Hospital in Concord. Chaplain Georgia Leiner can offer prayer, pastoral counseling, Communion, and if needed, arrange for the Sacrament of the Sick. She also gives support to the family or others involved.

You can call the chaplain before you get to the hospital, or ask for her after you arrive. Georgia works every day and you can reach her at 978-287-3015. She is there for you and will be glad to minister to you.

**Attention**

**Priests, Youth Ministers**

**The Archdiocese of Boston Vocation Office is Sponsoring  
ST. ANDREW DINNER**

St. Andrew is a gathering of young men in High School and their Parish priest, High School Campus Minister or Youth Minister for an informal dinner with Cardinal Seán. The evening consists of Evening Prayer, dinner, conversation with seminarians and vacation witness stories.

**Schedule for 2009**

Wednesday, January 27, 2010—5:30—8PM at St. Sebastian High School, Needham, MA

Tuesday, April 13, 2010—St. John's Seminary, Brighton, MA

**Marriage**

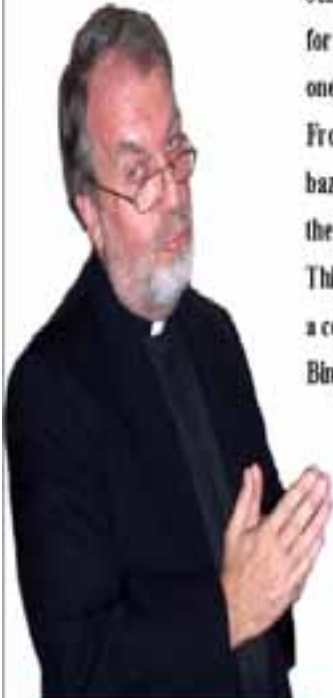
Arrangements should be made at least 6 months before the intended date of the wedding. Please call the Rectory to schedule your date and make an appointment to speak with Father Doucet.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 30TH**

*St. Isidore's*  
Proudly presents

**MISGIVINGS**

*A "Divine" Comedy of bellylaughs, blessings, blarney and bingo*



Join Father Patrick Aloysius Misgivings for this divine presentation of stories and one liners about growing up Catholic. From miracles and marriage counseling to bazaars and birth control, nothing escapes the good father's razor sharp, Irish wit. This hilarious, interactive comedy includes a collection, a raffle and even an actual Bingo game.

**St. Isidore Church Hall**  
429 Great Road Stow, MA  
Doors open: 6:30PM  
Showtime: 7PM

**\$15**  
(Senior Citizens \$14)  
Tickets available beginning  
January 3rd after Mass or at the rectory,  
weekdays before noon.

**New England's  
most entertaining  
One Man Show!!**

## Thomas More College Winter Open House

On President's Day, Monday, February 15, 2010, Thomas More College is hosting its annual Winter Open House. All high school seniors, juniors, and their families are encouraged to attend classes, have lunch, converse with students, and meet with professors. Located in scenic Merrimack, NH, Thomas More College provides a Great Books education that is firmly rooted in the Catholic tradition. All students learn Iconography in our unique Way of Beauty program and spend a full semester on our Rome campus at no extra cost. Tuition is low and scholarships are available. For more information, and to register, please contact the admissions office at (800) 880-8308 or email us at [admissions@ThomasMoreCollege.edu](mailto:admissions@ThomasMoreCollege.edu) Overnight guests are welcome.

### Attention Families with Children:

We have discontinued the Sunday Funday pages typically located on the last page of the bulletin. We are doing this because we distribute a similar set of pages to children attending Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) at the 10:30 Mass. For children not attending CLOW, copies will be available at the three entrances to the church.

Today we begin a family page which will be located in the back of the bulletin and contain reflections, information and prayers designed to help to support you in your role as Catholic parents.

### "Helping Children Cope When a Parent Has Cancer"

The Bethke Cancer Center at Emerson Hospital is pleased to offer a workshop for children whose parent has a diagnosis of cancer. This three session program is for children ages 3-15 and their parents. The program includes a Saturday morning family workshop as well as a brief introductory and follow-up meeting for parents only. All three sessions will be held at Emerson Hospital. This workshop has been generously funded by donations to the Bethke Cancer Center and is provided at no cost to participants.

Parents are asked to call 978-287-3422 to register.

## Discernment Retreats for Men-Know of a man who may be called?

On the weekend of February 5-7, 2010, Cardinal Sean will lead two retreats for men to experience seminary life, pray and reflect upon the Priesthood, meet other men like themselves and discern God's call in their life. The Discernment Retreat at Blessed John XXIII Seminary for men age 40 and older will be held on February 5-6, 2010 and the Discernment Retreat at St John's Seminary and Connors Family Retreat Center for men ages 18-40 years will be held on February 5-7, 2010. The Vocation Office invites you to submit names of men you think might have a vocation to the Priesthood to be considered for this retreat. Please send their names and contact information to the Vocation Office at 66 Brooks Drive, Braintree, Ma. 02184 or by email at [Dfortin@rcab.org](mailto:Dfortin@rcab.org) For more info call 617-746-5949. One of the priests from the Vocation Office will contact the men to see if this retreat is right for them.

# Sunday through the Week:

## a page for families with children



### Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

#### Parent Notes:

*The type of baptism that John performed was not yet a Christian Baptism; it was a preparation for Christian Baptism through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received. Jesus remained a Jew until his death.*

The baptism of Jesus is reported in each of the three Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Clearly, it was an event of great significance for Jesus and for the early Christian community. The Evangelists Mark and Luke report the story from Jesus' perspective; the voice from heaven is addressed to Jesus. Compare this to Matthew's Gospel in which the voice from heaven speaks to everyone. In Luke, however, the Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus during his time of prayer after his baptism. Through his Gospel, Luke will show Jesus to be a person of prayer who withdraws regularly from the crowds and his disciples to pray to his Father.

*The baptism of Jesus is considered a manifestation of God in Jesus, another "epiphany." It marked the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. On this, the last day of the Christmas season, our Gospel reveals to us Jesus' relation to God: the son of Mary and Joseph is also God's own Son. In Luke's Gospel, all three members of the Trinity are manifested here: God the Father in the voice, the Holy Spirit descending, and Jesus the Son. At the beginning of his Gospel, Luke is communicating to us important information about the identity of Jesus. In the verses that follow, Luke lists the genealogy of Jesus, tracing Jesus' ancestry back to the first person, Adam, who is also identified as the son of God. We, the children of Adam and Eve, are again made children of God through Baptism.*

#### Family Connection:

Every family has a unique identity that is defined by the behaviors, attitudes, and expectations that govern a family's daily life. This identity is influenced by the family history of the parents, but each family's expression of this history is unique. In today's Gospel, we learn that Jesus' behavior, attitudes, and expectations were governed by his identity as God's beloved Son. In our Baptism, we were made children of this same heavenly Father. This identity as members of the family of God, and as brothers and sisters of Jesus, also shapes our family's daily life.

As you gather as a family, identify some of the expectations and behaviors that govern your family life by answering the question, "What are some of the things that make our family life unique?" Celebrate these things about your family life. Read today's Gospel, Luke 3:15-16,21-22. Observe that Jesus' identity as the Beloved Son of the Father governed his behaviors, attitudes, and expectations. Recall that at our Baptism we were made children of this same heavenly Father. How does this identity as a member of the family of God govern and shape our family life? Conclude in prayer together that we will remain faithful to our baptismal identity as children of God and as brothers or sisters of Jesus. Conclude by praying together the Lord's Prayer.

#### Question of the Week:

- How can we "proclaim peace" in our lives as Jesus did?

## *Feast of the Baptism of the Lord*

by Dianne Bergant CSA



This Christological feast brings to a close the Christmas season that reveals who God is for us and who we are to be for others in Christ. The baptism of Jesus inaugurates his ministry as the messiah of God. The passage from Isaiah indicates the kind of messiah that God intends Jesus to be. He will be a servant, one who though mighty is gentle, one who is chosen by the high God yet committed to the needy and the marginal, one who is the proclaimed Son of God and who still attends to the least within the human community. He may have come from an insignificant village like Nazareth, but he was anointed with the Holy Spirit and with power.

For whom did the messiah of God come? He came for people who were broken and suffering, blind or imprisoned. He came for people who are so easily pushed to the margins, beyond our view, where the circumstances of their lives will not trouble us—the homeless, the unemployed, the abandoned children, the helpless elderly, the mentally and chronically ill. He also came to people who, like Cornelius, do not belong to our inner circles, people who for any number of reasons threaten us, people we might actually despise. He came for the strangers among us, those who have different cultural customs, those who worship in different ways. He came for people we have pushed out as well as for those we have refused to let in. The messiah of God came for all people without distinction.

© Dianne Bergant CSA



### ***Baptism of the Lord***

Some events are so significant they can serve two purposes, bring to a close one era and open a new chapter in our life. Weddings, funerals, graduations, an out of state move or a conversion to a new belief or way of life splits life in two: before and after. Once the change takes place, there is no turning back as one chapter is written and another presents a blank page.

*The Baptism of Jesus ends one phase of His life and opens another.* He leaves behind a life of relative obscurity and begins openly preaching the Gospel message. Heralded by John, Jesus begins the phase of His life that will lead Him to preach, teach, heal and forgive and then end in the horror and sorrow of His passion and death on the cross. He carried the hopes of Israel and of the whole human race.

Our Baptism is similar to the Lord's. We end one phase of life and enter into a new relationship with God and with each other. The promises of our Baptism, made for us by our families and which we renew each Easter, open for us the chapter of our vocation, our mission to teach, preach, heal and forgive. There is no turning back. The Lord calls us to live a life of faith. And the best chapters are yet to be written.

~James Gaffney, © 2009 Karides Lic. to St. George Publishing



### *A Prayer for Priests*

Gracious God, loving Father,  
font of every gift and good,  
make of priests for us we pray:

men of faith, men of love,  
humble servants of your Word,  
prophets of your Spirit's grace;

men of hope, men of peace,  
strong defenders of the truth,  
heralds of your holy gospel;

men of prayer, men of praise,  
guardians of our sacred rites,  
of the scriptures and tradition;

men of changelessness and change,  
men who follow you each day,  
when and where your Spirit leads;

men of tenderness and strength,  
comfort for the sick and weary,  
shepherds leading home the lost;

men of counsel, men of wisdom,  
gentle guides for the confused,  
lights along the darkened path;

men of mercy, patient men,  
understanding and consoling  
of the grieving and abused;

men of justice and compassion,  
reconciling and forgiving,  
men of healing in your name;

men of sacrifice and honor,  
single minded in your service,  
set apart to do your will;

men of holiness and joy,  
men anointed by your grace,  
men ordained to serve as Christ.

Make us one with them in faith  
and in Christ your only Son  
in whose holy name we pray. Amen.

-Rev Austin Fleming

[www.ConcordPastor.blogspot.com](http://www.ConcordPastor.blogspot.com)

## *Generations of Faith 2009/2010*



Our next session for the 2009/2010 academic year will take place on the weekend of **Friday evening January 8th (6:00-9:00PM)** OR **Sunday evening January 10th (4:30-7:30 PM)**.

*Please RSVP on the parish website no later than Sunday January 3; we need to have an accurate count for seating, supplies and meals.*

If you are not yet registered for GOF and would like to receive registration materials please contact Nancy Dome in the Religious Education office 978-897-9790 or [nedome@stisidorestow.org](mailto:nedome@stisidorestow.org)

### **Marian High School**

Framingham, MA

will administer the High School Placement Test on Saturday, January 16, 2010 from 8:00am - 11:00am.

Students in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade can be registered for this test on Mondays-Fridays between 8:00am - 2:00pm. Any questions, call 508-875-7646 Ext. 203



*St. Isidore Parish  
Vacation Bible School  
... it's back!*

**SAVE THE DATE:  
VACATION BIBLE  
SCHOOL RETURNS  
AUGUST 16TH - 19TH  
2010**

This year we leave dry land. It's time to explore Gods word on the open seas. Join us as we sail, dive, map and explore all God's love while getting silly, loud and **WET!**

**Project Bread's Food Source Hotline**

1-800-645-8333 TTY: 1-800-377-1292

With the high cost of living in the Commonwealth and more than 522,000 people across the state struggling to put food on the table, chances are that a friend or neighbor of yours is having difficulty making ends meet this winter. Project Bread's Food Source Hotline can help. The Food Source Hotline is the only comprehensive information and referral service for the hungry in Massachusetts. Counselors can provide information and screen callers for food stamp eligibility, connect them to school meal programs, and direct them to emergency food resources right in their neighborhood. Counselors can assist callers in 160 languages and the calls are both personalized and confidential. Extend your goodwill and reach out to those in need. A call to Project Bread's Food Source Hotline may be all it takes to provide comfort to someone who is struggling.

In response to the increased demand for help, Project Bread's Food Source Hotline has extended its hours to:

Monday – Friday: 8:00 A.M. – 7:00 P.M.

Saturday: 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

ONE CLICK...



**Go To:**

<http://jesusindisney.blogspot.com/>

A blog by Fr Austin Murphy of the Archdiocese of Baltimore Fr. Austin was ordained in 2003 and currently occupies himself as the Catholic Campus Minister at Towson University in Baltimore. Here, at "Jesus Goes to Disney World," he shares thoughts on the interconnectedness of faith and popular culture, where Jesus meets young and old and gives them new life. What happens when Jesus Goes to Disney World?

# *Holy Hour For Life*

*with Exposition of the Holy Eucharist*



*"...that I should not lose anything of what he gave me..." John 6:39*

## *January 21, 2010*

*Time: 7:00 PM*

*Place: St. Isidore Parish*

In collaboration with Boston Deacons for Life & Pro Life Office-Archdiocese of Boston