

# Journey OF Faith

**Saint Margaret Parish  
Saugus & No. Revere, MA**

**Blessed Sacrament Parish  
Saugus, MA**

January 24, 2010

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## In Word & Deed

At the local college, the students wait anxiously to find out if they made the team, were accepted into a club, will pledge in sorority or fraternity, passed a course, or received financial aid for the next term. Students do a lot of waiting and wondering to see if they are good enough, smart enough, talented enough or poor enough to be accepted. That kind of uncertainty can require a lot of antacid!

We are all members of the Body of Christ. Through Baptism, we are joined to Christ, and we are His forever. As members of the one Body, we do not need to wait and see if we are accepted, or wanted or good enough. God accepts us as His own; we belong to Him as His adopted children. Whatever our strength or weakness, our

*Continued on back*



**"THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME"**

- LUKE 4:18-19

Obedience is a dance learned one step at a time, with faltering step perhaps. The pace may be halting; it is unfamiliar and we are clumsy. Our souls and hearts will be stretched. There will be pain – ask any dancer. But the stretching will leave our souls and hearts with a new breadth, and encompassed in the arms of our Lover God, we will know the freedom of the dance.

*Cynthia Robbins*

### Scripture Readings

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>January 24</b>
Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/1 Cor 12:12-30 or 12:12-14, 27/Lk 1:1-4, 4:14-21	■
<b>Monday</b>	<b>January 25</b>
Acts 22:3-16 or 9:1-22/Mk 16:15-18	■
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>January 26</b>
2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Mk 3:31-35	■
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>January 27</b>
2 Sm 7:4-17/Mk 4:1-20	■
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>January 28</b>
2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29/Mk 4:21-25	■
<b>Friday</b>	<b>January 29</b>
2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17/Mk 4:26-34	■
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>January 30</b>
2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17/Mk 4:35-41	■
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>January 31</b>
Jer 1:4-5, 17-19/1 Cor 12:31—13:13 or 13:4-13 Lk 4:21-30	■

*As a body* is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.

~1 Corinthians 12:12-13



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FAMILY LIFE:

## TO WALK AS ONE

At the parish school Mass, the younger kids were asked to name the most important part of a bike. They said the tires and then the question was asked, "What about the handle bars?" So, they named another part, and again the response was a question, "What about this other part?" Of course, no one part is most important. Without all the parts, the bike does not work as it should. Even the tiniest screw serves an important function that keeps things running smoothly. Each part is necessary and vital and they all belong to the bike.

The family is the one place we all belong where every member contributes something. In the family, we find our identity, our values, our

sense of pride, our self worth and our purpose. The family has the extraordinary power to restore, heal, uplift, and give hope. It is the domestic church where the fundamentals of faith are lived, taught and caught! Family is defined by love, not blood. Make room for others. Share a meal, offer a helping hand, or lend an ear. Invite those in need to share in the love and strength your family has to offer. You'll all be better for it.



~James Gaffney, © 2009 Karides Lic. to St. George Publishing  
[jim@stgeorgepublishing.com](mailto:jim@stgeorgepublishing.com)



## In Word & Deed

Continued from front

talents or interests, we have a place at the table. Through sin, we can choose to leave it, but by grace, we cannot lose it.

Our lives have a meaning and purpose that is rooted in faith. We strive to live the Gospel, putting into practice the Beatitudes and the Works of Mercy. At

times, it may not seem it, but our work really does make a difference at home, in school, at the job and in the church. Persevere in your mission. Be confident in your status. God will bring to fulfillment the good work He has begun in you.

~James Gaffney,

### Blessed Sacrament Parish

14 Summer Street Saugus, MA

Rectory Phone: 781 233 2497

### Saint Margaret Parish

431 Lincoln Avenue Saugus & No. Revere, MA

Rectory Phone: 781 233 1040

#### Pastoral Team

Father George E. Morin & Father Daniel P. McCoy

frgeorge@parishmail.com

frdanmccoy@yahoo.com

#### Mass Times

##### Weekend Masses:

Saturday @ 4:00 pm

Sunday @ 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am

##### Weekday Mass at Blessed Sacrament:

9:00 a.m. Thursday, Friday & Saturday

##### Weekend Masses:

Saturday @ 4:00 pm & 5:30 pm

Sunday @ 8:30 am & 10:00 am

##### Weekday Mass at Saint Margaret:

9:00 a.m. Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday

#### THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 3:00 pm to 3:45pm and by request

Rev. Felix Prior, O' Carm – Sunday Assistance  
Deacon Francis M. Gaffney – Permanent Deacon  
Martha G. Lecaroz – Parish Secretary  
Donna Zinna – Religious Education -781 231 3699  
Phyllis Bunnell - Music Director  
Debora Pillsbury - Parish Housekeeper  
Nicholas Raftelis – Buildings and Grounds

Rev. Lawrence Wetherholm – Weekend Assistance  
Rev. Vincent Cornejo – Weekend Assistance  
Rev. Donald Skerry, SVD – Mid week Assistance  
Ben DiScipio - Music Director

#### THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Usually held on the second Sunday of the month.

Please call the Rectory to schedule

Usually held on the third Sunday of the month.

Please call the Rectory to schedule

#### THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Couples planning to marry are encouraged to schedule more than one year in advance.

The Archdiocese requires at least six months notice.

#### Sick and Homebound

If you know someone in the parish who is sick or homebound and who would like to receive the Eucharist, please notify the rectory.

#### WELCOME! New Parishioners

Please introduce yourself to one another, as well as to the priest following Mass.



**The Women's Conference will be Saturday, February 27, at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston** (snow date is March 6, 2010). The conference will be from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The featured speakers will be Patti Mansfield, Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle, Leah Darrow, and Sr. Olga of the Eucharist. The conference will also include confession, adoration, Mass with Cardinal Sean, and a great opportunity to gather with other Catholic women of faith. Tickets are \$20 (\$30 including lunch). Please sign-up at either Rectory with payment included to participate now! The Cathedral has limited seating so act soon. If there are 30 or more early registrants (by February 7) transportation (at an additional cost) will be arranged.

**The Men's Conference will be Saturday, April 17, at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston.** It will be from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The conference will feature the team from EWTN's Crossing the Goals as speakers (Danny Abramowicz, Curtis Martin, Peter Herbeck and Brian Patrick.) The conference will also include confession, adoration, Mass with Cardinal Sean, and fun fellowship. Tickets are \$20 (\$30 including lunch). Please sign-up at either Rectory with payment included. The Cathedral has limited seating so act soon. Wouldn't it be great to have a sizeable number of men from the Saugus community participate in this annual event!

*For Lent—a New Heart  
and New Spirit!*

**ARISE**  
Together in Christ



Sign-Up Weekend is January 23-24, 2010



Lent is a time for reconciliation. Come together with others to participate in **ARISE Together in Christ** and foster a heart for healing and a spirit of forgiveness.

**ARISE** offers the opportunity to develop a closer relationship with Christ, grow in community, and reach out in service to others. Small groups are continuing and new ones forming this Lent.

**ARISE Together In Christ:** Season Four of ARISE is starting the week of February 14. What a terrific gift to give yourself this Lent. Join an Arise Group! The theme for this Season is "*New Heart, New Spirit.*" Whether you have participated in the past or not, plan to do so now! We want you and we need you. Plan on signing-up this weekend: January 23 & 24. Sign-up sheets are available at the entrances of the Churches - both at Saint Margaret's and at Blessed Sacrament. Return your completed sign-up sheet in the boxes marked "ARISE" or return them through the mail slots at the rectories or send them in by mail. Small groups will be formed soon and the plan is to get underway the week of February 14. Arise consists of 6 weekly small group meetings. Meet new people, share and deepen your faith, treat yourself to something very good this Lenten season. You'll be glad you did!



### Mass Intentions at Blessed Sacrament

Vincent & Clara Zinna	Memorial Mass	4:00 p.m. Saturday	(1/23/10)
Irene Babin	Memorial Mass	7:30 a.m. Sunday	(1/24/10)
Christopher & George Frangos	Memorial Mass	9:00 a.m. Sunday	(1/24/10)
John Rainone & Helen Mirro	Memorial Mass	10:30 a.m. Sunday	(1/24/10)
Fr. Arthur O'Rourke	Memorial Mass	9:00 a.m. Thursday	(1/28/10)
Erminie Battis	Memorial Mass	9:00 a.m. Friday	(1/29/10)
Bernard J. Belcastro	Memorial Mass	9:00 a.m. Saturday	(1/30/10)
Josephine Lloyd	14th Anniversary Mass	4:00 p.m. Saturday	(1/30/10)
Vertullo Family	Memorial Mass	7:30 a.m. Sunday	(1/31/10)
Mary & Ed Meuse	Memorial Mass	9:00 a.m. Sunday	(1/31/10)
Phyllis Cook	8th Anniversary Mass	10:30 a.m. Sunday	(1/31/10)



### Mass Intentions at Saint Margaret

Harold Patch	Birthday Remembrance	10:00 a.m. Sunday	(1/24/10)
Paul Galvin	1st Anniversary Mass	8:30 a.m. Sunday	(1/31/10)
Bryant Kimball	10th Anniversary Mass	10:00 a.m. Sunday	(1/31/10)



**We pray for** Peace in the World, an end to war and terrorism, an end to world hunger, our men & women in the Armed Services: **John Scott, Brian & Stephanie Howard, Kevin Howard, Lt. Maxwell**

**Palumbo, Sgt. Paul J. Eaves, Pvt. Richard Boudreau, Cpl. Timothy Perkins, Cpl. Alison Perkins**

**Year of the Priest: Pray for Priests and vocations to the Priesthood, the Diaconate, the Religious Life**

**The Sick: Fr. James Field, Alexander Mossuto, Marie Guerrini, Thomas Kehoe, Kevin Riordan, Nancy Patti, Virginia Cieri, Lucille Voutour, Richard Bourque, Ronald Bourque, Rosemarie Goins, Joe Alden, Charles Regan, Georgina Reagan, Barbara Lewis, June Anderson, Rita Anzuoni, Denise Voutour, James Voutour, Jean Roli, Frank Palmer, Harry Pappas**

**The Faithful Departed: Louis Bromberger, Kent Blundell, Catherine DeVito, Raymond Mahar, Irene Babine**



### **The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick:**

In the Letter of Saint James we find an important question: "Are there any among you who are sick?" Saint James also advises what should be done, namely, that "they should call for the priests of the Church and have them pray over the sick anointing

them with oil in the name of the Lord." This Anointing formerly called "Extreme Unction" or "The Last Rites," is not only intended for those near death but is for all the sick. We encourage you to request this sacrament when facing illness, prior to surgery or medical tests. Allow the Lord to come and comfort you and the prayer of the Church to strengthen you. This sacrament is a wonderful sign of the love of God and the healing grace of Jesus.

**Daily Mass Schedule:** The 9:00 a.m. morning Mass is at Saint Margaret Church on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and at Blessed Sacrament Church on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. The number of people attending daily Mass has been very uplifting. On January 14 there were 85 people at morning Mass. Thank you for your participation.

**Blessed Sacrament Church Parking Lot:** Last September, the principal part of the Parish Parking Lot (all the way to the helipad at the rear of the property) as well as the entrance and exit lanes were repaved at a cost of \$104,000.00. This was an expensive project but it needed to be done for the safety of those who use our property. Also this cost, although expensive, was about half the price quoted just the year before. This lower cost was due to the drop in petroleum products and the general downturn in the economy. In late August we sent a letter to all registered Parishioners of Blessed Sacrament Parish asking their help with this undertaking. To date \$46,923.45 has been donated. This is good but as you can see we have a long way to go. Therefore, in the near future, a reminder letter will be sent to all registered Parishioners from whom we have not heard. Also, this is the end of the year and for tax purposes some may consider a year-end gift to the Parish. All that is collected will be used solely and entirely for Blessed Sacrament Parish. We pray for your generosity so that we can move on to other areas that need attention.

### Second Collections

#### Blessed Sacrament Parish

The Church in Latin America - January 23 & 24  
Haiti Earthquake Relief - January 30 & 31

#### Saint Margaret Parish

The Church in Latin America - January 23 & 24  
Haiti Earthquake Relief - January 30 & 31

### BLESSED SACRAMENT FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

The Offertory Collection last week was **\$4,852.25** with **200** envelopes. **\$2,126.74** was collected for the Snow Removal Fund. Attendance was **730**. Thank you for your generosity.

### SAINT MARGARET FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

The Offertory Collection last week was **\$3,225.00**. The Snow Removal Collection was **\$1,144.00**. Attendance at the weekend Masses was 503. Thank you for your generosity.



**Poor Boxes:** As you enter or as you leave Church, please remember the Poor. Your donation placed in the Poor Boxes is the principal source of income for the Saint Vincent de Paul Society. Both Saint Margaret and Blessed Sacrament Parishes are blessed to each have a dedicated group of people who make up the membership of the S V de P Society. They are often called upon to help people of our community with food, clothing, utilities and shelter in emergency situations. Please help them in their works of charity.

*“Whatsoever you do to these least ones of mine,  
you do for me.”  
Matthew 25*

**Unemployed? Under-employed?** Do you find yourself one of the many who are without sufficient work these days? Does it cause you to be anxious, to be fearful for your family and their future? Do you wonder where to turn? Some members of an ARISE group wondered if offering the possibility of a support group would be helpful to you. If it interests you to join such a group, to turn together in prayer to God, to enter into conversation, sharing ideas and mutual assistance, please contact Sr. Mary for further details. The group will meet some time Thursday or Friday depending on the best available time/space for the participants. Leave your name and telephone number for Sister Mary at Blessed Sacrament Rectory (781-233-2497) and leave a message for her. People of both Parishes and friends are welcome.

**Vigil of Remembrance:** The annual Saugus Vigil of Remembrance for the victims of domestic violence will be held on Sunday, January 31, at 6:00 p.m. at Grace Ministries (formerly known as Greater Grace) at the intersection of Vine Street and Main Street in Saugus. This event is jointly sponsored by the Saugus Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Clergy Association. The goal of the vigil is to raise awareness of domestic violence and to honor those victims who tragically died as a result of domestic violence during the past year. All are welcome to this event.

*“Lord, make me an instrument of peace”*

**Saint Margaret Parish Religious Education:**

**Grades 1 through 6:** Classes are held from 8:30 a.m. until 9:45 a.m. at the Belmont Middle School.

**Combined Religious Education Classes**  
**Blessed Sacrament & Saint Margaret Parishes**

**Grades 7:** Held monthly on Friday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Saint Margaret Parish Hall - the next class is Friday, February 12.

**Grade 8:** Held monthly on Friday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Saint Margaret Parish Hall. The next class is Friday, February 26.

**Confirmation Year I:** (usually Grade 9) meets at 4:15 until 5:30 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Parish Hall. The next class is Sunday, January 24.

**Confirmation Year II:** (usually Grade 10) Classes are held monthly for both the Student preparing for Confirmation and his/her sponsor. Classes are held at Blessed Sacrament Parish Hall from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. The next class is scheduled for this Sunday, January 24.

**7th & 8th Grade Friday Night CCD:** For safety reasons, all parents are asked to pick up their children from **Friday Night 7th & 8th grade CCD** at the **Jackson Street Parking Lot** where adults are on duty to chaperone all children until picked up. Please **pull in** to the lot to avoid a traffic jam and wait for your child to arrive. Thank you for your cooperation. When dropping children off, do so **only on the Church side of Lincoln Avenue**. For their safety, do not allow the children to cross Lincoln Avenue.



**Baptism Preparation:** In order to prepare for the Baptism of a child, parents and god-parents are to attend a Baptism Preparation Class.

At Blessed Sacrament, the next Preparation Class is on Tuesday, February 9 at 7:00 p.m. Call the Rectory (781-233-2497) to register.

At Saint Margaret, the next Preparation Class is on Thursday, February 11 at 7:00 p.m. Call the Rectory (781-233-1040) to register.

**Blessed Sacrament Religious Education:**

**Religious Education Grade 1-6** Religious Education classes resume this week from 10:15-11:15 at Saugus High School.

**Today, Sunday, January 24,** we welcome our fifth grade students to the 9:00AM Mass. After Mass, the fifth graders and their parents will meet in the church hall for their class, with their teachers moderator and a guest speaker. The class will conclude at 11:15.

**“Do It Anyway”**

People are often unreasonable,  
irrational and self-centered.  
Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish,  
ulterior motives.  
Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful  
friends and some genuine enemies.  
Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and sincere,  
people may deceive you.  
Be honest and sincere anyway.

What you spend years creating,  
others could destroy overnight.  
Create anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness,  
some may be jealous.  
Be happy anyway.

The good you do today will often be forgotten.  
Do good anyway.

Give the best you have, and it will never be enough.  
Give your best anyway.

In the final analysis, it is between you and God.  
It was never between you and them anyway.

(Found written on the wall of  
Mother Teresa's home for children in Calcutta.)

**Afternoon of Prayer for Parish Pastoral Visitors & Ministers of Communion to the Sick:**

will be Sunday, Jan 31, 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Our Lady's, Lynnfield. There is no cost; you are welcome to attend. Please call to register: Office of Worship & Spiritual Life (617-779-3640).

**Congratulations to the Winners of the Blessed Sacrament "Christmas Calendar Raffle":**

Ronald Long	\$500
Karen Caires	\$100
Diane LoRusso	\$100
Evelyn Kennedy	\$100
Florence Barbato	\$100
Charlie Thomas	\$100
Priscilla Nathasingh	\$100
Linda Nelson	\$500
Patricia St. Pierre	\$100
Tom Stirrat	\$500

Profit from this fundraising activity was **\$7,218.90**.  
Our thanks to all who participated.

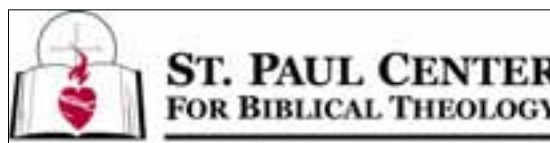
**Congratulations to the Winners of the Saint Margaret "Christmas Calendar Raffle":**

Dottie Marotta	\$500
Ann Penney	\$100
Florence Nadeau	\$100
The Little Sisters of St. Francis	\$100
Marie Harding	\$100
Suzanne DaSilva	\$100
Joseph Faiella	\$100
John Gorman	\$500
Nancy LeBlanc	\$100
Nancy Luoma	\$500

Profit from this fundraising activity was **\$4,045.00**.  
Our thanks to all who participated.

**Bringing the Word to Life: A Workshop for Lectors & Proclaimers:**

is being offered by the Boston College School of Theology & Ministry on Saturday, February 6, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at 9 Lake Street, STM Chapel, Brighton campus (snow date: Saturday, March 13). The presenter will be Douglas Leal, former parish Director of Ministries in Los Angeles, CA, and author of *Stop Reading and Start Proclaiming!* Reading Scripture aloud is more than reading the words well; it calls us to proclaim fully the life within those words. Learn and practice the techniques that turn reading into proclamation—but not performance—as well as how to make supportive critiques to hone other's skills. For experienced proclaimers as well as those new to the ministry. Take advantage of this opportunity: FREE of charge, but registration is required. Information/registration at [www.bc.edu/stmce](http://www.bc.edu/stmce) or call 617-552-6501.

**New Day Dawns**

*By Dr. Scott Hahn*

The meaning of today's Liturgy is subtle and many-layered. We need background to understand what's happening in today's First Reading. Babylon having been defeated, King Cyrus of Persia decreed that the exiled Jews could return home to Jerusalem. They rebuilt their ruined temple (see Ezra 6:15-17) and under Nehemiah finished rebuilding the city walls (see Nehemiah 6:15). The stage was set for the renewal of the covenant and the re-establishment of the Law of Moses as the people's rule of life. That's what's going on in today's First Reading, as Ezra reads and interprets (see Nehemiah 8:8) the Law and the people respond with a great "Amen!" Israel, as we sing in today's Psalm, is rededicating itself to God and His Law. The scene seems like the Isaiah prophecy that Jesus reads from in today's Gospel. Read all of Isaiah 61. The "glad tidings" Isaiah brings include these promises: the liberation of prisoners (61:1); the rebuilding of Jerusalem, or Zion (61:3-4; see also Isaiah 60:10); the restoration of Israel as a kingdom of priests (61:6; Exodus 19:6) and the forging of an everlasting covenant (61:8; Isaiah 55:3). It sounds a lot like the First Reading. Jesus, in turn, declares that Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled in Him. The Gospel scene, too, recalls the First Reading. Like Ezra, Jesus stands before the people, is handed a scroll, unrolls it, then reads and interprets it (compare Luke 4:16-17,21 and Nehemiah 8:2-6,8-10). We witness in today's Liturgy the creation of a new people of God. Ezra started reading at dawn of the first day of the Jewish new year (see Leviticus 23:24). Jesus too proclaims a "sabbath," a great year of Jubilee, a deliverance from slavery to sin, a release from the debts we owe to God (see Leviticus 25:10). The people greeted Ezra "as one man." And, as today's Epistle teaches, in the Spirit the new people of God - the Church - is made "one body" with Him.

*A service of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology*  
[www.SalvationHistory.com](http://www.SalvationHistory.com)

## Catholic Schools

Archdiocese of Boston

### Catholic Schools

**Week:** In the near future all Catholic

Schools will host an "Open House" inviting prospective students to come and see their school. For your information we have listed the names and phone numbers of the Catholic High Schools and Elementary Schools to which youths of our community attend. If you are interested, call soon and find out when they are having an Open House.

### Catholic High Schools

Boston College High School	617-436-3900
Arlington Catholic High School	781-646-7770
Saint John's Prep, Danvers	978-774-1050
Pope John XXIII, Everett	617-389-0240
Saint Mary Sr & Jr High, Lynn	781-595-7885
Malden Catholic High School	781-322-3098
Bishop Fenwick High School, Peabody	978-587-8300
Austin Prep - Grades 6—12, Reading	781-944-4900

### Catholic Elementary High Schools

Saint Mary's Danvers	978-774-0307
Sacred Heart, Lynn	781-592-7581
Saint Pius, Lynn	781-593-8292
Our Lady's Lynnfield	781-599-4422
Cheverus, Malden	781-324-6584
Saint Mary's, Melrose	781-665-5037
Saint John's Peabody	978-532-0444
Immaculate Conception, Revere	781-284-0519
Saint Patrick's, Stoneham	781-438-2593
Saint Joseph's, Wakefield	781-245-2081



**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** On Wednesday evenings at Saint Margaret's from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. join us for all or part of this time of prayer and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. At 7:00 p.m. those present participate in the recitation of the **Rosary.**

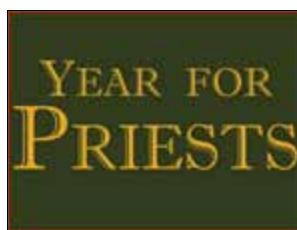
You deserve the peace and quiet that come from being in the presence of the Lord. What better way to prepare for Christmas than by giving yourself the gift of time.

*"I will come to you in the silence..."*



**The United Parish Food Pantry** is at the Cliftondale Congregational Church, 50 Essex Street. **On the last Sunday of each month Blessed Sacrament collects food for the food pantry. On the second Sunday of each month Saint**

**Margaret collects food for the food pantry.** Volunteers are also needed. If you are free on Friday mornings, you are needed. Drop by the Pantry at 9:00 a.m. or call Carol Cashman (781-233-9460) to volunteer. The Pantry is open Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. **The next Food Collection Weekend for Blessed Sacrament is January 30 & 31. The next Food Collection Weekend for Saint Margaret is February 13 & 14.** Your donation of food is always needed. Kindly look at the expiration date on your food donation. Food items that have gone beyond the expiration date may not be given out. They can only be thrown out! Thank you for your cooperation, understanding and your generosity.



### **The Year of the Priest** **A Prayer for Priests**

Dear Lord, We pray that the Blessed Mother wrap her mantle around your priests and through her intercession strengthen them for their ministry. We pray that Mary will guide your priests to follow her own words, "Do whatever He tells you" (Jn 2:5). May your priests have the heart of St. Joseph, Mary's most chaste spouse. May the Blessed Mother's own pierced heart inspire them to embrace all who suffer at the foot of the cross. May your priests be holy, filled with the fire of your love seeking nothing but your greater glory and the salvation of souls. Amen.

Saint John Vianney, pray for us.



### **Saint Margaret Annual Gourmet Dinner is coming soon!**

It will be held on Saturday, February 20. Make plans to attend and invite friends and relatives. Menu and tickets will be available soon.



## United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

3011 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON DC 20017-1194 • 202-541-3100 • FAX 202-541-3166

### USCCB NATIONWIDE BULLETIN INSERT

#### **Tell Congress: Remove Abortion Funding & Mandates from Needed Health Care Reform**

Congress is preparing to debate health care reform legislation on the House and Senate floors. Genuine health care reform should protect the life and dignity of all people from the moment of conception until natural death. The U.S. bishops' conference has concluded that all committee-approved bills are seriously deficient on the issues of abortion and conscience, and do not provide adequate access to health care for immigrants and the poor. The bills will have to change or the bishops have pledged to oppose them.

Our nation is at a crossroads. Policies adopted in health care reform will have an impact for good or ill for years to come. None of the bills retains longstanding current policies against abortion funding or abortion coverage mandates, and none fully protects conscience rights in health care.

As the U.S. bishops' letter of October 8 states:

"No one should be required to pay for or participate in abortion. It is essential that the legislation clearly apply to this new program longstanding and widely supported federal restrictions on abortion funding and mandates, and protections for rights of conscience. No current bill meets this test.... If acceptable language in these areas cannot be found, we will have to oppose the health care bill vigorously."

For the full text of this letter and more information on proposed legislation and the bishops' advocacy for authentic health care reform, visit: [www.usccb.org/healthcare](http://www.usccb.org/healthcare).

Congressional leaders are attempting to put together final bills for floor consideration. Please contact your Representative and Senators today and urge them to fix these bills with the pro-life amendments noted below. Otherwise much needed health care reform will have to be opposed. Health care reform should be about saving lives, not destroying them.

**ACTION:** Contact Members through e-mail, phone calls or FAX letters.

- To send a pre-written, instant e-mail to Congress go to [www.usccb.org/action](http://www.usccb.org/action).
- Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at: 202-224-3121, or call your Members' local offices.
- Full contact info can be found on Members' web sites at [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) & [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov).

**MESSAGE to SENATE:**

"During floor debate on the health care reform bill, please support an amendment to incorporate longstanding policies against abortion funding and in favor of conscience rights. If these serious concerns are not addressed, the final bill should be opposed."

**MESSAGE to HOUSE:**

"Please support the Stupak Amendment that addresses essential pro-life concerns on abortion funding and conscience rights in the health care reform bill. Help ensure that the Rule for the bill allows a vote on this amendment. If these serious concerns are not addressed, the final bill should be opposed."

**WHEN:** Both House and Senate are preparing for floor votes now. **Act today! Thank you!**