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## Good News!

March 2, 2014

**EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)**

Is 49:14-15 / 1 Cor 4:1-5 / Mt 6:24-34

“Jesus loves me, this I know.”

We nod our heads when asked whether God loves us, but what would you say if you were asked, “Does God like you?”

God’s love is often difficult to fathom. Some of us are rational: “God loves everyone”—the unspoken thought being, “It’s his job to love me.” We say this about parents as well: “She’s my mom, she has to say that.” This idea of God’s love never moves further than the head.

Other people compartmentalize the love: “God loves me, but only when I’m good” or “God loves only the good parts of me.” Still others use God’s love as a shield against responsibility: “God forgives me no matter what I do and would never judge me harshly.” God becomes a marshmallow—all sugar, no nutrition.

In reality, God’s love holds us in delight as parents delight in their children. God’s love rejoices in us as the Creator rejoices in endless variety and hidden mystery.

God’s love doesn’t come out of necessity. Rather, it springs out of the nature of God. Out of love, God holds us accountable for our actions, forgives us when we ask, and is an abiding presence whether we recognize it or not. When we turn away, God is there. When we suffer, God walks with us. When we sin, God is the source of our conversion.

God grounds us in peace and joy. God doesn’t love us because we are the greatest and best—in that case, none of us would be worthy. God simply loves.

We have only to seek his righteousness to know that and believe it.

MARY KATHARINE DEELEY  
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**Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time • March 2, 2014**

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Assistant Director

Sharon Snuffer

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**WEEKEND MASSES:**

Saturdays at 4:00 p.m.

Sundays at 7:30 and 10:00 a.m.

Holy Days at 9:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

**WELCOME!**

If you are new in the Parish, please register and introduce yourself to the Pastor. The Parishioners wish to meet and serve you! Drop by at our Coffee Social or Pancake Breakfast after the Sunday Mass, both per the Calendar online or as announced inside the bulletin. We hope you will favor our Parish with your prayers, your presence, your talents and your financial assistance according to your means!

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION):**

By appointment.

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:**

Please call the rectory (860-643-4466) to arrange for a meeting with the Pastor.

**SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:**

Arrangements must start more than 6 months before marriage. Necessary interviews, a pre-cana course and plenty of paperwork is required. We strongly urge you to contact us to begin the Diocesan preparation course as soon as you are engaged to get the most out of it without rush.

**CHURCH MEMBERSHIP:**

The Sacramental Guidelines define Church Membership in terms of Sunday Mass attendance and Church support. For membership verification and sponsorship certificate, registration and regular use of the envelope system are the only way we have of verifying this for you. Please notify us if there are changes in your address, marital status, etc., so that we may update your records.

**VISITATION TO THE SICK:**

We are most anxious to help anyone who is not able to celebrate Mass with us in Church due to illness, handicapped or age. If you wish the Sacraments, please call 860-643-4466.

**THIS WEEK****EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**MAR. 1 — MAR. 2, 2014**  
**USHERS GROUP II****SATURDAY, MAR. 1 —****4:00 P.M.** Mass offered for +William Maneggia at the request of the Edward Bachl family**Coffee Social after 4 P.M. Mass in the Church Basement****SUNDAY, MAR. 2 —****7:30 A.M.** Mass offered for +Anthony Sobol at the request of Sylvia Greene**CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY** after Mass**FAITH FORMATION CLASSES / Breakfast available****10:00 A.M. —** Mass offered for all Parishioners**CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY** after Mass**5:30 P.M. — LITURGY OF THE HOURS****MONDAY, MAR. 3 —****9:00 A.M. —** Mass offered for +John Ciscon at the request of Theresa Ciscon**5:00 P.M. —** Parish BINGO—Food available from 5 P.M. Games begin at 6:30 P.M. Jackpot \$400.**TUESDAY, MAR. 4 —****9:00 A.M. —** Mass offered for +Iva Lindberg at the request of Lynn Mancino**7:15 P.M. — CHOIR REHEARSAL****WEDNESDAY, MAR. 5 — ASH WEDNESDAY****9:00 A.M. —** Mass offered for +James Bloznalis at the request of the Dean and Bloznalis Families  
**Distribution of Ashes****7:00 P.M. —** Mass offered for all Parishioners  
**DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES****THURSDAY, MAR. 6 — No mass****FRIDAY, MAR. 7 —****7:00 P.M. — STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND MASS**  
Mass offered for +Samuel Guglielmino**7-9 P.M. —** Junior Youth Group, The Disciples meet in Church basement**SATURDAY, MAR. 8 —****3:30 P.M. —** ROSARY BEFORE 4 P.M. MASS**Last week's Offertory — February 23 — \$3,163****Last year's Offertory — February 24 — \$2,574***"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon (material wealth)." Matthew 6:24*

Do you have other "gods" in your life (job, money, power, ego, possessions)? Do you put them before the Lord? A stewardship lifestyle means putting God first, in all things! It means living stewardship 7 days a week, 24 hours a day and not just the time that I go to Church or participate in my parish ministry. It means re-prioritizing and putting God first.

**NEXT WEEK****FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT****MAR. 8 — MAR. 9, 2014****USHERS GROUP III****MAINTENANCE COLLECTION****SATURDAY, MAR. 8 —****4:00 P.M.** Mass offered for +John Garvan at the request of Arline Nolan*Altar Servers: Maria Cinea**Lector: Bert Flynn**Eucharistic Minister: Annedda Stiller***Coffee Social after 4 P.M. Mass in the Church Basement****SUNDAY, MAR. 9 —****7:30 A.M.** Mass offered for +John Sheetz at the request of Jennifer and Phil Daly*Altar Servers: Lynn Mancino**Lector: Lynn Mancino**Eucharistic Minister: Arlene Giglio***CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY** after Mass**FAITH FORMATION CLASSES / Breakfast available****10:00 A.M. —** Mass offered for all Parishioners*Altar Servers: LeeAnn and Ben Snuffer**Lector: Paul Brown**Eucharistic Minister: Kathleen Smythe***CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY** after Mass**5:30 P.M. — LITURGY OF THE HOURS****MONDAY, MAR. 10 —****9:00 A.M. —** Mass offered for +James Bloznalis at the request of the Dean and Bloznalis Families**5:00 P.M. —** Parish BINGO—Food available from 5 P.M. Games begin at 6:30 P.M.**TUESDAY, MAR. 11 —****9:00 A.M. —** Mass offered for +Samuel Guglielmino**7:00 P.M. — PARISH COUNCIL MEETING****7:15 P.M. — CHOIR REHEARSAL****WEDNESDAY, MAR. 12 —****9:00 A.M. —** Mass offered for +Elizabeth Whalen at the request of Jennifer and Phil Daly**THURSDAY, MAR. 13 — No mass****KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BUSINESS MEETING****FRIDAY, MAR. 14 — 7:00 P.M. — Stations of the Cross and Mass**

Mass offered for +June Jackopsic at the request of Jennifer and Phil Daly

**SATURDAY, MAR. 15 —****3:30 P.M. —** ROSARY BEFORE 5 P.M. MASS**PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE FOR VIGIL MASS TO 5 P.M.**

Readings for the Week of March 2, 2014

Sunday: Is 49:14-15/1 Cor 4:1-5/Mt 6:24-34

Monday: 1 Pt 1:3-9/Mk 10:17-27

Tuesday: 1 Pt 1:10-16/Mk 10:28-31

Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20-6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Lk 9:22-25

Friday: Is 58:1-9a/Mt 9:14-15

Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/Lk 5:27-32

Next Sunday: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11

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**OPERATION RICE BOWL: OUR LENTEN PROGRAM: FOR LENT, FOR LIFE**

-- On Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2014, our parish with parishes across the Diocese of Norwich is beginning a program of prayer and sacrifice called Operation Rice Bowl (ORB). For 41 years, Operation Rice Bowl has helped to feed the hungry poor. Through our participation in this program, we bring hope and healing to another person or family living halfway across the globe, strengthen and enriching those persons' lives, both physically and spiritually, and greatly enhancing your parish community's Lenten faith experience. Rice bowls will be available at the Ushers' table. Families are encouraged to gather each week in prayer for the hungry poor and to share a sacrificial meal. With the moneys saved from this meal, a donation is placed in the family Rice Bowl and can be brought to the parish family Rice Bowl on Palm Sunday, April 1, 2012. 75% of Operation Rice Bowl funds will feed the hungry poor overseas, the remaining 25% will be used in the diocese to feed the needy. This Lent, gather in prayer and sacrifice as a family to pray and to care for the hungry poor.

**WHERE ARE CONTRIBUTIONS TO OPERATION RICE BOWL USED?**

Operation Rice Bowl receives all of its support from individual and family contributions. Catholic Relief Services, the official overseas aid and development agency of American Catholics, used 75% of all contributions for development projects\* overseas. 25% of the moneys collected remain in the local diocese where they are used to support projects assisting the needy.

*\*Projects include agriculture projects to help farmers improve crop yields and increase food security; water projects to make clean water accessible for communities; microfinance projects to encourage the growth of small businesses; mother and child projects to provide basic health and nutrition education for families; and education projects to provide participants with opportunities to improve their livelihoods.*

**HEALING PRAYER SERVICE AT ST. ANDREW CHURCH (COLCHESTER)**

Does someone you know need healing or prayer? The St. Andrew Healing Prayer Ministry offers a prayer service on the first Thursday of every month. All members of the community are invited to join us. If you need prayer, or know someone who needs prayer, come to St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT for this powerful evening on Thursday, March 6th at 6:30 p.m. The service will give participants an opportunity to join others in prayer, listen to scripture readings, confidentially offer personal prayer requests, praise God with uplifting music and, if desired, meet with a prayer team for personal prayer.

**Defending Our Religious Liberty**

The present administration has shown flexibility in implementing a number of provisions of the Affordable Care Act, issuing numerous delays and exemptions for many employers and individuals. The Catholic Church is asking that the same consideration be extended to the faithful who are awaiting judicial relief so that they can live by their religious beliefs without facing government penalties for doing so.

If you haven't done so already, please voice your opposition to the mandate by calling President Obama at the White House at 202-456-1111 or Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius at 202-205-5445. Let them know that the mandate is in violation of our First Amendment right to religious freedom.

**FROM THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH**

**DISCOVER NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING ~ FOR MARRIED AND ENGAGED.**

**What is NFP?** It is a loving gift of yourself to your spouse and the safe alternative to the dangerous, chemical, synthetic hormonal side-effects of contraception and birth control. **NFP** is scientific, helps with fertility problems and 99% effective for conceiving or responsibly postponing a baby. Discover the beauty of **NFP**! Ongoing classes in our area can be found on [ccli.org](http://ccli.org). You also have the opportunity while taking the CCLI Home Study course to call our instructors with any questions or attend a class for free. For more information call the Collison's 860-399-8265 or the Schantz's at 860-464-1184. [www.ccli.org](http://www.ccli.org)

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION UPCOMING CLASSES FOR ENGAGED COUPLES**

"God's Plan for a Joy-filled Marriage". To register for a 3 session class call the Family Life Office at: 860-889-8346 ext. 283. Upcoming classes: Fri. Mar. 7, 14, 21, 6:00pm-8:30pm, at St. Francis Church, Middletown. Sat. Mar. 15, 22, 29, 9:30am-12:00pm, at St. Matthew Church, Tolland.

**GENERAL INFORMATION FOR THE OBSERVANCE OF LENT**

**FAST AND ABSTINENCE**

These regulations unite the whole Catholic Church throughout the world in the Lenten journey of repentance and conversion of heart. Observed in a spirit of generosity, fast and abstinence remind us of our own frailty and make us more sensitive to the needs of others. Acts of penance find their completion in works of charity and justice.

**Fasting:** Those between the ages of 18 and 59 years old are obliged to observe the laws on fasting. Traditionally, to fast means limiting oneself to one full meal in the day and two smaller meals. The two prescribed days of fasting are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

**Abstinence:** The law of abstinence obliges all those who are over the age of 14. On days of abstinence meat is not eaten at any meal. The prescribed days of abstinence are Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent, including Good Friday.

**RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT WEEKENDS** "I did not think the sorrow and wounds from my abortion, could be healed". Healing and forgiveness can begin with a **Rachel's Vineyard Retreat**. Retreat March 14-16 in Stockbridge, MA call 413-452-0661. Retreat March 28-30 in Hamden, CT call 203-631-9030. Retreat March 28-30 in RI call 401-421-7833 ext.118. or [www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org)

"PROJECT RACHEL" is a Diocesan ministry for anyone seeking healing and forgiveness. **Project Rachel** priests are there for you with God's Grace and Mercy. Call 860-889-8346 ext.283. All inquiries are confidential.

**REACHING FOR A LIFELINE FOR YOUR TROUBLED MARRIAGE?**

**Serious marriage building and repair: Retrouvaille is that lifeline.** At a Retrouvaille weekend couples are given tools to re-establish communication, work on their issues, gain new insights and heal. A series of 6 post sessions follows the weekend phase. For information or to sign up for the next weekend on April 25-27 in Hartford area call 413-525-1634. Website [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org).



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