

# The Catholic Cantor

Prayer Chain: Always available!  
788-4342

## We are devoted to Our Lord in His Sacred Heart!

### Southwick First Friday

**Will be on Friday April 1<sup>st</sup>—no fooling!**

Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Southwick, Mass.

*for Mass at 11 AM.*

Arrive at 10:45 am please. Bring a brownbag lunch. Karen

Ford Readings/altar servers(301-6499),

Christine Hebert(315-9999)

## Happy Birthday

April

3rd Brian Ford

10th Christine Walsh

12th Michael Ford

12<sup>th</sup> John Paul Collins

13th Adria McManus

21<sup>st</sup> Emma Maciaszek

28<sup>th</sup> Natashia Sawabi

The Vatican has released the prayer intentions of  
Pope Benedict XVI for

### April 2011

**General Intention:** That the Church may offer new  
generations, through the believable proclamation of the  
Gospel, ever-new reasons of life and hope.

**Missionary Intention:** That missionaries, with the  
proclamation of the Gospel and their witness of life, may  
bring Christ to all those who do not yet know Him.

On Fridays: 10 AM **Moms Bible Study.**  
We do not meet the week of First Friday call  
for location as we are rotating homes:  
Christine Hebert 315-9999

### *Bethlehem House*

Clothing is earned not gifted and must be logged in  
and out, so do not wrap. Used is fine if not stained.  
Just wash before bringing. Smoke Free clothing please.  
There are volunteer and fundraising opportunities.  
Call Pam 527-2861 or Aileen Skryzniarz 536-5544

Congratulations to all the homeschoolers in the Red Door  
production of The Wiz. We hear it was fabulous.

Congratulations to those in sports or other activities with their  
local school: soccer, swimming, coaching etc. Great examples  
being set.

**A Pro Life Rosary** is prayed every second  
Thursday for an end to Abortion and for all  
babies and mothers visiting Planned  
Parenthood that day.  
Meet at St. Michael's Cathedral at 10 AM to  
carpool  
to Planned Parenthood. Return for 12:10 PM  
Mass.  
Contact Marilyn Stearns 567-6085.

### Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

Please pray for all those attending this special  
weekend of healing from Abortion. Please pray  
especially for my brother Fr. Jim Murphy CSB who  
will be providing spiritual counsel and access to the  
Sacraments.

**St. Gerard and St. Joseph's Corner:**  
Please pray for those who are pregnant,  
adopting, fostering, selling or buying a  
home, suffering job loss, etc.

Jen, Cheryl, Nori et al  
Send names or initials

Mea Culpa, Mea Maxima Culpa

## Western Massachusetts Catholic Homeschoolers Statement of Purpose

Our families come together in order to support each other, as obedient Roman Catholics, and to bring the Catholic way of life to greater fruition and brilliance in our homes.

We have as our foundation, and the guiding principle of all our activities, fidelity to the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, especially to our pope, Benedict XVI, Vicar of Christ.

Thus we affirm the Magisterium on contraception and other life issues as central to our mission as families. As emphasized in the Second Vatican Council, we parents have a most solemn obligation to educate our offspring.

Therefore we are the primary educators of our children. As lay faithful, we are dedicated to promoting home education among Catholic families and to support those families who are engaged in providing their children's primary education at home.

To receive our newsletter please email [nehc@ourladyqueenofsaints.org](mailto:nehc@ourladyqueenofsaints.org)

we also have a Facebook Page and a Yahoo Email loop—we are trying to move all email addresses here please! Go to Yahoo Groups and search New England Catholic Homeschooler.

To submit an article for publication please contact Mary Brazeau 74 Pearl St. Holyoke, MA 01040 (413) 533-0045 or send to [nehc@ourladyqueenofsaints.org](mailto:nehc@ourladyqueenofsaints.org)

### 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Science Fair

From Western Mass Homeschoolers  
<http://www.wmhomeschoolers.org>

Tuesday May3, 2011

5:30 to 8:30pm

For All Ages

FREE

No Pre-Registration

Judges give 1<sup>st</sup> place ribbon in each age category.

Awards to student showing Scientific Principles.

Family Projects welcome.

at

Agawam Junior High School Cafeteria

Questions?

Dina Trimboli 733-2116

[reesespeanutbuttercup@yahoo.com](mailto:reesespeanutbuttercup@yahoo.com)

Our group sent a bunch of videos into the Goodness Reigns competition to win a free trip to World Youth Day. We need people to vote for our videos in order to win. Please vote on these following videos. The links are here and all you have to do is click the vote button under the video. It takes **2 SECONDS so please vote!**

<http://goodnessreigns.com/vote/all/all-praise-is-yours/>

<http://goodnessreigns.com/vote/all/whats-in-my-purse/>

<http://goodnessreigns.com/vote/all/morning-star-family-holy-hour/>

Thank you everyone!

God Bless,

Fr. Marek

Wanted: Mom or Dad willing to publish The Catholic Cantor. You do not also have to serve on the Board—but take their information and fun things you find for Catholics and Homeschoolers and present it in a readable fashion. Guidance available. Email [brazeaus@comcast.net](mailto:brazeaus@comcast.net)

**From AHEM.info**

**Virtual Schools and Homeschooling Freedom**

Virtual public schools have finally come to Massachusetts, in the form of the Massachusetts Virtual Academy at Greenfield. Since public charter and e-schools began popping up, there has been national concern about whether these new entities will present a threat to homeschool freedoms.

*The key point...*

The most important point in any discussion of public virtual schools and homeschools is that they are two different things. When a child is enrolled in a public virtual school, that child is a public school student, and must report to the school according to the virtual school's requirements, as well as take state assessment tests, including MCAS. The family is no longer in charge of determining how and when their child is educated. When a child is enrolled in a public virtual school, that family is receiving a curriculum funded by public monies and appropriate accountability for all parties is in play. By contrast, homeschoolers do not accept public monies, are not on the rolls of the public schools, and retain responsibility for and decision-making power over their children's education. Homeschoolers particularly prize this freedom, and retaining the legal right to exercise it is of prominent importance to homeschoolers as well as to the retention of vibrancy and diversity in the palette of educational choices. Clarity about the differences between homeschools and public virtual schools is essential in achieving that objective.

<b>Differences between homeschoolers and virtual school students in MA</b>	
<b>Homeschoolers</b>	<b>Public virtual schoolers</b>
Independent	Public school students
May choose method of education	Must use curriculum provided
Produce their children's evaluations	Must be evaluated by school
Don't take MCAS	Must take MCAS
Don't accept public monies	Accept public monies

*The bottom line...*

The creation of public virtual schools is attractive to private companies for financial reasons. A school district in Massachusetts creating a virtual school may also be motivated by financial reasons, because that district can receive per pupil funding for any out-of-district students who enroll. Schools in Massachusetts receive no per pupil funding for homeschoolers, but when homeschoolers enroll in virtual public schools and change their status to public school students, the school district in which the virtual school is based gets the funding. Meanwhile, the actual cost to the virtual public school is much lower than for a student who attends the brick-and-mortar building, since the child is at home and only needs minimal equipment, materials, and oversight by teachers.

Virtual schools also provide a way for public schools to draw homeschoolers into the public school system. This has been written about extensively by Patricia Lines in papers and publications including "Support for Home-Based Education." The 2003 booklet is geared specifically toward state policymakers, local boards of education, and school administrators. In it, she makes a case for creating virtual schools as a way of drawing homeschoolers back into the system: "The development of programs for home study offered by public schools will also contribute to the growth of home-based education. However, such offerings may actually reduce the growth of independent homeschooling." (Lines, p. 8).

In other states with public virtual schools, homeschoolers have been targeted as a potential market for enrollment. AHEM supports every family's right to choose how their child will be educated, but in this case it is important that families understand that they are being directly marketed to by the combination of a for-profit entity and a public school district that is seeking to regain funding. Families should assess the option as carefully as they would evaluate any other advertised product. Claims of "free" curriculum and computers, for instance, may have strings attached, in that they may only be on loan for the duration of the child's enrollment. Parents should read carefully between the lines to determine the validity of these advertising claims.

*Continued pg 7*

**PLEASE REGISTER BY APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup> TO BE CONSIDERED A VOLUNTEER!**

COSTS BEFORE MAY 5TH:

1<sup>ST</sup> PERSON \$35, COUPLE \$40,

ADD A GRANDPARENT FOR \$10 (NON- HOMESCHOOLING)

ADD YOUR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT VOLUNTEERS FOR FREE

BUT PARENT MUST BE IN ATTENDANCE AND RESPONSIBLE

NURSING BABIES WELCOME AND FREE!

**VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION:**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

WEB SITE: \_\_\_\_\_

NURSING BABY (Y/N): \_\_\_\_\_

ATTENDING WITH SPOUSE: \_\_\_\_\_

OR GRANDPARENT: \_\_\_\_\_

**CHECK CAN BE MADE PAYABLE TO WMCH.**

**MAIL TO: 36 ARLMONT ST CHICOPEE, MA 01013**

*QUESTIONS? CALL MARY BRAZEAU 413-533-0045 OR CHRISTINE HEBERT AT 413-315-9999*

*COFFEE, BEVERAGES AND BREAKFAST AND/OR EVENING SNACK WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE FOR SET UP AND CLEAN UP CREWS. VOLUNTEERS MUST WARE IDENTIFICATION THROUGHOUT CONFERENCE. WE WILL NEED A LARGE CREW FROM 6AM TO 9AM HELPING VENDORS SET UP QUICKLY—NO FRIDAY SET UP! WE WILL NEED PEOPLE AT THE REGISTRATION BOOTH, CHECKING ON VENDORS, NURSING BABY ROOM, SPEAKERS, BATHROOMS, ETC. WE WILL NEED A LARGE CLEAN UP CREW FROM 4:30 - ? PM. WE NEED OUR TEENS TO PROVIDE THE MUSIC AND SERVICE AT 6PM MASS*

**NB- ONLINE REGISTRATION WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM OUR WEBSITE AS SOON AS OUR FULL AGENDA CAN BE PUBLISHED.**

**ANSWERING OUR BAPTISMAL VOWS! ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, PRAY FOR US!**

:From The Diocesan website list of ongoing activities:

#### MOTHER TERESA EXHIBIT

New Haven, Conn.: An exhibit to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Mother Teresa of Calcutta's birth will be held at the Knights of Columbus Museum, 1 State St. admission and parking are free. Exhibit runs until Oct. 4.

#### SIGNED PRAYER

Chicopee: A Signed Prayer and Communion Service will be held the third Sunday of the month at the Knights of Columbus, 1599 Memorial Dr., Unit 4, at 10 a.m. An interpreted Mass is held at St. Anne Church on College Street at 9 a.m. on other Sundays.

#### PREGNANCY SUPPORT

Pittsfield: Pregnancy Support Services, 74 North St., will change its schedule. New hours are: Mondays, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The 24-hour answering service is 443-7351. It offers free counseling, and maternity and baby clothing, and baby furniture.

#### ST. JUDE CENTER

Holyoke: The St. Jude Center, 56 Cabot St., will be open today and each Tuesday and Thursday from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. The center, sponsored by Providence Ministries, sells used clothing and small wares. Call 536-9109. The center also sells a Western Mass. Dining and Activity Book.

#### BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

Florence: A Bereavement Support Group will meet in St. Elizabeth Parish Center, 87 Beacon St., the first and third Thursdays of the month at 10 a.m. Call 584-1753. The program is free and open to all.

#### EUCHARISTIC ADORATION AND PRAYER

##### FIRST FRIDAYS

Lenox: First Friday Eucharistic adoration will be held at St. Ann Parish, Main Street, from 7:30 a.m. until Benediction at noon. Call 637-0157. All are welcome.  
 Hadley: First Friday adoration will be observed at Most Holy Redeemer Church, 120 Russell St., beginning with confessions at 1:15 p.m. Mass will be celebrated at 1:45 p.m. with adoration from 2:30 to 7 p.m.  
 Springfield: First Friday Mass will be celebrated at St. Catherine of Siena Church on Parker Street at 9 a.m. followed by Eucharistic adoration and Benediction at 3:30 p.m. Feeding Hills: Eucharistic adoration follows the 9 a.m. Mass until 10:30 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church, 1103 Springfield St.  
 Springfield: First Friday Mass at 7 a.m. will be followed by Eucharistic adoration in the chapel of the parish center at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish from 8 a.m. to noon.  
 Chicopee: First Friday Mass will be held at 7:30 a.m. followed by adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. with a Mass in the Polish language at St. Stanislaus Basilica. Adoration also is held every Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to noon.  
 Holyoke: Eucharistic adoration will be held at Holy Cross Church in Holyoke from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
 Pittsfield: Eucharistic adoration will take place from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church.  
 Longmeadow: Eucharistic adoration will be held from noon to 9 p.m. at St. Mary Church on Longmeadow Street. Adoration also is held every Tuesday from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
 Southwick: Eucharistic adoration will take place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Our Lady of the Lake Church, 224 Sheep Pasture Rd.  
 Granby: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held from 8:15 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, 256 State St.

#### PRAYER CENACLE

Springfield: The Our Lady Mary Mother of Hope Prayer Cenacle will meet Mondays at the parish church, 840 Page Blvd., beginning from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

#### PRAYER GROUP

Turners Falls: A weekly prayer group will be held at Our Lady of Peace Parish, 90 Seventh St., on Mondays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Call 863-2585.

#### EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Belchertown: St. Francis Church, 24 Jabish St., holds Eucharistic adoration and visitation every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. An adoration info line gives notification of closings due to weather. Call 323-6272.

#### PRAYER AND ADORATION

Wilbraham: St. Cecilia Parish, 42 Main St., will hold a weekly Eucharistic adoration from 9:30 a.m. to noon on Mondays. Adoration also will be held each Tuesday from 3 to 9 p.m.

#### ST. JUDE NOVENA

Southwick: St. Jude Novena will be prayed after the 7 p.m. Mass every Wednesday at Our Lady of the Lake Church, 224 Sheep Pasture Rd. Call 569-0161.

#### PERPETUAL ADORATION

Agawam: Perpetual Eucharistic adoration will be held at St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main St., after the 8 a.m. Mass every Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Belchertown: St. Francis Parish, 24 Jabish St., will hold perpetual adoration in its Adoration Chapel on Wednesdays. Call 323-6272, Ext. 6.

#### HOLY HOUR

Greenfield: A Holy Hour for the Sick and Dying will be held Wednesdays at Blessed Sacrament Church, 221 Federal St., at 7 p.m. All are welcome.

#### ADORATION AND PRAYER

Chicopee: The Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and praying of The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be held every Friday from 9 a.m. to noon at St. Anne Parish, 30 College St. Call 532-7503.

#### ST. PEREGRINE

Monson: A Mass of Healing for anyone with cancer, AIDS or any other serious illness will be held at St. Patrick Parish, 22 Green St., at 7 p.m. A novena to St. Peregrine will be prayed. The Mass is held every Friday and all are welcome. Call 267-3622 for more information.

#### EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

South Hadley: Eucharistic adoration will be held at St. Theresa Parish, 9 East Parkview Dr., from 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. The adoration is held every Friday and has been observed for 25 years.

#### EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Holyoke: Eucharistic adoration will be held at Blessed Sacrament Parish, 1945 Northampton St., every Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

#### ADORATION FOR LIFE

Holyoke: A Eucharistic Adoration for Life will be held in St. Patrick Chapel of St. Jerome Parish on Hampden Street, from 2 to 3 p.m. every Saturday. All are welcome.

#### PRO-LIFE MASS

Longmeadow: A Right to Life Mass will be held the first Saturday of every month at St. Mary Church, 509 Longmeadow St., at 8 a.m. Call 567-6085

#### EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

South Hadley: Eucharistic adoration will be held at St. Patrick Church, 30 Main St., from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. It is held the first Saturday of the month.

*Coexisting...continued from pg 3*

Virtual school students who were formerly homeschoolers may want to retain that label. However, for the sake of clarity and accuracy, correct language is important.

Acceptance of and respect for all educational choices is fundamental to getting along and fostering an environment where diversity in education is seen as a vital and necessary part of our society.

Understanding the difference between and maintaining clarity about the ever-changing educational choices available to families in Massachusetts is a key step in protecting those options for all.

If you received this message as a forwarded email and would like to be added to the Friends of AHM list to receive updates on issues that may affect Massachusetts homeschoolers, as well as special notice of AHM events and field trips, reply to this email ([info@AHM.info](mailto:info@AHM.info)) with your name, address, town, and zip code. AHM respects your privacy and will not share your name or contact information with any other organization. If you choose to forward this email, PLEASE forward all of it, including signature below. To remove your email address from this list, reply with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.

Thanks! Advocates for Home Education in Massachusetts

PO Box 1307 Arlington, MA 02474

<http://www.ahem.info/index.htm>

AHEM is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Donations are tax deductible (and greatly appreciated).

Accepting Imperfection by Patrice Fagnant-MacArthur

"So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect." (Matthew 5:48) Perfection. Every woman I know strives for it and comes up woefully short, myself included. We want to be perfect wives and mothers, to be successful in our work, have clean homes, pray as much as we should, be good friends, exercise and eat right. In Catholic circles, especially, we often strive to be like Mary. We hold her up as our model which is as it should be. Yet, maybe, we shouldn't be quite so hard on ourselves when we don't quite measure up to that standard. After all, we believe Mary was sinless. She may have been tempted, but she never failed. She had an unlimited store of God's grace which never let her down. We, on the other hand, have the burden of sin. We make mistakes. We screw up. We fall down. We hurt others and get hurt ourselves. We don't always forgive others the way we should. We are not always patient and loving. We have to get up every day and face the consequences of our failures. It's enough to make me want to pull the covers up over my head and stay in bed . . . permanently.

Yes, I realize that is not actually an option (although some days I really wish it was). God has given me a job on this Earth, and my two children are going to make sure I get out of bed every morning and do it, even if it means they have to jump on me, turn on the light, and pull off my covers to get me to get up and face the day! Christian writer Joan C. Webb has written two very insightful books on dealing with our imperfection, *The Relief of Imperfection* and *It's a Wonderful (Imperfect) Life*. In the latter, she writes, "It's truly a relief once you and I realize that God doesn't expect us to be, do, or make it all just right, all the time, in order to be valuable and compassionate friends, mothers, colleagues or Christians. . . It helped when I discovered that the original word for 'perfect' means 'to be committed to growth and completion.' While growth is daunting at times, it is doable. . . It's okay with God if we slow down, relax and smile in the midst of our imperfect realities. Life doesn't have to be perfect to be wonderful."

I like Webb's definition of perfection – "to be committed to growth and completion." It means that I and all my fellow sisters in the trenches are works in progress. It changes the standard by which we judge ourselves. Maybe we haven't reached the pinnacle of our development, but we are all growing. We are all trying to move along the right path, to grow closer to God and to do His will. Yes, we screw up, but maybe the mistakes help us to grow as well. We want to be complete, but it will take a lifetime to get there. In the meantime, we can keep trusting that we are making progress. It may be the two steps forward, one step backward kind of progress, but it is still moving forward. We can also enjoy life as it is. We can accept our imperfection. We can accept that we are not God. We can accept that it is not in our power (nor is it our job) to make everyone around us happy all the time. We can trust that God knows what He is doing, that He can use us in spite of our failings. We can lean on God through it all. His perfection will carry us through.



## FRC PROGRAM REMINDER

MAKE Learning AN Ed-venture!

### Greetings!

Our **NEW ON-LINE REGISTRATION** system is now available. Visit our new web site at [www.fieldtripresourcecenter.com](http://www.fieldtripresourcecenter.com).

Members and nonmembers alike, create a personal account which allows you to have your own login and password, register and pay for field trips on-line, and easily track and save program details throughout the year.

If you have any questions about the new registration process please call us at **978-741-7449** Monday through Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm.

Please register early, as we must meet program minimums 2 weeks prior to each event. If a program does not meet the minimum number of registered participants we will cancel the program.

**Please share this email with your friends today!**

**5th Annual Home School Field Day!**  
**Westfield State College**  
**Woodward Center**  
**Westfield, MA**  
**Friday 04/08/2011 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

Back by popular demand, Westfield State College faculty and students invite you to join them for the annual Homeschool Field Day event.

Homeschooling families join us for a day of fun physical activity and more. The Homeschool Field Day is a one-day event developed by students at Westfield State College to provide a safe and supportive environment in which homeschooling students ages 5-14 can come together to engage in physical activities designed to teach team work, motor development, hand-eye coordination, locomotor skills and more. Older students (12-14) participating will have age appropriate games.

While each field day is a little different, the following is a sampling of some of the stations that may take place: Defend the Castle, Parachute Play, Boot Camp Relay, Golf Ball Search, Scooter Soccer, Race Base, Balloon Volley, and Architect Builders. The stations will be guided by Westfield State College Movement Science students trained in adapting the activities to different age and ability levels.

Field Day has been designed for youth ages 5-14, there will be space for younger siblings to play in an area that is supervised by parents. Older siblings may also use the Student Lounge to read or relax.

**FRC Member Fees:** ages 0-4 and adults free; 5-17 \$8.00

**Non-Member Fees:** ages 0-4 and adults free; 5-17 \$16.00

**FRC Members:** Don't forget to use your rebate coupons to save another \$5.00!

[\*\*READ MORE or REGISTER NOW\*\*](#)

Western Mass. Catholic Homeschoolers  
74 Pearl St.  
Holyoke, MA 01040  
nehc.wordpress.com

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(No Fooling!)**

**Registration for  
New England Catholic Homeschool Conference**