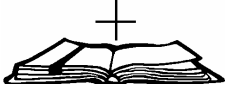

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

MON., JAN. 5	6:30	Ryan (<i>Birthday Blessings</i>) – DiMatteo Family	
	9:00	+ Deceased Family Members – D. Clarke	
TUES, JAN. 6	6:30	+ Edward Winairski – McGowan Family	
	9:00	+ Patrick Buckley – 9:00 Mass Group	
WED., JAN. 7	6:30	Msgr. Edward B. Karl (<i>Health & Blessings</i>) – Kevin & Brenda Cleary	
	9:00	+ Nina Tortosa – Marie Miller	
THU., JAN. 8	6:30	For the People of St. Mary Parish	
	9:00	+ Paul Nora – Carol & Ed Roth	
FRI., JAN. 9	6:30	+ Barbara McCoy – Bob & Carol DiMatteo	Mass Intentions 
	9:00	+ Patrick Buckley – Brenda Cleary	
SAT., JAN. 10	8:00	+ John Conway – Dan & Helen Yee	
	5:30	+ Madelon & Joseph Murphy – Henry Family	
SUN., JAN. 11	7:00	+ Oneita Keegan – McCafferty Family	
	8:30	+ Drouzolina & John Bonazzo – Madeline & Tony Belvedere	
	10:00	+ Eleanor Hayes – Coral & Bill Presti	
	11:30	+ Joseph Quatraro – Phil & Claudette Guerrette	
	5:30	+ Grace Imbrogno – Nota Family	



WELCOME TO THOSE WHO WERE NEWLY BAPTIZED

Peter Justin Fern

*If you, or a family member, are planning a stay at Danbury Hospital,
please inform the Rectory so a member of the clergy may visit.*

PARISH OFFICE (744-5777)

Sheila Kurjiaka: *Bulletin Editor*
Kate Fitzgerald: *Secretary*
Paul Orsino: *Property Manager*
Steve DeMarco: *Parish Council President*
Jane Shannon: *Cemetery Administrator*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (743-4557)

Mary Ferri: *Director*
Peggy Gavin: *Secretary*
Dennis Nauheimer (RCIA): 794-9488

MUSIC MINISTRY

Mike Macelletti: *Music Director*
Elizabeth Barnes: *Choir Director*

ST. MARY SCHOOL (744-2922)

Sister Anne McCarthy: *Principal*
Linda Curry: *Secretary*

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday – Friday: 6:30 & 9:00am
Saturday: 8:00am & 5:30pm
Sunday: 7:00, 8:30, 10:00, 11:30am & 5:30pm

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturday: 11:30-12:00noon; 4:00-5:00pm.

BAPTISMS: *Every Sunday at 1:00pm.*
(Call the Rectory to Schedule.)

PRE-BAPTISM CLASSES: *Twice a Month.*
(Call the Rectory to Schedule.)

ARRANGEMENT FOR MARRIAGE:
Couples must meet with a parish clergyman at least six (6) months before the marriage is to be celebrated.

Fr. Corey's Comments

➤ *There are so many feasts that happen so quickly during these days that most people miss them. They are important celebrations to our faith, so I want to take a moment and recognize the many and fascinating feasts of our Catholic religion during the Christmas Season.*

➤ *We begin with the feast of December 26, the feast of St. Stephen, the first martyr. St. Stephen, the first deacon, was stoned to death for Jesus soon after Christ's resurrection. The symbolic placement of Stephen's feast day the day after Jesus' birth is the Church's way of telling us that our lives must be given over to our Lord, and it is through this self-dedication that we shall be known as his followers. You can learn more about St. Stephen in the Acts of the Apostles.*

➤ *On December 27, the Church celebrates the feast of St. John the Apostle and Evangelist. St. John, also known as the Beloved Disciple, wrote the 4th Gospel, Letters in the New Testament and tradition says he is the writer of the Book of Revelation. Once again the symbolic placement of John's feast so close to Jesus' birth indicates the holy relationship between Jesus and John. John was the only one of the Twelve Apostles who did not die a martyr's death. He died of old age, into his 90's, on the island of Patmos.*

➤ *Normally, on December 28th we celebrate the Holy Innocents. The children mentioned in St. Matthew 2:16-18: Herod perceiving that he was deluded by the wise men, was exceeding angry; and sending killed all the men children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the borders thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: A voice in Rama was heard, lamentation and great mourning; Rachel bewailing her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not. This year, because December 28 falls on a Sunday, we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family. This feast celebrates Jesus, Mary and Joseph as a family; a family just like ours, with its joys and sorrows and everything in between.*

➤ *Monday, December 29 celebrates the feast of Saint Thomas Becket, bishop and martyr. Thomas died on this date in 1170. He was Archbishop of Canterbury and engaged in conflict with King Henry II over the rights and privileges of the Church and was assassinated by followers of the king in Canterbury Cathedral. King Henry is reported to have said, "Will no one rid me of this meddlesome priest?", and those around him thought it to be a command to assassinate the Bishop.*

➤ *January 1 is the feast of Mary the Mother of God. Fundamentalists are sometimes horrified when the Virgin Mary is referred to as the Mother of God. This particular title of Mary signifies who Mary is, and also who Jesus was. According to scientific belief, a woman is a man's mother either if she carried him in her womb or if she was the woman contributing half of his genetic matter or both. Mary was the mother of Jesus in both of these senses; because she not only carried Jesus in her womb but also supplied all of the genetic matter for his human body, since it was through her—not Joseph—that Jesus "was descended from David according to the flesh" (Rom. 1:3). (Of course, women can be called and truly are mothers in other ways, but we are using the definition that was used to combat heresies throughout history.) Since Mary is Jesus' mother, it must be concluded that she is also the Mother of God: If Mary is the mother of Jesus, and if Jesus is God, then Mary is the Mother of God. There is no way out of this logical syllogism, the valid form of which has been recognized by classical logicians since before the time of Christ. Although Mary is the Mother of God, she is not his mother in the sense that she is older than God or the source of her Son's divinity, for she is neither. Rather, we say that she is the Mother of God in the sense that she carried in her womb a divine person — Jesus Christ, God "in the flesh" (2 John 7, cf. John 1:14) — and in the sense that she contributed the genetic matter to the human form God took in Jesus Christ. Some often assert that Mary did not carry God in her womb, but only carried Christ's human nature. This assertion reinvents a heresy from the fifth century known as Nestorianism, which runs aground on the fact that a mother does not merely carry the human nature of her child in her womb. Rather, she carries the person of her child. Women do not give birth to human natures; they give birth to persons. Mary thus carried and gave birth to the person of Jesus Christ, and the person she gave birth to was God.*

Fr. Corey's Comments (Cont'd.)

The Nestorian claim that Mary did not give birth to the unified person of Jesus Christ attempts to separate Christ's human nature from his divine nature, creating two separate and distinct persons — one divine and one human — united in a loose affiliation. It is therefore a Christological heresy. Both Martin Luther and John Calvin insisted on Mary's divine maternity. In fact, it even appears that Nestorius himself may not have believed the heresy named after him. Saint Athanasius wrote: "The Word begotten of the Father from on high, inexpressibly, inexplicably, incomprehensibly, and eternally, is he that is born in time here below of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God" (The Incarnation of the Word of God 8 [A.D. 365]).

➤ *January 2 is the feasts of Saint Basil the Great and Saint Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church. Both men were great minds of the Church and are honored by both the Eastern and Western Churches (both the Orthodox and Catholic Churches).*

➤ *January 3 is the feast of the Most Holy Name of Jesus. In a world of fiercely guarded corporate names and logos, it should be easy to understand this feast. The letters IHS are an abbreviation of Jesus, the Greek name for Jesus. Although St. Paul might claim credit for promoting devotion to the Holy Name because Paul wrote in Philippians that God the Father gave Christ Jesus "that name that is above every name" (see 2:9), this devotion became popular because of 12th-century Cistercian monks and nuns, but especially through the preaching of St. Bernardine of Siena, a 15th-century Franciscan. Bernardine used devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus as a way of overcoming bitter and often bloody class struggles and family rivalries or vendettas in Italian city-states. The devotion grew, partly because of Franciscan and Dominican preachers. It spread even more widely after the Jesuits began promoting it in the 16th century.*

➤ *January 4th is normally the feast of St. Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton. Mother Seton is one of the keystones of the American Catholic Church. She founded the first American religious community for women, the Sisters of Charity. She opened the first American parish school and established the first American Catholic orphanage. All this she did in the span of 46 years while raising her five children. She died January 4, 1821, and became the first American-born citizen to be beatified (1963) and then canonized (1975). She is buried in Emmitsburg, Maryland. This year, because it falls on a Sunday, January 4th is the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. Epiphany (Greek for "to manifest" or "to show"), is a Christian feast day which celebrates the "shining forth" or revelation of God in human form in the person of Jesus Christ. Western Christians commemorate the visitation of the Magi to the child Jesus on this day, his manifestation to the Gentiles.*


➤ *January 5th is the feast of St. John Neumann. John Neumann was born in what is now the Czech Republic. After studying in Prague, he came to New York at 25 and was ordained a priest. He did missionary work in New York until he was 29, when he joined the Redemptorists and became its first member to profess vows in the United States. He continued missionary work in Maryland, Virginia and Ohio, where he became popular with the Germans. At 41, as bishop of Philadelphia, he organized the parochial school system into a diocesan one, increasing the number of pupils almost twenty-fold within a short time. Gifted with outstanding organizing ability, he drew into the city many teaching communities of sisters and the Christian Brothers. During his brief assignment as vice provincial for the Redemptorists, he placed them in the forefront of the parochial movement. Well-known for his holiness and learning, spiritual writing and preaching, he became the first American bishop to be beatified on October 13, 1963. Canonized in 1977, he is buried in St. Peter the Apostle Church in Philadelphia.*

And so many people think that Christmas is just one day. Isn't that funny!

Thank you so much for all of the gifts and delicious treats you sent to us this Christmas time. Your kindness and affection are very much appreciated. Also, thank you for your generosity to the Christmas collection as well as all you do for our Parish throughout the year. May this year be filled with blessings for you and yours and may peace reign in our hearts, our homes, our country and our world. Thank you and God bless you!


January

SCHOOL DAYS

COFFEE & ... will be served after the **8:30 & 10:00 Mass** on **SUN., JAN. 11th**. 



DOROTHY DAY VOLUNTEERS
WED., JAN. 7th: Our turn to Cook.

ST. MARY BOOK CLUB – **NO Dec. Meeting**
Jan. Book: “*My Life with the Saints*”,
by *James Martin, S.J.* Please join
Deacon John in the **Childrens’ Room** at
7:30pm, on **TUES., JAN. 27th**, for discussion. 




KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

MON., JAN. 12th, at **8:15pm**, in the **Parish Hall.**

The **Knights of Columbus** is a Catholic men’s fraternal society dedicated service. If you are 18 or older and are interested in joining, please visit <http://pavia48.tripod.com/> or call **Paul DiMarzio** (778-2840) for more info.

The **St. Mary Parish Photo Contest**, sponsored by the K of C, will be underway soon. This year’s theme is **God’s Wonderful Blessings**. It’s open to all ages, and best of all there are many great prizes to win! There’s no better time to start taking pictures than during Christmas Week and New Year’s. Entry forms will be available within the next few weeks. 


The mission of our new **CARITAS PROGRAM**, is to reach out to members of the St. Mary Parish community to offer physical, spiritual and emotional support. At this time 50 people have volunteered to help. We hope to support every person in need whether it is a ride, a visit for someone who is homebound, a meal for a family, an extra set of hands for a family with a newborn, a respite for a caregiver or any of the thousands of needs that each of us has at some time in our lives. If you are in need, or you know someone who is – ***We can help!*** Please call the **Rectory** (744-5777).

Classes resume tomorrow, **MON., JAN. 5, 2009.**

ST. MARY SCHOOL, winner of the 2008 No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Award, will host an **OPEN HOUSE** for new students on **WED., JAN. 14th**, from **6:00-8:00pm**, and again on **SUN., JAN. 25th**, from **11:30am-1:30pm.**



MARRIED COUPLES – Worn out from the Holidays? Are you looking for a way to avoid the January blahs? How about a special weekend, for just the two of you? Register for a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend** from **FRI., JAN. 16th – SUN., JAN. 18th**. For more info please contact **Joe & Jane Staszowski** (860 644-7260) or email: **meweekend@gmail.com.**

MARCH FOR LIFE: Please consider physically showing our new political leaders how important life is to you and your country by joining in the **March for Life in Washington, DC** on **THUR., JAN. 22nd**. If you are interested in St. Mary’s bus transportation, please call **Dave Whitmore** (203 778-1752) or email: **dwhitmore@snet.net.** 

RETROUVAILLE OF CT. – If your marriage has become troubled, unloving or uncaring, and if you are thinking of separation or divorce, or are already separated or divorced, but you want to try again, then the **Retrouvaille program** can help you. The next weekend: **FRI., JAN. 23 – SUN., JAN. 25.** For more info. call us (1-800-470-2230) or e-mail (**3001@retrouvaille.org.**)



RACHEL’S VINEYARD RETREAT
If you are suffering from the emotional pain of an abortion, whether it happened recently or forty years ago, come experience the healing love of Jesus Christ during our private weekend retreat from **JAN. 23rd – JAN. 25th**. The retreat will combine spiritual meditations, discussions, Confession, Memorial Service and Mass. For more info. **www.rachelsvineyardbpt.com** or e-mail: **Jeremiah31v17@aol.com.**

***SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING WHO HAVE DONATED
TOWARDS FLOWERS FOR OUR ALTAR FOR CHRISTMAS***

IN MEMORY OF

DONATED BY

Al Dennis

Arthur L. Horan, Jr.

Patrick & Mary Sullivan

John & Blanche Kowalski

Rose & Nicholas Gimigliano and Joseph Gimiano

John & Anna Hafner and Timmy Smith

Adelaide Gray and Ambrose Sharnick

Al & Alice Sierocki and Harold & Ida Barnett

*Julia Marcinkoski, Lorrie Ann Rekosz, Stanley Zarecki,
Edward Marcinkoski*

Deceased Members of the Anziano and Deak Families

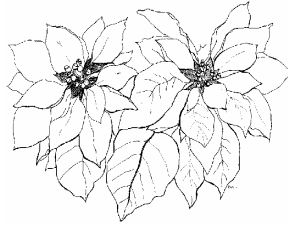
Deceased Members of the DeRoin and Prothers Families

Deceased Members of the Falvey and Richard Families

Deceased Members of the Landi and Troetti Families

Deceased Members of the Murphy & Henry Families

Deceased Members of the Torma and Piotrowski Families



Family

Family

Daughter, Mary

Sons, Ron & Jeff

Theresa Gimigliano

Asta Smith

Gray & Sharnick Families

Audrey & Tom Barnett

Tom & MaryBeth Zarecki

Leon & Stephanie Anziano

John & Kathleen DeRoin

Walt & Cathi Richard & Family

Janet & Mauro Troetti

Henry Family

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Torma

*It's a
Brand New
Year!*