
Fr. Corey's Comments

In the old Church (pre-Vatican II) the Christmas season continued until the presentation of the Temple on February 2nd. As you know the Christmas season now ends with the Baptism of the Lord. I know a few of my Boston Irish friends who leave up their Christmas wreaths until St. Patrick's Day on March 17th. I would suggest taking down the decorations on the first warm day the Good Lord gives us.

I want to share with you an interesting story. Right before Christmas, Bob, the gold man, arrived at the rectory with a check from the three days of gold-buy-back that we had in the parish. Bob told me I would be well pleased. He handed me a check, and after I was revived I couldn't believe the amount of the check. The original intent was to put the money in the Sanctuary Fund and to give one third of the collected money to Sr. Anne and St. Mary School. So, St. Mary School received \$6,000.00 and the Sanctuary Fund received \$11,000.00. I have to tell you that this was the hardest money for which I ever had to work. I met with Bob, let him do the mailings, write the letter and sit and collect gold for 3 days. I had to sign my name on a letter. Boy, talk about exhausting. A number of folks said that they would have brought some gold, but they couldn't make it or forgot about it, so we plan to run another gold-buy-back before the winter is over. Thank you to all who participated.

Speaking of "Thank-You's"... A big thank you to everyone who sent Christmas Cards, Goodies and gifts to all the clergy in the Rectory. You are all so very generous, and Fr. Cyrus, Fr. Ed, Seminarian Matthew and I are so very lucky and honored to serve you and the Good Lord.

I want to give you a few "head's-up". First, looking ahead to the end of Lent. The Palm Sunday 11:30am Mass and the Easter 11:30am Mass will both be celebrated at 12:00noon. If you have ever tried to attend either or both of those Masses, you will remember the lines of cars trying to leave Church and the lines of cars on 302 trying to get into Church. To give everyone some breathing room we shall move those two Masses back a half hour so Mass attendance will be pleasant for everyone.

Second, it looks like the Sanctuary Enhancement will begin in early February. I am dedicating the project to Saint Dominic because of his special relationship with the Blessed Mother (our Patron) and the Holy Rosary. We have received from Rome a relic of Saint Dominic for our altar, and I ask you to ask St. Dominic's intercession for a successful project. Speaking of the Sanctuary Project... during the project daily Mass will be celebrated in the Parish Hall. Saturday evening and Sunday Masses will be celebrated in the Church. All funerals will be celebrated at St. Peter's Church in Danbury. The duration of the project will probably last most of Lent. I shall be able to be more specific in next week's bulletin. Also, the contributions and pledges have been coming in steadily. I would encourage anyone who has not yet offered a gift to the project to prayerfully consider making a pledge or a one-time gift to the Sanctuary Fund. Please know that if you cannot make a pledge or gift; please pray for the success of the project. Your prayers are most powerful, and I do appreciate all that you do.

There is a new member of our Church staff. Michael Ferrari is our new Music Director and Organist. Michael will begin here at St. Mary this weekend. Michael has a Bachelor of Music from The Manhattan School of Music and a Master of Music from the same institution in New York, New York. He is close to achieving his Doctorate of Musical Arts from The Manhattan School of Music. He also has a certificate of Music technology from Berklee College of Music in Boston. Michael has tons of experience in teaching and playing in the Music and Sacred Music arenas. Michael is a member of the American Guild of Organists, as well as many other professional affiliations. He is extremely passionate and talented, and I think he will continue to add to our prayer through his music.

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

During this past month our Diocese lost 3 wonderful priests. Fr. Alfred Russo (who served for many years at St. Gregory in Danbury), Monsignor Lawrence McMahon (who served for three decades at St. Mark in Stratford) and Monsignor Pierre Botton (who served from many years at St. John in Noroton.) When I was growing up these good priests were the giants in the Church. I knew Fr. Russo personally. A kind and gentle man he was always available, especially to the elderly. Monsignor McMahon was a priest's priest. I attended many celebrations at St. Mark's. Both of my nieces made their first communion there, and each time Monsignor stepped aside and allowed me to give First Holy Communion to both girls. He was a much-loved priest. I did not know Monsignor Botton well, but he was a great lover of sacred music, and everyone described him as a true gentleman. Please keep these good men and priests in your prayers. They are part of all of our families, and all three served the Church well.

We now have a new cook at St. Mary. Maria Borchetta has wonderful skills and will keep us healthy and well fed. Maria has worked in other rectories, so she understands priests well.

Let me bring to your attention our upcoming Parish Mission. The mission will be preached the week of Ash Wednesday, from February 15th – 17th. Fr. Kevin MacDonald, C.Ss.R., is a Redemptorist priest from Woburn, Massachusetts, about ten miles north of Boston. He entered the Redemptorist missionary order after attending Boston College and playing seven years of professional baseball with the Pittsburgh Pirates organization and overseas in Holland and Australia. He is a member of the Boston College Hall of Fame. Ordained in 1991, he has worked as a parish priest in Dominica, New York, Boston, and St. Lucia. He is currently assigned to the Redemptorist Community in St. Croix, Virgin Islands. He is greatly looking forward to spending the week with us.

A big "Thank You" goes out to Bethel Subway over in Dolan Plaza. I promised Subway Sandwiches to the School Community as a gift for the wonderful music at the Christmas Concert. The Concert was so beautiful with voices like angels, the months of practice, the guidance of the faculty and staff, it was a small thank you for all the work and the joy it brought to the listeners. The Subway Sandwich Shop made 180 different sandwiches in a morning. The Students made cards and thank you notes. The sandwiches were delicious, and the SERVICE could not have been better. Thank You Bethel Subway!!! (Special thanks to Kate Fitzgerald for coordinating the orders with Subway and delivering them to the School.

Flowers are a wonderful way to remember loved ones during the Christmas season. Many made donations in memory of parents, friends and children for the poinsettias for the Christmas altar. I am sure a prayer was added with each memorial, and I am most grateful for your generosity at Christmas.

To end the Christmas season it has been a tradition in Rome for the current Pope to do a few extraordinary things on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. First, the Pope said Mass in the Sistine Chapel right under Michelangelo's famous frescoes with his back to the congregation (there is only one altar in the Sistine Chapel directly under Michelangelo's depiction of the Final Judgment) in Italian. Pope Benedict also baptized a few infants. Can you imagine what an honor to be baptized by the Pope Himself? Can you also imagine the pressure that boy or girl has all his/her life? Every time they do something wrong, I can imagine a mom or dad say, "Sure you don't clean up your room, and you were baptized by the Pope", or "you came in late and you were baptized by the Holy Father", or "you got a C in math and you were baptized by the Vicar of Christ". A lot of pressure growing up I would say. Finally, the Pope meets with the entire Diplomatic Corps and gives them Christmas greetings and blessings for the New Year. Quite a busy time for His Holiness at the age of 82. Let us keep him in our prayers.

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

❁ January

Still more Christmases around the world:

Christmas in Philippines

The Philippines is the only Asian nation in which Christianity is the religion chosen by the people. Christmas celebrations start nine days before Christmas with a mass known as Misa de Gallo. At this mass the story behind the birth of Christ is read from the Bible. The Panunuluyan pageant is held each Eve. A couple is chosen to re-enact Joseph and Mary's search for shelter. Mass is held hourly on Christmas Day so that everyone can attend. Religious services include pastore, or play, based on the myth of the birth of the Christ Child. The pastore closes with a star from the upper part of the church sliding down a wire and coming to rest over the Nativity scene. Christmas celebrations may have evolved from old tribal customs mixed with other influences. Serenading cumbancheros, or strolling minstrels, and their performances by singing Maligayang Pasko to the tune of "Happy Birthday".


Christmas in Vietnam

Traditional Vietnamese religions are Buddhism and the Chinese philosophies of Taoism and Confucianism. However, during French rule, many people became Christians. Christmas is one of the four most important festivals of the Vietnamese year, the others being the birthday of Buddha, the New Year and the mid-autumn festival. The Christians observed the religious rituals of Christmas. On Christmas Eve the Christians would attend a midnight Mass. After Church people would return to their homes for the most important meal, the Christmas supper. The dinner usually consisted of chicken soup, wealthier people ate turkey, and Christmas Pudding. The European customs of Santa Clause and the Christmas tree were popular and children would leave their shoes out on Christmas Eve.

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THE RECTORY WILL  
BE CLOSED  
MONDAY, JAN. 18<sup>th</sup>

**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP:**  
 On FRI., FEB. 5<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm, in the Church, Fr. Ed will give a talk: "Carrying the Cross of Losing a Loved One". Discussion and refreshments will follow in the **Parish Hall**.

**MEALS-ON-WHEELS:  
WEEK OF DELIVERIES**



**ST. MARY'S MEN'S MINISTRY** meets every Saturday morning from 6:30-8:00 in the **Parish Hall**. Please stop by for bagels, fellowship, and faith discussions to help men and their families. Any questions, please call Dave Whitmore (203 470-0909).


**SCHOOL  
DAYS**

**NO SCHOOL – MON., JAN. 18<sup>th</sup>**  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day



**St. Mary School** will host an **OPEN HOUSE** for all prospective students entering **Pre-School through Grade 8** on SUN., JAN. 31<sup>st</sup>, from 11:00am-1:00pm. For more info. please call the School (203 744-2922).

Purchase a **Tuition Raffle** ticket for your chance to win free tuition for one student during St. Mary's 2010-2011 School Year. **Tuition value is \$4,500**, and tickets are \$75 each. Buy for a specific family or make a donation and have a family picked at random. Drawing will be held on FRI., FEB. 5<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30pm, in the School Gym during the Pasta Dinner. For more information call Cathy Drury (203 938-4067).

**ST. MARY BOOK CLUB: JANUARY BOOK**  
 "The Screwtape Letters", authored by C. S. Lewis. Meet for discussion on TUES., JAN. 26<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30pm, in the **Children's Room**.



### SENIOR & JUNIOR YOUTH GROUPS

JAN. 22<sup>nd</sup> – Candlelight Vigil, March for Life, 7:00-8:30pm. All SYG encouraged to attend.  
Sr. & Jr. volunteers needed. Sign up with Annie.

### SENIOR YOUTH GROUP




FRI., FEB. 1<sup>st</sup>, at 6:00pm, Parish Hall. Interested students and parents should meet to help PLAN A SKI TRIP.  
Tentative date for trip: SAT., FEB. 20<sup>th</sup>.

THUR., FEB. 7<sup>th</sup> – Winter Flag Football. Dropoff at Parloa Park at 12:00, pickup at 1:30pm. Bring Permission slips! 



SUN., FEB. 21<sup>st</sup> – Hartford Wolfpack Hockey Game. Sign up with Annie. CHAPERONES NEEDED!

### JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP

WED., FEB. 6<sup>th</sup> – Ice Skating. Cost: \$10/child. Drop off at Danbury Ice Arena at 1:30pm, pick-up at 3:30pm. Sign up. Permission slips must be returned to Rectory by THUR., FEB. 4<sup>th</sup>. CHAPERONES NEEDED! 

Service hours will be available every Wed. night from 5:00-6:00pm for all Youth Group members.

Contemporary Folk Group is looking for a pianist. If interested, please call Debbie Caraluzzi (730-0804). 




CURSILLO – Bring Christ to the World. The goal of the Cursillo movement is that Christ be the prime influence in our society. We will gather in the **Parish Hall** on THUR., JAN. 21<sup>st</sup>, at 6:30, for a pot luck supper, followed at 7:30pm, by our monthly Ultreya. If you have not been active for a while, or are new to the area, please join us. If you would like more info., contact Yvonne Cecera (203 797-1361) or yvonne\_cecera@hotmail.





### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Next Meeting – JAN. 25<sup>th</sup>, at 8:15.

Rosary at 7:45pm in the Church.

The Knights of Columbus will sponsor a PANCAKE BREAKFAST next SUN., JAN. 24<sup>th</sup>, from 7:30-11:30am, in the **School Gym**. Cost: \$8/adult, \$6/child, children under 3 are free. Max: \$25 per family. The Breakfast is a fundraiser for their Scholarship Fund. 

 This weekend, JAN. 24<sup>th</sup>, and next weekend, JAN. 31<sup>st</sup>, the Knights will be collecting non-perishable goods for our servicemen overseas.

OFF THE STREETS: So far, we've gotten more than 90 people off the streets and into a room that they can call their own. Many need a mentor, a coach, a friendly voice of encouragement. If you would like to get involved, please attend a Mentor Training meeting this MON., JAN. 18<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm, in the **Parish Hall**. Any questions please contact either Deacon Mike (203 733-5880) or Bill Shannon (203 743-5406). 

### RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT

(Sponsored by the Bridgeport Diocese.)

If you are suffering from the emotional pain of an abortion, come experience the healing love of Jesus Christ during our private weekend retreat from FRI., JAN. 22<sup>nd</sup>, – SUN., JAN. 24<sup>th</sup>. For more info. please call Clarissa (203 218-0291) or e-mail her at Jeremiah31v17@aol.com. You may also visit at www.rachelsvineyardbpt.com.



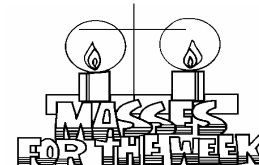
MARRIED COUPLES – Worn out from the Holidays? Are you looking for a way to avoid the January blahs? How about a special weekend, for just the two of you? Register for a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend from FRI., JAN. 29<sup>th</sup> – SUN., JAN. 31<sup>st</sup>. For more info please contact Joe & Jane Staszowski (860 644-7260) or email: meweekend@gmail.com.

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**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

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|-------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------------------|
| <b>MON., JAN. 18</b>          | 6:30  | <b>NO MASS</b>                               |
| <i>Martin Luther King Day</i> | 9:00  | + Msgr. Edward B. Karl – 9:00am Mass Group   |
| <b>TUES, JAN. 19</b>          | 6:30  | + John Szabo – Dave, Tom & Gavin Malone      |
|                               | 9:00  | + Hugh Lee – Family                          |
| <b>WED., JAN. 20</b>          | 6:30  | + John Murphy – Bob & Mary Sawitsky          |
|                               | 9:00  | + Mary McDermott – McDonald Family           |
| <b>THU., JAN. 21</b>          | 6:30  | + Dorothy Clarke – Dave Deakin               |
|                               | 9:00  | + Frank Kinsky – Janeann Mirrekk             |
| <b>FRI., JAN. 22</b>          | 6:30  | Protection of Life                           |
|                               | 9:00  | + Harold Dunleavy – Family                   |
| <b>SAT., JAN. 23</b>          | 8:00  | + Frank Kinsky – John & Marilyn Murray       |
|                               | 5:30  | + Frank Ochs – Marie & Andi Trotta           |
| <b>SUN., JAN. 24</b>          | 7:00  | + Anne Bartkus – Bill & Susan Vertolli       |
|                               | 8:30  | + Manuel Matias – Cecera Family              |
|                               | 10:00 | + Anne & Edward McAuley – Family             |
|                               | 11:30 | + Walter Dankowski – Ellen & Bruce MacMillan |
|                               | 5:30  | + Paul Kalinoski – Christine Rostafin        |



**WELCOME TO THOSE WHO WERE NEWLY BAPTIZED**

*Taylor Robert Clifford*

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*Next weekend, JAN. 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>,*

Second collection for the Church in Latin America.



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**GOAL:    \$15,000**

**COLLECTION:    \$16,143**

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PARISH OFFICE (744-5777)

Sheila Kurjiaka: *Bulletin Editor*

Kate Fitzgerald: *Secretary*

Paul Orsino: *Property Manager*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (743-4557)

Mary Ferri: *Director*

Peggy Gavin: *Secretary*

Dennis Nauheimer (RCIA): 794-9488

(Call if interested in becoming a Catholic or completing your initiation as a Catholic with Confirmation and/or Eucharist.)

MUSIC MINISTRY

Mike Macelletti: *Music Director*

Elizabeth Barnes: *Choir Director*

Debbie Caraluzzi: *Contemp. Group 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: 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 celebrate.