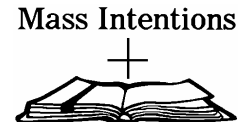


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**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

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<b>MON., FEB. 2</b>	6:30	+	John Rubino – Dave Deakin
	9:00	+	Rose Anziano – Family
<b>TUES, FEB. 3</b>	6:30		Special Intention
	9:00	+	Derry Kenning – Wife
<b>WED., FEB. 4</b>	6:30	+	Michael McCloskey – Children
	9:00	+	Jenry Heisler ( <i>1<sup>st</sup> Anniv.</i> ) – Family
<b>THU., FEB. 5</b>	6:30	+	Anna Pregoni – Daughter, Gisella
	9:00	+	Dorothy Drosnick – Gavin Family
<b>FRI., FEB. 6</b>	6:30		For the People of St. Mary Parish
	9:00	+	Gregory & Carmella Bitondo – Marie Wiollmott
<b>SAT., FEB. 7</b>	8:00	+	James Kenning – Family
	5:30	+	Catherine & Walter Beck – Joan & Mike Macelletti
<b>SUN., FEB. 8</b>	7:00	+	Barbarajean Ellis – Kitty & Charlie Grant
	8:30	+	Helen Kovacs – Daly Family
	10:00	+	Paul Salerno – O’Connor Family
	11:30	+	Bruce Robbins – Brenda & Donald Craig
	5:30	+	Lucille Lauterborn – Stocks Family



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**WELCOME TO THOSE WHO WERE NEWLY BAPTIZED**

*Connor Matthew Maier*

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*Beginning February 7<sup>th</sup> the 11:30-12:00 Confession session on Saturdays will be eliminated.  
Emergency confessions are always available.*

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**GOAL:    \$15,000**

**COLLECTION:    \$15,354**

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*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*  
**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 celebrated.*

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## Fr. Corey's Comments

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➤ MON., FEB. 2<sup>nd</sup>, is Candlemas Day or the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple. This feast commemorates the presentation of the infant Jesus in the Temple at Jerusalem by his parents. Since it coincides with the fortieth day after childbirth, it also designates the purification of Mary, as the feast was formerly called. This purification rite was part of the Mosaic Law. Since 1969 the focus of the feast has emphasized the Presentation of the Lord who is considered the true light of the world. Therefore, this feast has popularly been called Candlemas Day, and at the beginning of Mass candles are blessed and a procession occurs, honoring Jesus as our Savior who sheds light upon us and offers salvation to the whole world. This ancient festival marks the midpoint of winter, halfway between the shortest day and the spring equinox. Before 1969 the Christmas season lasted for forty days, until the second day of February.

This was the day that all the candles that were going to be used in Church for the upcoming year were blessed, so it was the Mass of candles. In older days people believed that Candlemas Day predicted the weather for the rest of the winter. The weather proverbs suggest the idea that a fine bright sunny Candlemas day means that there is more winter to come. Whereas, a cloudy wet stormy Candlemas day means that the worst of winter is over. Candles will be available for home use this day.

➤ TUES., FEB. 3<sup>rd</sup>, is the Feast of St. Blase. Blase devoted his early years to the study of philosophy and went on to practice medicine before coming Bishop of Sebaste in Armenia (Turkey). He was beheaded after terrible tortures under Licinius in 317. In the Middle Ages his cult spread widely, and he is invoked against diseases of the throat. Throats will be blessed during the 6:30 & 9:00am Masses. There will be one prayer service at 5:30pm to bless throats.

➤ The Good News is that cell phone reception is better than ever. Less and less do we experience dropped calls, dead zones or interrupted calls. The Bad News, more and more cell phones are going off in Church. Now, if you had a ring tone like mine, a bell tower, people would just think that it is time for Mass. But, for most people it is a mad dash to the purse or pocket to shut off the embarrassing ring tone de jour. Let the rule be when you get out of the car and lock the door, silence your cell phone. In Church, make sure God is the only One calling.

➤ Just a reminder, on Saturday mornings the Church will open at 7:45am for Mass.

➤ There are a lot of symbols in the Church that we see as decorations in Churches and Bibles etc. Some of their meanings are obvious but others are not. Here are a couple:

The Dolphin is a symbol of the redemption. It is found on some of the oldest Christian tombs. The dolphin is thought by some to be the most sophisticated and majestic of all marine life. It was said that it carried the souls of the saved "across the sea" to the land of the blessed. An X is a symbol of St. Andrew. According to tradition, Andrew was crucified on an x-shaped cross; he is sometimes pictured as an old man with long white hair and beard, holding the Gospel and leaning on an X-Shaped cross. St. Bartholomew is represented by 3 knives. Bartholomew died by being flayed alive. Ok, a happier symbol...The Peacock is a symbol of the resurrection. Those who die in Christ will be raised to a new and glorious life because Jesus' flesh did not experience corruption. This glory is represented in the glorious fantail of the peacock. The Lion is a symbol of Jesus, the Lion of Judah that Scripture speaks about. The Lion represents strength, fortitude and royalty.

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

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➤ *Unfortunately, there are many who say that President Barack Obama will soon sign the "Freedom of Choice Act". As Catholics, as Christians, and as Citizens, we must do our best to let all our Government Officials know that the Freedom of Choice Act MUST NOT BE SIGNED!!! Pro-abortion groups and their allies in Congress are promoting a radical bill called the "Freedom of Choice Act". If this extreme measure is enacted, widely supported and constitutionally sound abortion regulations will be knocked down nationwide. If passed into law, FOCA will impose upon the entire country an abortion regime far worse than anything brought on by Roe v. Wade, the Supreme court decision that legalized abortion. And, the current level of 1.1 million abortions a year will go up, not down. Can you believe there are that many abortions a year? 1.1 million...how very sad. So, what does FOCA do? It eliminates regulations that protect women from unsafe abortion clinics. It forces TAXPAYERS to fund abortions. It requires all states to allow "partial birth" and other late-term abortions. It subjects women to abortions by non-physicians. It violates the conscience rights of nurses, doctors, and hospitals. It strips parents of their right to be involved in their minor daughters' abortion decision.*

*During the next couple of weeks the Diocese of Bridgeport along with other Dioceses around the country will run a postcard campaign that will inform our elected officials of our opposition to this Freedom of Choice Act. Ironic, isn't it? It promotes freedom but not for those who don't want to pay for abortions, those people and places that refuse to perform abortions, parents who want to know about the medical procedures for their minor children and the unborn babies, the 1.1 million who have no one but us to speak for them. We shall provide the postcards. In the mean time call the U.S. Capitol switchboard to contact the offices of your Representative and Senators: 202 224-3121. Call or email the White House and let the President know how you feel at [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov). Here are the numbers and addresses:*

| <u>Member Name</u>                       | <u>DC Phone</u> | <u>DC Fax</u> | <u>Electronic Correspondence</u>                                                                                                          |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Sen. Christopher J. Dodd (D- CT)</i>  | 202-224-2823    | 202-224-1083  | <a href="http://dodd.senate.gov/index.php?q=node/3128&amp;cat=Opinion">http://dodd.senate.gov/index.php?q=node/3128&amp;cat=Opinion</a>   |
| <i>Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman (ID- CT)</i> | 202-224-4041    | 202-224-9750  | <a href="http://lieberman.senate.gov/contact/index.cfm?regarding=issue">http://lieberman.senate.gov/contact/index.cfm?regarding=issue</a> |
| <i>Rep. John Larson (D - 01)</i>         | 202-225-2265    | 202-225-1031  | <a href="http://www.house.gov/writerep/">http://www.house.gov/writerep/</a>                                                               |
| <i>Rep. Joe Courtney (D - 02)</i>        | 202-225-2076    | 202-225-4977  | <a href="http://www.house.gov/writerep/">http://www.house.gov/writerep/</a>                                                               |
| <i>Rep. Rosa L. DeLauro (D - 03)</i>     | 202-225-3661    | 202-225-4890  | <a href="http://delauro.house.gov/contact_form_email.cfm">http://delauro.house.gov/contact_form_email.cfm</a>                             |
| <i>Rep. Jim Himes (D - 04)</i>           | 202-225-5541    | 202-225-9629  | <a href="https://forms.house.gov/himes/contact-form.shtml">https://forms.house.gov/himes/contact-form.shtml</a>                           |
| <i>Rep. Christopher Murphy (D - 05)</i>  | 202-225-4476    | 202-225-5933  | <a href="http://www.house.gov/formchrismurphy/ic_zip_auth.htm">http://www.house.gov/formchrismurphy/ic_zip_auth.htm</a>                   |

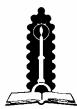
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*As I mentioned before, the Diocese of Bridgeport is conducting a Diocesan confession Campaign this coming Lent. We shall unite as a diocese for this Campaign and offer the Sacrament Reconciliation at every parish, every Tuesday during Lent from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. With this in mind I invite every single parishioner to come to confession during Lent. You don't have to come to St. Mary's, but may attend any Catholic Church in this Diocese, (for example: Newtown, Danbury, New Fairfield, Brookfield, Redding, Sherman, Ridgefield, Monroe, Norwalk, Bridgeport, Wilton, Weston, Stamford, Stratford, Greenwich, Trumbull and everywhere in between). It is the perfect way to prepare for Easter. Every one of us sins, and this is the easiest and most comfortable way (talk about being anonymous) since anywhere you go, priests are going to be ready to offer God's loving mercy and forgiveness. If you haven't been in years, not to worry, we shall be ready. If you have a spouse or child or friend who is nervous or who has forgotten how to go to confession, this is a great opportunity. More information will follow.*



**ST. MARY SOCIAL COMMITTEE** is conducting a day trip to **MOHEGAN SUN** on **President's Day, MON., FEB. 16**. We will have 6 hours at the Casino. Cost is \$25pp. Mohegan is offering a \$30 coupon - \$15 for food, \$15 free bet. The bus will leave St. Mary at **9:30am**, leave Mohegan Sun at **5:30pm**, and arrive back at St. Mary around **7:30pm**. Please call the **Rectory (744-5777)** to reserve your seat and send your check for **\$25**, made payable to **St. Mary Church**, to the Rectory.

**DOROTHY DAY VOLUNTEERS**  
**WED., FEB. 4<sup>th</sup>: Our turn to Cook.**



**NOCTURNAL ADORATION** will be on **FRI., FEB. 6<sup>th</sup>**, from **9:00pm to 7:00am**.

**COFFEE & ...** will be served after the **08:30 & 10:00 Mass** on **SUN., FEB. 8<sup>th</sup>**.



**ST MARY CONTEMPORARY FOLK GROUP**



Anyone who would like to play piano with the Contemporary Folk Group may call **Debbie Caraluzzi (730-0804)**. Debbie is also looking for a guitarist, so please give her a call.

**DANBURY EMMAUS RETREAT** for teens currently in high school will be from **FEB. 20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>**, at the **Seton Newman Center**, Immaculate High School. For more info. call **Hilda Delucia (790-9040)**.



**WOMEN'S RETREAT** - Sometimes, we just need to pull back from those everyday experiences that pose a threat to our spiritual well-being. We need to withdraw to a place of "safety" to regroup. So, join us at the **Holy Family of Nazareth Center**, in Monroe, on **APR. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>**. Any questions, please call **Deacon John (744-2106)** after 7pm.

**PRE-SCHOOL REGISTRATION for 2009-2010**  
**MON., FEB. 2<sup>nd</sup>**, and **WED., FEB. 4<sup>th</sup>**, from **9:00-11:00am**, in the **Gym**. A child entering the 3 or 4 year old program must be **3 or 4** by **Dec. 31, 2009**. To register please bring a **copy** of child's birth and baptism certificates, immunization records, and registration fee of \$100 for new families, \$75 for existing SMS families. For more info, please call the **School (744-2922)**.



On **SAT., FEB. 7<sup>th</sup>**, **Missoula Childrens Theatre** will present **Hansel and Gretel** at **3:00pm**, in the **School Gym**.



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING:**

**MON., FEB. 9<sup>th</sup>**, at **8:15pm**, in the **Parish Hall**.

A big thanks to all who entered our **PARISH PHOTO CONTEST**. Once the judges have selected the 3 best photos in each category, all parishioners will be invited to vote for the winners the weekend of **FEB. 7/8**. The award ceremony will take place in the **Parish Hall** on **SUN., FEB. 22<sup>nd</sup>**, after the 11:30am Mass. All entries will be on display that weekend.



**ATTENTION ALTAR SERVERS:**

There will be a **training session** on **FRI., FEB. 13<sup>th</sup>**, from **3:00-5:00pm**. This is also an opportunity for those who wish to be altar servers to be trained in serving at Mass. For more information please call **Fr. Cyrus (744-5777)** or email: **frcyrus@comcast.net**.

**FAST & PRAYER GROUP FOR LENT**

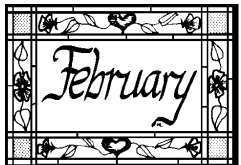




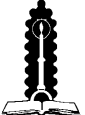





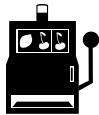




There will be a meeting after the 8:00am Mass on **SAT., FEB. 21<sup>st</sup>**, for a presentation on fasting and prayer followed by a question and answer period. Coffee and donuts will be served. Any questions, please call **Deacon John (744-2106)** after 7pm.



# February

# ST. MARY CHURCH

# 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 	2  Groundhog Day	3	4 6:00 Contemp. Choir  7:00 Virtus Training Parish Hall	5  6:15 Children's Choir 7:30 Adult Choir	6  SYG Ice Skating will be re-scheduled.	7 <u>Nocturnal Adoration</u>  FRI. - 9:00pm to SAT. - 7:00am
8 K of C Photo Contest Vote  -----  6:30 Mission Trip Meeting	9 8:15 K of C - Par. Hall	10	11 6:00 Contemp. Choir Church	12  6:15 Children's Choir 7:30 Adult Choir	13  3:00-5:00 A.S. Practice Church	14  Valentine's Day
15	16 <u>School Closed</u> <b>PRESIDENTS DAY</b>  Trip to MOHEGAN SUN	17 <u>SR. YOUTH GROUP</u> 7:00 Group Confession Church	18 6:00 Contemp. Choir Church	19 6:15 Children's Choir 7:30 Adult Choir  <b>CURSILLO</b> 7:00 Parish Hall	20	21 8:30 Fast/Prayer Mtg. <u>MARDI GRAS SOCK HOP</u> 7:30- 11:00 
22 <u>SR. YOUTH GROUP</u> <b>Winter Fun</b> 	23 8:15 K of C - Par. Hall	24 <u>JR. YOUTH GROUP</u> 7:00 Group Confession Church	25 6:00 Contemp. Choir Fast & Abstain  Ash Wednesday <u>Masses:</u> 6:30, 9:00am, 12:05, 5:30pm <u>Services:</u> 4:00, 7:00pm	26 6:15 Children's Choir 7:30 Adult Choir	27 7:30 Stations of the Cross	28 <u>JR. YOUTH GROUP</u> 5:30 Mass Dinner, crafts & board games to follow. 