
Fr. Corey's Comments

➤ *Well, it all begins this week. Our Parish Mission begins Monday night. The Mission will run through Thursday with a starting time of 7:00pm. Father Kevin MacDonald, C.Ss.R, a Redemptorist, will be preaching the Mission. A priest friend of mine in the Boston area had Fr. MacDonald for a Mission in his Parish, and the parishioners are still talking about it. So, tell your friends from other Parishes and, of course, bring your family. This is probably the best way to begin Lent, and this opportunity is a chance of a lifetime to grow in the spiritual life and make this Lent one to remember.*

Please accept this invitation, as members of St Mary's Parish, to attend our "Beginning Today" Mission, conducted by the Redemptorists.

A Parish Mission is a series of presentations on the Word of God. Each evening is different, yet, each evening will consist of a proclamation of the Word, reflections, singing and praying together. It will be a grace-filled happening, an opportunity to experience in a special way the saving presence of God.

If you have abandoned the faith of your youth, the mission is for you. If you have been on-again, off-again in the practice of your Catholic religion, the mission is for you. If you have wondered what is going on in the Church today, the mission is for you. If you have been faithful to your Catholic duties, the mission is for you. If you feel you need to know more about how to pray, the mission is for you. If you judge yourself to be in need of spiritual growth, the mission is for you. If you are a sinner or a saint or somewhere in between, the mission is for you. The mission is for everyone, but especially for you. If you need a ride to and from the evening services, call the Rectory (203 744-5777).

Our "Beginning Today" Mission begins Monday evening, February 15th, at 7:00pm. There is also a Mission service planned for Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 7:00pm. Each service should last about an hour and fifteen minutes or so. Each evening's service will be followed by a time for fellowship and refreshments. Please join me in praying for the success of our mission for our parish family and plan now to share with me this very special grace-filled time.

➤ *This Wednesday, February 17th, is Ash Wednesday. Masses with the distribution of Ashes will be celebrated at 6:30 and 9:00am, 12:05 noon and 5:30pm. There will be a Liturgy of the Word with the distribution of Ashes at 4:00pm. Also, Ashes will be distributed at the Parish Mission service that will begin at 7:00pm. ALL MASSES AND SERVICES WILL BE CELEBRATED IN THE CHURCH. And, remember that Confessions will be heard at all Parishes in the Diocese of Bridgeport every Tuesday from 7:00 – 9:00pm during Lent. Please avail yourself and your family of the Sacrament of Reconciliation during this time. It is the best way to prepare for Easter.*



The LOAVES & FISHES COLLECTION is used to feed the hungry and provides an opportunity for you to make sacrifices for those in need and embrace the Lenten spirit most effectively. Your envelopes may be placed in the offertory collection anytime during Lent. Please be generous.

➤ *We are offering a NEW opportunity for prayer during Lent. Many of us use Advent Wreaths during the Advent Season to prepare for Christmas. Some of the youth of the Parish have made "Lenten Crosses" for sale during this season. Like the Advent Wreath, candles will be lit each night and a Lenten Prayer will be said as a family. The proceeds from the sale of Lenten Crosses will benefit the kids going to the Steubenville Retreat this summer. The Crosses will be sold after Masses.*

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

➤ *Also, the Sanctuary Enhancement construction will begin this week. I truly am excited about this project, and I am sure that you too will be very happy about the outcome. Please note that Daily Mass will be celebrated in the Parish Hall, Saturday Evening Mass and Sunday Masses will be celebrated in the Church, and ALL Funerals will be celebrated at St. Peter Church in Danbury. If you have not made a pledge or a one time gift to the Project, we are still accepting offerings to the Sanctuary Project. Pledge cards can be found in the vestibule of the Church.*

➤ *I hope you remember the Gospel of Last Sunday. Jesus tells Peter and the disciples that they will be fishers of men/women. They will catch souls for Christ. That Gospel is intended for all of us as well. Those of you at the 10:00am Mass heard me preach about this Gospel, and I would like to share it with the rest of the Parish. We are called like the first Disciples to go out into the deep, cast our nets and catch those intended for Christ. The word catch has synonyms such as trap, capture, find, collect falling objects. As Baptized Christians, we have said "YES" to follow Christ. Part of this "following" is to be an active doer of the things of Jesus... to love, to forgive, to bring others to the good news of His Gospel. In other words to be another Christ. I am sure that each one of us has a family member, a friend or co-worker who has stopped going to Church for one reason or another. I challenge all of us to use not only our power of prayer but our God-given talents to persuade, invite, and encourage that person to come with us to Mass. Use a bribe if you have to (invite the person out to breakfast or lunch) and, hopefully, every one of us can bring someone home for Easter. It is not an easy challenge, but as Christians doing the work of Christ, it is not an option. Let us pray for one another so that in bringing Christ to one another, we can bring our loved ones to Christ.*

➤ *Here is a sort of interesting thing that's going on in Italy. We, as Americans scratch our heads at the difference in governments, but it does show that all the world does not think the same way that Americans do.*

The Italian government is appealing a November ruling by the European Court of Human Rights that crucifixes in public school classrooms are a violation of freedom.

The Italian appeal defends the crucifix as "one of the symbols of our history and our identity". "Christianity represents the roots of our culture, what we are today," the text of the appeal states. "The display of the crucifix in schools should not be seen so much for its religious meaning but as reference to the history and tradition of Italy. "The presence of the crucifix in class remits also to a moral message that transcends secular values and does not infringe the right to adhere or not adhere to a religion."

The European Convention on Human Rights foresees that the Grand Chamber can consider an appeal if a case raises "a serious question" on the interpretation of the convention.

➤ *Congratulations and welcome to Father Joseph Cervero, the newly appointed pastor to our daughter Parish in Redding, St. Patrick. Fr. Cervero replaces our friend Father Russ Augustine who has decided to become parochial vicar at St. Mary in Ridgefield. Fr. Joe is an intense Yankees fan, a man who enjoys his priesthood, has a love for the Church and will be a wonderful success at our parish next door. We wish Fr. Joe all the best, God's loving blessings and our support. Welcome to the neighborhood, Fr. Joe!*



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.



PRAYER & FASTING GROUP

Please join us in the **Parish Hall** after the 8:00am Mass every Sat. morning during Lent. Questions? Deacon John (203 744-2106).

MEALS-ON-WHEELS: WEEK OF DELIVERIES



ST. MARY BOOK CLUB: FEBRUARY BOOK



“*The Snakebite Letters*”, by Peter Kreeft. Join our discussion on TUES., FEB. 23rd, 7:30pm, in Children’s Room.

ST. MARY MEN’S RETREAT IS COMING!

Women – Take Note! If the man in your life is jittery and nervous from business and family worries, encourage him to make it to our retreat. It will restore his peace of mind and allow him to face his day-to-day challenges with tranquility and composure. The retreat at **Holy Family Retreat House**, West Hartford, begins the evening of FRI., MAR. 12th and ends at noon on SUN., MAR 14th. *What a great Valentines gift to give or receive.* Call Nick Santarelli (203 470-7102) for reservations.



ST. MARY’S MEN’S MINISTRY meets every Saturday morning from 6:30-8:00am 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).



BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP:

Our next meeting will be on SAT., MAR. 20th, from 10:30am to 12:00noon, in the **Parish House**.



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



SENIOR YOUTH GROUP



SUN., FEB. 21st – Sign up with Annie: **Hartford Wolfpack Hockey Game. CHAPERONES NEEDED!**

ATTN: SENIOR CITIZENS



Our Senior Youth Group will hold its Annual Seniors for Seniors Dinner on SUN., MAR. 7th, from 12:30-2:00pm. Reserve a spot by signing up in the vestibule after Mass.

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



REGISTRATION for 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR



Registration is ongoing for Preschool through 8th grade. Please note the change in PK4 hours for next year: MON., WED. & FRI. – 9:00am to 1:00pm. Anyone wishing to have a PK4 student stay an extended hour (until 2:00pm) may do so for an additional fee. For additional information please contact the School .

NO SCHOOL: WINTER BREAK

MON., FEB. 15 & TUE., FEB. 16.



St. Mary School Annual Auction will be on SAT., MAR 20th, at **Stony Hill Inn**. Would you be interested in donating a new item? Do you have a local business or are you a service professional who would like to donate a new product, service or gift certificate? There are many sponsorship opportunities available at our Auction. For additional info. please contact Ruth or Erik Apotheker at eapotheker@comcast.net or 203-778-2901.



ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Begin on February, 28, 2010!

RCIA

Are you an adult Catholic who has not been confirmed but has made your First Communion? St. Mary's will be offering Confirmation refresher classes beginning on SUN., FEB. 28th, from 3:00pm – 5:00pm, in the **School Library**. These six classes will prepare you for your Confirmation by Bishop Lori on Pentecost Sunday (May 23rd) at **St. Augustine Cathedral**. All materials will be provided. Isn't it time for you to finish your Sacraments of Initiation? For more info. please contact Dennis Nauheimer (203-794-9488).

GROWING IN THE FAITH

Based on the results of the survey you completed, the first presentation for this program will be a bible study on **The Gospel of John**. The study is presented in DVD format and consists of 13 sessions from MAR. 3rd – JUNE 2nd. Sign-ups will take place on the weekends of FEB. 13th/14th and FEB. 20th/21st. Additional details will be provided at the sign-ups. Any questions, please call Marty (203 743-9757).



Adult Study



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The **K of C Free Throw Contest** held on SAT., JAN. 16th, in the Gym had 32 participants. **Congratulations** to the winners:

- Age 10 – *Matthew Marx, Isabel Kent;*
- Age 11 – *Michael Walters, Nikayla Diamond;*
- Age 12 – *Joe Mortimer, Julia Decker;*
- Age 13 – *Jake Buckley;*
- Age 14 – *Tommy Brady.*

There is a basket in the vestibule for non-perishables to be mailed to Bethel Servicemen overseas.

The **CURSILLO** movement helps nourish Christian individuals and makes Christian Community possible in the neighborhoods, parishes, and work situations. It provides the tools, mentality, strength and support to live life in a Christ-like manner. If you would like to learn more, call (203 797-1361) or yvonne_cecera@hotmail.com.

Lenten Season

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEB. 17th,
is the beginning of **LENT**.



Masses on Ash Wednesday:

6:30 & 9:00am, 12:05 noon, & 5:30pm.

There will also be a service at *4:00pm*.
Ashes will be distributed at all Masses, *4:00pm (Service) & 7:00pm (Mission)*.

DAILY MASSES during LENT (MON. – FRI.):



MASSES

6:30 & 9:00am.

Saturday Mass at 8:00am.

PENANCE: Tuesdays from 7:00–9:00pm
(FEB. 22nd – MAR. 30th)



STATIONS OF THE CROSS:

Friday nights at 7:00pm
(FEB. 19th – APR. 2nd)

ASH WEDNESDAY & GOOD FRIDAY:


Days of FAST and ABSTINENCE
(no eating between meals and no meat)

FRIDAYS OF LENT:
Days of ABSTINENCE



~~~~~  
**STEUBENVILLE EAST YOUTH CONFERENCE,**  
JULY 23-25, University of Rhode Island, Kingston,  
offers the ultimate Catholic experience for teens to encounter Christ in His sacraments and in His Church. \$248/person – \$60/person deposit. For more info. call Sharon Closius (203 798-9822).

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

|                      |       |                                                                            |                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>MON., FEB. 15</b> | 6:30  | <b><u>NO MASS</u></b>                                                      |                                                                                                                 |
|                      | 9:00  | + Edward J. Gallagher, Sr. – Family                                        |                                                                                                                 |
| <b>TUES, FEB. 16</b> | 6:30  | + Mary Schultz – DeRoin Family                                             |                                                                                                                 |
|                      | 9:00  | + Anne Bartkus – Tom & Mary Sawitsky                                       |                                                                                                                 |
| <b>WED., FEB. 17</b> | 6:30  | + Mary Deakin – Family                                                     |                                                                                                                 |
|                      | 9:00  | + Frank Kinsky – Rosemary Murphy                                           |                                                                                                                 |
| <i>Ash Wednesday</i> | 12:05 | + Josephine Natale – Daughter, Lillie                                      | <br><b>Ash<br/>Wednesday</b> |
|                      | 5:30  | + John Sheehan – McDonald Family                                           |                                                                                                                 |
| <b>THU., FEB. 18</b> | 6:30  | + Souls in Purgatory                                                       |                                                                                                                 |
|                      | 9:00  | Tom & Mary Ann Konishesky ( <i>Health &amp; Blessings</i> ) – Marie Miller |                                                                                                                 |
| <b>FRI., FEB. 19</b> | 6:30  | + Lirio De Jesus – Roberto & Marivic Matic Family                          |                                                                                                                 |
|                      | 9:00  | + Matthew Penders – Soegaard Family                                        |                                                                                                                 |
| <b>SAT., FEB. 20</b> | 8:00  | + Anne Bartkus – Marilyn Murray                                            |                                                                                                                 |
|                      | 5:30  | + Alice Matteo - Pat & Marie Kerrigan                                      |                                                                                                                 |
| <b>SUN., FEB. 21</b> | 7:00  | + Richard Smithwick – Kitty & Charlie Grant                                |                                                                                                                 |
|                      | 8:30  | + Dorothy Marinaccio – Mary & Mike Marinaccio                              |                                                                                                                 |
|                      | 10:00 | + Hugh Lee – Family                                                        |                                                                                                                 |
|                      | 11:30 | + Catherine Irving – Phoebe Ann Vecchia                                    |                                                                                                                 |
|                      | 5:30  | + Kellianne Gartland – Family                                              |                                                                                                                 |

**GOAL:    \$15,000**

**COLLECTION:    \$14,158**

~~~~~  
*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*

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
Michael Ferrari: *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.***