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## *Fr. Corey's Comments*

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*You have read in the bulletin that there will be a two-week lecture on the Mass. Hopefully, these short sessions will fill in the blanks and help you to understand the Mass better and as a result become more spiritually enriching for you.*

*In this bulletin column, I am going to share the “why’s” of some things of the Mass for two reasons: 1) as a little prep for the up-coming class; and, 2) if you cannot make the class perhaps the following tutorial will help with a few questions you might have.*

➤ **ALTAR CLOTH** – *Formerly three blessed linen cloths were prescribed; now at least one cloth should cover the altar out of respect for the banquet of the Lord. Its size, shape and adornment should suit the structure of the altar. It provides clean absorbent material to be used if consecrated wine is spilled.*

➤ **BELLS** – *The use of bells for religious purposes predates the 6<sup>th</sup> century when they became quite common. At their signal the religious were wakened or called to liturgical services. At first they were small, but later they became quite huge, so that belfries frequently marked churches. The ringing of bells was primarily the practical purpose of signaling an event. In the 13<sup>th</sup> century small bells were used to make the people aware of Consecration and Communion within the Church. Bell ringing would also remind people of devotional practices, such as the Angelus and Evening Prayer. It could be a call to prayer for the departed and for their funerals. Ordinarily, church bells are limited to ecclesiastical uses, except in a time of emergency when their secular use will be of benefit to all those in the area.*

*The ringing of Church bells that are blessed also becomes a Sacramental by which the faithful seek Divine protection. The Sacramentary indicates that a bell may be rung on three occasions during Mass: a little before the Consecration as a signal to the people, at each elevation. To commemorate the sorrow of the Church at the Passion and Death of Christ, bells are not rung from the GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST on Holy Thursday until the same prayer is sung on the Easter Vigil. In its stead a CLAPPER is used during this time period. It is an instrument constructed to bring two pieces of wood together thus making a knocking sound.*

➤ **COLLECTION** – *Gift offerings, usually contributions of money gather during Mass. In the early Church, the bread and wine and water were actually brought to the altar at this time, and eventually other gifts were included, such as gold, oil, fruits, candles and other useful items for the support of the Church and its charitable activities. Such a procession of gifts was discontinued in the 10<sup>th</sup> century, when it was readily replaced by donations of money.*

*It has become customary for the faithful to bring up the bread, wine and water and in some instances other symbols that befit the particular Liturgy. Ordinarily, the money collected is placed near the altar, thus, showing the penitential nature of the alms received. The alms are then used to pay for the needs of the worship, to maintain the up-keep of the Church, to support pastoral care, and to help the poor. The people's offerings of monetary gifts is a symbol of their inner readiness to give God all of themselves with their hopes and disappointments, their work and leisure and their whole everyday lives.*

➤ **CREDESCENCE TABLE** – *A movable table to the side of the altar upon which are placed the things needed for sacred functions, particularly the Mass, such as the chalice, cruets, basin, and towels.*

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

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➤ **CANDLES** – *Because of pagan customs of using lights to restrain demons, the use of candles or lights in Christian worship in the early centuries was solely for practical reasons. By the 4<sup>th</sup> century popular customs arose to use candles for honorary reasons, such as carrying them ahead of the celebrant as a sign of respect, and eventually for religious purpose, giving symbolic emphasis to the candle, as a symbol of Christ. Candles at Mass became obligatory only in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. In an ordinary Mass two lighted candles are required. In a more festive Mass, six are allowed. Symbolically, the candle represents Christ as the Light of the World. Illumination by candlelight is usually a sign of joy.*

*A candle can be considered a Sacramental, and it is burned by the faithful before shrines, and images of Christ and the Saints. As such it is a show of honor by the person who lights it, believing it is the proper way of offering thanksgiving or obtaining aid in seeking the fulfillment of a petition.*

➤ **INCENSE** – *Grains or powder from aromatic resinous gums, burned during church services that release a fragrant order. Besides creating a worshipful atmosphere, incense provides a festive ambiance for processions and similar ceremonies. It is an honor to the person and the objects being incensed, but primarily shows deep reverence and homage to the Lord God, particularly in incensations of the Blessed Sacrament where it is considered as a sacrifice to the Lord God. The ascending smoke serves as a symbolic representation of the prayer by the congregation rising to the throne of God. The grains of sand personify the individual Christians being poured out and consumed as they serve the Lord. The incantation of the altar, the Gospel book, the Crucifix, icons, statues the clergy and the assembly is really Jesus Himself Who is revered in the altar that stand for Him, in His Living Word, in the ordained ministers who act in His place, and in the people who through Baptism are images of God because of the indwelling Trinity and sharers of Christ's priesthood.*

➤ **CRUCIFIX** – *As a symbol of the Passion of Christ, the Cross is the most honored of all Christian images. Since it signifies the saving act of Christ and all its power, it stands not only for the redemptive act of Jesus but also for the strength to bear the trails of life by following Christ.*

*A wonderful Christian practice to perform during Lent would be the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy. Maybe you forgot them so here they are:*

*“Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me”  
(Matthew 25:31-46)*

### **Corporal Works of Mercy**

1. *Feed the hungry.*
2. *Give drink to the thirsty.*
3. *Clothe the naked.*
4. *Shelter the homeless.*
5. *Visit the sick.*
6. *Visit the imprisoned.*
7. *Bury the dead.*

### **The Spiritual Works of Mercy**

1. *Counsel the doubtful.*
2. *Instruct the ignorant.*
3. *Admonish the sinner.*
4. *Comfort the sorrowful.*
5. *Forgive injuries.*
6. *Bear wrongs patiently.*
7. *Pray for the living and the dead.*



**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).

**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP:**

Next meeting will be **SAT., MAR. 20<sup>th</sup>**, from **10:30am-12:00noon**, in the **Parish House**.



**ST. MARY BOOK CLUB: FEBRUARY BOOK**



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

**MARCH BOOK**– **“Befriending Life: Encounters with Henri Nouwen”**, by **Beth Porter**. Discussion will be on **TUES., MAR. 30<sup>th</sup>**, at **7:30pm**.

**ST. MARY MEN’S RETREAT IS COMING!**

**TRY THE PAUSE THAT REALLY REFRESHES**

Our annual retreat weekend at **Holy Family Retreat House**, West Hartford, begins on **FRI., MAR. 12<sup>th</sup>** and ends at noon on **SUN., MAR 14<sup>th</sup>**. Good rest, good food and inspiring talks that will bring you closer to God. You’ll come away with a new perspective on life. Make your reservations now. Call **Nick Santarelli** (203 470-7102).



**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).

**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).



**SENIOR YOUTH GROUP**



**SUN., FEB. 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**Hartford Wolfpack Hockey Game.**  
**Bus leaves at 1:00pm from Hall.**

**ATTN: SENIOR CITIZENS**



Our Senior Youth Group will hold its **Annual Seniors for Seniors Dinner** on **SUN., MAR. 7<sup>th</sup>**, 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.



**RCIA**

**ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASSES**

**Begin on February, 28, 2010!**

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. 28<sup>th</sup>**, 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 23<sup>rd</sup>)** 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**



**Adult Study**

Based on the results of the survey you completed, our 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. 3<sup>rd</sup> – JUNE 2<sup>nd</sup>**. **Sign-ups** will be this weekend, **FEB. 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup>**. Additional details will be provided at the sign-ups. Any questions, please call **Marty Lynch** (203 743-9757).



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

# SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

## REGISTRATION for 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR



Registration is ongoing for Preschool – 8<sup>th</sup> 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 info., please contact the School (744-2922).

Girl's & Boy's Varsity Basketball Tournament: SAT., FEB. 27<sup>th</sup>, at Immaculate High School.



Father/Daughter Dance will be on FRI., FEB. 26<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00pm– 9:00pm, in the School Gym.

St. Mary School Annual Auction will be on SAT., MAR 20<sup>th</sup>, at Stony Hill Inn.



Would you be like to donate 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 more info. please contact Ruth/Erik Apotheker: [epotheker@comcast.net](mailto:epotheker@comcast.net) 778-2901.

IHS 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner Dance & Silent Auction on SAT., MAR. 6<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30pm, at the Danbury Plaza Hotel, 18 Old Ridgebury Road. This year's honorees are Anthony Rizzo, Sr. (Nancy K. Dolan Leadership Award), David R. Couch (Lifetime Achievement Award - posthumous) and Robert Gerwien, Sr. (Distinguished Service Award). For more info. and online ticket sales and sponsorships, visit [www.immaculatehs.org](http://www.immaculatehs.org).

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](mailto:yvonne_cecera@hotmail.com).

# Lenten Season

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



6:30 & 9:00am.  
Saturday Mass at 8:00am.

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



STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Friday nights at 7:00pm (FEB. 19<sup>th</sup> – APR. 2<sup>nd</sup>)

## GOOD FRIDAY:

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

FRIDAYS OF LENT:  
Days of ABSTINENCE



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
Next Meeting – FEB. 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 8:15.  
Rosary at 7:45pm in the Church.

JANUARY KNIGHT OF THE MONTH  
Rick Lawlor

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

### FISH FRY



FRIDAYS - March 5, 12, and 26

All you can eat (Inside table service)

Adults: \$10, Seniors: \$8  
Children 5-12: \$5  
Family Maximum: \$30

Drive-thru takeout service available

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

<b>MON., FEB. 22</b>	6:30 + George O’Keefe – Wife, Peggy
	9:00 + Cathryn Costello
<b>TUES, FEB. 23</b>	6:30 + Msgr. Bert Gadarowski – Pat Kelly
	9:00 + Fay Cassotta – Bob & Mary Sawitsky
<b>WED., FEB. 24</b>	6:30 Heavenly Stock Intentions
	9:00 + Ashley DeMarco – Grandma & Grandpa
<b>THU., FEB. 25</b>	6:30 + Donald Mottola – Sheila & Rick Hoffins
	9:00 + Joan Jones – Grace O’Rourke
<b>FRI., FEB. 26</b>	6:30 + Stephen Butler – Regan Family
	9:00 + Eddie Usher – Rena Webb & Ed Olewnile
<b>SAT., FEB. 27</b>	8:00 + Alice McShane & Brendan Duffy
	5:30 + Joseph McCourt – Stocks Family
<b>SUN., FEB. 28</b>	7:00 + Anna Blizman – Roger & Veronica Hibbert
	8:30 + Brendan Duffy – Barbara & Patrick Donaghy
	10:00 + Dominic Maturo – Stepchildren
	11:30 + Tony Soegaard – Ring Family
	5:30 + Msgr. Edward B. Karl – Linda & John Curry and Family



**GOAL: \$15,000**

**COLLECTION: \$12,790**

*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.*