
MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

MON., FEB. 23	6:30	+	Arthur Parker – Braden Family
	9:00	+	Rosaire Lavigne – Marie Miller
TUES, FEB. 24	6:30	+	Clayton William Schwartz – Family
	9:00	+	Ashley DeMarco – Grandma & Grandpa
WED., FEB. 25	6:30	+	Mary Deakin – Friend
	9:00	+	Alice McShane – Brendan Duffy
<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	12:05	+	Ann Blizman – Roger & Veronica Hibbert
	5:30	+	Reinaldo Antunes – Carol & Ken Fairchild
THU., FEB. 26	6:30	+	Andrew Werth – Claudia Stephan
	9:00		Theresa Tortosa (<i>Health & Blessings</i>) – Marie Miller
FRI., FEB. 27	6:30		For The People of St. Mary Parish
	9:00	+	Hugh Lee – Family
SAT., FEB. 28	8:00	+	Cliff Hurgin – Wife
	5:30	+	Paul Morton – Fitzgerald Family
SUN., MAR. 1	7:00	+	Frank Rotella – Terri
	8:30	+	Kitty Falvey – Berry School Office Staff
	10:00	+	Dominic Maturo – Stepchildren
	11:30	+	Sharon Regen – Evelyn Pica
	5:30	+	Andrew Deeb (<i>3rd Anniv.</i>) – Wife & Family



WELCOME TO THOSE WHO WERE NEWLY BAPTIZED

Olivia Grace Gulalo

Brendan Xavier Libardi

2010 MASS BOOK WILL BE OPEN ON MARCH 2, 2009.



**HEAR YE,
HEAR YE.**

You may reserve your Masses for 2009 and 2010 by stopping by the Rectory **Monday through Friday, from 9:00am-4:00pm.** Masses booked this March for weekends in **2010** will be limited to **four** per customer. You may book as many weekday Masses as you like. More weekend Masses may be booked after April.

GOAL: \$15,000

COLLECTION: \$11,326

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**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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*On Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, 2009. Imagine that this Lent is going to be different from every other Lent we've experienced. Think about the many graces that are offered to us, and how you and I can use these graces to change our lives, to fix a wrong, to lose a bad habit, to begin a new habit, to strengthen our prayer life, to mend a relationship to relieve the burdens of our lives. Maybe this Lent can transform our lives, lead us to greater freedom, greater joy and the deeper desire for love and service.*

*Lent will be a wonderful season of grace for us IF WE GIVE OURSELVES TO IT. And, we will give ourselves to it if we want it badly enough. Most need to change their attitudes about Lent. If we look at it as an ordeal or a time to dread, we have already predisposed ourselves not to get very much out of it.*

*Lent is not something we have to do alone. We can have our family and friends' support of Lenten activities, join with us in participating in Lenten events and walk with us on our Lenten Journey.*

*During Lent God invites us, "Come back to me, with all your heart" (Joel2:12). It is an extraordinary invitation from God to each one of us, to ME in a personal, individual way. During Lent we pray with Psalm 51, "A clean heart create for me, God", "Give me back the joy of your salvation". Lent is literally a 'spring-time' when the winter of our sin and prejudices, bad habits, and unloving ways can be buried in the cold snows of winter, and, with God's grace, give new birth and growth in the 'springtime' of our life in Christ. New growth is possible, new ways are opened; new life can grow from the 'deadest' of souls and hearts.*

*I ask you to keep in mind each and every day of Lent this image: God standing there with outstretched arms, a loving gaze in God's eyes looking not at any sins or bad habits, but looking into your heart and wanting you close so that God can love you more than you can ever imagine. Keep that in mind while traveling on your Lenten journey when things get tough, when you feel like quitting or giving up, when you want to fall back into old habits.*

➤ *When it comes to Fasting and Abstinence Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. In addition, all Catholics 14 years old and older must abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all the Fridays of Lent.*

*Fasting as explained by the U.S. bishops means partaking of only one full meal. Some food (not equaling another full meal) is permitted at breakfast and around midday or in the evening—depending on when a person chooses to eat the main or full meal.*

*Abstinence forbids the use of meat, chicken, pork, but not of eggs, milk products or condiments made of animal fat.*

➤ *There are things that all of us need to do during Lent. #1 WE ALL NEED TO GO TO CONFESSION!!!! As I have mentioned before, this is a Diocesan-wide program this year that every Church in Fairfield County will be hearing confessions on every Tuesday evening during Lent from 7:00 to 9:00pm. We are even getting extra training for special circumstances that people may bring to the Sacrament, people who have been away from the Sacrament for years, and everything in between. Don't be afraid to come... remember the image I share with you: God with outstretched and loving arms.*

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| <b>TAX STATEMENTS OF CONTRIBUTIONS</b> have been mailed out. |
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## *Fr. Corey's Comments (Cont'd.)*

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*Come to daily Mass. Most people don't go to work prior to the 6:30am Mass. Make a sacrifice to get up a bit early and come to Mass before starting your day. Receive the Lord Jesus, listen to God's Word, and be inspired by the brief homily. For those who can come later, join us at the 9:00am Mass. Moms and Dads: when you drop your children off at school come to Mass after. I would love to fill our Church at our daily Masses. What a beautiful commitment to be strengthened by the Lord to receive him daily in the Eucharist.*

*Say the Rosary daily. If you don't know or remember how, we shall have sheets available in the vestibule to help you. A little hint: I remember a special person in need on each bead; it makes the prayer more real for me, and it joins my heart with theirs in a brief moment of prayer.*

*Stations of the Cross we packed when I was a kid. Now, not so much. Every Friday at 7:00pm we shall walk the last journey of Jesus. Let's not let Jesus walk alone. Come as a family or with friends to be like Simon and help carry the cross with Jesus. It's a great scriptural way to identify with our sacrificial Lord.*

*Our Parish Mission during March with Friar Michael Lasky is three days to retreat from the business of the world and sit and be with God. Who doesn't need that?*

*Please take a Lenten Booklet home with you and pray with it as your guide each day. This guide has some great insights and wonderful meditations. In a way, it is the 'ticket' for your spiritual journey.*

*As your pastor I invite you to come and see how much the Lord loves you. Let God love you! Be not afraid.*

## **Lenten Season**

**ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2009**

is the beginning of **LENT**.



Masses on Ash Wednesday: 6:30 & 9:00am, 12:05, and 5:30pm.

There will also be two services: 4:00pm & 7:00 pm.

Ashes will be distributed at all Masses/Services.



**DAILY MASSES during LENT**

**MON. – FRI.: 6:30 & 9:00am;**

**SATURDAY Mass at 8:00am.**

**PENANCE: *Every Tuesday night, from 7:00-9:00pm, in the Church.***

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS: *Every Friday night, at 7:00pm, in the Church.***

**ASH WEDNESDAY & GOOD FRIDAY: *Days of FAST & ABSTINENCE***



**FRIDAYS OF LENT: Days of ABSTINENCE  
(no meat).**



**MORNING GLORY BREAKFAST PROGRAM's**



mission is to serve a healthy balanced breakfast to the homeless and financially disadvantaged of the Greater Danbury area. Morning Glory provides fruit, juice, milk and essential proteins to the diets of those who would not be able to access them otherwise. On Ash Wednesday, FEB. 25<sup>th</sup>, we will have a **CEREAL COLLECTION** here at St. Mary. (Since there is no financial collection on Ash Wednesday) I thought it would be a wonderful way during this time of fasting and abstinence to begin Lent with a sacrifice for others. The cereals we are looking for are: Raisin Bran, Cheerios, Special K and Rice Krispies. This is Wednesday only. The van will be here on Thursday to pick up all the cereal.

**COFFEE & ...** will be served after the 07:00 Mass on SUN., MAR. 1<sup>st</sup>.



**ST. MARY BOOK CLUB – February Book:**




*The Lamb's Supper "The Mass as Heaven on Earth"*, by **Scott Hahn**.

Please join **Deacon John** in the **Children's Room** at 7:30pm, on TUES., FEB. 24<sup>th</sup>, for discussion. **March Book:** *"Becoming Who You Are"*, by **James Martin, S.J.** for group discussion on TUES., MAR. 31<sup>st</sup>, at 7:30pm.

**SOUP and STATIONS**

On FRI., FEB. 27<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30pm, we shall offer a simple supper – a choice of two non-meat soups, bread/crackers and a drink for \$1.00 (money going to charity). Just a simple Lenten meal with a beautiful spiritual tradition. This will be followed by **Stations of the Cross**, after which all are invited to our first **Lenten Movie Night**, featuring *"Therese: The Life of St. Therese of Lisieux"* (runs for 96 minutes). Popcorn and soft drinks will be provided. Also, you may make a free-will offering or donate a canned good to help feed the poor.



 **Coming Up** **YOUTH GROUPS:** Please pick up a new calendar for February, March, and April in the vestibule of the Church.

**SENIOR & JUNIOR YOUTH GROUPS**

**Soup and Stations of the Cross,**  
**FRI., FEB. 27<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30pm.**



**ATTN. PARENTS:** Sign up after all Masses this weekend for **"WINTER FUN"**, our mini-version of **"Fun in the Sun"**, on SUN., MAR. 1<sup>st</sup>, from 12:30-3:30pm. Cost is \$10/child. For more info. please call **Kate Fitz** (744-5777).



You can register children for this year's **"FUN IN THE SUN"** after all the Masses next weekend, MAR. 1<sup>st</sup>. Camp will be the weeks of JULY 6-10 and 13-17, from 8:30am-12:30pm. Cost is \$100 per week. Children must **currently** be in grades **K - 6**. Counselor applications will also be available then.

**ATTN: SENIOR CITIZENS**



Our **Senior Youth Group** will hold its **Annual Seniors for Seniors Dinner** on SUN., MAR. 8<sup>th</sup>, from 12:30-2:00pm. Reserve a spot by signing up in the vestibule after Mass.

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY** will offer a program during Lent called **From Fear, To Love**, based on the reflections of Henri Nouwen related to the parable of the Prodigal Son. Lent is an ideal time to focus on love and forgiveness in our everyday lives. The program consists of **four Wednesdays**, MAR. 4, 11, 18, & APR. 1, from 7:30-9:00pm, in the **Parish Hall**. We will provide you with a complimentary booklet of Nouwen's reflections, and, at each session we will review, discuss, and share a portion of the booklet. The reflections are short, easy to read, and should not require much preparation. In order for us to properly prepare, please respond ASAP: Call **Marty Lynch** (743-9757), or email: **mkl30a@sbcglobal.net**.

# SCHOOL DAYS



## Going Once, Going Twice, SOLD!

Saint Mary School is hosting their 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Auction on SAT., MAR. 28<sup>th</sup>, at the Stony Hill Inn. Would you be interested in donating a new and unused 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? We would be grateful for any support for our school. For donation information please call Cindy Iazzetta (730-8026).

The Girls & Boys Varsity tournament will be SAT., FEB. 28<sup>th</sup>, and SUN., MAR. 1<sup>st</sup>, at Immaculate High School.



## ST. MARY SCHOOL REGISTRATION Grades K-8, held in the School Gym:

MON., FEB. 23, 9:00-11:00am; 12:00n-1:30pm;  
THU., FEB. 26, 9:00-11:00am.

St. Mary's will host its first 5K Fun Run on SAT., MAY 16<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to volunteer, please call Eve Olson (744-5540). More details to come.



## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

### NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

MON., FEB. 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 8:15pm, in the Parish Hall.

### KofC St. Mary Photo Contest & Poster Contest

This weekend, FEB. 21-22, all entries for both will be displayed in the Parish Hall. Please stop in after Mass. Poster awards will be presented following the 8:30am Mass; Photo awards will follow the 11:30am Mass.



### FISH FRY

The Knights invite you to join us for our FISH FRY on FRI., MAR. 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, & 27<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30-7:30pm, in the Gym. If you don't have time to sit and eat, try our new drive-up, takeout service. Menu and price details are in the vestibule of the Church.



# Coming Events

## ST. MARY MEN'S RETREAT IS COMING!

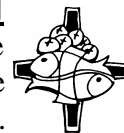
*When was the last time you stopped to relax?* Revive your body, soul and mind by going on retreat at Holy Family Retreat Center. Rest and renew from MAR. 20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>. Recharge through conferences, workshops, prayer services and plenty of free time. For more info you may call the Retreat Center (860 521-0440), register www.holyfamilyretreat.org, or call Nick Santarelli (203 470-7102).



WOMEN'S RETREAT - Sometimes we just need to pull back from those everyday experiences that pose a threat to our spiritual well-being. 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.

## LOAVES & FISHES COLLECTION

provides an opportunity to make sacrifices for those in need - the collection is used to feed the hungry. Place your envelopes in the offertory collection anytime during Lent. Please be generous.



Are you a practicing catholic over the age of 18 who has not yet received the Sacrament of Confirmation? On Pentecost Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, at 3:30pm, the Diocesan celebration of Con-firmation for Adults will be celebrated at St. Augustine Cathedral, Bridgeport. Refresher classes are offered on seven consecutive dates from April 14 - May 26, from 7:00 - 9:00pm, at St. Luke Parish in Westport. Adult Confirmation forms are at the Rectory. For more info, please contact the Diocese (203 416-1446) or email: doconnor@diobpt.org.

BIRTHRIGHT is looking for people to knit or crochet Layette Sets (sweater, hat & booties), newborn size, and 3x3 Blankets for car seats in soft pastel colors. Call Mary Ferri (743-4557) for more info. or when finished.

