
Fr. Corey's Comments

♦ *Can you believe that we are at the midpoint of Lent? This is Laetare Sunday. This Sunday is called Laetare because the first words of the Entrance Antiphon in Latin are "Rejoice, Jerusalem!". In mid-Lent we pause to revel in the ultimate victory of the Resurrection that is to be won. Rose vestments are used. The color is a "lessening" of the Lenten purple of penance and sorrow.*

It has been a while since I have reminded you of the small changes on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. On Palm Sunday (weather permitting) for the 10:00am Mass we shall gather in the School Gym to begin the Mass. Then, we shall move in procession to the Church just like the first Palm Sunday. On Palm Sunday the 11:30 Mass will be moved to 12:00 noon so that the Church will be empty, and the congregation can find their seats for the 12:00 noon Mass. On Easter Sunday, the 11:30 Mass will also move to 12:00 because of the crowd. Often on these two Sundays folks are stuck on Dodgingtown Road waiting to get into the Church. With changing the Mass times for these two Sundays everyone will be able to get in and out of the Church property.

It is important to remember that Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday are very busy days. We are extremely happy that the Church is full, and we have so many visitors. Please, remember to come to Mass early on those days, it will be easier to get a seat. We cannot allow people standing in the back or the aisles because of Fire Codes and Safety Regulations. In the past, folks have gotten sick, and we need clear aisles to get medical personnel through. Come early and say a few extra prayers for all of us at St. Mary Parish.

♦ *It is interesting to note that many Dioceses have now entered a similar program to ours concerning confessions. In New York they are hearing confessions on a 24-hour basis. In Boston confessions are being heard every Wednesday Evening. Here in our Diocese, Confessions are being heard every Tuesday during Lent in every Catholic Parish in Fairfield County from 7 to 9pm. So, when was the last time you went to Confession? Has it been months or even years? Opportunity is knocking. Please don't let this chance go by. Every priest is there to help you if you have forgotten so grab the Lord's hand and come to the Sacrament of Reconciliation.*

♦ *The Annual Bishop's Appeal is now underway. I know that for many this year will be a real sacrifice to give. If you can, please make a pledge today. The Annual Bishop's Appeal supports the Office of Pastoral Services, Parish Life and Ministries programs throughout the Diocese.*

Damien O'Connor, Director of Adult Formation, oversees the RCIA process and adult catechetical programs. Damien plays a vital role in working with RCIA Coordinators who need assistance in executing the Diocesan program. He is responsible for ongoing formation of the Coordinators and develops and carries out all aspects of the Adult Confirmation program, including classes, retreats and the ceremony. He also coordinates Diocesan-based catechetical opportunities for adults including on-line and classroom learning. "I am deeply honored to know that I may be of assistance to the Coordinators and Directors of Adult Catechesis. Their unselfish work to evangelize is extremely important and inspiring. The ABA gives tangible assistance to ministries that provide life-changing encounters with Christ," says Damien.

Your gift is so important to the work of the Diocese of Bridgeport. Thank you for your support to the 2010 Annual Bishop's Appeal.

♦ *We hope and pray that the Sanctuary Project will be done by Palm Sunday. So far, I must say it is very beautiful. Because they are cutting marble the work place is a bit dangerous; flying marble can hit the skin or eyes and be most destructive. So, right now it is a work in progress and pray to St. Dominic that everything will continue to go on time.*

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

♦ *This time of year is the time for First Penance. Our Parish, during last weekend and this weekend, will have had about 100 children go to the Sacrament. It is a most wonderful time to introduce the children to Christ's healing love in a Sacramental way. Please pray for these girls and boys as they continue their journey to First Holy Communion, and that the Lord, present in the Holy Eucharist, will be a priority in their lives.*

♦ *Here is a little Lenten meditation for you and perhaps for you to share as we examine our lives and the situations we are called to carry. The young man was at the end of his rope. Seeing no way out, he dropped to his knees in prayer. "Lord, I can't go on," he said. "My cross is too heavy to bear."*

The Lord replied, "My son, if you cannot bear its weight, just place your cross inside this room. Then, open another door and pick out any cross you wish."

The man was filled with relief. "Thank you, Lord," he sighed, and did as he was told. As he looked around the room he saw many different crosses; some so large the tops were not visible. Then, he spotted a tiny cross leaning against a wall. "I'd like that one, Lord," he whispered.

And the Lord replied, "My son, that's the cross you came in with."

♦ *Do you have an 'iphone'. If you do, there are plenty of apps that will help you on your Lenten journey. The Rosary, the Stations of the Cross, Catholic blogs, Catholic Handbook, Catholic prayers and devotions can all be found for little or no charge. Take a look, and I am sure you will find something that will meet your Lenten needs.*

♦ *I hope you will join us for the Annual St. Mary School Auction. It is always an enjoyable night, and you can get wonderful things inexpensively and help our School at the same time. I've got to be honest, I have never laughed so much and so hard than at the entertainment at the St. Mary School Auction. Everyone is friendly and welcoming so even if you don't have a gang to come with, you will feel very much at home, and you will enjoy a great evening.*

♦ *As you know, Pope Benedict has declared this to be the Year of the Priest. Please remember all priests both living and deceased in your prayers. We said yes to this call for the greater glory of God and to serve you in the faith. Here is a prayer from the United States Catholic Bishops Conference that you might like to pray.*

Dear Lord,

We pray that the Blessed Mother wrap her mantle around your priests and through her intercession strengthen them for their ministry.

We pray that Mary will guide your priests to follow her own words. "Do whatever he tells you" (Jn 2:5).

May your priests have the heart of St. Joseph, Mary's chaste spouse.

May the Blessed Mother's own pierced heart inspire them to embrace all who suffer at the foot of the cross.

May your priests be holy filled with the fire of your love seeking nothing but your greater glory and the salvation of souls.

Amen.

Saint John Vianney, pray for us.



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'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).

ST. MARY CEMETERY CLEAN-UP

In preparation for Easter we will be cleaning up at the Cemetery. If there is anything on the grave that you wish to keep, please pick it up by MON., MAR. 29th. If not, leave it there. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO PICK UP ITEMS YOU DO NOT WANT!**



ST. MARY BOOK CLUB: MARCH BOOK



"Befriending Life: Encounters with Henri Nouwen", by Beth Porter. Discussion will be on TUES., MAR. 30th, at 7:30pm, in Children's Room.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP:

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



ST. MARY MEN'S RETREAT

Please pray for the men of our parish who are on their annual retreat at Holy Family Retreat House this weekend. Pray that these men return refreshed and with a better understanding of the things that are really important in their lives.

EASTER FLOWERS: Envelopes have been included in your packets for anyone who would like to donate. Please don't forget to list the names of the deceased.



School News



St. Mary School Science Fair will be THUR., MAR. 18th, from 6:30-8:00pm in the **School Gym**. All are welcome.

No School: FRI., MAR. 19th, Faculty Retreat.

Kindergarten Screening for the 2010 - 2011
MON., MAR. 22: 8:00-11:00am, 12:15-3:00pm;
TUE., MAR. 23: 8:00am - 12:00n.
Screening for all incoming students Grades 1-8
WED., MAR 24: 8:00am - 12:00n.

Congratulations Girls' Varsity Team, the **Danbury Parochial School Champions** and winners of the Girls Varsity Tournament. They finished the season with a record of 13 - 1. Great job to our Pep Squad and Cheerleaders who participated at the tournament! Special thanks to all of our coaches in our athletic program.



St. Mary Annual 5K Fun Run will be on SAT., MAY 22nd. If you would like to volunteer, please call Cathy Drury (203 938-4067). More details to come.



Last chance to attend...
St. Mary School Auction
Dinner, Dessert & Coffee
All for \$37.50 per person
Saturday, March 20th, 6:00pm

Stony Hill Inn

Get fantastic deals on amazing items while you support St. Mary's School.

Invite a few relatives, neighbors, or friends to join you.

Donations are also being accepted.

Call Ruth/Erik Apotheke (733-1470)



“FUN IN THE SUN”

JULY 12-16 & JULY 19-23

Registration is now open for the **12th annual Fun-in-the-Sun Camp**. Camp weeks are **JULY 12-16** and **JULY 19-23, MON.-FRI., 8:30am-12:30pm**, here at St. Mary’s. Cost is \$100 per child per week, and children must **currently** be in grades K-6. Information and forms are available in the vestibule or on our website. Return the completed forms with payment to the Rectory to reserve your spot. Any questions, please call **Kate (744-5777)**.

CAMP COUNSELORS

Applications are also available for high schools students registered at St. Mary’s and must be returned to the Rectory by **TUES., APRIL 6th**.



Sign-up sheets for **HOLY WEEK SERVICES** and **EASTER MASSES** will be in the **Bride’s Room** next weekend or call **Sheila (744-5777)**.

ST. MARY MIDNIGHT RUN


On **Friday, MAR. 19th**, St. Mary Parish will participate in a **Midnight Run**, and **we need you!** **There are several ways you can help:**

- **Make sandwiches & pack lunch bags (7:30);**
- **Help assemble toiletry bags;**
- **Go on the actual Midnight Run to New York (We will take 8 Adults, 4 H.S. Sign up quickly);**
- **Make a Monetary donation (Each run will cost approximately \$200-\$300);**
- **Donate Toiletries (toothbrush/paste, soap, small shampoo, washcloths);**
- **Donate new items (men’s socks & underwear);**
- **Donate gently used items (men’s coats, hats, hoodies, sweatshirts, pants, jeans, shirts, gloves, backpacks, blankets, sleeping bags).**

For more information and/or to volunteer, please call **Mary Ferri: 730-2726**




KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
Next Meeting – MAR. 22nd, 8:15pm.
Rosary at 7:45pm in the Church.


APPLICATIONS for TWO \$4,000 SCHOLARSHIPS to be awarded by Pavia Council #48 are now available. An applicant must be a  resident of Bethel or daughter/son of a current or deceased member of Pavia Council. High School seniors may pick up an application at their guidance office or the Rectory. For more info call **Tom Liquori (792-0664)**. **Deadline: 3/30.**




EASTER FOOD COLLECTION

The Knights will be putting together food baskets for the needy for Easter. If you wish to donate, you may drop off canned and dry goods in the **vestibule** during the day up until **MON., MAR. 29th**. **Any donation is appreciated.**

The Knights invite you to their **FISH FRY** on **FRI., MAR. 12th & 26th, 5:30-7:30pm**, in the **Gym**. Adults - \$10; Srs. – \$8; Child  5-12 – \$5; Family Max. – \$30. If you don’t have time to sit, try our drive-up, takeout service.

The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a  **ST. BALDRICKS EVENING** on **THUR., MAR. 18th**, at **6:30pm**, at the **Newtown Country Club**. This event is to raise money for childhood cancer. Come cheer on your fellow parishioners as they shave their heads to raise donations for this great cause. Food and beverage will be available. If you would like to donate, please log on to: **www.StBaldricks.org**. Any questions please call **Bob Nelson (203 748-6797)**.

AOH ST. PATRICK’S DAY CELEBRATION
WED., MAR. 17th: 9:00am – Flag Raising, Barnum Square; **11:00am**

Mass at St. Peter’s.  Corned Beef sandwiches and dinners will be served all day at **AOH Hall, 6 Lake Avenue, Danbury**. For more information please call **Joan (743-3542)**.

VIRTUS TRAINING SESSION

SUN., MAR. 21st, at **6:30pm**, in the **School Gym**.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

MON., MAR. 15	6:30	+	Giuseppe Pregoni – Daughter, Gisella
	9:00	+	Dorothy Clarke – Kevin & Brenda Cleary
TUES, MAR. 16	6:30	+	Deceased Members of Shannon Family
	9:00	+	Elizabeth DeFeo – Joe & Holly DeFeo
WED., MAR. 17	6:30	+	Mary Deakin – Dave Deakin
	9:00	+	Frank O’Shea – Kate Fitzgerald
THU., MAR. 18	6:30	+	Christopher Urban – Family
	9:00	+	Mary Schultz – Brenda & Kevin Cleary
FRI., MAR. 19	6:30	+	Muriel DiMatteo (<i>Anniv.</i>) – DiMatteo Family
	9:00	+	Jack Gallagher – DeRoin Family
SAT., MAR. 20	8:00	+	Alice McShane & Brendan Duffy
	5:30	+	Nancy DiPalma – Daughter
SUN., MAR. 21	7:00	+	Mary Fedele – Gerald & Marilyn McAleavey
	8:30	+	Frank Machado – Martin & Carol Lawlor
	10:00	+	Mary Tammaro – Leone Family
	11:30	+	Sophie Hanyak – John & Rosa Rooney
	5:30	+	Kellianne Gartland – Family



WELCOME TO THOSE WHO WERE NEWLY BAPTIZED

Isabella Maddalena Greto

Next weekend, **MAR. 20th & 21st**, there will be a second collection for
Catholic Relief Services.



GOAL: \$15,000

COLLECTION: \$15,329

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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.***