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## Fr. Corey's Comments

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*I thought I would begin this week with a review of Holy Week.*

*Palm Sunday begins Holy Week, and there are two changes or additions (depends if you are a "half full or half empty" kind of person). The 10:00am Mass will begin in the School gym with the blessing of Palms and a Procession to the Church (weather permitting). The 11:30 Mass will be pushed up to 12:00 noon to relieve some of the congestion that usually occurs on this day.*

*Monday of Holy Week there will be Confessions from 9:30 to 10:00am and from 4:30 to 5:00pm.*

*Tuesday of Holy Week will continue with Confessions from 7 to 9pm in the Church. This will be the last opportunity for Confession before the Easter Triduum.*

*Wednesday of Holy Week the Clergy will attend the Chrism Mass at St. Augustine's Cathedral in Bridgeport to renew our priestly vows and to get the Holy Oils that we shall keep in our Church for the various Sacraments. Also, on Wednesday we will celebrate our last daily Mass before the Triduum.*

*Holy Thursday we shall celebrate Morning Prayer at 9:00am. (No morning Masses on Thursday, Friday or Saturday of Holy Week.) Also, the Mass of the Lord's Supper will begin at 7:00pm with adoration until 11:00pm. We shall reinstitute distributing the Precious Blood of Christ for those who would like to receive Holy Communion under both Sacred Species.*

*Good Friday will have Morning Prayer at 9:00am. There will be two opportunities for Stations of the Cross on Good Friday: 12:00 noon (Ecumenical Way of the Cross) and 7:00pm in the Church. Also, the Celebration of the Lord's Passion will take place at 3:00pm on Good Friday afternoon.*

*Holy Saturday Morning Prayer will be celebrated at 9:00am. Blessing of Easter Foods will be at 12:00 noon in the Parish Hall. There will be NO 5:30 Mass on Holy Saturday. The first Mass of Easter will be at 8:00pm with the Great Vigil of Easter.*

*Easter Sunday Masses will be celebrated at 7:00, 8:30, 10:00am and 12:00 noon. There is No 5:30 Mass on Easter.*

*I would make a guess that there are many folks out there who have never been to the Easter Triduum in its entirety. The Triduum begins with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday night, continues through Good Friday with the Celebration of the Lord's Passion, Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion and ends with the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night. If you attend all three liturgical services you will notice a couple of things: they are all one service beginning on Thursday and not ending until Saturday night; all three days tell the same story of Jesus giving himself to God the Father for the forgiveness of sins and in turn Jesus giving himself to us in His Body and Blood for our spiritual journey and strength. You will see and hear the progression of Salvation History played out in front of you, first as Jesus gives His disciples the example of service to one another (the Great Mandatum or Command of Love), instituting the priesthood and the Holy Eucharist and waiting in the Garden of Gethsemane with Him as He prays His final hours. You will experience His arrest, betrayal by His closest friends, His scourging, crowning with thorns, and His forgiveness of the repentant thief, and the ultimate sacrifice of His crucifixion. You will shed tears as His Mother Mary held her dead Son in Her arms and understand the sacrifice that Christ had made for each and every one of us. You will feel the emptiness of Holy Saturday as Jesus rests in the tomb and see the darkness of a world without His presence. Then, you will see hope glimmer as Christ is raised from the dead and the Paschal Candle sparks the new life that will never end. You will experience darkness swallowed up in the victory of Christ Risen and never to die again. You will see your brothers and sisters renew their Baptismal promises reaffirming their faith in Jesus and others who are welcomed into the Church by making a profession of faith. You will hear the Scriptures read about Salvation History.... our history of a people formed and chosen by God and ultimately redeemed by God's only Son. You will hear the ALLELUIAS sung at the triumphant Good News of the opening of the Gates of Heaven and a life that will never end with Christ. You will be able to worship the Risen Christ, not in a jammed-packed Church, but with comfort and freedom that only God can give. You will experience new life that will touch your heart. Please, try to make the entire Easter Triduum this year, and I promise it will be an experience you will never forget.*

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

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*The Bridgeport Diocesan Choir will present "The Seven Last Words of Christ" under the direction of David Forbes McCaffrey III, the Diocesan Director of Music. The musical prayer will take place on Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30pm, in the Cathedral of Saint Augustine, Bridgeport. Admission is free.*

*There is a legend that at the time of the Crucifixion the dogwood had been the size of the oak and other forest trees. So firm and strong was the tree that it was chosen as the timber of the Cross. To be used thus for such a cruel purpose greatly distressed the tree, and Jesus, nailed upon it, sensed this, and in His gentle pity for all sorrow and suffering said to it: "Because of your regret and pity for my suffering, never again shall the dogwood tree grow large enough to be used as a Cross. Henceforth it shall be slender and bent and twisted, and its blossoms shall be in the form of a Cross... two long and two short petals. And, in the center of the outer edge of each petal there will be nail prints, brown with rust and stained with red, and in the center of the flower there will be a crown of thorns, and all who see it will remember."*

*For all the negative things we have to say to ourselves, God has positive answers.*

- You say: "It's impossible." God says: All things are possible. (Luke 18:27)*
- You say: "I'm too tired." God says: I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28-30)*
- You say: "Nobody really loves me." God says: I love you. (John 3:16 & John 13:34)*
- You say: "I can't go on." God says: My grace is sufficient. (II Corinthians 12:9 & Psalm 91:15)*
- You say: "I can't figure things out." God says: I will direct your steps. (Proverbs 3:5-6)*
- You say: "I can't do it." God says: You can do all things. (Philippians 4:13)*
- You say: "I'm not able." God says: I am able. (II Corinthians 9:8)*
- You say: "It's not worth it." God says: It will be worth it. (Romans 8:28)*
- You say: "I can't forgive myself." God says: I FORGIVE YOU. (I John 1:9 & Romans 8:1)*
- You say: "I can't manage." God says: I will supply all your needs. (Philippians 4:19)*
- You say: "I'm afraid." God says: I have not given you a spirit of fear. (II Timothy 1:7)*
- You say: "I'm always worried and frustrated." God says: Cast all your cares on ME. (I Peter 5:7)*
- You say: "I don't have enough faith." God says: I've given everyone a measure of faith. (Romans 12:3)*
- You say: "I'm not smart enough." God says: I give you wisdom. (I Corinthians 1:30)*
- You say: "I feel all alone." God says: I will never leave you or forsake you. (Hebrews 13:5)*

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### Lenten Season



**MASSSES** Monday-Friday: 6:30 & 9:00am. Saturday Mass at 8:00am.

**PENANCE**: Tuesdays from 7:00-9:00pm

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**: Friday nights, 7:00pm



**FRIDAYS OF LENT**: Days of **ABSTINENCE**

**GOOD FRIDAY** – APRIL 2<sup>nd</sup>: Day of **FAST** and **ABSTINENCE**  
(no eating between meals and no meat)



# School News



## 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., APR. 17<sup>th</sup>, from 10:30am-12:00noon, in the **Parish House**.



## 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. 29<sup>th</sup>. 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. 30<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30pm, in **Children's Room**.



Please sign up for **HOLY WEEK SERVICES** and **EASTER MASSES** on the sheets in the **Bride's Room** or call Sheila (744-5777).

**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.



## VIRTUS TRAINING SESSION – TODAY

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

## 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.



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

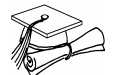
On SAT., APR. 3<sup>rd</sup>, children 9 years and younger are invited to meet in the **Gym** for our **Easter Egg Hunt**, which will begin promptly at 9:00am and be followed by **"Breakfast with the Easter Bunny"** which will end at 10:30am. Cost for breakfast: \$7.00 per person advance tickets, \$8.00 at the door. Tickets may be purchased after Masses or at the Rectory.



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**  
**Next Meeting – MAR. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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. 29<sup>th</sup>**. **Any donation is appreciated.**

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





## **CAMP**

**July 12-16, 19-23**

**Monday - Friday, 8:30am-12:30pm**

**St. Mary School Grounds, Bethel**

**Cost is \$100 per child per week**

**This is the 12th year of our summer camp for children in grades k-6 (for the 2009-10 school year). Amusements, Water Slides, Rock Wall, Games, T-shirts, Prizes, Bible and Saint Stories, Arts & Crafts, Songs, Prayer and much more!**

**Registration forms are available in the vestibule of the Church, at the Rectory, and also on our website at [www.stmarybethel.org](http://www.stmarybethel.org). Make checks payable to: St. Mary Church, and return forms and payment to the Rectory.**

**For more information, please call Kate Fitzgerald at 744-5777 or visit our website!**

**CAMP COUNSELORS: Applications are available for high schools students registered at St. Mary's. They must be returned to the Rectory by TUES., APRIL 6<sup>th</sup>.**

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**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

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<b>MON., MAR. 22</b>	6:30	+	Cathryn Costello
	9:00	+	Dorothy Clarke – St. Mary Class of 2010
<b>TUES, MAR. 23</b>	6:30	+	Pete Bartholonew – Ferri Family
	9:00	+	Dorothy Clarke – Pat Clarke
<b>WED., MAR. 24</b>	6:30		Heavenly Stock Intentions
	9:00	+	Mary Breede – Don & Pat Shean
<b>THU., MAR. 25</b>	6:30		Blessed Mother’s Intentions
	9:00	+	Hugh Lee – Family
<b>FRI., MAR. 26</b>	6:30	+	Margaret & John Shannon – Family
	9:00	+	Joe Freebairn – Wife, Eileen
<b>SAT., MAR. 27</b>	8:00	+	Raymond Nuttall –Peg & Gary Lewis
	5:30	+	Frank Gonzalez – Gavin Family
<b>SUN., MAR. 28</b>	7:00	+	Frances McNamara – Carol & Gerard Smith
	8:30	+	Sophie Mazur – MacGregor Family
	10:00	+	Frank Machado – Ray & Lucy Harvath
	11:30	+	Joe Quatraro – Ring Family
	5:30	+	Walter Dankowski – Wax Family



**WELCOME TO THOSE WHO WERE NEWLY BAPTIZED**

*Owen Kenneth Chadwick*

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**GOAL:    \$15,000**

**COLLECTION:    \$12,853**

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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***

**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.*