
Fr. Corey's Comments

It is with a grateful heart that I thank everyone involved in the preparation and execution of the Easter Triduum. More than once I was moved by these sacred liturgies and truly felt the most holy events that lead to our salvation. Please, accept my thanks and May the Risen Lord bless us and may we be renewed in the light of HIS Resurrection.

Congratulations to Kelly Curry and Eric Keener as they were welcomed into the Church on Holy Saturday. It is quite a faith journey and not always an easy one. I admire your courage and pray that God will continue to bless you as you grow in your faith. Thank you to the RCIA team for all your hard work and dedication. Our Parish is most grateful for your leadership and commitment to this wonderful ministry.

Last week in the middle of the Sacred Triduum an anniversary occurred that was practically overlooked and perhaps that is the way he might have wanted it. The days of our Salvation were much more important for him than celebrating or remembering anything about him...I bet he would say. But, on April 2nd we marked the 5 year anniversary of the death of our beloved and now Venerable Pope John Paul II.

I would like to take you to Rome for a moment. Under the altar of St. Peter's Basilica you can find the final resting place of many of the Popes. It is a place that you must visit when in Rome. Right across the way from the tomb of St. Peter himself is the tomb of Pope John Paul II. John Paul occupies the place where Blessed John XXIII used to rest. (Pope John XXIII is now below a side altar at St. Peter's.)

The tomb is a simple slab of marble with John Paul's name. Before John Paul's entombment, there were very few visitors/pilgrims visiting the resting places of the Popes. But, now there are many visitors everyday. The tomb is roped off so that the area will be kept safe. There are a couple of golden roses on the tomb but you will often find others bringing flowers. A guard is usually standing at attention at the tomb. He often takes rosaries or other objects and touches them to the tomb at the request of pilgrims. People kneel in quiet prayer. More often there are tears and whisperings of prayers and needs. I, too, have knelt in prayer and often with tears at the simple beauty and memories of this most amazing man.

I am sure that many of us in this Parish were lucky and blessed enough to be in the presence of the Pope. Either in a large group during World Youth Days, in St. Peter's Square, at Yankee Stadium, or during one of his other visits to our Country, you will never forget being in his presence. I mentioned to you before that I had a private Mass with the Pontiff in 1988 with two other priests. It is an event that I will never forget. It is the first time in my life that I witnessed someone in prayer that I knew God was speaking to in return. Whether in a large crowd of thousands or millions or in a small intimate setting, anyone could feel the holiness of this most saintly man.

At his funeral there were signs in St. Peter's Square that said "Santo Subito" Make him a saint soon! I pray for this day, and I know Pope John Paul is praying for all of us, his people, and the people he knew and loved.

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

Now that we have begun our Easter celebration I want to remind you about the Pastoral Council.

Pastoral councils were first recommended in Vatican II's "Decree on the Pastoral Office of Bishops". They exist in three-fourths of the 19,000 Catholic parishes in the USA. The main work of the council is pastoral planning, but many types of council mistakenly think that the job is to coordinate a system of committees.

The meaning of "pastoral": Pastoral means that the council helps the pastor do his job by investigating, considering, and offering him their conclusions.

Canon 536 from the Code of Canon Law (which recommends parish pastoral councils) defines the purpose of councils in an extremely brief way. It says that they "give their help in fostering parish activity". Canon 536 does not mention the threefold task of the pastoral council – the task of investigating, reflecting, and reaching conclusions – but canon 511 does (in a reference to diocesan pastoral councils).

Four other Vatican documents define the "pastoral" councils in terms of this threefold task (Paul VI, "Ecclesiae Sanctae I," no. 16; the 1971 Synod of Bishops, "The Ministerial Priesthood," art 2, II, section 3; the 1973 "Directory on the "Pastoral Ministry of Bishops," no. 204; and the 1973 "Circular Letter on "Pastoral Councils" by the Sacred Congregation for the Clergy, no 9). Those who read canon 536 without referring to these other Vatican documents that speak of the "pastoral" council may not realize that investigating, pondering, and reaching conclusions is precisely what defines the pastoral council.

With all this in mind our new Pastoral Council will meet 3 times a year on a Saturday. It will be a sort of a "retreat day" lasting from morning till afternoon. Membership on the Pastoral Council will be established in the following way. After discernment, understanding the time commitment and most importantly with much prayer, a person will submit his or her name into the Pastoral Council nominee box by Pentecost Sunday. Then, the Pastor and members of the current Parish Council will choose under the guidance of the Holy Spirit twelve members of the Parish. Anyone over the age of 16 and registered in the Parish is welcome to place his/her name into nomination.

The dates of the Pastoral Council are August 28, 2010, November 20, 2010 and March 19, 2011. Please note that you will be needed at each meeting. The "meeting" will consist of prayer and reflection, meditation, discussion of vision and future plans for the Parish, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the celebration of Holy Mass.

Undoubtedly this will be a new experience for ALL of us. One of the Parishes that has implemented this Pastoral council is St. Pius X in Fairfield. Monsignor Larry Carroll has told us that the new Pastoral Council has changed his parish with the power of the Holy Spirit. We are not nominating other than ourselves. Teenagers are more than welcome to submit their names.

There will be a box in the vestibule beginning next week for your self-nominations. Please write you name, phone number and email address.



School News

The **2010 Annual Bishop's Appeal** has begun throughout the Diocese. We have the opportunity to help those being served through our many diocesan programs including Catholic Charities, Catholic and Religious Education, Pastoral Life, and Vocations. Our goal this year is **\$135,000**, and with **In-Pew weekend** coming up, **APR. 24th/25th** we hope to have as close to 100% participation as we can. If you'd like to make a gift, you may send in your pledge card, you may visit the website: **www.bridgeportdiocese.com**, or call the **Development Office (203 416-1479)**.



SPRING RECESS will be from **MON., APR. 19th**, to **FRI., APR. 23rd**. Classes resume on **MON., APR. 26th**.

A Happy and Healthy Spring Break to all.

St. Mary School Carnival: Save the Date **WED., MAY 12th – SAT., MAY 15th**



Exciting rides and attractions here on Church grounds. The Carnival raffle will award cash prizes this year: \$1,500 for 1st, \$1,000 – 2nd, \$500 – 3rd. More details to come.



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 **Annual 5K Fun Run** will be on **SAT., MAY 22nd**. **Fun Run for Kids** 9 years old and under begins at **8:00am**, followed by the **5K Run** at **8:30am**. For further information or to volunteer, please call **Cathy Drury (203 938-4067)**. More details to come.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP:

Next meeting will be **SAT., APR. 17th**, from **10:30am–12:00noon**, in the **Parish House**.



ST. MARY BOOK CLUB: APRIL BOOK



"Left to Tell" by **Immaculee Ilibagiza**. Meet in the **Children's Room** for discussion on **TUES., APR. 27th**, at **7:30pm**.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
Next Meeting – APR. 12, 8:15pm.
Rosary at 7:45pm in the Church.

SENIOR YOUTH GROUP MISSION TRIP

team will hold a **"Homeless Service Overnight"** on **SAT., APR. 24th**, to raise funds for our **Mission Trip/Retreat** to Camden, NJ in June. We will meet in the **School Gym** at **7:00pm** for a **"Soup Kitchen" supper**, then we'll make cardboard shelters outside for us to spend the night in. During the evening we will be involved in several service projects (i.e., making sandwiches for Dorothy Day, sorting cans for Brotherhood-in-Action, etc.). The Overnight will conclude the following morning with Mass at **7:00am**. We ask for your prayers, food donations for Brotherhood-in-Action (which can be dropped off that evening), and, if possible, a pledge for this fundraiser. What we raise will help cover travel, lodging, food and project costs for our trip. To make a monetary donation/pledge, please call **Kate Fitzgerald (744-5777)**. Thank you!



K of C COMMUNION BREAKFAST

Sunday, May 2nd, following the 8:30 Mass

All parishioners are welcome to join in honoring **"Our Own Priests"** for their service to St. Mary Church.

Tickets will be on sale in the vestibule:

April 10/11, 17/18, and 24/25.

For more information contact **Dave Whitmore (203 470-0909)**.



What a great way to conclude the **"Year of the Priest"**.



CAMP

July 12-16, 19-23

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

St. Mary School Grounds, Bethel

Cost is \$100 per child per week

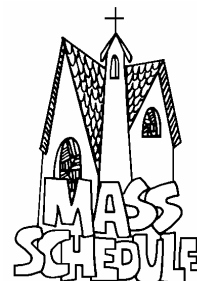
This is the 12th year of our summer camp for children in grades k-6 (for the 2009-10 school year). Amusements, Water Slides, Rock Wall, Games, T-shirts, Prizes, Bible and Saint Stories, Arts & Crafts, Songs, Prayer and much more!

Registration forms are available in the vestibule of the Church, at the Rectory, and also on our website at www.stmarybethel.org. 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!

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

MON., APR. 12	6:30	+	Anna Pregoni – Daughter, Gisella
	9:00	+	Jack Gallagher – Sr. Anne & Sr. Alberta
TUES, APR. 13	6:30	+	Michael McCafferty – McCafferty Family
	9:00	+	Millie Anger – Husband
WED., APR. 14	6:30	+	Rev. Walter J. McCarthy
	9:00	+	Rev. Robert A. Nugent – Sr. Anne
THU., APR. 15	6:30		Heavenly Stock Intentions
	9:00	+	John Murphy – Ed & Carol Roth
FRI., APR. 16	6:30	+	Jeannette Helgert – Joan & Dick Shannon
	9:00	+	Inda Butler – Bill & Susan Vertolli
SAT., APR. 17	8:00	+	Alice McShane & Brendan Duffy
	5:30	+	Jim Armstrong – Wife, Joan
SUN., APR. 18	7:00	+	Catherine Costello
	8:30	+	Frank Machado – Magner Family
	10:00	+	Josephine Natale – Daughter, Lillie
	11:30	+	Joe Quatraro – Friend
	5:30	+	Eileen Oberhammer – Family & Friends



II – Timothy Larkin & Jennifer Hubal



GOAL: \$15,000

COLLECTION: \$32,978



Thank you to all who gave to our **EASTER COLLECTION** and for your kind donations to the **LOAVES & FISHES COLLECTION** which is used to provide food for the needy.

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.*