
Fr. Corey's Comments

Alleluia! He is Risen! Jesus has broken the chains of sin and death forever! Easter, the yearly celebration of the Resurrection of Christ, is the oldest and most solemn Christian feast and is considered the center of the Liturgical Year. St. Augustine, the patron of our Diocese, said: "We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song." Easter is so important it is celebrated for eight days, called the Easter Octave. Each of these 8 days we continue to celebrate as another Easter Day. (Imagine if birthdays or weddings were celebrated like that.) Then, the Easter season continues until Pentecost. More about Easter and its symbols to come.

May I take this opportunity to say what a tremendous success the Diocesan Tuesday Night Confession Campaign has been. We have been busy every Tuesday, and many have taken the opportunity to be reconciled to God. It has been a beautiful way for people to prepare for Easter. Please, keep the practice up. Confession every season is a good rule to live by.

On behalf of the Sisters, the Clergy and our Staff, I wish you all a very happy and blessed Easter filled with the love and grace of the Risen Lord and memories that will last a lifetime. Thank you for all you do for us and for our Church.

One of my favorite things to read during the Easter season is the Easter Sermon of St. John Chrysostom. Enjoy this meditation and enjoy your Easter.

*Is there anyone who is a devout lover of God?
Let them enjoy this beautiful bright festival!
Is there anyone who is a grateful servant?
Let them rejoice and enter into the joy of their Lord!*

*Are there any weary with fasting?
Let them now receive their wages!
If any have toiled from the first hour,
let them receive their due reward;
If any have come after the third hour,
let him with gratitude join in the Feast!
And he that arrived after the sixth hour,
let him not doubt; for he too shall sustain no loss.
And if any delayed until the ninth hour,
let him not hesitate; but let him come too.
And he who arrived only at the eleventh hour,
let him not be afraid by reason of his delay.*

*For the Lord is gracious and receives the last even as the first.
He gives rest to him that comes at the eleventh hour,
as well as to him that toiled from the first.
To this one He gives, and upon another He bestows.
He accepts the works as He greets the endeavor.
The deed He honors and the intention He commends.*

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

*Let us all enter into the joy of the Lord!
First and last alike receive your reward;
rich and poor, rejoice together!
Sober and slothful, celebrate the day!*

*You that have kept the fast, and you that have not,
rejoice today for the Table is richly laden!
Feast royally on it, the calf is a fatted one.
Let no one go away hungry. Partake, all, of the cup of faith.
Enjoy all the riches of His goodness!*

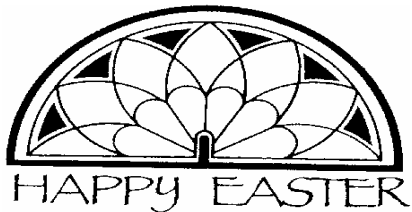
*Let no one grieve at his poverty,
for the universal kingdom has been revealed.
Let no one mourn that he has fallen again and again;
for forgiveness has risen from the grave.
Let no one fear death, for the Death of our Savior has set us free.
He has destroyed it by enduring it.*

*He destroyed Hades when He descended into it.
He put it into an uproar even as it tasted of His flesh.
Isaiah foretold this when he said,
"You, O Hell, have been troubled by encountering Him below."*

*Hell was in an uproar because it was done away with.
It was in an uproar because it is mocked.
It was in an uproar, for it is destroyed.
It is in an uproar, for it is annihilated.
It is in an uproar, for it is now made captive.
Hell took a body, and discovered God.
It took earth, and encountered Heaven.
It took what it saw, and was overcome by what it did not see.
O death, where is thy sting?
O Hades, where is thy victory?*

*Christ is Risen, and you, o death, are annihilated!
Christ is Risen, and the evil ones are cast down!
Christ is Risen, and the angels rejoice!
Christ is Risen, and life is liberated!
Christ is Risen, and the tomb is emptied of its dead;
for Christ having risen from the dead,
is become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep.*

To Him be Glory and Power forever and ever. Amen!




The 2009 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 parish goal is \$130,000**, and we hope to have as close to 100% participation as we can. The weekend of APRIL 25-26 will be **In-Pew Sunday**. If you'd like to make a gift, you may send in your pledge card, call the Development Office (203 416-1479) or visit the website: www.bridgeportdiocese.com.

ST. MARY BOOK CLUB – **April Book:** *“Mere Christianity”*, by **C. S. Lewis**. Please join **Deacon John** in the **Children's Room** at **7:30pm**, on **TUES., APR. 28th**, for group discussion.



ST. MARY CONTEMPORARY FOLK GROUP
The **Contemporary Folk Group** is in need of a **pianist**. If you would like to play piano with them, please call **Debbie Caraluzzi (730-0804)**.



 **REGISTRATION** – Religious Ed. is available for children in **K- 8th** grade. They must attend each year in **Grades 1-8** in order to make their sacraments. If your child entering **Kindergarten or 1st grade** is not registered for the Fall, please call the **Rel. Ed. office (743-4557)**.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR
Join us as we explore deeper the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit. Grow in your understanding of how the Holy Spirit works in and through us on a daily basis. **Life in the Spirit** is a 6-week seminar beginning on **WED., APR. 29th**, at **7:30pm**, in the **Parish Hall**. For more information or to register call **Patti Finn (748-7312)** or **Sharon Closius (798-9822)**.

SENIOR YOUTH GROUP MISSION TRIP team will hold a **“Homeless Service Overnight”** on **SAT., APR. 25th**, to raise funds for our **Mission Trip/Retreat** to Washington 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!



Thank you to those who helped prepare for the **Breakfast with the Easter Bunny!**

All **8th** graders, current Freshmen and Sophomores and their Parents are invited to attend an informational meeting about **World Youth Day** in Madrid, Spain for 2011 on **THUR., APR. 16th**, at **6:30pm**, in the **Parish Hall**.

JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP – **Flower Delivery** for **Bishop Curtis** will be rescheduled from **APR. 26th** to **MAY**.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

NEXT REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING:
MON., APR. 13th, 8:15pm, in the **Parish Hall**.

Thank you for your donations to the **LOAVES & FISHES COLLECTION** which is used to provide food for the needy.





SPRING RECESS will be from **MON., APR. 13th**, to **FRI., APR. 17th**. Classes will resume **MON., APR. 20th**. A Happy and Healthy Spring Break to all.

St. Mary School would like to congratulate **Tammy Retalis**, winner of our **Auction Raffle** for the 42" Panasonic Plasma TV.



St. Mary's will host its first **5K Road Race & Fun Run** on **SAT., MAY 16th**. Registration begins at **7:30am** with the **Fun Run** for children 10 and under at **8:00am**, followed by the **5K** at **8:30am**. For more info, please call **Eve Olson (744-5540)**. Registration forms are available in the vestibule, or you can register online at www.stmarybethelct.org.

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*During the year it would be great to pray for by name those who are volunteering to protect and serve our country. If you know anyone, please call the Rectorry (744-5777) with the name, rank, branch of service and assignment, and we shall publish them in the bulletin periodically as well as keeping a list for our prayers.*

**James Perkins, 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant in the Army, serving in Baghdad  
Son of Dave & Pat Perkins**

**Roger Bellamy, Staff Sergeant in the Air National Guard, serving in Afghanistan  
Husband of Madeline Bellamy, and  
Father of Andrew, Hayden, Shelby & Grant**

**Todd Angell, Corpsman in the Navy, serving in Kuwait  
Son of Mary Angell**

*We are very grateful for the safe return of:*

**Thomas Burke, Lance Corporal, Marines, Iraq  
Chris Guerrette, Captain, Air Force, Afgh.  
Paul Nelson, Staff Sergeant, Marines, Iraq.  
Dave & Ann Perkins, Captains, Army, Afgh.**

## Diocesan Programs



Are you a practicing catholic over the age of 18 who has not yet received the Sacrament of Confirmation? On **May 31<sup>st</sup>, Pentecost Sunday**, at **3:30pm**, the Diocesan celebration of **Confirmation 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. For more info, please contact the **Diocese (203 416-1446)** or email: [doconnor@diobpt.org](mailto:doconnor@diobpt.org).

**RETROUVAILLE OF CT.** – If your marriage has become troubled and stressed, unloving or uncaring, and even if you are thinking of separation or divorce, or are already, but you want to try again, then the **Retrouvaille program** can help you. The next weekend: **FRI., APR. 17 – SUN., APR. 19**. Although **Retrouvaille** is Catholic in origin, couples from all or no faith are welcome to attend. For more information please call our confidential number (1-800-470-2230) or e-mail ([3001@retrouvaille.org](mailto:3001@retrouvaille.org)).

### **RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT**



(Sponsored by the Bridgeport Diocese.) If you are suffering from the emotional pain of an abortion, come experience the healing love of Jesus Christ during our private weekend retreat from **FRI., APR. 17<sup>th</sup> – SUN., APR. 19<sup>th</sup>**. For more info. visit [www.rachelsvineyardbpt.com](http://www.rachelsvineyardbpt.com) or e-mail [Jeremiah31v17@aol.com](mailto:Jeremiah31v17@aol.com)

### **PERMANENT DIACONATE FORMATION**

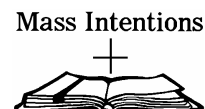
The Diocese is seeking men for a new class in preparation for the Permanent Diaconate. Men must be between the ages of 31 and 60. Applicants should be men of faith and good character; they must be disposed and willing to give the required time and effort to the Diaconate Formation Program. Married and single men may submit applications now through August 31, 2009. For more info. call **Deacon Tony Detje, Program Director, (203 748-5235 or 203 416-1415)**.

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**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

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|                      |       |   |                                                                          |
|----------------------|-------|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>MON., APR. 13</b> | 6:30  | + | Mary Deakin – Family                                                     |
|                      | 9:00  | + | Michael McCafferty – Family                                              |
| <b>TUES, APR. 14</b> | 6:30  | + | Rev. Walter J. McCarthy                                                  |
|                      | 9:00  |   | Tom & Grace McGuire ( <i>Health &amp; Blessings</i> ) – Marie Miller     |
| <b>WED., APR. 15</b> | 6:30  | + | Anna Pregoni – Daughter, Gisella Varano                                  |
|                      | 9:00  |   | Tom & Grace McGuire ( <i>Health &amp; Blessings</i> ) – 9am Mass Friends |
| <b>THU., APR. 16</b> | 6:30  | + | William Netterman – John & Kathy McGowan                                 |
|                      | 9:00  | + | Richard Lawlor, Sr. ( <i>Anniv.</i> ) – Rick & Christine                 |
| <b>FRI., APR. 17</b> | 6:30  |   | For the People of St. Mary Parish                                        |
|                      | 9:00  | + | Mary Crough-Smith – Jed & Cornie Costello                                |
| <b>SAT., APR. 18</b> | 8:00  | + | Joe Quatraro – Friend                                                    |
|                      | 5:30  | + | Ronald Dorman – Dave & Sharon Pijnenburg                                 |
| <b>SUN., APR. 19</b> | 7:00  | + | Jeannette Helgert – Joan & Dick Shannon                                  |
|                      | 8:30  | + | Deborah Quinn – Tompkins Family                                          |
|                      | 10:00 | + | Felix Anziano – Anziano Family                                           |
|                      | 11:30 | + | Eileen Oberhammer – Family & Friends                                     |
|                      | 5:30  | + | Daniel Cruz – Marina & Joseph Giuliano                                   |



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**WELCOME TO THOSE WHO WERE NEWLY BAPTIZED**



*Jean Benedict Damaso Bernardo*

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**GOAL:    \$15,000**

**COLLECTION:    \$18,736**

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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*
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.