
Fr. Corey's Comments

➤ *If you have a newborn baby and are looking for a great pediatrician, you would probably be looking for the following:*

A person with a state license, as well as diplomas from a university/college and medical school.

A person who is currently practicing with full education and knows all that he or she can know medically.

A person with a great bedside manner.

A person who not only likes kids but also is qualified to treat your child.

You probably wouldn't want a person who does not have a license or does not have proper medical background; you wouldn't want a person who is not up to date with his/her medical credentials or didn't know the latest medical practices; you wouldn't want a person who couldn't be recommended by a professional medical board; you wouldn't want a person who had a bad bedside manner; you wouldn't want a person who is a friend or family member who truly loves your child but is a teacher or baker or IT person or a carpenter and has no medical background but wants to medically treat your child.

Well, this is what it is like with a godparent or sponsor. Every week we are confronted by people who want a family member or friend to be a godparent or sponsor who cannot live up to the Church requirements, and they are angry or annoyed that we cannot endorse them to be a godparent.

What is a Godparent or sponsor?

The role of Godparent or Sponsor is more than merely ceremonial. (A godparent or sponsor is not the person who is supposed to take care of the child if, God forbid, the parents die.)

The role of Godparent/Sponsor is a MINISTRY and a responsibility. The role of Godparent/Sponsor does not demand that we be a SAINT, all of us have need of God's mercy as we have miles to go on our Christian faith journey.

The Catholic Church has requirements for being a Godparent/Sponsor so that the child will have a reliable and qualified Catholic person who will, by word and or example, help to show the face of Christ and His Church to the young one in his or her charge.

Go back for a second to the pediatrician. Wouldn't you like someone who is well qualified to be the example and guide to your child in the faith of Jesus Christ?

So... the requirements are as follows:

- . At least 16 years of age*
- . Received the Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion and Confirmation. (These Sacraments make you a fully initiated member of the Catholic Church.)*
- . Attend Mass regularly (every week) on Sundays and on Holy Days of Obligation.*
- . Receive the Sacraments of Penance on a regular basis and Holy Communion each week.*
- . Sincerely try to follow the moral teaching of the Catholic Church.*
- . If married, was married in the Catholic Church. (Is not living with a romantic partner.)*

In short, a Practicing Catholic...This is the most qualified person, which is what any parent would want because they truly care for the spiritual welfare of the child in the Catholic Church.

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

Now there are other friends and members of the family that love the baby and should have a place in the baby's life. But, like the well-qualified pediatrician the Godparent/Sponsor should have received all the Sacraments of Initiation, should attend Mass every Sunday so they hear the Word of God and act upon it, and should receive the Body and Blood of the Lord so they can go into the world and share the Good News. They need to be in touch with the Church so they know its teachings, and, either by word and/or example, communicate Christ's love for the baby and the Church's welcoming them into the Body of Christ. As you can see, this is no casual responsibility. The Godparent/sponsor makes two commitments:

- 1) to your child to be a guide and example in moral virtue and the ways of the Church; and*
- 2) to the Church to grow always stronger in the faith so as to be "another Christ" to your child, one who will make the Church's teaching their own.*

Pray about whom you ask to be a Godparent/Sponsor. Also pray, if you are asked to be a Godparent/Sponsor, if you qualify, and, if not, what positive changes can you make to be a good, faith-filled Godparent.

Finally, and most importantly, we want to be helpful in making the person you want fulfill the role of Godparent. If you, or your chosen person, are not quite there, please come and talk to one of your Parish Priests who will be most willing to help fix the situation.

➤ *I think most of us know Al Barney. In past years, Al played the piano in the old St. Mary's and was THE piano player, accompanist in the School gym for the many years that Mass was celebrated there on Sundays. Al began to play for St. Mary's in the late 1960's up to today, and after these many years, he has decided to retire. Al has been here through thick and thin and without counting the cost has been present to this faith community faithfully for over 40 years.*

Al is an unassuming gentle soul who does not like fanfare or applause but has worked in this Ministry for the praise and glory of God through the gifts that God has given him. Though retiring, Al will still remain a vibrant and present member of St. Mary Parish.

AL, thank you so very much for all your years of dedicated ministry to God and all of us! May you be blessed in your retirement and may you reap a hundred fold from the harvest of musical notes you have planted in the name of the Lord.

➤ *A chorus of congratulations to Jennifer Caraluzzi for winning the Barnum Festival's Jenny Lind contest. More than 20 women from throughout the United States applied to competition organizers and from that pool 12 singers, all 20 to 30 years of age, were chosen to vie for the title of 2010 Barnum Festival American Jenny Lind. Jennifer received \$2,000 and a concert engagement -- June 24th, at 7:30 pm, at the Playhouse on the Green in downtown Bridgeport -- with the winner from a similar competition that is conducted annually in Sweden. In July, both Jenny Lind winners are given a two-week concert tour of Sweden.*

Jennifer, St. Mary Parish is proud of you. We congratulate both you and your family. Being from P.T. Barnum's home town this surely is a most wonderful accomplishment.

MAY

MAY CROWNING PROCESSION

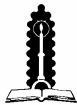
MON., MAY 10th, at 7:00pm. All parish children who recently received First Communion may participate. You should wear your First Communion clothing. Meet in the **Parish Hall** by 6:45pm.



DOROTHY DAY VOLUNTEERS

WED., MAY 5th: *Our turn to Cook.*


COFFEE & ... will be served after the 8:30 & 10:00 Mass on SUN., MAY 9th.



NOCTURNAL ADORATION will be on FRI., MAY 7th, from 9:00pm to 7:00am.


BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP: Next meeting will be SAT., MAY 15th, from 10:30am-12:00noon, in the **Parish House**.



 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 Rel. Ed. (743-4557).

ST. MARY BOOK CLUB: MAY BOOK *Father Joe, "The Man Who Saved My Soul"*, by **Tony Hendra**. Please join us in the **Children's Room** on TUES., MAY 25th, at 7:30pm, for a group discussion



 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).



"FUN IN THE SUN"

JULY 12-16 & JULY 19-23

Camp will be from 8:30am – 12:30pm here. The cost is \$100/child per week for children **currently** in **grades K-6**. Information and applications are available in the vestibule, at the Rectory or at: www.stmarybethel.org. Return your completed forms with payment to the Rectory to reserve a spot. Any questions, please call Kate (744-5777).


VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, JULY 26 – 30, 9:00-11:45am, for children **3-8 years old**. Cost: \$15.00. Registration forms are available in the vestibule of the Church or on our website: www.stmarybethel.org.



Schedules for JUNE & JULY will be out in a few weeks. If you are unable to serve any weekend during these months, please call Sheila (744-5777) so you will not be scheduled for that time. Also, please call if you no longer wish to serve.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
Next Meeting – MAY 10th, 8:15pm.
Rosary at 7:45pm in the Church.

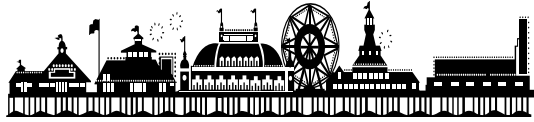


 WOMEN'S RETREAT-JUNE 11-13 Come away, rest awhile, and restore your connection to God. **Holy Family Retreat Center** in West Hartford, offers prayer services, workshops, conferences and free time to explore the theme. Retreat offering: \$210-\$250. Registrations online www.holyfamilyretreat.org.

MESSAGE FROM THE VATICAN

After my homily last weekend many people asked me to repeat the Vatican website which addresses the Catholic response to the abuse scandal. Cut through the chaff and all the talking heads and all the sound bites and take a look at it, right from the top, the Vatican: www.vatican.VA.

God's Peace Deacon Mike



ST. MARY SCHOOL CARNIVAL


WED., MAY 12th – SAT., MAY 15th.

Exciting rides and attractions here on Church grounds. The Carnival raffle will award cash prizes this year. To volunteer please call **Jo Jo Magrone** (203 730-1840).

Carnival Raffle: Please pick up your ticket packets in the vestibule after all Masses – they will not be delivered to your home. **CASH PRIZES:** 1st – \$2,000, 2nd – \$1,000, 3rd – \$500.

Carnival Wristbands: Available every night for unlimited rides – \$15 in advance, \$20 at carnival. Sold after Mass or call **Kathy Iorfino** (744-2714).

New this year – Our version of **American Idol!**
Calling all local singers of all ages!
If you are interested in competing or need more information, please contact **Cindy Iazzetta** (730-8026) or at: **ciazzetta@yahoo.com**.

Pie Baking Contest will be on **SAT., MAY 15th**, at **4:30pm**. \$5.00 entry fee; only the first 15 entries will be accepted – register now! Please call **Konnie Davis** (791-8112). 

EARLY DISMISSAL on **TUES., MAY 4th**,
Teachers Professional Day.

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 Immaculate High School will present **THE WEDDING SINGER** – a musical comedy, on **THUR., MAY 6<sup>th</sup>** and on **FRI., MAY 7<sup>th</sup>**, at **7:00pm**, and **SAT., MAY 8<sup>th</sup>**, at **2:00pm & 7:00pm**. Tickets: \$15/Adults, \$12 Seniors & Students. Also, please join us for a benefit dinner by **OUTBACK** in the **IHS cafeteria** on **SAT., MAY 8<sup>th</sup>** from **4:30-6:00pm**. Dinner tickets are \$10. All tickets can be ordered on the Immaculate H.S. website: **www.immaculatehs.org** or call 203-744-1510.

**Registration Now Open**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual**



**Saturday, May 22, 2010**

**Race starts and finishes at**  
**St. Mary Church**

**24 Dodgingtown Road**  
**Bethel, CT**

**7:30am** - Registration opens

**8:00am** - Kids Fun Run (\$5.00)

**8:30am** - 5K Race begins

**Register on-line at**  
**www.stmarybethelct.org**

**\$20.00 fee if registered by May 19<sup>th</sup>;**

**\$25.00 after May 19<sup>th</sup>**

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**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

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|--------------------|-------|---|-------------------------------------------------|
| <b>MON., MAY 3</b> | 6:30  | + | Frank Kinsky – Family                           |
|                    | 9:00  | + | Suzanne & Ronald Dorman – Family                |
| <b>TUES, MAY 4</b> | 6:30  | + | Dan Kiah – Kathy & George Aiello                |
|                    | 9:00  | + | Stanley Gulczynski – Mary & Bob Sawitsky        |
| <b>WED., MAY 5</b> | 6:30  | + | Henry Van Dongen – Kallberg Family              |
|                    | 9:00  | + | Stella Bey – Bill & Pat Scollon                 |
| <b>THU., MAY 6</b> | 6:30  | + | Tony D’Orazio – Kallberg Family                 |
|                    | 9:00  | + | Walter Wasznieski – Mary & Bob Sawitsky         |
| <b>FRI., MAY 7</b> | 6:30  | + | Aura Martinez – George & Linda Keenan           |
|                    | 9:00  | + | Richard Grasso ( <i>Anniv.</i> ) – Evelyn Pica  |
| <b>SAT., MAY 8</b> | 8:00  | + | Richard Lawlor, Sr. – Family                    |
|                    | 5:30  | + | Edna Ceresa – Braden Family                     |
| <b>SUN., MAY 9</b> | 7:00  | + | Dan Kiah – Terri Rotello                        |
|                    | 8:30  | + | Concetta Maddalena & Concetta Milone – Children |
|                    | 10:00 | + | Ruth Anna Ballard – Chamberlin Family           |
|                    | 11:30 | + | Msgr. Edward B. Karl – Benedict Family          |
|                    | 5:30  | + | Josephine Pieroni – Family                      |



**WELCOME TO THOSE WHO WERE NEWLY BAPTIZED**

*Elizabeth Regan Cullinan*

*John Ismael Martinez*

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**GOAL:    \$15,000**

**COLLECTION:    \$12,219**

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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: *Parish 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.*