
Fr. Corey's Comments

➤ *It was a wonderful turnout for this year's Carnival and for the most part the weather was cooperative. There was such community and parish spirit felt by the many visitors and workers, it was a pleasure to join in the fun. I cannot say "thank you" enough to the countless volunteers who worked throughout the carnival. If you have never been involved behind the scenes before, you would be amazed at the hard work and dedication. Parents, friends, alumni, parents of alumni, Sr. Donna, people who have no children in the school, and the Knights of Columbus are just a few groups that worked tirelessly to set up, man the booths and do the take-down. On behalf of Sr. Anne and myself, a million thanks for all you do!*

➤ *As you all know, Monday, May 25th, is Memorial Day. Three years after the Civil War ended, on May 5, 1868, the head of an organization of Union veterans — the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) — established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. Major General John A. Logan declared that Decoration Day should be observed on May 30. It is believed that date was chosen because flowers would be in bloom all over the country. The first large observance was held that year at Arlington National Cemetery, across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C.*

The ceremonies centered around the mourning-draped veranda of the Arlington mansion, once the home of General Robert E. Lee. Various Washington officials, including Gen. and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant, presided over the ceremonies. After speeches, children from the Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphan Home and members of the GAR made their way through the cemetery, strewing flowers on both Union and Confederate graves, reciting prayers and singing hymns.

In 1966, Congress and President Lyndon Johnson declared Waterloo, N.Y., the "birthplace" of Memorial Day. There, a ceremony on May 5, 1866, honored local veterans who had fought in the Civil War. Businesses closed and residents flew flags at half-staff. Supporters of Waterloo's claim say earlier observances in other places were informal, not community-wide or one-time events.

By the end of the 19th century, Memorial Day ceremonies were being held on May 30 throughout the nation. State legislatures passed proclamations designating the day, and the Army and Navy adopted regulations for proper observance at their facilities. It was not until after World War I, however, that the day was expanded to honor those who have died in all American wars. In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday by an act of Congress, though it is still often called Decoration Day. It was then also placed on the last Monday in May, as were some other federal holidays.

I have actually found a Memorial Day Prayer to comfort those who mourn and those who have served.

Dear Heavenly Father, As we remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom, we think of how they have followed in the footsteps of your son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Please hold our service men and women in your strong arms. Cover them with your sheltering grace and presence as they stand in the gap for our protection. We also remember the families of our troops, and ask for your unique blessings to fill their homes and your peace, provision and strength to fill their lives. May the members of our armed forces be filled with courage to face each day and may they trust in the Lord's mighty power to accomplish each task. Let our military brothers and sisters feel our love and support. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

On Monday, Memorial Day we will not have the usual 6:30am Mass, but we shall celebrate our 9:00am Mass at St. Mary Cemetery, weather permitting. Also, the Rectory will be closed in observance.

Fr. Corey (Cont'd.)



Pope Benedict XVI said: "I am not a man who constantly thinks up jokes. But, I think it's very important to be able to see the funny side of life, and its joyful dimension and not take everything too tragically. I'd also say it's necessary for my ministry. A writer once said that angels can fly because they don't take themselves too seriously. Maybe we could also fly a bit if we didn't think we were so important."

With that in mind the children were all lined up for their first confession when Little Johnny's turn came. The priest asked him to confess his sins, and the boy promptly replied, "Father, I threw a stone at Jimmy". "That was a very misguided thing to do, my son," said the priest patiently. "It wasn't misguided at all," said little Johnny. "I hit him."

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### CONCERNING THE SWINE FLU

*It has been recommended by the Diocese that the following temporary precautionary measures be taken during this flu outbreak.*

- *We shall not have the Cup of Precious Blood at Mass.*
- *We encourage all to receive Holy Communion in the hand.*
- *We encourage all not to shake hands during the sign of peace but to verbally wish each other the sign of peace, smile or nod.*
- *We have Purell in the bench for Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, and they have washed their hands before Mass.*
- *The clergy in the sanctuary also has Purell in case of a cough or sneeze.*
- *If you are ill, please stay home until you are better. There is no sin occurred if you are not feeling well.*

*Thank you for your cooperation.*

*While we do periodically recognize our service men and women during the year, this weekend is a particularly appropriate time to recognize, prayer for, and thank those who are volunteering to protect and serve our country. If there is someone you would like to add, please call the Rectory (744-5777) with the name, rank, branch of service and assignment, and we shall publish them in the bulletin occasionally as well as keeping a list for our prayers.*

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

**Ryan Ledan, Corporal in the Marines, serving in Afghanistan**  
*Son of Jerry & Michelle Ledan*

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

**Chad Van Kuren, Sergeant 1<sup>st</sup> Class in the Army, serving in Baghdad**  
*Son of Dr. Kate Forno*

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

**Roger Bellamy, Staff Sergeant, Air National Guard, serving in Afghanistan**

**Thomas Burke, Lance Corporal, Marines, Iraq**

**Paul Nelson, Staff Sergeant, Marines, Iraq**

**Dave & Ann Perkins, Captains, Army, Afgh.**




THE RECTORY


WILL BE CLOSED ON

**Memorial Day** MONDAY, MAY 25





A **Catholic Caring for the Sick and Dying Seminar** will take place on **TUES., JUNE 2<sup>nd</sup>**, from **6:30pm – 8:30pm**, in the **Parish Hall**. There is no charge. Please email [dwhitmore@snet.net](mailto:dwhitmore@snet.net) or call **Dave** (203) 470-0909 to pre-register. **Deacon Tom Davis** and **Father Paul Murphy** will discuss Catholic moral teaching and provide some practical advice for Catholics who may be dealing with sick and dying situations.


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

**ST. MARY BOOK CLUB – MAY BOOK:** *“Journeying Toward Our Spiritual North Star”*, by **Matthew Kelly**. Join **Deacon John** in the **Children’s Room** at **7:30pm**, this **TUES., MAY 26<sup>th</sup>**, for a group discussion. 

**JUNE BOOK:** *“The Return of the Prodigal Son”*, by **Henri J. M. Nouwen**. Discussion – **JUNE 30**.

 **Come Sing with the Choir!** The adult choir welcomes singers to become part of our Music Liturgy. If you are interested in joining, please call **Elizabeth** (798-0076).

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, JULY 27 – 31, 9:00-11:45am**, for children 3-8 years old. **Cost: \$15.00**. Registration forms are available at the Rectory or on our website: [www.stmarybethel.org](http://www.stmarybethel.org). 

 **DANBURY EMMAUS RETREAT** for adults (ages 18 & older) will be from **JUNE 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>**, Seton Newman Center, Danbury. If you are interested, please contact **Kristen Nauheimer** (512-5285).

**ST. MARY’S MIDNIGHT RUN TEAM**

*“Midnight Run is a volunteer organization dedicated to finding common ground between the housed and the homeless.”*


**Saturday, MAY 30<sup>th</sup>**, St. Mary Parish will participate in a **Midnight Run**, and **we need your help**.

There are several ways you can do this:

- ❖ **Help make sandwiches and pack lunch bags;**
- ❖ **Help assemble toiletry bags;**
- ❖ **Go on the Midnight Run in New York** (We will take a max of 12 – 8 Adults and 4 High School age – so sign up quickly);
- ❖ **Make a Monetary donation** (Each run will cost about \$200-\$300);
- ❖ **Donate Toiletries** (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, wash cloths);
- ❖ **Donate new items** (men’s clothes – underwear, socks, jeans, sweatshirts, t-shirts. Also, blankets);

For more info. or to volunteer, call **Mary Ferri:** 743-4557

**PERMANENT DIACONATE FORMATION**

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



St. Mary School will participate in the **Parochial School All Star Track Meet**, at **Immaculate HS**, on **SUN., MAY 31<sup>st</sup>**, at **1:00pm**. Come support the team!

**No School – MON., MAY 25<sup>th</sup>**, Memorial Day.

Thank you to all who supported our annual **Carnival, Circus and Raffle** this year! We appreciate all the volunteers, both parents and parishioners, who made it a success, and we are most grateful to the Co-chairs, **Mary Jo Magrone** and **Tony & Patty Rizzo**.



Couples celebrating a special wedding anniversary – 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, etc. – during the months of January–June are invited to participate in a celebration of their anniversaries with family and friends at **St. Theresa Church**, Trumbull, on **SUN., JUNE 14<sup>th</sup>**, at **3:00pm**. This will consist of a concelebrated Mass with Bishop Lori, the renewal of the marriage vows, and the presentation of certificates. Interested couples should call the **Rectory (744-5777)** to register by **JUNE 1<sup>st</sup>**.



**BETHEL SENIOR CENTER presents:**

**“What a Wonderful World” Variety Show**

**Bethel Municipal Center, All Purpose Room**

**FRI., MAY 29 – 1:00pm** (doors open at 12:15)  
**7:00pm** (doors open at 6:15)

The show will be set up cabaret-style with wine and cheese, soda, coffee and desserts served before the show. Bring your own goodies, even lunch/dinner. Debbie Burke and Judy Novachek are generously giving their time to offer you a show with a variety of music from “*Moon River*” to “*The Twist*” to “*Put on a Happy Face*”. Tickets can be purchased in the **Center office** for only **\$5.00 each**. For more info. please call the **Senior Center – 794-8593 or 792-3048**.

*You are invited to*

**St. Mary School's  
45th Anniversary and Blue Ribbon Award  
Celebration Mass**

**St. Mary Church  
Sunday, June 7, 2009, at 8:30am**

**Immediately followed by a  
Communion Breakfast  
at**

**Three Oaks, Capellaro's Grove  
42 Vail Road, Bethel, Connecticut**

**Guest Speaker: Mary Ronan**

**\$20 per Adult/\$10 per Child  
No charge for children 5 and under**

**Seating for breakfast is limited to first 200.**

**Family Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**# of Adults** \_\_\_\_ x \$20 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**# of Children** \_\_\_\_ x \$10 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**# of Children 5 & under** \_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ .00

**Total** ..... = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send check payable to St. Mary School to:**

**St. Mary School, 24 Dodgingtown Rd., Bethel,  
CT 06801 (attn: Kathleen DeMarco)**

**Space is limited, so make your reservations early.**

**Please call Kathleen DeMarco (270-3597) with  
any questions you may have.**

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

|                     |       |                                  |                                                        |
|---------------------|-------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>MON., MAY 25</b> | 6:30  | <i>NO MASS</i>                   |                                                        |
|                     | 9:00  | <i>MASS at St. Mary Cemetery</i> |                                                        |
| <b>TUES, MAY 26</b> | 6:30  | +                                | Sr. Mary Julian Collins                                |
|                     | 9:00  |                                  | Jason ( <i>Birthday Blessings</i> ) – DiMatteo Family  |
| <b>WED., MAY 27</b> | 6:30  | +                                | Inda Butler – St. Mary School Community                |
|                     | 9:00  | +                                | Frances Soltis – John & Kathy McGowan                  |
| <b>THU., MAY 28</b> | 6:30  | +                                | Rev. Austin Dignam                                     |
|                     | 9:00  | +                                | Francis Arthur Stratford – Stratford & Kovner Families |
| <b>FRI., MAY 29</b> | 6:30  |                                  | Blessed Mother’s Intentions                            |
|                     | 9:00  | +                                | Steve Deak – Anziano Family                            |
| <b>SAT., MAY 30</b> | 8:00  | +                                | Andrew McClellan – Bud & Eleanor McClellan             |
|                     | 5:30  | +                                | Paul Burne – Amy Davenport                             |
| <b>SUN., MAY 31</b> | 7:00  | +                                | William Bonacci – Enrico & Francesca Bonacci           |
|                     | 8:30  | +                                | Ernst Wendel – Picard Family                           |
|                     | 10:00 | +                                | Gloria Postiglione – Nick & Annamarie Santarelli       |
|                     | 11:30 | +                                | Margaret Orr – Kallberg Family                         |
|                     | 5:30  | +                                | Kellianne Gartland – Family                            |



**WELCOME TO THOSE WHO WERE NEWLY BAPTIZED**

*Morgan Elizabeth Hughes*

**I – Michael Rossini & Julia Caso**



**GOAL:    \$15,000**

**COLLECTION:    \$11,977**

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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.*