
Fr. Corey's Comments

➤ *One of the reasons I have been offering "Catholic Trivia" each week this summer is that I want a painless way to help everyone learn a little more about our faith. Catechism can sometimes be a bit dull or boring, but if you put a twist on it (like a spoon full of sugar), it can help the medicine go down.*

As Catholics we are very lucky. Jesus has given us His Body and Blood to strengthen us, to help us grow in faith, to help us be champions of the helpless, like the unborn, the elderly, the poor and needy. The Sacraments Jesus left to His Church meet us at every important turn of our lives. The Sacraments are instituted by Christ to give grace (God's love).

Let me share with you a bit about Baptism. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church 1213 Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit (vitae spiritualis ianua), and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: "Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water in the word."

Baptism offers us new life and a new family. Through Baptism ALL our sins are forgiven (even Original Sin), and we become sons and daughters of God and part of the Church, a community of believing Christians.

The forgiveness of sins is easy to understand. In Baptism we are buried with Christ (the dying takes place with the pouring of water), and we rise with Christ to newness of life (with the words of the Trinitarian formula). It is a death to sin, our sinful selves, and we rise a new creation, we share the life of Christ, we become saints and are given the grace to live and love in the name of Jesus.

The other thing at Baptism that is sometimes forgotten is that we become sons and daughters of God, not just His creations. We become members of the Church, the family of God, truly sisters and brothers of each other and of Jesus, which gives us rights and obligations. The rights that we receive are the free flowing graces that are coming to us by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. We are given the promise of eternal life. We share in the priesthood of Jesus Christ. Baptism imprints on the soul an indelible spiritual sign, the character, which consecrates that baptized person for Christian worship. CCC1280.

Our obligations now are to participate in the life of the Church, to care for our sisters and our brothers, to preach the Good News, to practice the Corporal and Spiritual works of mercy, and to reach out to the world and be another Christ to everyone we meet. Baptism, though celebrated for an individual, is not private or individual at all. While an intimate encounter with the Holy Trinity, it is extremely communal in nature. Baptism in no way isolates us but brings us into the family of all ages. It is a Sacrament that should get us in touch with our new family and should be celebrated by the entire Church family. That is why we put the names of the newly Baptized in the bulletin. It says – Hey folks, we have a new brother or a new sister. And what we do when a new one comes into the family? We want to see them and rejoice with the parents and love them. So, the community aspect is so very important, and it is the reason we all need to be there.

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

At Saint Mary's, unlike many other churches, we celebrate Baptism 50 weeks out of the year. To emphasize the community aspect we shall offer the Sacrament of Baptism at the 11:30 Mass on the First Sunday of each Month. If there will be baptisms at the 11:30 Mass we shall publish that the week before in the bulletin in case you would prefer not to attend. It will most likely take about 10 minutes more. (The usual procedures of registering with the office will remain the same.) In addition, we shall continue to celebrate Baptisms every Sunday at 12:45pm. We also ask that "private" Baptisms be eliminated except in the most extreme situations. This will surely emphasize that the newly Baptized is truly being welcomed in the family of St. Mary Parish.

There always seems to be a bit of confusion about godparents. In the old days it was the godparent's duty to raise a child if (God forbid) something should happen to the parents. Today, a godparent must be over 16, fully initiated into the Church (received Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation) and exemplifies the Catholic life by being a participating and regular member of a parish Community. The godparent must be an example to the child – attends Mass each week, is in a regular marriage, prays, knows the faith and Scripture – is an active member of the Church.

Often, people ask if they can have more than one godmother or godfather. Some cultures have many godparents but in the United States it is tradition to have only one godmother and one godfather. In the Baptismal Record book there is only room for TWO names. Only two names can go into the book. If you would like to have more than two "stand up" for your child, that is fine; just remember only two can be recorded.

IF YOU ARE PARENTS OF A NEWLY BAPTIZED OR IF YOU ARE GRANDPARENTS OF A NEWLY BAPTIZED, READ THIS TO YOUR CHILDREN...

We at St. Mary Parish want and need you and your baby at Mass each Sunday. You need the strength, grace and support of the community, and your baby needs and deserves the grace of Mass and the love of our Parish community. If you have trouble getting everything together, and you are late for Mass, that is ok. If your baby decides to sing at Mass (a different song than the rest of us), that's ok, that is what the Cry Room is for. If your baby decides that he or she has had enough that day, and you want to leave early, that is ok. We want and need you to be present, and I dare say you need God as in integral part of you life, now more than ever with your great responsibility. Please don't wait till it is time for First Holy Communion to bring your baby back to Church. Don't make me call you and see where you are.

I am sometimes asked why we don't have baby-sitting service. Why? I honestly don't believe in it. Babies, toddlers and little ones need to worship with the rest of us. They give us hope, they bring us joy, and they show us renewal and the value of life. If they get a little anxious or upset, we have a clean and beautiful Cry Room. I want little ones worshipping with us instead of coloring.

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

➤ *Answers to last week's Catholic Trivia:*

Some folks may have found the names a bit difficult, and some may have thought them a breeze. So, here are the answers:

- 1. The names given to the 3 Kings are Casper, Melchior and Balthasar.*
- 2. Dismas is the name of the good or repentant thief.*
- 3. Gestas is the name of the impenitent thief.*
- 4. Joachim and Anne are the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary.*
- 5. Longinus was the Roman soldier who lanced the crucified Christ.*

➤ *Bonus question answer:*

The process of becoming a saint was changed in 1983. It included reducing the length of the process to ten years. An interested party or group approaches their bishop. Working with the advocates of the candidate, he or she sends in a report on the person to the Congregation for the causes of Saints.

In this process, there are three formal steps.

- 1. Venerable. The Congregation researches the candidate's virtues to verify if the person practiced virtue to a heroic degree, or died a martyr's death. When the pope accepts the report, the candidate is termed "venerable".*
- 2. Blessed. This second (apostolic) process continues the first. No, this is a very lengthy process of scrutiny by an advocatus Dei (advocate of God). This promoter of the cause is authorized to examine the person's life, virtues, writings, reputation for holiness and reported miracles. Sometimes called the promoter of the faith or devil's advocate, he is required to raise objections. Customarily, two miracles must be credited to the candidate's intercession with God. The venerable candidate is then beatified by the pope at a ceremony in St. Peter's Basilica, including the declaration as a beatus, unveiling of a photo or painting.*
- 3. Saint. Canonization means being raised to the full honors of the altar with their name being said at Mass. Canonization requires veneration of the saint.*

➤ *This week's Catholic Trivia:*

It has been a practice since the early day of the Church to use certain letters, mostly derived from Greek and Latin words, as symbols, and abbreviations. Do you know some of the more famous ones?

- 1. A M (this does not refer to time)*
- 2. AMDG*
- 3. AMR*
- 4. ICHTHYS*
- 5. JMJ*

A Message From Deacon Mike

More than 100 St. Mary Parishioners volunteer their time at the Dorothy Day Hospitality House (DDHH) in Danbury which has provided emergency shelter and a daily hot meal to thousands upon thousands of the homeless and the hungry since its inception in 1982. Over the years the mission of DDHH has stayed the course focusing on these ministries almost exclusively. (For the past 12 years, St. Mary Parish has been a primary driver of the DDHH Santa Workshop to provide toys to the neediest kids.) DDHH is all volunteer (no paid staff) and there are no federal or state or municipal sources of funding. All funding comes from individual or company contributions.

Every person associated with DDHH would love to see the shelter and soup kitchen close because there was no longer a need for it. No one has a vested interest in keeping them open because no one draws a salary at DDHH. Most especially, when it comes to the homeless, everyone at DDHH would love to see them out of the shelter and into a room. It's difficult because every circumstance is different. Yes, there are city, state, federal and VA programs to help people off the streets. Even Catholic Charities has a Homeless Outreach Team and program. And yet, at DDHH, the numbers continue to grow and many times we see the chronically homeless. It's disturbing and has been a constant source of frustration to many of us adults over the years.

As I mentioned in my homily last weekend, a very specific incident happened a few years ago which shows us that through the eyes of children we can see the power of God in addressing the problem – not through bureaucracy or major organizations, but literally through the eyes of a child.

A few years ago I was asked by the Director of Religious Education to come to the school to talk to her 6th graders about homelessness. I said, "Let me bring a homeless person in to let the kids hear directly what it's like to be homeless." When the children heard his story, they started a program, "That's Not Fair" and raised money to try to help one homeless person off the streets and into an apartment. Since that humble beginning, our eyes were opened, the program has grown, and Dorothy Day has contributed to getting more than 20 chronically homeless people off the streets and into apartments or rooming houses, most of them within the past year. This miracle is really starting to take off; more and more homeless people are seeing this miracle happen before their very eyes – and its giving them hope that this miracle can happen to them.

We at DDHH work with every possible agency, every possible family and friend contact, use every and all means to ease a person out of the shelter and into a room they can call their own. And, we do it fast – no bureaucratic procedures, paperwork, waiting lines, no background checks, no references except our own knowledge of the homeless person. As long as they have some source of income so that they can pay a monthly rent, we at DDHH will help with the deposit. Many of the homeless just need a kind of extended family member to nudge them into realizing that with just a little help they can surmount obstacles to them getting off the streets and out of shelters.

Here are some ways you can help make the dream of the children, of the DDHH, and most especially, of the homeless come true.

Make a tax-deductible contribution to the DDHH, P. O. Box 922, Danbury, CT 06813-0922 and in the note section at the bottom of the check identify it as follows "to help a homeless person off the street".

Provide Deacon Mike Oles with any available rentals on the local bus routes which are low cost – such as a rooming house, or tiny apartment).

Call Deacon Mike at 203 733-5880 to work directly within the ministry. God's peace to all.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

MON., AUG. 3	6:30	Special Intention	
	9:00	+ Alfonse Ilaria – Richard Ilaria Family	
TUES, AUG. 4	6:30	+ John Clement – 9:00am Mass Friends	
	9:00	+ Tony Soegaard – Shannon Cleary Burns	
WED., AUG. 5	6:30	+ Blessed Mother’s Intentions	
	9:00	+ John Lawrence Trubinski – Family	
THU., AUG. 6	6:30	+ Nicholas Whitmore (12 th Anniv.) – Family	
	9:00	+ William A. Gulya – Steve & Jackie Mikos	
FRI., AUG. 7	6:30	+ Bruno DeLuca – Wife	
	9:00	+ In Honor of St. Claire	
SAT., AUG. 8	8:00	+ Mary Deakin – Family	
	5:30	+ Bill Benzing – Bach Family	
SUN., AUG. 9	7:00	+ Rev. John J. Kennedy & Msgr. Richard Scully	
	8:30	+ Elizabeth Hand – Carol Francione	
	10:00	+ John Tamas – Gartland Family	
	11:30	+ Daniel W. Vecchia – Phoebe Ann Vecchia	
	5:30	+ Teresa Jean Cundari – Heffner Family	

Mass Intentions



WELCOME TO THOSE WHO WERE NEWLY BAPTIZED



Wyatt Varun Bansak

Juanita Judith Escamilla

Jacob Obide Quader

III – Ricardo Valencia & Jenilee Varian

II – Brandon Adams & Katherine Wax



GOAL: \$15,000

COLLECTION: \$12,240

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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**

**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 celebrate.***