
Fr. Corey's Comments

Last week I wrote to you that I would speak at all of the masses this weekend. My trip to Rome will not allow me to be here for all of the masses, so I'm using the bulletin to inform you of an opportunity to enhance our liturgical worship and add to the beauty of our church.

The song says we are a pilgrim people; we are the Church of God; a family of believers, disciples of the Lord. United in one Spirit, ignited by the fire, still burning through the ages, still present in our lives.

According to the Catholic Bishops of the United States: Just as the term Church refers to the living temple, God's People, the term church also has been used to describe "the building in which the Christian community gathers to hear the word of God, to pray together, to receive the sacraments, and celebrate the Eucharist." That building is both the house of God on earth (domus Dei) and a house fit for the prayers of the saints (domus ecclesiae). Such a house of prayer must be expressive of the presence of God and suited for the celebration of the sacrifice of Christ, as well as reflective of the community that celebrates there.

Monsignor Karl beautifully designed our Church and it is a wonderful worship space. Intimate, warm and conducive to prayer are words that easily describe where we gather to meet the Lord and each other and offer ourselves with Jesus to the Father.

According to the General Instruction of the Roman Missal: Sacred buildings and requisites for divine worship should, moreover, be truly worthy and beautiful and be signs and symbols of heavenly realities. Our Church meets these requirements and exceeds them.

As the Catechism of the Catholic Church clearly states The Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life." The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself, our Pasch" Care must be taken so that the sanctuary is kept beautiful, clean, safe and worthy of the worship that takes place there in.

About a year and a half ago, the Holy See and the United Council of Catholic Bishops published new directives that put our Church in a difficult spot.

A priest or deacon is the only one who can retrieve or repose the Blessed Sacrament and at the same time a priest is not allowed to leave the sanctuary except in extra ordinary circumstances like a funeral. None of us have long enough arms to reach the tabernacle from the altar...I have tried!

The best idea we have is to move the Blessed Sacrament back into the Sanctuary. The reason I say "back" is because most of you remember the tabernacle being front and center of the altar in the Churches you grew up in.

Now if that were the extent of things the letter would end here. But like dominoes, one thing often leads to another. If we put the tabernacle in the middle of the back wall in the sanctuary, the crucifix must be lifted up a small amount. I am told by the fellow who worked with Monsignor Karl in the design of the Church that this is an easy thing to do. To give the dignity due the tabernacle it must be clearly seen even during the celebration of the Mass so the throne or altar on which the tabernacle sits should be elevated a foot or so above the platform.

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

While discussing these changes we took a look at the carpet on the altar. We found a couple of problems. The floor on which the altar sits is squeaking and groaning. The carpenter/builder said the floorboards are separating and need to be fixed. Right now the carpet has many burn holes, the seams are coming apart in a number of places, wax is all over the place (with grease mark residue) and the carpet is worn behind the altar as well as behind the pulpit. So if we fix the platform under the altar we cannot put the same carpet back. If the carpet needs to be professionally cleaned a couple of times a year and if we have to replace it every 10 years or so, it would make sense to find a permanent solution.

To make the sanctuary floor out of marble would be a permanent and beautiful enhancement to the space surrounding the altar. A magnificent design has been received and moving the altar out a couple of feet, keeping it at the same level would make the sanctuary more intimate and have better air circulation for those in the sanctuary. This would entail eliminating the first bench but the altar would then be closer to the congregation.

If you take a look down under your pew you will see that the vinyl tiles are beginning to separate and indeed are coming up in many places. The solution would be to put a new porcelain floor down that would be permanent, durable, non-slipping and easily maintained.

(This project is NOT being considered now but it will be in the future). I hope once you see the enhancements, you will whole-heartedly agree with doing the rest of the Church.

Of course, there is a price. From watching shows on HG TV and TLC, the cost of this project will be close to a completely renovating a kitchen –about \$205,000. **Yes, it does seem like a good chunk of change but I think the money will be well spent on things that will never need to be replaced again in the life of the Church.**

Brian Baker who worked closely with Monsignor Karl in building this Church told me that if Monsignor had more funds at the time, he would have loved to put in a marble floor. So it seems to have been in the plans all along. The estimated time of completing the project is about 4 weeks.

Please consider this project and join with me, Bishop Lori, the other clergy, the Finance Council, and others in the Parish and participate in this Church enhancement, the first since the church was completed.

We shall be asking for your gifts and or pledges to fund this project in the next couple of weeks with an appeal from the pulpit. Please pray about this and consider how you can help. Even if you feel that you cannot participate at this time, we still need your prayers for its success. So you know that I am firmly in support of this worthwhile project I have already made my pledge to the Fund.

An artist's conceptual rendering is in the vestibule of the Church for you to see.

Please note that we are not trying to “change the looks of our Church” but to conform to the new directives, fix some problems and enhance the beauty of the Church. Many thanks for your continuing generosity and prayers and I ask the Blessed Mother, our patron to pray for the success of this project.

AUTUMN

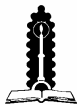
YOUTH NEWS



ST. MARY ANNUAL COLLECTION

will be taken up during the **month of November**. Please be as generous as possible to this collection and drop your envelope into the offertory anytime next month.

Envelopes to remember our deceased may be returned any time during November. Masses are offered throughout the year for *Souls in Purgatory*.



NOCTURNAL ADORATION will be on FRI., NOV. 6th, from 9:00pm to 7:00am.

COFFEE & ... will be served after the 08:30 & 10:00 Mass on SUN., NOV. 8th.



DOROTHY DAY VOLUNTEERS

WED., NOV. 4th: *Our turn to Cook.*

ST. MARY BOOK CLUB: NOVEMBER BOOK

"Choosing Forgiveness: Your Journey to Freedom"; authored by **Nancy Leigh Moss**, a radio talk show host and best selling author. Meet for discussion on TUES., NOV. 24th, at 7:30pm, in the **Children's Room**.



NAVIGATING the ELDER CARE SYSTEM

Resources Seminar will be on WED., NOV. 4th, at 7:00pm, in the **Parish Hall**. Five distinguished panelists will be addressing your questions and issues. To register or for free transportation, if needed, please call **203 470-0909**.

NEW ALTAR SERVERS

will be included in the **December schedule**. Those who do not wish to serve or have not contacted the Rectory will no longer be scheduled.



If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, please call our **Prayer Line**. Our team leaders are **Mary Walsh** (798-1237) and **Colleen Santaniello** (792-0009).



Junior YG: SAT., NOV. 7th, from **4:30-6:30pm**, **Fall Clean-up** – Service activity. Mass & dinner.

Jr. and Sr. Youth Group members will have T-shirts that were designed by our own youth for sale during November.

ATTN: TEENS & PARENTS



Tonight, SUN., NOV. 1st, at 6:30pm, there will be an informational meeting in the **Parish Hall** for next year's **Mission Trip/Retreat**, scheduled for JUNE 27 – JULY 2, 2010. All interested high school students and their parents should attend. Applications will be given out with a return **deadline of NOV. 16**. You may view the Mission Trip/Retreat guidelines on our website. For more info. call **Kate Fitz** (744-5777).

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT:

Those who are grieving the loss of a loved one are invited to attend a get-together at the **Parish House** on the morning of SAT., NOV. 7th, at 10:30. You'll have the opportunity to participate in the conversation or simply just listen. Feel free to invite others who might be interested. We plan to conclude by noon. If you did not attend our first get-together but plan to attend this one, please **RSVP** by NOV. 3rd by calling the **Rectory** (744-5777) any weekday from 9:00-4:00, or email **Fr. Ed: stmaryoffice@comcast.net**. **Next date: SUN., NOV. 15th**, 2:30pm, in the **Parish House**.



Shut-Ins

Anyone who is homebound or unable to attend church who would like to receive the Eucharist, especially for holy days, may call **Mary Walsh** (798-1237) to arrange for a visit.



BIRTHRIGHT

is looking for people to knit or crochet **Layette Sets** (sweater, hat & booties), newborn size, and **3x3 Blankets** for car seats. Please use nice soft yarn in pastel colors. Call **Mary Ferri** (743-4557) for more info. or when you have finished an item.



SCHOOL NEWS

**NO SCHOOL: TUES., NOV. 3rd,
Professional Development Day.**

St. Mary Home School Assn. invites you to join them on **THUR., NOV. 5th**, at **7:30pm**, in the Gym for "**Reading, Writing, and Wrongs – School Security issues to Cipher On**", presented by **Peter S. Beering, Esq.** His focus will be on different aspects of Cyber Security – Facebook, Phising, Fraud and Identity Theft, Cyber stalking and Cyber predators, E-mail spam and spyware.



Come to the SM School BOOK FAIR

All are welcome to attend in the **Library**. Buy some great books and get some early Christmas shopping done. Please visit us on –

MON., NOV. 9th & FRI., NOV. 13th: 9:00-2:30;
TUE., NOV. 10th: 9:00-4:30 & 6:00-8:45pm;
THU., NOV. 12th: 9:00-4:30.

St. Mary's 4th Annual Wine Tasting will be held on **SAT., NOV. 14th**, in the **Parish Hall**. Gather friends and family for the evening and mingle with old friends and make new ones while enjoying wine and hors d'oeuvres. We will be accepting reservations after all Masses this weekend and next. We will also be selling raffle tickets for the beautiful wine baskets located in the vestibule.



CHRISTMAS GALA & CRAFT FAIR:



SAT., DEC. 5th. Vendors interested in space at the fair should contact **Kathy Iorfino: kiorfino@comcast.net (744-2714)**

PASTORAL CARE at Danbury Hospital

Prior to Your Hospitalization: You or a family member should notify the Rectory.

Upon Admission: You or a family member should notify the registrar that you are a parishioner at St. Mary.



Hospitalized



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS **NEXT REGULAR MEETING:**



MON., NOV. 9, 8:15pm, in the **Parish Hall**.

Gather for rosary in Church at 8:00pm.



Thanksgiving
Food Drive

THANKSGIVING is only a few weeks away, and once again you have the opportunity to share with those less fortunate. You may drop off your food donations (turkeys, canned or dry foods, etc.) starting **SAT., OCT. 31st**, in the **Church vestibule** every day from **8:00am - 5:00pm**. Please put frozen turkeys in the kitchen freezer. **Last day for donations: MON., NOV. 16th**. Monetary donations are appreciated and may be sent to: ***Brotherhood-in-Action, P.O. Box 581, Bethel, Ct. 06801.***

ST. MARY CLOTHING BANK

You may drop clothes off every **Thursday**, from **9:30-11:30am**, at the **Senior Center** on School Street.



Clothing Drive

OFF THE STREETS is a federally recognized non-profit program whose mission is to get homeless persons out of emergency shelters and into triage housing within a month. This costs about \$500 per person. We help with deposit money, etc. as long as a person has a way of paying the monthly rent. 100% of donations go directly to helping a homeless person get off the streets and stay off. There is no paid staff, and no federal, state or municipal funding; only contributions from individuals, companies, private organizations, churches are accepted. Some of you have already made generous contributions through Dorothy Day Hospitality House while we were getting this program established. You should receive a letter of thanks in the next couple of weeks. (If you don't, please call Deacon Mike.) **Contributions** should go to: **Off The Streets, P.O. Box 591, Bethel, CT 06801.** Our website: **www.offthestreetsnow.com**. Questions? Call **Deacon Mike Oles (733-5880)**.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

MON., NOV. 2	6:30	<i>NO MASS INTENTIONS</i>
<i>All Souls Day</i>	9:00	<i>NO MASS INTENTIONS</i>
TUES, NOV. 3	6:30	Special Intention
	9:00	+ Daniel McLeod (3 rd Anniv.) – Wife, Francine
WED., NOV. 4	6:30	+ George Foster – Dave Deakin
	9:00	Thank you to Dorothy Day Meal Preparers – Joan Finn
THU., NOV. 5	6:30	Blessed Mother’s Intentions
	9:00	+ Marie Livecchi – Cecera Family
FRI., NOV. 6	6:30	+ Mrs. Rojos – Ann Kerrigan
	9:00	+ Patrick Buckley – Friend
SAT., NOV. 7	8:00	+ Edward Culhane (Anniv.) – Brenda & Kevin Cleary
	5:30	+ Elizabeth & Anthony Ippolito – Frances & Robert Forrest
SUN., NOV. 8	7:00	+ Mary Barnick – Sharon & Dave Pijnenburg
	8:30	+ Denis Riordan – Family
	10:00	+ Adelaide Gray – Family
	11:30	+ Adel Maurutis & Mary Macinauskas – Tom & Cindy Kearney
	5:30	+ Frank & Lucy Chiarella – Family



WELCOME TO THOSE WHO WERE NEWLY BAPTIZED

Kathryn Michele Niesz

II – Brent Cavallaro & Tricia Deane



*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.