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## *Fr. Cyrus' Column*

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➤ *Last Sunday we celebrated the Solemnity of All Saints where we honor the heroic lives of countless men and women of all ages who consecrated their lives to God and His Church. According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, “It is instituted to honor all the saints, known and unknown, and, according to Pope Urban IV, to supply any deficiencies in the faithful's celebration of saints' feasts during the year. In the early days, the Christians were accustomed to solemnize the anniversary of a martyr's death for Christ at the place of martyrdom. In the fourth century, neighboring dioceses began to interchange feasts, to transfer relics, to divide them, and to join in a common feast; as is shown by the invitation of St. Basil of Caesarea (397) to the bishops of the province of Pontus. Frequently groups of martyrs suffered on the same day, which naturally led to a joint commemoration. In the persecution of Diocletian the number of martyrs became so great that a separate day could not be assigned to each. But, the Church, feeling that every martyr should be venerated, appointed a common day for all. The first trace of this we find in Antioch on the Sunday after Pentecost. We also find mention of a common day in a sermon of St. Ephrem the Syrian (373), and in the 74<sup>th</sup> homily of St. John Chrysostom (407). At first only martyrs and St. John the Baptist were honored by a special day. Other saints were added gradually, and increased in number when a regular process of canonization was established; still, as early as 411 there is in the Chaldean Calendar a Commemoratio Confessorum for the Friday after Easter. In the West, Pope Boniface IV, 13 May, 609, or 610, consecrated the Pantheon in Rome to the Blessed Virgin and all the martyrs, ordering an anniversary. Pope Gregory III (731-741) consecrated a chapel in the Basilica of St. Peter to all the saints and fixed the anniversary for 1 November. A basilica of the Apostles already existed in Rome, and its dedication was annually remembered on 1 May. Pope Gregory IV (827-844) extended the celebration on 1 November to the entire Church. The vigil seems to have been held as early as the feast itself. The octave was added by Pope Sixtus IV (1471-84)” (cf. <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/01315a.htm>).*

*Our celebration of the solemnity applies not only to the canonized saints, but also for all the souls who are in the glory of heaven, that is all of the persons in heaven who reached the perfection of charity. As Catholic Christians we are invited to imitate the saints in glory by our lives here on earth.*

➤ *On a lighter note, as you read in last week bulletin about the future plan for the expansion of the sanctuary, you will see the artist's sketch in the vestibule. You will notice that the tabernacle will be returned back to the middle of the sanctuary, and the place where the tabernacle is right now will be the baptistery. As Catholic Christians the centrality of the Eucharist is the Truth of our faith and the return of the tabernacle will fully manifest this faith in our church building. Also, in the plan you will see a new emblem on the floor. This emblem is the symbol of the Blessed Mother; the three letters, AMR, intertwined read Ave Maria Regina, which means “Hail Mary our Queen”. This is surrounded by twelve stars that represent the twelve tribes of Israel or the twelve Apostles. It is a great addition to our church which was dedicated to our Lady. Please pray for the success of this project.*

➤ *On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, we had a collection of relief goods to benefit the typhoon victims in the Philippines. I am happy to report that we were able to collect 58 Balibayan boxes of clothes, toiletries, canned goods etc. and ship them to a college seminary, convent, Catholic churches and chapel and an orphanage. They will be the ones who will distribute it to the needy in their areas. Thank you very much for your help and please know that your kindness and generosity are remembered on the Altar of Sacrifice.*

# NOVEMBER



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**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.

November is dedicated to the Faithful Departed. Our **Book of Names** will be in the Sanctuary with the Paschal Candle. Please inscribe the names of your departed loved ones so they can be remembered at Mass. Envelopes for the deceased may be returned any time during Nov. Masses are offered throughout the year for *Souls in Purgatory*.



**Evening Prayer for the Dead** (for all those who have died this past year) will take place on **SUN., NOV. 15<sup>th</sup>**, at **4:00pm**, with a reception to follow. We invite the entire Parish to come and pray for those in our Parish who have died.

## **ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE**



will be on **WED., NOV. 25<sup>th</sup>**, at **7:30pm**, at **St. Thomas Episcopal Church/Bethel**.

**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 **SUN., NOV. 15<sup>th</sup>**, at **2:30**. 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 **4:00**. If you have not attended any get-togethers but plan to attend this one, please **RSVP** by **NOV. 11<sup>th</sup>** by calling the **Rectory** (744-5777) any weekday from **9:00-4:00**, or email **Fr. Ed: stmaryoffice@comcast.net**.



**NEW ALTAR SERVERS** will be included in the **December schedule**. Those who no longer wish to serve should contact the **Rectory** (744-5777).



# SCHOOL NEWS

**TUES., NOV. 10<sup>th</sup> and THUR., NOV. 12<sup>th</sup>** – Dismissal: **11:15**, Parent Teacher Conferences.  
**WED., NOV. 11<sup>th</sup>** – No School, Veterans Day.



## **Come to the SM School BOOK FAIR**

All are welcome to attend in the **Library**. Buy some great books and do some early Christmas shopping. Please visit us this week –

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

Please join us for **TURKEY BINGO** on **FRI., NOV. 20<sup>th</sup>**, in the **Gym**. Doors open at **6:00pm**; Bingo starts at **7:00pm**. More info.: **Mary - maryraftery@comcast.net**; or **Robin - bill.robintaylor@comcast.net**.



There will be an **Open House** for prospective students entering **Pre-Kindergarten – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade** on **SUN., NOV. 22<sup>nd</sup>**, from **12:30-2:00pm**. For more info., please call the **School** (744-2922).



## **CHRISTMAS GALA & CRAFT FAIR:**

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

**LECTOR WORKBOOKS**, for the **2009-2010 year** beginning the **first Sunday of Advent (11/29)**, are available in the **Vestry**. Please sign the sheet provided when you pick one up. Thank you!



## **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. 24<sup>th</sup>**, at **7:30pm**, in the **Children’s Room**.



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
NEXT MEETING – 1<sup>st</sup> Degree:**



Members should arrive by 6:30pm, Degree at 7:00pm, followed by a short meeting.

**Sept. Knight of the Month: Joe McCabe**

**Sept. Family of the Month: Tony Iorfino Family**



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.) 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. 16<sup>th</sup>**. Monetary donations are appreciated and may be sent to: **Brotherhood-in-Action, P.O. Box 582, Bethel, Ct. 06801.**

**MEALS-ON-WHEELS** – Substitute drivers are needed for **one day each month** to deliver prepared meals to 8-12 homebound clients. The time frame is from **10:30am-12 noon**. If you are able to help, please call **744-4259**.



**Cursillo** is designed for Catholics who desire to strengthen their faith, who want to be closer to Christ, and who want to bring Christ to those around them. It is not a club or organization. There is no follow-up commitment, however, you will feel the natural desire to be near others who share the same commitment to make Christ present to the world. To learn more contact: **Yvonne Cecera (797-1361)** or email **yvonne\_cecera@hotmail.com**.

A **Mass of Healing and Hope** will be celebrated here at St. Mary Church by the **Rev. Lawrence Carew** from Christ the King parish in Trumbull on **MON., NOV. 16<sup>th</sup>**, at **7:30pm**. Please come, and bring a friend. No reservations necessary! Any questions? Please call **Patti Finn (748-7312)**.



**DANBURY EMMAUS** is having a retreat for anyone currently in high school from **FRI., NOV. 13<sup>th</sup> to SUN., NOV. 15<sup>th</sup>**, at Seton Newman Center in Danbury. For more information, please call **Elizabeth Allen (203 241-0814)**.



**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**



**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.

**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**



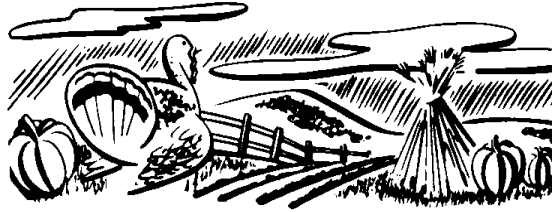
**ALL ANNOUNCEMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY NOON ON FRIDAY IN ORDER TO BE INCLUDED IN THE BULLETIN FOR THAT WEEKEND. ANY REQUESTS FOR INSERTS MUST BE APPROVED 3-4 WEEKS AHEAD AND A COPY MUST BE AT THE RECTORY 2 WEEKS AHEAD OF TIME.**

**THE RECTORY WILL**

**BE CLOSED ON**

**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 11<sup>th</sup>**





# *Saint Mary Harvest Wine Tasting*

*Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>*

*Grab some friends and join us for our 3rd Annual Saint Mary Wine Tasting. What a terrific way to mingle with old friends, meet some new friends and enjoy some great wine and hot & cold hors d'oeuvres. This is the perfect time of the year to learn more about wine, select some personal favorites and make purchases for gift giving, holiday parties and your Thanksgiving feast. It is truly a festive evening, and if you make your reservation early you save \$\$\$!*



**DATE:** SATURDAY, November 14, 2009

**TIME:** 7:30 – 8:00pm Check-In  
8:00 – 10:00pm Wine Presentation  
and Tasting

**LOCATION:** St. Mary Parish Hall  
26 Dodgingtown Road  
Bethel, CT 06801

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## *St. Mary Harvest Wine Tasting – Reservation Form*

*\$20 per person for Advanced Registrations (received by Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>)*

*\$25 per person at the door*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ # of Guests \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make check payable to St. Mary School and place in the collection basket with this form or mail to:*

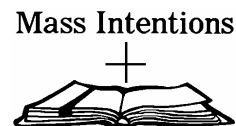
**Saint Mary School, c/o Kathleen Banks  
24 Dodgingtown Road, Bethel, CT 06801**

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**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

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<b>MON., NOV. 9</b>	6:30 + Jill C. Harkins Garcia – Noreen & Ken Hochsprung
	9:00 + James McGee – Bill & Clem Hollopeter
<b>TUES, NOV. 10</b>	6:30 + Pedro Hernandez – Steve & Nora Esteban & Family
	9:00 + Patrick Buckley – Wife
<b>WED., NOV. 11</b>	6:30 <b>NO MASS</b>
	9:00 + Tony Soegaard – Ferri Family
<b>THU., NOV. 12</b>	6:30 + Cathryn Costello
	9:00 + Edward Gallagher, Jr. – Family
<b>FRI., NOV. 13</b>	6:30 + Jesus (Steve) Esteban – Pat & Bob Brassington
	9:00 + Kate Fogarty – Scollon & Fallon
<b>SAT., NOV. 14</b>	8:00 + Sophie Hanyak – Sylvia & Michael Duff
	5:30 + Suzanne Dorman – Children
<b>SUN., NOV. 15</b>	7:00 + George Woronko – Sherman Family
	8:30 + Al Dennis (8 <sup>th</sup> Anniv.) – Family
	10:00 + Dorothy & Raymond Stelzel – Family
	11:30 + Joan Czyz – Family
	5:30 + William Schaefer, Jr. – Family



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**WELCOME TO THOSE WHO WERE NEWLY BAPTIZED**



*Larsen Maxwell Ackerman      Alexandra Jean Lombardi*  
*Anthony Mark Nicholas*

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III – Brent Cavallaro & Tricia Deane



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**GOAL:    \$15,000**

**COLLECTION:    \$10,644**

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**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.*