
Fr. Ed's Comments

As Thanksgiving Day approaches, I want to thank you for warmly welcoming me to Saint Mary's earlier this year. Your ongoing encouragement and support are greatly appreciated. What makes Saint Mary's such a special place is you, the parishioners. Your spirit of generosity and community makes Saint Mary's a very special place to be. It's an honor to be here to serve you.

It's a blessing as a later vocation to the priesthood to bring life experience as a husband, dad, widower and teacher into priestly ministry. It's truly amazing how the good Lord prepares us for "what's next" in life.

Although the product of an Irish-Catholic upbringing, and Catholic schooling from kindergarten through college, I never thought about becoming a priest until after the deaths of my wife and mom nearly fourteen years ago. When my three sisters and I were growing up, we'd ask our mom why she went to church every day. She'd say, "to pray for you!" I have a hunch that she and my wife had something to do with my hearing and answering God's call to the priesthood. To this day our daughter, Anne Marie, and our sons, Ed and Dan, call me "Father Father".

By God's grace, I received my seventh sacrament when Bishop Lori ordained me a priest in May, 2006, in Saint Augustine's Cathedral, where my dad and mom were married. My first parish assignment after ordination was where my wife, Sue, and I were married - Saint Catherine of Siena parish in Trumbull, the town where I served as a public high school teacher for many years before retiring to enter the seminary. I came to Saint Mary's from Saint Stephen's parish in - you guessed it - Trumbull. You can't make this up!

The blessings of the priesthood are absolutely incredible. The People of God invite you into the most significant events in their lives: their marriages; their children's Baptisms; Confirmations and First Communions; and life's challenges, including serious illnesses and losses of loved ones. It is the priest who celebrates Mass and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, turns ordinary bread and ordinary wine into the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus.

It's also the priest who exercises the forgiving ministry of the Church in celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. It's no wonder that when Pope John Paul II reflected on the priesthood on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination, he referred to the priesthood as Gift and Mystery.

As Catholics it's important that we pray for vocations to the priesthood, especially given the growing shortage of priests. But, it's still more important - in fact, essential - that we also ENCOURAGE vocations to the priesthood. A vocation to the priesthood does not happen in a vacuum. Encouragement is necessary. And, encouragement of a vocation to the priesthood begins in the family. So parents, you need to be the first encouragers of priestly vocations. The future of the Church literally depends on it.

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

Since coming to Saint Mary's my own priesthood has grown through my role as Spiritual Advisor in two new parish ministries - our new Men's Ministry and our new Bereavement Support Group.

Parishioner Dave Whitmore initiated the launching of our Men's Ministry in September. Dave coordinates the ministry's core team. Parishioners Andy D'Ambrosio and Maureen Decker serve on the Bereavement Support core team. Andy brings a background in psychology. Maureen is Regional Coordinator for Hospice Volunteers in the Greater Danbury area.

Over forty years ago the Second Vatican Council called on church leaders to empower the Catholic laity. Dave, Andy and Maureen are three of many fine examples here at Saint Mary's of the Council's wisdom and foresight in issuing this call.

Our new Men's Ministry meets in the church hall on Saturday mornings from 6:30 until 8 with coffee, bagels and donuts to get us started. We share some laughs, camaraderie, and conversation about some of the challenges faced by Catholic men today - moving the conversation beyond news, weather and sports. Discussions happen in a confidential, friendly environment where friendships are forming and growing. We open with some Scripture and close with a prayer. All men of the parish are welcome.

Our new Bereavement Support Group currently is offering a series of get-togethers which focus on the challenges of handling the holidays following the loss of a loved one. As one who has experienced the loss of loved ones, I am blessed to serve in this ministry as, what the late Father Henri Nouwen called, a Wounded Healer. God's grace truly is amazing. And, it's also touched my daughter, Anne Marie, who has become a Wounded Healer through her involvement in the Walk For The Cure in AZ in recent years. Awesome!

When not tending to day to day ministry in the parish, or serving as spiritual advisor to the two newest ministries at Saint Mary's, I'm one of about forty priests in the diocese, including Father Corey, participating in the Good Leaders, Good Shepherds program, to prepare and strengthen priests in the fine art of pastoring. That's where I was this past week.

Father Corey is in the first group of priests in this program and will complete it early next year (lucky!). I'll finish early in 2011. In addition to teaching sound pastoral leadership practices, Good Leaders, Good Shepherds also provides opportunities to form and grow friendships with brother priests from our diocese - another major plus of the program.

Meanwhile, as a faith community we look forward to the first enhancement of the beautiful worship space designed by our late pastor, Monsignor Edward Karl, since the building of our church was completed. Please pray for the success of this project, and, if able, support it also with a financial pledge, to give us an even more beautiful space in which to raise our minds and hearts to God.



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*.



MEALS-ON-WHEELS:
WEEK OF DELIVERIES

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.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP:

We will meet at the **Parish House** today, **SUN., NOV. 15th**, at **2:30pm** and plan to conclude by **4:00pm**. Our next get-together will be on **SAT., DEC. 12th** at **10:30am**.



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. **New date** for discussion: **TUES., DEC. 1st**, at **7:30pm**, in the **Children’s Room**.

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!



Please join us for **St. Mary’s Annual TURKEY BINGO** on **FRI., NOV. 20th**, in the **Gym**. Doors open at **6:00pm**; Bingo starts at **7:00pm**. Win cash and door prizes and have a great time with the entire family. Admission is \$3 for adults and children. Dinner and dessert will be available for purchase. For more info.: **Mary - maryraftery@comcast.net**; or **Robin - bill.robintaylor@comcast.net**.



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

CHRISTMAS GALA & CRAFT FAIR:



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

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)**.



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



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



Next Meeting – NOV. 23rd, at 8:15, Parish Hall.



Thanksgiving Food Drive

THANKSGIVING once more offers 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** until **5:00pm** tomorrow, **MON., NOV. 16th**. Monetary donations may be sent to: **Brotherhood-in-Action, P.O. Box 582, Bethel, Ct. 06801.**



odds "n" ends



Evening Prayer for the Dead (for all those who have died this past year) will take place today, **SUN., NOV. 15th**, 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.

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. 16th**, at **7:30pm**. Please come, and bring a friend. No reservations necessary! Any questions? Please call **Patti Finn (748-7312)**.



Join us in the **Church** on **THUR., NOV. 19th**, at **6:45pm**, for a **Mass of CURSILLO Remembrance** to pray for the souls who have gone home to be with the Lord. The Mass will be followed at **7:30pm** by our monthly **Ultreya**. Are you new to the area and looking to meet other Cursillo members, or just interested in finding out more? Please join us on the 19th, or contact: **Yvonne Cecera (797-1361)** or email **yvonne_cecera@hotmail.com**.

The **Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in honor of Our Lady of Fatima** will be celebrated on **TUES., NOV. 24th**, at **7:00pm**, by **Fr. Corey** here at St. Mary's. The Mass will include the Holy Rosary and enrollment in the Brown Scapular Veneration of Blessed Jacinta and Blessed Francisco Relics. Please bring flowers for Our Lady.



ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE

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



CT. MASTER CHORALE will present its **Holiday Concert** on **SUN., NOV. 22nd**, at **3:00pm**, in the **Church**. All are invited to start off the holiday season by enjoying a relaxing afternoon of holiday music.



SENIOR CENTER CRAFT FAIR, 1 School St.

FRI., NOV. 20th: 11:30am – 4:00pm;
SAT., NOV. 21st: 10:00am – 3:00pm.



Chili w/chips, hot dogs, apple pie, and baked goods. Crafts, Christmas trees & wreaths, aprons, pillowcases, ceramics, jewelry, raffle tickets

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)**.

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.



SANTA'S WORKSHOP for Dorothy Day

DEC. 19th, 2009



Santa's Workshop is a great way to help make this a **Merry Christmas** for the poorest kids in the Danbury area. If you want to get involved, please call **Deacon Oles (733-5880)**.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| MON., NOV. 16 | 6:30 + John Patryson – Kieran & Anne Twohey |
| | 9:00 + Josephine Natale – Daughter, Lillie |
| TUES, NOV. 17 | 6:30 + Maureen Martorella – Ryan & Jason |
| | 9:00 + Hugh Lee – Family |
| WED., NOV. 18 | 6:30 + Allen J. Roberts, Sr. – Liotta Family |
| | 9:00 + Mary Jane Brown – Polaski Family |
| THU., NOV. 19 | 6:30 + Joseph V. Tobin, Sr. – Tobin Family |
| | 9:00 + Brendan Duffy – Margaret Buckley |
| FRI., NOV. 20 | 6:30 + Tim Napoli – Jim Kelleher & Family |
| | 9:00 + Lillian Bory – Hoch Family |
| SAT., NOV. 21 | 8:00 + Alice McShane & Brendan Duffy |
| | 5:30 + Bernadine Loya (<i>Anniv.</i>) – Family |
| SUN., NOV. 22 | 7:00 + Cathryn Costello |
| | 8:30 + Edward & Marcella Leheny – Eleanor Kirk |
| | 10:00 + Arthur Horan, Jr. (<i>Anniv.</i>) – Family |
| | 11:30 + Angelo Bartolotta (<i>10th Anniv.</i>) – Family |
| | 5:30 + Mark Vlash (<i>2nd Anniv.</i>) – Family |

Mass Intentions



WELCOME TO THOSE WHO WERE NEWLY BAPTIZED



Eric Alexander Donatucci

Jackson Rudman Iapaluccio

Next weekend, 11/21 & 22, there will be a second collection for the
CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.



Special
Offering

GOAL: \$15,000

COLLECTION: \$14,299

~~~~~

**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.***