
Fr. Corey's Comments

As we begin the new liturgical year with the season of Advent, I would like to suggest to you the Fast for vocations that I introduced to you last week. In Sacred Scripture, Jesus tells us that the harvest is plenty, but the laborers are few. Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into the field to reap the harvest. There is an abundance of souls in the world to gather, but there are few to gather them. Jesus assures us that if we want vocations to the priesthood, we must pray for them. We need to pray for the laborers to answer the call. But, like all things that we want, this task needs a price to be paid, a sacrifice is necessary, our prayers and intercessions are important for men to answer the call to the priesthood.

I invite you this Advent season to pray for the gift of vocations to the priesthood. I am going to set aside one day a week to fast for vocations. I would liken this fast to the fasting we do during Lent...one full meal that day with two smaller meals and no eating in between. Besides this fast I am including a prayer for vocations at the end of this column that can be said on your fast day. We can take the opportunity to pray and fast, a wonderful ancient Catholic tradition to pray for men in our Parish, in our Diocese and in our world to answer God's call to serve the Church as a priest. What a wonderful gift for the new born Prince of Peace at Christmas.

My last leg of my trip was to Rome. Rome is such a mixture of the old and new, one could never tire of the Eternal City. Of course, the highlight of every trip to Rome is seeing the Holy Father. This year, in the pouring rain, we went to the Angelus in St. Peter's Square on All Saints Day. The Pope came to the window in the Papal Apartments and said the Angelus, gave a brief talk about the savage attack on the Catholic Church in Iraq and then gave his greeting to the crowd. As he spoke in English, the Pontiff made a special greeting to all those who came from the United States. How did he know I was standing there? But, I am glad he said "hello" anyway.

This time in our travels we found a Church that had the head of St. John the Baptist. I mentioned that to one Italian, and he asked me, "What head did you see?" I explained to him what the relic looked like, and he said, "Oh, there are two heads of John the Baptist in Rome. From what you explained to me, you saw the head of John when he was younger." My surprised look did nothing to faze the man. He simply smiled at me and said, "Only in Rome. "

Did I mention that I have never had a bad meal in Italy. Well the winning streak continues. The carbonara, the pizza, the vino de la casa, the turkey, (yes, turkey in Italy), and it goes on and on. Everything fresh, delicious and made right before you. It is gastronomical heaven.

We wandered into the Church where the original "Our Lady of Perpetual Help" is placed on the main altar. This favorite of Sister Anne with its 14th century origins is in the Church of St. Alphonsus Liguori. It is amazing that this little Church in the middle of an average street would contain this treasure of our Blessed Mother. But, Italy is just like that. Everywhere you go there is history, beauty and marvels of the Catholic Church for us to admire, take in and pray about.

More to follow next week. No wonder some many say, "there's no place like Rome".

Fr. Corey's Cont'd)

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Almighty and eternal God, in your unfailing love you provide ministers for your Church. We pray for those whom you call to serve the Church of as priests. Inspire in them a generous response. Grant them courage and vision to serve your people. May their lives and service call your people to respond to the presence of your Spirit among us that, faithful to the Gospel and hope of Jesus the Christ, we may: announce glad tidings to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives, set prisoners free, and renew the face of the earth.

O God, Father of all Mercies, Provider of a bountiful Harvest, send Your Graces upon those You have called to gather the fruits of Your labor; preserve and strengthen them in their lifelong service of you.

Open the hearts of Your children that they may discern Your Holy Will; inspire in them a love and desire to surrender themselves to serving others in the name of Your son, Jesus Christ.

Teach all Your faithful to follow their respective paths in life guided by Your Divine Word and Truth. Through the intercession of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, all the Angels, and Saints, humbly hear our prayers and grant Your Church's needs, through Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

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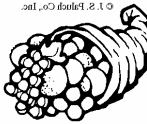
**LECTOR WORKBOOKS**, for the 2010-2011 year beginning today, **SUN., NOV. 28<sup>th</sup>**, are available in the **Vestry**. Please check off your name on the sheet provided when you pick one up.

### MORNING GLORY BREAKFAST PROGRAM

We need to provide food for the breakfasts we cook: **complete** pancake mix/syrup, cans of coffee & Tang. Please drop donations in the **Parish Hall**.

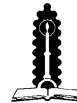


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**MARY ANNUAL COLLECTION** is being taken up during the **month of November**. You may still drop your envelope into the offertory anytime next month.

**DOROTHY DAY VOLUNTEERS**  
**WED., DEC. 1<sup>st</sup>**: *Our turn to Cook.*



**NOCTURNAL ADORATION** will be on **FRI., DEC. 3<sup>rd</sup>**, from **9:00pm to 7:00am.**

The next **BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP** meeting will take place **SAT., DEC. 11<sup>th</sup>**, from **10:30-noon**, in the **Parish House**. If you'll be attending for the first time, please call the **Rectory** (203 744-5777) to confirm.



### ST. MARY'S MEN'S MINISTRY

Come join us on **Saturday mornings**, from **6:30-8:00am**, in the **Parish Hall** for fellowship and scripture discussions with Fr. Ed along with coffee and bagels. For more information please contact **Rick Lawlor**: **rlawlor22@comcast.net** or 203-470-8084.

### ST. MARY AUTUMN BIBLE STUDY

**"Discover the Book of Revelation"**. Bible Study

This autumn our Bible Study group is taking a "**Catholic**" look into the true meaning of the **Book of Revelation**. Join us on **Tuesday evening, NOV. 30<sup>th</sup>**, at **7:00pm**, in the **Parish Hall**, and we'll discover the purpose, meaning and message of this most powerful book, written by a man named John, about 60 years after the Resurrection of Christ. To register or for more info. please contact **Rick Lawlor** (203 470-8084); **rlawlor22@comcast.net**.



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).

# SCHOOL NEWS

**St. Mary School** will be holding our annual **Christmas Gala and Craft Fair** in the Gym next **SAT., DEC. 4<sup>th</sup>**, from **9:00 – 4:00**. Come browse our talented crafters, have your picture taken with Santa (10am – 2pm) and have breakfast or lunch at our Holiday Café. Also, from 10am – 2pm children can make a gingerbread house or a special Christmas craft. There will also be a Baked Goods table and a raffle.

Just in time for the holidays, it's the return of **"Cash in your old Gold" GOLD RUSH** on **DEC. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, & 5<sup>th</sup>**. So, leave your checkbook at home – you take home the money! Check your jewelry box for broken chains, single earrings, jewelry you never wear and even dental gold. Not only will you get a fair price (10-15% more than last year because gold has gone up) but more than 50% of the profits will be donated to our Parish and School.

Are you an Online Shopper? Through an on-line shopping mall called **One Cause** a percentage of your online purchases from hundreds of merchants will come back to Saint Mary's. Log on to **www.onecause.com**, choose "join", choose your user name and ID, and select a cause. We are listed as **"Saint Mary School"**. One-Cause is an easy way to earn money for our school!

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**  
**NEXT REGULAR MEETING:**  
**MON., NOV. 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 8:15pm**



The **Knights of Columbus** is a Catholic men's fraternal society. If you are at least 18 years of age and think you may be interested in joining our ranks, please visit **http://pavia48.tripod.com/**

If your **Old Glory** is beginning to look a little worn around the edges, you can purchase a new 3'x5' flag for \$30.00.



# Cemetery Information

November is when we remember our deceased – our family, friends and neighbors. We begin the month by honoring All Saints, those recognized by name and all who are in heaven. We also remember all souls who have left this world.

St. Mary Parish is blessed to have its own consecrated land in which to bury our dead. St. Mary Cemetery, on Turkey Plain Rd., has served the Parish for more than 100 years. Because of the foresight and generosity of our predecessors, the cemetery has capacity for at least another century.

St. Mary Cemetery Assn. is a sub-committee of the Finance Council and has worked for the past two years to rewrite the regulations, beautify the cemetery, and transfer the records from a shoebox to a modern computer-based system.

To keep the Cemetery self-sustaining, the Association has recommended that the price of gravesites be increased as of **January 1, 2011** from the current price of \$900 for a single gravesite will increase to \$1,300. Parishioners have the opportunity to purchase a plot now at the existing price until the end of 2010. Those interested may contact **Bob DiMatteo (748-4115)**.

**Cursillo** can help develop a deeper understanding of what it means to be fully Catholic by being fully Christian. It provides an opportunity for individuals to grow in faith & spirituality through Christian community. To learn more about Cursillo contact **Yvonne 203 797-1361; Yvonne\_cecera@hotmail.com**.

Parents... come and bring your children into the true spirit of Christmas! Participate in one of our **Family Advent Retreat Weekend** from either **DEC. 10-12** or **DEC. 17-19** at **Edmund's Retreat Center** in Mystic. For further info. contact: **Deacon John & Peggy Scarfi (845 621-7000)** or **www.endersisland.com**.

# **St Mary School - Bethel**

# **CHRISTMAS GALA &**

# **CRAFT FAIR**

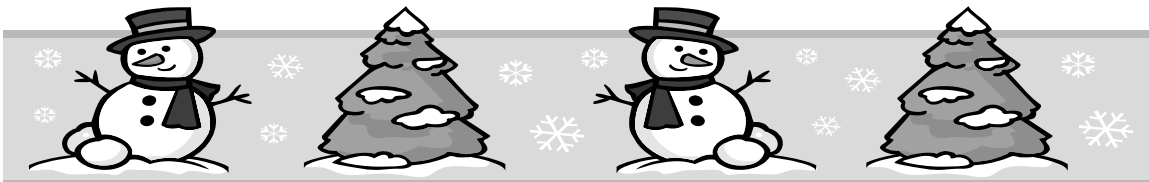
**Work on your holiday shopping.  
Something for Everyone!**

**Saturday - December 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**9 am – 4 pm**


**Stop by ~ Have Lunch, Shop, win a Raffle Prize!**  
**Free Admission!**

**from 10am -2pm**

**Kids can do a Craft, make a Ginger Bread House**  
**Take a Photo with Santa!**



**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

|                      |                                                                       |                                                                                     |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>MON., NOV. 29</b> | 6:30 + Giuseppe Pregoni – Daughter, Gisella Varano                    |                                                                                     |
|                      | 9:00 + Stanley Mazur – Lee Hiteshew                                   |                                                                                     |
| <b>TUES, NOV. 30</b> | 6:30 + Lirio De Jesus – Roberto & Marivic Matic                       |  |
|                      | 9:00 + Ruth & Vincent O'Rourke – Grace O'Rourke                       |                                                                                     |
| <b>WED., DEC. 1</b>  | 6:30 Heavenly Stock Intentions                                        |                                                                                     |
|                      | 9:00 + Eleanor & Thomas Cunningham – Cathy & Richie Geoghegan         |                                                                                     |
| <b>THU., DEC. 2</b>  | 6:30 + Bruno DeLuca – Wife                                            |                                                                                     |
|                      | 9:00 + Thomas Lee ( <i>1<sup>st</sup> Anniv.</i> ) – Virginia Fessler |                                                                                     |
| <b>FRI., DEC. 3</b>  | 6:30 Dylan DeWitt ( <i>Health &amp; Blessings</i> ) – Aunt Katie      |                                                                                     |
|                      | 9:00 + Lottie Clark – Family                                          |                                                                                     |
| <b>SAT., DEC. 4</b>  | 8:00 + Roger Maselek – Tanya Maselek                                  |                                                                                     |
|                      | 5:30 + Gertrude Yunecko & Deceased Members – Celeste Caprio           |                                                                                     |
| <b>SUN., DEC. 5</b>  | 7:00 + Helen Prato ( <i>Anniv.</i> ) – DiMatteo Family                |                                                                                     |
|                      | 8:30 + Marion Clark – Aunt Edith                                      |                                                                                     |
|                      | 10:00 + Suzanne McAuley – Family                                      |                                                                                     |
|                      | 11:30 + Jeremiah & Catherine Falvey () – Family                       |                                                                                     |
|                      | 5:30 + Joyce Bertozzi – Joan Gilbertie                                |                                                                                     |



**WELCOME TO THOSE WHO WERE NEWLY BAPTIZED**

*Annette Hope Boston*

*Isabella Mia Lucadamo*

*III – Ryan McDonough & Christine Shannon*



*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:** *Parish 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**

**Michael Ferrari:** *Music Director*  
**Elizabeth Barnes:** *Choir 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 12:45pm.*  
*(Call the Rectory to Schedule.)*

**PRE-BAPTISM CLASSES:** *Twice a Month.*  
*(Call the Rectory to Schedule.)*

**ARRANGEMENTS FOR MARRIAGE:** *All Couples must meet with a parish clergyman at least six (6) months before the marriage is to be celebrated.*