
Fr. Corey's Comments

➤ *Beginning this weekend we begin a new liturgical year with the season of Advent. This is a season of joyful anticipation and penitential preparation for the coming of the Lord on Christmas. I have always found Advent a peaceful time despite all the fussing and shopping for Christmas. Advent invites us to step out of the everyday and personally prepare for Christ and his appearance on Christmas and His presence in our everyday lives. Please make the Sacrament of Penance part of your Christmas preparations. The hymns of Advent, the lighting of the Advent Wreath and the readings of the season give us food for the spiritual soul to welcome Him into the "Inn" of our hearts.*

To help you prepare, we have purchased an Advent guide book authored by C.S. Lewis for you to take home and pray with your loved ones during this time as we pray for the coming of Emanuel.

Also, you will notice that we have new Missalettes this year. Formerly, four times a year we would receive new missalettes. With the cost of shipping and because of a reduced price, we have used the same company to have one missalette for the entire year. All of the readings and songs from the four-time delivery are all together in one book. No more flipping between two books is necessary. The daily Mass readings' citations as well as the Responsorial Psalm can be found in the yellow section in the back of the book.

➤ *I hope you have visited the crib in the vestibule. Gifts for the needy are written on the paper "straw" in the crib. Please take one or two and present your gift(s) as you did in the past. At Christmas, the Christ Child will be placed in the crib with straw that will be blessed, and you may take it home to place in your manger scene. You can then have a reminder at home of your wonderful generosity with the needy, and a reminder that you have helped not only a brother or sister in need as well as Jesus himself.*

➤ *You may have noticed that almost all the lights in the Church have been fixed. The parts came in; the large "cherry picker" was in the Church, and Paul Orsino and the Rizzo Corporation worked hard to once again "light up our lives".*

➤ *The Holy Day of Obligation of the Immaculate Conception will be coming up on December 8th. Masses will be celebrated on Monday, December 7th, at 5:30pm, and on Tuesday, December 8th, at 6:30 & 9:00am, 12:05 noon, and 7:00pm.*

➤ *We welcome Fr. Cyrus back from his retreat to the Philippines, and we pray for Fr. Ed as he heads off to his retreat. Within two months all of the priests have made their annual retreat during this year of the Priest. Many thanks for your prayers and good wishes.*

➤ *As we approach the Christmas season, please remember our advertisers on the last page of our bulletin. They help to support our bulletin and perhaps you might want to purchase a gift or two from those good folks.*

➤ *Many thanks to all who participated in the Veterans' Collection, the Thanksgiving Food Collection for Brotherhood-in-Action, and Fr. Plante's Christian Foundation for Children and the Aging. Your generosity is unmatched, and I thank you with all my heart. A Blessed Advent to all!*

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

➤ *The trip to the Eternal City was a wonderful experience. The roots of our Christian Faith are real and tangible in Rome. This year I met up with a priest friend of mine and a tour group from his parish. Going on some of the tours I learned some wonderful new things that I haven't noticed or seen before. For example, in the Basilica of St. John Lateran, there is a wooden plank that is supposed to be a part of the table of the Last Supper.*

St. Helen did much to bring many of the holy artifacts and relics of Jerusalem to Rome. There is a Church with the relic of the true cross and some of the other instruments that were used to crucify Christ. The Holy Stairs that were brought from Jerusalem has pilgrims traveling up the stairs on their knees as a sign of penance and prayer. It is a most inspiring sight to see. Each Church that is entered is beautiful and has some special feature about it. The original icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, the heart of St. Charles of Borromeo, the piece of the true Cross of Christ, the body of Blessed Pope John XXIII, the grave of Pope John Paul II (that I must admit always brings me to tears), and the graves of St. Peter and St. Paul can all be seen to enliven one's faith.

To see the sights of "pagan" Rome: the Circus Maximus, the Coliseum, the Pantheon, the many beautiful piazzas gives one a deep appreciation for the intellect and passion of the people some 2000 years ago. Art, spirituality, heritage are second nature to the people then and now. And the food ain't bad either.

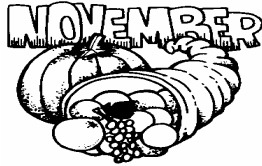
I did start what one could call a slight international incident. Walking through St. Peter's square I noticed a well-dressed couple near one of the fountains. They rolled up the sleeves of their leather coats and started to fish money out of the fountain. My priest companion said to me: "Corey, leave it alone, just walk away." Of course, I didn't. I yelled out: "Hey, stop that. That money belongs to the Church." After my third admonition, my priest friend was nowhere to be found, but at least the man and woman stopped stealing from the Pope. Later on that day I found my friend who said he didn't want to get shot, so he walked away.

Well, I did what I could to right a wrong.

Did I mention the food? I went to the doctor's this week and luckily I didn't gain a pound. I don't know what it is, the freshness, the wonderful ingredients, or the love that the people put in the dishes, but I have never had a bad meal. In fact, every meal (except for those hard rolls at breakfast) was out of this world.

The reason I share these stories with you is not in any way to say, "Look at me and where I have been". On the contrary, I hope to set the scene in such a way that if you haven't been to Italy, you will make it a priority. Your faith will be renewed and will grow, your spirit will be enlivened by the art and culture, and your stomachs will feel as if they had died and gone to heaven. I am hoping to offer a parish pilgrimage to Rome in the next year or so. With our community of Bethel visiting Rome I think Rome could be changed forever.

➤ *Does anyone have experience selling on EBay? I have bought a number of things but have never sold anything. If you would like to offer your time for us to sell a couple of items, please let us know at the Rectory. Thank you!*



ST. MARY ANNUAL COLLECTION is during **November**. If you have not yet done so, please drop your envelope in the offertory or send it to the Rectory at your earliest convenience. Thank you for your support.



DOROTHY DAY VOLUNTEERS
WED., DEC. 2nd: *Our turn to Cook.*

COFFEE & ... will be served after the **07:00 Mass** on **SUN., DEC. 6th**.



NOCTURNAL ADORATION will be on **FRI., DEC. 4th**, from **9:00pm to 7:00am.**

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP:

Our next meeting at the **Parish House** will be on **SAT., DEC. 12th**, from **10:30am to 12:00noon.**



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**.

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).



ALL ALTAR SERVERS should have received



the **December schedule**. Sign-up sheets for **Christmas Eve** and **Christmas Day** will be in the Vestry next weekend. Only high school students may sign up for the Midnight Mass. New Servers **should not** sign up the weekends of **12/6 & 13**. If additional servers are needed, you may sign up on 12/20.

SCHOOL NEWS

SMS CHRISTMAS GALA & CRAFT FAIR:

will be on **SAT., DEC 5th**, from **9:00am – 4:00pm**, in the **School Gym**. Come browse our talented crafters, (**10:00 – 2:00**) and have breakfast or lunch at the Holiday Café. From **10:00 – 2:00** children have your picture taken with Santa can make a gingerbread house or a special Christmas craft. There will also be a Baked Goods table and a Vendor Raffle.

There will be an early dismissal on **TUES., DEC. 8th**, at **11:15am** for the **Feast of the Immaculate Conception**.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Next Meeting – DEC. 14th, at **8:15.**
Rosary at 7:45pm in the Church.

Pavia Council welcomes these new Knights:

Mark Bruzinski, John Grimardi, Patrick Keery, Patrick Morton Robert Plumb, Mark Nelson, & David Ring.

The **Knights** is a Catholic men’s society dedicated to service. If you are 18 or older and are interested in joining, visit **http://pavia48.tripod.com/**.

CHRISTMAS FOOD COLLECTION

begins today and will continue to **MON., DEC. 14th**. Non-perishables are welcome, but breakfast cereal and hams are especially needed. Money gifts may be sent to: **BIA, PO Box 582, Bethel, CT 06801.**



SANTA’S WORKSHOP for Dorothy Day

SAT., DEC. 19th, 2009

St. Mary’s past efforts have made Christmas a happy occasion for thousands of less fortunate children in the greater Danbury area. We will continue to collect for Dorothy Day again this year and appreciate your donations. **Deacon Mike Oles** (733-5880).



Come to the Saint Mary's

GOLD RUSH



Leave your checkbook at home -- this time you take home the money!

Thursday, Dec. 3 & Friday Dec. 4

in Church Hall - 9am-8pm

Saturday, Dec. 5 in the School at the

Christmas Gala - 9am-4pm

WE WILL BE BUYING

Broken Chains and Bracelets - Single earrings (Half Pairs) - Rings with
Missing Stones - Old Boyfriend/Girlfriend Gifts - Jewelry You Never Wear
- Yes, even Dental Gold!

LIBERTY GOLD

Licensed by the Town of Bethel

Not only will you get a fair price for your gold, but **60%!!** of the profits
will be donated to St. Mary Church

St. Mary Church, 26 Dodgingtown Road, Bethel CT 06801

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

MON., NOV. 30	6:30	+	Giuseppe Pregoni – Daughter, Gisella Varono
	9:00	+	Ruth & Vincent O'Rourke – Grace O'Rourke
TUES, DEC. 1	6:30		Special Intention
	9:00	+	Hugh Lee – Family
WED., DEC. 2	6:30	+	Deacon Robert Becker – DeRoin Family
	9:00	+	Bruno DeLuca – Wife
THU., DEC. 3	6:30	+	Ann Tedrick – Bill & Susan Vertolli
	9:00	+	Lottie Clark – Family
FRI., DEC. 4	6:30	+	Florence Upton – Mary Guertin
	9:00	+	Ann Tortosa – Friends
SAT., DEC. 5	8:00	+	Helen Prato – DiMatteo Family
	5:30	+	Gertrude Yunecko & Family – Celeste Caprio
SUN., DEC. 6	7:00	+	Brendan Duffy & Alice McShane – McCabe Family
	8:30	+	Elizabeth Fenton – McDonald Family
	10:00	+	Marion Clark – Aunt Edith
	11:30	+	Msgr. Scully & Msgr. Steffens – Rosa Timm
	5:30	+	Teresa Sullivan – Michael Sullivan



WELCOME TO THOSE WHO WERE NEWLY BAPTIZED



Haley Renee Cote

GOAL: \$15,000

COLLECTION: \$14,684

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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.*