
Fr. Corey's Comments

I can smell the cookies baking and see the lights on the trees as we experience the longest (almost) Advent that we can experience in the Church year. As Christmas approaches keep in mind the confession schedule: December 21, Monday, 9:30-10:00am, December 22, Tuesday, 7:00-8:00pm, December 23, Wednesday 4:00-5:00pm. The Mass schedule is as follows (remember no 6:30am on Christmas Eve): December 24, Thursday, 4:00 (in the Church), 4:15 (in the School Gym), 6:00 (in the Church), 12:00 midnight with carols beginning at 11:30 (in the Church) and on Christmas Day, Friday December 25, at 7:00, 9:00 and 11:00am (all in the Church). Also, a "heads-up" for New Year's. Masses will be celebrated on December 31st (Friday) at 5:30pm, and on New Year's Day, January 1st, at 7:00, 9:00 and 11:00am.

You often hear me speak about vocations to the priesthood. I would like you to consider a vocation to the religious life. There will be a "Nun Run", a twenty-four hour experience for women who may be considering a vocation to the religious life. The January Nun Run will acquaint you with life in 4 religious communities in Connecticut. Sisters from other religious communities will be joining the group for prayer and faith sharing. Please call Sr. Maria Iannuccillo, SSND, for more info. at (203) 762-4152.

By the way, boy did things change while I was in Italy. I left dialing 7 numbers on the telephone to get a connection, and now I have to dial 10. Good thing we are not in the old rotary days; we would all get carpal tunnel syndrome. I had that, and it isn't very pleasant.

The Sunday after Christmas is Holy Family Sunday. I suggest that each family in our Parish take the opportunity to truly make it a family day. Give mom the day off: have the kids cook (mac and cheese or pizza would be good); watch a movie together; take a long walk with the family; go to the movies or bowling or ice skating; go out to dinner if it is in your budget; go see grandma or grandpa; maybe help dad with the chores; how about a family prayer or pancakes for breakfast after Mass. It is so very important that we not only take the opportunities that present themselves, but MAKE opportunities for memories that will last a lifetime.

As Christmas day approaches, I hope you might consider making a pledge or gift to the St. Mary Sanctuary Fund. There has been a steady flow of generous gifts and pledges of all different amounts. No amount is too small. Please carefully and prayerfully consider making a gift for this restoration project. It promises to be a beautiful addition to our Church. Pledge cards and envelopes are available in the vestibule of the Church. If it is not in your budget at this time, feel free to make a gift any time in the future.

Phil Rizzuto was one of my favorite broadcasters. To use one of his most popular phrases: "HOLY COW!!!". The amount of gifts that have been donated to this year's "Giving Crib" has surpassed past years. Last weekend, the vestibule was full, and it has already been cleaned out once or twice. Imagine how happy YOU have made children that without you would have had a less than Merry Christmas. Your kindness and generosity have always been outstanding, but this year you have gone beyond all imagining. I pray that the Good Lord will bless you a hundred-fold for the acts of kindness displayed this Christmas. The number-one-thing on so many lists was brought to the Church without the blink of an eye. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you.... You have brought a twinkle to so many eyes and made parents very happy.

A woman goes to the post office to buy stamps for Christmas cards. "I'd like 100 stamps", she says. "What denomination?" asks the clerk. "Oh, for Pete's sake, has it really come to this?" complains the woman. "Well, OK, give me 50 Catholic, 10 Baptist, 20 Lutheran and 20 Presbyterian."

DECEMBER

SCHOOL NEWS

On behalf of the priests, deacons and staff of St. Mary parish community, may we extend to you the peace and joy of Christmas.



Remember, on Christmas, especially on Christmas Eve, there will be a lot of people attending Mass. We encourage you to get here early to obtain a seat. For the safety of everyone in the Church there will be no standing in the Church at any Mass. Ushers will ask anyone standing to go to the Parish Hall, or in the case of the 4:00pm Mass on Christmas Eve to attend the 4:15pm in the School Gym. Safety first!



Please make an effort to cooperate with the men directing traffic in the parking lot who are volunteers giving of their time on Christmas eve to keep the traffic flowing. Smile and wish them a "Merry Christmas!"

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)**.



CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATION: If you wish to make a donation toward flowers for the Church in memory of loved ones, please put your donation in the basket or bring it to the Rectory.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP:

Our next meeting at the **Parish House** - **SAT., JAN. 23rd**, from **10:30am** to **12:00noon**.



Holiday sign-up sheets are in the **Vestry**. If you wish to serve a Christmas Mass, we still need Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and Altar Servers for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Are you Christmas shopping on-line this year? By logging onto www.onecause.com you can shop hundred of merchants (like Lands End, Amazon, and Target, just to name a few), and St. Mary School will receive a small percentage of what you spend. Please log-on, join **OneCause**, and designate **Saint Mary School** (no abbreviations). Click "**Support this school**" on the left side of the page and start shopping!

There will be early dismissal, **WED., DEC. 23rd, 11:15am**. Students will be attending **9:00 Mass**. School will resume on **MON., JAN. 4, 2010**.



Are you considering donating goods or services for the **St. Mary School Auction**? Please contact **Ruth or Erik Apotheker** in order to arrange your donation and obtain a tax deductible receipt for 2009. **Save The Date: SAT., MAR. 20, 2010**.

Christmas Blessings and Happy New Year to all from the St. Mary School Community.



ST. MARY'S MEN'S MINISTRY meets every **Saturday morning** from **6:30-8:00** in the **Parish Hall**. Please stop by for bagels, fellowship, and faith discussions to help men and their families. Any questions, please call **Dave Whitmore (203 470-0909)**.

MEALS-ON-WHEELS: WEEK OF DELIVERIES



Give the gift of prayer this Christmas! The **MISSION TRIP** teens will be selling "**Heavenly Stock**", the stock with heavenly returns, after all the Masses this weekend, **DEC. 19/20**. After this weekend you can purchase stock by calling **Kate (733-6424)**. Each recipient will be included in monthly Masses said throughout the year and the proceeds will help fund next year's Mission Trip/Retreat to Camden, NJ in June.

Christmas Schedule...

ST. MARY HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS CONFESSION SCHEDULE

MON., DEC. 21st - 9:30-10:00am

TUE., DEC. 22nd - 7:00- 8:00pm

WED., DEC. 23rd - 4:00- 5:00pm

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### THURSDAY, DEC. 24<sup>th</sup> – CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00pm (Church),

4:15pm (School),

6:00pm (Children's Choir),

(11:30 Sing-along at Church),

12:00 Midnight (Adult Choir)



We Wish  
You A  
Merry Christmas

### FRIDAY, DEC. 25<sup>th</sup> – CHRISTMAS DAY

7:00am, 9:00am, 11:00am.

(Please note the change in Mass times.)

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NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS SCHEDULE



THUR., DEC. 31st: New Year's Eve –
6:30am, 9:00am, and 5:30pm.

FRI., JAN. 1st: New Year's Day –
7:00am, 9:00am, and 11:00am.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

MON., DEC. 21	6:30	+	Msgr. Edward B. Karl – DeRoin Family
	9:00		Joan Troy (<i>Health & Blessings</i>) – Marie Miller
TUES, DEC. 22	6:30	+	James Williams – Soegaard Family
	9:00	+	Josephine Natale – Daughter, Lillie
WED., DEC. 23	6:30	+	Eleanor Dugan – McClellan Family
	9:00	+	Elizabeth Deak – Anziano Family
THU., DEC. 24	6:30		NO MASS
	9:00	+	Angelina & Anthony Delosa – Rosemarie & Vern Nepple
<i>Christmas Eve</i>			4:00, 4:15, 6:00pm & 12:00M
FRI., DEC. 25			
<i>Christmas Day</i>			7:00, 9:00, & 11:00am
SAT., DEC. 26	8:00	+	Alice McShane & Brendan Duffy
	5:30	+	Carmina & Stan Gryskiewicz – Ken & Cindy Roberts & Family
SUN., DEC. 27	7:00	+	Cathryn Costello
	8:30	+	Lea Maloney – Rovelli Family
	10:00	+	Holly Ann Hayes & Daniel Hayes – Family
	11:30	+	Czeslaw Zabrzewski (<i>Anniv.</i>) – Kostyk Family
	5:30	+	Kellianne Gartland – Family



GOAL: \$15,000 COLLECTION: \$15,481

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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**

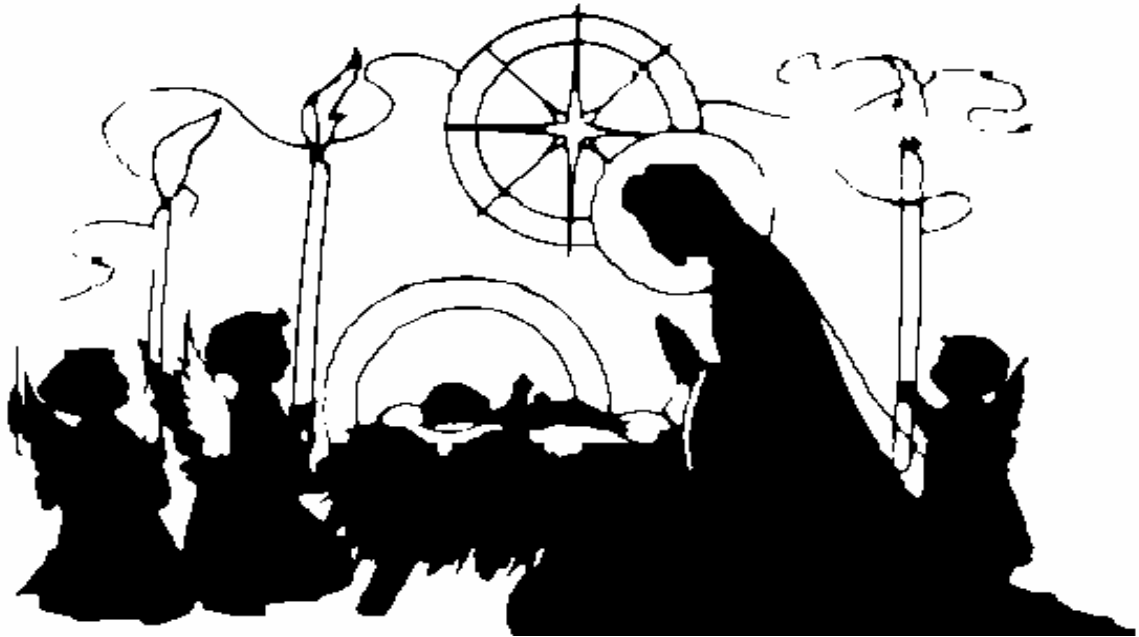
**CONFESSION SCHEDULE**  
**Saturday: 4:00 - 5:00pm.**

**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.*

# MERRY CHRISTMAS



The Rectory will be Closed From

December 22<sup>nd</sup> to January 4<sup>th</sup>.