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## *Fr. Corey's Comments*

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*If I might send some more "Thank-You's"... This Parish has been so generous with time and treasures to Deacon Oles "Off the Streets" program. Lawlor Graphics has given generously to the brochures. Some have volunteered time, and others have given checks. THIS PROGRAM HAS CHANGED PEOPLE'S LIVES, AND YOU ARE DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE!!! If anyone would like to mentor a "newly-housed" person, please contact Deacon Oles.*

*Country Touch Florist did an OUTSTANDING job with our Advent Wreath this year. Visitors to our Church have said that they have never seen a more beautiful wreath. Many thanks for sharing your talent folks at Country Touch. You sure do have the right touch.*

*Finally, thank you so much for the many gifts to the Sanctuary Project. So many have given in memory of Monsignor Karl, and that is a most wonderful tribute to the man who built our Church. If you would like to make a gift before the New Year, it would be most welcomed. Pledge cards can be found in the vestibule of the Church.*

*I thought this week I would share with you Christmases around the world:*

### *Christmas in England*

*Christmas in England began in AD 596, when St Augustine landed on her shores with monks who wanted to bring Christianity to the Anglo Saxons.*

*The English enjoy beautiful Christmas music. They love to decorate Christmas Trees and hang up evergreen branches. One English custom is mummering. In the Middle Ages, people called mummers put on masks and acted out Christmas plays. These plays are still performed in towns and villages.*

*The English gift giver, called Father Christmas, wears a long red or green robe. Father Christmas delivers presents during the night on Christmas Eve. The Children leave an empty stocking or pillowcase hanging at the end of the bed. In the morning they hope it will be full of presents. However, the gifts are not usually opened until the following afternoon.*

*In England the day after Christmas is called Boxing Day because boys used to go round collecting money in clay boxes. When the boxes were full, they broke them open. In England Christmas dinner was usually eaten at Midday on December 25, during daylight. The only thing that people ate on the day before the feast was Frumenty, a kind of porridge made from corn. Over the years the recipe changed. Eggs, fruit, spice, lumps of meat and dried plums were added. The whole mixture was wrapped in a cloth and boiled. This is how plum pudding began. The traditional Christmas dinner is roast turkey with vegetables and sauces. For dessert there is a rich, fruity Christmas pudding with brandy sauce. Mince pies, pastry filled with a mixture of chopped dried fruit.*

*In England they elect Boy Bishops in commemoration of St. Nicholas' compassion for children. These mock bishops were allowed to do the duties of the ecclesiastic except deliver the Mass.*

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

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### Christmas in France

*On Christmas Eve, children leave their shoes by the fireplace to be filled with gifts from Pere Noel. In the morning they also find that sweets, fruit, nuts and small toys have been hung on the tree. In cathedral squares, the story of Christ's birth is re-enacted by both players and puppets. Nearly every French home at Christmastime displays a Nativity scene or crèche, which serves as the focus for the Christmas celebration. The crèche is often peopled with little clay figures called santons or "little saints". In addition to the usual Holy Family, shepherds, and Magi, the craftsmen also produce figures in the form of local dignitaries and characters. The craftsmanship involved in creating the gaily-colored santons is quite astounding, and the molds have been passed from generation to generation since the seventeenth century. Throughout December the figures are sold at annual Christmas fairs in Marseille and Ail.*

*The Christmas tree has never been particularly popular in France, and though the use of the Yule log has faded, the French make a traditional Yule log-shaped cake called the buche de Nol, which means "Christmas Log". The cake, among other food in great abundance, is served at the grand feast of the season, which is called le reveillon. Le reveillon is a very late supper held after midnight mass on Christmas Eve. The menu for the meal varies according to regional culinary tradition. In Alsace, goose is the main course, in Burgundy it is turkey with chestnuts, and the Parisians feast upon oysters and pat de foie gras. Le Revellion may consist of poultry, ham, salads, cake, fruit and wine.*

*In Southern France, a log is burned in people's homes from Christmas Eve until New Years Day. A long time ago, part of the log was used to make the wedge for the plough as good luck for the coming harvest. The traditional Christmas Log is a chocolate log. In France families once had a Three Kings Cake with a bean hidden in it. Whoever found the bean in their slice was made King, or Queen, for the day. In France the children go out to look for the Kings, taking gifts of hay for the camels. Another name for this day is Twelfth Day. It is the last of the Twelve Days of Christmas, which used to be one long holiday. It was the last night of the Feast of Fools before the Lord of Misrule had to give up his crown and become himself once again.*

*In France it is a time for the whole family to come together at Christmas time to holiday and worship. On the eve of Christmas beautifully lit churches and cathedrals ring out Christmas carols with the church bells. Once dinner is over, and the family has retired to bed, they leave a fire burning, and food and drink on the table in case the Virgin Mary calls in. Children leave their shoes or wooden clogs called sabots in the hearth for the Christ Child or Pere Noel to fill. In the north of France, children are given gifts on December 6, which is St. Nicholas' Day, instead of Christmas Day. The adults give each other presents on New Year's Day.*

*More in next week's bulletin.*

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### NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS SCHEDULE

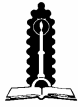
THUR., DEC. 31<sup>st</sup>: New Year's Eve – 6:30am, 9:00am, and 5:30pm.

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





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**NOCTURNAL ADORATION**

**Cancelled for January**

**COFFEE & ...** will be served after the **07:00 Mass** on **SUN., JAN. 3<sup>rd</sup>**.



**DOROTHY DAY VOLUNTEERS**

**WED., JAN. 6<sup>th</sup>: Our turn to Cook.**

**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP:**

Our next meeting at the **Parish House** - **SAT., JAN. 9<sup>th</sup>**, from **10:30am** to **12:00noon**.



**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).

**Level II Confirmation Candidates**  
**required Enrollment Mass**



**SUN., JAN. 12<sup>th</sup>**. Arrive 15 min. early to sign in.



**UPCOMING YOUTH GROUP EVENTS, 2010**

**JYG** – Sledding, **JAN., 9<sup>th</sup>**, 12:00-2:00pm;  
Ice Skating, **FEB. 6<sup>th</sup>**, 1:30-3:30pm.

**SYG** – Candlelight Vigil for March for Life,  
**JAN. 22<sup>nd</sup>**, 7:00-8:30pm.  
Flag Football, **FEB. 7<sup>th</sup>**, 1:00-3:00pm.

Anyone interested in putting together a ski trip to Mt. Southington for FEB.? Please sign up with **Annie@smbvgroup@gmail.com**. Parent volunteers are a must for this trip.

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.**

*The Faculty and Staff of St. Mary School would like to wish everyone a Blessed Happy and Healthy New Year. Classes will resume on **MON., JAN. 4<sup>th</sup>**.*



*During this holiday season we sincerely thank and pray for our service men and women who are committed to serving and protecting our country. We also pray for PEACE in the New Year, and the safe return of all those serving overseas. If you would like to add someone to this list, please call the **Rectory** (744-5777) with the name, rank, branch of service, and assignment, and we will occasionally publish them in the bulletin.*

**Michael Hahn**, Lance Corporal in the Marines, serving in Afghanistan  
*Son of Elizabeth Hahn, Grandson of Tom Kelly*

**John Hart**, Sergeant First Class in the Army, serving in Iraq  
*Father of Jonathan & Samantha Hart*

**DeVere Crooks**, Lieutenant in the Navy, serving on a Destroyer in the Pacific Fleet  
*Son-in-Law of Deacon Mike & Kathy Oles*

**Todd Angell**, Corpsman in the Navy, serving in Kuwait  
*Son of Mary Angell*

**Ryan Ledan**, Corporal in the Marines, serving in Afghanistan  
*Son of Jerry & Michelle Ledan*

**Chad Van Kuren**, Sergeant 1<sup>st</sup> Class in the Army, serving in Baghdad  
*Son of Dr. Kate Forno*

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## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

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|                      |       |                                                      |
|----------------------|-------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>MON., DEC. 28</b> | 6:30  | Blessed Mother's Intentions                          |
|                      | 9:00  | + John Howley – Family                               |
| <b>TUES, DEC. 29</b> | 6:30  | + Frank Kinsky – Kayla Jane Morrell                  |
|                      | 9:00  | + Doris & James Twohey – Kiernan & Anne Twohey       |
| <b>WED., DEC. 30</b> | 6:30  | Special Intention                                    |
|                      | 9:00  | + Ann Tedrick – Carol & Ed Roth                      |
| <b>THU., DEC. 31</b> | 6:30  | + Dorothy Clarke – St. Mary Clothing Bank            |
|                      | 9:00  | + Elizabeth McLaughlin – Mary & Bob Raftery          |
|                      | 5:30  | + Msgr. Edward B. Karl – Phil & Claudette Guerrette  |
| <b>FRI., JAN. 1</b>  | 7:00  | + Msgr. Edward B. Karl – 6:30 Mass Crew              |
|                      | 9:00  | + Steve Deak – Leon & Stephanie Anziano              |
|                      | 11:00 | + Richard McLachlin – Wife, Maureen                  |
| <b>SAT., JAN. 2</b>  | 8:00  | + Ann Tedrick – Sisters Alberta, Madonna & Anne      |
|                      | 5:30  | + Reinaldo Antunes – Family                          |
| <b>SUN., JAN. 3</b>  | 7:00  | + Josephine Natale – Daughter, Lillie                |
|                      | 8:30  | + Christian Majors – St. Mary School Advisory Board  |
|                      | 10:00 | + Tony Soegaard – Virginia Fessler                   |
|                      | 11:30 | + Brendan Duffy – Jen & Mariann Morrell              |
|                      | 5:30  | + Walter Dankowski – Tony, Debbie Caraluzzi & Family |



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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.*

# HAPPY NEW YEAR



The Rectory will be Closed until  
Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>.