

# *Saint Mary Parish Community*

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

*February 5, 2012*



**Father Corey V. Piccinino, *Pastor***

**Father Edward McAuley  
Father Jeffrey Couture  
*Parochial Vicars***

**Michael Oles  
John DeRoin  
Joseph Gill  
*Deacons***

**Rectory Phone: 744-5777**

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**Sister Anne McCarthy  
*School Principal***

**School Phone: 744-2922**

**Mary Ferri  
*Director of Religious Education***

**Religious Education Office: 743-4557**

**Bob Kozlowski  
*Finance Committee Chairman***

**Work Phone: 794-8512**

**St. Mary Church & Rectory**

**26 Dodgingtown Road, Bethel, Connecticut 06801**

**[www.stmarybethel.org](http://www.stmarybethel.org)**

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## Fr. Corey's Epistle

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◆ I guess I should not be surprised but, here we go again. Our Church is always going to clash with the culture. Our Church promotes a "Culture of Life" while we live in a 'culture of death'. We can see it everywhere, but this culture is knocking at our doors again. This is NOT a political statement. This is not the Pastor telling anyone how to vote. This is a simple reporting of a decision of the Obama Administration and its effect not only on the Church but, on you and me DIRECTLY.

The Catholic bishops of the United States called "literally unconscionable" a decision by the Obama Administration to continue to demand that sterilization, abortifacients and contraception be included in virtually all health plans. Today's announcement means that this mandate and its very narrow exemption will not change at all; instead there will only be a delay in enforcement against some employers. "In effect, the president is saying we have a year to figure out how to violate our consciences," said **Cardinal-designate Timothy M. Dolan**, archbishop of New York and president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The cardinal-designate continued, "To force American citizens to choose between violating their consciences and forgoing their healthcare is literally unconscionable. It is as much an attack on access to health care as on religious freedom. Historically this represents a challenge and a compromise of our religious liberty."

The HHS rule requires that sterilization and contraception – including controversial abortifacients – be included among "preventive services" coverage in almost every healthcare plan available to Americans. "The government should not force Americans to act as if pregnancy is a disease to be prevented at all costs," added Cardinal-designate Dolan. At issue, the U.S. bishops and other religious leaders insist, is the survival of a cornerstone constitutionally protected freedom that ensures respect for the conscience of Catholics and all other Americans." This is nothing less than a direct attack on religion and First Amendment rights," said Franciscan Sister Jane Marie Klein, chairperson of the board at Franciscan Alliance, Inc., a system of 13 Catholic hospitals. "I have hundreds of employees who will be upset and confused by this edict. I cannot understand it at all." Daughter of Charity Sister Carol Keehan, president and chief executive officer of the Catholic Health Association of the United States, voiced disappointment with the decision. Catholic hospitals serve one out of six people who seek hospital care annually. "This was a missed opportunity to be clear on appropriate conscience protection," Sister Keehan said.

Cardinal-designate Dolan urged that the HHS mandate be overturned. "The Obama administration has now drawn an unprecedented line in the sand," he said. "The Catholic bishops are committed to working with our fellow Americans to reform the law and change this unjust regulation. We will continue to study all the implications of this troubling decision."

Katherine Sebelius, 21st Secretary of Health and Human Services was raised in a Roman Catholic family, considers herself a part of the Church and is not only staunchly pro-choice but concerning this decision, Ms. Sebelius in her statement voiced the following: "I believe this proposal strikes the appropriate balance between respecting religious freedom and increasing access to important preventive services."

Keep your eyes open and your well-informed consciences clear because you never know what is next. The following is the letter Bishop Lori sent to all parishes regarding this matter:

*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

*I write to you concerning an alarming and serious matter that negatively and directly impacts the Catholic Church in the United States, and that strikes at the fundamental right to religious liberty for all citizens of any faith. The federal government, which claims to be "of, by, and for the people," has just dealt a heavy blow to us and almost a quarter of those people- the Catholic population- and to the millions more who are served by the Catholic faithful.*

*The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced last week that almost all employers, including Catholic employers, will be forced to offer their employees health coverage that includes sterilization, abortion-inducing drugs, and contraception. Almost all health insurers will be forced to include those "services" in the health policies they write. And almost all individuals will be forced to buy that coverage as a part of their policies. Never before in the history of our Nation have citizens been forced to directly purchase something that violates their consciences.*

*In so ruling, the Administration has cast aside the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, denying to Catholics our Nation's first and most fundamental freedom, that of religious liberty. And as a result, unless the rule is overturned, we Catholics will be compelled either to violate our consciences, or to drop health coverage for our employees - and suffer the penalties for doing so. The Administration's sole*

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## Fr. Corey's Epistle

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concession was to give our institutions one year to comply. We cannot - and will not- comply with this unjust law.

We in Connecticut are no strangers to attacks on our religious liberty. As you recall, in 2008, the Connecticut State Legislature attempted to reorganize the Catholic Church in Connecticut, a move that would have effectively separated Pastors from their people. Just months later, the Office of State Ethics attempted to silence the Diocese of Bridgeport from publicly making its voice heard in defense of its rights. Our collective voice was heard, and because of our public witness, these attacks on our rights were successfully defeated.

Now, on a national level~ we must again join together to defend against this new attack our religious liberty. Therefore, I would ask of you two things. First, we must pray ardently that wisdom and justice will prevail, and that religious liberty will be restored. Second, please visit [www.usccb.org/conscience](http://www.usccb.org/conscience) to learn more about this severe assault on religious liberty, and how to contact Congress in support of legislation that would reverse the Administration's decision. The specific contact information for our Connecticut Senators and Representatives is:

**Senator Joseph I. Lieberman:** (202) 224-4041 or by email: <http://www.lieberman.senate.gov>

**Senator Richard Blumenthal:** (202) 224-2823 or by email: <http://www.blumenthal.senate.gov/contact>

**Representative Rosa L. DeLauro:** (202)-225-3661 or by email: [http://delauro.house.gov/contact form email.cfm](http://delauro.house.gov/contact-form-email.cfm)

**Representative Jim Himes:** (202)-225-5541 or by email: [http://himes.house.gov/ content/ contact-me](http://himes.house.gov/contact-me)

**Representative Chris Murphy:** (202)-225-4476 or by email:

<https://forms.house.gov/chrismurphy/webforms/issuesubscribe.htm>

It's been said that all it will take for evil to prevail is for good people to be silent. Let us not be silent in the face of such an outrageous attack on our rights. Let us make no mistake: the future of our freedoms in our beloved republic is threatened now as never before. Let us stand together in prayer and in our resolve in this decisive hour.

Faithfully in Christ,

Most Reverend William E. Lori  
Bishop of Bridgeport

◆ I never know what to do with my old **cell phones**. There are collection boxes around but I am concerned about their final resting places. So, I discovered a fundraiser that is a no-brainer that we shall conduct during the entire season of Lent.

A company called **PaceButler** is offering churches a fundraising opportunity. PaceButler has been facilitating cell phone fundraising drives all across the country for churches and other non-profit organization for over 20 years. They pay us according to what brand of cell phones we turn in. Different cell phones have different rebate processes. We ship them free via FedEx with a prepaid shipping label. The phone will be utilized for 911 purposes in the United States, provide an inexpensive alternative for those in need of cell phones, and used in developing countries to improve quality of life through better communication.

Deactivate your cell phone before dropping them in the designated box in the Church vestibule. Thank you for your help.

◆ On **Ash Wednesday**, we shall conduct our annual collection for the **Morning Glory Program**. Morning Glory feeds hundreds of needy folks in the Greater Danbury area. Canned fruit is what we are asking you to bring as a part of your Penance on Ash Wednesday. If every person that comes to Mass on Ash Wednesday brings some canned fruit, we can feed people for months that would otherwise not have a breakfast in which to begin the day.

◆ The **Holy Father's Prayer Intentions** for the month of February are:

**General Intention: Access to Water** -- That all peoples may have access to water and other resources needed for daily life.

**Missionary Intention: Health Workers** -- That the Lord may sustain the efforts of health workers assisting the sick and elderly in the world's poorest regions. Please keep these intentions in your prayers.

## Fr. Corey's Epistle (con't.)

♦ I believe our transition into the **Revised Roman Missal** has been very smooth and successful. It is so easy to fall back into the old responses especially 'And also with you'. I make sure I practice before each and every Mass. I find it almost funny that I can actually be reading the new responses, in particular the *Gloria* and *Creed* and still say them wrong. I guess it is just human nature and the new prayers will become natural with time. I encourage you to continue to use the tri-fold response cards so that the responses can become second nature.

One of the new responses that most of us miss in the Response at the Offertory when the priest says: "Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father." Our response is: "May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church."

Most of us are forgetting the word *HOLY*. Let us all try to remember not only to be Holy but say *HOLY*.

♦ A lot of folks around know that I am not a fan of fish. When I was a kid I used to eat the fried fish at UP TO DATE Fish Market on Orchard Street on the Eastside of Bridgeport. I will eat lobster because it is sweet and delicious and does *NOT* taste like fish.

Ironically, one of the **earliest symbols of Christianity is the Fish**. Boy, would I have been in trouble in those days. The symbol of the fish was used by Christians to identify themselves, often in times of persecution. It is often found in the Roman catacombs, a secret meeting place when the Christians were persecuted by the Romans for their faith. It is based on the acrostic of the initial letters of the Greek words for Jesus Christ.

To understand this symbol you need to know what the meaning of the acronym is. The Greek word for fish is **ICHTHUS**. This is an acronym for Jesus. *I*esous *C*Hristos *T*Heou *U*ios *S*oter - this translates as "**Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour.**"

Christ also referred to his apostles as "**Fishers of Men**" while the early Christian fathers called the faithful pisculi (fish).

## PARISH HAPPENINGS

**FLANAGAN'S WAKE**, the hilarious interactive Irish wake that has been running in Chicago for 16 smash years, will be here on **Sat., March 10 in the School Gym!** Cost is \$35 per person which includes show, set-up and dessert (*BYOB*)! So grab a group of your friends, book a table and enjoy this Cabaret-style audience interactive evening as you are transported to the Emerald Isle to grieve as only the Irish can. Make checks payable to "St. Mary Church". Call the parish office for more info.

## PARISH HAPPENINGS



**COFFEE & ...** will be served after the **7, 8:30 & 10am Masses** on **SUN., Feb. 12.**

**WHY WE BELIEVE** - Lent is right around the corner, and during that holy season Deacon Joe will be offering a new adult faith formation series! Many Catholics understand what we believe, but perhaps not **WHY** - is our faith Scriptural? Does it make sense? Join us on Thursday nights at 7pm in Lent in the Parish Hall to hear about **WHY WE BELIEVE**. The series begins on **February 23** - "The Eucharist". All are invited!

**Bible Study "Come Discover the Book of Psalms"** If you would like to join us for an in-depth look at the Book of Psalms contact **Rick Lawlor at 203-470-8084 or email at [rlawlor22@comcast.net](mailto:rlawlor22@comcast.net)**. Classes meet most Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall.

**ST. MARY'S MEN'S MINISTRY** meets on most Saturday mornings **from 6:30-8:00am in the Parish Hall**. Come join us for excellent fellowship and great discussions along with coffee, bagels and donuts!



**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP** provides a prayerful experience of mutual support and comfort for those who are confronting the loss of a loved one. Our next meeting will be on **SAT. FEB. 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:30-noon** in the Parish House. If you will be attending for the first time, please call the **Rector** (203 744-5777) to confirm.

**Sign up for our annual Parish Men's Retreat** at Holy Family Retreat House in West Hartford beginning **Fri. evening, March 2<sup>nd</sup> through Sun., March 4<sup>th</sup> at noon**. Make your reservations now! Call Nick Santarelli (203-470-7102) for more info.

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The next regular meeting will be on **Mon., Feb. 13 at 8:15pm** in the Parish Hall. We will say the Rosary before at 7:45pm in the Church.

**ESSAY CONTEST:** All Catholic students in public, private and parochial schools grades 8,9,10,11 and 12 are invited to participate in the 2012 Knights of Columbus Essay Contest. Students are encouraged to write a 500 to 750 word essay on the theme of: "The Responsibility of the Catholic Citizen In a Free Society" Essays are due in by February 10, 2012 to be considered in the Pavia Council (Bethel, CT) K of C contest. Winning essays will be entered into the K of C Connecticut contest with that winner moving onto the International Contest. Prizes will be awarded to the winners at each level. More information may be found on the Pavia Council K of C web site: <http://pavia48.tripod.com/> or contact Nick Santarelli at 203-470-7102

## Youth Groups

**PARENT INFO & VOLUNTEER MEETINGS:** *Fri., Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> from 7-8pm or Sun., Feb. 19 from 6:30-7:30pm* for Junior Youth Group (6-8<sup>th</sup> graders); and *Sun., Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-7:30pm* for Senior Youth Group (High School) in the Church. All parents and those who wish to volunteer are encouraged to attend to talk about the schedules and various needs of our Youth Ministry! Contact Fr. Jeff at [fathercuture@gmail.com](mailto:fathercuture@gmail.com).

The **Junior Youth Group** will have a *Movie Night* on *Fri., Feb. 10 from 7-10pm* in the Parish Hall.

The **Senior Youth Group** will meet on *Sun., Feb. 12 at 6:30* in the Parish Hall

The Youth Group will have a **CAN & BOTTLE DRIVE** next week-end, *February 11/12*. Please save your 5¢ returnable bottles and cans till then! See flyer for details.



The **MISSION TRIP TEAM** will hold a **"Cookies, Cupcakes & Carnations"** Valentine's Day Sale after all the Masses next week-end, *Feb. 11/12* (while supplies last!) It's a great chance to get some sweets for your sweetie! Proceeds go towards the Mission Trip to Providence, RI.

**YOUTH GROUP SKI TRIP** - All Junior and Senior Youth Group members are invited to join us for a Ski Trip! On *Sat., Feb. 25*, we will be going to *Mohawk Mountain* for some skiing and snowboarding! Permission slips are available in the back of church, and the cost is \$35 (15 yrs old and under) or \$41 (16+). Rentals and lessons are an extra \$20 each. For more information, contact Deacon Joe at [jagill@email.msmary.edu](mailto:jagill@email.msmary.edu).

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**Attn: 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Parents** This is just a reminder for the First Eucharist Workshop (for both parents and child) on *Wednesday, February 15 at 6:30pm* or *Saturday, February 25 at 9am* in the Church.

## AROUND THE DIOCESE

The **DANBURY EMMAUS** is having a retreat for anyone currently in high school from *Feb. 24-26* at the *Seton-Newman Center* in Danbury. Come and deepen your relationship with God or get to know Him for the first time while making friendships that will last a lifetime. We promise you won't be disappointed! Call Kristin Nauheimer (512-5285), Allie Kallberg (730-2069) or Andrew Bellamy (797-9884).

The **BETHEL TOASTMASTERS CLUB'S** next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM**. For more information please call Sharon Closius at 203-798-9822 or Pat Wilson-Perkins at 203-797-1967.

## SCHOOL NEWS

**St. MARY SCHOOL REGISTRATION** for Preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade will be held on *Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 11 a.m., 12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m., and 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.* If there is a cancellation due to inclement weather, there will be an additional registration held on Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 11 a.m. For more information visit our website at [www.stmarybethelct.org](http://www.stmarybethelct.org) or call the School at 203-744-2922.

**TAKE A LOOK TUESDAYS** You are most welcome to join us the *second Tuesday of each month* to explore SMS, ask questions about our programs, and enjoy coffee and company as we offer "Take a Look Tuesdays." Come and see why we say, Catch the Spirit! Call the School at 744-5777 for more info.

### St. Mary's Snowflake Gala 2012

#### 18th Annual St. Mary's School Dinner Dance & Auction

Saturday, February 11, 2012  
Amber Room  
6:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.

Cocktail Hour, Dinner & Dessert, Open  
Beer & Wine Bar, Dancing,  
Live and Silent Auction

Tickets are \$85 per person  
Please contact Kathleen DeMarco at  
203-917-4077 or  
[kathleendemarco@comcast.net](mailto:kathleendemarco@comcast.net)  
Tickets can also be purchased online at  
[www.stmarybethelct.org](http://www.stmarybethelct.org).

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Please tear off and return to: St. Mary  
School, Snowflake Gala, 24 Dodgingtown  
Road, Bethel, CT

Name/s \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner Choice:

\_\_\_ Chicken Francese \_\_\_ Prime Rib

Please sit me with other Friends of St. Mary's



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

## DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT

238 Jewett Avenue • Bridgeport, Connecticut 06606 • 203-416-1352 • FAX: 203-371-8323

February 5, 2012

Dear Parishioners,

Education in our faith is the most important gift we can share with our children. It is my hope that your children are attending one of our excellent religious education programs or are students in one of our outstanding Catholic schools. Since we have just completed the national celebration of Catholic Schools Week, let me focus on some of the accomplishments of the 38 Catholic schools in the Diocese of Bridgeport:

- Catholic schools are places where children learn the teachings of Christ and His Church, and grow in their relationship with God through prayer and generous service to others.
- They are safe environments where every child receives individual attention and works cooperatively to live the Gospel values and to succeed academically.
- Forty percent of our Diocesan elementary schools have received the Blue Ribbon of Academic Excellence from the U.S. Department of Education. This means that their students perform on a nationally standardized test in the top 10% of all students in the nation.
- 98 to 100 % of all Catholic high school students not only graduate but continue their studies in post-secondary schools.
- Our Catholic schools provide their students with twenty-first century skills, where STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) as well as world languages are becoming the norm.
- Our Catholic schools had a 5% increase in enrollment this year, and some schools have had to create waiting lists for new students.

The National Leadership Roundtable on Church Management, in its latest publication, *FROM ASPIRATION TO ACTION: SOLUTIONS FOR AMERICAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS*, wrote: "Schools are thriving in [the Diocese of] Bridgeport. At least 12 of them have been designated U.S. Blue Ribbon Schools. Test scores have improved dramatically, and almost all of the grade 8 inner-city cluster students met or exceeded state goals for reading. Compare that to only 36% of their public counterparts and you have grasped the stunning accomplishment that has unfolded in Bridgeport Catholic schools."

Finally, let me sincerely thank you, the parishioners, for your support of our Catholic schools, and also the members of the School Advisory Boards, clergy, parents, administrators, teachers, staff and alumni for all they do to create a place where young people learn to be future leaders in the world and in the Church. Indeed, our Catholic schools exemplify the words of Pope Benedict XVI: "A good school provides a rounded education for the whole person. And a good Catholic school, over and above this, should help all its students to become saints."

Faithfully in Christ,

Most Reverend William E. Lori  
Bishop of Bridgeport



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## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

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<b>SAT., FEBRUARY 4</b>	5:30	+	Rod Dexter – The Paris & Mancusi Families
<b>SUN., FEBRUARY 5</b>	7:00	+	Charles McCollam – Family
	8:30	+	Elizabeth Johnson – Daughter Karin DeShan & Family
	10:00	+	Ed Mills – The Bartlotta & Contorno Families
	11:30	+	Marion & Vincent Spina – Family
	5:30	+	Arthur Scofield – Lynn & Roger Dexter
<b>MON., FEBRUARY 6</b>	6:30	+	Sr. Madona Pjura – Rose Arceri
	9:00	+	John Mattone – Kitty & Charlie Grant
<b>TUES., FEBRUARY 7</b>	6:30		Special Intention
	9:00	+	Ulysses Solis, Jr. – David & Susan Polaski
<b>WED., FEBRUARY 8</b>	6:30	+	Special Intention
	9:00	+	Debbie Hermansen – The Kallberg Family
<b>THU., FEBRUARY 9</b>	6:30	+	Rodolfo P. Espiritu – The Drury Family
	9:00	+	Dorothy Considine ( <i>Birthday</i> ) -- Daughter
<b>FRI., FEBRUARY 10</b>	6:30	+	Eleanor Flanagan – Family
	9:00	+	Ed Mills – The Kenning Family
<b>SAT., FEBRUARY 11</b>	8:00	+	Anthony J. Kirmil – The Briscoe Family
	5:30	+	James Henry – David & Ethna Sullivan
<b>SUN., FEBRUARY 12</b>	7:00	+	Edward Mills – Kitty & Charlie Grant
	8:30	+	Peter Pape – Richard & Pat Kuhn
	10:00	+	Billy Ruehl – Sean & Marcey Briscoe
	11:30	+	Roger Dexter – Robert & Arlene Leonard
	5:30	+	Mildred Pace – The Viebrock Family



### WELCOME TO THOSE WHO WERE NEWLY BAPTIZED

*Emily Elizabeth St. Germain*

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Collection: \$16,259.00

#### PARISH OFFICE (744-5777)

**Kate Fitzgerald:** *Parish Secretary/Bulletin Ed.*  
**Pat Jackson:** *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*

#### MASS SCHEDULE

**Monday – Friday:** 6:30 & 9:00am  
**Saturday:** 8:00am & 5:30pm (*Vigil Mass*)  
**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:** *Once 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.*