
Fr. Corey's Comments

February 2nd is not only Groundhog Day but more importantly it is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord or Candlemas Day. The Feast of the Presentation, often called Candlemas, commemorates the purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the presentation of Christ in the temple, which took place 40 days after his birth as Jewish law required. According to Mosaic law, a mother who had given birth to a boy was considered unclean for seven days. Also, she was to remain 33 days "in the blood of her purification". Luke tells us, quoting Exodus 13:2,12, that Mary and Joseph took Jesus to Jerusalem because every firstborn child was to be dedicated to the Lord. They also went to sacrifice a pair of doves or two young pigeons, showing that Mary and Joseph were poor. Once in the temple, Jesus was purified by the prayer of Simeon, in the presence of Anna the prophetess. Simeon, upon seeing the Messiah, gave thanks to the Lord, singing a hymn now called the Nunc Dimittis:

Lord, now you let your servant go in peace, your word has been fulfilled: My own eyes have seen the salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.

Simeon told Mary, "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against, (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed." Simeon thus foreshadowed the crucifixion and the sorrows of Mary at seeing the death of her Son.

The name Candlemas comes from the activities associated with the feast. It came to be known as the Candle Mass. In the Western Church, a procession with lighted candles is the distinctive rite. According to post Vatican-II discipline, (if possible) the beeswax candles are to be blessed somewhere other than where the Mass is held. Often your local parish will hand out candles, or you may bring your own, to be blessed before the procession. These may be saved for later use in your home. After an antiphon, during which the candles held by the people are lighted, there is a procession into the church. During the procession to the church, the Nunc Dimittis is sung, with the antiphon "Lumen ad revelation" (Luke 2:32). This procession into the church for Mass commemorates Christ's entrance into the temple. Since Vatican II, the feast is reckoned a feast of the Lord (as opposed to a feast of Mary), and officially designated "The presentation of the Lord."

If you would like to purchase candles, they will be available for blessing, or you may bring your own from home. Before the Second Vatican Council, the Christmas Season ended on this day.

I encourage all to attend St. Mary's School Sweetheart Dinner Dance and Auction. Singles are more than welcome to attend this event on February 12th at the Cultural Center in Danbury. A slightly new look will make this annual St. Mary School fundraiser its usual fun night with an added twist. Please come, support our School and have a great night with family and friends.

*Whether the weather be fine
Or whether the weather be not
Whether the weather be cold
Or whether the weather be hot
We'll weather the weather whatever the weather
Whether we like it or not.*

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

February 3rd is the Feast of St. Blaise. Two candles are blessed, held slightly open, and pressed against the throat as the blessing is said. Saint Blaise's protection of those with throat troubles apparently comes from a legend that a boy was brought to him who had a fishbone stuck in his throat. The boy was about to die when Saint Blaise healed him.

Very few facts are known about Saint Blaise. We believe he was a bishop of Sebastea in Armenia who was martyred under the reign of Licinius in the early fourth century. The legend of his life that sprang up in the eighth century tell us that he was born into a rich and noble family who raised him as a Christian. After becoming a bishop, a new persecution of Christians began. He received a message from God to go into the hills to escape persecution. Men hunting in the mountains discovered a cave surrounded by wild animals that were sick. Among them Blaise walked unafraid, curing them of their illnesses. Recognizing Blaise as a bishop, they captured him to take him back for trial. On the way back, he talked a wolf into releasing a pig that belonged to a poor woman. When Blaise was sentenced to be starved to death, the grateful woman sneaked into the prison with food and candles. Finally Blaise was killed by the governor. Blaise is the patron saint of wild animals because of his care for them and of those with throat maladies.

Throats will be blessed at the 6:30 and 9:00am Masses as well as 5:30 and 7:00 pm with by the Liturgy of the Word.

Pope Benedict XVI's special prayer intentions for February are:

General Intention: That the family may be respected by all in its identity and that its irreplaceable contribution to all of society be recognized.

Missionary Intention: That in the mission territories where the struggle against disease is most urgent, Christian communities may witness to the presence of Christ to those who suffer.

I asked a class of second-graders, "In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, what do you have to do first?"

"Commit a sin!" shouted one child proudly.

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A NOTE FROM DEACON MIKE:

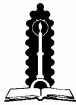
OFF THE STREETS: Many parishioners have been trying to make donations of household goods as we help people get out of the homeless shelters into a room of their own. We now have a drop point for household items at the parking lot at the rear of the United Methodist Church (next to Country Touch), across from the Bethel Municipal Center on the first Saturday of each month from 10:00 – noon (weather permitting). Please bring any usable items such as beds, linens, towels, kitchenware, microwave ovens, bathroom items, dressers, tables, chairs, TVs, lamps, blankets, pots, pans, small appliances, and non-perishable food items. If you have any questions, please contact Richard Schlemmer (203 948-1820).



Winter Is Here!

The next **BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP** meeting will take place SAT., FEB. 12th, 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.

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



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

SCHOOL NEWS



St. Mary School Registration for Preschool through 8th Grade will be held on SUN., JAN. 30th from 11:00am-1:30pm. Registration will continue on MON., FEB. 7th, from 9:00-11:30am and 6:30-8:00pm, and on WED., FEB. 9th from 9:00-11:30 am. **OPEN HOUSE** for all prospective students entering **Pre-School through 8th Grade** will be on SUN., JAN. 30th. For more info. call **School** (203 744-2922), email: www.stmarybethelct.org.



There will be a **Pasta Dinner** in the **Gym** on FRI., FEB. 4th, 5:30 – 8:00pm. The menu includes meatballs and sausage made by **La Zingara Restaurant**, ziti, salad, garlic bread, dessert and drinks. Prices are \$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children 5 – 12. Family Maximum of \$30.00. Walk-ins welcome. For more information please call **203-798-0109**.

Sweetheart Saturday Dinner, Dance, & Auction will be held on SAT., FEB. 12th, from 6-11:00pm, at the **Cultural Center**, 65 Sand Pit Road, Danbury. Tickets are **\$75 per person**. All information can be found on the event website as well as ticket purchases, www.sweetheartsaturday.com. For additional information, please contact **Ruth or Erik Apotheker** at eapotheker@comcast.net.



YOUTH NEWS



MISSION TRIP TEAM will hold a “**Cookies, Cupcakes, & Carnations**” Valentines Sale after all Masses the weekend of FEB. 13th (while supplies last!). It's a great chance to get some sweets for your sweetie! Proceeds go towards our Mission Trip to Chicago.

JR. & SR. Y. G. – Souper Bowl of Caring is a national movement that equips and mobilizes youth to positively impact their communities by collecting money or food on or near Super Bowl weekend. 100% of the collections are donated directly to the charity of each group's choice; ours is **St. James Daily Bread Food Pantry**. Collections are held at **First Congregational Church, Bethel**. **Final Collection: Super Bowl Sunday (2/06/11)**



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 MEN'S RETREAT IS COMING!
The Getaway of a Lifetime! Sign up now for our retreat at **Holy Family Retreat House** in West Hartford. It begins the evening of FRI., MAR. 4th and ends at noon on SUN., MAR 6th. Enjoy a little free time and a chance to think about those things that really matter – like your relationship with your family, friends and God. Call **Nick Santarelli** (203 470-7102) for reservations and information.



The New Year is a time for fresh starts. **CURSILLO** is one of many methods available to us to renew and refresh our spiritual lives. It is designed for Catholics who desire to strengthen their faith. Our next Ultreya will be on THUR., FEB. 17th, at 7:30pm, in the **Parish Hall**. To learn more contact **Yvonne** (203 797-1361); Yvonne_cecera@hotmail.com.

Saint Mary School



A+ For America
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

January 30, 2011 – February 5, 2011

Saint Mary School Events
24 Dodgingtown Rd.
Bethel, CT 06801
203-744-2922
<http://stmarybethelct.org>

Sunday, January 30th
11:00 am-1:30 pm

Open House
K- Grade 8 & PreK Registration

Monday, January 31st
9:00 – 10:20 am
10:40 am
11:30 am

Grandparents' Day
Classroom Visits
Musical Performance PK-8
Luncheon for Grandparents then dessert with students

Tuesday, February 1st
9:00 – 10:00 am
10:10 – 11:10 am
12:30 – 1:45 pm

Student Appreciation Day
Grades K – 4 Arithmetickles Assembly
Grades 5- 8 Arithmetickles Assembly
Ice Cream Social

Wednesday, February 2nd
9:00 – 10:20 am
10:40 am
11:15 am

Parent Open House
(Open House Current & Prospective Parents)
Classroom Visits
Musical Performance PK-8
Subway from Father Corey

Thursday, February 3rd
8:00 – 8:45 am
9:00 – 10:00 am
12:00 – 12:45 pm
1:00 – 1:45 pm

Young Author's Day*
Presentation for Grades K-8
Story Writing Time with Homeroom Teacher K-8
Story Writing Performance Grades K-4
Story Writing Performance Grades 5-8

Friday, February 4th
9:00 am
11:15 am
5:30 – 8:00 pm

Teacher Appreciation Day
School Liturgy – (All Are Welcome)
Teacher Luncheon
School & Community Pasta Dinner

*PreK 3 & 4 will celebrate Young Author's Day with a visit from Mrs. Mary Corcoran.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

MON., JAN. 31	6:30	Special Intention – Reana Diago
	9:00	+ Michael Thomas Gagliardi – Blake & Sheila Bonnabeau
TUES, FEB. 1	6:30	Special Intention
	9:00	+ Walter Garrett – Joann Lawlor
WED., FEB. 2	6:30	+ Frank & Mary Kinsky – Guertin Family
	9:00	+ Derry Kenning – Wife
THU., FEB. 3	6:30	+ Mary Agnes Kinsky – Pat Kelly
	9:00	+ Rose Anziano – Leon & Stephanie Anziano
FRI., FEB. 4	6:30	+ For the Souls in Purgatory
	9:00	+ John Rubino – Family
SAT., FEB. 5	8:00	+ Bing Yee – Dan & Helen Yee
	5:30	+ Mary Sorgie – Ghirardi Family
SUN., FEB. 6	7:00	+ Lila Grasberger – Pat & Bill Postiglione
	8:30	+ Daniel Kiah – Edith Jaccarino
	10:00	+ Earl Glander – John Corsak
	11:30	+ Theresa DiDiego – Caraluzzi Family
	5:30	+ Sr. Joan Marie Clarke – Mary Beth Falls



WELCOME TO THOSE WHO WERE NEWLY BAPTIZED

Matthew Tre Cavallaro

Nicholas John Samperi, Jr.

COLLECTION: \$15,156

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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: *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***  
***celebrate.***