

# *Saint Mary Parish Community*

**THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY,  
THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

*January 1, 2012*



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

**Father Edward McAuley  
Father Jeff Couture  
*Parochial Vicars***

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**St. Mary Church & Rectory**

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

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

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## Fr. Corey's Comments

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*Since we celebrate the Christmas Season till the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, here are some more Christmas trivia:*

--- George Washington spent Christmas night 1776 crossing the Delaware River in dreadful conditions. Christmas 1777 fared little better - at Valley Forge, Washington and his men had a miserable Christmas dinner of Fowl cooked in a broth of Turnips, cabbage and potatoes.

--- Frustrated at the lack of interest in his new toy invention, Charles Pajeau hired several midgets, dressed them in elf costumes, and had them play with "Tinker Toys" in a display window at a Chicago department store during the Christmas season in 1914. This publicity stunt made the construction toy an instant hit. A year later, over a million sets of Tinker Toys had been sold.

--- Historians have traced some of the current traditions surrounding Father Christmas, or Santa Claus, back to ancient Celtic roots. Father Christmas's elves are the modernization of the "Nature folk" of the Pagan religions; his reindeer are associated with the "Horned God," which was one of the Pagan deities

--- In 1647, the English parliament passed a law that made Christmas illegal. Festivities were banned by Puritan leader, Oliver Cromwell, who considered feasting and revelry, on what was supposed to be a holy day, to be immoral. The ban was lifted only when the Puritans lost power in 1660.

--- In 1752, 11 days were dropped from the year when the switch from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar was made. The December 25 date was effectively moved 11 days backwards. Some Christian church sects, called old calendarists, still celebrate Christmas on January 7 (previously December 25 of the Julian calendar).

--- In 1937, the first postage stamp to commemorate Christmas was issued in Austria.

--- In 1947, Toys for Tots started making the holidays a little happier for children by organizing its first Christmas toy drive for needy youngsters.

--- In 1996, Christmas caroling was banned at two major malls in Pensacola, Florida. Apparently, shoppers and merchants complained the carolers were too loud and took up too much space.

--- In an effort to solicit cash to pay for a charity Christmas dinner in 1891, a large crabpot was set down on a San Francisco street, becoming the first Salvation Army collection kettle.

--- In America, the weeks leading up to Christmas are the biggest shopping weeks of the year. Many retailers make up to 70% of their annual revenue in the month preceding Christmas.

--- In Armenia, the traditional Christmas Eve meal consists of fried fish, lettuce, and spinach. The meal is traditionally eaten after the Christmas Eve service, in commemoration of the supper eaten by Mary on the evening before Christ's birth.

--- In Britain, eating mince pies at Christmas dates back to the 16th century. It is still believed that to eat a mince pie on each of the Twelve Days of Christmas will bring 12 happy months in the year to follow.

--- In Britain, the Holy Days and Fasting Days Act of 1551, which has not yet been repealed, states that every citizen must attend a Christian church service on Christmas Day, and must not use any kind of vehicle to get to the service.

--- In Finland and Sweden an old tradition prevails, where the twelve days of Christmas are declared to be time of civil peace by law. It used to be that a person committing crimes during this time would be liable to a stiffer sentence than normal.

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## Fr. Corey's Comments

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--- In France, Christmas is called Noel. This is derived from the French phrase "les bonnes nouvelles," which means literally "the good news" and refers to the gospel.

--- In the Thomas Nast cartoon that first depicted Santa Claus with a sleigh and reindeer, he was delivering Christmas gifts to soldiers fighting in the U.S. Civil War. The cartoon, entitled "Santa Claus in Camp," appeared in Harper's Weekly on January 3, 1863.

--- La Befana, a kindly witch, rides a broomstick down the chimney to deliver toys into the stockings of Italian children. The legends say that Befana was sweeping her floors when the three Wise Men stopped and asked her to come to see the Baby Jesus. "No," she said, "I am too busy." Later, she changed her mind, but it was too late. So, to this day, she goes out on Christmas Eve searching for the Holy Child, leaving gifts for the "holy child" in each household.

--- Hot cockles" was a popular game at Christmas in medieval times. It was a game in which the other players took turns striking the blindfolded player, who had to guess the name of the person delivering each blow. "Hot cockles" was still a Christmas pastime until the Victorian era.

--- "White Christmas" (1954), starring Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye, was the first movie to be made in Vista Vision, a deep-focus process.

--- "The Nutcracker" is the name for the ballet performed around Christmas time each year. "The Nutcracker Suite" is the title of the music Tchaikovsky wrote.

--- "Wassail" comes from the Old Norse "ves heill"-- to be of good health. This evolved into the tradition of visiting neighbors on Christmas Eve and drinking to their health.

--- A Christmas club, a savings account in which a person deposits a fixed amount of money regularly to be used at Christmas for shopping, came about around 1905.

--- A traditional Christmas dinner in early England was the head of a pig prepared with mustard.

--- According to a 1995 survey, 7 out of 10 British dogs get Christmas gifts from their doting owners.

--- According to historical accounts, the first Christmas in the Philippines was celebrated 200 years before Ferdinand.

--- Magellan discovered the country for the western world, likely between the years 1280 and 1320 AD.

--- According to the National Christmas Tree Association, Americans buy 37.1 million real Christmas trees each year; 25 percent of them are from the nation's 5,000 choose-and-cut farms.

--- After "A Christmas Carol," Charles Dickens wrote several other Christmas stories, one each year, but none was as successful as the original.

--- Although many believe the Friday after Thanksgiving is the busiest shopping day of the year, it is not. It is the fifth to tenth busiest day. The Friday and Saturday before Christmas are the two busiest shopping days of the year.

--- American billionaire Ross Perot tried to airlift 28 tons of medicine and Christmas gifts to American POW's in North Vietnam in 1969.

--- An average household in America will mail out 28 Christmas cards each year and see 28 return cards return in their place.

## PARISH HAPPENINGS

**Bible Study** *“Come Discover the Book of Psalms”* Our Bible Study is taking an in-depth look at the Book of Psalms. If you would like to join us or if you have any questions please contact **Rick Lawlor at 203-470-8084 or email at [rlawlor22@comcast.net](mailto:rlawlor22@comcast.net)**. Classes will be on most Tuesday evenings, 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall.



**ST. MARY'S MEN'S MINISTRY** meets most Saturday mornings from **6:30-8:00am in the Church Hall from 6:30am**. Come join us for excellent fellowship and great discussions along with coffee, bagels and donuts! Our next meeting is on **Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>**. **Save the date** for our special speaker, **Fr. Terry Kristofak on Wed. evening, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm** in the Parish Hall.



**DOROTHY DAY VOLUNTEERS**  
**WED., JAN. 4<sup>th</sup>: Our turn to Cook.**

**NOCTURNAL ADORATION** will be on **FRI., JAN. 6<sup>th</sup>**, from **8:00pm to 8:00am**.



**ONE HOUR WITH HIM** All ages are invited to join us for **the first hour of Adoration from 8:00-9:00pm** in the Church for an hour of music, community prayer, and silent prayer. This is an opportunity to spend time in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Bring your friends, parents, children, siblings for this beautiful hour on the **first Friday of each month beginning January 6th**.

**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. JAN. 7<sup>th</sup> from 10:30-noon** in the Parish House. If you will be attending for the first time, please call the **Rectory (203 744-5777)** to confirm.



**ST. MARY CHRISTMAS GIVING PROGRAM** **THANK YOU TO ALL** who donated gifts, gift cards and monetary donations to help Bethel area families during this Christmas season. Your response was overwhelming and the light and love of Christ shined in Bethel because of your generosity! God's blessings to you and your family and to the families that you helped!

**VIRTUS TRAINING** There will be a Virtus Training session on **Thurs., Jan. 12 at 7pm** in the Parish Hall. Anyone who volunteers in any capacity within the St. Mary Parish and School community must be Virtus trained. Go to **[Virtus.org](http://Virtus.org)** to register for this session or see the other available sessions within our diocese.

**CURSILLO** is designed for Catholics who desire to strengthen their faith, who want to be closer to Christ, and who want to bring Christ to those around them. Our next **Ultreya** will be held in the Parish Hall on **Thursday January 19 at 7:30 pm**.

## YOUTH GROUP

**SENIOR YOUTH GROUP** with Fr. Jeff and Deacon Joe will have their first kick-off meeting on **Sun., Jan. 8 from 6:30-8:30pm in the Parish Hall!** All high school students are invited to come and find out what's planned for the New Year!! For more info contact Fr. Jeff at [fathercuture@gmail.com](mailto:fathercuture@gmail.com)

The **JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP** kick-off meeting will be on **Sun., Jan. 15 from 6:30-8:30pm in the Parish Hall**. Join Fr. Jeff and Deacon Joe to see what's going on for 6-8<sup>th</sup> graders in 2012! Contact Fr. Jeff at [fathercuture@gmail.com](mailto:fathercuture@gmail.com) for more info.

## SCHOOL NEWS

Classes will resume on **Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>**.



**Snowflake Gala** – All Parishioners are invited to attend our **18<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner Dance & Auction on February 11<sup>th</sup> at the Amber Room from 6:30 – 11:30pm**. Reservations are now being accepted. Reservation forms are available online at [www.stmarybethelct.org](http://www.stmarybethelct.org). Please contact Kathleen DeMarco at 203-917-4077 or [kathleendemarco@comcast.net](mailto:kathleendemarco@comcast.net). Tickets are \$75 per person until January 15<sup>th</sup>, \$85 per person thereafter. Join us for a great evening out with friends and the St. Mary's community!

There will be an 11:15 **Early Dismissal** on **Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup>** for a Professional Development Day. There will also be **no school** on **Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>**, for Martin Luther King Day.

**THANK YOU** to Kathleen Horvath, India Jonas and Michelle Lavelle for coordinating a wonderful Christmas Gala and Craft Fair earlier this month! Thank you to all of the vendors and shoppers who came out to this annual event.

Please join us at St. Mary School for our inaugural **TAKE A LOOK TUESDAY** on **Tuesday, Jan. 10**. Drop in between **9:00-10:00am** and speak with members of our community to learn more about the superior academic and spiritual education that St. Mary School provides to children Pre-K through Grade 8. We look forward to seeing you!

**GUARDIAN ANGEL NETWORK** is an opportunity for those who would like to donate to our nationally recognized Blue Ribbon St. Mary School. The **Guardian Angel Network** allows the generous spirit of St. Mary parishioners to enhance the top quality education St. Mary students receive. Please visit the Guardian Angel Network board in the Parish Hall for items ready to select. **Contact** the school website [www.Stmarybethelct.org](http://www.Stmarybethelct.org) for more info or e-mail [Kathleen@Marienugent.com](mailto:Kathleen@Marienugent.com).

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**ATTN: ALL 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS!** The Confirmation Commitment Mass is on *Sunday, Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> at the 5:30pm.* **All Confirmation candidates are required to attend.** Parents and sponsors are encouraged to attend with their candidate.

**Religious Education Office hours are Tuesday – Thursday, 9:30am – 2:00pm.** The Religious Ed Office closed December 20<sup>th</sup> for Christmas break and reopen January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

The next regular meeting will be on **Mon., Jan. 9 at 8:15pm** in the Parish Hall.

**NOVEMBER HONORS**

**KNIGHT OF THE MONTH** : Father Cyrus  
**FAMILY OF THE MONTH**: Tony Iorfino Family

**AROUND THE DIOCESE**

**OFF THE STREETS**: Thanks to the generosity of many, we have a good supply of household items, so we won't have a drop-off the first Saturday of January. However, we continually need contributions to provide security deposits or one-way bus tickets. Please make a tax-deductible donation to Off The Streets; P.O. Box 591; Bethel, CT 06801. Also since we have received the formal 501 (c) (3) notification, companies can sometimes provide a matching donation. God's blessings from Deacon Mike Oles and Joe Simons, Coordinators.

**Santa Workshop**: More than 800 of the poorest children in our area received an outpouring of love this year at the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Santa's Workshop at Dorothy Day. Elves from St. Mary Parish (including General Chair, our own Mary Korin), Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Knights of Columbus, and countless other volunteers from many organizations help make this occasion memorable. Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived at Dorothy Day via a Danbury Fire Department Truck escorted by a group of Harley Davidson Motorcyclists. While they waited their turn, often for many hours, the children and their parents were entertained with Christmas Carolers, fed hot chocolate and cookies, and when they got cold, were able to take refuge in the warmth of the humble homeless shelter. Many parishioners from St. Mary Parish volunteered their efforts to make this such a wonderful day. Many others contributed toys to the delight of the youngsters; more than 600 coats, countless hats and gloves, 170 bicycles and helmets, and many thousands of toys, games, puzzles and books. The Santa Workshop was inspired by the Holy Spirit through the actions of the children of St. Mary Parish 15 years ago and has grown to be a broad-based Community-wide event.

**AROUND THE DIOCESE**

**The BETHEL TOASTMASTERS CLUB'S** next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, Jan. 16<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.



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 \$75 per person until 1/15, \$85 per person after 1/15

Please contact Kathleen DeMarco at 203-917-4077 or [kathl@ndemarco@comcast.net](mailto:kathl@ndemarco@comcast.net)

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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 the following people  
(tables of 10)

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

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## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

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SAT., DECEMBER 31	5:30	+	Willaim Stevens, Jr. – Friends of the Family
SUN., JANUARY 1	7:00	+	Chad McCollam – Cindy & Jim Scholl
	8:30	+	Paul Scott Clayton – Fudgy & Ned Belardinelli
	10:00	+	Steve Deak – Leon & Stephanie Anziano
	11:30	+	Rod Dexter – Patty & Joe Vitarelli
	5:30	+	Alice Marie Giannone – Fudgy & Ned Belardinelli
MON., JANUARY 2	6:30	+	Shannon Zimmerman – The Long Family
	9:00	+	Wally Farrell – Chick and Dolly Jennings
TUES., JANUARY 3	6:30	+	Leo Corkery – Maureen Major
	9:00	+	Anthony Daniel Ward – The Paris Family
WED., JANUARY 4	6:30		Ryan Martorella (Health & Blessings) – The DiMatteo Family
	9:00	+	William Ruehl – The Keough Family
THU., JANUARY 5	6:30	+	Michael Gasgoine – Michael Mayhew
	9:00	+	Donald Oman – Michelle Burbage
FRI., JANUARY 6	6:30	+	Sister Madonna ( <i>With Thanks!</i> ) – Michele & Kristen DiMatteo
	9:00		Jo Sheridan (Health & Blessings) – Marilyn Murray
SAT., JANUARY 7	8:00	+	Maria Vaghi – Joan & Robyn Bennett
	5:30	+	Ray Reinaldo – Family
SUN., JANUARY 8	7:00	+	Greg Caterson – Jed & Cornie Costello
	8:30	+	Edward Mills – The Putnam House Crew
	10:00	+	Fay Carol Colin – Mary Colin
	11:30	+	Rod Dexter – Matt & Mary Ellen Costello
	5:30	+	Akos Wajda – The Kuhn Family



## WELCOME TO THOSE WHO WERE NEWLY BAPTIZED

*Joseph Michael Iapaluccio*

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### 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.*