

Saint Mary Parish Community

THE EPHIPANY OF THE LORD

January 8, 2012



Father Corey V. Piccinino, *Pastor*

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

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

Rectory Phone: 744-5777

**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

Fr. Corey's Comments

◆ The Christmas Season ends with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. I would like to thank in particular, **Paul Orsino** and his crew. All decorations were most beautiful, and I am most appreciative to all who had a hand in making our Church a most beautiful worship space for the Nativity of our Lord. I think you will agree with me that our Advent Wreath was magnificent! Thanks goes out to the creativity and talent of Chris Zajak at Alice's Flower Shop and A Country Touch Gifts. Thank you to **Michael Ferrari, Elizabeth Barnes**, the cantors and choir for the beautiful and prayerful music during the Christmas Season. To everyone else who had a part in our Christmas Masses, God bless you for your hard work and kindness. Finally, thank you to all who donated for our flowers this year. We shall again have a Mass for all those you remember with your flower donations. We shall pray for their eternal rest and blessings.

◆ Some more Christmas facts:

~ Christmas was once a moveable feast celebrated at many different times during the year. The choice of December 25, was made by Pope Julius I, in the 4th century A.D., because this coincided with the pagan rituals of Winter Solstice, or Return of the Sun. The intent was to replace the pagan celebration with the Christian one.

~ Cultured Christmas trees must be shaped as they grow to produce fuller foliage. To slow the upward growth and to encourage branching, they are hand-clipped each spring. Trees grown in the wild have sparser branches, and are known in the industry as "Charlie Brown" trees.

~ During the ancient 12-day Christmas celebration, the log burned was called the "Yule log." Sometimes a piece of the Yule log would be kept to kindle the fire the following winter, to ensure that the good luck carried on from year to year. The Yule log custom was handed down from the Druids.

◆

A New Year Prayer:

Holy Father,

God of our yesterdays, our today, and our tomorrows. We praise You for Your unequalled greatness. Thank You for the year behind us and for the year ahead. Help us in Your new year, Father, to fret less and laugh more. To teach our children to laugh by laughing with them. To teach others to love by loving them. Knowing, when Love came to the stable in Bethlehem, He came for us. So that Love could be with us, and we could know You. That we could share Love with others. Help us, Father, to hear Your love song in every sunrise, in the chirping of sparrows in our backyards, in the stories of our old folks, and the fantasies of our children. Help us to stop and listen to Your love songs, so that we may know You better and better. We rejoice in the world You loved into being. Thank You for another new year and for new chances every day. We pray for peace, for light, and for hope, that we might spread them to others. Forgive us for falling short this past year. We leave the irreparable past in Your hands, and step out into the unknown new year knowing You will go with us. We accept Your gift of a new year and we rejoice in what's ahead, depending on You to help us do exactly what You want. I say it again, we rejoice! In Jesus name,

Amen.

PARISH HAPPENINGS

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 to register for this session or see the other available sessions within our diocese.

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**. Classes will be on most Tuesday evenings, 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall.



ST. MARY'S MEN'S MINISTRY Our next regular meeting is on **Jan. 14th from 6:30-8:00am in the Parish Hall**. Come join us for excellent fellowship and great discussions along with coffee, bagels and donuts! We are having a special **Wednesday evening** meeting on **January 11th at 6:30pm in the Parish Hall** with special speaker, **Fr. Terry Kristofak**. See insert in bulletin for details.

ST. MARY BOOK CLUB: Our next book is “The Rhythm of Life”, by Matthew Kelly. Join us on **THUR., Jan. 26th at 7:30pm**, in the **Children's Room**.



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



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. 18th 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.

SAVE THE DATE: On **Sat. evening, March 10 Flanagan's Wake**, the hilarious interactive Irish wake that has been running in Chicago for 16 smash years, is coming here to St. Mary! More info to follow soon!!

YOUTH GROUP

SENIOR YOUTH GROUP with Fr. Jeff and Deacon Joe will have their first kick-off meeting this **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

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 6-8th graders in 2012! Contact Fr. Jeff at fathercuture@gmail.com for more info.

SCHOOL NEWS

SNOWFLAKE GALA – All Parishioners are invited to attend our **18th Annual Dinner Dance & Auction on February 11th at the Amber Room from 6:30 – 11:30pm**. Reservations are now being accepted. Reservation forms are available online at www.stmarybethelct.org. Please contact Kathleen DeMarco at 203-917-4077 or kathleendemarco@comcast.net. Tickets are \$75 per person until January 15th, \$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 13th** for a Professional Development Day. There will also be **no school** on **Monday, January 16th**, for Martin Luther King Day.

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 for more info or e-mail Kathleen@Marienugent.com.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education Office hours
Tuesday – Thursday, 9:30am – 2:00pm.

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



ATTENTION ALL FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION PROGRAM PARENTS Deacon Joe will present a workshop on **“How to Raise a Holy Child”** on **Wed., Jan. 11 at 6:30pm** and **Sat., Jan. 14 at 9am** in the Church. All First Communion parents and those Confirmation parents who did not attend the Confirmation workshop **must** attend one of these meetings.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The next regular meeting will be on Mon., Jan. 9 at 8:15pm in the Parish Hall. We will say the Rosary before at 7:45pm in the Church.

Fr. Cyrus donated a statue of Our Blessed Mother to the Knights of Columbus Council 48 and we have started the Apostolate of Mary, the Pilgrim Virgin here in Bethel. Every Saturday, the Knights will deliver the statue to a home, where it is enthroned in a place of honor and the rosary is prayed by those in attendance. Daily, the host family (and those the family invites) then prays the Rosary until the following Saturday, where it will be taken to another home. If you would like the statue to visit your home for a week, contact the Knights at bethelKofC@yahoo.com.

"KNIGHT" OF BOWLING is on again by popular demand. This fun night will be on Thurs., Jan. 26 from 9:15-11:15pm at Lore's Lanes in New Milford. Cost is \$20 per person, and proceeds go to Brotherhood in Action and Off the Streets. Call Mike Forese with your group names to ensure a lane at (203)470-2259.

The **Knights of Columbus** is a Catholic men's fraternal society dedicated to providing service to Church, community, family and youth. If you are at least 18 years of age and think you may be interested in joining our ranks, email Bob Nelson at bethelKofC@yahoo.com or call 748-6797.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

OFF THE STREETS: Please join us on the 3rd **Thursday of each month** at the **Congregational Church in Danbury**. Park on the left side of the church (across from City Hall), come into the Church and go to the Pilgrim Room.

MARCH FOR LIFE PILGRIMAGE – Monday, January 23, 2011, Washington D.C. Join the Office of Respect Life Ministry on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Washington D.C. for the March for Life! *The bus departs from St. Theresa Catholic Church in Trumbull on Sunday, January 22nd at 11:30 p.m.* in order to attend the 7:30 a.m. Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception celebrated by Archbishop Dolan. The return trip to Connecticut begins at 4:00 p.m. The cost per person is \$67.00. If you are not able to make the trip, please consider making a donation so that others may attend. For more information and to place a reservation please call Sr. Bernadette at (203) 416-1445, or email respectlife@diobpt.org. The deadline for both a reservation and a nonrefundable payment is Friday, January 13, 2012. Checks are made payable to: *Office for Pastoral Services.*

AROUND THE 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**. For more about Cursillo and their three day weekends, call Mary Guertin at 790-6645 or mguertin.home@gmail.com.

The BETHEL TOASTMASTERS CLUB'S next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, Jan. 16th 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 kathleendemarco@comcast.net

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

St. Mary Youth Group
Adult Volunteer Sign Up Sheet

Name: _____ Email Address: _____

Home Address: _____

Phone: Home _____ Cell _____ Other _____

Check group of interest:

Sr. Youth Group (High School) _____ Jr. Youth Group (6th, 7th, & 8th) _____ Both _____

Interests:

- _____ Help facilitate and plan meetings
- _____ Help facilitate and plan outings
- _____ Chaperone trips
- _____ Drive for outings
- _____ Set up for meetings
- _____ Donate snacks for meetings
- _____ Clean up after meetings
- _____ All of the above

Availability:

- _____ Weekly (*note: this means that you are available for all youth group meetings which includes the monthly meeting(s) and adoration*)
- _____ Monthly
- _____ Outings only
- _____ Meetings only
- _____ Adoration only
- _____ Other: Please explain _____

Safe Environment Requirements

In order to ensure a safe environment for the youth of our diocese, it is required that all adults who are 18 years of age and older must attend a "Virtus" certification workshop.

Please check one of the following:

- _____ I am certified by Virtus at: _____ Date Certified: _____
- _____ I am **not** certified by Virtus but wish to be. (If you check this box, please contact **Virtus.org**, search for a list of workshop times in the "Diocese of Bridgeport" and sign up for a class.

Contact: If you have any questions please email Fr. Jeff at fathercouture@gmail.com or Deacon Joe Gill at jagill@email.msmary.edu

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

SAT., JANUARY 7	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
MON., JANUARY 9	6:30	+	Christian Major (<i>Birthday</i>) – Family
	9:00	+	Kathleen Prahach – Mr. & Mrs. James Lavan
TUES., JANUARY 10	6:30	+	Bob Ross – Cornie & Jed Costello
	9:00	+	Donald Clarke (<i>23rd Anniv.</i>) – Family
WED., JANUARY 11	6:30	+	Sister Madonna – Pat & Paul Orsino
	9:00	+	Audrey Way – The Dexters
THU., JANUARY 12	6:30	+	Chad McCollam – Family
	9:00	+	Richard F. Beston – Wife Edna Mae and Family
FRI., JANUARY 13	6:30	+	Anthony & Angelina DeLosa – Rosemarie & Vern Nepple
	9:00	+	George Johnston (<i>71st Anniv.</i>) – Joan Johnston Bennett
SAT., JANUARY 14	8:00	+	Richard F. Beston (<i>1st Anniv.</i>) – Edna Mae Beston & Family
	5:30	+	Anna Williams – Paul & Pat Orsino
SUN., JANUARY 15	7:00	+	Kathleen Prahach – Dave & Sharon Pijnenburg
	8:30	+	Kathleen LaLuna – St. Mary School Community
	10:00	+	Richard Alan Bomely – Bruce Bomely
	11:30	+	Ed Mills – The Caraluzzi Family
	5:30	+	Nicholas Santarelli Sr. – Coral & Bill Presti

COLLECTION: \$18,331.00

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.*