

Saint Mary Parish Community

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE KING

November 20, 2011



Father Corey V. Piccinino, *Pastor*

**Father Cyrus Bartolome
Father Edward McAuley
*Parochial Vicars***

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

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**Sister Anne McCarthy
*School Principal***

School Phone: 744-2922

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

Religious Education Office: 743-4557

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*Finance Committee Chairman***

Work Phone: 794-8512

St. Mary Church & Rectory

26 Dodgingtown Road, Bethel, Connecticut 06801

www.stmarybethel.org

Comments From Fr. Ed

In today's Gospel, Jesus says: "Whatever you do for one of my least brothers or sisters, you do for me." Today's Gospel invites us to reflect on how we respond to "the least" in our world and in our lives. What we do for them, we do for Christ himself.

Among "the least" in the eyes of the world are children and adults with intellectual disabilities. When I met my future wife, Suzanne, forty years ago I met her sister Jackie who had the intellectual disability called Down Syndrome. Jackie and I became friends the day we met and remained friends until her death on October twenty-ninth at the age of seventy-two.

Jackie was "special" in many ways. Her specialness led her parents to become co-founders of the Kennedy Center in Bridgeport, which to this day serves special people like Jackie. It was a blessing to celebrate her funeral Mass.

Life becomes a roller coaster when we lose sight of the peace which comes by living simply. Jackie's life was a reminder of that. She enjoyed the simple things of life. When she went out for breakfast, the waitress knew what she wanted: two eggs over easy, sausage, two cups of coffee, and white toast. She faithfully watched *Jeopardy* and *Wheel of Fortune*, and enjoyed dancing to her favorite song, *Fat Bottomed Girls* by Queen. Year in and year out she'd receive a wrist watch on her birthday. Imelda Marcos collected shoes. Jackie collected watches. She showed us how to be happy by living simply.

Jackie enjoyed going to Mass and receiving Jesus in communion. She didn't feel quite the same way about heaven. That's because she associated "heaven" with never again seeing a loved one who died. So she had no interest in going to heaven. A place where she always enjoyed going was to our home, which she called "Suzanne's house," and so for years she said that when she died she wanted to go there, not heaven. Given her enjoyment of eating and celebrating, we pray that she's gone to her Heavenly Father's House, seated at his Eternal Banquet.

Children and adults with intellectual disabilities have much to teach us. One way in which they are *not* disabled is in their ability to love and to love unconditionally. They show us, by their example, how to love as Jesus calls us to love.

Somewhere along the way in life we begin to make attitude choices which get in the way of loving, such as when we choose to judge, hold onto a grudge or resentment, or to not forgive. Special people like Jackie remind us by their example that loving always is a more life-giving choice. No wonder Jesus says "*unless you become like a child you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.*"

Dear God...

....I went to this wedding and they kissed right in church. Is that ok?

Jason

....I bet it's hard to love everyone in the whole world. There's only 4 people in our family and I can never do it.

Patty

....Please put another holiday between Christmas and Easter. There's nothing good in there now.

Phil

PARISH HAPPENINGS

November is dedicated to **Departed Souls**. The **Book of Names** will be in the Sanctuary, to the right of the altar. Write the names of your departed loved ones, and we shall keep them in our prayers during November. Envelopes for **All Souls Day** may be returned any time during November. Masses are offered throughout the year for **Souls in Purgatory**.



ST. MARY ANNUAL COLLECTION will be taken up during the **month of November**. Please be as generous as possible to this collection by dropping your envelope into the offertory anytime in November.

Just in time for the holidays, it's the return of "**Gold-buying Fundraiser**" on **DEC. 2nd (10am-7pm in Parish Hall), DEC., 3rd (9am-4pm in School) and DEC 4th (8am-4pm in Parish Hall)**. So, leave your checkbook at home – you take home the money! Check your jewelry box for broken chains, single earrings, jewelry you never wear and even dental gold. Not only will you get a fair price (10-15% more than last year because gold has gone up) but more than 60% of the profits will be donated to our Parish and School.



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.



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. DEC. 3 from 10:30-noon** in the Parish House. Light lunch will follow meeting. If you will be attending for the first time, please call the **Rectory (203 744-5777)** to confirm.



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!

PARISH HAPPENINGS

The Parish Office will be closed **Thurs., Nov. 24 and Fri., Nov. 25** for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Please join us and the faithful across the world in celebrating the **Feast of Our Lady of Kibeho** on **Mon., Nov. 28, 2011** as we pray the **Rosary of the Seven Sorrows** after the 9am Mass. This year, the feast day marks the 30th Anniversary of the first apparition and the 10th anniversary of the Vatican approval of the messages given to all by the Mother of the World in the small African village of Kibeho.

We will be having **NEW ALTAR SERVER TRAINING** coming up soon! Any young person in fourth grade or above is invited to become an altar server at St. Mary's. If your child is interested, they must attend one of the upcoming training sessions: **Thursday, December 1 at 2:15pm; Thursday December 1 at 7:00pm; or Saturday December 3 at 9:00am.**



ATTN: TEENS & PARENTS Applications for next year's **Mission Trip/Retreat** scheduled for **June 24-30, 2012** to Providence, RI are available on our website and in the vestibule of the Church. Due date **with deposit** is on **Wed., Nov. 23**. For more info call Kate Fitz (744-5777).

Our **Mission Trip Team** will be taking orders for **Christmas Wreaths, Kissing Balls, Memorial Blankets and Holiday Log boxes** after all the masses **this weekend (Nov. 19/20) and next weekend (Nov. 26/27)** to be available for **pick-up on Sat. Dec. 3rd**. We will also have **advent candles** and **Heavenly Stock** available for purchase on those week-ends.



LECTOR WORKBOOKS for the 2011-2012 year beginning the first Sunday of Advent (11/27) are available in the Vestry. Please check off your name on the sheet provided when you pick one up.



ST. MARY BOOK CLUB: Our next book is "**Teresa of Avila: An Extraordinary Life**", by **Shirley du Boula**. Join us on **THUR., Dec. 1st at 7:30pm**, in the **Children's Room**.

SCHOOL NEWS

The school community will be attending the **9am Mass on Wed., Nov. 23rd**. All are welcome to join us. There will be an **11:15 Early Dismissal** on **Wed., Nov. 23rd** and **NO SCHOOL** on **Thurs. and Fri., Nov. 24th and 25th** for Thanksgiving. Have a wonderful holiday!

Saint Mary School will be holding our **Annual Christmas Gala & Craft Fair** on **Sat., Dec., 3rd from 9am - 4pm**. Come browse and do some holiday shopping from our talented crafters, have your picture taken with Santa (10-2pm) and have breakfast or lunch at the Holiday Cafe. From 10:00 - 2:00 children can make a gingerbread house or Christmas craft. There will also be a Baked Goods table and a raffle. **CRAFTERS WANTED!** If you are interested in a space at the fair, please contact Kathleen Horvath at 203-300-5486 or email at Kathleen.horvath@att.net.

Are you an On-line Shopper? Through an on-line shopping mall called **One Cause**, a percentage of your on-line purchases from hundreds of merchants will come back to Saint Mary's. Log on to www.onecause.com, choose "join", choose your user name and ID, and select a cause. We are listed as "Saint Mary School". One Cause is an easy way to earn money for our school!

Thank you to **Denise Suarez & JoJo Magrone** for all of their hard work in putting together the Harvest Wine Tasting! It was a much-needed warm night spent with good wine, good food, and good company! Thank you to everyone who came to this annual event!

See the display in the vestibule of the Church for information on the **Guardian Angel Network**, an opportunity for those who would like to donate to our nationally recognized Blue Ribbon St. Mary School.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

ATTN: 7th -12th Graders! **PLEASE** join us **Fri., Dec. 9th at 6:30-9pm** in the Church Hall for **Theology of the Body for Teens** presented by Deacon Joe! There will be pizza, friends, and fun! RSVP by email at mferri@stmarybethel.org or call the Rel. Ed. office 743-4557 **by Dec. 7th**.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

NEXT REGULAR MEETING is **Monday, Nov. 28th at 8:15** in the Parish Hall.

The winner of the Placemat Competition at the Pancake Breakfast was Barbara Williams. Please come to the Parish Office to claim your prize!



Thanksgiving
Food Drive

PLEASE HELP THOSE IN NEED!! You can drop off your food donations (canned or dry foods, etc.), in the **Church vestibule** every day from **8:00am - 5:00pm**. **Frozen Turkeys** can be dropped off **Mon.-Fri. until 12noon** in the **freezer in the Parish Hall Kitchen**. Monetary donations may be sent to: *Brotherhood in Action, P.O. Box 581, Bethel, Ct. 06801. Please be as generous as you can as our food supplies are very low and demand is great!*

AROUND THE DIOCESE



ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE will be on **WED., NOV. 23rd**, at **7:30pm**, at the **United Methodist Church/Bethel**.

The DANBURY EMMAUS is having a retreat for anyone currently in high school from **December 2-4, 2011** at the **Seton-Newman Center** in Danbury. Call Kristin Nauheimer at 512-5285 for info.

The BETHEL TOASTMASTERS CLUB'S next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, November 21 at 7 PM**. For more information please call Sharon Closius at 203-798-9822 or Pat Wilson-Perkins at 203-797-1967.

The **BETHEL WOMEN'S CLUB Christmas Present Collection** (new, with original tags and unwrapped) **for veterans in long term care and at the Vet House in Danbury** is continuing. A list of items can be found in the church vestibule by the collection bin.

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

The following is a list of some of the major accomplishments and highlights since the formation of Off The Streets just a little over two years ago. In reviewing this, we all need to keep in mind that none of this would have been possible without the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and the Faith and Perseverance of our contributors, donors, sponsors, and friends who are literally the minds, the hearts, the hands and the Face of Christ to the homeless in our community.

- 1. Off The Streets has helped more than 200 people in various situations: Provided security deposits for those currently homeless; Back-rent or Utility assistance for those about to be evicted to the streets; Provided one-way bus, rail, or airline tickets so that homeless persons in Danbury could be united with welcoming families in more than 20 States and Puerto Rico.*
- 2. Off The Streets has been recognized as a Federally and State recognized non-profit Charitable Organization, formally known as a 501(c) (3). All contributions are tax-deductible.*
- 3. Off The Streets remains committed to being All-Volunteer, taking no government funding.*
- 4. Off The Streets remains committed to almost zero overhead (no offices, no paid staff, no vehicles, no professional fundraisers). Our overhead consists of a P. O. Box which costs \$6 a month, a phone which costs \$10 a month, a website which costs \$4 a month, and a small insurance policy protecting volunteers who work in Off The Streets (last year, our Insurance Company, Rose & Kiernan, returned our premium in the form of a gift to Off The Streets).*
- 5. Almost every dollar contributed goes directly to helping the homeless in our community to give them a chance, a real chance at having a room of their own, at an average cost of \$500 a person. About 85 % have been Off The Streets since our founding, and most of those who initially failed have bootstrapped themselves back into housing with minimal or no additional assistance from Off The Streets.*
- 6. All our furniture and storage space (Putnam and United Methodist Church) is donated.*
- 7. We try not to hype up any successes we've had; because, clearly, we are simply using the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, as Christ commanded us. However, others have recognized that Off The Streets has made a major contribution to addressing homelessness in a direct, straightforward, and inexpensive manner. As such, we have received letters of thanks from Bishop Lori, recognition in the Fairfield County Catholic, Danbury News Times, and most recently at a breakfast at the Amber Room, during which Mayor Mark Boughton, Senator Richard Blumenthal, and the Danbury Housing Partnership presented the Community Partnership Award to Off The Streets. Humbling, because we do not know the sources of these honors.*

Meanwhile, the homeless here in Danbury need our help right here, right now, in terms of Prayer, Mentors, Furniture, and Financial Contributions. All contributions are tax deductible and should be made to: OFF THE STREETS, P.O. Box 591, Bethel, CT 06801. Heartfelt thanks from our homeless community. Your faith and support of Off The Streets is nothing short of a miracle.

God's peace,

Deacon Mike and Joe Simons, Co-Administrators

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

| | | | |
|-------------------|-------|---|---|
| SAT., NOVEMBER 19 | 5:30 | + | Mark Vlash – Family |
| SUN., NOVEMBER 20 | 7:00 | + | Rick Schlosky – The Kaye Family |
| | 8:30 | + | Ernest L. Allen, Jr. – The Allen Family |
| | 10:00 | + | Arthur L. Horan, Jr. (<i>Anniv.</i>) -- Family |
| | 11:30 | + | Erberto Frieri – Rosanne & John Kiley |
| | 5:30 | + | Ricky Marron – The Clarke/Falls Family |
| MON., NOVEMBER 21 | 6:30 | + | Valter D'Angelantonio – Gary & Arlene Pedone |
| | 9:00 | + | Katherine Shannon Curran – The Coffey Family |
| TUES, NOVEMBER 22 | 6:30 | | Yola & Don Buonomo (<i>Health & Blessings</i>) – Lil & George Eckie |
| | 9:00 | + | Angelo Bartolotta (<i>12th Anniv.</i>) – Family |
| WED., NOVEMBER 23 | 6:30 | + | Bruno DeLuca – Wife Natalie |
| | 9:00 | + | Raymond Considine (<i>Birthday</i>) – Daughter |
| THU., NOVEMBER 24 | 6:30 | + | NO MASS |
| | 9:00 | | Mass of Thanksgiving for God's Blessings |
| FRI., NOVEMBER 25 | 6:30 | + | Andrew Scalero (<i>13th Anniv.</i>) – Wife |
| | 9:00 | + | John A. Miley – The Neptune Family |
| SAT., NOVEMBER 26 | 8:00 | + | Alice McShane & Brendan Duffy – Friends |
| | 5:30 | + | Dr. Arvid Sieber – The McDonough Family |
| SUN., NOVEMBER 27 | 7:00 | + | Edward Trotta (<i>12th Anniv.</i>) -- Family |
| | 8:30 | + | Rosaire Lavigne – Family |
| | 10:00 | + | Patricia Foshay – Sister |
| | 11:30 | + | Rita Raymond – The Stocks Family |
| | 5:30 | + | Kellianne Gartland – Family |



WELCOME TO THOSE WHO WERE NEWLY BAPTIZED

Lucia Marlene Kaoud



I – Christopher Lukowski & Christine Davin

COLLECTION: \$16,672.00

PARISH OFFICE (744-5777)

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*

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.*