

# *Saint Mary Parish Community*

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

*December 11, 2011*



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

**Father Edward McAuley  
Father Jeff Couture  
*Parochial Vicar***

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

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## Fr. Corey's Comments

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◆ As promised, here is brief bio of **Father Jeffrey Walter Couture**, our new Parochial Vicar! Fr. Jeff was born in New Haven Connecticut with his two brothers Christopher and Michael who were a surprise addition to his older sister Michele. He grew up in Fairfield, Connecticut at Holy Family Parish where he and his brothers were altar servers. Fr. Jeff grew up with a love for God, basketball and baseball and guitar. His dream was to play for the New York Yankees. During High school, Fr. Jeff's love for music grew which led him to join a metal band. After High school he lived in Florida and Colorado where he followed a career in cooking and restaurant management that lead him to work for such companies like Waffle House, The Marriott and Starbucks. After his work experience, Fr. Jeff attended Sacred Heart University where he earned a B.A. in Philosophy and comparative religions, followed by a Masters in Divinity in sacred theology at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmetsburg, Maryland. Fr. Jeff was ordained a priest on June 5<sup>th</sup> 2010 and has been serving as a parochial vicar at St. Edward Parish in New Fairfield since his ordination. Within in his time at St. Edward's, Fr. Jeff has been active in all the ministries but most of all the Jr. and Sr. Youth groups and assisted the C.C.D. program. Fr. Jeff looks forward to serving the parish of St. Mary's especially the youth and looks forward to his ministry here along side Fr. Ed and Fr. Corey and the staff.

◆ Thank you to all who came to wish **Father Cyrus** a fond farewell. Fr. Cyrus has left his mark on this Parish and I dare say on most of our hearts. I know he will do well in Westport but we shall indeed miss him here. Thank you also to those men and women who prepared Fr. Cyrus' reception after every Mass last weekend. Thank you for your hard work and for making a memorable event for Fr. Cyrus.

◆ This past week two members of the Clergy of the Diocese of Bridgeport went to their eternal reward. **Deacon Wayne Malloy** was buried from St. John Parish (Darien). His brother, Father Joseph Malloy celebrated his funeral Mass. We offer our prayers for the repose of his soul and offer our sympathies to his wife Priscilla and brother Fr. Joe Malloy and his family. Deacon Wayne was a gentleman, a wonderful deacon and will be missed.

**Monsignor John (Bob) Gilmartin** went home to the Lord early Saturday morning on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Monsignor Gilmartin was a good friend of Monsignor Karl and a good friend of every priest in the Diocese. He was a priest's priest. A kind, gentle man with a great sense of humor, Monsignor Gilmartin held many positions in the Diocese and after his retirement often celebrated Mass here at St. Mary Parish. We pray for the soul of this good priest and may he have the reward of his life.

◆ One of my favorite Christmas traditions is the sharing of "**Oplatki**". Most Eastern European countries use **Oplatki** on Christmas Eve. I shall give you the formal explanation a little later on, but first my story. As many of you know I have two national heritages: Slovak and Italian. On Christmas Eve we would celebrate most of the Italian customs. A fish dinner was had by everyone... except me. I DO NOT EAT FISH!!! My paternal grandfather lived in the apartment above us in Bridgeport and ate Sunday meals and holidays with us. On Christmas Eve gramps would always take the Oplatki at the end of the meal and scrape the sauce off the plate, and said, "You see, gravy makes everything taste better".

The tradition of the Oplatki originated in Poland during Early Christian times. This Christmas Custom began with a simple white wafer, baked from flour and water. The wafers are wonderfully designed to display Christmas images, such as the Nativity. The Oplatki are enjoyed by families, typically right before the Christmas Eve meal. The entire family will gather around the table with the "Oplatek". Generally, the eldest member of the family will begin the ritual by breaking off a piece of the wafer and passing it to another family member with a blessing. This blessing can simply consist of what you desire for your loved one in the upcoming year – whether it be good health, success, or happiness.

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## Fr. Corey's Comments

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The purpose of this act is primarily to express ones unconditional love and forgiveness for each member of his or her family.

The significance of the Oplatki Christmas wafer is in that it shadows the Eucharistic meal that Catholics participate in at each Mass. Just as we share in the Eucharist as one family in Christ and receive Christ's love through the Eucharist, the Oplatki allows for one's immediate family to come together and share the love they have for one another.

Although this tradition is primarily enjoyed by the human members of the family, even the family pets can partake in this meal. Whereas the wafers are generally white in color, there are colored Oplatki made especially for pets. Although both colors are edible by people. Traditionally, this corresponds to the animals that were present at Christ's birth. However, in current times, this can also represent the important role that pets play in the family.

The Oplatki tradition is one that is easy and fun to introduce to the family at Christmas. All it requires is a simple wafer paired with love and affection, and the willingness to share it. This is a heartwarming tradition that will complete your family's time together during the Christmas season. We shall have oplatki available for sale in the vestry if you would like to continue or start this tradition in your family.

- ◆ I share with you two Latin quotes this week:

**Laus Deo:** Praise be to God

**Bene:** Good

- ◆ Some Advent humor: **Angels..... as explained By Children**

*I only know the names of two angels, Hark and Harold.*

Gregory, age 5

*Everybody's got it all wrong. Angels don't wear halos anymore. I forget why, but scientists are working on it.*

Olive, age 9

*It's not easy to become an angel! First, you die. Then you go to Heaven, and then there's still the flight training to go through. And then you got to agree to wear those angel clothes.*

Matthew, age 9

*Angels work for God and watch over kids when God has to go do something else.*

Mitchell, age 7

*My guardian angel helps me with math, but he's not much good for science.*

Henry, age 8

*Angels don't eat, but they drink milk from Holy Cows!!!*

Jack, age 6

*Angels talk all the way while they're flying you up to heaven. The main subject is where you went wrong before you got dead.*

Daniel, age 9

*When an angel gets mad, he takes a deep breath and counts to ten. And when he lets out his breath again, somewhere there's a tornado.*

Reagan, age 10

*All angels are girls because they gotta wear dresses and boys didn't go for it.*

Antonio, age 9

*Angels live in cloud houses made by God and his son, who's a very good carpenter.*

Jared, age 8

## A MESSAGE FROM FATHER CYRUS

This December 20<sup>th</sup>, our pastor **Father Corey** will be celebrating his **Twenty-Five Year Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood**. As a parish community, we gather to honor him with a wonderful gift that he will cherish. A few months ago, I had the honor of telling the parish about a good gift for this occasion, but it should be kept a secret. We all know that Fr. Corey has a great devotion to Blessed Pope John Paul II and it would be a great project to have a statue in our Church dedicated to him. It was hard to keep the project hidden, but we made it possible (at least for a while)!

After the project became public (but the pastor was still in the dark during that time), the parish responded generously to the plan. The statue itself was made in Italy by DeMetz Company, the same company that made all the statues in the Church. The base for the statue was custom-made to match the base of the Blessed Mother statue in the vestibule.

From the time I made public the project the parish community responded kindly to my call to make this effort a big success. Without your generosity, the beautiful statue of Blessed Pope John Paul II would not be possible. There are so many people to thank, from Mr. Henry Garguilo and the E. Garguilo Restoration Company, Inc, of Mt. Vernon, New York, who assisted me in this project, to the People of St. Mary for your love and support for the project. We know that this statue is erected in honor of Fr. Corey, it is also a monument for the people who wondrously made this statue possible. Thank you to all of you, and when people come into our Church as say a little prayer in front of this statue, your intentions are remembered.

Let us congratulate our Pastor for his 25<sup>th</sup> Silver Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood and wish him the best.

*Ad Multos Annos!*

## PARISH HAPPENINGS

### Christmas Schedule...

#### Christmas Mass Schedule

(All masses will be in the Church)

**Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>:**

**4:00pm, 5:30pm, 7:00pm, 12:00Midnight**

**Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>:**

**7:00am, 8:30am, 10:00am and 11:30am**

**(There is no 5:30pm Mass on Sunday)**

#### Christmas Confession Schedule

**Mon., Dec. 19: 9:30-10am**

**Wed., Dec. 21: 7:00-8:00pm**

**Thurs., Dec 22: 4:00-5:00pm**

**CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATION:** If you wish to donate toward flowers for the Church in memory of loved ones, please put your donation along with the names in an envelope the basket or bring it to the Rectory.



Eucharistic  
Ministers



Altar  
Servers



Lectors  
Commentators

**HOLIDAY SIGN-UP SHEETS** are in the Vestry. If you wish to serve a Christmas Mass, please sign up by **MON., DEC. 19<sup>th</sup>**, or call **Mary (744-5777)**. **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 CHRISTMAS GIVING PROGRAM** Once again our parish will collect gifts, gift cards and monetary donations to help Bethel area families during this Christmas season. The requests of those in need in our area are written on the paper straws in the manger in the vestibule of the Church. After purchasing the gifts, please bring them back wrapped for delivery and place the gift around the manger. The envelopes should be placed in the marked box. ***The deadline is December 11<sup>th</sup>, and the gifts cannot be given to the intended if received after that.*** We appreciate your generosity and any questions, call Mary Ferri at 743-4557.

**ATTN: 7th -12th Graders!** **PLEASE** join us **SUN., Dec. 11th at 6:30-9pm** in the Church Hall for **Theology of the Body for Teens** presented by Deacon Joe! Pizza and soda will be served! .

## PARISH HAPPENINGS



### **THE LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS** **SUN., DEC. 11<sup>th</sup>, 3:00pm, Church**

Take a break from the hustle and bustle to reflect on the true meaning of the Christmas season. Come join the **St. Mary's Music Ministry** for an afternoon of Lessons and Carols, followed by refreshments in the **Parish Hall**.

**ST. MARY ANNUAL COLLECTION** is continuing. You may still drop your envelope into the offertory anytime this month.

Our **MISSION TRIP TEAM** will be making *Oplatki*, *advent candles* and *Heavenly Stock* available for purchase *after all the masses*.

**ST. MARY'S MEN'S MINISTRY** will take a break until our first meeting in the new year, **Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>**. **Save the date** for our special speaker, *Fr. Terry Quinn* on *Wed. evening, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm* in the Parish Hall.

**COFFEE & ...** will be served after the **7, 8:30 & 10am Masses** on **SUN., Dec. 18**



## SCHOOL NEWS

Our **Annual Christmas Concert** will be held on **Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM** in the School Gym. All are welcome to attend.

There will be an **11:15 Early Dismissal** on **Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Students will be attending 9:00 Mass. All are welcome to join us. School will resume on Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**SAVE THE DATE – Snowflake Gala & Auction** will be held on **February 11, 2012** at the Amber Room in Danbury. Please help support St. Mary School with a donation of a gift card, gift basket or business service for our auction. We are also accepting personal or business sponsorships for this event. Please contact Denise Suarez at [jdsua@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jdsua@sbcglobal.net) or (203) 797-0949 for more information.

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](http://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!

*Many thanks* to Tracy Chimbo and Jennifer & Robert Curnan for their efforts in coordinating Turkey Bingo last month! The evening was a lot of fun. Thank you!

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The next regular meeting will be on **Mon., Dec. 12 at 8:15pm** in the Parish Hall.

**CHRISTMAS FOOD COLLECTION** Bins will be in the Parish Hall for non-perishable donations. Please send monetary gifts 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

### **SANTA'S WORKSHOP for** **Dorothy Day** **SAT., DEC. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011**



St. Mary's past efforts have made Christmas a happy occasion for many of the less fortunate children in the greater Danbury area. Last year 500 children who would receive little else for Christmas received gifts at Santa's Workshop. We will continue to collect for Dorothy Day again this year. If you wish to donate, please leave your **new unwrapped toy** in the vestibule of the Church. *(We can no longer accept used toys.)* We appreciate your generosity and spirit of giving! **Contact Mary Korin for more info (743-7299).**

**Off The Streets** We need many hands in this ministry to help homeless persons. *Every kind of skill is needed.* Please join us on the **3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**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](mailto:mguertin.home@gmail.com).

The **BETHEL TOASTMASTERS CLUB'S** next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, December 19 at 7 PM** in the Parish Hall. For more information please call Sharon Closius at 203-798-9822 or Pat Wilson-Perkins at 203-797-1967.

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## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

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SAT., DECEMBER 10	5:30	+	Kevin John Endresen – Maura Richardson
SUN., DECEMBER 11	7:00	+	Louise Gauthier – Daughter
	8:30	+	Link Hurgin – School Sisters of Notre Dame
	10:00	+	Rose D’Ambrosia Maturro & Andrew D’Ambrosia – Children
	11:30	+	Frank Ninovonte – Betty & Joe Giordano
	5:30	+	Teresa Gallagher – Betsy Hackman
MON., DECEMBER 12	6:30		Blessed Mother’s Intentions
	9:00	+	Maria & Dante Vaghi – Neighbor
TUES., DECEMBER 13	6:30	+	James Henry – Carol & Bob DiMatteo
	9:00	+	Peter Clarke – Family
WED., DECEMBER 14	6:30		All Cancer Survivors
	9:00	+	Douglas Ruffles, Sr. – Wife Mary
THU., DECEMBER 15	6:30	+	Mimi LaVaud – The Korin Family
	9:00	+	Dorothy Clarke – Family
FRI., DECEMBER 16	6:30	+	Gabby Pickett – Michael & Karen Sepp
	9:00	+	Santo Mataruzzo – Enza & Frank Bloise
SAT., DECEMBER 17	8:00	+	Thomas & Elizabeth Garvey – Ellen Connell
	5:30	+	William Stevens, Jr. – The Ferri Family
SUN., DECEMBER 18	7:00	+	Patricia N. Allen – The Allen Family
	8:30	+	Dick Masselink – Family
	10:00	+	Gregory John Palumbo – David Deakin
	11:30	+	Alice McShane & Brendan Duffy – Friends
	5:30	+	Carmella Vitti – The Vitti Family

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*Brian Willaim Horn & Karen Ann Auriana*

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**Collection: \$14,660.00**

### 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.*