



Saturday	Nov. 22 – Vigil
5:30PM	Rose Bertolini
Sunday	Nov. 23 – Our Lord Jesus Christ the King
7:45AM	John Rubio (Living)
10:00AM	Marco & Carmella Sciarra
12 Noon	Parishioners of St. Mary's
Monday	Nov. 24 – St. Andrew Dung-Lac
7:00AM	Salvatore Ficarra
8:45AM	Joseph Matarazzo, Jr.
Tuesday	Nov. 25 - Weekday
7:00AM	Michael O'Neill
8:45AM	Carlo Sforza
Wednesday	Nov. 26 - Weekday
7:00AM	Feliciano Family (Living)
8:45AM	Rose & Thomas Recchio
Thursday	Nov. 27 - Weekday
9:00AM	Ryan Caspare
Friday	Nov. 28 - Weekday
9:00AM	Katherine Waldron
Saturday	Nov. 29 - Weekday
8:30AM	Fr. Szelest
5:30PM	Parishioners of St. Mary's
Sunday	Nov. 30 – First Sunday of Advent
7:45AM	Michael Walters
10:00AM	Ira Galbawy
12 Noon	Deceased members of the Rosica Family



In Loving Memory

The Bread and Wine offered at this week's Masses are given in memory of Rose Bertolini requested by her family.

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn in praise of God and in memory of Del Fava and Schettino Families requested by Sue Schettino.

We ask your prayers for our recently deceased parishioners.

If you would like our parish to continue to pray for family, friends or loved ones who are ill and in need of prayer, please call the rectory office – 201-384-0557. We will put their names on the sick list once again and continue our prayer for them. If you want their name to be added to our Prayer Chain, please let us know that as well.

Please pray for the sick

Mariana Cardenas...George Magno...Peter Ramzi... David Storick
Bob Jackson...Susan G. Klarer...Kathy Hans...Cecelia Apgalasin
Katherine Marie Mirabile...Maria Martinez...Maureen G...Baby Jake
Emily Del Vecchio...Angela Darata...Cecilia Gomes...Donna Tkacz
Anne O'Neill...Margherita Bonaldo... Valerie Kana` ...Kendra Wehner
Teresa Colgan...Patricia Marino...Ed Lane...Mathilde Hartmann...Ben S.
John R...Dorothy McDuffy...Angela Petrocelly...Benjamin Zangoglia
Richard Domenech...Marie Fitzgerald...Sr. Margaret Hoffman
Gerald H. Kenter...Tony Martignetti...Mary Coutinho...John Tibbs

St. Mary's Senior Residence Information

Although the work has already begun on the St. Mary's Seniors Residence, the official groundbreaking and dedication ceremony will take place on Monday, Nov. 24, 2008, at 11:30 AM. The parishioners of St. Mary's are cordially invited to attend this historic celebration. **Because there is a reception that will follow with light refreshments, it is necessary to call the rectory and let us know that you are coming so that enough refreshments can be prepared.**

Pastoral Council Nominations

The cards in the pews this weekend are for the purpose of nominating parishioners for our parish Pastoral Council. The back of the card indicates the qualities that a person nominated for the council should be living each day. We ask that you look over these characteristics as you reflect on a person whom you would like to nominate for service on the Pastoral Council.



Sunday – November 23

9:00AM-10:00AM Adult RCIA RCA
10:00PM Combined Choirs
11:00AM-12:00Noon Kids RCIA Class SFC
11:00AM-12:00Noon Teen RCIA Youth Room
1:00PM-4:00PM Simbang Gabi Prep SFC

Feast of Christ the King

Monday – November 24

10:00AM-2:00PM Groundbreaking Reception SFC
4:30PM-5:30PM #1531 Brownie Meeting Cafeteria
7:00PM Religious Ed PACT Saints Session UC/School
8:15PM-9:45PM Transfiguration Academy Basketball SH

Tuesday – November 25

9:30AM Parents Group B10
3:30PM Religious Ed PACT Saints Session UC/School
7:00PM-9:00PM Adult Choir Chapel
6:30PM-9:30PM Basketball SH

Wednesday – November 26

4:00PM-6:00PM Children/Bell Choir Chapel/UC
7:00PM OLPH Novena LC
7:30PM – 9:30PM Line Dancing SH

Thursday – November 27

Thanksgiving

Friday – November 28

7:30PM Rosary for Peace LC
6:30PM-9:30PM Basketball SH
Decorate for Advent

Saturday – November 29

3:30PM Advent Wreath Making SFC

Sunday – November 30

7:45AM K of C Corporate Communion
9:00AM-10:00AM Adult RCIA RCA
11:00AM-12:00Noon Kids RCIA Class SFC
11:00AM-12:00Noon Teen RCIA Youth Room

Feast of Saint Andrew

First Sunday of Advent

Thanksgiving Greetings

We want to extend the prayers and best wishes of our parish staff and our parish Pastoral Council to all the families of St. Mary's for a blessed and bountiful Thanksgiving Day. In the midst of the economic difficulties that so many people are experiencing, we know that we can still raise our voices in thanks and praise for the gifts that we continue to receive from a most generous Lord. **Please join us on Thanksgiving morning at 9:00 AM to celebrate the Eucharist, the best way to offer thanks to God.** *The parish office will be closed on Thanksgiving Day and the Friday after Thanksgiving.*



Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service

The churches of the borough of Dumont will hold our annual Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service on **Tuesday evening, Nov. 25, 2008, at 8:00 PM, at Old North Reformed Church**, on the corner of Washington and Madison Avenues. This yearly prayer time together is a wonderful way for the citizens of Dumont to gather as a one community of faith to praise and thank the Lord for his constant care for us. We invite and encourage our parishioners to attend this ecumenical prayer service.

Pouring the Lord's Blood

Beginning the weekend of the first Sunday of Advent, Nov. 29-30, we will again be pouring the Blood of Christ at the **Fraction Rite**, the point of Mass when we sing the Lamb of God. Liturgically, this part of Mass is called the Fraction Rite because it is at this time that the Body of Christ is broken – hence the name "fraction" – and the Blood of Christ is poured out. This is the time when the Body and Blood of the Lord are placed into the vessels, which are used to hold the Eucharist during the distribution of communion. Symbolically, it is also a time to remember and to realize once again that Christ's Body is broken for us and his Blood poured out for us.

Knights of Columbus:

Corporate Communion Mass - Sunday, November 30th at 7:45am. Assemble in the vestibule at 7:30am. Continental breakfast and refreshments at the Council after Mass.



My brothers and sisters in Christ,

This Sunday is the 34th and Final Sunday of the liturgical year. Next Sunday we will start a new year with the First Sunday of Advent. As is the custom now, on this last Sunday we celebrate the feast of Jesus Christ our King. All during the past year we have been hearing the Gospel read to us and reflected on in Sunday (and weekday) homilies. Today somehow sums up all that we have been hearing. The Jesus we have watched going around the towns of Galilee, Samaria and Judea; the Jesus we have watched teaching, healing, consoling, and liberating - is our Lord and King. He is the visible presence of God in our midst.

We must, however, remember always that Christ's kingship is also one of service just as the kings of Israel in the Old Testament were called to serve their people. He said that the Son of Man came to serve, not to be served and to give his life as a ransom for the many. He bent down at the Last Supper, washing the feet of his apostles and giving them his very being in the gift of the Eucharist. His throne was the cross from which he rules over all. His crown was made of thorns, not gold or silver.

In a little more than a month, we will remember that the magi who came to offer gifts and their homage honored him as a king. And yet, he was born in the humility of a stable and buried in a borrowed tomb. He taught us throughout his life that service is what being his follower is all about.

As we honor the Lord Jesus as king of the universe, may we rejoice that he is a king whose embrace surrounds all people who seek to do good and to serve those most in need. May we rejoice that he has chosen us to be the instruments through whom his kingdom is brought about in our world. May we allow ourselves to be the clay and remember that he is the potter, forming us into a holy nation, a kingdom of priests whom he will ultimately present to his Father when time shall cease and we begin to live body and soul with him forever. Amen

Love,
Fr. Bob

Session 2 on St. Paul

In keeping with this year dedicated by Pope Benedict to St. Paul, our second session on the Apostle to the Gentiles will take place on Thursday evening, Dec. 4, at 7:30 PM, in the rectory. Having looked at the person of Paul in our first session, in this second session, we will look at the themes about which Paul wrote in his letters to various Christian communities. As the first great theologian of the Church, Paul laid the foundation in his letters for much of what we now believe. We hope that our parishioners will take the time to come and hear about this great Christian writer.

Our Food Pantry

Thanks to all who made it possible for our parish to prepare the Thanksgiving food baskets. Some gave canned food, others gave turkeys and others made monetary donations. Whatever was given, it allowed us to give food and dignity to families coming for help. Our pantry is well stocked, but the quantity goes down quickly, especially as people continue to experience difficulties. **For now, we have been able to help so many and it was only possible because of the goodness of the parishioners of St. Mary's.**

"Thank You" Letter

We received the following letter from the missionary group, which we supported this past summer when they came to St. Mary's -

*Dear Father Laferrera,
It is with great joy that I write this letter. We received a letter from the Office of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith regarding the missionary collection at St. Mary's Parish. Your parish made a generous collection due to their deep interest in the missions. Please extend our sentiments of gratitude to your church family for the \$2,134.40 that was donated.
I remain eternally grateful for the warm reception and care extended to us during the weekend of the appeal. Thank you so much. You and your parish family are always in our prayers.*

*Sincerely and gratefully,
Rev. Efiri Matthias Selemobri
Mission Director - Missionary Society of St. Paul*

God's Plan for Giving - "The measure of your free-will offering shall be in proportion to the blessing the Lord, your God, has bestowed on you."

(Deuteronomy 16:10)

Collection for November 15-16, 2008 \$9,307.00
Same weekend in 2007 \$9,655.00

The true purpose of tithing is to secure, not the tithe, but the tither; not the gift, but the giver; not your money, but you...for God.

When the Son of Man comes in glory, may we be among those who have fed the hungry, welcomed the stranger, and clothed the naked. For Jesus tells us clearly that it is those who have demonstrated good stewardship by sharing their gifts with the less fortunate who will receive God's blessing and inherit the kingdom. ...**Fr. Bob**

Time & Talent

You have noticed, no doubt, that our church is decorated, not only during certain seasons such as Christmas and Easter, but throughout the year. This is due to the goodness and the expertise of the men and women who serve on our Art & Environment Committee. Their ministry is to ensure that the church is always appropriately decorated for the various liturgical seasons and to care for the flowers that beautify the church. Not only are they gifted with the "know-how" to decorate the church, but they also take the time - often many hours - to prepare and to actually decorate so that the parish can enjoy and appreciate the beauty of the liturgical seasons as well other times, such as autumn. Please see Fr. Raul if you would like to be a part of this committee and add your own touch to the beauty of the church.

Tithing the Tithe - 2008

For the month of October, our parish was able to tithe a total of \$1,208.00 from what we received in our Sunday collections. We have sent checks to the following people/groups in the following amounts:

- Nelson Bayona - Newark seminarian - \$267.00
- St. John Food Pantry, Newark - \$267.00
- Missionaries of Charity, Newark - \$267.00
- Emergency Fund - \$407.00

Stewardship Prayer

Dear Lord,

I pray that you will give me the wisdom to guide me on this faith journey of stewardship. Help me to understand that everything that I have is a gift from you. Open up my heart and my mind so that I may use these marvelous gifts to give back to you here on earth. I pray, Lord, that you will welcome me into your kingdom at the end of my life and that you are pleased with what I have done with all your gifts. Amen.

Thank you, Knights & Lions

On Sunday, Nov. 2, the Knights of Columbus and the Dumont Lions jointly sponsored a Pancake Breakfast at Dumont High School for the benefit of our parish Food Pantry. We offer our heartfelt thanks to both of these groups for raising \$3,384.56 that will help us as a parish to feed those who come to us in need. This money will help us buy food certificates for food baskets that we will distribute at Thanksgiving and Christmas of this year and Easter of 2009. Special thanks to Lou Pidi, one of our parishioners, for all the work that he did to raise this money for St. Mary's Food Pantry. **Well done, Lou, a good and faithful servant!**



Please join the

Laferrera and St. Mary's Parish families in celebrating Fr. Bob's 20th Anniversary in the Priesthood.

When: December 14, 2008

Where: St. Mary's Church

Time: 12:00 Noon Mass

*Dinner Reception to follow in Szelest Hall,
1:30 PM - 5:30 PM*

Due to limited seating, please RSVP to the Parish Office ASAP, 201-384-0557

Date of Ordination: December 10, 1988

Serving in Iraq

We ask God to keep in his care all those who are serving overseas in our armed forces, especially in Iraq or Afghanistan. They are listed below and we ask your prayers for them.

- Christopher Iacobino Michael Whitford Michael Bianco
Brian Collins Alicia Newball Gerald J. Ferra, Jr.
James Markert Mathew Rosica James Phillips Kyle Zownir
Kristine Becker Donald Dickson Danny Hilsdorf
Edward Bryan Frago Angelica Peji John Paul McLaughlin
Joshua M LaBazzetta James R. Melady Robert Dellner
Walter F. Fawcett David Christopher Pierson Joe Shannon
Christopher Lynch Zane Campbel Christopher Kishbach
Robert Challenger, Jr. Ryan Shireman Christian Baierwalter
Anthony Zangaglia...Wayne Lawton Daniel Rosica

If you have a relative serving in Iraq or Afghanistan, please call the rectory so that we can add his/her name and offer a prayer for him/her.

PALAD Corner

The latest winners of the Lucky Weeks Club are our very own Brian and Dolores O'Dowd! Congratulations! Every Wednesday, a \$50 winner is picked during Line Dancing at the Szelest Hall. And there will be 4 special drawings of \$150 each at the Simbang Gabi celebration. Because every winning ticket gets back into the pool, you can win as many times as there are drawings. If you want to be a winner, there are more raffle tickets available at the Rectory. Or call Marichi Adel at (201) 385-8529.

The Giving Tree



Advent is a time to rejoice in the birth of Jesus, the season of Hope, Peace, Love and Joy. As part of the Advent spiritual journey we invite you to participate in the Giving Tree. This year, with your support and generosity, we will provide gifts to families through the Dumont Department of Human Services and The Nurturing Place (formerly The York Street Project) in Jersey City. Gift tags are available this weekend. If there are any questions regarding the Giving Tree please call Tom Ciotti at 201-385-7424 or Josie Parrella at 201-387-0786.

Christmas/Advent Cantata

On Friday, Dec. 5th at 8:00pm, the children's choirs of St. Mary's Church, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and Our Lady of the Holy Angels Church in Little Falls will be singing a newly composed Christmas/Advent cantata entitled "Waiting for Love" right here at St. Mary's. Composer and New Jersey resident Gerard Chiusano along with lyricist Mary Hochman will also be performing along with the children. The cantata is a collection of pieces in varying styles from calypso to country western. The ensemble performing with the children will include drums, guitar, bass, flute, oboe, piano and children's choir, soloists and narration. Admission is \$10 and \$5 for children and seniors. All proceeds beyond the cost of the production will go to feed the hungry in the Dumont community.

Breakfast with Santa

Save the Date! Santa will be making a stop in Dumont on Saturday Dec 20th at 9AM. It's a great opportunity to show Santa that you've been a good little boy or girl just before he visits. Breakfast with Santa begins at 9AM and includes fruit, juice, bagels, munchkins, cereal, coffee and tea. There will be projects to keep the little ones busy while they wait for the arrival of our guest of honor. Admission is \$6 and children under 2 are free. Reservations are required. Forms are available in the church, through the Religious Ed office or online at the parish website. Questions? Contact Brian O'Dowd at 201-385-2859.

Altar & Rosary Society

All ladies of the parish are invited to attend St. Mary's Altar & Rosary Society's Annual Christmas Party on Dec. 3rd at The View on the Hudson, 7:00PM-11:00PM. Cost is \$40.00 per person. For more information, contact Marie Bauer 201-384-0231.

An Irish Christmas Celebration

St. Patrick's Church, 492 Bramhall Avenue, Jersey City, will host a Christmas celebration on Sunday, Dec. 21, 2008, at 2:30 PM, with Irish tenor Ciaran Sheehan along with the St. Patrick's Haitian Choir. Tickets are \$30, or \$15 for seniors. Call 201-433-1258 for more information.

Campaign Information (as of 11/18/08)

We want give an ongoing accounting of the money that has been pledged and given to the parish so far as part of our capital campaign Realizing the Dream. Regarding expenses, we have spent \$15,000.00 for the repair of the rectory roof and \$9,650.00 for the repair of the church roof on the school side. We recently received an estimate of \$7,850.00 for repairs that will be made to the church roof on the rectory side and this work will soon begin. Hopefully, this will also deal with the leaks in the areas of the flat roofs over the sacristies. The money that we have in the Capital Campaign account - \$94,571.08 - will help us with the ongoing projects that are being planned. Following the repairs to the church roof, we need to make needed repairs to the heating system in the school. Please remember that we have to have 75% of the cost of a repair in the bank before that repair can begin.

Campaign Prayer

God of all goodness, in every generation, you gather your people together in peace and bind them as one in prayer, in community and in service. For almost one hundred years, you have united the people of St. Mary's as one parish family. We are men and women, adult and children, coming from the four corners of the earth, speaking different languages, yet bound together through the power of the Holy Spirit. Through your goodness and the generosity of those who have come before us, we have been blessed in our present home - our church - for almost fifty years.

Now is the time for us, the people of St. Mary's gathered at this time in our history, to ensure that what we have received from those before us may be preserved for those who will come after us. In prayer and in reflection, we now realize the greatness of your bounty and we accept the challenge of offering our time, our talent and our treasure so that we can preserve for future generations what we have been fortunate enough to receive from those who have built before us in faith and trust.

Send your Spirit upon us, O Lord, that we may be cheerful as we accept joyfully this next phase in the life of our parish. Help us to share a portion of our gifts, so that we, as a parish, may realize the dream and preserve for those who come after us what we have received in gratitude.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Come Bring Us Your Peace, Come, Teach Us Your Justice

Advent Liturgy Notes

Today is the First Sunday of Advent, the first day of the new liturgical year. Advent, which always begins on the Sunday closest to November 30, dates back to the fourth century. It is a four-week period of devout and joyful preparation for the celebration of Christmas and for Christ's second coming at the end of time.

Early in Advent, the liturgy focuses our attention on the second coming. After December 16, it shifts our attention to the events surrounding the nativity.

Advent Color

The successful observance of Advent is an oasis in the desert. The quiet of Advent is a quiet of expectancy: the mother waiting for pregnancy to come to term, the early riser waiting for the midnight blue horizon to become rosy dawn. The use of a dark shade of blue-violet dominates the vestments and decorations of Advent, a practice that keeps a clear distinction between the color of Advent and Lent. (The Lenten color is a red violet). During Advent the Gloria is not sung and the sanctuary decoration is kept to a minimum. It is the sparseness of a winter night. The mood of expectation is expressed through a variety of practices at home and in church - the lighting of the advent wreath, the keeping of an Advent calendar.

Advent calls us to openness, to reflection, to listening. It challenges us to hear and respond to the scriptures: the expectation of the second coming, the call to justice making, the call to peace.

It still keeps coming!!!

We took a whole vanload of clothing to St. John's in Newark when we went there to serve a meal on Friday, Nov. 14. The response has been from our parishioners nothing short of overwhelming. Just when we think that people have given all that they can - it stills keeps coming! We have already begun to receive more clothing for our next trip to St. John's, Newark on Dec. 12. The cold weather is here and good, used warm clothing, especially for men, and white socks are definitely needed. They can be brought to the rectory.

