



Saturday	Nov. 28 - Vigil
5:30PM	Katherine Waldron
Sunday	Nov. 29 - First Sunday of Advent
7:45AM	Parishioners of St. Mary's
10:00AM	Arthur Rudolph
12 Noon	Deceased Members of the Rosica Family
Monday	Nov. 30 - St. Andrew
7:00AM	Ann Reynolds
8:45AM	Michael Walters
Tuesday	Dec. 1 - Advent Weekday
7:00AM	Michael Vucci
8:45AM	Mary G.
Wednesday	Dec. 2 - Advent Weekday
7:00AM	Carmela Gangone
8:45AM	Mary Smith
Thursday	Dec. 3 - St. Francis Xavier
7:00AM	Hap Russini
8:45AM	Henry Brovarone
Friday	Dec. 4 - Advent Weekday
7:00AM	Umbelina Borges
8:45AM	Beverly Walters
Saturday	Dec. 5 - Advent Weekday
8:30AM	Paul F. DiPaola
5:30PM	Thomas F. O'Shea
Sunday	Dec. 6 - Second Sunday of Advent
7:45AM	Bryan du Laney
10:00AM	Parishioners of St. Mary's
12 Noon	Joan Cole

In Loving Memory



The Bread and Wine offered at this week's Masses are given in memory of Jacqueline Wallstein requested by the Dalton Family.

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn in praise of God and in memory of the Hegarty and McCarty Families requested by family members.

We ask your prayers for our recently deceased parishioners.

Pray for our Sick

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.

Peter Ramzi..Marie Woehrl..Susan G. Klarer..Joan O'Leary-Rella
Ann Youngsworth..Debra Portillo..Marie McDermott..Bob Jackson
Woke Family..Pat O'Connor..Alicia McMahon..Mary M...Eileen O'Leary
Ann O'Neil..Anthony Matarazzo..Ben Zangoglia..John R...Maria Cruz
Rose & Frank Farrell..Genevive DeVirgiliis

Immaculate Conception Novena

Starting November 30th through December 8th following the 8:45 AM-Mass, will be having Immaculate Conception Novena in the lower church. On Sunday, December 6th, the novena will be held in the upper church following the 10:00am Mass.

Tri-Parish Advent Evening Prayer

The three parish choirs of St. Mary's, Ascension and St. John's will again present a celebration of Advent Evening Prayer on Sunday evening, Dec. 6, at 4:00 PM, here at St. Mary's. It may seem so far away, but we are hoping that, with sufficient notice, our parishioners will mark this wonderful prayer time in their calendars and join us. With the rush of the coming Christmas preparation, we sometimes forget that Advent is a time of prayerful preparation. **Please mark your calendars and plan on being with us.**

Sunday – Nov. 29

9:00AM 10:00AM Adult RCIA RCA
11:00AM-12:00PM Kids RCIA Class SFC
11:00AM-12:00PM Teen RCIA Youth Room

First Sunday of Advent

Monday – Nov. 30

After 8:45AM Mass Rosary LC
7:00PM Rel Ed PACT Angels Session UC/School
Feast of St. Andrew

Tuesday – Dec. 1

After 8:45AM Mass Rosary LC
9:30AM Parents Group B05
3:30PM Rel Ed PACT Angels Session UC/School
6:00PM-7:30PM Basketball 18yrs & below SH
7:00PM-9:00PM Adult Choir
7:30PM-9:00PM Basketball 19yrs & above SH

Wednesday – Dec. 2

After 8:45AM Mass Rosary LC
4:00PM-5:00PM Children's Choir
5:00PM-6:00PM Bell Choir UC
7:00PM OLPH Novena LC
7:00PM Knitters and Crocheters Youth Room
7:30PM-9:30PM Line Dancing SH
Altar & Rosary Christmas Party The View

Thursday – Dec. 3

After 8:45AM Mass Rosary LC
7:00PM Baptism Rehearsal UC
7:00PM-9:00PM Transfiguration Basketball SH
7:30PM Pastoral Council Meeting RCB

Friday – Dec. 4

After 8:45AM Mass Rosary LC
6:00PM-7:30PM Basketball 18yrs & below SH
7:30PM Rosary for Peace LC
7:30PM-9:00PM Basketball 19yrs & above SH

Saturday – Dec. 5

7:30AM Rosary LC
11:00AM & 1:30AM First Penance Celebration UC

Sunday – Dec. 6

8:30AM Rel Ed PACT Angels Session LC/School
9:00AM 10:00AM Adult RCIA RCA
11:00AM-12:00PM Kids RCIA Class SFC
11:00AM-12:00PM Teen RCIA Youth Room
1:00PM-4:00PM PALAD EB Meeting RCB
4:00PM Advent Evening Prayer UC
Baptism

Food Collection

Second Sunday of Advent

Bible Study Session

We will gather on Monday evening, Dec. 7, at 7:30 PM, in the rectory, to continue our look at the letters of the New Testament, addressed to the early Christian communities. You are invited to join us, even if you have not come to Bible Study before. **All you have to do is to bring a love of the God's word and a Bible.**

Dec. 8 – Immaculate Conception

Next Tuesday, Dec. 8, is the feast of the Immaculate Conception, the patroness of the United States and also the principal patroness of the Archdiocese of Newark. This feast proclaims our belief that Mary was conceived without sin, preparing her to be the Mother of the Lord. Since this feast is a holyday of obligation, the Mass schedule for that day will be: **6:30 AM – 9:00 AM – 7:30 PM.** *There is no vigil Mass on Monday evening, Dec. 7.*

Evening of Prayer

On Thursday, December 10th, we are having an evening of prayer - Taize style - at 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. in the upper church. Why not take an hour of quiet during this busy season?

Men's Spirituality Group

Our parish Men's Spirituality Group will meet on Friday evening, Dec. 11, from 8:00 – 9:30 PM, in the Spiritual Formation Center. We invite the men of the parish to join in an evening of prayer, reflection on a talk given by one of the men, and simple fellowship with one another. **There is no need to call ahead – just come that evening.**



My brothers and sisters in Christ,

Our new Church year starts this weekend as we celebrate the First Sunday of Advent. Our wreaths, both outside and inside the church, are lit and we look week by week for the coming of the Lord. For so many Catholics, this is solely a time to wait to celebrate Christmas. That is certainly part of the season of Advent, but only when we reach the final week, beginning Dec. 17. In the early weeks of this season, we focus our attention on the fact that Jesus is going to come back in glory at the end of time.

His return means that people of all time will be called to stand before the throne of God and will be called to declare how they lived their lives here on earth. Some will be able to confidently say that they sought to live the Gospel message to the best of their ability. They spent time in prayer, in communion with the Lord. They gathered with their brothers and sisters in faith each Sunday to thank the Lord in the celebration of the Eucharist. They served their sisters and brothers, seeking to help in any way those who were less fortunate and who needed our help.

Others will only be able to stammer and stutter, explaining how they didn't know and how they would have lived differently if they only had the chance. But we have the chance and we do know and so we will be held responsible when it comes time to stand before the Lord.

One of the most wonderful aspects of the season of Advent is how it proclaims over and over again, year after year, how the Lord is going to return at the end of time. We would truly have to be hard of hearing not to know that we are reminded again and again Advent after Advent that the Lord is coming back. We can't say that we didn't know or that we didn't have enough time. We have the time – we need to use it well.

Advent goes by so quickly, however. It is only four weeks long and, since we become so focused on the coming feast of Christmas, before we know it, the weeks of Advent have come and gone. There is nothing wrong with looking forward to Christmas. We always hope, however, that it never stands in the way of our seeing beyond Christmas to what we call the Parousia, a word that refers to Christ's return in glory at the end of time.

No one likes to pay taxes but we know that it has to be done and so we do it with the best possible attitude. No one likes to look to the end of our lives or the end of the world but we know that it is going to happen and so we prepare to the best of our ability. If we do, there can be a lot less stress and a lot less uncertainty. We may not know when it will happen, but when it does, we will be ready.

Love,
Fr. Bob

Congratulations to our Youth Group!

Last Sunday evening, Nov. 22, our parish Youth Group had their first Talent Show. There was such a variety of talent that was shown that night, from little ones all the way to adults. The money raised will go toward helping to defray the cost for some of our parish teens traveling to two youth events – World Youth Day and the National Youth Conference, both in 2010. Special thanks go out to the Knights of Columbus – both the men and the women – for providing the spaghetti dinner and dessert that night.

PALAD Corner

SIMBANG GABI, this year, will be celebrated at St. Mary's on Friday, December 18th. Our celebration starts with Holy Mass at 7:30 pm in the Upper Church. Immediately after Mass, everyone is invited over at Szelest Hall for dinner, entertainment, a short re-enactment of the Nativity by children, visit by Santa Claus, and lots of dancing. Please mark your calendar and join us in the Simbang Gabi celebration. For further information, please call the Rectory at (201) 384-0557 or Tito at (201) 387-9140.

The Giving Tree

Please don't forget to pick up a gift tag from our Giving Tree located by the Sacred Heart Shrine. You don't need to wrapped the gifts when you bring them to the rectory during business hours, Monday-Friday, 9am-6pm, on or before December 6. If there are any questions regarding the Giving Tree please call Tom Ciotti at 201-385-7424 or Josie Parrella at 201-387-



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 Nov. 21 & 22	\$9,708.00
Total for same weekend in 2008	\$9,134.00
From our children's weekly envelopes -	\$4.00
Campaign donations received thus far in October	\$20,239.28

Here are some of the good deeds that the children of St. Mary's did as a way of showing their love of God and of our parish. We hope that they will always know how important what they do for God and for us is. Even though they are still young, they can give us a wonderful example to follow.

*“I donated to charity.” “I was a good listener.”
“I helped with our new baby.” “I watched my cousin.”*

“But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.” from the Gospel of St. Luke. Images of the final judgment can be scary, especially if we have not been faithful to God's commands throughout our lives. However, if we have been good stewards, we have left nothing to chance. We have carefully planned our giving and followed the Lord's example of service and sacrifice. Thus, no matter the day or the hour, we will be ready to stand erect and raise our heads to meet God face to face.

Ministry – Parish Ministries

As we start the special season of Advent, one of the ways in which we can prepare for the coming of the Lord at the end of time and each day in our lives is through the good deeds that we seek to do for others. In our church at this time stands our Advent Giving Tree with tags on it, listing those items that adults and children in need can use. This ministry of service is coordinated by members of our parish who want to serve others by organizing all that needs to be done so that our parishioners can purchase gifts for adults and children. In this way, Christmas will be a day of great joy for those who will benefit from our generosity. ***You can be a part of this ministry by phoning the rectory and letting us know that you want to be a part of the group of parishioners who organize the Advent Giving Tree and the Lenten Giving Tree.*** It is a wonderful way to make the coming feasts of Christmas in a few weeks and Easter in the spring days of joy for others.

Tithing the Tithes – 2009

For the month of October, our parish was able to tithe a total of \$1,179.00 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 - \$262.00
- St. John Food Pantry, Newark - \$262.00
- Missionaries of Charity, Newark - \$262.00
- Emergency Fund - \$393.00

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.

Retired Religious Appeal

Once again this year, we are asked to offer financial assistance to the many retired religious sisters, brothers and priests who have served so well and for so many years and now need our help in their retired years. **The weekend of Dec. 12-13 has been designated for this annual Retired Religious Appeal collection.** Just recently, two sisters who ministered here at St. Mary – Sr. Margaret Hoffman and Sr. Elizabeth Mullin – passed away. They were helped in their retirement by this collection and there are countless others who still need our financial assistance. ***Please make this collection part of your commitment to live the Stewardship Way of Life and offer what you can from your own Treasure so that the retired religious of the United States may live with dignity.***



PACT/Religious Education Program Updates

Advent

PACT families should watch their mail and e-mail for some great resources for this Advent season including a family Advent calendar and the November edition of Partners in Faith.

First Penance

First Penance will be celebrated December 5th. Please pray for our candidates and their families as they approach the Lord asking for forgiveness that this may truly be a time of God's grace for our candidates, their families, and for our parish family.

Confirmation

Candidates should be participating in service projects at this time. Some candidate information registration forms have not come back yet, they are past due. Remember! No one is automatically signed up to prepare for the sacraments because they are a certain age or grade in school.

Breakfast with Santa

Save the Date! Santa will be making a stop in Dumont on Saturday Dec 19th. It's a great opportunity to show Santa that you've been a good little boy or girl. Breakfast with Santa begins at 9AM and includes fruit, juice, bagels, munchkins, cereal, coffee and tea.

Forms are available in the church, through the Religious Ed office or online at the parish website. Breakfast with Santa is sponsored by St. Mary's Young Adult Ministry. Questions? Contact Brian O'Dowd at 201-385-2859.

Advent Wreath Making

Almost 200 Advent Wreaths were made during the two PACT Sessions on November 15 and November 22. Thank you to all the families who participated and for all the catechists who helped make this project such a success.



Thanksgiving Baskets

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.

Fathers' Support Group

The needs of fathers who have suffered the loss of a son or daughter are unique. The Office of Family Life Ministries of the Archdiocese of Newark invites all grieving fathers to a special place of understanding and healing.

Nov. 29, 2009

Dear Parishioners,

There has been information being circulated regarding the collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, taken up last weekend, Nov. 21-22. This information called for a boycott of this collection due to a perception that money from this collection went to programs contrary to the teaching of the Catholic Church.

I write to respond to a recent report from Bellarmine Veritas Ministries that identified several CCHD-funded groups that had taken actions in conflict with CCHD's guidelines after they were funded, particularly lack of conformity with Catholic teaching.

The projects in the report included The Rebecca Project for Human Rights, in Washington, D.C.; the Chinese Progressive Association; and Young Workers United, both based in San Francisco. The leadership of The Rebecca Project, which had already been defunded by CCHD as a result of national and local staff oversight, was found to be in support of abortion rights.

In addition,...the CCHD ban on funding ACORN at any level remains in place. You can assure your people that this will be the third CCHD collection in which no funds have gone or will go to any national or local ACORN structures.

I want to take this opportunity...to assure you that the CCHD subcommittee and staff take seriously any allegation that groups we fund are not in compliance with Catholic teaching, or are participating in partisan political activity. We immediately investigate each allegation in consultation with the local diocese and, if the allegations are confirmed, discontinue funding immediately.

Support of CCHD has helped: 1) empower 250 groups of low-income people throughout the country to lift themselves from poverty; 2) assist economic development initiatives in 18 different communities, including employment and housing; 3) preach the good news of the CCHD's "Poverty USA" campaign.

If any of our parishioners have questions about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, please go on to the American Bishops' website - www.usccb.org.

Thank you, Fr. Bob

Knights of Columbus Events:

Saturday Dec 12 - Christmas party - 7-11PM - Contact Charles Hollis at 201-387-9750 (Press #3) for reservations. \$27 per person Sunday Dec 13 - Children's Christmas Party - 2-5PM - For children 10 and under - The event is free, but reservations are required. Each child will receive a gift from Santa.

The Council is open on Friday evenings from 8-11PM.

Christmas Celebration

St. Patrick's Church, 492 Bramhall Ave., Jersey City, will be hosting Peace and Joy: A Christmas Celebration on Sunday, Dec. 13, at 2:30 PM. Those singing and playing include: Ciaran Sheehan, Irish Tenor; Gay Willis, Soprano; Eily O'Grady Patterson, Pianist/Producer; and the Strings of Tara. Tickets are \$30, Senior Citizens, \$15. Call 201-433-1258 or 201-332-8600 for more information.