



Saturday	Nov. 29 - Vigil
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
Monday	Dec. 1 – Advent Weekday
7:00AM	McCarron Family
8:45AM	Michael Walters
Tuesday	Dec. 2 – Advent Weekday
7:00AM	John Solan
8:45AM	Mattea Morich
Wednesday	Dec. 3 – St. Francis Xavier
7:00AM	Nicholas Picinich
8:45AM	Beverly & Michael Walters
Thursday	Dec. 4 – Advent Weekday
7:00AM	Patricia Lehner
8:45AM	Beverly Walters
Friday	Dec. 5 – Advent Weekday
7:00AM	Filomena Flores
8:45AM	Gloria Ricco
Saturday	Dec. 6 – Advent Weekday
8:30AM	Bryan Du Laney
5:30PM	William & Anne Pavlu
Sunday	Dec. 7 – Second Sunday of Advent
7:45AM	Parishioners of St. Mary's
10:00AM	Mary V. Smith
12 Noon	Rita Keenan

In Loving Memory

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

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn in praise of God and in memory of Catherine Yotka, Elsie Zevits & Rene Trumpf requested by their sisters.



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 Agpalasin
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

Pouring the Lord's Blood

Beginning this weekend, 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.



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

Monday – December 1

7:00PM Religious Ed PACT Angels Session UC/School
7:30PM Finance Council Meeting RCB
8:15PM-9:45PM Transfiguration Academy Basketball SH

Tuesday – December 2

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

Wednesday – December 3

4:00PM-6:00PM Children/Bell Choir Chapel/UC
7:00PM OLPH Novena LC

7:00PM Altar & Rosary Society Christmas Party The View
7:00PM-9:00PM Knitters Youth Room
7:30PM – 9:30PM Line Dancing SH

Thursday – December 4

7:00PM Baptism Rehearsal
7:15PM Rehearsal for Children's Concert
7:30PM St. Paul Session RCA

Friday – December 5

6:30PM-9:30PM Basketball SH
7:30PM Rosary for Peace LC
8:00PM Children's Concert UC

Saturday – December 6

7:30AM Rosary LC
11:00AM & 1:30PM First Penance Celebration UC
5:30PM Mass Annual Hospitalized Veterans Collection

Sunday – December 7

8:55AM Religious Ed PACT Angels Session LC/School
9:00AM-10:00AM Adult RCIA RCA
11:00AM-12:00Noon Kids RCIA Class SFC
11:00AM-12:00Noon Teen RCIA Youth Room
1:00PM-4:00PM PALAD's EB Meeting RCB
1:00PM-4:00PM Simbang Gabi Prep SFC
5:00PM Advent Evening Prayer Ascension, New Milford
All Masses Annual Hospitalized Veterans Collection
Baptism

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.

First Penance Blessings

We want to let those who will be celebrating the Sacrament of Penance for the first time on Dec. 6 know that they are in our prayers this week. They are preparing to experience the Lord's forgiving love. Our God is a merciful God. The Lord reaches out to us like the shepherd finding his lost sheep, the father welcoming his lost son home or the woman who finds her lost coin. May these children come to know God's love and forgiveness, not only in this sacrament of healing, but also in the forgiveness they experience each day from their family and friends.

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.



My brothers and sisters in Christ,

I know that I say it each year, but I will say it again – **Happy New Year!** No – I haven't lost track of time and I do know that we are at the end of November and not at the beginning of January. We are, however, at the beginning of a new liturgical year and it is good to know what that means for us.

As a faith community, we begin another year of grace, an opportunity to proclaim and to remember all that the Lord has done for us in the course of salvation history. The interesting things, though, is that we begin the new year, not by looking at the past, but by focusing on the future. Today, our readings call us to realize once again that the Lord will return. Jesus invites his hearers to **Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come!**

I suppose there are a variety of ways to look at that invitation of the Lord's. For some, it brings a feeling of fear or anxiety. They feel some sense of foreboding. I guess it is possible to read his words that way. Not knowing the time can make us uncomfortable.

Or it can call us to be vigilant, to always be conscious of reflecting on how we are living out the Gospel message. I think that the anxiety comes, not because we don't know when, but because we realize that we are not being and not doing what we know we are called to be and to do. The Lord's return, then, becomes a time to fear, not a time for which we prepare. And that idea of preparation is exactly what the season of Advent is all about, but not only for Christmas. It is also that time to prepare for the Lord's return.

It certainly is hard to do that during this time of non-stop coming and going. There are preparations for Christmas for people of all ages. There are concerts and pageants at school. There are gifts to be purchased (that might be a little tougher this year with the financial crunch) and cards to be written. Home decorations are being readied and trees are being put up in homes everywhere (sometimes a little too early). And the Church wants us to think about the end of time? We can't even get everything ready what we will celebrate in the next few weeks. But the answer is **"Yes!"** The Church does want us to think about the Lord's return because, as Christians, that is what is really important.

The Lord will still be returning at the end of time even when the trees are gone, the decorations are taken down and the gifts are put away. And that is what Advent calls us to realize, not in a fearful or anxious way, or even in a way that some think is intended to take away our joy or our fun. The Lord wants us to enjoy all that is wonderful about the coming feast of Christmas, but all the while realizing that the Lord came into the world to redeem us and, ultimately, to take us to himself.

So enjoy these weeks of Advent. Don't make it **"either/or"**. Make it **"both/and"** – living the joys of preparing for Christmas **and** preparing for the Lord to come and take us to himself.

Love,
Fr. Bob

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, 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!**

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 29-30, 2008 \$9,134.00
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."

We are the servants of God, each with his/her own task. We will be judged good stewards if, at the Lord's coming, he finds us ready and conscientiously pursuing the tasks to which we have been called.

...Fr. Bob

Time & Talent

A special and sincere word of thanks to all those who prepared the baskets that we gave out for Thanksgiving. Through their organization and hard work, we were able to prepare baskets for approximately 40 families who came to us in need. These women don't minister only at Thanksgiving. They also prepare baskets at Christmas and Easter as well. That is also not the extent of their goodness, however. During the course of the year, especially when we have our food collection weekends, they take the food we receive and arrange it in our food pantry so that it is always available when a person comes to the office, looking for assistance. Thank you so much, ladies, for the work that you do all year long. Our thanks also go out to the men and women who prepared a meal or who went to the food kitchen in Hackensack on Friday, Nov. 21 to serve the needy. These parishioners truly followed Lord's way when they fed those who were hungry.

Tithing the Tithes – 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.

Retired Religious Collection

At the weekend Masses of Dec. 13-14, we will be having the collection for the Retired Religious of the United States. This collection is a way in which the Catholic Church in America can show its support for the religious men and women who have served in a variety of ministries in the parishes, schools and other church-related work in our country. For many years, they have ministered to teach the faith and to serve men, women and children, and **now it is our turn to help them.** In the weeks leading up to that collection, we hope that our parishioners will remember one brother, sister or religious priest who taught them or cared for them in some way. **Offer what you can that weekend to help them live a dignified life in their retirement.**



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

