



Saturday	Dec. 5 - Vigil
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
Monday	Dec. 7 - St. Ambrose
7:00AM	McCarron Family
8:45AM	Frank Cangialosi
Tuesday	Dec. 8 - Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
6:30AM	Edward Szelest
9:00AM	Ang Beng Chong
7:30PM	Antonio Bussanich
Wednesday	Dec. 9 - Advent Weekday
7:00AM	Mary Anne Cunningham
8:45AM	Johanna & James Joyce
Thursday	Dec. 10 - Advent Weekday
7:00AM	Carmela Di Liberto
8:45AM	Barrett Family
Friday	Dec. 11 - St. Damasus
7:00AM	Margaret Farabough
8:45AM	Anna and Frank Zeisel
Saturday	Dec. 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe
8:30AM	Margaret Hiltenbrand
5:30PM	Maurice and Violet Richards
Sunday	Dec. 13 - Third Sunday of Advent
7:45AM	Catherine A. Hoynes
10:00AM	Anna Berger
12 Noon	Parishioners of St. Mary's

In Loving Memory

The Bread and Wine offered at this week's Masses are given in memory of Jerry Kenter requested by cousins Jimmy and Margie McEntee.

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

We ask your prayers for our recently deceased parishioners, Michael Flanagan and Thomas P. Tiernan.

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 Woehrle..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..Hyde Family

Immaculate Conception Novena

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

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.*

Pictures for Nov. 2

If you have framed photos of family members who have died that were placed in the church for the month of November as part of our remembrance of those who have died, you can now pick them up at the rectory between 9:00am-6:00pm Monday-Friday.

Sunday – Dec. 6

8:30AM Rel Ed PACT Angels Session LC/School
9:00AM 10:00AM Adult RCIA RCA
After 10:00AM Mass Immaculate Conception Novena UC
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

Monday – Dec. 7

After 8:45AM Mass Immaculate Conception Novena LC
7:00PM Rel Ed PACT Saints Session UC/School
7:30PM Bible Study RCB

Tuesday – Dec. 8

After 9:00AM Mass Immaculate Conception Novena UC
3:30PM Rel Ed PACT Saints 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
Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary

Wednesday – Dec. 9

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 Finance Council Meeting RCB
7:30PM-9:30PM Line Dancing SH

Thursday – Dec. 10

After 8:45AM Mass Rosary LC
7:00PM-9:00PM Transfiguration Basketball SH
7:30PM Baptism Class Library
7:30PM Prayer Service UC

Friday – Dec. 11

After 8:45AM Mass Rosary LC
6:00PM-7:30PM Basketball 18yrs & below SH
7:00PM Cleaning of the Church's Chandeliers
7:30PM Rosary for Peace LC
7:30PM-9:00PM Basketball 19yrs & above SH
8:00PM Men's Spirituality SFC

Saturday – Dec. 12

After 8:30AM Mass Rosary LC
3:00PM-11:00PM Transfiguration's HSA Christmas Movie/Party SH

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Sunday – Dec. 13

8:30AM Rel Ed PACT Saints 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-6:00PM Simbang Gabi Practice SH

Third Sunday of Advent

*****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.**

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.**

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?



My brothers and sisters in Christ,

I first want to take a moment to thank all those who sent in food the Wednesday before Thanksgiving so that we could feed the hungry in Hackensack. We went to that food kitchen with approximately 120 pans of food from all different cultural groups. We were able to feed in abundance those who came that day, asking for a meal.

It was truly wonderful to meet those individuals. So many of them express their gratitude through a simple *Please!* or *Thank You!* that they voiced over and over again. One person even mentioned how much they enjoy when our parish prepares the meal because there is such a variety of food from which to choose.

Perhaps one of the saddest aspects of going to the food kitchen is seeing the children that come with their parents. To see the adults coming in was difficult enough, knowing the hardships that these men and women have to endure every day. To see the children was even worse. They are so young, so innocent. We hope that our being there and offering them a meal eases their anxiety at least a little. And we pray that they will be able to break out of this cycle of poverty soon.

We offer a word of prayerful thanksgiving to the Lord for the gift of forgiveness that he showed to the children of our parish who celebrated the sacrament of Penance for the first time this past Saturday. So many stories in the Gospels tell of God's endearing love, shown especially in his forgiveness of our sins. We pray that these children will always be conscious, especially through their parents and families, of the significance and the importance of forgiving.

On a different note, I hope that many of our parishioners will plan on coming this **Sunday evening, Dec. 6, at 4:00 PM**, to celebrate **Advent Evening Prayer** along with the parishioners of St. John's and Ascension. This will be the fourth Advent – and the second time at St. Mary's - that we have gathered with the parishioners of these two other parishes to pray together. If you have been able to attend in the past, you know that it truly is a wonderful and prayerful time. The choirs of the three parishes lend such beauty to this prayer time and their singing allows our hearts and our voices to lift high in praise of the Lord.

I know that, for so many people, this is truly a hectic time of the year. Perhaps, the rush of activities in which we are involved is an even better reason why we need to pause, even for an hour or so, to praise God, to gather with one another and to enter a little more deeply in the spirit of anticipation which is the season of Advent. Please try and join us. You will find that you will leave more uplifted and more joyful than when you came in.

This Tuesday, Dec. 8, we celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Conception, a feast that is especially important to us as an archdiocese and as a nation since the Immaculate Conception is patroness of both the United States and the Archdiocese of Newark. This feast truly honors the fact that Mary was prepared as a vessel that would hold the Son of God, the gift of the Father to his people. Since Mary, as that vessel, would hold so precious a gift, she was kept free from sin from the first moment of her conception. Hence, we proclaim that her conception in the womb of St. Anne, her mother, was immaculate.

We pray that Mary will intercede with the Lord Jesus for the people and parishes of the Archdiocese of Newark and for the citizens of the United States. We also look to her as a model of discipleship, offering our lives in service to the work of the Lord, as Mary did.

Love,
Fr. Bob

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.**

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. 28 & 29	\$10,162.00
Total for same weekend in 2008	\$8,763.00
From our children's weekly envelopes -	\$14.85
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 helped someone.”
- “I took out the garbage for my mother.”
- “I helped my dad fix the table.”
- “I did all my chores.”
- “I donated food to the needy.”
- “I helped my baby brother.”
- “I helped clean up on Thanksgiving.”
- “I swept the floor.”

“And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value....” from Paul's letter to the Philippians. Glittery holiday ads can blind us to our stewardship values and distort our needs and wants. It is important that during this season where we buy so much for others, we remember that each of us also has the need to give back to God a portion of our Time, our Talent and our Treasure

Ministry – Parish Ministries

As we look around the church during this Advent season of joyful anticipation, there are simple, beautiful decorations that surround us. Our Advent wreath stands as a silent reminder that we are in the midst of a season that calls us to remember, week after week, that the Lord will return in glory at the end of time. Our **Art and Environment Committee** first takes the time to plan how the church will be decorated for this season and other times of the year. Then, they spend time, often hours, making their plans real as they decorate the church for Advent. They will soon be fulfilling the same ministry as they prepare our worship space for the season of Christmas. This ministry involves time, but it also involves the creativity of these men and women. That creativity and time allow us to be surrounded by simple beauty. **There is always room in the ministry for the creativity and the willingness of others to offer their Time and Talent. Call Fr. Raul if you would like to be a part of our Art and Environment Committee.**

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.

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.**

The Giving Tree

Sunday, Dec. 6, is the deadline to bring the unwrapped gifts for our Giving Tree. If there are any questions regarding the Giving Tree please call Tom Ciotti at 201-385-7424 or Josie Parrella at 201-387-0786.



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
- Alicia Newball Angelica Peji Danny Hilsdorf
- James Markert James Phillips Wayne Lawton
- Kristine Becker Donald Dickson Anthony Dunkin
- Brian Collins Edward Bryan Frago Brian Lucas
- Christopher Cookson...Christopher Minayn...Kyle Zownir
- Joshua M LaBazzetta James R. Melady Robert Dellner
- David Christopher Pierson Christopher Lynch
- Christopher Kishbach Robert Challenger, Jr
- Ryan Shireman Christian Baierwalter

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.

Capital Campaign - New Information

We have received some of the bills for the work done to the heating system in the school. When we have all of them, we will be listing them below so that our parishioners will know what we spent on that project. We are continuing to look at the repair and re-painting of the church ceiling. As we continue to determine the extent of that work, we will keep the parish informed.

Total amount in pledges made -	\$878,266.00
Number of families who have pledge	450
Average pledge per family -	\$1,951.70
Cash collected thus far -	\$459,287.63
Expenses paid thus far**	\$250,500.83
Cash on hand -	\$208,786.80

Pledges for one time donation are still gratefully accepted.

****Explanation of Expenses**

- 1) Total amount paid to Lynch Development Associates for Preliminary Feasibility Study, Actual Capital Campaign and costs related to both - **\$87,970.83**
- 2) Rectory roof repair - **\$15,000.00**
- 3) Church roof repair - **\$41,001.00**
- 4) Lower Church Drains/Leak **\$ 445.00**
- 5) Tree Removal **\$ 2,000.00**
- 6) Parish Office Steps **\$ 5,535.00**
- 7) School Heating System **\$98,549.00**

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.

Hold the Date – Feb. 13, 2010

On Saturday, Feb. 13, 2010, the Saturday before Ash Wednesday, our parish will have its first **Mardi Gras** celebration. That night, we will have a beefsteak dinner and karaoke for entertainment. A beefsteak is strips of beef on toasted bread with French fries. The karaoke allows individuals or groups to go up on stage and sing. It's a lot of fun and a great evening. Right now, we just want everyone to hold the date – **Saturday, Feb. 13, 2010.**

Liturgy Schedule

Below is the schedule for liturgical ministries for the Masses for the weekend of **December 12-13**, the Third Sunday of Advent.

5:30PM	7:45AM	10:00AM	12:00Noon
H1-M. Bernard	H1-B. Kenter	H1-M. Keating	H1-P. Barclay
H3-K. Permuy	H-3-V. Criscuolo	H3-G. Barba	H3-D. Boettger
H4-G. Harris	H4-B. Bernard	H4-B. Barba	H4-R. Callahan
C1-N. Bayona	C1-P. Keating	C1-L. Bishopp	C1-L. Lo
C2-E. King	C2-N. Florio	C2-A.M.Bishopp	C2-C. Murray
C3-M. Truppe	C3-J. DeNoia	C3-L. Mooney	C3-J. Tumaneg
C4-K. Sylvester	C4-A. De Noia	C4-D. Pacia	C4-J. Parella

R1-B. Martin	R1-K. Florio	R1-T. Osborne	R1-C. Booth
R2-J. Sylvester	R2-M. Vicente	R2-E. Pacia	R2-K. Rhein

S-L. Cortezano	S-M. Banzil	S-R. Cachuela	S-J. Canlas
S-M. Kostka	S-J. Platon	S-E. Flores	S-N. Laya
S-M. Permuy	S-M. Scalia	S-L. Garcia	S-C. Rivera

Linen Schedule for the Month of December:

Dec. 6 Margaret Kennedy	Dec. 13 Eileen O'Leary
Dec. 20 Catherine Kelly	Dec. 27 Mary Conboy

PALAD Corner

Simbang Gabi will be celebrated on Friday, Dec 18th, starting with the 7:30 pm Mass at the Upper Church. This will be followed immediately by dinner and entertainment at the Szelest Hall. Please come and join us, everyone is welcome!

We are signing up children up to 12 years old to participate as angels and shepherds in the Nativity re-enactment during the Simbang Gabi festivity. Rehearsals will start on Sunday, Dec. 13 at 1:30 pm in Szelest Hall. Please contact Marichi at 201-385-8529.

Also, we welcome your support for the Simbang Gabi dinner. You could either bring a tray of food, or make a \$20 contribution to help defray the cost. Please call Marge at 201-385-0232.

9 Points on the 9 Days of Simbang Gabi

- One of the longest and most popular among the many traditions in the Philippines is Simbang Gabi.
- Mass at dawn, Simbang Gabi is a nine-day novena to the Blessed Virgin Mary.
- This culminates with the "Misa de Gallo" (Rooster's Mass) on Christmas Eve to welcome the birth of our savior Jesus Christ.
- This practice started during the Spanish colonial period to accommodate the farmers as well as the fishermen who had to be in their fields to harvest before dawn,
- The tradition of Simbang Gavi continues to this day with its colorful lights and "parols" (lanterns that represent the star of Bethlehem, fashioned from bamboo sticks and cellophane), "bingka" and "puto bumbong" (rice cakes).
- It lives right here at St. Mary's where Filipinos and other parishioners join with other parishes in the Bergen County in the celebration of the nine-day novena.
- How Simbang Gabi is done here in our corner of the world may be a little different, most notable is that masses are held at different times, but "the why" of it remains the same.
- We take this time to prepare ourselves spiritually for Christmas and to strengthen relationships among family and friends.
- Quite interesting, there is a commonly-held belief that an individual who completes the nine consecutive days of Simbang Gabi is merited by such act; a wish made by the devotee being granted..

Dec. 31 – Rectory Open House

Again this year, the priests are happy to invite our parishioners to an **Open House at the rectory on Dec. 31 from 1:00 – 5:00 PM.** Come and share a glass of wine or punch and some cheese and crackers. More importantly, come and wish one another all of God's blessings for 2010. **There is no need to respond – just come to the rectory, join your brothers and sisters of St. Mary's and wish one another the best of this festive time of year.**

