



Saturday	Dec. 12 - Vigil
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
Monday	Dec. 14 - St. John of the Cross
7:00AM	Ferdinand J. Ross, Sr.
8:45AM	Carmella Sciarra
Tuesday	Dec. 15 - Advent Weekday
7:00AM	Joseph Reiley
8:45AM	Lilia Berja
Wednesday	Dec. 16 - Advent Weekday
7:00AM	Bridie and John Cleary
8:45AM	Anacleto Aspiras
Thursday	Dec. 17 - Late Advent Weekday
7:00AM	Gerraldine Cleary
8:45AM	Sr. Joseph Cremin
Friday	Dec. 18 - Late Advent Weekday
7:00AM	Ria Cachuela (Living)
8:45AM	William Ramm
Saturday	Dec. 19 - Late Advent Weekday
8:30AM	Catherine Canonica
5:30PM	Parishioners of St. Mary's
Sunday	Dec. 20 - Fourth Sunday of Advent
7:45AM	James and Theresa Serafini
10:00AM	Cangialosi Family
12 Noon	Pietro Sforza

In Loving Memory

The Bread and Wine offered at this week's Masses are given in memory of Patrick J. O'Connor requested by the O'Connor Family.

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn in praise of God and in memory of Patrick J. O'Connor requested by the O'Connor Family.



We ask your prayers for our recently deceased parishioners, Dorothy Demuro, Thomas Miller and Justina Dougherty.

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..Hyde Family

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.

Many hands make light work -- We need your help -

Decorating the church on Monday, Dec. 21 and Tuesday, Dec 22 beginning at 6:30 p.m. We especially need men on Monday evening to help move the 20ft trees into the church!

PLEASE don't forget to use your envelope marked for **FLOWERS** - it takes a **LOT** of flowers to make our church extra-special for Christmas!



This Week

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

Monday – Dec. 14

After 8:45AM Mass Rosary LC
7:00PM Rel Ed PACT Angels Session UC/School
7:30PM Advent Penance Service

Tuesday – Dec. 15

After 8:45AM Mass Rosary UC
9:30AM Parents Group B05
3:30PM Rel Ed PACT Angels Session UC/School
6:00PM-9:00PM Simbang Gabi Practice SH
7:00PM-9:00PM Adult Choir

Wednesday – Dec. 16

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

Thursday – Dec. 17

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

Friday – Dec. 18

After 8:45AM Mass Rosary LC
9:30AM & 6:00PM Distribution of Christmas Baskets LC
7:30PM Rosary for Peace LC
7:30PM-8:30PM Simbang Gabi Mass UC
9:00PM-12:00PM Simbang Gabi Presentation SH

Saturday – Dec. 19

6:00AM-12:00PM Set-up and Breakfast with Santa SH

Sunday – Dec. 20

7:30AM Feeding at Missionaries of Charity Soup Kitchen, Newark
9:00AM 10:00AM Adult RCIA RCA
11:00AM-12:00PM Kids RCIA Class SFC
11:00AM-12:00PM Teen RCIA Youth Room

Fourth Sunday of Advent

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.**

Christmas Mass Schedule



Thursday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve

4:30 PM Mass with our Children's Choir
6:30 PM Mass with a Wind Ensemble and Contemporary Choir
11:15 PM Celebration of Carols
12:00 Midnight Mass with our Adult Choir

Friday, Dec. 25 Christmas Day

8:00 AM – 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

New Year's Mass Schedule

Thursday, Dec. 31 New Year's Eve

6:00PM Vigil Mass

Friday, Jan. 1 New Year's Day

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM



My brothers and sisters in Christ,

Allow me to extend a tremendous word of thanks to all of the choirs of St. Mary's – adult, children, youth, Filipino – for the wonderful celebration of Advent Evening Prayer last Sunday, Dec. 6. It truly was a prayerful time together and everyone who was there could not help but be uplifted. A special word of thanks go to Steve Pochini and Lesa Rossmann for the tremendous amount of time they took to prepare the members of the various choirs. Choir members from St. John's joined our choirs and Ascension and we thank them for all that they added to Evening Prayer as well.

As we give thanks for the prayer we celebrated together last Sunday, we also look to the coming week for Advent celebrations that will be taking place. On Monday evening, Dec. 14, at 7:30 PM, as is mentioned below in the bulletin, we will have our Advent Penance Service with St. John's and Ascension. This year, the Penance Service will take place here at St. Mary's. We certainly encourage our parishioners to join us, especially since there will be priests from all three parishes here.

Also, this Friday, Dec. 18, we will have our annual *Simbang Gabi* celebration, beginning with Mass at 7:30 PM, in the upper church. Following our gathering for the Eucharist, we will go to Szelest Hall for dinner and the presentation of the Nativity. Although this is a Filipino celebration, we always encourage all of our parishioners to join us since we are one parish community. **When one group within the parish celebrates, we all celebrate with them.** And so, I encourage you to join us this Friday evening and to share in the joy of that evening.

It is hard to believe that we are drawing so close to Christmas so soon. The days and weeks seem to be flying by faster and faster each year. But, no matter how quickly time moves; we know that we are journeying together toward our promised inheritance – the kingdom of heaven. Time moves fast enough as it is – we don't want it to move any faster. And so, we enjoy these days of Advent, a time, which becomes a time of mini-retreat. As with any retreat – military or otherwise – Advent as a retreat time becomes an opportunity for us to pause and to reflect on how well we are preparing. So often, we feel overwhelmed by the preparations for Christmas and we probably vow each year that we will start early or perhaps not go as overboard this year as we may have last year.

There certainly is a sense of joyful anticipation as we approach the feast of the birth of the Lord and all that is involved with decorating or baking or buying presents or the myriad of other activities, which takes so much of our time. As yet, when the day comes, we know that it was well worth it.

And the same is true when we prepare our hearts. It takes time and effort to pause and to reflect on our relationship with God. But as with our preparations involved with Christmas, our time spent in Advent preparing our hearts to receive the Lord will make that moment that much more joyful.

There are only two weeks of Advent left. We have reached the halfway point. If we have not had the chance to use these weeks well, hopefully we will have the chance to use the last two weeks well.

Love,
Fr. Bob

Advent Penance Service

The parishes of St. Mary's, St. John's and Ascension will join together for an **Advent Penance Service on Monday evening, Dec. 14, at 7:30 PM**, here at St. Mary's. As we celebrate the sacrament of Penance together, we use our time well to prepare for the coming of the Lord, whether remembering his first coming 2000 years ago, his return in glory at the end of time or his coming to us each day. The 9 priests of the 3 parishes will all be here so parishioners will have a choice as to which priest they will go to for confession and absolution.

2009 Christmas Gift

As we draw closer to the feast of the Nativity of the Lord, we hope that you will give thought to what you will be able to give to St. Mary's. According to reports on the news, people are being more particular about how much they will spend on gifts this year. We hope that our families will sit and discuss and decide what they can honestly offer this Christmas to St. Mary's. As stewards, we look to God and what he has given – Jesus – and we respond to that give with the same level of generosity.

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 Dec. 5 & 6	\$10 256.00
Total for same weekend in 2008	\$10,419.00
From our children's weekly envelopes -	\$2.25
Campaign donations received thus far in November	\$5,099.00

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 fed and played with my cat." "I helped my sister."
"I helped my brother." "I helped my sister with her homework."

"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." from St. Paul's letter to the Philippians. St. Paul reminds us that our God is an abundant God, the ultimate giver of gifts. He promises to give us all that we need. When we trust that God will take care of us, it is easier for us to share what we have been given.

Ministry – Cleaning the Chandeliers

Hopefully, our parishioners have noticed how clean and bright the chandeliers are in the church. The reason for that is due to the time and effort parishioners of St. Mary's gave this past Friday evening. Not only did they clean the globes and polish the chandeliers, they also changed the light bulbs in the center of the chandeliers. These bulbs give more light and make the church brighter. This cleaning takes place twice a year: once before Christmas and once in the spring. **If you would like to help when the chandeliers are cleaned in the spring, call the rectory, give us your name and number and we will call you when the cleaning is going to take place.**

Tithing the Tithes – 2009

For the month of November, our parish was able to tithe a total of \$1,508.00 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 - \$335.00
- St. John Food Pantry, Newark - \$335.00
- Missionaries of Charity, Newark - \$335.00
- Emergency Fund - \$503.00

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.

PALAD Corner

This coming Friday, Dec 18th, will be *Simbang Gabi* at St. Mary's. Our celebration starts with the 7:30 pm Mass in the Upper Church, followed immediately with (free) dinner and festivities at Szelest Hall. Come and join us. There will be raffles and prizes, and the children of our parish will do the Nativity re-enactment. And Santa will stop by for a visit to bring presents to all. Questions? Call Tito at (201) 387-9140 or send email to palad@stmarysdumont.org.

Our Food Pantry

We are now preparing once again to help needy families at Christmas with food baskets. We always need canned food, turkeys, hams and monetary donations so that we can meet the needs of those who come to us for help. Whatever you can give will allow us to give, not only food, but also dignity to these families. Distribution of baskets will be on Friday, December 18, 2009.

We welcome the newest members of our Parish Community

BAPTISMS
Ashleigh Jordan Kaminski
Shea Lucas Rodriguez



PACT/Religious Education Program Updates

Priority of Religious Education



Parents are reminded that we no longer have a Religious Education program which meets every week. Since we come less frequently it is important not to schedule doctor appointments, extra-curricular activities, and other commitments during our PACT/Religious Education sessions. We rely on you to keep our program a success- as we are Parents And Children Together at St. Mary's Religious Education.

Confirmation

Candidates should be participating in service projects at this time. Check in around our bulletin for information about the Breakfast with Santa, decorating the Church, and other parish events.



Service projects may also be worked on in schools, nursing homes, hospitals, aftercare programs, special needs programs, and other places where service is provided for those who need our help.

Breakfast with Santa



Reservation forms for Breakfast with Santa on December 19th must be returned to the Rectory office by Monday December 14. 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. Breakfast with Santa is sponsored by St. Mary's Young Adult Ministry. Questions? Contact Brian O'Dowd at 201-385-2859.

You Could Win Up To \$25,000

For a Small investment of only \$10 you can win up to \$25,000 in Transfiguration Academy's Mega 50/50. Tickets are on sale through the school offices, at St. Mary's rectory office and after masses at all 3 parishes.

The winning ticket will be drawn on Dec. 17th.

Barnes & Noble Partners with Transfiguration

Join us at Barnes and Noble in the Riverside Square Mall on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 12 & 13 for a bookfair, from 9AM to 11PM. During selected times you will also see our students reading poetry, a display of their art work, and Christmas Caroling.

In addition to the River Side Square location, books bought at any Barnes and Noble anywhere on these days will earn money for the Academy if you give them our I.D. # 10048247.

Books make an excellent gift for Children of all ages, Adults too!

Great Gift Suggestion for the Holidays

Q: What do you get the person or persons who have it All?

Q: Do you really need another tie?

A: Gift Food Certificates make an excellent gift.

Gift food certificates may be purchased at the school offices in both Bergenfield and New Milford campuses, for the following grocery stores: Shop Rite, Path Mark, Stop & Shop and Jollibee.

A percentage of the face value of the certificates is donated by the participating stores to Transfiguration Academy and goes toward our fundraising goal.

Health Care Reform Bill

On Nov. 7, the House of Representatives passed major health care reform that reaffirms the essential, longstanding and widely supported policy against using federal funds for elective abortion coverage. It is critical that the Senate adopt the House-approved Stupak Amendment language on this issue. The amendment ensures that Americans are not forced to pay for the destruction of unborn children as part of needed health care reform. The Senate must address other essential moral priorities - conscience rights; making health coverage more affordable and accessible for those in need; and ensuring that immigrants do not lose or will not be denied health care coverage needed for the good of their families and the health of society. Contact Senate and House members through e-mail, phone calls or FAX letters. To send a pre-written instant e-mail to Congress, go the American bishops website - www.usccb.org/action. Call the U.S. Capital switchboard at 202-224-3121 or call your members' local offices. Full contact information can be found on members' websites at www.house.gov & www.senate.gov.

St. Mary's Youth Ministry (SMYM)

Working With Our Parish Community to Help Our Teens, 7th - 12th Grade, Become Better Versions of Themselves: Physically, Emotionally, Intellectually, & Spiritually

Upcoming Youth Ministry Events:

Sunday, December 20th - "BAKING COOKIES & SINGING CAROLS FOR THE ELDERLY": (6:30 - 8:30p) Let's bring Christmas cheer to the retired Franciscan Sisters in Tenafly. Since they asked us to arrive by 7:00p please bake cookies in advance and bring them with you. We'll meet in the JPll Youth & Young Adult Center at 6:30p and return by 8:30p. We'll also need help rolling a piano into their chapel when we arrive. Please bring a note from your parents giving you permission to go.

Sunday, January 10th - "BASKETS FOR BABIES": (6:30 - 8:30p in Szelest Hall) We're sponsoring a foul shooting contest for the teens, grades 7-12, of our parish in honor of the 37th March for Life on Jan 22nd, 2010. Shooters will be grouped by age and gender. The admission fee is \$5 and all proceeds will be distributed to a local pregnancy crisis center.

We're Looking For A Few Good Young Men:

Currently, our Core Team, an advisory board of eight teens in grades 9-12, is comprised of seven young ladies and one young man. We want to expand it to 12, adding four young men. If you or someone you know would be interested, please let us know.

This Week's Feature Articles For Teens & Their Families:

"Thousands of Youths Converge on Kansas City to Celebrate Their Faith":

http://www.cny.org/archive/ld/ld9120309.htm

"Advent Must Be Preserved"

http://www.cny.org/archive/tdcolumn/tmd120309.htm

Other Resources For Teens & Their Families:

R U Looking 4 Christian Music for Teens on the radio?

Listen to 99.1 FM

R U Looking4 a Catholic website for teens?

Go to http://www.mycatholicvoice.com

What else is happening at St. Mary's?

http://stmarysdumont.org/this-week.html

Need To Talk To Us? You can meet us at the music platform after the 7:45 and 10:00 Masses, call us at (201) 385-2936, or email us at youthmin@stmarysdumont.org.

We'll see you at Mass! Charlie & Lesa

Our Trip to Lancaster

Our trip to Lancaster to see The Voices of Christmas is now closed. The price had to be raised to \$98.00 since we did not have 40 people as a minimum number in order to get the original price of \$91.25. If you are going on this trip and if you have not done so already, we ask that you please bring in the additional \$6.25 as soon as possible so that we can pay the balance of the bill. Please remember - you have to be at St. Mary's by 7:15 AM on Dec. 19 and we will return to Dumont by 9:30 PM that day

Knights of Columbus Events:

Monday Dec 21 - Lecturer Meeting with Monsignor Arnholds. Lecture begins at 8:45PM.

Thursday Dec 31 - New Year's Eve party - 8PM-1AM - This year, the New Year's Eve event is a buffet with a greater value at only \$39.95 per person - Contact Bob Dondero at 201-387-2368 for reservations.

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

Hospital Privacy

As we announced at Mass this weekend, please remember that current privacy laws regarding patients in hospitals do not allow the hospitals/pastoral care offices to contact parishes if their parishioners are in the hospital. If you or a loved one are going into the hospital and want a priest to visit you or that loved one, please call the rectory office and let us know.

Daily Rosary

We wanted to announce that each day, following the 8:45 Mass, a group of parishioners stay in church to pray the rosary. If you would like to be part of this group, each day or only periodically, simple come to the church for 8:45 Mass or come once Mass is over.