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| Saturday | Dec. 13 – Vigil |
| 5:30PM | Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Richards |
| Sunday | Dec. 14 – Third Sunday of Advent |
| 7:45AM | Arcenia Padaloy |
| 10:00AM | Parishioners of St. Mary's |
| 12 Noon | Carmella Sciarra |
| Monday | Dec. 15 – Advent Weekday |
| 7:00AM | John and Bridie Cleary |
| 8:45AM | Mr. & Mrs. Becker |
| Tuesday | Dec. 16 – Advent Weekday |
| 7:00AM | Joseph P. Reilly |
| 8:45AM | Gerald Capasso |
| Wednesday | Dec. 17 – Late Advent Weekday |
| 7:00AM | Gerri Cleary |
| 8:45AM | Michael McCormack |
| Thursday | Dec. 18 – Late Advent Weekday |
| 7:00AM | Catherine Hoynes |
| 8:45AM | Terry and Fred McLarnon |
| Friday | Dec. 19 – Late Advent Weekday |
| 7:00AM | Charlie McMorrow |
| 8:45AM | Ann Wolf |
| Saturday | Dec. 20 – late Advent Weekday |
| 8:30AM | Aniello Schettino |
| 5:30PM | Pietro Sforza |
| Sunday | Dec. 21 – Fourth Sunday of Advent |
| 7:45AM | Leonard and Robert Florio |
| 10:00AM | John Hecker |
| 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 Hap Russini requested by his children

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn in praise of God and in memory of Robert A. Rosica requested by the Mulder family.



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 Petrocely...Benjamin Zangoglia
 Richard Domenech..Marie Fitzgerald..Sr. Margaret Hoffman
 Tony Martignetti..Mary Coutinho..John Tibbs..Barbara Manz
 Carole Chittenden..Deborah Portillo..Potino Canares..Thomas Donnelly
 Barbara Wronski

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-

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!



Sunday – December 14

8:55AM Religious Ed PACT Saints 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
 Food Collection



Third Sunday of Advent

Monday – December 15

7:00PM Religious Ed PACT Angels Session UC/School
 8:00PM Advent Penance Service St. John's, Bergenfield

Tuesday – December 16

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

Wednesday – December 17

4:00PM-6:00PM Children/Bell Choir Chapel/UC
 7:00PM OLPH Novena LC
 7:30PM Baptism Class SFC
 7:00PM-9:00PM Knitters Youth Room
 7:30PM – 9:30PM Line Dancing SH

Thursday – December 18

6:00PM-9:30PM Simbang Gabi Practice SH

Friday – December 19

7:30PM Rosary for Peace LC
 7:30PM –8:30PM Simbang Gabi Mass UC. Reception after mass SH

Saturday – December 20

9:00AM – Breakfast with Santa SH
 9:30AM Catholic War Veterans Meeting RCA
 1:00PM-2:30PM Transfiguration Basketball SH

Sunday – December 21

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



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Advent Penance Service

This year, our Advent Penance Service will be celebrated with the parishioners of St. John's, Bergenfield, and Ascension, New Milford. The communal service will take place on **Monday evening, Dec. 15, at 8:00 PM, at St. John's Church, Bergenfield.** The priests of all three parishes will be available for confessions that evening. It is yet another time of grace for us to experience the loving forgiveness of God.

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

Decorating the church on Monday, December 22 and Tuesday, Dec 23 beginning at 6:30 p.m. We especially need men on Monday evening to help move the 20ft trees into the church!

Christmas Mass Schedule

Wednesday, 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



Thursday, Dec. 25 Christmas Day

8:00 AM – 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

New Year's Mass Schedule

Wednesday, Dec. 31

6:00PM Vigil Mass

Thursday, Jan. 1

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM



My brothers and sisters in Christ,

First, I want to thank the members of our various choirs for their participation in last Sunday's Advent Evening Prayer, held at Ascension Church in New Milford. It was a truly blessed evening as the choirs of the three churches – St. Mary's, Ascension and St. John's – joined together to lead those gathered at Ascension in prayer. It was joyful, it was inspiring, and it was prayerful. Next year, we at St. Mary's will host the Advent Evening Prayer and we look forward once again to an evening of prayer and unity in faith.

This Friday evening, Dec. 19, our parish will once again gather for **Simbang Gabi**, our annual Filipino celebration in anticipation of the feast of Christmas. We begin with Mass at 7:30 PM in the upper church and then on to Szelest Hall for delicious food and a wonderful re-enactment of the Nativity by the children in our Filipino community. It is a wonderful evening and a special time together.

The Mission Statement for our parish, which appears on the front of our bulletin, states that we rejoice in the diversity, which is St. Mary's. We saw that joy lived out when we gathered last month for our annual International Night and heard music and saw dancing from the various cultural groups, which make up our parish. We truly are a Catholic community in the truest sense of that term, namely, a family that is universal in its make-up.

I know that there is a feeling at times that cultural celebrations are exclusively for one particular group, e.g., St. Patrick's Day is only for the Irish, St. Joseph's Day is only for the Italians, Simbang Gabi is only for the Filipinos. While these celebrations may be sponsored by one particular cultural group, they are by no means the only group to participate in those celebrations. We are gathered as one body in the Lord and, when we go to one of these cultural celebrations and share in them, we are essentially rejoicing in the fact that we are all called to be united in the Lord.

So, in the end, we are all invited to come to Simbang Gabi so that we can all pray together at the Eucharist, partake in great food and enjoy the innocence of children as they present the birth of the Lord Jesus for us.

**Love,
Fr. Bob**

3rd Sunday of Advent

The traditional name for the Third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday. The name comes from *Gaudete in Domino semper*, Latin for "Rejoice in the Lord always," opening words of today's entrance antiphon (brief scriptural text that is usually replaced by an opening hymn).

Because one of Advent's tasks is to prepare us for Christ's return at the end of time, this season once had a penitential quality similar to that of Lent. Gaudete Sunday with its rose vestments and relaxation of austerities softened the period and gave a glimpse of its fulfillment just as its counterpart, Laetare Sunday, did at the midpoint of Lent.

Viewed now as a season of devout and joyful expectation, Advent retains very little of its old penitential focus, but we still have the option of using the liturgical color of rose today as we rejoice that Christmas is near, and Christ's second coming is nearer than it was yesterday.

Retired Religious Collection

Your generosity in the annual Retired Religious Collection this weekend, Dec. 13-14, is sincerely and gratefully appreciated by the religious sisters and brothers who have served so well over the years. They have taught in our Catholic schools and parish religious education programs, ministered in Catholic hospitals, cared for children in orphanages. Now, in many cases and in a number of religious orders, there is a desperate need for financial support for their retired members. **Remember a religious sister or brother who helped you deepen your own faith. Please offer what you can that weekend to help them live a dignified life in their retirement.**

St. Mary's Senior Residence Information

As you can see, the work on the St. Mary's Senior Residence continues and we want to be sure that we answer any questions that you may have. If you have a question regarding the construction, please e-mail the rectory at info@stmarysdumont.org with your question. If we do not know the answer, we will do all that we can to find the answer. **Please pray for the ongoing success of the construction.**

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 December 6&7, 2008 \$10,419.00
Same weekend in 2007 \$10,502.00

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."

All of the people in today's readings – the prophet Isaiah, the Virgin Mary, St. Paul, St. John the Baptist – seemed to understand clearly and rejoice in what God was calling them to be and to do. Do I? ...**Fr. Bob**

Time & Talent

On Saturday, Dec. 6, a number of the children in our parish received the sacrament of Penance. We have been praying for them for the past several weekends and we have also asked the prayers of the parish for them. We want to thank those who helped prepare them for this sacrament and those who will prepare them in the spring to receive their First Communion. Mr. Bill Mascitello, our Director of Religious Education, works with the catechists who take extra time to help our younger children come to understand the meaning of the sacraments of Penance and Eucharist. The faith of our parish catechists is a strong support for the children who are preparing for the reception of sacraments. We appreciate all that they do and we invite others to be a part of this very important ministry. Please call Bill Mascitello at our Office of Religious Education (201-384-3062) and let him know that you want to share your faith with the children of our parish.

Tithing the Tithe – 2008

For the month of November, our parish was able to tithe a total of \$1,437.00 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 - \$319.00
- St. John Food Pantry, Newark - \$319.00
- Missionaries of Charity, Newark - \$319.00
- Emergency Fund - \$480.00

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 19th, 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, and have a chance to win in one of the 17 raffle drawings. Questions? Call Tito at (201) 387-9140 or send email to palad@stmarysdumont.org.

Last week's Lucky Weeks Club \$50 winner is Connie Reilly. Marichi Adel sold the winning ticket.

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. Our pantry is stocked, but the quantity goes down quickly, especially as people come at this time of year. Distribution of baskets will be on Friday, December 19, 2008.

St. Paul Session

On Thursday, **Jan. 8, at 7:30 PM**, we will have our second session on the writings of St. Paul. *Fr. Bob wants to apologize for having to cancel the last session at the last minute.* Having looked at the person of St. Paul in our first session, we will look over his letters in the New Testament to discover how so much of what he wrote has become the foundation of our faith. **Just in case there is a need to re-schedule the session due to unforeseen circumstances, please call the rectory and let us know that you would be attending this session on Jan. 8.**

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 Zangoglia...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.

Intersection Work

Father Bob contacted Mayor McHale to get an update regarding the work that will be done to the intersection of Washington and New Milford Avenues. The mayor communicated that the county of Bergen is expected to bid the project during the winter with the projected start date in the spring of 2009. The work should coincide with the construction of the St. Mary's Senior Residence building. However, it seems as if the project will be completed in 2010, after the Senior Residence is completed. We wanted to pass this information on to our parishioners since some have asked about the new intersection.

Summer Trip 2009 Brochures

Brochures are now in the parish office for our trip to California from July 18-27, 2009. We will spend time in San Francisco, Sonoma, the Sierra Nevada, Yosemite National Park, Carmel, Monterey, San Simeon, Santa Ynez, Solvang, Santa Barbara, and Los Angeles, including Hollywood (Mann's Chinese Theater, Sunset Strip, Rodeo Drive). The cost per person, two to a room, is \$2,900.00. The cost includes 1) transportation to and from St. Mary's/Newark Airport; 2) departure taxes/fuel surcharges; 3) round trip airfare Newark/San Francisco & Los Angeles/Newark; 4) 8 nights hotel accommodations; 5) sightseeing as described in brochure; 6) daily breakfast, 1 lunch, 3 dinners. An optional excursion at the end of the trip would include a trip to San Diego, hotel accommodation w/full breakfast, sightseeing and entrance/service fees. This would cost an additional \$300. If you are interested in this trip, please come to the rectory and pick up a brochure.

Sight and Sound Trip - Balance Due

If you have reserved a ticket for the Easter show Behold the Lamb at Sight & Sound's Millennium Theater in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, on Saturday, March 28, 2009, the balance is now due. This is for those who did not pay the entire amount when they made their reservation

Knights of Columbus:

Children's Christmas Party - Sunday, December 14th at 2pm-4pm. All children age 10 and under are welcome. Each child will receive a gift bag from Santa Claus. Complimentary snacks and refreshments will be available. Call John McGill at 201-384-7511 and make your reservations. This is a FREE event; we need to know number of children coming.

Lecturer Program - Monday, December 15th -After a short meeting Russell Petrocelli will discuss "Anti-Catholicism in the US". Russell is a former teacher of American History & Catholic Church History at Paramus Catholic H.S., with graduate work at the Washington Theological Union and St. Bonaventure University. Our Programs are open to everyone to attend. Plan to come and bring a friend. Program begins about 8:45pm, with food and refreshments served afterwards.

New Year's Eve Party - Wednesday, December 31st from 7:30pm to 1:30am. The countdown has begun for the New Year and you are invited to the best party in town. Why brave a long drive to a high priced party when you can stay close to home, celebrate with friends, eat a delicious meal, drink refreshing beverages, dance the night away and get a cool party hat & noise maker! Join us to receive all this and more for the very reasonable \$55/pp. For reservation please contact Bob Dondero 201-387-2368.

Parish Office Schedule

We want parishioners to know that the parish office will be closed on Dec. 24-26, 2008 and also Dec. 31, 2008 - Jan. 2, 2009.

Campaign Information

We want to give updated totals for the Capital Campaign Realizing the Dream so that the parish will know the pledges/actual money that we have received thus far and how the money has been and is being spent. That information is as follows as of Dec. 2, 2008:

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes Total amount in pledges made (\$886,066.16), Number of families who have pledged (440), Average pledge per family (\$2,013.79), Cash collected thus far (\$216,127.99), Expenses paid thus far (\$114,148.36), and Cash on hand (\$101,979.63).

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 - \$86,881.36
2) Rectory roof repair - \$15,000.00
3) Church roof repair - \$12,267.00

Lynch Development Associates was the lowest of three bids that we received for the Feasibility and the Capital Campaign. This cost is approximately 9.8% of the total that has been pledged. That is less than the typical 10% that is projected for the cost of a Feasibility Study and a Capital Campaign.

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 ser-vice. 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 good-ness 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.

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. Please bring the unwrapped gifts to the rectory during business hours on or before Sunday, December 14. If there are any questions regarding the Giving Tree please call Tom Ciotti at 201-385-7424 or Josie Parrella at 201-387-0786.

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.



