



Saturday	Feb. 20 - Vigil
5:30PM	Annie and Florence Fitzgerald
Sunday	Feb. 21 - First Sunday of Lent
7:45AM	Parishioners of St. Mary's
10:00AM	Carmen Vega Santiago
12 Noon	Richard Boes
Monday	Feb. 22 - The Chair of St. Peter
7:00AM	Angela Wilson
8:45AM	Lindeman Family
Tuesday	Feb. 23 - Lenten Weekday
7:00AM	Rockena Monte
8:45AM	Henry Crowley
Wednesday	Feb. 24 - Lenten Weekday
7:00AM	Manny Guerra
8:45AM	Ben Scrimizzi
7:30PM	Rocco Barbera
Thursday	Feb. 25 - Lenten Weekday
7:00AM	Maureen Purtill
8:45AM	Anna and Michael Mastriaco
Friday	Feb. 26 - Lenten Weekday
7:00AM	Richard Lorenzo
8:45AM	Anthony Palmieri
Saturday	Feb. 27 - Lenten Weekday
8:30AM	Exuperancia Flores
5:30PM	Mildred and Ed Kostka
Sunday	Feb. 28 - Second Sunday of Lent
7:45AM	Eduardo Carretas
10:00AM	Parishioners of St. Mary's
12 Noon	Conboy Family

Sunday – Feb. 21

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
 Food Collection

Monday – Feb. 22

After 8:45AM Mass Rosary LC
 7:00PM Rel Ed PACT Saints Session UC/School
Washington's Birthday

Tuesday – Feb. 23

After 8:45AM Mass Rosary LC
 9:30AM Parents Group B05
 3:30PM Rel Ed Saints Session UC/School
 6:00PM-9:00PM Basketball SH
 7:00PM-9:00PM Adult Choir

Wednesday – Feb. 24

After 8:45AM Mass Rosary LC
 4:00PM-5:00PM Children's Choir Meeting Room School
 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 – Feb. 25

After 8:45AM Mass Rosary LC
 7:30PM - 9:00PM Ballroom Dancing SH

Friday – Feb. 26

After 8:45AM Mass Rosary LC
 10:00AM Job Ministry Session Meeting Room School
 6:00PM-9:00PM Basketball SH
 7:30PM Rosary for Peace LC
 8:00PM Friday Night Disciples y & YAM Center

Saturday – Feb. 27

After 8:30AM Mass Rosary LC
 10:30AM-6:30PM Confirmation Retreat UC/School

Sunday – Feb. 28

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

Bible Study Session

Our next Bible study session will be on Thursday, March 11, 2010, at 7:30 PM, in the rectory. We will continue looking at the letters in the New Testament. All parishioners are welcome, whether or not you have been with us before. Just bring a Bible with you.

St. Mary's Men's Group

Our parish Men's Spirituality Group will next meet on Friday evening, March 12, from 8:00 – 9:30 PM, in the meeting room next to the Religious Education office in our school building. All men of the parish are invited to attend, even if you have not been able to join us before. We spend some time in prayer, we listen to a presentation made by one of the members, and we spend time-sharing our thoughts with those with us. It's a pretty good way to spend 90 minutes together.

March 14 – St. Patrick's Mass – 10:00 AM

We wanted to announce that the **10:00 AM Mass on Sunday, March 14**, will celebrate the 4th Sunday of Lent and honor St. Patrick as well. Following the Mass, we will gather for a social in Szelest Hall. At that social, soda bread, donated by a parishioner, will be available for all to share. Also, our Altar & Rosary Society will have loaves of homemade soda bread for sale. The pipe band – *Clan Na Vale* - will be at Mass and at the social. We thank the parishioner who will provide the pipe band for us.

2011 Mass Book

The Mass book for 2011 will open on **Monday, March 15, at 9:00 AM**. We will soon be receiving requests for when Masses will be available for 2011, so we wanted our parishioners to know ahead of time.

In Loving Memory

The Bread and Wine offered at this week's Masses are given in memory of Florentia Dimarucot requested by the Asistin Family.

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn in praise of God and for the intentions of the Santos and Laya Family.

We ask your prayers for our recently deceased parishioners, Frank J. Benestante, Viola McNally, Frank A. Zito, Fred J. Eisler, Jr., and Mario Dumicic.

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..Joan O'Leary-Rella..Margherita Bonaldo Ann Youngsworth..Debra Portillo..Marie McDermott..Barbara Fawcett Woke Family..Pat O'Connor..Alicia McMahon..Mary M..Eileen O'Leary Ann O'Neil..Anthony Matarazzo..Ben Zangoglia..John R..Maria Cruz Frank Farrell..Genevive DeVirgiliis..Bob Jackson..John Canavan Carolina Aspiras..Peter Post..Larry Frisby..Carlos Cunha..Hyde Family Carl Cavera..Robert Truppe..Carole Chittenden

Lenten Giving Tree

Our **Lenten Giving Tree** is now in place. We have tags on the "tree" with items listed that are needed in the shelter we will support. That shelter is dedicated to helping children living with AIDS. In order to honor their privacy and for the purposes of confidentiality, we cannot mention the address of the place we are helping. We can say that it is connected with the Archdiocese of Newark. The items that are needed will be: toothpaste, deodorant, soap, children's blankets, new sheets/blankets (twin size), new pots/pans/cookware, and school supplies/backpacks.



My brothers and sisters in Christ,

Each year, as we enter the season of Lent, we are invited to reflect on what this time in the Church's year is all about. I know that many of us have experienced the Lenten season for many years. For others, it may be a new experience and that may be for a variety of reasons. Whether we are veterans at entering into this season of grace or brand new, it is always good to spend some time remembering what Lent is all about.

One of the documents of the Church says it as well as anyone could –

The annual Lenten season is the fitting time to climb the holy mountain of Easter. The Lenten season has a double character, namely, to prepare both catechumens and faithful to celebrate the Paschal Mystery. The catechumens...are prepared for the celebrations of the sacraments of Christian initiation; the faithful, ever more attentive to the word of God and prayer, prepare themselves by penance for the renewal of their baptismal promises (at the Easter Vigil and on Easter Sunday).

Initially established in the early centuries of the Church as a time of immediate preparation for adults preparing to be initiated into the Christian community through Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, Lent later became a special time of grace for all Christians. Toward the latter part of the 4th century, infancy became the time for baptism rather than adulthood. Most Christians were already baptized when they reached adulthood. Therefore, there was not as great a need for that time of immediate preparation for adult initiation.

Wisely, the Church expanded her understanding of Lent and gave it that two-fold character mentioned above – 1) a time of preparation for adults preparing for the sacraments of initiation, and 2) a time for adult Christians to reflect on how they are living out their baptismal calling.

For baptized Christians, Lent is a time 1) for deepening prayer, 2) for sacrificing (fasting) from some food/action/activity, and 3) for giving from what we have sacrificed so that others may have what they need. I will always remember a line regarding fasting and almsgiving that I read more than 20 years ago when I was in the seminary. It said: *If we fast and do not give to others from what we have sacrificed, we are guilty of greed.* That line makes absolute sense. If I give up something, such as a dessert each day, I can save money by doing so. However, that is not what fasting is all about. It is about sacrificing so that we can then take what we have saved and give it to others.

We are only beginning this season that is so familiar to so many Catholics. Let's reflect once again on what this season calls us to do – to pray more fervently and more frequently and to fast so that our sacrifices will benefit those who need the basics. **Let's make this Lent the most personally enriching one that we have every had.**

Love,
Fr. Bob

Tri-Parish Lenten Sessions

As was mentioned in our Lenten calendar, we are going to have several sessions sponsored by the three parishes of St. Mary's, St. John's and Ascension. The first will be entitled **Caring for God's Creation** and will be held on **Saturday, March 27, from 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM, at St. John's in Bergenfield.** It will be led by Kay Furlani from the Office of Human Concerns of the Archdiocese of Newark and will focus on how we can take care of the earth, which is God's gift to us. Please call our parish office – 201-384-0557 – and let us know if you would be attending this session.

Correct parking in the upper lot

As we have announced, parishioners are required to park within the lines designated as a parking space. The white lines mark parking spaces and blue lines designate spaces for parking for the disabled. **If you park any place else, especially where there are yellow lines, you are violating fire regulations and may receive a summons and fine.** Parishioners are requested to park only in the correct places.

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 Feb. 13-14	\$10,343.00
Total for same weekend in 2009	\$9,384.00

From our children's weekly envelopes last weekend - \$18.05

Campaign donations received thus far in January \$32,669.05

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 truly is. Even though they are still young, they can give us a wonderful example to follow.

*"I helped someone." I talked with parents about lessons."
"I took care of my little cousins." "I said my prayers."
"I didn't fight with my sister." "I did all my chores."
"I cleaned up my playroom closet."
"I prayed and saved my money for people in Haiti."
"She had good manners and said thank you."*

"I have now brought you the first fruits of the products of the soil which you, O Lord, have given to me." from the book of Deuteronomy. This simple line from the Old Testament presents us with two challenges. First, do we bring to God our first fruits – the best that we have to offer? Second, do we remember that everything we have has been given to us by God? We brought nothing into this world and we can take nothing from it. So why not share what we have while we are here?

Ministry – Lenten Giving Tree

This weekend, we again have a way of sharing with those for whom life is somewhat difficult, namely, those in the archdiocesan shelter whom we are supporting through our Lenten Giving Tree. Most of the items on the purple crosses are everyday things – toiletries, laundry needs, etc. They are not so much gifts that will be given, but daily items that they need the same as we do. Please do what you can to help them by purchasing these ordinary articles and give people the chance to live a life with dignity and without some of the basic necessities. If you want to assist in this ministry, call the rectory 201-384-0557 or e-mail us at info@stmarysdumont.org

Tithing the Tithes – 2010

For the month of January, our parish was able to tithe a total of \$1,427.00 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	- \$317.00
St. John Food Pantry, Newark	- \$317.00
Missionaries of Charity, Newark	- \$317.00
Emergency Fund	- \$476.00

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.

Funeral Mass vs. Funeral Service

Recently, we are finding that the families of a person who has died are opting to have a service in the funeral home rather than a funeral Mass at church. This trend is rather disturbing. Although it is not something that we find pleasant to discuss, we are encouraging our parishioners to make it known to your families that, when you pass away, you want your body brought to the church for a funeral Mass. There is a simple reason for this. A Mass celebrates the death and resurrection of the Lord, something that it is important for us to remember at a time of the death. Our prayers, songs and readings at a funeral Mass all point to the eternal life for which we await. That is not the case when you have simply a service in the funeral home. This is important for the family to hear, especially when they are experiencing the loss of a loved one. **Please – tell your family that this is what you want.**

