



Jesus, the Lamb of God, is the light of the nations who came to do the Father's will. In Christ we have been called to be a holy people.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 18

4:00 PM Christine Noonan, 3rd Anniversary, requested by Her Family

Sunday, January 19

8:30 AM Roger & Louise Labrie, requested by Their Family

10:00 AM Thomas Howard, + Birthday Remembrance, requested by His Family

11:30 AM Rosa Saetero, requested by Her Sister, Maria Saetero

Monday, January 20

8:30 AM Aldora Dufresne, + Birthday Remembrance, requested by Her Daughter, Carmen Cross

Tuesday, January 21

8:30 AM Deceased Priests of St. Mary's Parish

Wednesday, January 22

8:30 AM Special Intentions for Lois & Omar Adams, requested by William

Thursday, January 23

8:30 AM Marilyn Fallon, + Birthday Remembrance, requested by Her Family

Friday, January 24

8:30 AM For Members of St. Mary's Parish, Both Living & Deceased

Saturday, January 25

4:00 PM Living & Deceased Benefactors of St. Mary's Parish School

Sunday, January 26

8:30 AM Rose E. Manning, 29th Anniversary, requested by Her Family

10:00 AM Richard Hansen, 1st Anniversary, requested by His Wife, Mary, & Family

11:30 AM Emilio Luna, requested by The Luna Family

5:00 PM In Honor of The Scheufler Family (Chris, Gabrielle, Lucie & Jack) requested by The Family

NEXT WEEK'S LITURGICAL MINISTERS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25

4 PM

Altar Servers: Marianna Bushey, Paigton Ramos, Seamus Smith, Amelia Willenborg

Reader: Catholic Schools Week

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

8:30 AM

Altar Servers: Lani Ching, Dean Robinson

Reader: Elizabeth Devillez

10 AM

Altar Servers: Paul Lawry, Deirdre Matthews, Declan Matthews

Reader: Denise Noonan

11:30 AM

Altar Servers: Yadira Rodriguez, Xavier Felix

Reader: Juan Aquino, Jacquelyn Luna

5 PM

Altar Servers: Jake Diaz, Nicholas Diaz

Reader: Religious Education

Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary prayer line: for prayers call or text Betty, 563-0592, or Marguerite, 531-5648.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE in the upstairs Church will burn from 1/11/20 to 1/24/20, in gratitude for the birth of our Granddaughter, Everly, requested by Paul and Kathy McKenna.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE in the downstairs Church will burn from 1/11/20 to 1/24/20, Angie Sipitkowski, Birthday Remembrance, requested by TLQ.



Flowers on the Altar this week are in memory of Alice Liptak, requested by Lloyd & Marjorie Burke.

If you would like to contribute towards the beautiful altar flowers, there is a notebook in the main entrance of the Church. It is easy to fill out a request and a great way to honor someone who has passed away or celebrate a great event in someone's life.

The 5 p.m. Sunday Masses follows the CCD schedule. The next Mass is next Sunday, January 26.

WE STEWARD OUR TREASURE

JANUARY 11 & 12

340 Envelopes: Total in Envelopes: \$9,045.00

Loose Cash: \$1,003.37 - TOTAL: \$10,048.37

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

LET US PRAY

Please remember in your prayers, all the sick in our parish, our families and friends. Please also pray for our beloved deceased: Anthony Calleva, Donna Gemme, Robert Bennis, Mary McNamara, James Poulin, Maryanne "Sis" Noone, Kendrick Bishop and Donald Beaulieu, Jr.

If there is a two-hour delay or school is cancelled there will not be an 8:30 AM Mass that day.

REFLECTION BY REV. LEONARD N. PETERSON

Some years ago, we watched TV commercials and read printed ads that a certain well-known soft drink was “the real thing.” Only this past November, at one of those impeachment hearings, I heard a congressman refer to the president of Ukraine as “the real deal.” Cake sellers and food purveyors proudly tell prospective customers that their products are made with “real ingredients” and no artificial anything. All those descriptions refer to the same basic reality: that the person or thing in question is anything but fake, and is in fact the definitive, actual and authentic version of its category.

John the Baptist, the Lord’s natural cousin, knew for a fact that Jesus was indeed “the real thing.” He was inspired to give Jesus the august title of “The Lamb of God.” Those standing near could not help but think of prophetic messages and an inherited tale of God’s mighty deliverance of them from slavery. When John said he “did not know” Jesus, he didn’t mean that he did not know *who* Jesus was, but that he did not know *what* Jesus was. On that long ago day, the Holy Spirit revealed to John and the world who would read about it that Jesus was the Son of God. He was the Lamb who would redeem Israel and all mankind from the ravages of sin.

Here we are, a little more than two weeks into a new year, and our Scripture Readings shake us from any reverie of the Christmas just passed. That season, with its overlay of childhood innocence, has to yield to the serious reality of Our Savior’s adult mission. So “Lamb of God” is not a cute nickname, but a title of such great moment, involving a move from one Testament to another.

The Book of Exodus tells of the penultimate night in the ancient story of Israel’s liberation. The blood of the slain paschal lamb, spread on the doorposts of the Israelite houses,

“THE REAL THING”

had protected them from the wrath of the Angel of Death involved in the tenth plague. (Exodus 12: 11-13). The Angel had “passed over” their houses. The blood of the lamb had saved them from destruction. So now Jesus becomes for us the new Lamb whose blood delivers us from the slavery of sin. The nearest crucifix reminds us how He did it.

All of this leaves us in a unique position. We know full well that we are not the pawns of some cruel and temperamental pharaoh. But we admit that we are frequent victims of the “father of lies,” who delights in the fact that popular wisdom says he doesn’t exist. We know he does, and Jesus spoke frequently of him. That means we need Jesus.

Many of us fall in line with the thinking of our great St. Augustine in his formative days. As a young man, after his conversion, he had still prayed, “Lord, give me chastity and continence, but not yet.” There’s the danger for us of delaying our decision to really follow Christ. We just aren’t ready for the scary decision to let go and let God. So we don’t brush away all our sinful ways. We hold back one or two, foolishly bargaining with God about what we did with the rest. We know, deep down, that’s not the way to reach our goal. We’re afraid perhaps to be “the real thing,” even though Jesus said, “I came that they may have life to the full.”

It seems to me that our choices boil down to one, and we just have to bolster our faith to make it. This reminds me of a certain airline story. It was mealtime during my trip on a small airline in the Northwest.

“Would you like dinner?” the flight attendant asked the man seated in front of me.

“What are my choices?” he asked. “Yes or no,” she replied. I got ready to be realistic.

MARCH FOR LIFE - JANUARY 24 2020

On January 24, a group of St. Mary’s parishioners will join with approximately 200,000 others across the country to protest abortion at our Nation’s Capital. We will leave St. Mary’s at approximately 10 p.m. Thursday, January 23, by bus and return at approximately midnight on Friday, the 24th. All are welcome to join us as we stand up for life at this powerful demonstration. \$90 per person (adult or kid) if you would like to come with us, or you can sponsor a student from St. Mary’s High School. For more information, please contact rlepage@stmsaints.org, or jbagge@stmsaints.org or call 568-1127.

JOIN US FOR BRUNCH!

Sunday January 26
from 1:00 - 3:00pm

\$23.95 pp

Gratuity not included.

Individual checks will be given out.

99 Springfield Road, Westfield

We will dine in a private banquet room with a buffet style brunch menu. Come mingle with fellow parishioners, Father John, and the deacons! Enjoy meeting some new people from our parish! We look forward to seeing you!

Tutti A Tavolo - Everybody to the Table

RSVP to Michele Suhocki by JANUARY 18
msuhocki@stmaints.org 413-562-5477, ext 144

SPACE IS LIMITED!

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY'S

Monday, January 20 - MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY
NO SCHOOL/CCD/RECTORY CLOSED
6 pm PAC - Center

Tuesday, January 21
6:30 am Men of St. Joseph - Lower Church

Wednesday, January 22
9 am Eucharistic Adoration
9:30 am Bible Study - Center
5 pm Benediction - Lower Church
7 pm Bible Study - Center

Thursday, January 23
6:45 pm Women's Prayer Group - Lower Church
7 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal - Upper Church
7 pm El Camino Youth - Center
7 pm Encuentro Juvenil - Center
7 pm Ultrella - Center

Friday, January 24
MARCH FOR LIFE

Saturday, January 25
4 pm Catholic Schools Week Mass - Upper Church
GIRL SCOUT COOKIES SOLD AFTER 4 PM
MASS

Sunday, January 26
10 am Little Church - Lower Church
2 pm Cursillo - ES
5 pm Youth Mass - Upper Church
6:15 pm CCD - HS
6:15 pm Confirmation/Sponsor Meeting - HS

St. Mary's Parish High School will host a MEET & GREET for prospective high school students on Tuesday, January 28, at 6:00 p.m. Please join us to learn about our new, innovative curriculum offerings and scheduling, meet our students, faculty and coaches, and tour our school. Administration will be on hand to answer all of your questions. Need based financial aid is available. We would love to share more with you at our MEET & GREET!

If you have any questions or would like to schedule a private tour and information session, contact Kimberlee Jaszek kjaszek@stmsaints.org, 413-568-5692, www.stmsaints.org.

St. Mary's High School will host an SAT Prep Class for high school students beginning Wednesday, January 29, from 6 until 9 p.m. Classes will be held every Wednesday through April 29. STM students' SAT Prep fees are covered in their tuition. The fee for this class is \$250 for any student outside of STM wishing to enroll. If interested, please contact Jen Gomes, Director of Guidance. jgomes@stmsaints.org, 413 - 568 - 5692, or www.stmsaints.org.

CCD CORNER

Confirmation/Sponsor Meeting On Sunday night, January 26, from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m., there will be a meeting for all Confirmation candidates and their sponsors at St. Mary's High School Gym. Please keep all of our Confirmation candidates in your prayers as they continue on their journey to this very special sacrament.

**Does someone you know need help?**

St. Vincent de Paul has served the people of Westfield for over 30 years. We have helped over 150 households with fuel and utility assistance. We have distributed over 2,000 bags of food over this past year. We have over 30 volunteers doing a variety of services for people in need in Westfield. If someone you know could benefit from our services, please contact the St. Vincent de Paul number, 413-568-5619.

TROOP 109 BOTTLE & CAN DRIVE

St. Mary's Boy Scout Troop 109 will be holding their annual Bottle and Can Drive on March 7th next to the Super Phipp's sign in the plaza. Bottles and cans can be dropped off at the big scout tent near the big Super Phipp's sign on March 7th, and this year the scouts will also have a collection trailer parked in the Elementary School parking lot in late February (details to be announced in coming weeks) during Mass hours. If you have a large volume, the scout can arrange for pick-ups.

Are you looking for a way to make a concrete difference in someone's life? St. Mary's Parish is looking for people who are willing to spend time with homebound parishioners who are lonely, elderly, suffering or sick. You don't need to have a professional background, but you do need a willingness to listen, be empathetic, and offer reassurance that our community has not forgotten them. St. Mary's will train you to visit these people in their home, in the hospital or in a nursing home and take them the Eucharist if they desire that.

To learn more about if this volunteer ministry might be for you, contact Pastoral Minister Michele Suhocki at 413-562-5477, ext 144, or msuhocki@stmsaints.org.

"Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Here am I; send me!" - Isaiah 6:8

ATTENTION All Home-Bound & Eucharistic Ministers

Please log who you are bringing Holy Communion to going forward in 2020. There is a **log-in sheet** in the **Upper Church** and **Lower Church** in the **Sacristy** where you place your **pix**. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

I want to make sure we are not missing any home-bound parishioners who would like a visit from a priest for sacraments. Questions may be directed to **Pastoral Minister: Michele Suhocki**, msuhocki@stmsaints.org, 413-562-5477, ext 144.

ALTAR GUILD VOLUNTEERS are needed to help in maintaining the sanctuaries, altars, and sacristies. Services could include washing/ironing of church linens, general cleaning, or some sewing. Please call the rectory and leave your name and number.

If you have moved or changed your phone number, please call the rectory at 562-5477. God may be omniscient, but we could use a heads up to stay connected!

PRAYING TOGETHER is one of our greatest privileges at St. Mary's High School. Each school morning we gather in prayer. We would be honored to pray for you! Please email your prayer request to kjaszek@stmsaints.org or call the school at 568-5692.

Sharon Olson will **REPAIR YOUR ROSARIES** for FREE. You may drop them off at the rectory for her and we will call you when they are repaired.



If you would like the name of your loved one in the military listed in the bulletin, email them to bulletin@stmsaints.org. Many of the congregation would certainly offer prayers for their safety and service.

PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL OUR

MILITARY, especially: Capt. Daniel P. Williams, Sgt. Nathan DiSessa, Airman Preston Hallett, Soldier Steven Irwin, Marine Kikki Green, 1st Lt. James F. Lentini, Sr. Airman Patrick Liptak, Sgt. Luke Dengler, USCG Adam Morin, Petty Officer Joseph W. Nieves, Airman Jack Clark, 2nd Lt. Nicholas J. Vasquez, SPC Jaymes Hoyt, Captain John Velis, Lance CPL Bailey French, 1st Lt. Henry Desilets, 2nd Lt. Ryan Clark, Marine Corporal Thomas P. Flaherty, Chief Warrant Officer Kenneth D. Gustafson, Airman Isaac Santos and all of the Barnes ANGs.

FEAST OF ST. BLAISE

On Monday, February 3, the church celebrates the feast of St. Blaise. This fourth century saint was born into a rich and noble family. He was raised with the Christian faith and eventually became the bishop of Sebaste in Armenia. Known for his profound wisdom and great love for his people he was sought out by many for guidance and help. The Roman authorities became jealous of his popularity and upset by his Christian beliefs. In time he was sentenced to life in darkness. Literally he was locked in a dungeon with no windows. The Christian community still visited him to offer support and gain his wisdom. They would sneak candles into his cell so that he could burn them when his guards were sleeping. One popular story tells of how he cured a young boy who was choking on a fish bone. Hence in honor of Saint Blaise we have the 'Blessing of the Throats' with candles.



In celebration of his feast, we will have the Blessing of Throats the weekend of (February 1 and 2). We ask through the intercession of St. Blaise that the Lord will free us from any disease of the throat and any other illness. The presider for each Mass will invoke a general blessing and if you want to stay afterwards you may approach him (or one of the ministers) for an individual blessing.

**Through the intercessions of St. Blaise,
bishop and martyr, may God deliver you
from every disease of the throat
and every other illness,
in the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN.**



MARDI GRAS DINNER

There will be a Mardi Gras Dinner on Saturday, February 22, at 5 p.m. in the High School. Money raised will go to the Meals Ministry and St. Vincent de Paul.

**TICKETS SOLD
AFTER ALL MASSES
on the weekends of
February 1 and 2, and
February 8 and 9.**

Come and support these worthy causes!



Let Your Voice Be Heard -- Again!

Say NO to Expanded Abortion Access

Thank you to everyone who has already contacted State Senators and Representatives expressing opposition to the proposed laws that would dramatically expand abortion rights in Massachusetts. Now, as the state legislature enters its final six months of the session, it is time to speak out again.

The Facts

The two bills are under consideration (H. 3320 and S. 1209) would:

- 1) Expand abortion access, including late-term abortions, during the nine months of pregnancy for virtually any reason.
- 2) Eliminate requirements that late-term abortions be performed in a hospital.
- 3) Eliminate the requirement that provides medical care to a child who survives an abortion attempt.
- 4) Eliminate the requirement that a minor under the age of 18 have the consent of a parent, guardian, or the courts.
- 5) Expand state funding for women who cannot afford the procedure.

To be clear – these bills would significantly change Massachusetts law. This is not about Roe v. Wade.

How can you help?

Contact your legislators, let them know you are a Massachusetts voter, and say NO on Abortion Expansion! Log on to www.macatholic.org and follow the links to find contact information for:

- Your individual State Senator and Representative via address and zip code link.
- Members of the Joint Committee on Judiciary who control the fate of H. 3320 and S. 1209.

For individuals without internet access, please call the Massachusetts Catholic Conference at 617-746-5630 for legislative contact information.

"We, the Roman Catholic Bishops of the four Dioceses of Massachusetts, call on our elected officials to carefully consider the consequences that these bills would bring to the lives of infants, parents, families and the citizens of the Commonwealth. We urge all people of good will, regardless of what faith they practice, to vigorously oppose these extreme measures."¹



¹ Statement of His Eminence Seán P. O'Malley, OFM, Cap., Archbishop of Boston; Most Reverend Robert J. McManus, Bishop of Worcester; Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski, Bishop of Springfield; Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, SDV, Bishop of Fall River

April 11, 2019

**St. Mary's parishioners may call
Rep. John Velis 1-617-722-2877 and Rep. Mike Finn 1-617-722-2676**