



Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

We have seen a great light: Jesus the Messiah, who heals us of our sin and who is our unity and peace.

MASS INTENTIONS

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 Scheuffer Family (Chris, Gabrielle, Lucie & Jack) requested by The Family

Monday, January 27

8:30 AM Mark Tebaldi, + Birthday Remembrance, requested by Mom

Tuesday, January 28

8:30 AM Clara Marigliano, 8th Anniversary, requested by Maria Iommazzo

Wednesday, January 29

8:30 AM James Krupienki, + Birthday Remembrance, requested by The Angco Vieweg Family

Thursday, January 30

8:30 AM James L. Warner, Jr., requested by Doris and Family

Friday, January 31

8:30 AM Guiseppi Mattia, + Birthday Remembrance, requested by Maria DelGuercio

Saturday, February 1

4:00 PM Carol Robinson, 1st Anniversary, requested by Her Children & Grandchildren

Sunday, February 2

8:30 AM Therese Miller, 21st Anniversary, requested by Her Family

10:00 AM Francis K. Connors, + Birthday Remembrance, requested by His Family

11:30 AM Monica Garcia, requested by Her Family

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: Thomas Reardon, Kenneth DeRose, Normand Gingras, Eileen Rannenberg, Atty. Mary Keenan, Barbara Holland and David Strong.

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

NEXT WEEK'S LITURGICAL MINISTERS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

4 PM

Altar Servers: Justin Haluch, Seamus Smith

Reader: Karen Hatch

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

8:30 AM

Altar Servers: Connor Casey, Dean Robinson

Reader: Cal Annino

10 AM

Altar Servers: Katelyn Corriveau, Trevor Corriveau

Reader: Aidelisa Lopez-Carrasco

11:30 AM

Altar Servers: Kristal Torres, Destine Pacheco

Reader: Youth, Adriana Lugo, Mariana Mujica

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 1/25/20 to 2/7/20, in Memory of Megan Elizabeth Pelli, 13th Anniversary, requested by Mom, Dad, Jen, John, Sam & Toby.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE in the downstairs Church will burn from 1/25/20 to 2/7/20, in Memory of Normand Gingras.



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.



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.

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

WE STEWARD OUR TREASURE

JANUARY 18 & 19

304 Envelopes: Total in Envelopes: \$10,595.00

Loose Cash: \$520.00 - TOTAL: \$11,115.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

REFLECTION BY REV. LEONARD N. PETERSON

For quite some time I have been fascinated by the flexibility of our beloved English language. Its development is often rather quick, especially with the advent of “techno speak.” Old words get evicted or completely change their meaning. New words are created swiftly and get widespread use. So it is with the acronym “ASAP.” Its imperative implications come paired with urgency, and in a fast-paced world, the letters have even been turned into a word. It has a “cousin,” if you will, in an older creation, namely “PDQ.” The milder translation is “pretty darn quick.” I am deliberately omitting the vulgar meaning of letter “D” because we’re in church for a homily. But you get the idea. I eventually found out that there are 37 other meanings for PDQ, including a restaurant chain!

All this talk of language arose in my mind after rereading what St. Matthew has to say about how Our Lord’s first disciples reacted to His invitation to follow Him. Matthew tells us that they did it “immediately.” How refreshing it was to read that for me. So often I wrestle with indecision. “Immediately” for me involves a certain freedom, unhampered by doubt or indecision. It further notifies all of us that the attraction Jesus had here was for real men used to making quick but important decisions fighting for their livelihood on the open sea. Where and when to toss their nets for fish could almost be a matter of life or death in their daily struggle to provide for their families and themselves.

I read a scriptural commentary in which the writer almost hastens to tell us that Matthew’s account is a compressed one. That St. John’s version of the same incident is more likely because it includes the natural human tendency to be hesitant to embark on a new direction in life. But I thought to myself

that “Sure, we all have to do our research and give serious thought to any major decision.” Today we might say, “Go on Google first.” Certainly, the early four Apostles likely consulted their wives, children, and others before stepping away from their usual lives to follow this amazing young Rabbi from Nazareth.

But allow me to take Matthew literally for just a moment or two, to admire Saints Peter, Andrew, James and John for following their hearts as well as their heads in answering Jesus’ invitation right away, without consulting a checklist. There is something invigorating about letting go of fear and apprehension and simply saying “Yes” to God right away. I can summon a certain Francis of Assisi who did it centuries later. We all have a knack for delay. We like staying right where we are in our custom-made comfort zone and asking Jesus for His understanding.

Such immediate decisions don’t have to be any more uprooting than a change in our daily schedule to get out of bed a half hour earlier to pray each day. Or choosing to fast one day a week to know what it feels like for those among us who through no fault of their own must go hungry most days if not all. You are mature enough to make your own list. But do it immediately.

Beware of those well-meaning souls who will happily point out practical obstacles to your decisions. That’s why we have to avoid delay. Like the apostles’ decisions made long ago and far away, which they made “asap.” Look where they are now. Meanwhile, we can imagine those first four Apostles saying to us at times: “Do it now! Today will be yesterday tomorrow.”

Who among us is hungry?

The Meals Ministry here at St. Mary’s will celebrate its 10th anniversary this April. We deliver about 70 meals each second Sunday of the month. There are over 60 volunteers who work to keep this ministry running smoothly. If someone you know is in need, please call Bob and Vicky Stoops at 413-562-5835.

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.

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.

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 this volunteer ministry, contact Pastoral Minister Michele Suhocki at 413-562-5477, ext 144, or msuhocki@stmsaints.org. It may be just the thing for you.

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

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.*

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY'S

Monday, January 27

- 6 pm Folk Group Rehearsal - Upper Church
- 6 pm PAC - Center
- 7 pm Finance Council - Center

Tuesday, January 28

- 6:30 am Men of St. Joseph - Lower Church
- 8:30 am Mass - Upper Church
- 8:30 am Schools at Mass
- 6 pm Meet & Greet - HS

Wednesday, January 29

- 9 am Eucharistic Adoration
- 5 pm Benediction - Lower Church

Thursday, January 30

- 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

Saturday, February 1

- 11 am First Reconciliation - Lower Church

**MARDI GRAS DINNER TICKETS SOLD
AFTER ALL MASSES**

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING WEEKEND

Sunday, February 2

- 10 am Little Church - Lower Church
- 11 am First Grade CCD - ES

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, j.gomes@stmsaints.org, 413 -568-5692, or www.stmsaints.org.

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD, PRAY FOR US!

CCD CORNER

ST. PEREGRINE MEDALS: (Patron Saint of cancer patients) with prayer cards can be picked up at the Parish Center or the rectory. Please stop by during office hours. These blessed medals were donated by a very special parish friend!

"LITTLE CHURCH" –*Sunday School is Cool!* For young children, which is held every Sunday in the lower church during the 10:00 Mass. Come by any time to visit and meet the other children and families! You can watch the Mass on the "big screen" if you stay with your children.

CONFIRMATION/SPONSOR MEETING: This 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.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING: A simple prayer: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat" has inspired a youth-led movement to help hungry and hurting people around the world since 1990.

Since then, ordinary young people have generated more than \$100 million for soup kitchens, food banks and other charities in communities across the country. In addition, hundreds of thousands of youth have experienced for themselves the joy and satisfaction of giving and serving, inspiring people of all ages to follow their generous example. At St. Mary's we have supported this program for many years. This year, after all Masses on the weekend of February 1 and 2, our CCD students will collect for the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Please give as generously as possible for this very worthy cause. Thank you in advance for your support.

TRAINING FOR NEW ALTAR SERVERS

Classes will be held in the upper Church. Boys and Girls, third grade and older are invited to join. This is an important ministry in our church and an honor to serve the Lord. Please attend two classes. If you would like to serve and are not available on these days, please call the CCD office or rectory to make other arrangements.

Monday, January 27	2:30-3:30 PM
Monday, February 10	2:30-3:30 PM
Monday, February 10	4:15- 5:15 PM
Monday, February 24	4:15-5:15 PM
Wednesday, February 26	4:45-5:45 PM

SACRAMENT OF FIRST RECONCILIATION will be celebrated Saturday, February 1, at 11:00 a.m. in the lower church. A reception will follow in the Elementary school for all the families.

SCOUT SUNDAY will be celebrated February 9, at the 10:00 Mass. Boys and girls, all ages, are invited to attend and participate. Please call the CCD Office, 568-1127 to respond. The Parish Coffee hour will follow!

ATTENTION

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.

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!

♥ **St. Mary's Women's Prayer Group** ♥



Are you looking to connect with other women from Westfield? Are you seeking a welcoming community that has prayerful conversations every week? You are invited to join us every Thursday night from 6:45 - 8:00 p.m. in St. Mary's Lower Church (*use the church entrance facing Bartlett St.*). Each week we read, and study the upcoming Sunday Gospel. We pray for each other, our families and our community. *No experience needed.* All materials provided. *Everyone is welcome!!* For further information, please contact Michele Suhocki, pastoral minister, 413-562-5477, ext 144, msuhocki@stmsaints.org. Look forward to meeting you!

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/Fundraiser

Please bring your appetites to the High School gym on Saturday, February 22nd, after the 4 o'clock for our Mardi Gras dinner. We have room for 100 people so get your tickets early. Tickets will be sold on the weekends of February 1 and 2, and February 8 and 9 after all the Masses. There will be a choice of 3 entries and a kid's meal of Mac and Cheese and corn.

- 1) Pork, beans, and rice
- 2) BBQ chicken breast, roasted potatoes, and corn
- 3) Stuffed shells with Father John's famous sauce, corn, and a tossed salad.

All meals will include: Soup, roll, dessert, coffee, tea, water. Beer, wine and soda will also be available. Your kind and generous donations will be the "cost" of each ticket. The money raised will be shared between the St. Vincent de Paul society and the Meals Ministry. Thank you for your support!

Dear Families of Prospective High School Students,

Throughout your child's Elementary and Middle School years you have shown your commitment to Catholic Education and understand the value and benefits it brings to you and your child's life. By educating the whole child, mind, body, and spirit you are assured a well balanced education that will prepare your child for the rest of their lives.

We believe that at St. Mary's Parish High School we are able to offer an education that is not only academically rigorous, but spiritually fulfilling. We strive to develop spiritual growth, academic success, character, and integrity.

We cordially invite you to attend a
"MEET AND GREET"
 On Tuesday, January 28, 2020
 At 6:00 in the High School Gymnasium

Come and learn about our new University Schedule and exciting curriculum changes that include The Great Books program. A panel of students will provide testimonials on student life at St. Mary's Parish High School followed by a question and answer session. All staff will be on hand at the various academic tables to answer any questions you may have. Tours of the building will be provided following the student panel presentation.

Please consider attending this event as St. Mary's Parish High School is one of only two Catholic High School choices in Western Massachusetts.

God Bless!

Matthew Collins, Principal
 Dr. Daniel Baillargeon, Superintendent of Schools
 Joshua Agnew, Associate Superintendent



Catholic Schools
Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.

St. Mary's is looking forward to celebrating with other Catholic schools across the nation during the week of January 27th. This week is used to help our students to celebrate quality Catholic Education that focuses on educating the mind, body, and spirit. Our students are encouraged to reach their highest potential and are inspired to embrace a life of service for God and neighbor.

The entire school will share Mass at 8:30 on Tuesday and ice cream sundaes (sponsored by NJHS and NJS) later in the day.

An entertainer will delight the younger children while the older children enjoy good old fashioned board games. Buddies work together to share Valentines. We have a guest luncheon, a special tea and many other fun activities including a book fair.

The students in Grades 6-8 will be treated to a special Principals Luncheon at the High School. This lunch will be prepared by Principal Collins as a way thank the Middle School Students for all that they do for St. Mary's.

To kick off Catholic Schools week at The High School, students will have an assembly about the dangers alcohol and drug use. This assembly will be provided by a young women who was a high profile student athlete in both high school and college. There will also be activities for the students throughout the week as we recognize the role of Catholic Education.