



SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FEBRUARY 14, 2010

Saint Mary Parish

THE CALL OF LENT

The Church's message to us during the Holy Season of Lent is to encourage us on our own personal journeys toward a deeper and richer relationship with God the Father who created us, God the Son who redeemed us, and the God the Holy Spirit who sanctifies us. That's why the Church urges us to fast, to pray and to give alms as important ways of expressing our desire to become better and holier people. ([Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1434](#))

FASTING – Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence for all Catholics between 18 and 59, who are limited to one full meal. All Lenten Fridays are days of abstinence from meat for all who have reached the age of 14. Don't forget our FAMILY FISH FRIDAY NIGHTS February 26 and March 19 beginning at 5:30 P.M. in the Hall. See the Bulletin for more details.

Without endangering your health, why not consider fasting from favorite foods and beverages? How about fasting or abstaining from unhealthy conversation, unsavory TV programs, books, and magazines, Internet material, excessive computer time? Sacrifice a visit to a favorite restaurant and instead, give the money to a needy cause. The idea is to fast and / or abstain from things which do not make us better and holier people as well as to fast and abstain from people who are not good influences in our lives.

PRAYER – Remember, the greatest prayer we have is the Mass. Daily Mass during Lent is possible for some but not for all. Why not try some time in private prayer in our Adoration Chapel? How about the Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 7:30 P.M., or praying the Rosary at home? There's a lot of good spiritual reading out there.

ALMSGIVING - Giving to help the poor is a work of charity as well as justice. A donation to "Loaves and Fishes" will help to feed hungry men, women and children as does your support of our Diocesan Soup Kitchens through our monthly collection. Your support of our Parish Development Campaign has helped us to maintain our Parish buildings and continues to help us to reduce our debt. Have you ever thought of volunteering some time to help at the Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen, the Midnight Run or our Sister Parish, Saint Peter in Bridgeport?

May God bless us all with the graces of the Lenten Season, especially the grace of repentance of heart.

Msgr. Laurence R. Bronkiewicz
Pastor

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, February 15

9:00 AM Brayton Fogerty

TUESDAY, February 16

7:00 AM June & Tom Cushing

12 Noon William H. Johnson

ASH WEDNESDAY, February 17

7:00 AM Rev. John J. O'Brien

9:00 AM Lynn Ruehle

12 Noon Bonnie Jackson-3rd Anniversary

7:30 PM Fred DePhillips

THURSDAY, February 18

7:00 AM William Eugene Flavin

12 Noon Donald Ligos

FRIDAY, February 19

7:00 AM Thomas Ryan, Jr.

12 Noon Intentions of the Rosary Society

SATURDAY, February 20

8:00 AM Thomas & Marie F. McGrath

4:00 PM Nunzio Latorre

5:30 PM Whalen, Fahey & Domeico Family

SUNDAY, February 21

CHURCH

7:00 AM Parishioners of the Parish

9:30 AM Deceased Members of the Rivera & Liberante Family

11:15 AM Ines Jacullo

HALL

8:00 AM Neil Craig

10:00 AM Bernice Coleman

12 Noon Christine Palmer

5:00 PM Alice Petrozelli

There is a second collection this weekend in support of our regional Catholic high school, Immaculate High School, in Danbury. Thank you for your support.

PLEASE NOTE: On President's Day, Monday, February 15, there will be only one Mass at 9:00 am.

The Parish and Religious Education Offices, as well as St. Mary School will be closed.



ASH WEDNESDAY is February 17. Ashes will be distributed at the 7 AM, 9 AM, 12 Noon, and 7:30 PM Masses. There will also be a Liturgy of the Word and distribution of Ashes at 4:15 PM in the Church.

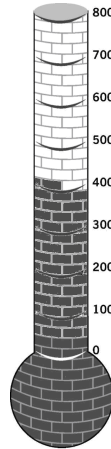
STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be held each Friday evening in Lent at 7:30 PM in the Church.



GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

Last week's regular collection (02/07/10) \$22,781
Last year's regular collection (02/08/09) \$21,125

FROM THE PASTOR: "How do you express your love for God? Some of the ways of expressing love are by giving and by serving joyfully!"



BRICK AND A PRAYER

...A Gift That Will Last

The **THIRD** phase of bricks has been installed! Orders are now being accepted for our next phase. If you haven't done so already and would like to order a brick, order forms are available in our Bulletin, or can be downloaded from our Parish website.

ST. MARY MOTHERS' CLUB



New Membership

The Saint Mary Mothers' Club is welcoming new members. Registration forms are available at the Parish Office as well as in our Parish Hall and Church. For more information please contact Sarah Sullivan at 438-2868 or sarahpsullivan@comcast.net.

Please remember our sick in your prayers;



Cynthia Boas, Allison Donnelly, Drew Glaser, Anne Marie Knox, Catherine Lockfort, Robert Murphy, Jr, Joy Puccio, Scott Stoveken, Jack Sullivan and Lisa Talia. (To respect the individual's privacy, only immediate family members may ask to add someone to our prayer list. Individuals will be removed bi-weekly unless the office is otherwise notified. Thank you.)

CATHOLIC ACTION

"Only if I serve my neighbor can my eyes be opened to what God does for me and how much He Loves me." -*Benedict XVI*

DONATE: Food for Needy Families **Ongoing**

The Knights of Columbus will collect non-perishable food items every Sunday and take it to needy families in our sister parish, St. Peter's in Bridgeport. Please place canned or boxed food in collection bins in the back of the Church or Parish Hall. The food donations will be brought up in Fair Trade baskets during the Offertory. Thank you for your generosity.

DONATE: Baby Formula **BY Feb 15**

St. Mary Mothers' Club will be collecting baby formula for the babies of Jacmel, Haiti. Liquid formula AND powder formula are needed. The formula will be delivered directly to Jacmel, a town greatly impacted by the earthquake. This collection is SMMC's part of the greater town effort, Ridgefield Responds: Help Jacmel, Haiti (www.ridgefieldresponds.org). If you can donate formula or would like to get involved with Ridgefield Responds, please email Kathleen Reidy at kathleen.reidy3@comcast.net. THANK YOU!

PRAY: Midnight Run **Date: Feb. 19**

Needed items are hooded sweatshirts, heavy jackets, jeans, new underwear (M-XL), thermals, socks, blankets, sleeping bags, backpacks, lightly used sneakers and shoes, warm hats, gloves, scarves and toothbrushes. Collection begins at the Barn from 7:30 A.M. to 3 P.M. February 12-17. Volunteers are needed to sort and fold clothing, pick up and return the van and to go on the Run itself. For more information call Elma or Jim Stoveken at (203) 894-1341.

DONATE: Sample Size Toiletry Items **BY Feb 21**

Mr. Belfanti's One:Eight Confirmation Class will be doing a Morning Run (a Sunday morning version of the Midnight Run) on 2/21/2010. Sample/Travel Size toiletry items are needed for the homeless served by this program. Sample/Travel Size shampoos, soaps, toothbrushes, toothpaste, hand/ body lotion and razors can be placed in a marked box in the Religious Education Office. Thank you for remembering the homeless during these cold winter months!

PRAY: Dorothy Day Hospitality House **Date: On-going**

Dorothy Day Hospitality House is located in Danbury and serves hot meals and sandwiches in a restaurant setting to those in need. St. Mary's Parish volunteers work at the kitchen on the third Sunday of every month and typically serve over 160 hot meals and distribute more than 60 bag lunches to the hungry.

St. Thomas More Church invites you to a lively evening with Fr. James Martin, SJ on **Thursday, February 25 at 7:00pm**. In his talk, "**BECOME A SAINT (in Less Than an Hour!)**", Fr. Martin will show us how to discover both holiness and happiness in our daily lives. Fr. Martin is a Jesuit priest and author of the bestseller *My Life with the Saints*. Don't miss this inspiring presentation! Come at 7pm for refreshments, 7:30 for talk in the STM Parish Ed. Center, 374 Middlesex Rd., Darien. Snow date is Thurs. March 4 at 7pm. There is no charge for this event, but donations are welcome. For more information, go to www.stmdarienct.org.



Registration for all ****SUMMER TRIPS**** will remain open through this Sunday night. High schoolers interested in any of the following experiences can contact Laura @ ldanner@smcr.org or 203-438-2394 for more info ASAP. NO registrations will be accepted after this weekend. Registered participants & parents should plan to attend **the first prep session** this Tuesday, Feb 16th @ 7:30pm in the Hall!

CALENDAR

Sun, Feb 14– **Life Night: Veritas/dating** 6pm @ Hall
Tues, Feb 16– **Summer Mission Mtg** 7:30pm @ Hall
Wed, Feb 17– **Morning Prayer** 7:10am @ RHS Choir Rm
Wed, Feb 17– **Ash Wed. Masses** @ 7am, noon & 7:30pm
Sat, Feb 20– **Coffeehouse w/Lamont Heibert** 7:30pm
@ Danbury
Sun, Feb 21– **Parent Meet & Greet** 3-5pm @ Barn
Sun, Feb 21– **Parent Life: Prayer Night** 6pm @ Hall

PARENT LIFE

ALL parents of high schoolers are invited to a Meet & Greet next Sunday, Feb 21st from 3-5pm @ the parish Barn. It'll be right before LT Mass— and there's a Parent Life night that night too, so hopefully you can plan to block the evening out to be spent here! See bulletin insert for details.

The **Disciples 4 Life adult retreat** is coming up in March (12-14). This is a great energizer for anyone's spiritual life, a great community builder, and coming as it does in the mist of Lent, a great preparation for Easter! Forms are available in the bulletin this weekend. Hope you'll consider it!

Lord, I just want to say **THANK YOU**, because this morning I woke up and knew where my children were. Because this morning my home was still standing, because this morning I am not crying because my husband, my child, my brother or sister needs to be buried out from underneath a pile of concrete, because this morning I was able to drink a glass of water, because this morning I was able to turn on the light, because this morning I was able to take a shower, because this morning I was not planning a funeral, but most of all I thank you this morning because I still have life and a voice to cry out for the people of Haiti.

Lord I cry out to you, the one that makes the impossible, possible, the one that turns darkness in to light, I cry out that you give those mothers strength, that you give them peace that surpasses all understanding, that you may open the streets so that help can come, that you may provide doctors, nurses, food, water, and all that they need in a blink of an eye. For all those that have lost family members, give them peace, give them hope, give them courage to continue to go on! Protect the children and shield them with your power. I pray all this in the name of Jesus.

To all my friends please continue to forward this so that we can pray together for the people in Haiti. Thank you Father, for your daily blessings.

Saint Mary School
 Preschool through Grade Eight
Faith in Every Student



Saint Mary Preschool will be holding an Open House on Saturday, March 13th from 10-12pm. We invite you to visit and learn about our half-day and full-day programs. We provide exciting learning programs and techniques in state-of-the-art classrooms for three, four, and five year- olds! **Saint Mary Middle School will be holding an Open House on Saturday, March 27th, from 10-12pm.** Come learn about the programs available to students entering our Middle School (grades 6-8). We are committed to meeting the specific needs of all middle school students by offering a challenging curriculum that is designed to promote intellectual and spiritual growth, while building confidence. *To learn more, please contact Paula King, Director of Admissions, at 203.438.7288 extension 239 or, visit our website at: www.smsridgefield.org*



Congratulations to Andrew Ostrosky, an eighth grade student at Saint Mary School. Andrew was selected to receive the **St. Thomas Aquinas Award** for academic excellence as well as exemplifying the Gospel Values. Presentation of the award was made by The Most Reverend Bishop William E. Lori, as part of the Diocese of Bridgeport's "Breakfast of Champions" ceremony on January 27th.



On Friday January 29th, Saint Mary School held our annual **Father-Daughter Dance**. It was a memorable night filled with music, dancing, laughter, and delicious food!



Heritage Night at Saint Mary School was terrific! Our eighth grade class, guided by Social Studies teacher Donna Montaldo, was mesmerizing as students told of the journey their ancestors. These stories were interwoven with accounts of present day family traditions and student performed skits.

CURSILLO RETREAT

"Cursillos in Christianity" literally translated means a short course in Christianity. It lasts 3 days and takes place at the Seton Neumann Retreat House on the campus of Immaculate High School, Danbury. Any sponsored adult over the age of 21 may make a Cursillo. In addition to hearing speakers, the Cursillo candidate will celebrate the sacraments throughout the weekend. Upcoming retreat: Men's weekend: March 18-21. What does the Cursillo do? For more info, contact: Jerry Lilore at 203-837-6327 or George Schuster at 203-438-3280.

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

"When you look over at the person next to you and see someone who is 35 or younger, remember that in between you stands the ghost of a missing generation. About a third of your generation is gone, lost in the holocaust of abortion." Congressman Steve King of Iowa: 1-22-08

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

X means **1 or 2** adorers are **needed**.
 Blank boxes mean **there are 2** or more adorers.

	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
12M-1am		X	X	X	X	X	X
1am-2am	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2am-3am	X	X		X	X	X	X
3am-4am	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4am-5am	X	X	X	X	X		X
5am-6am	X	X					X
6am-7am	X	X	X		X		X
7am-8am	X		X		X	X	X
8am-9am							
9am-10am	X	X		X	X	X	X
10am-11am	X	X				X	
11am-12N	X	X			X		X
12N-1pm	X		X	X	X	X	X
1pm-2pm	X	X				X	X
2pm-3pm	X	X	X	X		X	
3pm-4pm	X	X			X	X	X
4pm-5pm	X					X	X
5pm-6pm	X			X	X		X
6pm-7pm	X				X	X	X
7pm-8pm	X			X		X	X
8pm-9pm				X		X	X
9pm-10pm	X					X	X
10pm-11pm		X	X	X		X	X
11pm-12M			X		X	X	

This coming week, Ash Wednesday will begin the Lenten Season. Let us do something special for Jesus this year. Sign up for an hour as a regular or substitute adoror or visit Him in the Adoration Chapel. Bringing Jesus more deeply into our lives is a joy beyond all telling. To sign up, please call Bill or Monica @ 914-533-2832. God bless you all.

Tuesday 1-2 am
 Wednesday 3-4 am, 9-10 am, 7-8 pm
 Thursday 1-2 am
 Friday 9-10 am, 2-3 pm, 10-11 pm

EVERY Thursday evening, 7-9:00 pm, in the Adoration Chapel, the Chaplet of Mercy, 7 Sorrows of Our Blessed Mother and 15 decades of the Rosary are sung and prayed. Please join us!

MC-M SAINT MARY PARISH MEN'S MINISTRY

Gain strength from sharing thoughts, prayers, experiences, and fellowship with other men of our Parish. Do a good thing for Lent and try out our Men's Ministry for 6 weeks. A more peaceful and thoughtful life could be the result. Join the roughly 70 men who gather together on Saturday mornings in our Parish Hall from 6:30-8am (a time slot that works and doesn't interfere with other family activities). You will be spiritually nourished. There is no further obligation. Put us on your schedule and come again when you can. Visit StMMM.org to find out more.



THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS is the largest Catholic lay organization in the world. The Order enables Catholic men, 18 years and older to become closer to their family, strengthen their faith, and give back to their community. All adult men are invited to join us. For more information please contact Tim O'Connell at 203-545-3027 or Tony Saia at 431-0203. www.KofC245.org

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THANK YOU!(