

Each year, several hundred thousand people from all over the nation gather in Washington, D.C. for the annual **MARCH FOR LIFE**. Although the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision is January 22, this year's march is on Thursday, January 22, 2015. As we have the past several years, **St. Mary's is sponsoring a coach bus from Port Jervis to the nation's capital for the March**. Mass will be celebrated at 4:30am; the bus will leave at 5:00am. The cost is \$40 per person.



A group of ladies of the parish has begun a **SOCIAL AND ACTIVITY NIGHT** in the church hall, and invites any ladies who are interested to join them. They meet on the first and third Mondays of the month from 5:30 to 8:30pm. They gather to share their talents and learn new ideas from others. Bring your knitting, crafts, scrap booking, etc., to show others, or bring a favorite game to play. For more information, please call Ann Ponds at 856-5691.

In conjunction with the March for Life, we invite all parishioners to undertake some act of penance the day of the March, and to **LIGHT A CANDLE FOR LIFE** the night of January 22, and to place it in a prominent window in your home. The purpose is to provide a visible symbol of the community's remembrance of the unborn children who have lost their lives since 1973, as well as all who have been victimized by abortion. These lights serve as a sign of hope as we continue to work toward a genuine and lasting Culture of Life.

In celebration of Catholic Schools Week, **St. Mary's Little Lambs** invites current, prospective, and alumni families to an **OPEN HOUSE** on Wednesday, January 28 from 5:00 to 7:00pm (snow date is February 4). Visit classrooms, meet with staff, shop our Scholastic Book Fair, and see how Little Lambs is raising standards in Catholic education. For more information, call or e-mail us (858-4208; littlelambs@stmarysportjervis.com).

Dear Parishioners,

There are several things I had planned to address in this space in the new year, but circumstances dictate that most of them be consigned to that place where good intentions enjoy their happy reward. Nevertheless, there is one matter which ought to be addressed, and it would be unfair for me to leave it to my successor. It's the financial state of the parish.

From the time I arrived here a little over seven years ago until relatively recently, our weekly collections were somewhere near the \$6,000 mark. This income, coupled with that from fundraisers like the breakfast, the bulletin, and the lottery, enabled us to meet all of our financial obligation on time and allowed us to make regular improvements to the physical plant. In addition, we were routinely able to put money into savings, from which we have undertaken quite a few capital projects (e.g., boilers, windows, sealing of the parking lot, sound system repairs), without having to resort to emergency appeals or campaigns. The parish also supported Little Lambs until it reached the point where it paid for itself.

Those who closely watch the collection report in the bulletin will have noted a drop of anywhere from \$1,000 to \$1,500 a week over the last year or eighteen months. I can suggest a few reasons for this:

- The reduction from three to two Masses on Sunday morning. Those who didn't like the change, no matter how necessary or clearly-articulated it was, have either lowered their contributions, stopped giving entirely, or gone elsewhere.
- We have lost a substantial number of generous givers to death in that time. Others have moved out of the area.
- Money is still tight, no matter what the economic forecasters say, and "charitable giving" is usually one of the first casualties.

There are probably other reasons, but these are the ones that come to mind.

There is an additional consideration, and it's been my biggest frustration: despite our best efforts, a few families just don't come to Mass, come sporadically, or appear only when they need something. In addition to missing the graces of the Eucharist, they're not supporting the parish. Everyone rightly expects the church to be open and available for baptisms, weddings, funerals, etc., but that's only possible with consistent and reasonable financial support. Many, many of our parishioners are very generous to the parish, but they can't be expected to carry the load for those who give nothing. In short, everyone has something to give, but not everyone is giving.

In all likelihood, your new priest will have to undertake an increased giving campaign within the next year (every parish in the archdiocese is under the same mandate). We're certainly not overstaffed, we've made many, many cuts in operating expenses, and St. Mary's is a large plant to operate, but there are a lot of good things happening here. That will continue, but only if everyone does what they're able to make it so.

Faithfully your priest,
Fr. George Hafemann

COURT MADONNA #114 (Catholic Daughters of the Americas) will meet this Tuesday, January 13 at 7:00pm in the church hall.

F.A.I.T.H. is having a **FAMILY FUN NIGHT** this Friday, January 16. The evening includes a pot luck dinner, games and a movie! Bring a covered dish (or two) to share. Our movie will be E.T. We will meet in the church hall at 5:30pm; the movie will begin by 6:45.

We would like to recycle the **advent wreath rings**. Please place them in the bins in the narthex by the weekend of January 24/25.

Save The Dates!

Our **LENTEN EVENT** is scheduled for Saturday, February 7 from 12:30 to 3:30pm.

The annual **FISH FRY** is on Friday, March 20! We are in need of volunteers for the fish fry. Please email Danielle Legato at faith@stmarysportjervis.com if you can help.

Court Madonna's annual TRICKY TRAY is next Sunday, January 18, 2015. The doors open at noon; calling begins at 2:00pm. Tickets are 25 for \$1; all proceeds benefit the Court's scholarship fund. For more information, please call Barbara Drew at 856-2624 or Joyce Klimkiewicz at 856-8875.

We're pleased to announce a **FUNDRAISER FOR ST. MARY'S**, which will benefit our parishioners as well as the parish. We are embarking on a partnership with a national wellness company that offers a wide variety of consumable products at economical prices. The parish receives a commission on all purchases made. We will be offering one-hour presentations to explain the program and enroll families/individuals with this company. We invite everyone to participate; therefore, please make an effort to attend one of the presentations in the next few months.

Sr. Cathy Crowley, CND, the director of pastoral care at Bon Secours Community Hospital, is seeking **VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST WITH PASTORAL CARE**, especially in St. Joseph's Place. There will be seven weeks of training in ministry to the sick at 2:00pm on Thursdays. If interested, or if you'd like more information, please call Sr. Cathy at 845-422-1065 anytime from Monday to Friday. Thank you!

The collection for January 3/4 was \$5115.50.
Thank you for your continued generosity.

ANNOUNCED MASSES

Monday, January 12

9:00am Margaret Fuller, by Marion Rohner
Thomas La Grutta, by Diane Stierle

Tuesday, January 13 (Hilary, bishop and doctor of the Church)

9:00am Alice Prisco, by Bill and Catherine Simons

Thursday, January 15

9:00am Joseph Viserta, by Lorraine Corso Czarnetzki and Sheila Connelly Volker

Friday, January 16

9:00am Jeanne Margaret Stevens, by John and Marie Kimberlin
John Onuschak, by Catherine Westfall

Saturday, January 17

4:00pm John Oliver, by the family

Sunday, January 18

8:30am In thanksgiving to the Blessed Mother, St. Anthony, and St. Jude, by Tony Capra
11:30am the parishioners of St. Mary's

www.stmarysportjervis.com
www.nypriest.com

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Ida Lissner, Joann Wilcox, Jonathan Saletto, Marion Rohner, Nick Moscatiello, Andrea Fedoruk, Richard Samek, Betty Brennan, Joe Brennan, Angela Portella, Mike Castle, Walter Szpakowicz, Danielle Scibek, Pauline Portella, John McKean, Katie Onofry, John Launt, Theresa Fuller, David Drasba, Jeremiah Stasilli, Daniel Bonet, Maureen Hildrbrandt, Joseph Portella, Catherine Simons, Mary Platania, Vada Glass, Donald Wolff, Michael Barnes, William Linclon, Joseph Livingston, Jeff Sauschuck, Bernard Clune, Amanda Evelech, Anna Onuschak, Joseph Kham, Andrew Witkowski, Jackie Mundy, Makara Craig, Barbara Nachand, Betty Corcoran, Allen Van Starrex, Carol Wittine, Anne-Marie Rodriguez, and Agnes Murray.

Sick List Update

Please maintain/add the following name(s) to the sick list for the next two months:

Please return to the parish office
by Monday, January 12, 2015.

Liturgical Ministers for January 17/18, 2015

MASS	LECTOR	MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION	ALTAR SERVERS
4:00PM	L. AVELLA	A. WITKOWSKI, K. FLYNN, J. FLYNN	V. WITKOWSKI, E. WITKOWKI, K. CULLENY
8:30AM	T. WEBB	A.L. STASILLI, W. CARMODY, T. CALVARIO, E. DECKER	T. LAMOREAUX, N. WEBB, A. WEBB
11:30AM	D. COTUGNO	B. DENNINGTON, D. KAVANAGH, H. MARINARO	A. COLLADO, R. COLLADO, J. ENNIS