

JMJ

Dear Parishioners,

This week we will focus on incense, since we used it during the Christmas Season. The word “incense” is derived from the Latin *incendere*, which means “to burn”. It is commonly used as a noun to describe aromatic matter that releases fragrant smoke when ignited, to describe the smoke itself, and as a verb to describe the process of distributing the smoke.

Incense was a highly valuable commodity in ancient times. A gift of incense was something to be prized. The use of incense in religious worship predates Christianity by thousands of years. First in the East (circa 2000 BC in China with the burning of cassia and sandalwood, etc.), and later in the West, incense use has long been an integral part of many religious celebrations. Incense is noted in the Talmud, and the Bible mentions incense 170 times. The use of incense in Jewish temple worship continued well after the establishment of Christianity and certainly influenced the Catholic Church’s use of incense in liturgical celebrations.

Why do we use incense?

In the Old Testament God commanded His people to burn incense. Incense is a sacramental used to venerate, bless, and sanctify. Its smoke conveys a sense of mystery and awe. It is a reminder of the sweet-smelling presence of our Lord. Its use adds a feeling of solemnity to the Mass. The visual imagery of the smoke and the smell reinforce the transcendence of the Mass linking Heaven with Earth, allowing us to enter into the presence of God. The smoke symbolizes the burning zeal of faith that should consume all Christians, while the fragrance symbolizes Christian virtue.

Incense and the smoke of burning incense have been offered as gifts to God and to others since ancient times. In a more practical visual sense as the fragrant smoke ascends it also symbolizes our prayers rising to heaven.

How is incense used in the Mass?

The GIRM provides instruction for the use of incense during the celebration of the Mass as follows:

§ 277 The priest, having put incense into the thurible, blesses it with the sign of the Cross, without saying anything.

Before and after an incensation, a profound bow is made to the person or object that is incensed, except for the incensation of the altar and the offerings for the Sacrifice of the Mass.

Three swings of the thurible are used to incense: the Most Blessed Sacrament, a relic of the Holy Cross and images of the Lord exposed for public veneration, the offerings for the Sacrifice of the Mass, the altar cross, the Book of the Gospels, the paschal candle, the Priest, and the people.

Two swings of the thurible are used to incense relics and images of the Saints exposed for public veneration; this should be done, however, only at the beginning of the celebration, following the incensation of the altar.

The altar is incensed with single swings of the thurible in this way:

- a) if the altar is freestanding with respect to the wall, the Priest incenses walking around it;
- b) if the altar is not freestanding, the Priest incenses it while walking first to the right hand side, then to the left.

The cross, if situated on the altar or near it, is incensed by the Priest before he incenses the altar; otherwise, he incenses it when he passes in front of it.

The Priest incenses the offerings with three swings of the thurible or by making the Sign of the Cross over the offerings with the thurible before going on to incense the cross and the altar.

Where is incense used in the Mass?

Similarly, GIRM 276 allows for the use of incense at the following times during the celebration of Mass:

§ 276 Thurification or incensation is an expression of reverence and of prayer, as is signified in Sacred Scripture (cf. Ps 141 [140]:2; Rev 8:3).

Incense may be used optionally in any form of Mass:

- a) during the Entrance Procession;
- b) at the beginning of Mass, to incense the cross and the altar;
- c) at the procession before the Gospel and the proclamation of the Gospel itself;
- d) after the bread and the chalice have been placed on the altar, to incense the offerings, the cross, and the altar, as well as the Priest and the people;
- e) at the elevation of the host and the chalice after the Consecration.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Newcomb

Join us next Sunday, January 29th for the All You Can Eat Breakfast in the church hall.

We will have a bus to Washington, DC on January 27th. The cost is \$40 per person or \$75 per family. Mass will be held at 4:30am and the bus will leave promptly at 5am. For more information contact Nancy Smith 845-856-4610.

In celebration of Catholic School Week, *St. Mary's Little Lambs* Early Childhood Learning Center in Port Jervis invites current, prospective, and alumni families to attend an Open House on Mon. Jan. 30 from 5-7pm (Snow date Mon., Feb. 6). Visit classrooms, meet with staff, shop our Scholastic Book Fair, and learn how Little Lambs is raising standards in Catholic education. Little Lambs will begin accepting registrations for the 2017-18 school year at Open House. For more information, parents of prospective students are encouraged to contact director Eileen Carmody at 845-858-4208 or littlelambs@stmarysportjervis.com



F.A.I.T.H. is hosting a Double Feature Movie Day Saturday, February 11th Doors Open at 12:00 p.m. Showtime 12:30 p.m.

Drinks and movie popcorn will be provided Kindly RSVP by Wednesday, February 8th daninyg89@frontiernet.net Please include the number of people

Fat Friday Fun

All children in grades 5 through 8 are invited to join the members of **G.E.M.S.** on Friday, February 24th from 5pm until 7pm in the church hall. We will have a pizza party, activities, and video games for all to enjoy. Come learn about our youth group while having fun. Please call the parish office for more information and to RSVP by February 17th. Confirmation children that attend will get credit for church hours.



Fr. Newcomb will be having discussions on Symbolon Part II in the Parish Office Building in the Saint Peter and Saint Paul Meeting Room @ 6:30pm the following Mondays:

13 February Session 1: The Sacraments **20 February** Session 2: The Eucharist **27 February** Session 3: Walk through the Mass **6 March** Session 4: Penance & Anointing of the Sick **13 March** Session 5: Matrimony & Holy Orders **27 March** Session 6: A Catholic Moral Vision **3 April** Session 7: A Love that Lasts **17 April** Session 8: A Love that Lasts **24 April** Session 9: Catholic Social Teaching **1 May** Session 10: Catholic Social Teaching

ANNOUNCED MASSES

Monday, January 23 (Vincent, deacon and martyr, Marianne Cope, virgin)

9:00am Dennis Simmons, by Nancy Smith
Healing Intentions of Laney Carnahan, by Hannelore Kucher

Tuesday, January 24 (Francis de Sales, bishop and martyr of the Church)

9:00am Frank Semerano, by Pete and Linda Kowal

Wednesday, January 25 (Conversion of Paul the apostle)

9:00am Violeta Smadbeck, by Dr. Jane Brooks

Thursday, January 26 (Timothy and Titus, bishops)

9:00am James and Marion Rohner, by Jim and family

Saturday, January 28 (Thomas Aquinas, priest and doctor of the Church)

4:00pm The parishioners of St. Mary's
Robert Ritchie, by Dick and Barbara Drew

Sunday, January 29

8:30am Robert Ritchie, by Jim and Laura Lincoln

11:30am Dennis Simmons, by Antony and Debbie Di Toto

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Joann Wilcox, Nick Moscattello, Jackie Mundy, Theresa Fuller, Donald Wolff, Walter Szpakowicz, Frances Brennan, Jose Ramos, Aedan Roach, Jim Roach, Robyn Radzikowski, Joseph Brennan, Betty Brennan, Richard Samek, Sandy Osbourne, John McKeon, William Lincoln, Michael Barnes, Jeanine Lincoln, Mary Platania, Angela Grillo, Ruth Lewis, Anthony Medaglia, Maureen Hildebrandt, Robert Cinerar, Andrea Fedoruk, Angela Portella, Pauline Portella, Steve Wilkinson, Grace Maillet, Joseph Cox, William Gaide, Jacqueline Hamilton, Ashley Avella, Christina Greeves, Amelia Quinn, Marianne Ripel, Joseph Livingston, Donna Bancala, Teddy Mead, Pat Arnold, Angela Lillo, Pat Muller, Debi Cotugno, Tom Earley, Conner McHugh, Bobby Fett, Sue Arnold, Dennis Perrin, Josephine Fiorillo, Carol Tufano, Jacqueline Leggett, David M. Phillips, Laney Carnahan, Elizabeth Startup Jones, Michael Costescu, Lisa Baisley, Scott Smith, and Jim Muller.

Banns of Marriage

David Martz III



Kristen Gaesser

The collection for January 14/15 was \$5,206.50
Thank you for your continued generosity.

Liturgical Ministers for January 28/29, 2017

MASS	LECTOR	MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION	ALTAR SERVERS
4:00PM	D. LEGATO	W. PONDS, J. FLYNN, J. SNELLINGER	J. AND J. LEGATO, J. MARCONE
8:30AM	M. LATINI	A. WITKOWSKI, S. RIORDAN	V., E., AND A. WITKOWSKI
11:30AM	H. MARINARO	M. ADAMCIK, N. SMITH, B. DENNINGTON, T. MARION	Z. ADAMCIK, S. BHIKARRY, J. EDWARDS, R. TORRES