

*JMJ*

Dear Parishioners,

I would like to share this article that I found which I think is important to reflect upon by Sean Fitzpatrick.

Pornography, and the rampant accessibility to it, degrades dignity and even divinity itself to a young mind, rendering beauty a dirty thing—nothing to take seriously, nothing to respect, and nothing to wonder over. For this fact alone, pornography and education are antithetical. Education rejoices in truth; pornography revels in falsehood. Education draws people out of themselves; pornography drags them within. Education is about permanent things; pornography is about disposable things. Education delights; pornography dominates.

Pornography is among the deadliest enemies of education nowadays for it distracts and dulls the soul's faculties to regard, to receive, to retain, and to rejoice in the realities of goodness, truth, and beauty in a mode preliminary to wisdom. As a chimera, pornography is inimical to reality, and therefore to education, creating a barrier to perception by inhibiting wonder which, as Socrates taught, is the beginning of wisdom. Pornography breeds indifference to beauty, robbing people of their ability to be awed or to find pleasure in the beautiful, and hence in the good and the true.

Though pornography is all about the perversion of sex, wonder is obviously not particularly about sex at all. The educational issue at hand is that pornography attacks a specific and powerful window of wonder whose closing can cause the closure of many other windows. If sex is no longer sacred, what thing of beauty is? If intimacy is reduced to objectification and self-gratification, what hope is there for heroism, or sunsets, or a butterfly? If all is grinding noise, how will God come through in the grand silence?

The age of wonder is the target for the multi-billion-dollar porn industry. The sooner the abnormal is normalized and the senses desensitized, the better for its coffers and contrivances. The current average age that a child first encounters pornography is 12 years old. Filterless filth is always a click away, and its devices and baited lures are in the hands and before the eyes of children.

According to some statistics, at this very moment there are nearly 30,000 people looking at pornography on the Internet. They are among the 40 million Americans who access pornography frequently, 200,000 of whom are addicts. To suppose that people, especially young people, even from solid families, are not exposed to pornography in some form or another is, unfortunately, naïve. The presence of pornography is a given, as it is widespread, strategic, and insidious. That is the reality that must be faced before it can be fought—and one of the major battlefields is education.

Spoiled spirits, succumbing to a wonder-less world, are not very susceptible to formation, crippled as they are by eroticism, cynicism, hedonism, relativism, nihilism, and a host of other infernal "isms" that contribute to a defiled innocence with dread purpose, for the innocence proper to certain years of life is a vital factor in education, especially if that education is guided by the classical and Catholic pedagogy of wonder.

As it closes windows of wonder, pornography opens backdoors to child predators, chatroom stalkers, and other cyber threats. Even so, the windows remain closed. Though widely acknowledged as a health and safety concern, and often cited as a contributing factor in marital infidelity and divorce, pornography remains popular and shall be as long as an attentive intellect remains unpopular.

Youth longs for meaning in education, for wide-open windows that let in light and air. Yet the demeaning barriers that pornography promotes and pushes puts them at risk of never finding their way out of the cave of shadows, out of virtual reality, out of fantasy, and into the bright, beautiful world that God made good: a meaningful world filled with truths and mysteries where He can be found and where He can give fulfillment. All we must do is open windows of wonder.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
*Father Newcomb*

*The second collection next weekend will be for the Father's Day Novena.*



This weekend is the **Bakeless Bake Sale** to benefit our Respect Life committee projects. Please see the insert in the bulletin.

*The Tri-State Pregnancy Center would like to thank everyone for the Baby Shower gifts.*

The religious education program is currently accepting registrations for the 2018-2019 school year.

**Early bird registration ends June 14th.**

Our current pledges for ***Renew & Rebuild*** is at \$460,000! Our Archdiocesan goal is \$605,000.

***The Cardinal's Appeal Campaign*** is still ongoing. \$17, 226 has been pledged of our parish goal which is \$38,000.

Daniel Bradley is completing his Eagle Project (Troop 173) sending 50 "care packages" to soldiers overseas. For more information and to donate, please contact Dan Bradley 845-820-0241.



St. Mary's Little Lambs is accepting registrations for the 2018-2019 school year. There are limited spaces for the PREK-4 program, and various slots available for the PREK-3 program. Please contact: Eileen Carmody, Director (845) 858-4208 to schedule an appointment or to register.

Remember the Archdiocese of New York or St. Mary's in your will. If you would like to speak to a gift planning specialist about how to include St. Mary's in your will or living trust, call (646) 794-3317 or email [plannedgiving@archny.org](mailto:plannedgiving@archny.org).

The collection for June 2/3, 2018 was \$5,325.50  
Thank you for your continued generosity.

## ANNOUNCED MASSES

**Monday, June 11 (Barnabas, apostle)**  
9:00am Anne Dwyer, by Sharon, Maureen, Barbara, and Dan Ray McCarthy, by Ellen McCarthy

**Tuesday, June 12**  
9:00am Elizabeth Hinkley, by Barbara and Dick Drew

**Wednesday, June 13 (Anthony of Padua, priest and doctor of the Church)**  
9:00am Joseph John Di Toto, by Mom and family

**Thursday, June 14**  
9:00am Intentions of Agnes Devore, by Toni Marion

**Saturday, June 16**  
4:00pm The parishioners of St. Mary's

**Sunday, June 17**  
8:30am All fathers, living and deceased  
11:30am All fathers, living and deceased



***The Sanctuary Lamp will burn brightly this week in the Church, in memory of Joseph Piccolo, Jr., by Pat and Mike Fannery***



***The Sanctuary Lamp will burn brightly this week in the Chapel, in memory of Susan and Elizabeth Hinkley, by Dick and Barbara Drew.***

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Joann Wilcox, Jackie Mundy, Theresa Fuller, Donald Wolff, Sue Fitzsimmons, Barbara Straub, Robert Cinerar, Sandy Osbourne, Theresa Kavanagh, John McKean, William Lincoln, Jeanine Lincoln, Michael Barnes, Elizabeth Brennan, Walter Szpakowicz, Frances Brennan, Andrea Fedoruk, Jose Ramos, Carmen Ramos, Mercedes Rodriguez, Elizabeth Startup Jones, Thomas Davies, Pat Arnold, William Gaide, Sue Arnold, Steve Wilkinson, William Thomas, Maureen Hildebrandt, Charles Hildebrandt, Aedan Roach, James Roach, Robin Radzikowski, Dotty Lynch, Jesse G Smith, Marge Evans, Kaitlyn Smith, Jerome Smith, Joseph Fritts, Patricia Meinhold, Susan Upton, Devin Upton, Kathy Drane, Wayne DeMarco, Danielle Devore, Jennifer Utz, Jacqueline Hamilton, Tonya Cannon, Ryan O'Connor, Peter Billman, Helen Andreano, Tito Rivera, Maryann Gasko, Chris Marion III, Carson Fuller, Neil Stasilli, Debi Cotugno, Louis Harford, and Ramonita Irizarry.

### ***Liturgical Ministers for June 16th/17th, 2018***

MASS	LECTOR	MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION	ALTAR SERVERS
4:00PM	D. LEGATO	K. BOBISH, H. ECKES, N. SMITH	J. LEGATO, J. MARCONE
8:30AM	P. CAL	R. BABEY, W. CARMODY	K. CASE, D. GERARDO
11:30AM	M. ESLING	T. MARION, M. ADAMCIK, B. DENNINGTON	Z. ADAMCIK, S. BHIKARRY, DJ PERRIN