

JMJ

Dear Parishioners,

Today, in the liturgy, the Old Testament Reading presents to us the figure of King Solomon, the son and successor of David. It presents him at the beginning of his reign, when he was still very young. Solomon inherited a very demanding task and the responsibility that lay heavily on his shoulders was great for a young king. He first of all offered God a solemn sacrifice, “a thousand burnt offerings”, as the Bible says. Then the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night and promised to grant him what he asked in prayer. And here we see the greatness of Solomon’s soul. He did not ask for a long life, nor wealth, nor the elimination of his enemies; instead he said to the Lord: “Give your servant, therefore, an understanding heart to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong”. And the Lord heard him, so that Solomon became famous throughout the world for his wisdom and his right judgments.

Therefore he prayed God to grant him “an understanding heart”. What do these words mean? We know that the “heart” in the Bible does not only indicate a part of the body, but also the centre of the person, the seat of his intentions and opinions. We might say: the conscience. Thus an “understanding heart” means a conscience that knows how to listen, that is sensitive to the voice of truth and for this reason can discern right from wrong.

In Solomon’s case, the request was motivated by the responsibility of leading a nation, Israel, the people whom God chose to show the world his plan of salvation. The King of Israel, therefore, had to try always to be in tune with God, listening to his word, in order to guide the people on the paths of the Lord, the path of justice and of peace.

However, Solomon’s example is valid for every person. Each one of us has a conscience so as to be, in a certain way, “king”, that is, to exercise the great human dignity of acting in accordance with an upright conscience, doing what is right and avoiding wrong.

The moral conscience presupposes the ability to hear the voice of truth and to be docile to its indications. People who are called to the task of government naturally have a further responsibility and, therefore — as Solomon teaches — are in even greater need of God’s help. Yet each one has his own part to play, in the concrete situation in which he finds himself. An erroneous mentality suggests to us that we ask God for favorable things or conditions; in fact, the true quality of our life and of social life depends on the upright conscience of each one, on the capacity of one and all to recognize right, separating it from wrong and seeking patiently to put it into practice, thereby contributing to justice and to peace.

Let us ask the Virgin Mary, Seat of Wisdom, for help in this. Her “heart” was perfectly docile to the Lord’s will. Even though she was a humble and simple person, Mary was a queen in God’s eyes, and we venerate her as such. May the Blessed Virgin help us to form in ourselves, with God’s grace, a conscience ever open to the truth and sensitive to justice, to serve the Kingdom of God.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Newcomb

“The Archdiocese of New York takes stewardship of your donations seriously. If you have knowledge of or reason to suspect misconduct, please report your concerns via a toll-free hotline at 877-820-0541 or on the internet at <http://www.reportlineweb.com/ADNY>. Both are available 24 hours per day.”

***The second collection the weekend of August 8th/9th is for the Church in Africa.
Please give it your prayerful consideration.***

Manny, from Manny's Barber Shop in Port Jervis, is donating his time and talent to those who may need a haircut and not able to afford one.

If you or someone you know needs a **FREE** haircut please call Gina at St. Mary's Church (845) 856-8212 to reserve a time slot. **No "Walk-ins"**. Date: Sunday, August 23rd Time: 10am-3pm. Be sure to arrive at your assigned time and practice proper

Early Registration for the Religious Education will be closing soon. Please mail or bring in forms and payment **BEFORE** July 31st.



If anyone interested in getting Pro-Life "Action Alerts" or interested in joining St. Mary's Respect Life Committee please call Nancy 856-

St. Mary's Little Lambs is now accepting applications for their 3 and 4 year old programs for the Fall registration. *Limited* full-time and half day programs are available. Contact Mary Carver, director (845) 858-4208 or email: littlelambs@stmarysportjervis.com to set up an appointment to tour the school.

We have various Mass Intentions available. If you would like a Mass Intention for a loved one, living or deceased, please contact the parish office.

Congratulations to the June Lottery ticket winners. We are currently selling tickets for the month of August. They are \$10 each and gives you a chance to win multiple times every month. All proceeds go towards Church

ICSM has enrolled with Reflective Energy Solutions (RES) for gas electric supply. All church members, friends & family are also offered the opportunity to save money on energy costs and support our church & the environment all at the same time! ICSM will receive a 1 time upfront payment for ALL Community Solar enrollments & ongoing monthly payments for all gas and/or electric supplier sign-ups based on monthly usage as well as for enrollments in any RES energy programs.

Nexamp, a leading community solar provider, is committed to helping residents save money while being good stewards to the earth. Community solar is an extremely easy way to support local clean energy & save up to 10% on your electricity costs, without installing rooftop solar panels. No catch. No hidden fees. Just a smart way to reduce your electric bills & do right by your home and your community. Please review the attached brochure and contact Miriam Stiefel via phone (201)638-3032 or email: MiriamS@reflectediveES.com if you would like to sign up or have any questions about all the available energy saving

Announced Masses

- Monday, July 27
9:00am William R. McCann, by Linda and Pete Kowal
- Tuesday, July 28
9:00am Intentions of Joshua Sartor, by his Grandparents
- Wednesday, July 29 (Martha)
9:00am Peggy Klotz, by Deacon Rich and Joanne Marino
- Thursday, July 30 (Peter Chrysologus, bishop and doctor of the Church)
9:00am Peggy Klotz, by Dan Kavanagh
- Saturday, August 1
4:00pm Agatha Hearing, by Hannelore Kucher and family
- Sunday, August 2
8:30am Michael McCarthy, by Paul and Diane Hartmann
- 11:30am The parishioners of St. Mary's

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Donald Wolff, Carol Gomillion, David Lisker, Nancy Parsons, Debi Cotugno, Michael Bello, Michael Barnes, William Lincoln, Jeannine Lincoln, James Lincoln, Charles Hildebrandt, Maureen Hildebrandt, Walter Szpakowicz, Carmella Balsamello, Aedan Roach, Robin Radzikowski, James Roach, Catherine Simons, Brendan Carmody, Nico Nicolette, Jaryd Viserta, Steven Gaesser, Kacey Warner, Sandra Ramsey, Lorraine Mannarino, Elizabeth Startup Jones, Mary Lynn Beam, Jose Ramos, Carmen Ramos, Mercedes Rodriguez, Jose Brito, Michael Medaglia, Barbara Straub, Tress Loughrey, Sal Careri, Cody Bain, Robert Witherow, Theresa Fuller, Allen Lynch, Enid Decker, Jackie Mundy, Chris Marion, III, Barbara Lindsay, Robert Ackerman, Wayne DeMarco, Ryan O'Connor, Elizabeth Brennan, Jerri Kavanaugh, Allan Garcia, Christine Habertzettl, Eric Hildebrandt, Rose Gotthardt, Georgia Gotthardt, John Olenick, John Hendrix, Stephen A. Odrechowski and fam., Scott Robertson, Eva Scopino, Jan Kaminski, Ana Anaya, Glenn Lagatol, Ellen Pentland, Shirley Simeone, Belinda Vazquez, Leti-

The Cardinal's Appeal is still ongoing. Our goal is \$34,500. We have received pledges totaling \$18,855 from 94 donors. You can visit Cardinalsappeal.org. All Donations can be mailed directly to : The Cardinal's Appeal PO Box 4020 NY, NY 10261. Our Parish number is 518.

The collection for July 11/12 was \$5,428.
The collection for July 18/19 was \$4,483.
Thank you for your continued generosity.