

JMJ

Dear Parishioners,

While the Advent journey continues, while we prepare to celebrate the Birth of Christ, John the Baptist's appeal for conversion rings out in our communities. It is a pressing invitation to open our hearts to receive the Son of God, who comes among us to make manifest the divine judgement. The Father, writes John the Evangelist, judges no one but has given all judgement to the Son because he is the Son of Man. And it is today, in the present, that our future destiny is being played out. It is our actual conduct in this life that decides our eternal fate. At the end of our days on earth, at the moment of death, we will be evaluated on the basis of our likeness - or lack of it - to the Child who is about to be born in the poor grotto of Bethlehem, because he is the criterion of the measure that God has given to humanity. The Heavenly Father, who expressed his merciful love to us through the birth of his Only-Begotten Son, calls us to follow in his footsteps, making our existence, as he did, a gift of love. And the fruit of love is that fruit which "befits repentance", to which John the Baptist refers while he addresses cutting words to the Pharisees and Sadducees among the crowds who had come for Baptism.

Through the Gospel, John the Baptist continues to speak down the centuries to every generation. His clear, harsh words are particularly salutary for us, men and women of our time, in which the way of living and perceiving Christmas unfortunately all too often suffers the effects of a materialistic mindset. The "voice" of the great prophet asks us to prepare the way of the Lord, who comes in the external and internal wildernesses of today, thirsting for the living water that is Christ. May the Virgin Mary guide us to true conversion of heart, so that we may make the necessary choices to harmonize our mentalities with the Gospel.

The model of listening is the Virgin Mary: "As we contemplate in the Mother of God a life totally shaped by the word, we realize that we too are called to enter into the mystery of faith, whereby Christ comes to dwell in our lives. Every Christian believer, Saint Ambrose reminds us, in some way interiorly conceives and gives birth to the word of God"

Let us ask the Virgin Mary, in whose womb the Son of the Most High dwelled and whom we shall be celebrating this Tuesday, 8 December, on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, our parish feast, to sustain us on this spiritual journey to welcome with faith and with love the coming of the Saviour.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Newcomb

Holy Hour has commenced on Mondays in the Chapel.
Confessions will be heard from 5:30pm until 6:15pm.
Adoration will be from 5:30 pm until 6:30pm.

The 2nd collection next weekend is for the Retired Religious. Please give it your prayerful consideration.



St. Mary's will continue the tradition of providing those in need within our community and neighboring communities with food baskets for Christmas. It has expanded to include additional foods considering children are off from school and normally that is where they get a daily meal. You will find bins in the narthex where you can place non-perishable items or stop by the parish office. Children in the Religious Ed. program are encouraged to bring items to their classrooms.

We are currently in need of mashed potatoes, canned gravy, peanut butter & jelly, macaroni and cheese, canned green beans, carrots, soup, and chef-boy-ar-dee.

We will be collecting turkeys, and hams on Thursday, December 17th from 5 to 6pm by the Church hall.

Thank you in advance.



The 7pm Mass on Dec .8 for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception will be a Solemn High Mass in Latin. Fr. Jean Paul Soler will be the celebrant.



The St. Nicholas Faire is today,
Sunday, December 6th
In the Church hall.
Simplify your Christmas Shopping!



There is a Giving Tree in the Narthex. Please consider making a donation. All donations are split between the Elks Club and the Rotary Club at

St. Mary's Food Pantry is still available to all in our local and area communities. The next date will be Friday, January 8th from 10am until noon. If you or anyone you know is in need of food, please have them come during those times.

40 Days for Life Fall Campaign ended Nov. 1st. Here are the following results of our prayers, fasting and/or physical presence at an abortion facility:
753 lives saved from abortion, 4 abortion workers

We now have a section of St. Mary's Cemetery with new graves available. The following is the fee schedule to obtain the *Right to Burial*:

Single Depth \$1000

Double Depth \$1300

For more information, call Gina at the parish office Monday– Friday 9:30am until 3pm
(845) 856-8212

Payment plans are available.

Upcoming Events at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

Advent Morning of Reflection

Friday, December 4, 2020 - 9:30 - 11:00am
"Awaiting the Promise" with Fr. Tim Ennis, O.Carm.
Cost: \$15pp - conference followed by 11:30am Mass

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Saturday, December 12, 2020 - 12:00noon
Spanish Mass with Fr. Nicholas Blackwell, O.Carm.
Mass collection will be taken.

Feast of St. John of the Cross

Monday, December 14, 2020 - 9:30 - 11:00am
"Lives on Fire: Thomas Merton and St. John of the Cross" with Fr. Jim Hess, O.Carm
Cost: \$15pp - conference followed by 11:30am Feast Day Mass

Please call to make a reservation or visit our website www.ourladyofmtcarmelshrine.com for flyers. Masks are required and space is limited with social distanced pews. Call Carol Bezak, Shrine Director at 845-343-1879 or email cbezak@carmelites.com to reserve a space.

Announced Masses

Monday, December 7 (Ambrose, bishop and doctor of the Church)
9:00am Ed Eckes, by Lefty and Marie Barth
Tuesday, December 8 (Immaculate Conception of the BVM)
9:00am Christine D'Alto, by the D'Alto fam.
7pm Anthony Capra, by the Capra family
Wednesday, December 9 (San Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin)
9:00am Ed Eckes, by Steve and Rosemarie Babey
Thursday, December 10
9:00am Ed Eckes, by Irene Sexton
Saturday, December 12 (Our Lady of Guadalupe)
4:00pm The parishioners of St. Mary's
Sunday, December 13 (Third Sun. of Advent)
8:30am Deceased members of the Knights of Columbus Co. #471
11:30am Paul Davidson, by Larry & Dorothy Lexa



The Sanctuary Lamp will burn brightly this week in memory of Stephen Westfall, by Catherine Westfall.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Debi Cotugno, Michael Bello, Michael Barnes, William Lincoln, Jeannine Lincoln, James Lincoln, Charles Hildebrandt, Maureen Hildebrandt, Walter Szpakowicz, Aedan Roach, Robin Radzikowski, James Roach, John F Flynn, Jr., Catherine Simons, Michael Medaglia, Robert Witherow, Allen Lynch, Enid Decker, Jackie Mundy, Chris Marion, III, Allan Garcia, Eric Hildebrandt, Stephen A. Odrechowski, Scott Robertson, Eva Scopino, Jan Kaminski, Ellen Pentland, Leticia Nuestro, Christina Nuestro, Alice Drew, Catherine Scopino, Amelia Quinn, Tonya Addy, Jackie Hamilton, Brandon Ulrichs, Helen Eckes, Gloria Hicks, Stephanie Gaide, Elizabeth Startup Jones, MaryLynn Beam, Nancy Crumley, Carol Gomillion, David Lisker, Donald Wolff, Carmen Lagatol, Carmen Ramos, Jose Brito, Wayne DeMarco, Carmella Balsamello, & Emogene Bloomer.

The Cardinal's Appeal is still ongoing. Our goal is \$34,500. We have received pledges totaling \$19,080 from 97 donors. You can visit Cardinal-sappeal.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 November 28th/29th was \$3,853.00
Thank you for your continued generosity.