

Dear Parishioners,

We have heard Isaiah's prophesy, "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted... to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor". These words spoken so many centuries ago, ring out, in a very up-to-date way for us too, today, while we are halfway through Advent and already look forward to the great Solemnity of Christmas. These are words that revive hope, that prepare us to welcome the Lord's salvation and announce the inauguration of a season of grace and liberation.

Advent is precisely a time of waiting, of hope and of preparation for the Lord's coming. The figure and preaching of John the Baptist invite us to make this commitment, as we heard in the Gospel that has just been proclaimed. John had withdrawn into the wilderness to live a very austere life and to invite people to conversion, also by the example of his life. He conferred on them a baptism of water, a single rite of penance which distinguished it from the many rites of external purification of the sects of that time.

So who was this man? Who was John the Baptist? The response he himself gave is surprisingly humble. He was not the Messiah, he was not the light. He was neither Elijah come back to the earth nor the great prophet awaited. He was the Forerunner, a simple witness, totally subordinate to the One he proclaimed; a voice in the wilderness, as in our day too, in the wilderness of the great cities of this world, of the great absence of God, we need voices that simply announce to us "God exists. He is always near, even if he seems absent".

John the Baptist was a voice in the wilderness and a witness to the light; and this moves our hearts, for in this world where there are so many shadows, so much darkness, we are all called to be witnesses of light. This is the mission of the Season of Advent itself: to be witnesses of light, and we can only be this if we carry the light within us, if we are not only certain that the light exists, but also that we have seen a ray of light.

In the Church, in God's word, in the celebration of the sacraments, in the Sacrament of Confession with the forgiveness that we receive, in the celebration of the Blessed Eucharist where the Lord gives himself into our hands and hearts, we touch the light and receive this mission: to bear witness today that there is light, and to carry the light in our time.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Newcomb

***The Second Collection this weekend is for the Retired Religious.
Please give it your prayerful consideration.***

The Church will be decorated for Christmas on Sunday, December 20th after the 11:30 Mass. Anyone who would like to help is welcome to come. Please practice proper social distancing and wear masks.

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.

Reconciliation is Monday is tomorrow, December 14th from 4pm to 8pm. Fr. Newcomb and Fr. Csete will be available to hear confessions and Adoration will be in the Church while confessions are being heard. This is a perfect time to prepare during this Advent season to welcome our Lord into our hearts.

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.

There will not be adoration on

Dec. 21st, 28th, and January 4th



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 the Port Jervis High School.

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.

Christmas Masses will be first come, first seated. We are allowed 50% capacity of the Church. The Mass Schedule is 4pm, 10pm Christmas Eve. 10am Christmas Day. Especially for Christmas, kindly wear your mask when entering and exiting the Church. Please do not congregate in the Narthex, so that we can safely and healthily, worship the birth of Our Savior.

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

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.

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 Cardinalsappeal.org. All Donations can be mailed directly to :The Cardinal's Appeal PO Box 4020 NY, NY 10261. Our Parish number is **518**.

Announced Masses

- Monday, December 14(John of the Cross, priest & doctor of the Church)
9:00am Mary Caracciolo, by Agnes and Mary Int. Fr. Jeffrey Maurer, by the Warwick family
Tuesday, December 15
9:00am Anthony S. Adorno, by mom & dad
Wednesday, December 16
9:00am Joseph Kucher, by the Prager family Int. Fr. James Altman, by Warwick fam.
Thursday, December 17
9:00am Christine D'Alto, by her family
Saturday, December 19
4:00pm Joseph Kucher, Jr., by Hannelore Kucher & fam.
Sunday, December 20 (Fourth Sun of Advent)
8:30am The parishioners of St. Mary's
11:30am Celeste Snyder, by the Longwell-



The Sanctuary Lamp will burn brightly this week in memory of MaryAnne Rohner, by Dick and Barbara Drew.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Debi Cotugno, Michael Bello, Michael Barnes, William Lincoln, Jeanine 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, 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, and Michael D'Alto.

Please Maintain/Remove from the Prayer List
Return before December 27th, 2020

The collection for December 5th/6th was \$6,055. Thank you for your continued generosity.