



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. MARY

Dear Parishioner,

Christmas cards remain one of the features of the Christmas season. Each year, someone from overseas will send me a Christmas card that tends to arrive before Thanksgiving Day. A kickback to when all mail was transported by ship or truck. This first card of the season jolts me with the realization that I have not begun to think in terms of Christmas.

I enjoy receiving cards which are too often the only contact I have with a person or family throughout the year. The religious cards with their picture, printed message and written message combine to form an insightful collage about the first Christmas and the insightful reflections of poets, artists and theologians about the meaning of Christmas down the centuries. They form a file of our belief and are an important part of our faith memory.

During the month of December as cards arrive, I open them, read them, and, store them. Some mornings, when I am rushed, I may not give the card, its message and the person who sent it the kind of attentive time that the card and sender deserve. In mid-January I revisit each card and spend quality time with the card and its sender. It is a cozy, warm experience on a chilly January evening as the Christmas season ebbs.

When the Christmas season is over I have difficulty parting with the cards. Sometimes, in the past, I brought them over to the person in charge of activities at St. Mary Nursing Home or gave them to a Religious Education teacher as class props in the classroom.

For the past 36 years as Pastor of St. Mary, St. Joseph, Sea Isle City and Our Lady of the Angels, Cape May Court House, I have had the option of using a canned letter from the envelope company or writing my own message. I have always written my own. Each year we are in a new spiritual space. We have to constantly mine and refine that space. Among other things, life is a faith journey. We are present day Magi traveling in and through faith darkness by the light of The Star. We keep trudging along until, like the Magi of Matthew's gospel, we find Him, are drawn to His Light and the darkness doesn't matter anymore.

“It is the Lord.”

Peace,
Fr. John

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Mass Intentions

Monday January 11, 2010

8:00 AM **Robert F Waite**
by: Ginger and Jack Walsh

Tuesday January 12, 2010

8:00 AM **Karen Campiglia**
by: Ines Palombo

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

8:00 AM **Harry Meeker**
by: Rus and Lee Thurber

Thursday, January 14, 2010

8:00 AM **John J Daneri**
by: Kathleen Rando

Friday, January 15, 2010

8:00 AM **Dr. Anthony G Leone**
by: Wife, Arlene
William Melchionni
by: Patricia and Dave Lord
Thomas Shaw
by: Jack and Mary Byrne
Jeremiah Fallon
by: Michele and Pat Onofrio
Jane Baker
by: Marie Bantivoglio

Saturday January 16, 2010

5:00 PM **Mary Verano**
by: Daughter, Marie

Sunday, January 17, 2010

8:00 AM **Patrick and Mary Ellen McCoy**
by: The Yezzo Family
10:00AM **Soledad Zaratan Soriano**
by: Vicky Peralta and Family
11:30AM **People of the Parish**

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Phil Ardire, Ruben N Alvarez, Anita Alvarez, John & Mary Lou Baird, Tate Balcarek, Marie Bantivoglio, Dolores Bauer, Bruce Beckett, Antionette Bedishian, Elizabeth Belli, Barbara Biehler, Joe Bolam, John Brach, Jim Brady, Walter Burnes, Roger Butler, Mary Byrne, Connie Chiolo, Anthony Ciarroccki, Jimmy Contento, Pam Crocetti, Mary Dalbey, Kayla DeFeo, Frank Dolan, Charles Dumont, Eileen Edwards, Catherine Faccine, Terri Gannon, Brian Geary, Joe Garofalo, Michael Garrity, Colin Patrick Grady, Lucille Gross, Helene Haney, Laurie James, Fred La Rosa, Julie Leonard, Ingrid Lodato, Marge Lubrano, Caitlin Martin, Ann McIlroy, Fred McIlroy, Bruno Melchionni, Blasco Molle, Perfecto Moulic, Michael Piazza, Patty Plunkett, Catherine Potts, Baby Bryanna Ramirez, Jim & Tony Ray, Mary Recupido, Anthony Russo Sr, Joseph Ragusa, Ronald Schoen, Gary Schoen, Michael Sepessy, Marie Smith, Thomas Stinson, Helen Szymczak, Kurt Thurber, Dr Edgar Valle, Jack Waite, Ginger Walsh

LITURGICAL ROLES

for January 16, 2010 and January 17, 2010

Saturday, January 16, 2010

5:00 PM Fr. John and Deacon Welsh
Altar Servers: C Conner, S Damico, M Helfrich
Lectors: C Cirillo, P Esbrandt
Special Ministers of Holy Communion: D Ciancitto, B Coen, C Desrochers, J Rosado

Sunday, January 17, 2010

8:00AM Fr. John
Altar Servers:, C Pettipaw, A Van Dyk, K Van Dyk
Lectors: M Acciani, J Deets
Special Ministers of Holy Communion: C Chiolo, B Maiore, M Maiore, K Sheerin, J Smith
10:00AM Fr. Ruggles
Altar Servers: E Hallinan, M Hallinan, A Spiegle
Lectors: F DeAngelis, M DeAngelis
Special Ministers of Holy Communion: L Ciccone, L Kosyla, C McKenna, N Minchew, J Olenick, J Plunkett, P Sandrow
11:30AM Fr. Ruggles
Altar Servers: M K Courduff, C Fyfe, E Fyfe
Lectors: M Scaramella, N Scaramella
Special Ministers of Holy Communion: T Alonzo, M Gilbert, S Palladinetti, B Wall, G Dwyer

MILITARY PRAYER LIST

US Army: Col. Lars Braun, Capt. Alex F. Katauskas, Sgt. David Marnell, Sgt. Frank Renna, Infantry, Sgt. Peter Roethke, Ranger, Capt. Doug Sackett, PFC Christopher Vassey, Sgt. John David Vozzelli, Lt. Joseph Weston, Jr., Pvt. Christopher Worthington, Sgt. Deanna D'Ambrosio, SPC Matthew Baumann, SPC Christopher Hill
US Navy: E4 Bob Moeller, Ryan E. Gager, Lt. Grahm Gill JG
USAF: Thomas Clerici, David J Wagner, Jr.
USMC: PFC Ryan Bridge, Daniel Gallemmit, Thomas Grace, Michelle I. Ryan, Sean P. Ryan, Adam Ardire, Justin Keleher, **USCG:** Petty Officer Tim Edwards

OFFERING REPORT

January 4, 2009	\$11,726.00
January 3, 2010	\$11,914.00
Increase \$188 or 1.6%	
Envelopes: 321	
Weekly expense:	\$11,000.00
Parish Indebtedness:	\$67,805.00



BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Religious Education News

We are in need of substitute Catechists for Level 1-4 Classes on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, from 4:30PM to 5:30PM and for Level 5-7 classes from 6:30PM to 7:45PM on Tuesday and Wednesday. Please e-mail stmaryreligiouseducation@verizon.net or call 856-424-2679 if you can help us minister to our youth.

The Diocese of Camden requires all adults in regular contact with children to attend one of the CAPP sessions offered throughout the Diocese. These sessions are part of the Diocese of Camden's program of prevention under the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. We now have available two different modules for our Catechists and Aides.

Capp Phase I

Thursday, January 14 @ 7PM, St. John of God, North
Cape May, classroom or hall
Thursday, January 19 @ 7PM, Queen of the Apostles,
Pennsville, Conference Room

Capp Phase Two

Tuesday, January 12 @ 7PM, St. Pius X Life Center,
Blackwood
Thursday, January 14 @ 7PM, St. Andrew the
Apostle, Gibbsboro, Hall
You must attend CAPP 1 before attending CAPP 2.

BAPTISM



Sunday, February 14, 2010 1:00PM
Sunday April 11, 2010 11:30AM Mass
Sunday, May 9, 2010 1:00PM
Sunday, June 6, 2010 12:00PM (Noon)
Sunday, July 4, 2010 12:00PM (Noon)

BAPTISM PREPARATION: *Please call the Parish Office at (856) 424-1454 for more information. Arrangements must be made in advance for Baptism Preparation and Baptism.*

Please remember that the Sacrament of Baptism is not administered during the Season of Lent.

Baptized Stewards

"John tried to prevent him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?'
(Matthew 3:14)

Each of us has received the Baptism that John sought – a Baptism into the Church of Jesus. As baptized Catholics there is only one simple gift that we need to give to Jesus. The only gift God wants is a complete offering of ourselves. Once we surrender ourselves to God in this way, we will know in our hearts what our stewardship responsibility should be.

THANK YOU...THANK YOU...THANK YOU

Looking back upon the Christmas Season at St. Mary's, I wish to thank everyone who helped make it happy. Much like Holy Week and Easter, it is an especially challenging time for the Art&Environment and Music personnel. It demands planning, practice and execution. Thank you for all you do. Every liturgy, every liturgical season demands good team work. I also thank all of you who financially contributed. Your presence and financial support enables the parish to function. To-date, our Christmas collection has reached \$50,231. The 2008 figure was \$52,098. Thank you for your support during difficult financial times. Fr. John

ATTENTION KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS

Our prayer shawl circle is going strong and we'd love to have more members. We meet in the Parish Hall (Room 103) typically two Thursdays a month from 1:00PM-3:00PM. Our schedule of meetings for the year 2010 are: January 14 and 28; February 11 and 25; March 11 and 25; April 15 and 29; May 13 and 27. Please mark your calendars. We hope you can join us. Come share your talents with this wonderful ministry. If you have any questions, please call Lisa O'Shea at 856 874-9396.



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul will be at St. Mary on Wednesday, February 24, 2010 from 9:00AM to 2:00PM to collect donations of usable men's, women's and children's clothing. They will also be accepting small household goods (bed and bath linens, pots, pans, dishes, cooking utensils, toys, books) and small appliances. You are invited to take all donations to the Society's trailer in the parking lot. There will be an attendant to assist you and provide tax receipts, if necessary.



FOREVER YOUNG **JANUARY SOCIAL**

Don't let the cold weather get you down! Instead join us for a "hot" game of BINGO at the Parish Hall on Tuesday, January 12th, at 1:00 p.m. Prizes will be featured and light refreshments to be provided. Come and have a good time! Call Mary Anne 856-767-7855 for more information or if you need transportation. In case of inclement weather, call Mary Anne or the Parish Center @ 856-424-1454.

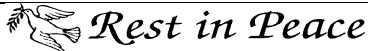
Parish Nursing Ministry

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow...

Oh, how beautifully are those soft white snow crystals. Snow/Ice transforms the landscape into winter wonderlands, covered in white and glimmering crystals. A beautiful sight but caution and common sense need to be taken by all. If you are over 65, or have a history of high blood pressure or heart disease, avoid the strain of shoveling. The possibility of severe muscle strains, falls or even a heart attack are simply too great! If you must shovel, use caution and follow a few tips:

- Dress in layers. Wear a hat and gloves these help to retain body heat.
- Do a light warm-up exercise to stretch out before shoveling.
- Push the snow in front of you rather than bending and picking it up.
- When you have to bend and pick up the snow, lift with your legs, not your back and pick up small amounts.
- Take lots of breaks. If you get dizzy or numb, go inside immediately.
- Use a deicing compound to prevent slipping.
- If using a snow blower, be sure to read all directions and safety guidelines.

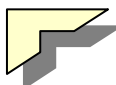
Sirach 44:18 19 "He sprinkles the snow like fluttering birds..." "Its shining whiteness blinds the eyes, the mind is baffled by its steady fall."



PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

John Dickinson

Brother of Alma Ardire



UPDATE CORNER: *Our whole identity as*

Christians stems from the sacrament of Baptism. The ceremony of Baptism, however, is not an isolated event. As a wedding is just the beginning of a marriage, so Baptism is the beginning of our Christian vocation. Learn more in "Baptism: Our Lifelong Call" - Next week in the bulletin.

RAFFLE RESULTS

I am happy to announce the winners of our 50/50 drawing on December 26:

1st Prize - \$18,080 Ticket #0205

Ruth Fox, Thornhill Dr, Cherry Hill

2nd Prize - \$2,260 Ticket #0138

Marian Love, Edison Ave, Cherry Hill

3rd Prize - \$2,260 Ticket #0227

Jack McCrossin, Coopertree Ct, Mt. Laurel

FAIR TRADE COFFEE AND TEA FOR SALE

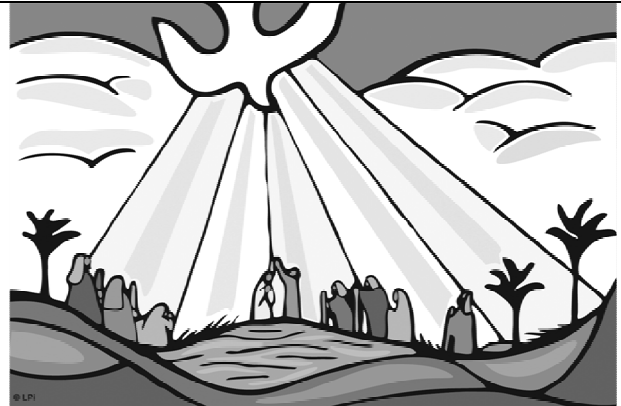


Fair Trade Coffee (Regular and Decaf) (Bean or Ground) and various Teas will be available for purchase in the Gathering Space after all Masses, January 16th and 17th. Great coffee and tea for you, fair treatment for low-income farmers overseas.

Plan to buy and try. Remember, this is not a fund raiser for St. Mary. This is a Social Justice Ministry project.

TAKE TIME FOR YOURSELVES

The hustle and bustle of the Christmas Season is over. You have put a lot of effort into making sure you took care of everyone on your list. Now, it's time to take care of yourselves. Enrich your marriage relationship by going to a Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next weekend for the encounter is scheduled for January 29th to January 31st. The Marriage Encounter Weekend is a viable way of renewing our Church and changing the world. For more information or to schedule this weekend, call Mark and Joanne at 800-688-9963 or send an email to weekends@mesj.net. You can also visit the web page at www.mesj.net.



After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove.
- Lk 3:21-22a

Readings for the Week of January 10, 2010

Sunday:	Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or 40:1-5, 9-11/Acts 10:34-38 or Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22
Monday:	1 Sm 1:1-8/Mk 1:14-20
Tuesday:	1 Sm 1:9-20/Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday:	1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Mk 1:29-39
Thursday:	1 Sm 4:1-11/Mk 1:40-45
Friday:	1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Mk 2:1-12
Saturday:	1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Mk 2:13-17
Next Sunday:	Is 62:1-5/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11

Parish Calendar of Events

January 10, 2010	IHOC Begins (Guests Arrive), (Hall) 11:30AM Baptism Administered during Mass
January 11, 2010	4:30PM Junior Choir Rehearsal, (Church) 6:30PM 8th Level Religious Education, (Hall) 7:00PM 1 st Penance Rehearsal, (Church) 7:30PM Social Justice Meeting, Room 103, (Hall)
January 12, 2010	1:00PM Forever Young (Chasing the Winter Blahs Bingo), (Hall) 4:30PM and 6:30PM Religious Education Classes All Levels, (Hall) 7:30PM Liturgy Meeting, Meeting Room 8:00PM Knights of Columbus Meeting, Room 105, (Hall)
January 13, 2010	4:30PM and 6:30PM Religious Education Classes All Levels, (Hall) 7:30PM Adult Choir Rehearsal, (Church) 7:30PM RCIA, (Meeting Room)
January 14, 2010	1:00PM Prayer Shawl Gathering, Room 105, (Hall)
January 16, 2010	5:00PM Blood Pressure Reading after Mass 5:00PM Fair Trade Coffee available after Mass
January 17, 2010	Blood Pressure Readings after the 8:00AM and 10:00AM Masses Youth Group Food Pantry Delivery after 10:00AM Mass
January 18, 2010	4:30PM Junior Choir Rehearsal, (Church) 6:30PM 8th Level Religious Education, (Hall)
January 19, 2010	4:30PM and 6:30PM Religious Education Classes All Levels, (Hall) 7:30PM Pastoral Council Meeting, Meeting Room
January 20, 2010	4:30PM and 6:30PM Religious Education Classes All Levels, (Hall) 7:30PM Adult Choir Rehearsal, (Church) 7:30PM RCIA, (Meeting Room)
January 21, 2010	4:30PM and 6:30PM Religious Education Classes All Levels, (Hall)

DISCOVER THE GIFTS GOD HAS GIVEN YOU

All young adults, ages 18 to 39, married or single, are WELCOME to attend "A Retreat For Young Adults". The retreat will be led by Msgr. Michael Mannion and will start on Friday, February 5, 2010 at 4:30PM and will end on Sunday, February 7, 2010 at 1:00PM at St. Pius X Spiritual Life Center, 1840 Peter Cheeseman Road, Blackwood, NJ 08012. The cost is \$80 per person and is partially funded by the Camden Diocese Offices of Community Relations and Lifelong Faith Formation. For more information, or to register, please call (856) 583-2878 or email at andres.arango@camdendiocese.org.

Dinner and Auction

Good Counsel-SJ is having a Dinner and Auction on Jan 16th at St. Margaret's in Woodbury Heights from 6:00PM to 10:00PM. It includes an all you can eat buffet by Botto's Italian Line Restaurant, raffles/prizes galore, beer, wine and dancing the night away; all while enjoying the good company of others who support the dignity of Life. Cost is \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. Please contact Brenda Quinn to RSVP at olvbquinn@aol.com or 856-423-3468. If you would like to donate an item for the raffle, please contact Brenda as well. To learn about Good Counsel's mission of love, go to www.goodcounselhomes.org.

The Diocese of Camden's Biblical Institute

The Diocese of Camden's Biblical Institute will begin new Bible Study Groups in January and February, of 2010. The Biblical Institute offers an in-depth and unique opportunity to explore beauty and wonder of Sacred Scripture. By increasing our knowledge and experience of God's Word, we are drawn into a deeper relationship with our loving God. Learning is facilitated through a "hands on" process, which integrates Bible study, personal reflection, and application to daily life. The new classes will start at St. Agnes in Blackwood, starting Tuesday, January 5 from 10:00am to 12:00pm; and also at St. Thomas More, starting Monday, January 18, 2010 from 10:00am to 12:00pm. To register, please contact Diane Scafidi, Diocese of Camden, at (856) 583-6129. For more information, please contact Dr. Frank Blee, Office of Adult Faith Formation, Diocese of Camden, at (856) 583-6105.