

Dear Parishioner,

The poet/theologian John O'Donohue concludes his poem "At the End of the Year" with the following verse:

*"We bless this year for all we learned,
For all we loved and lost
And for the quiet way it brought us
Nearer to our invisible destination."*

It speaks to each one of us about a year that is now part of our individual history. A year during which each day was like the ebb and flow of the tide upon the beach of our person. The daily loss and gain when totaled remaining close to the proverbial wash of no gain or loss. Yet, there were high water type markers upon the sands of our time that entwined our person with crowns of gold on thorns and etched our being and calendar forever. Dates primed with significance resurface each year. Events that chiseled us into who we are this day at the dawning of a new year. We continue to learn from the school of life as mind, heart and body ever change.

The shawl of life that is needled, stitch by stitch, with gold and dark threads, is who we are. Soft thread, pointed needles. Divine and human hands work in unison in our making. Joys and sorrow, achievements and failure, dreams and shattered dreams are part of our changing portrait.

Here in the parish we have a lot to be grateful for. We are a clustered parish with St. Thomas More. This means that each parish continues to retain its identity and individuality for as long as each remains vibrant spiritually, socially and financially. When the priest shortage becomes more acute, one priest will be responsible for the sacramental needs of both parishes.

There is a long list of people who, together, bring life and vitality to St. Mary's. I thank God for you. Together, let us make 2010 special with a mighty effort from everyone.

Happy New Year!
Fr. John

Mass Intentions

Monday January 4, 2010

8:00 AM **Robert F Waite**
by: Marie Bantivoglio

Tuesday January 5, 2010

8:00 AM **Robert F Waite**
by: Sally and Auggie Campiglia

Wednesday, January 6, 2010

8:00 AM **Lena Marino**
by: Auggie and Sally Campiglia

Thursday, January 7, 2010

8:00 AM **Rose Melchionni**
by: The Melchionni Family

Friday, January 8, 2010

8:00 AM **Kathleen Burnes**
by: Husband, Walter
William Melchionni
by: Maria and Matt Harper
Patricia Sommer
by: Gary and Susan Thompson and
Mary Jane Ardron
George W Trauger, Jr.
by: Richard and Susan Luongo
Larry Luongo
by: Richard and Susan Luongo

Saturday January 9, 2010

5:00 PM **People of the Parish**

Sunday, January 10, 2010

8:00 AM **Herman D Schenk**
by: George and Linda Zallie
10:00AM **Charles A Peters**
by: Eve and Cos Contento
11:30AM **Margarita E Sarmiento**
by: Raymond, Ven and Elvie Ventura

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 9, 2010 and January 10, 2010

Saturday, January 9, 2010

5:00 PM Fr. Ruggles

Altar Servers: M Borucki, C Campbell, M K Courduff

Lectors:

Special Ministers of Holy Communion: G Esbrandt, C Wallace, J Wallace, Deacon Welsh, E Yoo

Sunday, January 10, 2010

8:00AM Fr. Ruggles

Altar Servers: A Borinski, M Borinski, E Sands

Lectors:

Special Ministers of Holy Communion: C Chiolo, G Coen, K Coen, M Dell, J Smith

10:00AM Fr. John and Deacon Welsh

Altar Servers: N Rudi, S Whitty, R Young

Lectors:

Special Ministers of Holy Communion: M Borinski, L Ciccone, C Forlastro, L Kosyla, N Minchew, M O'Shea

11:30AM Fr. John

Altar Servers: M Luebkemann, D Maloney, M Maloney

Lectors:

Special Ministers of Holy Communion: T Alonzo, R Cowley, S Cowley L Hyland, B Wall

OFFERING REPORT

December 21, 2008	\$9,204.00
December 20, 2009	\$3,265.00
Decrease \$5,939.00 or 181.9%	
Envelopes: 57	
Weekly expense:	\$11,000.00
Parish Indebtedness:	\$67,805.00
December 28, 2008	\$7,564.00
December 27, 2009	\$11,426.00
Increase \$3,862.00 or 33.8%	
Envelopes: 253	
Weekly expense:	\$11,000.00
Parish Indebtedness:	\$67,805.00

BAPTISM



Sunday, January 10, 2010 11:30AM Mass

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.



**Let the Games
Begin!**

Feeling lucky? Why not come to St. Mary's Parish Hall on Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at 1:00 pm

and join your Forever Young friends to play a game of Bingo and chase the winter blahs away! Prizes to be awarded and light refreshments will be served! Invite a friend if you like. Questions? Call Mary Anne at 856-767-7855.

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 Gallemitt, Thomas Grace, Michelle I. Ryan, Sean P. Ryan, Adam Ardire, Justin Keleher,
USCG: Petty Officer Tim Edwards

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

I thank Marie Bantivoglio, Bruno Melchionni and Joan Weinhofer for taking care of the many details associated with such an undertaking. I thank Victor Printing for providing the tickets. I thank all of you who participated. We sold a total of 452 of the 1,000 tickets. Down considerably from last year which is not surprising given the economy. The parish will benefit some \$22,000 after expenses. As the year comes to an end, we are in a position to pay \$50,000 from our parish debt. Thank you for your generosity throughout the year and for keeping the parish financially healthy. Fr. John

**Religious Education News
Reminder!**

Religious Education classes for Level 1-4 on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, from 4:30PM to 5:30PM and classes for Level 5-7 from 6:30PM to 7:45PM will resume on Tuesday, January 5, Wednesday, January 6, January 7, 2010 in the Parish Hall.

The 2nd Level Religious Education Penance Retreat will be held in the Parish Hall on Saturday, January 9th, starting at 9:30AM.

Parents need to attend with their child. If you have any questions, please call the Religious Education Office at (856) 424-2679.

Come Follow Me!

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.

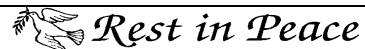
Capp Phase I

Thursday, January 7 @ 7PM, St. Francis of Assisi, Vineland, Convent Basement
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.



Rest in Peace

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

Charles Walsh

Father of Chip Walsh

Anthony J Nardotti

Husband of Marie and Father of Marc

Parish Calendar of Events

January 3, 2010	Youth Group Food Pantry Delivery after 10:00AM Mass
January 4, 2010	1:00PM G.I.F.T. Video/Book Club, Room 102, (Hall) 6:30PM Youth Group Gathering, Room 104, (Hall) 7:30PM IHOC Meeting, Meeting Room
January 5, 2010	4:30PM and 6:30PM Religious Education Classes All Levels, (Hall) 7:00PM Baptism Preparation, Meeting Room
January 6, 2010	4:30PM and 6:30PM Religious Education Classes All Levels, (Hall) 7:30PM Adult Choir Rehearsal, (Church) 7:30PM RCIA, (Chapel)
January 7, 2010	4:30PM and 6:30PM Religious Education Classes All Levels, (Hall)
January 9, 2010	9:30AM Second Level Religious Education Penance Retreat
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 Blues), (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, (Chapel)
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 ALL Masses Youth Group Food Pantry Delivery after 10:00AM Mass
January 18, 2010	4:30PM Youth 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

Bless Your Door on Epiphany



The gospel tells us that the magi found Christ “on entering the house.” The door to your home is a holy threshold. You can bless those who come in and go out by inscribing above the door in chalk the first two numbers of the year, plus C, plus M, plus B, plus the last two numbers of the year. Tradition tells us that the letters stand for the names of the magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. Adolph Adam points out that it may also mean “Christus mansionem benedicat” or “May Christ bless this dwelling.” It’s appropriate to bless your door in January – *janua* means “door” and the first month is the door to the new year.

FALL CLEAN OUT FOR IHOC!!!!

As you are making room in your linen closets for those new bed linens and towels you received as gifts, why not pass along the old ones to our guests (men in transition) in the IHOC program. Our guests will be arriving at St. Mary on Sunday, January 10, 2009. Please drop off your donations at the Parish Center or call Helen Meyers at 856-787-9187 for pick-up. Thank you.



Welcome to our new Catholic Christians:

Angelina Kathleen Hines

Isabella Nicole Jurilla

Emily Lacey Renzi

UPDATE CORNER:

The seven sacraments are the core of our Catholic Faith. Far beyond mere rituals, they are living expressions of God's active presence and action among us. How? Find out in "The 7 Sacraments: Symbols of God's Care" - Next week in the bulletin.

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.

G.I.F.T Book Discussion Group

Monday, January 4, 2010 @ 1:00pm
Room 102 (Hall)



Our January book discussion group will take up the stories of "Abigail" (1 Samuel, chps. 25-26) and "The Shunemmitess" (2 Kings, Chps. 2-8). Curious about these two Old Testament women? Join us!

Books are available for purchase at the session. See you at 1pm, in Room 102! For more information, please contact our Pastoral Associate, Kathleen.



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 20th 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.

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 olvquinn@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 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.

