

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. MARY

First Holy Communion



Dear Parishioner,

The Easter Season of fifty days is a joy-filled season. In the northern hemisphere, as spring pins winter and covers the countryside in a floral patchwork of petals and blossoms, the setting is set for celebrations.

Here in the parish, our second graders, who celebrated First Penance back in cold January, will present themselves for First Communion this weekend and next in the spirit of springtime, each child looking as beautiful, fragile and promising as the cherry trees in bloom. Their hearts as joy-filled as the small singing bird.

They are Church.

They touch something inside us with hope and promise. They enable us to dream dreams anew as family and as a parish community. They give us “High Hopes”. (HK)

Each First Communicant family enjoys the possession of an unfolding, plotted plant in the person of their First Communicant. Plants need sunlight, water and loving care if they are to reach their potential. Plants cannot voice those needs, but without them, the plant will fizzle, wither and die.

The saddest sharing we encounter during sacramental preparation interviews is the lament of a child who really wants to come to Church but has nobody to transport him/her to weekend liturgy. Each year brings its share of such laments. Church participation on weekends is often brushed aside by sports and other family priorities. This year, and every year, offers individual families an opportunity to reverse this trend.

There is joy in every family when a child utters his/her first word or takes that first step. A similar joy is experienced in families during First Communion celebrations. How sad it would be if a family did not encourage their child to express additional words or take additional steps after that first word or step. In the spiritual growth and development of a child, the same principle holds true. That fragile plant that is your child needs your loving care and example to fulfill the high hopes we have for your child on First Communion Day. First Communion, much like that first word or step, is simply the first, the beginning of what hopefully will be a life long relationship between your child and Jesus that is deepened by every succeeding Eucharistic encounter.

May your “family plant” continue to bloom and grow under your love, care and example over the years.

Congratulations and Peace,
Fr. John

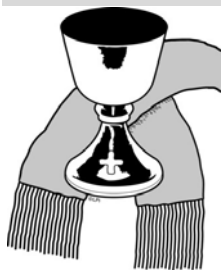


 **BAPTISM**



Sunday, May 10, 2009 1:00PM
 Sunday, June 21, 2009 12 Noon
 Sunday, July 19, 2009 12 Noon
 Sunday, August 16, 2009 12 Noon

BAPTISM PREPARATION: All Baptism Preparation sessions are held on the first Tuesday of the month from 7:00PM-8:00PM in the Parish Center Meeting Room. Parents must attend. Sponsors are welcome. Please call the Parish Center to make arrangements.



Rev. Mr. Larry E Polansky

Church Law requires that the announcement of a candidate's ordination to the priesthood be published in every parish to which the candidate belonged or served. St. Mary parishioner, Rev. Mr. Larry E Polansky will be ordained a priest on Saturday, May 16, 2009, at the 10:30AM Mass, by Bishop Joseph Galante, at St. Peter Celestine Church, Cherry Hill. Larry will celebrate his first Mass on Sunday, May 17, 2009 at 11:30AM here at St. Mary. It is a time of rejoicing for the entire Parish.

Fr. John



**HOUSE OF CHARITY/
 BISHOP'S ANNUAL
 APPEAL**

Our House of Charity/Bishops Capital Campaign is moving forward at a steady pace. Each week, we pick up additional pledges. To date, we have \$72,000 of our \$100,000 goal. In this difficult economy, the requests made on charitable entities such as House of Charity are greater than ever. This is a reminder to people who have not responded, to please do so. Additional pledge cards are available in the Gathering Space. Our "in pew" is scheduled for all Masses on May 9/10.

Gratefully, Fr. John, Len Bednar,
 Tom Milan, Kate Sheerin

OFFERING REPORT

April 20, 2008	\$10,408.00
April 19, 2009	\$9,403.00
Decrease \$1005 or 10.7%	
Envelopes: 268	
Weekly expense:	\$ 11,000.00
Parish Indebtedness:	\$107,805.00

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, April 27, 2009
 8:00 AM **Luis Silva**
 by: Maria Fuquen

Tuesday, April 28, 2009
 8:00 AM **Joyce Anne Stankiewicz**
 by: The Maylie Family

Wednesday, April 29, 2009
 8:00 AM **Mary Winkel O'Brien**
 by: Mary Anne and Carmen

Thursday, April 30, 2009
 8:00AM **Joseph D'Agata**
 by: The Hennessey Family

Friday, May 1, 2009
 8:00 AM **Kathleen Burns**
 by: Husband, Walter
Elizabeth Brennan
 b: Sharon and Ron
Lydia Fleming
 by: Bill and Mary Gannon

Saturday, May 2, 2009
 5:00 PM **Richard Schmitz Jr.**
 by: Marie Bantivoglio

Sunday, May 3, 2009
 8:00 AM **People of the Parish**
 10:00AM **Richard Schmitz, Jr.**
 by: Catherine Feidler
 11:30 AM **John Barnes**
 by: Ashli and Madyson Helfrich

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Ruben N Alvarez, John & Mary Lou Baird, Tate Balcarek, Marie Bantivoglio, Dolores Bauer, Elizabeth Belli, John Brach, Jim Brady, Walter Burnes, Roger Butler, Mary Byrne, Nemesio Cabalo, Connie Chiolo, Anthony Ciarrocchi, Jimmy Contento, Pam Crocetti, Kayla DeFeo, Frank Dolan, Eileen Edwards, Catherine Faccine, Helen Galiano, Terri Gannon, Brian Geary, Joe Garofalo, Michael Garrity, Colin Patrick Grady, Lucille Gross, Maria Harper, Michele Hayes, Laurie James, Dolores Kozielski, Fred La Rosa, Julie Leonard, Ingrid Lodato, Caitlin Martin, Ann McIlroy, Tom McKenna, Perfecto Moulic, Michael Piazza, Patty Plunkett, Baby Bryanna Ramirez, Jim & Tony Ray, Kathy Roman, Carolyn Rutkowski, Anthony Russo Sr, Joseph Ragusa, Marie Smith, Helen Szymczak, Dr Edgar Valle, Robert Waite.



*Welcome to our new Catholic Christian:
 Isabella Marie Baron*



Religious Education News

Classes for 2009 – 2010 will be held in St. Mary Hall Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 4:30PM to 5:30PM and 6:30PM to 7:45PM. Pre K and K will be held on Sundays at 10:00AM in the Hall.

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Religious Education classes will resume on Tuesday April 14th.

- April 27, 2009 7:00PM First Communion Rehearsal for those making First Communion on May 2. One parent must attend with their child.
April 30, 2009 7:00PM First Communion Rehearsal for those making First Communion on May 3. One parent must attend with their child.
May 2, 2009 FIRST COMMUNION CELEBRATION 5:00PM Mass. Students report to the hall by 4:40PM.
May 3, 2009 FIRST COMMUNION CELEBRATION 11:30AM Mass. Students report to the hall by 11:15AM.
May 4, 2009 7:00PM End of program Mass.
May 16, 2009
May 31, 2009 2:00PM Confirmation

IMPORTANT NEWS

Registration for St. Mary Religious Education program for the 2009-2010 Sessions is now starting. Registration forms have been mailed to all registered families with children currently in the program as well as those with children ready to begin the program. Extra copies of the registration form are also available in the Gathering Space. Remember: Classes are assigned on a first-come, first serve basis.

IMPORTANT NEWS!

Because of the joyous celebration of the Ordination of Larry Polansky on Saturday, May 16, 2009, 10:30AM, at St. Peter Celestine Church, will not have confessions from 10:00 to 10:30AM.



John Westhead and Mary Grace Bon Tempo



for May 2nd – May 3rd

- 5:00 PM Fr. John
Altar Servers: M Borucki, M K Courduff, M Langmuir
Lectors: P Langmuir, W Martinez
Special Ministers of Holy Communion: C Desrochers, D Desrochers, F Dollarton, D Bennett, J Rosado, M VonStetina, R VonStetina
8:00AM Fr. Ruggles
Altar Servers: S Omari, K Omari, S Whitty
Lectors: T Clerici, J Deets
Special Ministers of Holy Communion: G Coen, K Coen, B Maiore, M Maiore, J Smith
10:00AM Fr. Ruggles
Altar Servers: A Bromke, T Hudson, J Sunstrand
Lectors: T Cost, K Rando
Special Ministers of Holy Communion: L Ciccone, P Gall, C Forlastro, C McKenna, N Minchew, J Olenick, J Rueppel
11:30 AM Fr. John
Altar Servers: K Boyle, C Conner, C Vicente
Lectors: F Baratta, S Baratta
Special Ministers of Holy Communion: B Veitch, T Alonzo, S Hamm, L Kosyla, E Ventura, V Ventura, S Palladinetti

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 Vasse, Sgt. John David Vozzelli, Lt. Joseph Weston, Jr., LTC Sherene L Williams, Pvt. Christopher Worthington, US Navy: E4 Bob Moeller, Ryan E. Gager, Lt. Grahm Gill JG USAF: Thomas Clerici, Capt. John W. Ginn (Pilot), David J Wagner, Jr. USMC: PFC Ryan Bridge, Thomas Grace, Michelle I. Ryan, Sean P. Ryan, Adam Ardire, Justin Keleher

If you have someone's name you would like added to this list, please call 856-424-1454

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. Upcoming dates are as follows: May 7th and 21st. Come share your talents with this wonderful ministry. If you have any questions, please call Lisa O'Shea at 856 874-9396

National Day of Prayer

A short prayer service will be held here at St. Mary Thursday, May 7, 2009 at Noon.

Join us as all faiths will come together to unite in prayer for our country.

Please read the "Dear Parishioner" on May 2nd and 3rd for more information.

Parish Calendar of Events

April 27, 2009	7:00PM First Communion Rehearsal, (Church) 7:00PM Youth Group Meeting, Room 104, (Hall)
April 28, 2009	4:30 PM & 6:30PM Religious Education Classes, (Hall) 7:30PM Youth Music Ensemble Rehearsal, (Church) 7:30PM G.I.F.T. Meeting, Meeting Room 7:30PM Liturgy Meeting 8:00PM Knights of Columbus, Room 105, (Hall)
April 29, 2009	4:30 PM & 6:30PM Religious Education Classes, (Hall) 7:30PM Adult Choir Rehearsal, (Church) 7:30PM RCIA, "Your Prayer Life and Holiness"(Chapel)
April 30, 2009	7:00PM First Communion Rehearsal, (Church)
May 2, 2009	FIRST COMMUNION 5:00 PM MASS
May 3, 2009	FIRST COMMUNION 11:30 AM MASS
May 4, 2009	1:00PM G.I.F.T. Movie Club, (Mary Magdalene), Room 102, (Hall) 7:00PM Youth Group Meeting, Room 104, (Hall) 7:00PM Religious Education Program Closing Mass, (Church)
May 5, 2009	7:00PM Baptism Preparation Class, Meeting Room 7:30PM Youth Ensemble Rehearsal,
May 6, 2009	7:30PM Adult Choir Rehearsal, (Church) 7:30PM RCIA, "Discernment and Your Special Gifts"(Chapel)
May 7, 2009	12:00 NOON NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER 1:00PM Prayer Shawl Meeting, Room 103, (Hall)
May 10, 2009	Baby Bottle Distribution (All Masses) Blessing of Mothers (All Masses) 11:30AM Youth Mass
May 11, 2009	6:00PM Appreciation Party Jr. Choir/Altar Servers, Rooms 103 & 104, (Hall) 7:00PM Youth Group Meeting, Room 104, (Hall) 7:30PM Social Justice Meeting, Room 103, (Hall)
May 12, 2009	1:00PM Seniors Meeting, (Hall) 8:00PM Knights of Columbus, Room 105, (Hall)
May 13, 2009	7:30PM Adult Choir Rehearsal, (Church) 7:30pm RCIA, "Conversion: A Life-Long Process"(Chapel)
May 14, 2009	11:15 – 12:30PM Christian Yoga, (Chapel)

FLOWER POWER

Parishioners:

Your Knights of Columbus Council would like to express our appreciation for your support!! Your generosity continues to help us fund our charitable programs (Food bank, Cathedral Kitchen, Spelling Bee, & The Seminarian fund to name a few).

Thanks Again!!!!

DON'T FORGET


R.C.I.A. AND Adult Faith Enrichment

Our R.C.I.A sessions are open to all parishioners who want to deepen their personal understanding of our faith. We meet on Wednesday evenings, at 7:30PM, in the Chapel

April 29th : Our Topic:

"Your Prayer Life and Holiness" "

Hope to see you there!

 ***Rest in Peace***

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

Helen Galiano

Mother of Lori Galiano-Bagaglia

Elizabeth C Brennan

Wife of James and Mother of Patricia Sandrow

.....AND ALL THOSE WHO MOURN FOR THEM

Catholic Family Cleaning

30 years experience in home cleaning as well as office cleaning. Please call: Mrs. Judith Baker at 856-435-0358.

Merton Reflection

"If you want to know what is meant by "God's will", this is one way to get a good idea of it. "God's will" is certainly found in anything that is required of us in order that we may be united with one another in love. ...Everything that is demanded of me, in order that I may treat every other person effectively as a human being, "is willed for me by God under the natural law." ...I must learn to share with others their joys, their sufferings, their ideas, their needs, their desires. I must learn to do this not only in the cases of those who are of the same class, the same profession, the same race, the same nation as myself, but when those who suffer belong to other groups, even to groups that are regarded as hostile. If I do this, I obey God. If I refuse to do it, I disobey Him. It is not therefore a matter left open to subjective caprice." Thomas Merton. *New Seeds of Contemplation* (New York: New Directions Press, 1961): 76-77.

DIOCESAN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

If this year, January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009, you are celebrating your 25th Wedding Anniversary, 50th Wedding Anniversary, or, more than 50 years of marriage, please join us in celebrating at a special Mass on Sunday, May, 17, 2009 at 3:00PM at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, 591 New Jersey Avenue, Absecon, NJ. There will be a light reception following the Mass.

OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY - 2010

Once every ten years the village of Oberammergau in Germany presents the Passion Play. At this time, there are spaces available for an 11 day, September 2, 2010 departure for an "Alpine Explorer" tour that includes the Passion Play. If you are interested in seeing this "once in a lifetime" event, please call Barbara Dollarton, 424-2739 for additional information.

Catholic Cruise to the Western Caribbean

Come and sail away on an 8-Night Catholic Western Caribbean Cruise with Father Michael Sullivan, October 7th – 14th 2009 on the Carnival Miracle out of New York City, New York. Ports of Call: Grand Turks, Half Moon Cay and Nassau, Bahamas. Prices begin at \$1,374 for two passengers which include all port fees and taxes. Daily Mass and Rosary offered. Deposits of only \$50 per person will reserve your cabin. Space is limited. For further information or to register, contact Doug or Eileen at *860) 399-1785 or email to dpayttc@aol.com.

Spring Concert

The ARTS at Camden Catholic High School presents the "Spring Concert and Art Exhibit", Sunday, May 17, 2009. Choral and Instrumental Concert begins at 2:00PM, followed by the Art Exhibit at 3:30PM. Admission is FREE! Visit the website www.ccharts.com for more information about the concert, exhibit, samples of our music and our programs.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Needed: Handyman to work part time, possible 12 – 15 hours per week to help with ordinary cleaning, setting up and dismantling chairs, tables, etc. and who has a working knowledge of plumbing, electric and carpentry. Please call St. Pius X rectory office at (856) 429-1330.

Catherine of Siena

A One-Woman Show

Sponsored by Good News International

Adrian Dominican Sister Nancy Murray, sister of actor/comedian Bill Murray, brings her one-woman show *Catherine of Siena: A Woman for Our Times* to St. Veronica Catholic Church, 4215 Route 9 North, Howell, NJ, on Saturday, May 16 at 7:00PM. Light refreshments to follow. Seating is limited. Tickets are \$10 per person or \$30 for family (call for group rates). For tickets, contact Good News International at (732) 364-6158. You can also email to goodnews@cybercomm.net or visit the website www.goodnewsinternational.net.

Communion Breakfast

The Annual Communion Breakfast sponsored by the South Jersey Catholic Medical Association will be held this year on Sunday, May 3 at 9:00AM at the St. Pius X Spiritual Life Center in Blackwood. The Most Rev. Joseph A Galante, Bishop of Camden will be the principal celebrant of the Mass preceding the breakfast. The speaker at breakfast will be Rev. Timothy E Byerley, Ph.D., Pastor of St. John Vianney Parish in Deptford. He will discuss, "Medical Miracles in the Catholic Church." Registration for the breakfast should be sent to the South Jersey Catholic Medical Association, 1845 Haddon Avenue, Camden, NJ 08103. The fee is \$12.50 for members and \$17.50 for non-members. The fee for children is \$10.00. For further information, interested parties can call (856) 342-4125.