

JMJ

Dear Parishioners,

This week I will focus since it is the Feast of *Corpus Christi* on some of the reasons we have Masses said. Please note we have quite a few daily Mass intentions left for the rest of the year. Please contact the office if you would like to reserve a Mass. An individual may ask a priest to offer a Mass for several reasons: for example, in thanksgiving, for the intentions of another person (such as on a birthday), or, as is most common, for the repose of the soul of someone who has died. One must never forget the infinite graces that flow from the Sacrifice of the Mass which benefit one's soul. Pope Leo XIII in his encyclical "Mirae caritatis" (1902) beautifully elaborated this point and emphasized the connection between the communion of saints with the Mass: "The grace of mutual love among the living, strengthened and increased by the sacrament of the Eucharist, flows, especially by virtue of the Sacrifice [of the Mass], to all who belong to the communion of saints."

Please keep in mind that the tradition of offering Masses for others, particularly the dead, originates in the very early Church. Inscriptions discovered on tombs in Roman catacombs of the second century evidence this practice: for example, the epitaph on the tomb of Abercius (d. 180), Bishop of Hieropolis in Phrygia, begs for prayers for the repose of his soul. Tertullian (c. 200) attested to observing the anniversary of a spouse with prayers and sacrifices, i.e. the Mass: "Indeed she prays for his soul, and requests refreshment for him meanwhile, and fellowship with him in the first resurrection; and she offers her sacrifice on the anniversaries of his falling asleep" (On Monogamy, X). Moreover, the Canons of Hippolytus (c. 235) explicitly mentions the offering of prayers for the dead during the Mass. St. Cyril of Jerusalem (d. 386), in one of his many catechetical discourses, explained how at Mass both the living and dead are remembered, and how the Eucharistic Sacrifice of our Lord is of benefit to sinners, living and dead. St. Ambrose (d. 397) preached, "We have loved them during life; let us not abandon them in death, until we have conducted them by our prayers into the house of the Lord." St. John Chrysostom (d. 407) stated, "Let us help and commemorate them. If Job's sons were purified by their father's sacrifice, why would we doubt that our offerings for the dead bring them some consolation? Let us not hesitate to help those who have died and to offer our prayers for them." St. Augustine (d. 430) recorded the dying wishes of his mother, St. Monica in his Confessions: "One thing only I ask you, that you remember me at the altar of the Lord wherever you may be." Finally, Pope St. Gregory (d. 604) said, "Let us not hesitate to help those who have died and to offer our prayers for them."

Given this understanding, we can add some specifics. When a priest offers Holy Mass, he has three intentions: First, to offer the Mass reverently and validly in accord with the norms of the Church. Second, to offer the Mass in union with the whole Church and for the good of the whole Church. Third, to offer the Mass for a particular intention, such as the repose of the soul of someone who has died.

Therefore, the effects of the Mass bring certain benefits or fruits. The general fruits of the Mass are the effects upon the whole Church to the living faithful as well as the poor souls in purgatory. For this reason, in the Canon of the Mass (the Eucharistic Prayer), a special mention is made for both the living and the dead.

These fruits are both extensively and intensively finite, since each of us is finite. Therefore, the more a Mass is offered, the more benefit is conferred. For example, all things being equal, 10 Masses offered for the repose of a soul confer 10 times the benefit of one Mass.

The intention of the Mass is also determined by various factors: The Church may stipulate the particular intention; for example, all pastors are required to offer one Mass on Sunday for the intentions of the living and deceased parishioners of a parish. A priest may also have his own particular intention in offering a Mass, such as the repose of the soul of his parents. Finally, a person may ask a priest to offer a Mass for a particular intention; usually, a stipend is given to the priest for offering the Mass, which thereby in justice creates an obligation which must be satisfied.

We find not only the origins of this practice dating to the early Church but we also clearly recognize its importance. When we face the death of someone, even a person who is not Catholic, to have a Mass offered for the repose of his soul and to offer our prayers are more beneficial and comforting than any other sympathy card or bouquet of flowers. To have a Mass offered on the occasion of a birthday, anniversary or special need is appropriate, beneficial and appreciated.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Newcomb

We will be celebrating the *Feast of the Most Sacred Heart on Friday, June 23rd* with a Mass at 7pm in the Church. Fr. Dan O'Hare will be concelebrating. Following, the Church Hall will be dedicated to Most Sacred Heart Church. If you have not already done so, please RSVP by Monday, June 19th if you plan on attending.

Little Lambs has begun accepting registrations for the 2017-18 school year. For more information, parents of prospective students are encouraged to visit the Open House or contact director, Eileen 858-4208 / littlelambs@stmarysportjervis.com

This year's trip to Dorney Park and Wildwater Kingdom is on Monday, July 31st. Children who have faithfully served our church through S.M.A.R.T., G.E.M.S., Altar serving, or in the choir are invited to attend. Please call the parish office for a permission form. All forms due by July 14.

There are *Announced Mass Intentions* available for Weekday Masses for this year.

"My Life With the Saints" Dr. Mary J. Corwin, professor of pediatrics at Columbia University gives a powerful testimony as to how the saints have directly intervened in her life. From nearly dying in the Phillipines to the contemplation of an abortion, the saints have always been there to guide Dr. Corwin in a life of peace and holiness. There will be an inspiring 45 minute video at the Holy Cross Parish Center Room # 626 County Rte 22 Middletown, NY on **Wednesday, June 21 at 7pm**. For more information contact: Janet Galbo 325-7063 or emailjolsc5@yahoo.com

There is an alternative to artificial methods of birth control and artificial reproductive technologies. You are invited to learn about the Creighton Model Fertility Care System and NaPro Technology, a new reproductive science that is highly effective to achieve or avoid pregnancy. It also offers couples who are experiencing infertility, the hope of achieving pregnancy while following the teachings of the Church. There will be a free Introductory Session on Thursday, July 13th at 7pm at Holy Cross Church County Rte 22 Middletown, NY. For more information contact: Janet Galbo 325-7063 or emailjanetgrms@gmail.com

ANNOUNCED MASSES

- Monday, June 19 (Romuald, Abbot)**
9:00am Regis A. Foster, by wife and children
Deceased members of the Delaney family
- Tuesday, June 20**
9:00am Deceased members of the Klostermeier family, by Irene Klostermeier
- Wednesday, June 21 (Aloysius Gonzaga, religious)**
9:00am Bob Horan, by Ann Dilger
- Thursday, June 22 (Paulinus of Nola, Bishop; and Thomas More, martyrs)**
9:00am Frank P. Wohlscheid, by Mary Wohlscheid
Gregory Crawford, by Sophie Crawford- Rosso
- Saturday, June 24 (Nativity of John the Baptist)**
4:00pm The parishioners of St. Mary's
Alex and Anna Lackner, by Ann Retallick
- Sunday, June 25**
8:30am Joseph Hartmann, by the Hartmann family
11:30am Charles Harrington, by Carol and sons



The Sanctuary Lamp in the Church will burn brightly this week in memory of Susan Hinkley, by James Hinkley and family.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Joann Wilcox, Jackie Mundy, Theresa Fuller, Donald Wolff, Walter Szpakowicz, Frances Brennan, Aedan Roach, Jim Roach, Robyn Radzikowski, Elizabeth Brennan, Richard Samek, Sandy Osbourne, John McKeon, William Lincoln, Michael Barnes, Jeanine Lincoln, Mary Platania, Maureen Hildebrandt, Andrea Fedoruk, Angela Portella, Pauline Portella, Grace Maillet, Joseph Cox, William Gaide, Jacqueline Hamilton, Marianne Ripel, Pat Arnold, Debi Cotugno, Conner McHugh, David M. Phillips, Smith, Jim Muller, Charles Hildebrandt, Joe Formisano, Theresa Kavanagh, Fontano family, Kevin Smith, Ron Evans, Barbara Straub, Flossie Brown, Mae Prill, Elizabeth Startup Jones, Jose Ramos, Carmen Ramos, Steve Wilkinson, Eric Santiago, Adam Kowal, Jayne Kowal, Richard Schindler, Amelia Quinn, Jennifer Utz, Sue Arnold, Sue Fitzsimmons, Wayne Demarco, and Pat Essing.

The collection for June 10/11 was \$4,838.50
Thank you for your continued generosity.

Liturgical Ministers for June 24/25, 2017

MASS	LECTOR	MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION	ALTAR SERVERS
4:00PM	J. SMITH	J. SNELLINGER, N. SMITH, T. WEBB	N. WEBB, A. WEBB
8:30AM	M. LATINI	S. RIORDAN, T. HOPPEY	J., S., D. KLOTZ
11:30AM	M. ESLING	B. DENNINGTON, D. LIVINGSTON, H. MARINARO	C. CENTAURO, J. ENNIS, M. LAUTURE