

JMJ

Dear Parishioners,

This week let's look at the reasons for votive candles. When you enter a Catholic Church, you might see a shrine, small side chapels or side altars with statues or icons and rows of votive candles. The word "votive" comes from the Latin "votum" meaning "vow," and these candles (which aren't blessed and usually aren't made of beeswax) are, when lit, used to symbolize our prayers, vows of prayer, or simply our honoring God or one of His Saints. They are lit by the people outside of Mass (before or after, or during simple visits to a church) -- usually for a specific intention. It's a very Catholic thing to say to someone that you will "light a candle for them," meaning that you will pray for them and ritually symbolize those prayers by the lighting of votives. It's not uncommon, too, to find these intentions written out and placed near the candles. Another common reason to light votive candles is out of gratitude to God for answered prayers.

The votive candle has its own very beautiful meaning that came from the Old Testament practice of sacrifice. Just as the incense that sent up its cloud of perfumed smoke heavenward was a symbol of prayer, the candle consuming itself is a representation of sacrifice. The candle burning its life out before a statue is symbolic of a person's love for God and his own desire to offer his sacrifices, and if need be, his life itself for the glory of God. The lighting of these simple votive candles is a Catholic way to prepare the soul for a life of dedication and to offer the best of what he has to God. It is a symbol of the personal holocaust that souls are moved to make of themselves for the love of God.

Interestingly, in the Middle Ages, the symbolism of the votive candles was elaborated. St. Radigund (d. 587) described a practice whereby a person would light a candle or several candles which equaled his own height, this was called "measuring to" such a saint. Although it may seem peculiar to us, this "measuring" actually reflects the idea of the candle representing the person in faith who has come into the light to offer his prayer.

Also, some medieval spiritual writers expanded the imagery of the candle itself: bees wax symbolized the purity of Christ, the wick, the human soul of Christ, and the light His divinity. Also, the burning candle symbolized a sacrifice, which is made in both the offering of the prayer and the acceptance of the Lord's Will.

In all, the usage of votive candles is a pious practice which continues today in many churches. The symbolism does remind us that prayer is a "coming into" the light of Christ, allowing our souls to be filled with His light, and letting that light burn on in our souls even though we may return to our other activities.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
*Father Newcomb*



**The Annual Backpack Blessing** will take place today at the 8:30am Mass.

The first day for Religious Instruction is today. Classes will begin at 9:30am and run until 11:15am. If you attend the 8:30am Mass and it is running a little longer **DO NOT LEAVE EARLY**. God is speaking to you and your children at Mass and that is of most importance. We will know if there is a longer Mass than usual.

We currently have a few spaces available in our church bulletin for advertisements. If you or someone you know would like to place an ad, please call the parish office. Some of the funds received allow us to do our many building projects like the Most Sacred Heart Hall. Please assist us in this effort in garnering more advertisements.

Starting tomorrow, **Monday September 11th** we will have a weekly holy hour from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in the Chapel dedicated for an increase in vocations to diocesan priestly vocations. A priest will be available for Confession at this time as well. Please note, that hopefully this will allow more people an opportunity to go to Confession that might not be available for the Saturday 3-3:45pm time frame. Even if you can only stop in for five minutes, it will not be a wasted five minutes.

Also, starting on **Monday September 11th** Father Newcomb will start a class on prayer which will use the Formed.org website class on it. The class will start at 6:30pm in the Saint Peter and Saint Paul Meeting Room. Please contact the office if you're planning on attending.

RCIA classes will begin on **Wednesday, September 13th** at 7pm in the parish meeting room. Anyone interested in being received into the Church, complete their sacraments, or interested in learning more about our faith should contact Deacon Rich at the office or join us.

**The 2018 Mass Book will open on:**

**Tuesday, September 12th** from 9:30am-12:30pm  
**Wednesday, September 13th** from 9:30am-12:30pm and from 5:30pm-7:30pm.

St. Mary's Day will be September 30th this year for the 40 Days for Life in Goshen, NY. Sign ups will be the 16/17th & 23/24th of September in the Narthex. Any questions call Nancy Smith 845-856-4610.

The Knights of Columbus is hosting a FAST-CASH-RAFFLE and chicken BBQ on Sat. Sep. 23, 2017 from 1PM-5PM at the Council Hall, 63 Seward Avenue. Tickets are \$50 which admit 2 people to the BBQ and a chance at winning 13 cash prizes totaling \$2500. For further information call Steve at (845) 629-3642.

**St. Jude's Walk 2017 on Saturday, September 23rd**

Where: NYC South Street Seaport Museum Pier 16  
 Time: Bus Depart St. Mary's TO BE DETERMINED  
 Registration Begins: at 8:00 a.m. Race/Walk: 9:00 a.m.  
 Cost: \$10 per walker over age of 6 (5 and under FREE)  
 Additional Fees: Each participant taking the bus is required to contribute towards fuel, tolls, driver tip and parking. Estimating no more than \$10 per person.

**How to Register to Walk OR Donate**

Use the link below:

[http://fundraising.stjude.org/site/TR/Walk/Walk?team\\_id=210670&pg=team&fr\\_id=73393](http://fundraising.stjude.org/site/TR/Walk/Walk?team_id=210670&pg=team&fr_id=73393)

You will see a button that says **St. Mary's Join Team** Next LOG IN (use your user name and password from last year) or create a new account. Follow the steps required.

**How to Participate**

Choose to fundraise only OR walk and fundraise. Click on your choice and then enter the applicable information.

Thank you for supporting St. Jude Children's Hospital and team St. Mary's

**ANNOUNCED MASSES**

**Monday, September 11**  
 9:00am Sally Tortora, by Thomas and Barbara Collins  
 Ray Kahmar, by Ann and Jim

**Tuesday, September 12 (Most Holy Name of Mary)**  
 9:00am Special Intentions for Carol and Peter Peise, by Pat Arnold

**Wednesday, September 13 (John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church)**  
 9:00am Paul Ewanciw, by his family

**Thursday, September 14 (Exaltation of the Holy Cross)**  
 9:00am Ruth Heater, by Carol Wittne

**Saturday, September 16 (Cornelius, pope and Cyprian, bishop)**  
 4:00pm The parishioners of St. Mary's  
 Luann McCarthy, by mom and dad

**Sunday, September 17**  
 8:30am Marie Purcell, by Rayola McLaughlin  
 11:30am Nick Marinaro, by Patti Ibrami



*The Sanctuary Lamp will burn brightly this week in the Church in memory of Luann McCarthy, by mom and dad.*

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Joann Wilcox, Jackie Mundy, Theresa Fuller, Donald Wolff, Sue Fitzsimmons, Barbara Straub, Robert Cinerar, Sandy Osbourne, Theresa Kavanagh, John McKean, William Lincoln, Jeanine Lincoln, Michael Barnes, Elizabeth Brennan, Walter Szpakowicz, Frances Brennan, Andrea Fedoruk, Jose Ramos, Carmen Ramos, Mercedes Rodriguez, Elizabeth Startup Jones, Thomas Davies, Pat Arnold, William Gaide, Sue Arnold, Steve Wilkinson, William Thomas, Maureen Hildebrandt, Charles Hildebrandt, Aedan Roach, James Roach, Robin Radzikowski, Dotty Lynch, Jesse G Smith, Charlie Gard, Marge Evans, Melinda Torres, Kaitlyn Smith, Kathy Barnes, Jerome Smith, Joseph Fritts, Patricia Meinhold, Susan Upton, Devin Upton, Kathy Drane, Jenna Smith, and Danielle Devore.

The collection for September 2/3 was \$6,364.  
 Thank you for your continued generosity.

***Liturgical Ministers for September 16th/17th, 2017***

MASS	LECTOR	MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION	ALTAR SERVERS
4:00PM	J. SMITH	J. FLYNN, N. SMITH, A. WITKOWSKI	E. AND A. WITKOWSKI, S. BHIKARRY
8:30AM	P. CAL	J. HENDRICK, V. LIVINGSTON, N. STASILLI	T. LAMOREAUX, D. TRUJILLO, J. MARCONE
11:30AM	M. ESLING	T. MARION, H. MARINARO, J. SNELLINGER	DJ PERRIN, A. ST. LOUIS, S. CUELLO