

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS



- Saturday, November 26th, @ 5:00PM, Birthday Remembrance for **Richard Millham**, requested by Anne Millham.
- Sunday, November 27th, @ 8:00AM, Mass for **John & Elizabeth Gaiser**, requested by Barb & Ben Nascimbeni.
- Sunday, November 27th, @ 11:00AM, Mass for **Martin Hollis**, requested by Terri Hollis.
- Sunday, November 27th, @ 5:00PM, Mass for **Rita Cross**, requested by Sue & George Paul.
- Tuesday, November 29th, @ 8:30AM, Mass for **Frank Doran**, requested by Vincent Kennedy.
- Wednesday, November 30th, @ 8:30AM, Mass for **Kathleen Cosgrove Hannon**, requested by the Nagle Family.
- Friday, December 2nd, @ 8:30AM, 4th Anniversary Mass for **Tom West, Jr.** and **Tom West, Sr.**, requested by Mom & Wife, Betty.
- Saturday, December 3rd, @ 5:00PM, Birthday Remembrance for **George Duane Martensen**, requested by the Martensen Family.
- Sunday, December 4th, @ 8:00AM, Mass for **Thomas West, Sr.**, requested by Irene and Bob Samuelrich.
- Sunday, December 4th, @ 11:00AM, 7th Anniversary Mass for **Astra Cerchia**, requested by the Cerchia Family.
- Sunday, December 4th, @ 5:00PM, Mass for **Patricia King**, requested by the Newman Family.
- Monday, December 5th, @ 8:30AM, Birthday Remembrance for **William J. Carew**, requested by Bill & Karen Carew.
- Tuesday, December 6th, @ 8:30AM, Mass for **Thomas West, Sr.**, requested by Barbara & Dick Hopkins.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL ...Our Roots Run Deep!

St. Mary's School in Simsbury is hosting an Open House on Wednesday, November 30th, from 9AM - 2PM. Please join them for coffee and opening remarks by school principal, Marie Gannatti, beginning at 9AM. See classrooms in action anytime until 2PM. Witness for yourself what a faith-based education could mean for your children and family. Please call 860/658-9412 to RSVP.



Offertory Collection for 11/20/11

Weekly Collection:	\$ 10,307.41
Loose Cash/Checks	\$ 2,213.41
Envelopes	\$ 8,094.00
Budgeted for Week:	\$ 9,000.00
Overage:	\$ 1,307.41
Cathedradicum*	- \$ 566.90
School Tax*	- \$ 566.90



Campaign for	
Human Development:	\$ 2,932.01
Refurbishment/Repair:	\$ 322.00

*Parish Taxes (5.5%) Paid to the Archdiocese for services to the Parish

UPCOMING COLLECTIONS
Immaculate Conception - 12/8

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

CONFIRMATION I & II will meet on Sunday, Dec. 4th.

GRADE 3 - The Christmas Pageant rehearsals are underway, but already we are behind because of the storm cancellations. Please make sure your child does not miss class for the next few Sundays unless ill, so that they are able to rehearse for our lovely **Christmas Pageant on Saturday, December 17th, at 11AM.**



Congratulations to our parish children who made their **First Reconciliation** last Sunday. The Penitents names are: Connor Aldrich, Christian Allard, Cooper Arsenaault, William Berckemeyer, Nicholas Boswell, Kaitlyn Bruno, Anna Caldwell, Katherine Caldwell, Riley Carew, Shae Caulfield, Jimmy Davey, Emma Day, Jack Day, Delia DeMaio, Emily DeMaio, Amory Dempsey, Cael DiMascio, Grey DiMascio, Joaquin Donaldson, Cael Finn, Ryan Finn, Maggie Gibbons, Grace Gunning, Julia Hahne, Jackson Harper, Gretchen Helitzer, Kristen Helitzer, Ashley Hepburn, Ryan Hoffman, Samantha Hoffman, T.J. Kelly, Gavin Kennedy, Max Kuczorski, Jacob Lammey, Shane LaPointe, Nicole Loftus, Vaughan Marecki, Kate Manderlink, Robbie Matthews, Patrick Meuser, Logan Miller, Leah Mueller, Kaitlyn O'Brien, Alyssa Page, Alexander Pepper, Dominic Powilatis, Nicholas Ricciuti, Aidan Riordan, Carson Rohrer, Lizzie Sennott, Sydney Silling, Abby Steniger, Connor Trudell, Zach Truding, Lauren VonHassel, Sam Wade, Jack Williams, Markaiya Williams, Peyton Witkin, Lilly Wolf, and Jackson Young.

A special thanks to their catechists who prepared the children in spite of the missed classes: **Mrs. Patti Harper, Mrs. Ann Hoffman, Mrs. Susan Caldwell, Mrs. Mary Beth Bonnell, Mrs. Robin Egan, Mrs. Amy Hahne and Mrs. Kristen Davis.**

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Tuesday, Nov. 29th, 6:45PM - **Parish Council** - Russell Hall
 Tuesday, Nov. 29th, 7:30PM - **Men's Club SCC** - Library
 Tuesday, Dec. 6th, 7PM - **RCIA** - Rectory
 Tuesday, Dec. 6th, 7:30PM - **Men's Club SCC** - Library
 Monday, Dec. 12th, 7PM - **Prayer Shawl Mtg.** - Library

HOLY FAMILY PASSIONIST RETREAT CENTER

ADVENT CENTERING PRAYER RETREAT - December 2-4. *Practicing the Presence of God.* Presenter: Fr. Bill Sheehan, O.M.I. Join us for this contemplative prayer retreat in an atmosphere of silence and solitude. Retreat offering: \$250.00

ADVENT DAY AND EVENING RETREAT - Thursday, December 8th (day 10am-2pm/evening 6-9pm). *Giving Birth to God: Advent with the Mystics.* Presenter: Dr. Brandon Nappi. Day program will include Reconciliation, lunch and Liturgy. Evening program will include dinner, presentation and Liturgy. Program Offering: \$35.00

FROM FATHER MICHAEL...



Advent 2011 brings us to both the conclusion of the current liturgical year (Ordinary Time and all) and the beginning of the new liturgical year for 2011-12, which “kicks-off” with Advent.

But this year there will be a great deal more changes in Advent than just the color purple or the more solemn music or the reduced use of flowers in our praise and worship of God. This year we have a huge change in the words of the Mass, with the exiting of the *Sacramentary* and the introduction of the new Roman Missal, Third Edition. Our Creed has new words, the Gloria has changed, the prayers of Consecration, the great Acclamation and more—new words, new phrases, deeper meaning. In a nutshell, the word changes highlight the idea that at Mass we are doing something very different—different from playing soccer or going to the movies, different from school or work. What we are doing is giving praise and honor to God, the Creator of the world. And we are His creation. It brings us to a deeper reflection of the right relationship between God and us—it reminds us that what takes place in the Mass is a dialogue between God and His people, mediated by the priest-presider. Some people will wonder “what’s the big deal?” Some will not give it two seconds notice. Others may question the words or wording of a phrase. And that’s O.K. What we need to do is to understand the meaning of the changes and the reasons for them. More on those points in future bulletins. But for now, let’s talk about the “basic” changes of Advent:

The color **Purple**, symbolizing both royalty and repentance, is the color of the season of Advent. We are now entering a time of preparation for the celebration of Christmas, the coming of God made man and His entrance into humanity and the change that then occurs in our eternal destiny. We now enter a time of penance *and* joy, a time to reflect on the Lord’s Word in our lives and from that the baptismal call which each one of us shares with Christ and is called to live-out in our lives. From November 27 until December 24 we are in the season of Advent and along with the color purple for the altar and priestly vestments, our music will be more solemn and less in number—silence is important; and, save for the third Sunday in Advent, **Gaudete Sunday**—which means *Rejoice*, both from the word “Gaudete” and the introit of the day’s Mass, we now will decorate the Church on this Gaudete Sunday in *Rose or Pink*, which is the color of joy. Candles and vestments are rose colored, flowers are introduced, and music blares the joy of our hoped-for anticipation of the coming of Christmas. As well, the **Advent wreath** is also used to represent the counting down of the weeks of Advent, lighting candles of purple, pink and white within the wreath of the Church at each Mass—though blessed only once. A **Jesse Tree** may also be used, usually barren in stature (last year’s Christmas tree) and decorated with figures and symbols of the Old Testament—recalling our past (and pointing us at the same time to the fullness of Jesus Christ found in the New Testament). Dried wreaths made of grapevines, hung on the back wall of the sanctuary, represent a host of ideas of Advent: our lives today—frail and weak, not perfect, as we work our way toward God. Decorated with the colors of the season and marking off the four weeks of Advent—bows of purple and pink. These dried and crooked wreaths will be replaced with live greenery (Christmas wreaths) symbolizing among other things, our transformation by God into perfection with His grace at the end of time. Dead, crooked wreaths now come alive as evergreens and woven into a perfect unending

circle: life with and in God. Even the color of the bows change from purple to red.

As we move closer to the feast of Christmas, around the 18th of December, the stories in the gospel at Mass change from Advent stories to learning more about the lead-up to the Birth of our Savior, Christ the babe. All things begin to culminate in the great Joy of Christmas when we in the Church celebrate the fact that God deemed it vital to leave His celestial Kingdom and to enter into humanity—to intersect, if you will—with creation and to change not only our very way of life but our destiny. He, the God of all, will become one of us and show us by word and physical example what it means to be human and to be made in the likeness and image of God: filling us with the attributes of the Almighty and then flooding us with His Sacramental Grace to carry out His wishes and will in *every day life*. The words “every day life” are important to emphasize here since it is the coming of God into humanity that makes what might seem “ordinary” become *extraordinary* by the presence of God. This past week, on Monday, November 21, 2011, the gospel reading was from Luke (21:1-4) and the story was of the poor widow and her two small coins she gave to the temple treasury. It seems like an insignificant act. A miniscule amount of money and yet Jesus lauds her for giving with such love, a pure act of charity, which to the others in the temple that day probably went unnoticed. But Christ noticed it. He notices all acts of love—no matter the size. It is this seemingly insignificant act of love that brings with it such grace.

On this same Monday the Church celebrated the memorial of the Presentation of (Blessed Virgin) Mary in the temple by her parents, Anne and Joachim. A typical ritual for a Jewish girl and family of that day. It was business as usual for Mary’s parents and probably went unnoticed by many passing by in the temple area. *But insignificant is was not.* Mary’s openness to God’s will created many grace-filled opportunities in her life and in the life of the world. Her fiat to God, an act of charity brought with it much grace. As Blessed Mother Teresa has been paraphrased time-and-time again: *it is not the size of the gift that matters but the love with which the gift is given.* The gift of love brings with it grace, and Grace makes things happen. May this Advent Season be a time of deep reflection and preparation, a time of joy. May it also—as we get into the gift giving season of Christmas—be a time of generous love, not so much of big gifts but of great love... and may His grace flow *to and from all* in this gifting season. A happy and blessed Advent to all.

RCIA—Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. Have you been coming to Mass with your Catholic spouse and children and have thought about joining your family as a Catholic? Maybe you received baptism, first reconciliation and Holy Communion as a child, but never went on to Confirmation as a young adult—and have been thinking about completing your sacramental travels? Do you know someone who has asked questions about our faith and wants to investigate more about the Church and our faith? If you answered yes to any of these questions or just want to “see” what it’s all about—come to an **introductory meeting for the RCIA Program on Tuesday, December 6th, at 7:00PM at the rectory.** You may also feel free to call Fr. Michael, in advance, at 658-1642, with any questions or concerns.

For your information: if you attended last Sunday’s White Mass with Archbishop Mansell you might have asked yourself “who was that man dressed in gold and silver vestments (Dalmatic) and black hat?” That was Deacon Tom Davis of the Byzantine Rite. He is also the director of the Pope John Paul II Medical Ethics Institute at Holy Apostles Seminary in Cromwell. I felt like a poor country priest next to him!

**End of Bulletin
Information on this page is not printed**

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