

THIS WEEKEND'S SCRIPTURES

Leprosy, in the ancient world, meant being cut off from contact with the human community. As the first reading today reminds us, a leper was cast out and left to fend for himself. While all of us at times want solitude and a respite from the maddening hoard of humanity, we remain a communal species, created by God to live with one another in a spirit of communion. It is common to ask the question, "Who have we cut off like lepers?" But we might also ask, "Have there been times when we have cut ourselves off from the community of faith?"

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday & Sunday Masses - Feb. 11/12, 2012

Saturday at 4:30 pm and Sunday at 8:00 am & 10:30 am

Thomas Wickman, Polly Balduc, Michael Hurley,
Carol Marion, and Monica Bourgeois

9:00 am - Mon., Feb. 13, 2012 ---- Millie & Sam Solomon

9:00 am—Tues., Feb. 14, 2012 ---Olga Porobich Leach
Gerald O'Grady

9:00 am—Wed., Feb. 15, 2012 --Christina & Peggy (Loturco)

9:00 am—Thurs., Feb. 16, 2012 -Communion Service

9:00 am—Fri., Feb. 17, 2012 -----Frances Fitzpatrick & Craig
Gerald O'Grady

Saturday & Sunday Masses - Feb. 18/19, 2012

Saturday at 4:30 pm and Sunday at 8:00 am & 10:30 am

Donald Hotaling, Williams Sivers, Jr., and
Owen Riggins

Monday, February 20, 2012 - No Daily Mass - Holiday!

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

The Scripture Reading for Next Sunday, Feb. 19, 2012 are:

Isaiah 43: 18-25

1 Corinthians 1: 18-22

Mark 2: 1-12

IN MEMORIAM

Please Remember all who have Died from our Parish,
Families and Community. *We especially remember:*

Bishop Joseph Estabrook

PARISH SUPPORT

Last Weekend was: \$ 8,703.00

Thanks to All for your weekly and generous support of your St. Mary's Parish Community. **Thanks for** "Making Up" your weekly support of your parish when away on vacation, when ill, or when weather conditions keep you from attending Mass., etc...

Just to let you know: 2011 Statements of Financial Support for your IRS Tax Reporting were mailed to you at home on Tuesday, January 31, 2012. **This Mailing also included** some updates to the Parish about Parish Activities.

THIS WEEK at ST. MARY'S

Saturday, February 11, 2012

11:00 am - Maryknoll Affiliates

1:00 pm - Faith Formation Retreat - Grades 6 & 7.

4:30 pm - Vigil Mass for Sunday.

Sunday, February 12, 2012

8:00 am - Sunday Mass at St. Mary's Church.

9:15 am - Faith Formation Classes: Grades K thru 5.

10:30 am - Sunday Mass at St. Mary's Church.

10:30 am to 5:30 pm - Confirmation Retreat.

7:30 pm - AA Open Meeting *in the* Parish Hall.

Monday, February 13, 2012

6:30 pm - Respect & Relationship Class - Grade 9

7:00 pm - Building Bridges - Conference Room.

7:00 pm—Spanish Rehearsal

8:00 pm - AA Meeting.

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

4:30 pm - Faith Formation Classes - Grades K thru 5.

6:30 pm - Faith Formation Classes - Grades 6 thru

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

4:30 pm - Faith Formation Classes - Grades K thru 5.

Thursday, February 16, 2012

7:00 pm - Adult Choir Rehearsal in Church.

Saturday, February 18, 2012

3:00 pm - Baptism Ceremony.

4:30 pm - Vigil Mass for Sunday.

6:30 pm - Spanish Mass. (*Fellowship Follows*)

Sunday, February 19, 2012

8:00 am - Sunday Mass at St. Mary's Church.

10:30 am - Sunday Mass at St. Mary's Church.

7:30 pm - AA Open Meeting *in the* Parish Hall.

Monday, February 20, 2012

No Mass Today - Offices Closed - Holiday!

8:00 pm - AA Meeting.

WELCOME MARY JO

St. Mary's Church, Crescent is Happy to Welcome Mary Jo Brue as our newest member of our Musical Team for our Weekend Masses.

Mary Jo will be our Musician for the 4:30 pm Saturday Vigil Mass on most weekends.

Also, Dianne McMullen will now be our lead Musician for both of our Sunday Morning Masses.

CHOIR MEMBERS NEEDED

If you would like to be a Choir Member at any of our Weekend Masses or a Cantor at any of our Weekend Masses or Play a Musical Instrument for any of our Weekend Masses, please speak with Mary Jo or with Dianne after Mass.

A LETTER FROM BISHOP HUBBARD

January 31, 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I write concerning a serious matter that negatively impacts the Church in the United States directly, and that strikes at the fundamental right to religious liberty for all citizens of any faith. The federal government, which is designed to be “of, by, and for the people,” has just dealt a heavy blow to almost a quarter of those people—the Catholic population—and to the millions more who are served by the Catholic Church.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced recently that almost all employers, including Catholic employers, will be forced to offer their employees’ health coverage that includes sterilization, abortion-inducing drugs, and contraception. Almost all health insurers will be *forced* to include those “services” in the health policies they write. And almost all individuals will be *forced* to buy that coverage as a part of their policies.

In so ruling, the Administration has cast aside the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, denying to Catholics and others our Nation’s first and most fundamental freedom, that of religious liberty. As a result, unless the rule is overturned, the institutions of the Catholic Church such as schools, colleges, hospitals nursing homes and catholic charities agencies, will be compelled either to violate their moral consciences, or to drop health coverage for their employees (and suffer the penalties for doing so). The government’s sole concession was to give our institutions one year to comply.

People of faith cannot be made second class citizens nor can the First Amendment to our Constitution be thrashed to suit the fads and fashions of the moment. We are already joined by our brothers and sisters of all faiths and many others of good will in this important effort to regain our religious freedom which has been such an important part of our nation’s greatness.

As Cardinal designate Timothy Dolan, the Archbishop of New York, in response to this ruling, stated: “The Catholic Church defends religious liberty, including freedom of conscience, for everyone. The Amish do not carry health insurance. The government respects their principles. Christian Scientists want to heal by prayer alone, and the new health-care reform law respects that, Quakers and others object to killing even in wartime, and the government respects that principle for conscientious objectors. By its decision the government has failed to show the same respect for the consciences of Catholics and others who object to treating pregnancy as a disease.”

In light of this government intrusion on religious freedom during the forthcoming Lenten Season, I would ask of you two things. First, as a community of faith we commit ourselves to prayer and fasting that wisdom and justice may prevail, and religious liberty may be restored. Without God, we can do nothing; with God, nothing is impossible. Second, I would also recommend visiting www.usccb.org/conscience, to learn more about this severe assault on religious liberty, and how to contact Congress in support of legislation that would reverse the government’s decision.

With gratitude for your attention to this matter, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Howard J. Hubbard
Bishop of Albany

FROM OUR PARISH CHILDREN

Several Months ago our Parish Children were asked to share "Welcome Notes" for New Parishioners... These Welcome Notes had three areas for the Children to complete.

1. I would like to tell you about our Parish:

- * It is Packed on Christmas and Easter.
- * Our Church and our Priest.
- * We have a Priest his name is Father Joe.
- * I'm a greeter at St. Mary's Church.
- * It has a great religion class.
- * It's a blessing.
- * Is very kind and very generous.
- * You will like it here, we sing songs, and pray, and make stuff.

2. One thing I like about my Parish:

- * There is a fountain where you bless yourself.
- * Father Joe is funny.
- * We do fun projects and things.
- * The Father.
- * We can make crafts.
- * The Priest is very nice.
- * We do a lot of activities.
- * It's sparkly.

3. These are some important people in our Parish:

- * Father Joe; & My aunt is a Eucharistic Minister.
- * My Mother & Father; and our teacher.
- * Fr. Joe; My Mommy & Daddy; and our teacher.
- * Mom and Dad and our religion teacher.
- * Father Joe and Jane, the Parish Secretary.
- * Father Joe and the Volunteers.
- * Fr. Joe; Mrs. C.; Mrs. B; and Mrs. Cureau.
- * Father Joe and Mrs. Cureau, the FF Director..
- * Father Joe

*Thanks to our Children for their
Great Responses & Notes!*

JUST TO LET YOU KNOW

Father Cebula will be away on Retreat this Monday thru Friday. Our thanks to Fr. Turnbull and Fr. McTavey for their Mass assistance this coming week.

REMINDER to ALL

"Being Christ for Others"

The Bishop's Appeal Office of the Diocese would like to remind all parishioners that final 2011 pledge statements will be mailed on February 15, 2012.

All are asked to make their final payment for the 2011 Bishop's Appeal by March 9, 2012 or before.

Thanks to All for your continued Generosity to the Bishop's Appeal in 2011.

LENT BEGINS - FEBRUARY 22

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday

• Ash Wednesday - February 22, 2012

9:00 am - Mass with Distribution of Ashes.

12:00 pm & 5:30 pm - Ash Wednesday Service in Church.

FAITH FORMATION UPDATES

FAITH FORMATION CLASSES

There will be no Faith Formation classes the weeks of February 19 and February 26. Classes will resume the week of March 4. Wednesday evening classes for grades 6, 7, 8, and 9 begin on Wednesday, March 7. at 6:30 pm. Please contact Debbie (mckown7@yahoo.com) or Mary Anne (smcff@nycap.rr.com) in the Faith Formation Office at 371-9521 with any questions.

IMPORTANT PARENT MEETING

for ALL FAITH FORMATION FAMILIES

Mark your calendars! On Sunday, March 4th *and on* Tuesday, March 6th *and on* Wednesday, March 7, --- Fr. Joe will be hosting a meeting with the parents/guardians of our Faith Formation Families. The meetings will be held at 9:15 on Sunday and at 5:15 on Tuesday and Wednesday for grades K-5 in the Parish Hall. An evening session will be held on Wednesday, March 7 at 6:30 pm for Grades 6 thru 9 Students *and their* parents, in Church. An E-mail reminder will be sent out to all families regarding these meetings. Attendance is expected - Thanks!

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

The next Confirmation sessions will be held here at St. Mary's on February 15 and 28 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. E-mail reminders will be sent out prior to each of the classes. If you have any questions, please contact our office at 371-9521 or smcff@nycap.rr.com. The next sessions will be held on March 5, 6, 7 at St. Edward's Parish.

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

The next Confirmation retreat will be held on Sunday, March 11 beginning with 10:30 Mass followed by a short gathering for families in the Parish Hall then the retreat for Confirmation candidates only. The retreat concludes at 5:30pm. An e-mail reminder will be sent to candidates and families who have signed up for this date. This is the final retreat for the cluster parishes. A retreat will be held here on April 15 but will be open to any Confirmation candidates in the diocese.

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

On Friday March 16, 2012, the Women's Group will meet from 10 AM until 12 PM in the church hall. We will be discussing the book "Rediscover Catholicism" by Matthew Kelly. This is the book given to all parishioners at Christmas. While supplies last there are free copies in Church. If there is enough interest in an evening meeting we will have one then as well. Please come and join us in our discussion of this fascinating, relevant book on our faith. We will serve coffee and home-made muffins. Women of all ages are welcome. If you have any questions or are interested in doing an evening meeting please call or email Kathy Andonie at 371-3785 or kathyandonie@aol.com.

FEBRUARY 12, 2012

FAITH FORMATION:

Catechumenate (RCIA)	Sr. Mary Christopher	371-9521
Apostolado Hispano	Dan Lara	786-0622
Marriage Prep Team	John & Kathy Andonie	371-3785
Faith Formation (<i>K thru 12</i>)	Mary Ann Cureau	371-9521
First Eucharist, First Reconciliation, & Confirmation:		
	Mary Ann Cureau	371-9521

PRAYER & WORSHIP:

Eucharistic Ministers	Jane Hegener	371-9632
Acolytes		
Lectors	Joan Hagglove	371-7876
Hospitality Ministers	Linda Lambert	237-6560
Communion Service	Pat Grennon	371-6053

CHRISTIAN SERVICE:

Pyramid Lake Weekend	Rich & Missy Belotti	371-4569
Youth Ministry	Chris Fox	371-9521
Building Bridges	Santa Orlando	371-9632
Human Concerns	Helen Hubert	371-9191
	Carol Smith	371-4336
Parish Pantry	Lori McAuliffe	371-9632
Women's Club	Kathy Andonie	371-3785
Knitting & Crocheting	Cathy McGrath	371-8557
Sunshine Outreach	Lisa Dillon	373-7089
Monthly Meals	Mary Anne Cureau	371-9521
Widowed/Divorced&Sep	Laurie O'Brien	371-3831
Alzheimer's Care Team	Pat Haffner	371-8503
Support for the Grieving	Kim Hostig	371-9632

PASTORAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE: 371-9632

Maria Elena Hamm	Kathy Spsychalski
Monica Kurzejeski	Todd Collet
Joseph Fontanelli	Michael Tesoriero
Deacon Paul Kisselback	Rev. Joseph Cebula

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION:

Finance Committee Chair	Matt Duddy	371-9632
Landscaping & Grounds	Michele Bouchey	237-6925
Money Counters	Anne Tremblay	371-3490
Sacristans	Mary Grace Johnson	371-1109

CHURCH STAFF: 371-9632

Pastor: Reverend Joseph. S. Cebula, Jr.
E-Mail: FrCebula@nycap.rr.com

Pastoral Assoc. for Administration: Jane Hegener
E-Mail: smcsec@nycap.rr.com

Pastoral Assoc. for Christian Service: Sr. Mary Christopher
E-Mail: SrChris@nycap.rr.com

Pastoral Assoc. for Youth Ministry: Chris Fox
E-Mail: smcym@nycap.rr.com

Pastoral Assoc. for Faith Formation: Mary Anne Cureau
E-Mail: smcff@nycap.rr.com

Faith Formation Secretary: Debbie McKown
E-Mail: mckown7@yahoo.com

Music Director: Dianne McMullen
E-Mail: mcmulled@union.edu

Weekend Musician: Mary Jo Brue

Maintenance: Jerry Wergedal - 371-9632