

Dear Parishioners,

You may have noticed that our tower bells have not been ringing for the last week or so. There’s been a problem with one component in the system; we hope to have a representative from the manufacturer here before long to look at it.

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I appreciate everyone’s assurances of prayers for me following last weekend’s announcement that I have been assigned to St. John the Evangelist in Goshen, effective February 1, 2015. As I noted, I seem to be establishing a tradition of oddly-timed moves (I came to Port three weeks before Christmas in 2007), but it’s a reminder that God’s time is not ours.

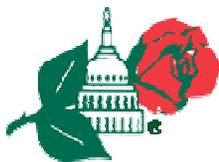
I’ve had the opportunity over the last two weeks to spend some time at St. John’s with Fr. Leonard Villa (the priest whom I’m replacing), as well as Fr. Peter Heasley and Msgr. Bayani Valenzuela, the parochial vicars. It’s a somewhat larger parish than St. Mary’s, and includes a school (something I’ve looked forward to becoming reacquainted with). The parish is also responsible for three nursing homes, as well as the Orange County Jail. So this move will present new experiences and challenges for me. At the same time, I’d be lying if I said I wasn’t sad to be leaving Port. Agreeing to come here was the best decision I’ve made thus far in my life, and I’ll be ever grateful to the Holy Spirit for making that happen. I’ve made friendships here that I hope and pray will endure, and I can say without a doubt that I’ve had the opportunity to do my best work as a priest at St. Mary’s. Those are gifts more precious than gold.

Technically, I have been appointed the “administrator” of St. John’s, just as whoever succeeds me will be the administrator of St. Mary’s. Because of *Making All Things New*, the pastoral planning process which the archdiocese is undertaking, every priest who has been placed in charge of a parish since last spring — even if he has been a pastor before — is going into his new assignment as an administrator. There are some canonical technicalities behind this, but my understanding is that, if all goes well, the more permanent appointment as pastor will come next fall. Again, all in God’s time.

A pastoral transition is always a stressful experience, maybe more so for the parishioners than for the pastor. Several people have already expressed concern about various things. I can only speak for myself, but I would think that any priest reporting to a new assignment — especially in the middle to the year, when everything is in full swing — would take his time getting the lay of the land. There are plenty of things going on at St. Mary’s that run just fine without the direct involvement of the pastor. As long as we’re doing God’s work and following His will, all will be well!

Faithfully your priest,
Fr. George Hafemann

Each year, several hundred thousand people from all over the nation gather in Washington, D.C. for the annual **MARCH FOR LIFE**. Although the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision is January 22, this year’s march is on Thursday, January 22, 2015. As we have the past several years, **St. Mary’s is sponsoring a coach bus from Port Jervis to the nation’s capital for the march**. Please visit the parish office to reserve a seat.



F.A.I.T.H. is having a **FAMILY FUN NIGHT** on Friday, January 16. The evening includes a pot luck dinner, games and a movie! Bring a covered dish (or two) to share. Our movie will be E.T. We will meet in the church hall at 5:30pm; the movie will begin by 6:45.

We would like to recycle the **advent wreath rings**. Please place them in the bins in the narthex by the weekend of January 24/25.

Save The Dates!

Our **LENTEN EVENT** is scheduled for Saturday, February 7 from 12:30 to 3:30pm.

The annual **FISH FRY** is on Friday, March 20! We are in need of volunteers for the fish fry. Please email Danielle Legato at faith@stmarysportjervis.com if you can help.

Sr. Cathy Crowley, CND, the director of pastoral care at Bon Secours Community Hospital, is seeking **VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST WITH PASTORAL CARE**, especially in St. Joseph’s Place. There will be seven weeks of training in ministry to the sick at 2:00pm on Thursdays right after the new year begins. If interested, or if you’d like more information, please call Sr. Cathy at 845-422-1065 anytime from Monday to Friday. Thank you!

Beginning this Monday, January 5, **WEEKDAY MASS** (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 9:00am) will be celebrated in the chapel; the entrance is at the back of the parish office. Weekday Mass will return to the church on Ash Wednesday.

We would like to start a **SOUP KITCHEN**, which will serve our neighbors in need once a month. Those who are interested in learning more or volunteering are invited to a gathering on Monday, January 5 at 7:00pm in the parish office. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to speak with Fr. George.

We're pleased to announce the beginning of a new ministry for middle school students. **G.E.M.S.** ("God's Extraordinary Middle Schoolers") will meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm in the church hall. The invitation is open to those in grades 6 through 8. It will follow the format of S.M.A.R.T.: a meeting each month, with apostolic service and social activities in alternating months. **The first meeting of G.E.M.S. is this Tuesday, January 6 at 7:00pm.**

2015 CALENDARS are available in the narthex. They are the generous gift of the Gray-Parker Funeral Home and the Knight-Auchmoody Funeral Home.

We're pleased to announce a **FUNDRAISER FOR ST. MARY'S**, which will benefit our parishioners as well as the parish. We are embarking on a partnership with a national wellness company that offers a wide variety of consumable products at economical prices. The parish receives a commission on all purchases made. We will be offering one-hour presentations to explain the program and enroll families/individuals with this company. We invite everyone to participate; therefore, please make an effort to attend one of the presentations in the next few months.

Court Madonna's annual TRICKY TRAY is on Sunday, January 18, 2015. The doors open at noon; calling begins at 2:00pm. Tickets are 25 for \$1; all proceeds benefit the Court's scholarship fund. For more information, please call Barbara Drew at 856-2624 or Joyce Klimkiewicz at 856-8875.

The **second collection today** is for the support of **THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA** and the **CATHOLIC COMMUNICATIONS CAMPAIGN**. Please prayerfully consider a contribution.

The collection for December 27/28 was \$4,480.
The collection for Christmas was \$19,041.
Thank you for your continued generosity.

ANNOUNCED MASSES

Monday, January 5 (John Neumann, bishop)

9:00am James Wohlscheid, by Felicitas and Ed Purcell

Tuesday, January 6 (Andre Bessette, religious)

9:00am Fritz Klostermeier, by Irene and family

Thursday, January 8

9:00am Ralph Marino, by Deacon Rich and Joanne Marino

James Wohlscheid, by Dolores Gore and family

Friday, January 9

9:00am James Wohlscheid, by Rayola McLaughlin
Deceased members of the Murphy family, by the family

Saturday, January 10

4:00pm James Wohlscheid, by Dick and Barbara Drew

Sunday, January 11 (BAPTISM OF THE LORD)

8:30am the parishioners of St. Mary's

11:30am Nick Marinaro, by Helen Marinaro

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Ida Lissner, Joann Wilcox, Jonathan Saletto, Marion Rohner, Nick Moscatiello, Andrea Fedoruk, Richard Samek, Betty Brennan, Joe Brennan, Angela Portella, Mike Castle, Walter Szpakowicz, Danielle Scibek, Pauline Portella, John McKean, Katie Onofry, John Launt, Theresa Fuller, David Drasba, Jeremiah Stasilli, Daniel Bonet, Maureen Hildrbrandt, Joseph Portella, Catherine Simons, Mary Platania, Vada Glass, Donald Wolff, Michael Barnes, William Linclon, Joseph Livingston, Jeff Sauschuck, Bernard Clune, Amanda Evelech, Anna Onuschak, Joseph Kham, Andrew Witkowski, Jackie Mundy, Makara Craig, Barbara Nachand, Betty Corcoran, Allen Van Starrex, Carol Wittine, Anne-Marie Rodriguez, Agnes Murray, and Jean Schoonover.

All are invited to a service of **LESSONS AND CAROLS** on Tuesday, January 6 at 7:00pm in the church. Come and enjoy the story and music of Christmas!

Sick List Update

Please maintain/add the following name(s) to the sick list for the next two months:

Please return to the parish office
by Monday, January 12, 2015.

Liturgical Ministers for January 10/11, 2015

MASS	LECTOR	MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION	ALTAR SERVERS
4:00PM	T. WEBB	D. SIMMONS, M. O'CONNOR, H. ECKES	N. WEBB, A. WEBB, Q. KRENTZ
8:30AM	J. HENDRICK	N. SMITH, T. CALVARIO, R. DENNINGTON	T. LAMOREAUX, G. & L. ROBERTSON
11:30AM	H. MARINARO	D. LIVINGSTON, L. BUCZEK	J. EDWARDS, R. TORRES, J. MALDONADO