

JMJ

Dear Parishioners,

The use of candles at Mass will be the focus for us this week. The word candle (candela, from candeo, to burn) was introduced into the English language as an ecclesiastical term, probably as early as the eighth century. It was known in classical times and denoted any kind of taper in which a wick, not uncommonly made of a strip of papyrus, was encased in wax or animal fat. We need not shrink from admitting that candles, like incense and lustral water, were commonly employed in pagan worship and in the rites paid to the dead. But the Church from a very early period took them into her service, just as she adopted many other things indifferent in themselves, which seemed proper to enhance the splendour of religious ceremonial. We must not forget that most of these adjuncts to worship, like music, lights, perfumes, ablutions, floral decorations, canopies, fans, screens, bells, vestments, etc. were not identified with any idolatrous cult in particular; they were common to almost all cults. They are, in fact, part of the natural language of mystical expression, and such things belong quite as much to secular ceremonial as they do to religion. The salute of an assigned number of guns, a tribute which is paid by a warship to the flag of a foreign power, is just as much or as little worthy to be described as superstitious as the display of an assigned number of candles upon the altar at high Mass. The carrying of tapers figures among the marks of respect prescribed to be shown to the highest dignitaries of the Roman Empire in the "Notitia Dignitatum Imperii". It is highly probable that the candles which were borne from a very early period before the pope or the bishop when he went in procession to the sanctuary, or which attended the transport of the book of the Gospels to the ambo or pulpit from which the deacon read, were nothing more than an adaptation of this secular practice.

As regards material, the candles used for liturgical purposes should be of beeswax. This is adhered to on account probably of its symbolic reference to the flesh of Christ, as already explained. In the case of the paschal candle and the two candles which are of obligation at Mass, a recent decree of the Congregation of Rites (14 Dec., 1904) has decided that they must be of beeswax in maxima parte, which commentators have interpreted as meaning not less than 75 per cent. For other purposes the candles placed upon the altar, e.g. at Benediction, ought to be made of wax, "in great part". Of such candles a minimum of twelve is prescribed for any public exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, though six will suffice in a poor church or for a private exposition. As a rule the colour of candles should be white, though gilded and painted candles are permitted under certain restrictions. In Masses for the dead however and in Holy Week yellow or unbleached wax is used. It is also fitting that the candles for liturgical purposes should be blessed, but this is not prescribed as of obligation. An elaborate blessing for candles is provided on the feast of the Purification on 2 Feb., otherwise known as Candlemas Day, and this is followed by a distribution of candles and a procession. In former ages this function was performed by the sovereign pontiff wherever he was resident; and of the candles so blessed some were scattered among the crowd and others sent as presents to persons of note. A less elaborate form of blessing for candles on ordinary occasions is given in the Missal as well as in the Ritual. Candles were, and are, commonly used to burn before shrines towards which the faithful wish to show special devotion. The candle burning its life out before a statue is no doubt felt in some ill-defined way to be symbolical of prayer and sacrifice. A curious medieval practice was that of offering at any favoured shrine a candle or a number of candles equalling in measurement the height of the persons for whom some favour was asked. This was called "measuring to" such or such a saint. The practice can be traced back to the time of St. Radegund (d.587) and later right through the Middle Ages. It was especially common in England and the North of France in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
*Father Newcomb*

In celebration of Catholic School Week, *St. Mary's Little Lambs* Early Childhood Learning Center in Port Jervis invites current, prospective, and alumni families to attend an Open House on Mon. Jan. 30 from 5-7pm (Snow date Mon., Feb. 6). Visit classrooms, meet with staff, shop our Scholastic Book Fair, and learn how Little Lambs is raising standards in Catholic education. Little Lambs will begin accepting registrations for the 2017-18 school year at Open House. For more information, parents of prospective students are encouraged to contact director Eileen Carmody at 845-858-4208 or [littlelambs@stmarysportjervis.com](mailto:littlelambs@stmarysportjervis.com)

***Liturgical Ministers for February 4/5, 2017***

MASS	LECTOR	MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION	ALTAR SERVERS
4:00PM	J. SMITH	C. WITTINE, K. BOBISH	S. PHILLIPS, N. WEBB, A. WEBB
8:30AM	P. CAL	N. SMITH, J. HENDRICK, T. CALVARIO, W. CARMODY	D., E., A. TRUJILLO
11:30AM	M. ESLING	T. MARION, D. LIVINGSTON, B. DENNINGTON	J. ENNIS, C. CENTAURO, K. EPPS, S. MASCI



**F.A.I.T.H. is hosting a  
Double Feature Movie Day  
Saturday, February 11th  
Doors Open at 12:00 p.m.  
Showtime 12:30 p.m.**



**Drinks and movie popcorn will  
be provided  
Kindly RSVP by  
Wednesday, February 8th  
daninyg89@frontiernet.net  
Please include the number of  
people attending**

**Upcoming Faith Events**

- Saturday, March 4th** Lenten Event
- Friday, April 7th** Fish and Chips Dinner
- Saturday, April 22nd** 2nd Annual Parish Dance



**Fat Friday Fun**

All children in grades 5 through 8 are invited to join the members of **G.E.M.S.** on Friday, February 24th from 5pm until 7pm in the church hall. We will have a pizza party, activities, and video games for all to enjoy. Come learn about our youth group while having fun. Please call the parish office for more information and to RSVP by February 17th.



Fr. Newcomb will be having discussions on Symbolon Part II in the Parish Office Building in the Saint Peter and Saint Paul Meeting Room @ 6:30pm the following Mondays:

- 13 February** Session 1: The Sacraments
- 20 February** Session 2: The Eucharist
- 27 February** Session 3: Walk through the Mass
- 6 March** Session 4: Penance & Anointing of the Sick
- 13 March** Session 5: Matrimony & Holy Orders
- 27 March** Session 6: A Catholic Moral Vision
- 3 April** Session 7: A Love that Lasts
- 17 April** Session 8: A Love that Lasts
- 24 April** Session 9: Catholic Social Teaching
- 1 May** Session 10: Catholic Social Teaching

**Banns of Marriage**

David Martz III



Kristen Gaesser

*Please take advantage of Lighthouse Media's educational tools online. Go to [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org). There you can watch movies, download books, etc.  
St. Mary's access code is **WXXVJT**.*

**ANNOUNCED MASSES**

- Monday, January 30**  
9:00am Frank Semerano, by Kevin and Linda Birmingham  
Steven Drapala, by Karin, Sm, and family
- Tuesday, January 31 (John Bosco, priest)**  
9:00am Michael Ellet, by Debi Cotugno
- Wednesday, February 1**  
9:00am Intentions of Gayle Cortes, by Debi Cotugno
- Thursday, February 2 (Presentation of the Lord)**  
9:00am Dennis Simmons, by Mary Wohlscheid
- Friday, February 3 (Blaise, bishop and martyr; Ansgar, bishop)**  
11:30am Blaise Joseph Zorich, by Dr. Jane Brooks  
Kevin Cunningham, by Anthony and Debbie Di Toto
- Saturday, February 4**  
4:00pm Monika Haering, by Hannelore Kucher
- Sunday, February 5**  
8:30am The parishioners of St. Mary's  
Jane Ewanciw, by Ray and Donna Calvario  
11:30am Blaise Joseph Zorich, by Dr. Jane Brooks  
1:30pm *Hungarian Mass*

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Joann Wilcox, Nick Moscatiello, Jackie Mundy, Theresa Fuller, Donald Wolff, Walter Szapkowicz, Frances Brennan, Jose Ramos, Aedan Roach, Jim Roach, Robyn Radzikowski, Joseph Brennan, Betty Brennan, Richard Samek, Sandy Osbourne, John McKeon, William Lincoln, Michael Barnes, Jeanine Lincoln, Mary Platania, Angela Grillo, Ruth Lewis, Anthony Medaglia, Maureen Hildebrandt, Robert Cinerar, Andrea Fedoruk, Angela Portella, Pauline Portella, Steve Wilkinson, Grace Maillet, Joseph Cox, William Gaide, Jacqueline Hamilton, Ashley Avella, Christina Greeves, Amelia Quinn, Marianne Ripel, Joseph Livingston, Donna Bancala, Teddy Mead, Pat Arnold, Angela Lillo, Pat Muller, Debi Cotugno, Tom Earley, Conner McHugh, Bobby Fett, Sue Arnold, Dennis Perrin, Josephine Fiorillo, Carol Tufano, Jacqueline Leggett, David M. Phillips, Laney Carnahan, Elizabeth Startup Jones, Michael Costescu, Lisa Baisley, Scott Smith, and Jim Muller.

**There will be a 2nd collection next weekend for Peter's Pence. Please give it your prayerful consideration.**

Boy Scout Sunday is *Sunday, February 5th*. We invite all Scouts to attend the 8:30am Mass.

The collection for January 21/22 was \$5,980.50  
Thank you for your continued generosity.