

December 7, 2014

## Second Sunday in Advent (B)



### From The Desk of Msgr. Corrigan:

Tomorrow Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup> is the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, the mother of God. Since Mary was the mother of the Son of God, she was granted a special privilege no other human has received-she was conceived without original sin. It is a holyday of obligation. Because this is the patroness feast of the United States it is always a holyday of obligation-even when it is on a Saturday or a Monday.

The Immaculate Conception was declared a dogma of the Catholic Church in 1854. It quickly became a favorite name who wished to honor Mary. Before that time the most popular name was St. Mary's. that is one of the reasons why our church has two names. Our official name, according to church and civil law, is Immaculate Conception. So why do most people use the other name? Our street name is St. Mary's; our former school was St. Mary's, our cemetery is St. Mary's, and our parish hall is St. Mary's. The confusion came about because our first pastor called the new parish, "St. Mary's", in January of 1848 but when the official documents were written later in the year it said the parish could also be called "Immaculate Conception". This later name became the official name in 1878 when Fr. Charles Corley became pastor. It was a question of timing. Between 1848 and 1878 the "Immaculate Conception" had been declared an infallible dogma of the church.

Still "St. Mary's" remains the popular name. Why? Probably because it is easier to pronounce. If you want more information, go to [www.icmary.com](http://www.icmary.com) and read chapters 4&7 of our history.

Masses on December 8<sup>th</sup> are celebrated at 8:15,12:05 and 7:30pm. There is no 5:00pm Vigil Mass on Sunday.



### COLLECTION:

The collection for last Sunday, November 30, 2014 was \$3,600.00

The second collection this Sunday December 7, 2014 will be our Christmas Flower Offering. Next Sunday, December 14, 2014 the second collection will be for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Most elderly religious worked for years for small stipends, leaving a substantial gap in retirement savings. With the ever-rising cost of healthcare and an increase in the number of those needing care, many religious communities now struggle to provide for their senior members. The *Retirement Fund for Religious* offers vital financial assistance to help meet day-to-day needs for prescription medications, nursing care and more.

The annual collection is an opportunity for each of us to give thanks to the Lord for our senior religious, and so we ask simply that you give what you can. Please join us in supporting the *Retirement Fund for Religious* and in praying for God's continued blessing on our elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.



### Second Sunday in Advent:

John the Baptist makes his first Advent appearance in today's Gospel. His familiar cry, "Prepare the way of Lord", reminds us of the task at hand this season. How are your Christmas preparations coming? What gifts of the heart are you looking for? As we gather for this Second Sunday of Advent, let us pray for the renewed energy to prepare the way of the Lord in the coming week.

In the first reading, a prophet has a message of hope for a weary people. God has prepared a way home for them  
In the second reading, Peter tells us that God has not gone back on the promise of Jesus' glorious return. Rather, he is giving humans time to repent and get ready for Jesus' coming.

In the Gospel, Jesus' identity and mission are clearly stated. The preparation for his advent is undertaken by the preaching and baptizing of John the Baptist.



### Advent 2014

- 12/7/14-**Prepare the Way**-John the Baptist helped prepare the way for the coming of the Christ child-*Mark1:1-8*
- 12/8/14-**Immaculate Conception**-Mother Mary is God's favored one. She will bring the baby Jesus to us.-*Luke1:26-38*
- 12/9/14-**Lost Sheep**-If we are lost and frightened, count on Jesus to find you and bring you safely home.-*Matthew18:12-14*
- 12/10/14-**Come to Jesus**-When we are tired and feeling lonely, Jesus is by our side to give us comfort.-*Matthew11:28-30*
- 12/11/14-**Rejoice in the Lord!**-Advent is an ideal time to give thanks for the many gifts God has given us .-*Isaiah41:31-20*
- 12/12/14-**Our Lady of Guadalupe**-"Therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God".-*Luke1:26-38*
- 12/13/14-**Sing and Pray**-Remember, singing is like praying twice. So sing some Christmas Carols.-*Matthew14:9-13*

### Day of Obligation-December 8<sup>th</sup> Feast of the Immaculate Conception-

Monday December 8<sup>th</sup> is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and a day of Obligation the Masses will be at 8:15 and 12:05 and 7:30p.m. The rectory office will also be closed that day



### Christmas Flowers:



We are taking names for the memorial which will be placed on a Christmas plaque in the rear of the church. Your donations, in memory of loved one, or for a special intention, will be placed on this plaque to be remembered by the faithful during the Holy Season. Arrangements can be made by placing your intentions and donation in the flower envelope in your December set of envelopes.

The flower offering helps to defray the cost of decorating our altars for Christmas.

Large Poinsettia Plants	\$50.00
Medium Poinsettia Plant	\$25.00
Small Poinsettia Plant	\$20.00

**Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe:**



On Friday December 12, St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers will be celebrating the traditional "Mañanitas" (early prayers and song) in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe at 5:30am. Afterwards, there will be hot chocolate and the traditional "pan dulce" (pastries). The invitation is opened to those who would like to visit. The Mexican Community of St. Mary's will be celebrating the traditional "Mañanitas" at 3:30am to 6:30am on Sunday, December 14, 2014 and then they will have a Marathon in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe at 2:00pm followed by a Mass at 3:00pm and a Procession, all are welcome to come and participate.

**UNEXPECTED PREGNANCY? If you are in a crisis pregnancy, please  
Call 914-620-4464 LIFE OPTIONS CENTER 24 HOURS, 7 DAYS A WEEK.**