



**“RECAPTURE THE DREAM:
A DREAM COME TRUE!”**

EACH TIME I SEE THOSE WORDS I WANT TO PINCH MYSELF, FOR IT STILL SEEMS LIKE A DREAM. WE’VE BEEN IN OUR NEW CHURCH FOR ALMOST A MONTH, AND WHILE IT HAS A LONG WAY TO GO, EVERYONE SEEMS AT HOME! I HOPE TO FORMALLY CELEBRATE THE DEDICATION OF THE NEW CHURCH AND REOPENING OF THE PARISH CENTER IN THE LATE SPRING, WHEN THE FLOOD-RAVAGED BASEMENT IS FINALLY REPAIRED AND WE ARE ONCE AGAIN BACK ‘ON-LINE.’

PLEASE ACCEPT MY APOLOGIES FOR OUR INABILITY TO PROVIDE ALL THE SERVICES ONCE OFFERED BY THE PARISH STAFF BEFORE HURRICANE IRENE; HOWEVER, IT MAY GET WORSE BEFORE IT GETS BETTER! IN THE WEEKS AND MONTHS TO COME, MOST OF THE WIRING FOR PHONES AND COMPUTERS LINES WILL BE REPLACED, WHICH MEANS WE WILL BE LITERALLY ‘OFF-LINE.’ WE HAVE YET TO SEE HOW MANY OF OUR RECORDS WERE PERMANENTLY LOST, AND HOW MANY WERE MERELY DAMAGED. BUT IN CASE THERE IS ANY DOUBT, IF YOU WERE BAPTIZED, CONFIRMED, MARRIED OR WHATEVER AT SAINT MARY CHURCH, IT IS STILL VALID – AND BINDING - WHETHER OR NOT WE HAVE A RECORD OF IT! [BTW: THE CHURCH HAS SPECIAL FORMS THAT CAN BE

FILLED OUT WHEN RECORDS ARE PERMANENTLY LOST!]

SOME HAVE ASKED HOW I CAN BE SO UPBEAT AND POSITIVE WITH ALL THAT HAS GONE WRONG, AND WITH THE INTERMINABLE DELAYS AND SET-BACKS. SIMPLY PUT, IT IS MY FAITH – OUR FAITH – THAT KEEPS ME GOING, AS WELL AS THE EXAMPLE OF OUR GREAT PATRONESS, MARY MOST HOLY.

AS SEEN IN THE DAILY MASS CHAPEL STAINED GLASS WINDOW IN THE OTHER COLUMN, MARY REIGNS NOT ONLY AS OUR QUEEN AND MOTHER, BY ALSO AS OUR PROTECTOR AND COMFORTER, JUST AS SHE ONCE SERVED HER SON IN THESE MATERNAL ROLES. THE WINDOW WAS DONATED BY JOHN GIANUZZI IN MEMORY OF HIS LATE WIFE, LUCILLE. IT WAS CREATED BY LAMB STUDIOS OF WYCKOFF, NJ; IT IS AN ORIGINAL IMAGE OF OUR BLESSED MOTHER, BASED ON NUMEROUS MODELS THAT WERE CONSIDERED FOR THIS CENTERPIECE OF OUR NEW DAILY MASS CHAPEL. THE COLORS WERE CHOSEN TO MATCH THE PREDOMINANT SHADES OF BLUE IN THE STAINED-GLASS WINDOWS ADDED TO THE CHURCH IN THE 1950’S. THE ‘GEMS’ OR ‘RUBIES’ [OBVIOUSLY NOT REAL!] AND HER SCEPTER HIGHLIGHT OUR LADY’S QUEENSHIP, WHICH WE REFLECT ON IN THE LAST OF THE GLORIOUS MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY.

TO EITHER SIDE OF OUR LADY ARE DEPICTIONS OF TWO CHURCHES; TO HER RIGHT [OUR LEFT] IS THE IMAGE OF THE 1909 CHURCH WHICH ONCE STOOD IN WHAT IS NOW OUR PARKING LOTS’ MAIN DRIVEWAY, IN FRONT OF THE NEW PLAZA. DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PERIOD, MANY MARVELED TO SEE THE HUGE STONE FOUNDATION OF THAT CHURCH, WHERE THEY ONCE WORSHIPPED OR ATTENDED CLASSES! I WANTED A LASTING MEMORY OF THE 1909 CHURCH, AND PUTTING IT IN THE WINDOW WAS THE BEST WAY I COULD PRESERVE IT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS TO SEE.

TO OUR LADY’S LEFT [OUR RIGHT] IS THE IMAGE OF THE NEW ENTRANCE TO OUR CHURCH. ITS COLUMNS AND FAÇADE WERE

CHOSEN TO MATCH THE DISTINGUISHED ENTRANCEWAY OF OUR HIGH SCHOOL; AS THAT PORTICO AND STEEPLE HAS PROUDLY ANNOUNCED THE PRESENCE OF OUR HIGH SCHOOL TO ALL WHO PASS BY, OUR NEW CHURCH'S FAÇADE WILL ALSO ANNOUNCE THE PRESENCE OF THE PROUD CATHOLICS WHO CALL SAINT MARY CHURCH THEIR SPIRITUAL HOME. BY NOW [I HOPE!] THE COMPUTER-CONTROLLED LED LIGHTING SYSTEM, WHICH WAS ALREADY FUNCTIONAL IN THE CHURCH AT ITS DEDICATION, WILL BE ENABLING US TO CHANGE THE COLOR OF THE PILLARS TO ANNOUNCE THE VARIOUS LITURGICAL SEASONS AND FESTIVE OCCASIONS.

CONNECTING THE NEW OUTDOOR PLAZA TO THE NEW CHURCH IS WHAT IS CALLED A NARTHEX. IN ANTIQUITY, SUCH AN 'ANTEROOM' WAS REQUIRED FOR CHURCHES; IT WAS THE PLACE WHERE THE NON-BAPTIZED AND THOSE EXPELLED OR EXCOMMUNICATED FROM THE CHURCH WENT TO 'HEAR' MASS AS THEY AWAITED BAPTISM OR RECONCILIATION. BECAUSE OF THAT, THE BAPTISMAL FONT WAS OFTEN FOUND, AS IS OURS, BETWEEN THE NARTHEX AND THE NAVE OR MAIN BODY OF THE CHURCH. SO, TOO, WERE THE CONFESSIONALS, BUT OURS IS NEAR THE BLESSED SACRAMENT SHRINE, WHERE THE OLD MAIN DOORS OF THE CHURCH ONCE WERE. ALTHOUGH NOT TECHNICALLY A 'PART' OF THE CHURCH, IT IS STILL A SACRED PLACE, AND DURING MORE CROWDED MASS, SHOULD BE RESPECTED AS A PART OF THE CHURCH. IT IS ALSO THE PLACE, AS IS THE DAILY MASS CHAPEL, TO TAKE UNRULY OR 'TEMPORARILY POSSESSED' CHILDREN DURING MASS!

ADORNING THE UPPER LEVEL OF THE NARTHEX ARE FIVE OF THE ORIGINAL 1909 CHURCH'S STAINED-GLASSED WINDOWS. THESE VENERABLE AND MAGNIFICENT WORKS OF ART WERE MIRACULOUSLY SAVED FROM THEFT, VANDALISM OR NEGLECT BY THE REV. MSGR. CHARLES DEMJANOVICH, PASTOR FROM 1951-1969,

WHO WISELY HAD THEM INSTALLED IN THE CLASSROOMS BELOW THE CHURCH IN WHAT IS NOW OUR PARISH CENTER! HAD THEY BEEN LEFT IN STORAGE, THEY PROBABLY WOULD HAVE BEEN DESTROYED OR BEEN STOLEN. [SADLY, THESE THINGS HAPPEN!]

THE WINDOW OVER THE MAIN DOORS OF THE CHURCH IS OF THE LAST SUPPER; FROM THE ALTAR, THE PRIEST-CELEBRANT CAN LITERALLY SEE THAT WHAT HE IS NOW DOING AT THE ALTAR IN THE EUCHARIST IS EXACTLY WHAT THE LORD JESUS HIMSELF DID WHEN HE INSTITUTED THIS GREAT SACRAMENT THE NIGHT BEFORE HE DIED! IT IS ALSO IN THE PLACE OF PROMINENCE TO REMIND US OF THE CENTRALITY THE MOST HOLY EUCHARIST MUST HAVE IN THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN.

THE FOUR WINDOWS ALONG THE SIDE WALLS OF THE NARTHEX DEPICT THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY: THE ANNUNCIATION BY THE ARCHANGEL GABRIEL TO MARY; THE VISITATION OF MARY TO HER RELATIVE ELIZABETH, THE MOTHER OF JOHN THE BAPTIST; THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD IN THE TEMPLE BY MARY AND JOSEPH WHO WERE GREETED BY THE PROPHET SIMEON; AND THE FINDING IN THE TEMPLE, WHEN OUR LORD, AS A MERE CHILD, WAS FOUND TEACHING THE ELDERS! BUT WHY IS ONE MISSING: THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD?

IN 1998, THE 'CHRISTMAS' WINDOW WAS PLACED IN A PROTECTIVE, ELEVATED FRAME ON WHEELS; IT HAS BEEN THE CENTERPIECE OF OUR 'CHRISTMASTIME' SANCTUARY EVER SINCE THEN! AS YOU HAVE SEEN, WE CONTINUED THIS TRADITION IN OUR NEW CHURCH!

BY THE END OF 2012, I HOPE TO HAVE A COMMEMORATIVE BOOK EXPLAINING THESE AND ALL THE WINDOWS AND ITEMS IN OUR NEW CHURCH! FOR IT'S MY FIRM BELIEF THAT THE MORE WE UNDERSTAND THE REASON FOR AND PURPOSE OF EVERY APPURTENANCE IN OUR NEW CHURCH, THE

MORE OUR CATHOLIC FAITH WILL COME ALIVE FOR US!

AS I HAVE SAID NUMEROUS TIMES, WHILE HAVING A DIGNIFIED AND PROPER PLACE FOR WORSHIP IS ESSENTIAL, IT IS ONLY A MEANS TO AN END. ITS PRIMARY END IS THE WORSHIP OF OUR GOD, THE PROCLAMATION OF HIS WORD AND THE CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS HE HAS GIVEN US TO SUSTAIN US AND THROUGH WHICH WE RECEIVE HIS MANY GRACES AND BLESSINGS. BUT RUNNING A CLOSE SECOND IS THE FORMATION OF A TRULY CHRISTIAN PEOPLE, AN ACTIVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY, IN WHICH WE OFFER BACK TO THE LORD WHATEVER GIFTS AND TALENTS, TIME AND TREASURE THE LORD HAS ENTRUSTED TO US. I SAID IT THIS WAY IN MY HOMILY AT THE DEDICATION MASS:

“WE COME TO THE ALTAR TO BE ALTERED.” AS THE PRAYERS FOR THIS [DEDICATION] RITE EXPLAIN, BY GATHERING AROUND THE ALTAR, WE ARE LITERALLY ALTERED, CHANGED, TRANSFORMED - THROUGH WORD AND SACRAMENT - INTO WHAT WE CELEBRATE AND RECEIVE HERE! ... IN THE REVISED ROMAN MISSAL THE PRIEST SAYS, “PRAY ... THAT MY SACRIFICE AND YOURS MAY BE ACCEPTABLE TO GOD THE ALMIGHTY FATHER.” MY SACRIFICE AND YOURS. AT EACH MASS, EACH ONE PRESENT IS EXPECTED TO OFFER SOMETHING TO THE LORD WHO - SINCE HE CAN NEVER BE OUTDONE IN GENEROSITY - RETURNS TO US SOMETHING FAR GREATER THAN WE OFFER HIM. THIS IS ULTIMATELY AND PROFOUNDLY TRUE FOR THE BREAD AND WINE WE OFFER TO GOD, WHICH BECOME CHRIST’S BODY AND BLOOD - BUT IT’S ALSO TRUE OF EVERY SACRAMENT AND RITUAL THAT TAKES PLACE - ON OR NEAR - THIS ALTAR! ... SOME MIGHT SEE THIS AS AN EXTRAVAGANT TABLE; OTHERS MAY SEE IT AS MERELY A STONE MONUMENT; BUT WE SEE IT AS THE PRIMARY PLACE WHERE WE WILL MEET THE LORD - AND BE NOURISHED AND FED BY HIM - UNTIL HE CALLS US TO JOIN HIM AT HIS BANQUET TABLE IN HEAVEN! MAY

THIS ALTAR BE ALL THIS - AND MORE - FOR THE CHURCH OF SAINT MARY. AMEN!”

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

WITH GOD’S LOVE AND MY PRAYERS,

Father Mike

REVEREND MICHAEL J. KREDER

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

MARRIAGE PLANS SHOULD BE MADE AT LEAST ONE YEAR BEFORE THE WEDDING; COUPLES SHOULD MAKE **NO** OTHER PLANS UNTIL THEY MEET WITH A PRIEST OR DEACON. CALL THE PARISH OFFICE FOR A MARRIAGE POLICY HANDBOOK AND PRE-CANA CONFERENCE OR ENGAGED ENCOUNTER INFORMATION.

HOME BOUND PARISHIONERS

CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE TO HAVE THE MOST HOLY EUCHARIST BROUGHT TO THE SICK OR HOMEBOUND, OR TO HAVE A LOVED ONE, NEIGHBOR OR FRIEND VISITED BY A PARISH MINISTER.

PARISH REGISTRATION

ALL ROMAN CATHOLICS LIVING WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF SAINT MARY CHURCH, OR WHO REGULARLY WORSHIP HERE, SHOULD OFFICIALLY REGISTER; IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE A CHRISTMAS MAILING, YOU MAY NOT BE REGISTERED! OBTAIN A REGISTRATION FORM FROM A PRIEST OR DEACON AFTER MASS OR AT THE PARISH OFFICE. WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE YOU TO REGISTER, EVEN IF YOU DO NOT PLAN TO USE ENVELOPES, SO YOU CAN BE ON OUR MAILING LIST. ONLY REGISTERED MEMBERS OF THE PARISH, WHO FULFILL ALL OTHER CANONICAL [CHURCH LAW] REQUIREMENTS ARE ELIGIBLE TO OBTAIN SPONSOR [GODPARENT] CERTIFICATES, LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION OR OTHER DOCUMENTATION.

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION CLASS

EXPECTANT PARENTS SHOULD CALL THE PARISH OFFICE DURING PREGNANCY TO REGISTER FOR THE MANDATORY PRE-

BAPTISM CLASS. GODPARENTS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THE SESSION, AND OTHERS ARE MOST WELCOME. UPON REGISTRATION A PARISH BAPTISMAL POLICY BOOKLET IS SENT TO YOU; PLEASE READ THIS HANDBOOK BEFORE CHOOSING GODPARENTS AND ATTENDING THE CLASS. BE SURE YOUR PROPOSED SPONSOR FULFILLS ALL REQUIREMENTS BEFORE ASKING THEM; WE MUST STRICTLY FOLLOW CHURCH LAW IN DETERMINING THE ELIGIBILITY OF GODPARENTS AND SPONSORS.

GODPARENT [SPONSOR] REQUIREMENTS

CANON [CHURCH] LAW STATES A GODPARENT [SPONSOR] MUST:

- * BE A BAPTIZED AND CONFIRMED ROMAN CATHOLIC WHO ATTENDS WEEKLY MASS AND RECEIVES EUCHARIST
- * BE AT LEAST 16 YEARS OF AGE [EXCEPTIONS POSSIBLE]
- * NOT BE ONE OF THE PARENTS
- * LEAD A MORAL LIFE IN KEEPING WITH CHURCH TEACHING, AND BE A GOOD CATHOLIC ROLE MODEL
- * IF MARRIED, BE MARRIED ACCORDING TO CHURCH LAW
- * BE A REGISTERED MEMBER OF THEIR OWN CURRENT PARISH FROM WHICH THEY MUST OBTAIN AN ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATE; WE CAN ONLY GIVE ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATES TO THOSE REGISTERED IN OUR PARISH!

SINCE ONLY ONE ROMAN CATHOLIC GODPARENT IS REQUIRED, A BAPTIZED MEMBER OF ANOTHER CHRISTIAN CHURCH [BUT NOT A ROMAN CATHOLIC OR FORMER CATHOLIC] MAY SERVE AS A CHRISTIAN WITNESS. SINCE GODPARENTS RENEW THEIR BAPTISMAL PROMISES DURING THE RITE OF BAPTISM, A NON-BAPTIZED PERSON CANNOT SERVE IN THIS ROLE.

**PARISH OFFICE PHONE NUMBER:
201 - 438 - 2200**

PARISH WEBSITE:

STMARYRUTHERFORD.ORG

DIOCESAN WEBSITE: RCAN.ORG

VATICAN WEBSITE: VATICAN.VA

CHECK OUT THESE SITES!

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS [RCIA]

IF YOU WANT TO BECOME A ROMAN CATHOLIC OR COMPLETE YOUR INITIATION INTO THE CHURCH, THE RCIA IS FOR YOU! THROUGH WEEKLY SESSIONS, *NON-CHRISTIAN ADULTS* ARE PREPARED FOR *BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION AND FIRST EUCHARIST*, AND *NON-CATHOLIC CHRISTIANS* ARE PREPARED FOR *CONFIRMATION AND FIRST EUCHARIST*, WHICH TAKES PLACE AT THE EASTER VIGIL MASS. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT MARY LANNI AT THE PARISH OFFICE. ADULT CATHOLICS NEEDING CONFIRMATION, SHOULD ALSO CONTACT MARY LANNI FOR PREPARATION CLASS INFORMATION.

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK AND DYING

PLEASE CONTACT THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPLAIN, ASSIGNED TO EACH AREA HOSPITAL, THROUGH THE HOSPITAL'S PASTORAL CARE OFFICE UPON ADMISSION. THE PATIENT PRIVACY ACT FORBIDS CHAPLAINS AND VISITING CLERGY FROM USING HOSPITAL ROSTERS, SO AS NOT TO BREACH THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THOSE WHO WISH PRIVACY. OUR PARISH MINISTERS TRY TO VISIT AREA HOSPITALS; IF YOU OR A LOVED ONE IS HOSPITALIZED, CALL THE PARISH OFFICE AND GIVE THE PATIENT'S NAME, HOSPITAL, AND ROOM NUMBER!

VOCATIONS

THOSE WHO FEEL CALLED BY GOD TO PARISH MINISTRY AS LITURGICAL MINISTERS [ALTAR SERVER, CHOIR MEMBER, USHER, READER, ETC.]; CATECHISTS [RELIGIOUS FORMATION, SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION INSTRUCTOR]; OR TO ORDAINED/PROFESSED MINISTRY [RELIGIOUS BROTHER/SISTER, DEACON OR PRIEST] SHOULD SPEAK TO A PRIEST, DEACON OR RELIGIOUS SISTER. EVERY CATHOLIC IS OBLIGATED TO PRAY FOR VOCATIONS! FOR MORE INFO CALL **973-497-4365** OR LOG ONTO THE VOCATION OFFICE ON THE ARCHDIOCESAN WEBSITE: RCAN.ORG

THE CATHOLIC ADVOCATE

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR ARCHDIOCESAN NEWSPAPER FOR A CATHOLIC VIEW OF THE NEWS AND FOR LOCAL CHURCH EVENTS. CALL **973-497-4200** FOR DETAILS OR LOG ONTO THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK'S WEBSITE AT: RCAN.ORG

ALTAR GUILD/CHURCH CLEANERS

A NUMBER OF WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS GATHER EACH WEEK TO KEEP OUR CHURCH LOOKING AS GOD'S HOUSE SHOULD LOOK. AS YOU CAN IMAGINE, THE WORK IS NEVER DONE! TO JOIN AND ASSIST THEM, LEAVE YOUR NAME AND PHONE NUMBER AT THE PARISH OFFICE: ATTN: ALTAR GUILD.

GET INVOLVED

CHECK OUT THE MANY PARISH MINISTRIES, GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS LISTED IN THE BULLETIN; WITH MANY MASSES, FUNERALS, SACRAMENTS, THREE SCHOOLS AND OTHER EVENTS, THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE! CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE TO SIGN UP.

**IS YOUR CHILD / GRANDCHILD
REGISTERED FOR RELIGIOUS
FORMATION CLASSES?**

**Do I TRULY HAVE A GENEROUS
HEART?**

GOD GRACES US WITH THE GIFT OF NATURAL LIFE AND THE GIFT OF FAITH; THE PROMISE OF SUPERNATURAL LIFE OR ETERNAL LIFE WITH GOD IN HEAVEN. TO SHOW OUR GRATITUDE AND RECOGNITION THAT ALL WE HAVE COMES FROM GOD, THE LORD ASKS US TO SHARE OUR BLESSINGS. IN BIBLICAL TIMES, ALL WERE EXPECTED TO OFFER A TITHE: THE FIRST 10% OF ONE'S PRODUCE, RICHES AND BLESSINGS TO THE LORD. GOD STILL EXPECTS THIS GENEROUS RETURN FROM US AT EVERY STAGE OF LIFE – EVEN IN DEATH.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATES THE BIRTH OF GOD'S SON, THE GREATEST GIFT OF THE MANY GIFTS GOD ENTRUSTS TO US. WHAT RETURN HAVE YOU MADE FOR ALL THE LORD HAS DONE, DOES, AND HAS PROMISED TO DO FOR US? THE CHURCH STRONGLY ENCOURAGES US TO MAKE A WILL, DETAILING HOW OUR EARTHLY TREASURES WILL BE PASSED ON TO FAMILY, FRIENDS AND OUR CHURCH.

WE ALL WANT FAMILY AND LOVED ONES TO ENJOY THE FRUITS OF OUR EARTHLY LABORS; WE SHOULD ALSO MAKE SURE OUR CHURCH, OUR PARISH FAMILY, CAN SHARE IN OUR EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE THROUGH OUR WILL. WHILE CONCERN FOR OUR OWN NEEDS AND THE NEEDS OF OTHERS MAY KEEP US FROM TITHING A FULL 10% DURING OUR EARTHLY LIFE, MOST SHOULD BE ABLE TO REACH THIS GOAL IN THEIR WILL. DID YOU REMEMBER GOD AND YOUR PARISH IN YOUR WILL?

***WEEKLY MEMORIALS &
DEDICATIONS***

IS THERE AN ENGAGEMENT, MARRIAGE, EXPECTANT COUPLE, ORDINATION, BIRTHDAY, GRADUATION, ANNIVERSARY OF MARRIAGE, ORDINATION OR DEATH, OR ANY OTHER

SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE YOU WISH TO SPIRITUALLY REMEMBER? THESE ITEMS USED FOR WORSHIP MAY BE DEDICATED WEEKLY FOR A LIVING OR DECEASED INTENTION: THE SANCTUARY LAMP WHICH CONSTANTLY BURNS BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT; THE BREAD AND WINE USED AT MASS; THE SANCTUARY FLOWERS. A SET DONATION IS REQUESTED FOR EACH ITEM, A CARD IS PROVIDED, NOTING THE ITEM AND TIME OF DEDICATION, AND THE NAMES ARE PRINTED IN THE BULLETIN! FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO DEDICATE AN ITEM, CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE.

**MARIAN SHRINE – SAINT JUDE
SHRINE
SACRED HEART SHRINE VOTIVE
CANDLES**

TO LIGHT A 4-DAY VOTIVE CANDLE AT ANY SHRINE, PLACE \$2.00 IN THE HOPPER TO THE LEFT OF THE SHRINE, WHICH ACTIVATES THE SYSTEM; THEN PUSH A BLUE OR RED CANDLE WHICH REMAINS LIT FOR 4 DAYS.

THE SPECIAL WHITE CANDLES, WHICH ARE LIT FOR ONE YEAR, WILL INCLUDE THE NAME[S] OF THE INTENTION AND REQUESTOR. THESE ANNUAL CANDLES INTENTIONS MAY BE FOR ANY PERSON[S] LIVING OR DECEASED. CONSIDER MAKING AN ANNUAL INTENTION FOR THE NEWBORN, THE NEWLYWED, THE SICK, THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY, OR THE DECEASED. THE DONATION FOR AN ANNUAL MEMORIAL CANDLE IS \$250. CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO MEMORIALIZE AN ANNUAL WHITE CANDLE.

THE ANNUAL CANDLE INTENTIONS AT THE MARIAN, SAINT JUDE AND SACRED HEART SHRINES WILL BE FORMALLY MADE ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 29 DURING THE 9 AM MASS, IN ANTICIPATION OF CANDLEMAS, THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD, ON FEBRUARY 2. EACH YEAR, ON A WEEKEND NEAR OR ON THE FEAST OF CANDLEMAS THE INTENTIONS ON THE ANNUAL MEMORIAL

**CANDLES ARE READ ALOUD DURING THE
GENERAL INTERCESSIONS.**

RELIGIOUS FORMATION (BY BETTY HATLER)

OUR RELIGIOUS FORMATION PROGRAM IS CONTINUALLY GROWING AND EVOLVING TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR BUSY PARISH. DURING THE SUMMER WE WERE PROUD TO HAVE 230 STUDENTS ENROLLED WITH 14 CATECHISTS AND A HOST OF INVOLVED PARENTS.

WE WERE BLESSED AS WELL TO ATTEND MORNING MASS WITH FATHER MIKE'S EXPERT DIRECTION AND MEANINGFUL EXPLANATIONS TO ENHANCE OUR WORSHIP EXPERIENCE.

OUR SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY CLASSES HAVE A TOTAL ENROLLMENT OF 230 WITH 16 CATECHISTS, MANY OF WHOM HAVE DEDICATED THEIR TIME AND TALENTS FOR YEARS.

REGISTRATION FOR ALL CLASSES BEGINS AFTER ALL MASSES ON PALM SUNDAY AND ENROLLMENT IS LIMITED TO THE NUMBER OF AVAILABLE CATECHISTS.

ALL STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE PROGRAM MUST BE REGISTERED IN THIS PARISH TO PARTICIPATE.

ALL FIRST GRADERS MUST SUBMIT A COPY OF THEIR BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES EVEN IF THEY HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED IN THE PARISH.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 201-438-2200 EXT 140 OR EMAIL BAHATLER@GMAIL.COM

**HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION IN
2012**

ASCENSION OF THE LORD
THURSDAY, MAY 17

ALL SAINTS DAY
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 8

CHRISTMAS
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

WEEKLY OBLIGATION
EVERY SUNDAY

**OTHER IMPORTANT HOLY DAYS, FEASTS &
CELEBRATIONS**

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD/WORLD DAY OF
PEACE/

NEW YEARS DAY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

EPIPHANY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

MONDAY, JANUARY 9

WASHINGTON DC MARCH FOR LIFE MONDAY,
JANUARY 23

DEDICATION OF ANNUAL CANDLES SUNDAY,
JANUARY 29

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK JANUARY
29 – FEBRUARY 5

ST BLAISE BLESSING OF THROATS
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

ANOINTING OF THE SICK 3:00 PM SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 4

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

PARISH 'POT LUCK' MARDI GRAS
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

ASH WEDNESDAY
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

MEN'S CORNERSTONE SETON **HALL U.**
SATURDAY, MARCH 12

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE
MONDAY, MARCH 26

PASSION [PALM] SUNDAY
SUNDAY, APRIL 1

CHRISM MASS, CATHEDRAL, 8:00 PM
MONDAY, APRIL 2

HOLY THURSDAY
THURSDAY, APRIL 5

GOOD FRIDAY
FRIDAY, APRIL 6

HOLY SATURDAY/EASTER VIGIL
SATURDAY, APRIL 7

EASTER SUNDAY
SUNDAY, APRIL 8

FIRST COMMUNION 2ND, 3RD, 4TH, 5TH
SUNDAYS OF EASTER

PARISH ANNIVERSARY
THURSDAY, APRIL 19

CONFIRMATION RETREAT
SATURDAY, MAY 19

CONFIRMATION 1:45 PM – 3:45 PM
SUNDAY, JUNE 10

PENTECOST
SUNDAY, MAY 26

SAINT MARY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION
MONDAY, JUNE 4

ACADEMY AT SAINT MARY GRADUATION
TUESDAY, JUNE 11

PARISH FEAST DAY
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7

ALL SOULS DAY
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2

PASTOR'S 27TH PRIESTHOOD ANNIVERSARY
NOVEMBER 16

***DIVORCE & REMARRIAGE
ANNULMENTS & DECLARATIONS
OF NULLITY***

THERE IS MUCH MISINFORMATION AND CONFUSION CONCERNING CHURCH TEACHING ON DIVORCE, ANNULMENT AND REMARRIAGE. TO BE **VALID**, A MARRIAGE MUST BE FREELY, TRUTHFULLY ENTERED INTO BY TWO PERSONS WHO KNOW EACH OTHER AS BEST AS POSSIBLE AND WHO INTEND TO FULFILL THE IDEALS OF MARRIAGE. WHEN A BRIDE OR GROOM IS **CATHOLIC**, THE MARRIAGE **MUST** BE PERFORMED IN A **CATHOLIC CHURCH**, BY A **VALID CATHOLIC PRIEST OR DEACON**, ACCORDING TO RITES OF THE **CATHOLIC CHURCH** OR WITH **EXPLICIT PERMISSION** ELSEWHERE OR BY ANOTHER OFFICIANT.

ANY MARRIAGE INVOLVING A **CATHOLIC** THAT TAKES PLACE IN ANY OTHER WAY MAY BE **INVALID**. SUCH MARRIAGES CAN BE 'VALIDATED' BY A **PRIEST OR DEACON** AS LONG AS THERE IS NO INVALIDATING FACTOR, LIKE A PREVIOUS VALID MARRIAGE. **CATHOLICS** IN INVALID MARRIAGES MAY NOT RECEIVE **EUCHARIST** OR SERVE AS **GODPARENTS**, BUT ARE **NOT EXCOMMUNICATED!**

TO DISSOLVE AN INVALID MARRIAGE THE CHURCH DECLARES IT **NULL** SINCE IT DID NOT TAKE PLACE PROPERLY FROM THE START; THE FEE FOR A **DECLARATION OF NULLITY** IS **\$75.00** AND TAKES ABOUT TWO WEEKS TO PROCESS. **NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION:** A COPY OF THE CURRENT MARRIAGE LICENSE, A NEW COPY OF EACH **CATHOLIC'S BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE**, THE PROPER FORM COMPLETED BY A **PRIEST/DEACON**, AND FEE.

WHEN A **VALID MARRIAGE** ENDS IN **CIVIL DIVORCE, DIVORCED** OR **SEPARATED CATHOLICS** **MAY** RECEIVE **HOLY COMMUNION**, SERVE AS **SPONSORS**, ETC. THEIR STATUS ONLY CHANGES IF THEY ENTER ANOTHER MARRIAGE BEFORE THE

PREVIOUS MARRIAGE IS OFFICIALLY DECLARED **NULL** OR IS **ANNULLED**.

AN ANNULMENT DOES **NOT** SAY THE MARRIAGE NEVER TOOK PLACE, WHICH DENIES REALITY. AN ANNULMENT RULES A MARRIAGE **NON-BINDING** BECAUSE IT WAS NOT PROPERLY ENTERED INTO: ONE OR BOTH PARTIES WERE NOT FREE, TRUTHFUL OR LACKED FULL AWARENESS OF SELF OR THE OTHER; THE IDEALS OF MARRIAGES WERE NOT UNDERSTOOD; ETC. A MARRIAGE PERFORMED BY A **VALID PRIEST OR DEACON** [NOT A SO-CALLED 'RENT-A-PRIEST' – USUALLY A FORMER PRIEST WHO HIRES HIMSELF OUT FOR AN EXORBITANT FEE] OR THE MARRIAGE BETWEEN TWO **NON-CATHOLICS** IS PRESUMED **VALID** AND NEEDS A **CATHOLIC ANNULMENT** TO BE DISSOLVED. THE FEE FOR AN ANNULMENT IN THIS DIOCESE IS **\$550**; FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY WILL NOT STOP THE PROCESS, WHICH USUALLY TAKES AT LEAST ONE YEAR. PLEASE SPEAK TO A **PRIEST OR DEACON** FOR MORE INFORMATION OR CLARIFICATION. EVERY **CATHOLIC** IN A BROKEN MARRIAGE IS STRONGLY URGED TO SEEK GUIDANCE ON THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE.

FOR MORE INFO, SPEAK TO A **PRIEST OR DEACON** OR CONTACT THE **ARCHDIOCESAN MARRIAGE TRIBUNAL** AT **973-497-4145** OR THE **ARCHDIOCESAN WEBSITE**, **WWW.RCAN.ORG**. IN **CHRISTIAN CHARITY**, PLEASE PASS THIS INFO ONTO THOSE WHO NEED THE TRUTH, WHO NEED THE FACTS, BUT WHO DO NOT NEED HEARSAY, MISINFORMATION OR OTHER WELL-INTENDED, THOUGH OFTEN HARMFUL, HELP. STRONGLY ENCOURAGE THOSE IN THESE SITUATIONS TO CONTACT A **PRIEST OR DEACON**.

FYI

THE **2011 USCCB's** [*UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS*] ANNUAL REPORT SAYS THE **ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH** IN THE **USA** HAS:

65.4 MILLION CATHOLICS [22% of U.S. POPULATION]

**CATHOLICS WORLDWIDE: 1.16 BILLION [17%
OF POP.]**

**IN THE 195 DIOCESES IN THE USA THERE
ARE:**

**39,466 PRIESTS, 17 CARDINALS, 456
BISHOPS,**

**3,608 SEMINARIANS, 16,921 PERMANENT
DEACONS**

**55,944 RELIGIOUS SISTERS, 4,606
RELIGIOUS BROTHERS**

857,410 INFANT BAPTISMS

43,279 ADULT BAPTISMS

**75,724 RECEIVED INTO FULL COMMUNION
[RCIA]**

**FOR MORE DATA LOG ON TO:
USCCB.ORG/ABOUT/MEDIA-
RELATIONS/STATISTICS**

HERE'S OUR PARISH STATISTICS FOR 2010:

REGISTERED HOUSEHOLDS: 2,800

INFANT BAPTISMS: 52

**CHILDREN WHO RECEIVED FIRST
COMMUNION: 81**

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES: 88

**RCIA CANDIDATE: 0 CATECHUMENS;
1CANDIDATE**

STUDENTS IN RELIGIOUS FORMATION: 440

**STUDENTS IN OUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:
275**

STUDENTS IN OUR HIGH SCHOOL: 318

WEDDINGS: 9

CANDIDATES FOR HOLY ORDERS: 0

FUNERALS: 63

**AVERAGE # OF FAMILIES CONTRIBUTING ON
A WEEKLY BASIS: 500 @ \$29.25 PER
FAMILY**