

 **Mass Intentions
for the Week**

MONDAY, APRIL 23

7:00 a.m. Parishioners of St. Joseph Church
12:05 p.m. Eleanor Saffo
(req. by the Marusic Family)

TUESDAY, APRIL 24

7:00 a.m. Dr. E. Paul McMahon
(req. by Sean McMahon)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25

7:00 a.m. Ted Kozlowski
(req. by Frank & Susan Coyle)
12:05 p.m. Mary Burkle: Birthday Anniversary
(req. by Bob & Joan Walsh)
7:00 p.m. Spanish Mass

THURSDAY, APRIL 26

7:00 a.m. For the friends of Emmaus
(req. by Jan Dolan & Mike DiToro)

FRIDAY, APRIL 27

7:00 a.m. Peter Armellino
(req. by the Buynak Family)
12:05 p.m. Justine Marie Kuntz: Third Anniversary
(req. by Nick & Arlene Cousins)

SATURDAY, APRIL 28

2:00 p.m. WEDDING: Christine Re &
Brian Marvin
4:00 p.m. Edward Cichiocki
(req. by George & Mary Ann Sender)
5:30 p.m. Elba Russo & Frances Aponte
(req. by Joseph & Arline Russo)

SUNDAY, APRIL 29

7:30 a.m. Deceased members of the Baptist Family
(req. by John & Helen Lull)
9:00 a.m. Maria Lojo
(req. by Dolores Kopchik)
10:30 a.m. Anthony Lugris
(req. by Marilyn Moore)
12:00 noon Ines Torres
(req. by Juan Salas-Torres)
12:15 p.m. For a special intention
(req. by the Kingsley Family)
5:00 p.m. Daniel D' Archangelo: Sixth Anniversary
(req. by the Family)

Wedding  Banns

Banns of marriage are announced this week for:

- I Kristen Toohey & Courtney Chapman
- III Christine Re & Brian Marvin

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

This Sunday, April 22, at 1:15 pm in Holy Family Hall, we will host a very special kind of gathering. It will be the first formal outreach by our parish's fledgling *Evangelization Steering Group*.

As mentioned in the bulletin and from the altar, this *Gathering Event* is focused to start with on Catholics who are already connected to our parish – by registration on a census card, by reception of one or more sacraments in our church, etc. – and inviting them to become more present to our worshipping community of faith than they may currently be.

The approach is very low key, just like Lord's own evangelizing method. Remember how frequently Jesus would gather people together (often calling them personally), talk with them, and then share something to eat or drink. Whether encountering five thousand people on a mountainside or a single Samaritan woman he happened upon at the local well, Jesus's basic strategy seems remarkably similar. Our goal is to do the same.

This is how we at St. Joseph's are responding to the Diocese's *Pastoral Plan for Evangelization*, and it is a tricky undertaking! First of all, *no one* in this parish – from the clergy to the staff to the most active parishioners – know by sight or by name every person who worships at St. Joseph's. Nor is there any reliable, easily accessible parish data base by which to check this. We are just at the beginning, in fact, of the monumental task of computerizing our 2400 handwritten parishioner census cards and cross-referencing them to other key parish lists and records. So we have made numerous errors in trying to identify people to reach out to for this *Gathering Event*.

That's why we need your help! If you know a neighbor, a friend, a colleague, or a family member who may be a bit distant, even alienated, from the Church, or one who for any reason is not presently attending Mass regularly, invite them to come with you to the *Gathering Event* this Sunday afternoon, and if possible also to Mass. In fact, feel free to invite *anyone* who is searching for a deeper relationship with God in their lives. And then be sure to come yourself so they will see a familiar face! According to the final command of the Lord before He ascended, spreading the Gospel of Christ and gathering active members into His Church is not incidental to our own faith. It is rather our fundamental Christian obligation.

– *Father Chris Walsh*

SCHOOL NEWS

St. Joseph Catholic School

Dr. Margaret Dames, Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Bridgeport, met with **President Bush at the White House** last Friday, April 13. Dr. Dames, along with ten others, was recognized as a national leader in Catholic education.

The following is an excerpt of President Bush's remarks

"Secretary Spellings and I have just had the privilege of talking to some of our country's leading educational entrepreneurs. We had the privilege of talking to parents whose lives have been positively affected by our Catholic school system. One of the great assets in the United States is the Catholic schools, which oftentimes educate the so-called hard to educate – and they do so in such a spectacular way...we just heard from Margaret Dames who has got a marvelous school program in Bridgeport, CT.

One thing is for certain, if you're interested in educational excellence, you can look at the Catholic schools in the United States of America, because they provide it -- and for that, this country is very grateful."

*Registration at St. Joseph School continues for the 2007/2008 school year. Kindergarten, Grade One and Grade Five are almost full. **If it is your intent to register or re-register your child, please do so now.***

EVANGELIZATION GATHERING THIS SUNDAY

Bishop Lori recently introduced the Diocesan Pastoral Plan for Evangelization entitled: *Following in the Footsteps of Christ*. In support of this plan, our parish formed an Evangelization Steering Committee to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to our diverse community. As part of this effort, a **"Gathering Event"** will be held on **this Sunday**, April 22 in Holy Family Hall after the 12:15 p.m. Mass to welcome any and all who may have been away from our parish for any period of time. Parishioners are encouraged to reach out to inactive parishioners, alienated Catholics and non-Catholics and invite them to attend the 12:15 p.m. Mass on Sunday and the Gathering immediately following. Christ reminded us in John 10:10 – *"I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly."* Please help us in our Evangelization efforts as we join together in *Following in the Footsteps of Christ*.

SANCTUARY LAMP MEMORIAL

The Sanctuary Lamp, signifying the Eucharistic presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ, burns this week in memory of Anthony Cusano, requested by Delores Cusano.

**CENTENNIAL GALA ON MAY 19:
A "ONCE IN A HUNDRED YEARS" EVENT!**

These are the final weeks to reserve your places for the **Centennial Gala Dinner Dance** to be held **Saturday evening, May 19** at John J. Sullivan's Restaurant, Ansonia. Already 90 percent of the seats are taken! The final deadline for ticket reservations is **Sunday, May 6**. *Share an unforgettable evening with family, old friends, fellow parishioners, and some of the priests you remember with affection such as Msgr. Larry McMahon, Father Bob Weiss, Father Paul Murphy, and special guests **Bishop William Lori** and native son **retired Archbishop Peter Leo Gerety!***

The evening's festivities begin with a cocktail hour at 6:30 p.m. followed by a four-course dinner and dancing. Tickets are \$100/person and include a champagne toast, two cocktails and wine at the table. Scores of valuable donated merchandise and services will be won in a special **"Balloon Pop"** in the course of the night. Send your check to the Parish Office in an envelope marked "Centennial Gala" or contact **Bob & Sue DeMarco (922-1344)**.

**ANNUAL BISHOP'S APPEAL –
"IN PEW" COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND**

Next weekend will be the "In Pew" Collection for the *Annual Bishop's Appeal*. If you have not already made your pledge to this year's Appeal, you may do so next week at any of the Masses.

The theme of this year's Appeal - *"Living our Faith"* - calls us to join together as one Catholic family to help the neediest among us. Our St. Joseph Parish goal is **\$89,000**. *Please participate in the Appeal to the best of your ability. If you have already made your gift or pledge, thank you sincerely for your support of the many programs and services made possible by the Annual Bishop's Appeal!*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT ST. JOSEPH'S

- 22 RCIA (10 a.m., Rel. Ed. meeting room #1).
Evangelization Gathering (1:15 p.m., Holy Family Hall).
Youth Group (6 p.m., Upper Room).
- 23 Scripture Study (7 p.m., Rel. Ed. meeting room #1).
Women's Devotional Group (7:30 p.m., Upper Room).
- 24 Sunday Scripture Sharing (10 a.m., Rel. Ed. mtg. rm. #2).
- 25 Meditative Prayer Group (10:30 a.m., Chapel).
Carnival Committee mtg. (7 p.m., Upper Room).
Choir rehearsal (7:45 p.m., Church).
- 26 TOPS (6 p.m., Rel. Ed. meeting room #2).
- 29 RCIA (10 a.m., Rel. Ed. meeting room #1).
Children's Choir (11:45 a.m., Holy Family Hall).
Pre-Baptism class (12:30 p.m., Rel. Ed. mtg.rm. #1).
Youth Group (6 p.m., Upper Room).

YOUTH GROUP

SJYG meets Sundays from 6-8 p.m. unless otherwise stated. All high school age youth are invited to attend SJYG events. www.sjcschelton.org/youth_group.htm

- April 22: Open gym.
- April 29: Welcome meeting – all newly Confirmed are invited to attend.

COUPLES NEEDED TO ASSIST IN TEACHING PRE-BAPTISM CLASSES

Deacon Tony is looking for couples to volunteer to assist in teaching Pre-Baptism classes, normally held on the last Sunday of each month. Each class lasts approximately one hour. Depending upon the number of volunteers, each couple's commitment may only be *a few times each year*. During the class, couples would *share their personal perspective on the importance of their faith and the importance of the St. Joseph's faith community to their family*. If interested, or if you just want to know more about the program, please contact Deacon Tony through the Parish Office. **Thank you in advance for your help.**

VICTORIAN TEA

Save the date! The second annual Victorian Tea, sponsored by the Rosary Society and the Women's Devotional Group, will be held on Sunday, June 3 at 2 p.m. All ladies of the parish (of all ages) are invited. Please watch the bulletin for more information.

CARNIVAL NEWS

It's Carnival Time!! Volunteers are still needed in all areas. Come share your skills and meet new friends and fellow parishioners at our largest fundraiser. Also, please check the bulletin each week for the supplies we need to help offset some of the costs of this great event. For more information call Jack Mulrooney (203/530-5173).



Office Hours: *Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon. Health counseling, educational materials and referral services available to all age groups. Monthly blood pressure screenings will be held after the 4 p.m. and 9 a.m. Mass in the parent's room in the Church on Social Sunday Weekend.*

Please note: The Parish Nurse Office will be **closed on Wednesday, April 25** to allow our Parish Nurses to attend a statewide Parish Nurse Symposium.

A **Lunch and Learn** with Peggy Marlowe, R.N., speaking about breast health, will be held Wednesday, May 2. Please see the flyer in this weekend's bulletin for more information.



Bernardo Council 1350, Knights of Columbus, will meet Thursday, April 26, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Margaret Mary Church.

Married couples: The next **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend** is April 27–29. During the weekend, couples learn techniques to revitalize their Christian marriage. For more information, or to register for an upcoming weekend, please contact John & Bev Maley (364-0836, send e-mail to bjkmaley@aol.com or visit www.wvme.org).

The annual **"Red Mass"** for Catholic members of the legal profession, their families and friends, will be celebrated Sunday, April 29, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Matthew Church, Norwalk. William Cardinal Keeler, Archbishop of Baltimore, will be the principal celebrant and homilist. A brunch will follow with Carl Anderson, K of C Supreme Knight, as guest speaker. Tickets are \$30/person; for more info, please call 203/416-1457 or send an e-mail to specialevents@diobpt.org.

WEDDING JUBILEE DAY

Couples celebrating their 15th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th (or more) Wedding Anniversary during January – June 2007 are invited to a **special Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Lori** at 3 p.m. on Sunday, June 3 at St. Theresa Church, Trumbull. The celebration will include renewal of marriage vows and the presentation of commemorative certificates. Please stop by or call the Parish Office (924-8611) by Friday, May 18 to register.

BRET NICHOLS' "YOU GOTTA BELIEVE" BASKETBALL CAMP

Bret Nichols, author, motivational speaker and professional basketball player, is offering the *You Gotta Believe Basketball Camp 2007* for boys and girls entering 3rd – 9th grades at St. Joseph School during **June 25-29** and **August 6 – 10**. Campers will be competitively split up into age, gender and ability groups to challenge their potential. For more information please call **203/758-1333** or visit www.yougottabelieve.info.

"Building for our Second 100 Years"
COLLECTION REPORT

April 14-15, 2007

Offertory (429 env.):	\$9,694.50
Late envelopes:	358.00
Children's collection:	<u>18.27</u>
Total:	<u>\$10,070.77</u>

Thank you for your generous support!

