MONTHLY BULLETIN
OF THE
CHURCH OF SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN
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A MERRY CHRIST-MASS!

Once upon a time preparations were being made for a Christmas Mystery Play. Someone suggested that a live baby should be brought for the Manger scene. When the curtains parted for the Nativity tableau the piercing cry of the infant rose from the bed of straw. A certain commotion spread through the congregation, — the child's mother was hastily summoned, — as though something unliturgical had happened. Yet probably many of those present were startled to a faith deeper than ever before in the Word made Flesh.

That joyous and perpetual memory is close at hand. Again the Christ-Child stretches out his tiny hands for our gifts of love. We know what he expects from each one of us. He asks for a devout Holy Communion after a brave and humble sacramental preparation. Here at St Mary's, faithful shepherds and other wise men and women, as well as children, have taught us this. All the Catholic Christmas tradition is here. It is for each one of us to decide as to the time, and as to the real repentance of our Christmas confession. Each communicant will decide as to the hour best suited for the most recollected and acceptable Holy Communion. Our Christmas Absolution—our Christmas Communion—those are great parts of the Christmas joy. No natural darkness in the world around,—in our own hearts,—can extinguish the everlasting Light of Bethlehem. How we shall want to carry on the precious and glorious ways of Mother Church at Christmas-time. We shall do well to ask God to guide us as to the best hour for our Christmas
confession and communion. This is the way to Bethlehem,—this is the certain road to a merry Christ-Mass.

Christmas Eve is a meatless day, being the Vigil of the Holy Nativity. The midnight Mass does not begin until the morning of December the 25th. Hence no fast before communion at that Mass is required on Christmas Eve. More than at other times is there danger of those receiving at the midnight Mass being classed with the Corinthians of whom St Paul wrote that they were "guilty of the Body and Blood of the Lord". Read the 11th Chapter of the First Epistle to the Corinthians. A good sacramental confession with the hours before communion being spent in some fitting way will make impossible such a condemnation for us.

CONFESSIONS on Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24th, will be heard as follows:

10 a.m. to 12 noon—Father Banner
12 noon to 1 p.m.—Father Mason
2 p.m. to 3 p.m.—Father Banner
3 p.m. to 6 p.m.—Fathers Williams, Otis and Mason
8 p.m. to 9 p.m.—Fathers Williams, Otis and Mason
9 p.m. to 10 p.m.—Father Banner

The first Evensong of Christmas Day will be sung in the church at 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24th. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will be given immediately afterward.

The First Solemn Mass of Christmas will be sung at midnight again this year. That means that we must be on our guard against persons attending this service and even making their communions, who come as sightseers rather than as worshippers. Hence admission to this midnight Mass will be by ticket only. These may be secured beforehand from the Parish Secretary at 145 West 46th Street, New York.

On Christmas Day there will be Low Masses at 6, 7, 8 and 10 o'clock. The Mass at 9 will be a Sung Mass. The High Mass with sermon by the Father Rector will be at 11. The Church will be closed at 1 p.m. in order that the members of our staff may have the advantage of the holiday.

The Christmas party for the children of the Church School will be on Saturday, December the 28th, the Feast of the Holy Innocents. In the morning there will be the usual Saturday schedule of Sung Mass and catechism. The secular festivities begin at 12.15 p.m. There will be the Christmas Tree and a jolly time for all.

WITH this copy of AVE is enclosed an envelope for the Christmas offering. Please be as generous as possible. The generous giving of the many, each according to his means however limited, would be a blessing indeed to all of us.

The Dramatic Society has been quietly preparing for our benefit a revival of "The Christmas Mystery of the Shearmen's Guild of Coventry". There will be only one performance and there will be a new cast and new costumes. The time—Monday, December 30th at 8.30 p.m. The place—St Joseph's Hall. A cordial invitation is extended to all.

Attractive Christmas presents may be purchased from the Tract Department. They may be secured after the High Mass on Sundays or from the Parish Secretary at the regular office hours. We would heartily recommend the following to your attention:

- The Story of St Mary's.............................................. N. F. Read,............. $1.50
- The Dream of Gerontius............................................. Cardinal Manning,....... .35
- The Hound of Heaven.............................................. Francis Thompson,....... .35
- The Infant King.................................................. Father Hughson,........ .40
- The Stewardship Diary............................................ Diocese of New York,...... .25
- The Churchman's Ordo Kalendar............................................. .40

To gaze on Thee is life! Here let me stay!
But if Thou bid me go from Bethlehem,
Be Thou my Bread to strengthen for the way!
Blest they who feed on Thee, for Thou to them
Wilt grant in vision of eternal day
The perfect joyance of Jerusalem.

Richard Meux Benson
A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As at Christmas-time, so in the New Year, the Christ Child asks from each of us simply the offering of what we actually have it in our power to give. “All things come of Thee, O Lord.” What we have is really Thine. What we give and offer to Thee is Thine already. The Babe of Bethlehem asks for our offerings from what we now have. One worshipper will bring gold, another frankincense, and still another myrrh. One can offer material valuables,—another will make special pledges of prayer, still another dedicates suffering and sorrow as a genuine sacramental offering. New Year’s Day is a good time to reconsider our various pledges for the coming year. Can we increase our present allowance of time for private daily prayer? for private night prayer? What of our present investment in intercessory prayer? Some of the well known booklets as to prayer for others would help us to improve, if not to increase, our pledges here. Then as to our sacramental subscriptions? Is it the time for us to increase our presence at weekday Masses,—perhaps one more day a week? Can we make some special progress in self-examination, perhaps trying some different method? During this new year, God may expect large offerings of sorrow, of suffering,—He may call us to give to Him a more generous joy in the Sorrowful Mysteries. God offers to many of us the chance to make gifts of our time, of the toil of our hands, of many steps taken for His sake. Just as God has entrusted to us so very many different talents and other possessions, so He will expect, and He will understand, widely various New Year’s gifts and pledges from us to Him. The story of the saints is the story of sacrifice as the stairway to the Saviour of the world.

*  *

Wednesday, January 1st, is a Holy Day of Obligation. The greater feasts of the Church are celebrated eight full days instead of one. The first day of the octave is the most important, while the eighth day ranks next and is called the Octave Day. New Year’s Day is the Octave Day of Christmas and, in addition, is the Feast of the Circumcision of our Lord.

There can be no true love given unless obligation is recognized. The test of the genuineness of our love is shown by our behaviour when that love calls us to action. What we are called by our Lord to do on a holy day of obligation is to be present at Mass. In order to make this easier for our people there will be Low Masses at 6, 7, 8 and 9.30. High Mass with a brief address by the Father Rector will be at 11 a.m. The church will be closed at one p.m. for the remainder of the day.

CORPORATE Communions for the month of January are announced as follows:

Sunday, January 5th, 9 a.m. The Church School, the Guild of St Mary of the Cross, the Guild of St Mary of Nazareth.
Monday, January 6th, 8 a.m. Associates of the Sisterhood of the Holy Nativity (Mission House), Associates of the Community of St Mary (St Joseph's Chapel).
Tuesday, January 7th, 7.30 a.m. Tertiaries of the Order of St Francis (Lady Chapel).
Wednesday, January 8th, 9.30 a.m. St Mary's Guild.
Sunday, January 12th, 9 a.m. Knights of St Mary.
Sunday, January 26th, 9 a.m. Guild of St Vincent.

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The Chantry Masses in January will be on the 16th, 23rd, and the 28th of the month. The names in the Chantry Book will be remembered at the Masses on the 28th of January.

*  *

The Woman's Auxiliary will meet on January the 10th. There will be a votive Mass for Missions in the Lady Chapel at 9.30 a.m. which will be followed by the monthly meeting at eleven in St Joseph's Hall. At that time Mrs William Mason Smith, of the Diocesan Committee on Brazil, will speak on our missionary work in that country.

In order to accommodate those women of the parish who find it impossible for business or other reasons to attend the morning
meetings of the parish branch of the Woman's Auxiliary, an evening branch of the Auxiliary has been formed. The morning and evening meetings will be held in alternate months.

NURSES in New York City are cordially invited to the meetings of the Guild of St Catherine of Genoa. This is a non-parochial guild for graduate and student nurses. The January meeting will be on Sunday the 12th at 5.45 p.m. in the Lady Chapel. After the short devotional service, there will be tea and a social hour in the Mission House.

At the request of the Church Club and the Woman's Auxiliary of the Diocese, Bishop Manning will give a series of addresses on the general topic “The Christian in this Modern World” on the Wednesday afternoons during the Epiphany season at St Bartholomew’s Community House, 109 East 51st Street, from 5.15 to 6 o’clock. These addresses are to be given in connection with The Forward Movement which is doing so much to revive the spiritual life of the Church throughout the country. We at St Mary’s need to enter more fully into our heritage as children of God,—partakers of eternal life. These addresses and the booklets put out by The Forward Movement are designed for this purpose. The latter are on sale at the Tract Table.

The Catholic Laymen’s Club of New York for the third season will hold its public lecture series here at St Mary’s. This time, instead of three, there will be two lectures, both given by the Reverend Bernard Iddings Bell, Canon of St John’s Cathedral, Providence, Rhode Island. The topic, “A Catholic Looks at the World”, will be given in two parts, the first on Wednesday, January 15th, and the second a week later on January 22nd. Beginning promptly at 8:15 p.m., they will conclude at 9 with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. A collection will be taken up to defray the expenses of the series.

These lectures are open to the general public. In these days when the Catholic viewpoint is so much needed by the world, we urge all our parishioners to come and bring as many of their non-Catholic friends as possible.

CONFIRMATION instructions will be given on eight successive Monday evenings, beginning January the 27th, at eight o’clock in preparation for the coming of the Bishop on March the 27th. Confirmation is an apostolic and sacramental rite by which the Holy Spirit is given to complete our Baptism, so that we may be strengthened in our Christian life.

Please give your personal help toward bringing friends and likely candidates for this sacrament to these lectures. There are many who are hungry for what the Church has to offer. These instructions may well give a glimpse of the reality and purpose back of the apparent confusion in the world to-day. Attendance these Monday evenings does not commit anyone to being confirmed. Let us be real missionaries.

ONE of the common terms applied to St Mary's Parish by outsiders is “high church”, which at one time very clearly meant something which was fairly well understood. Now, unfortunately, to many people “high church” means the worship of God in the aesthetic sense, and has no reference to the sacrificial living which membership in the Catholic Church entails. Formerly “high church” meant abiding in the life and discipline of the Church which our Lord founded and to which he gave his authority; and had little or no reference to the outward forms of worship. Clearly it behooves us to be more faithful than ever to do what Christ has ordered in his Church. Naturally we find this difficult, but Christ who has commanded, makes it supernaturally possible. Well may our religion deserve the contempt of others if we are faithful only to what we enjoy and find pleasurable.

CHRIST in his Church has asked us to do or to abstain from doing certain things in order to give us an opportunity to show our love for him. Faithful Catholics, being human, may
misunderstand at times what our Lord has asked. It is well to ask one of the clergy or to read a tract dealing with the subject in question if there is any doubt.

What is meant by fasting communion? By this is meant doing without food and drink from midnight until the time of actual communion. Drinking water does break the fast. Sickness does not excuse one from breaking the fast. Any Catholic Priest will be only too glad, in case of illness, to come at an hour at which it is possible for the fast to be observed. No one can dispense himself, or herself, from this fast. Surely if one meditates on God’s goodness and love in coming to us under the forms of Bread and Wine, there can be nothing but rejoicing that Christ the King has asked us, through his Church, to show our gratitude to him by preparing in this way to receive our heavenly Food.

THE Men’s Club of the parish is making plans for a meeting in January with the Catholic Laymen’s Club. A meeting is also planned for February when an annual banquet will be inaugurated and special speakers provided. Please watch the weekly programs for announcements of the place and date of each of these gatherings. A good program is guaranteed.

THE altar flowers during the month of January are given in memory of the following:


Of your charity, pray for the happy repose of their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

“As many of you as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ.”

November 3. Constance Diana Walz (Infant)

MARRIAGES

“Those whom God hath joined together let no man put asunder.”

November 29. William P. McCool and Ethel W. Leary
November 30. John Bennington Kenner and Dorothy Eleanor Schildknecht

BURIALS

“Grant them, O Lord, eternal rest, and may light perpetual shine upon them.”

November 12. Mrs Mary Stone Nugent

The following contributions to AVE are gratefully acknowledged: Anonymous, $1, $2; Miss Rossetti Barbour, $1; Miss Ada Beazley, $1; Miss Eleanor Bloomfield, $1; Mr Harold Bowman, $5; Mrs Horace Carpenter, $3; Miss Margaret Matthews, $1; Mrs L. W. Menocal, $1; Mr J. W. Plank, $1; Miss Hazel Whelpley, $1.

AVE is published monthly (July, August and September excepted) and is sent gratis to communicants and supporters of the Church of Saint Mary the Virgin.

It would be a great help if readers who value AVE would send an annual contribution towards the expense of its printing and circulation.

Inquiries concerning AVE should be sent to the Editor, The Reverend Father Banner, S.S.J.E., 144 West 47th Street, New York.

To insure delivery of AVE, the Parish Secretary should be notified promptly of any permanent change of address.
KALENDAR FOR JANUARY, 1936

1. W. THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD.
3. F. Octave of St John the Evangelist.
5. Su. SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS. Eve of the Epiphany.
6. M. THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD.
7. Tu. In the Octave of the Epiphany.
8. W. In Octave.
10. F. In Octave. Abstinence.
12. Su. SUNDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE EPIPHANY.
14. Tu. St Hilary, B.C.D.
15. W. St Paul the first Hermit, C. Com. of St Maurus, Ab.C.
17. F. St Anthony, Ab.C Abstinence.
18. Sa. St Prisca, V.M.
19. Su. EPIPHANY II.
20. M. SS Fabian and Sebastian, MM.
21. Tu. St Agnes, V.M.
22. W. St Vincent, Deacon, M.
24. F. St Timothy, B.M. Abstinence.
25. Sa. CONVERSION OF ST PAUL. Com. of St Peter.
26. Su. EPIPHANY III. Com. of St Polycarp, B.M.
27. M. St John Chrysostom, B.C.D.
29. W. St Francis de Sales, B.C.D.
30. Th. King Charles the Martyr.

MUSIC LIST FOR JANUARY

JANUARY 1.—THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD.
Mass in D .................. Henschel
Motet, “Chant de la Nativité” ............ Roger-Ducassé

JANUARY 5.—SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS.
Mass in B flat ............... Süßmayer
Motet, “Hodie nobis cælorum Rex” ........ Desderi
Evensong:
Magnificat and Nunc dimittis, Tone VI, with faux-bourdons . . . Tomkins
Motet, “Jesu dulcis memoria” ............ Rheinberger

JANUARY 12.—SUNDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE EPIPHANY.
Mass in E minor ............ Bruckner
Motet, “O salutaris” ............. Gorno
Evensong:
Magnificat and Nunc dimittis (Short Service) . . . Byrd
Motet, “O bone Jesu” ............ Palestrina

JANUARY 19.—EPIPHANY II.
Mass in B flat ............... Schubert
Motet, “Domine, adjutor meus” ........... Saint-Saëns
Evensong:
Magnificat, Tone II, with faux-bourdons . . . Willan
Nunc dimittis, Tone III, with faux-bourdons . . Willan
Motet, “Adoramus te, Christe”* ............ Aichinger

JANUARY 26.—EPIPHANY III.
Mass in D .................. Haydn
Motet, “Tantum ergo” ............ Cherubini
Evensong:
Magnificat, Tone VI, with faux-bourdons . . Whitlock
Nunc dimittis, Tonus peregrinus, with faux-bourdons, Whitlock
Motet, “Adoramus te, Christe” (No. 2)* ....... Peri

Days indicated by ☼ are days of precept, with an obligation of attendance at Mass. Days on which votive and requiem Masses may be said are printed in italics.

*First time.
ST MARY'S CHOIR

Sopranos
Ruth Burdick Williams, Soloist  Isabel Parkman
Louise Langland  Margaret A. George
Beatrice Penzner  Mathilde A. Prahl

Contraltos
Georgia Standing, Soloist  Lulu B. Evans
Zoe Fenton Jones  Ruth Bieber

Tenors
Sidney John Smith, Soloist  Edwin McKinley
Walter T. Mitchell  M. F. Pfau

Basses
Edward Bromberg, Soloist  James Banks
Frederick Tooley  Richard E. Parks

Cantors
Carl Kreisberg  A. A. Gauthier
Julian Marshall  Burl Ives

Orchestra
Elsa Fischer, Violin  Lucie E. Neidhardt, Viola
Anna Fried, Violin  Constance Veitch, Violoncello
Ruth Stickney Moeller, Violin  Charles W. Harris, Contrabass
Alfred Fries, Tympani

ST MARY'S CHOIR

SUNDAYS
Low Mass ............................................. 7 and 8 a.m.
Sung Mass, with five-minute address .......... 9 a.m.
Low Mass ............................................. 10 a.m.
Matins .................................................. 10:30 a.m.
High Mass, with sermon ......................... 11 a.m.
Evensong and Benediction, with instruction . 8 p.m.

WEEK DAYS
Mass, daily ............................................ 7, 8 and 9:30 a.m.
Also on Holy Days of Obligation ............. 6 a.m. and 12:10 noon
Children's Mass and catechism, Saturdays . 9:30 a.m.
Matins .................................................. 9 a.m.
Vespers .................................................. 6 p.m.
Holy Hour, Saturdays ......................... 5 to 6 p.m.

Other Services during the Week, and on Festivals, as announced on the preceding Sunday.

The Church is open daily from 6:30 a.m. till 9 p.m.
Adults or children can be prepared at any time for First Confession, Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion.

The office of the Parish Secretary is open at the following times:

Mondays to Fridays .............................. 9.15 to 1 and 2 to 5
Saturdays ............................................. 9.15 to 1
Closed on legal holidays.
SACRAMENTS AND OTHER RITES

CONFESSIONS

Father Williams, S.S.J.E., Saturdays, 3 to 5 and 8 to 9 p.m.
Father Otis, S.S.J.E., Saturdays, 3 to 5 and 8 to 9 p.m.
Father Banner, S.S.J.E., Sundays, 8:30 to 9 a.m. Thursdays,
4:30 to 5:30 p.m., and Fridays, 7 to 8 p.m.
Father Peabody, Saturdays, 3 to 5 and 8 to 9 p.m.
A Priest can always be seen daily at 7:30 a.m., upon application.

BAPTISMS.—Sundays at 3 p.m., by arrangement with the clergy. Proper sponsors should be chosen, and the mother should be churched.

MARRIAGES are solemnized only after arrangement with the clergy and after three days' notice has been given. A certificate of Baptism should be produced by both parties. Those to be married should, if confirmed, receive Holy Communion. A nuptial Mass is suggested. It is against God's law to marry anyone divorced, as long as the other partner is living. Marriages are not solemnized during Lent, nor on Sundays or Christmas Day.

SICK CALLS, Holy Unction and Communion of the Sick, on application to the clergy, in person, by telephone, or by post.

BURIALS.—The clergy should always be consulted before any arrangements are made. The bodies of baptized persons may be brought to the Chantry of the church at any time before the day of the funeral. It is the usual custom at St Mary's to have the funeral service a requiem Mass.

MUSIC.—Arrangements for music at weddings or funerals should be made directly with Mr Nold, the Director of Music.

PARISH GUILDS AND ORGANIZATIONS

All persons who come regularly to the Church of St Mary the Virgin are urged to ally themselves with one of the Guilds and thus take their share in the work of the Church and its missionary activities. Any inquiries concerning each particular Guild may be addressed to the Chaplain, who will gladly give information.

THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY.—Second Fridays, Votive Mass for Missions, 9:30 a.m. Business Meeting, 11 a.m. Evening meetings, alternate months, 8:15 p.m. Father Otis, Chaplain.

ST MARY'S GUILD.—For making and care of vestments. Working meetings, Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Corporate Communion, second Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. Monthly business meeting, 10:30 a.m. The Father Rector, Chaplain.

GUILD OF ST MARY OF THE CROSS.—Works for the support of St Mary's Summer Home, Keyport, New Jersey, and for the missions in Bracebridge, Ontario, conducted by the Society of St John the Evangelist and the Sisters of St Margaret. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. Monthly devotional meeting, third Wednesdays, 8:30 p.m. Corporate Communion, first Sunday, 9 a.m. Father Otis, Chaplain.

GUILD OF ST MARY OF NAZARETH.—For Young Women. Sewing and Games, Tuesdays, 8 p.m. Father Otis, Chaplain.

GUILD OF HELP.—For forwarding the social service work of the Church. Meetings as announced from time to time. The Father Rector, Chaplain.

ST MARY'S DRAMATIC SOCIETY.—Father Banner, Chaplain.

GUILD OF ST VINCENT.—For Altar Servers. Last Monday of the month, 6:30 p.m. Father Banner, Chaplain.

KNIGHTS OF ST MARY.—For Young Men. Mondays and Thursdays, 8 p.m. Father Otis, Chaplain.

CHURCH SCHOOL.—Saturdays, Children's Mass and catechism, 9:30 a.m. Sundays, Sung Mass, 9 a.m. The Father Rector, in charge.
DEVOTIONAL GUILDS

Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament.—St Mary’s Ward. Father Banner, Chaplain.

Guild of All Souls.—St Mary’s Ward. Father Banner, Chaplain.

Living Rosary of Our Lady and St Dominic.—St Mary’s Ward. Father Banner, Chaplain.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS


Guild of St Catherine of Genoa.—A non-parochial Guild for Graduate and Student Nurses. Devotional address (Lady Chapel) second Sundays at 5:45 p.m., followed by tea in the Mission House. Retreats and other meetings, as announced. For further information, application should be made to Sister Mary Virginia, S.H.N., Directress.

THE PARISH LIBRARY

William Edward Jones Memorial Lending Library.—In the Sisters’ Mission House there is available a collection of books in theology, apologetics, ecclesiastical history, religious biography and devotional literature. Books may be borrowed for home-reading. Hours: Week-days, 4 to 6 p.m. Sundays, half-an-hour after High Mass and before Evensong.

DIRECTORY

Church of St Mary the Virgin, 139 West 46th St
St Mary’s House, Society of St John the Evangelist
144 West 47th Street. Telephone: BRyant 9-0962

The Rev. Father Williams, S.S.J.E., Superior.
The Rev. Father Otis, S.S.J.E.
The Rev. Father Banner, S.S.J.E.

The Mission House, Sisters of the Holy Nativity
133 West 46th Street. Telephone: BRyant 9-3232

The Sister Mary Virginia, S.H.N., Sister-in-Charge.
The Sister Mary Gertrude, S.H.N.
The Sister Mary Constance, S.H.N.
The Sister Charlotte Therese, S.H.N.
Sister Sheila Raphael, S.H.N.

The Parish House, 145 West 46th Street

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Miss Elizabeth Doremus, Secretary. Telephone: BRyant 9-0962
The Rev. Father Peabody. Telephone: BRyant 9-8858
Mr Raymond Nold. Telephone: BRyant 9-5913
Mr Philip C. Bardes, Undertaker. Telephone: STillwell 4-2357

Mr Newbury Frost Read, Parish Treasurer
373 Fifth Avenue, New York

The Church of St Mary the Virgin is supported largely by voluntary offerings through the use of weekly envelopes. Persons desiring the Duplex Envelopes for the support of the Parish and Missions are requested to apply to one of the clergy after High Mass or Evensong on Sundays, or to communicate with the Parish Secretary, Rector’s Office, 145 West 46th Street.