A MONTHLY BULLETIN
OF THE
CHURCH OF SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN
NEW YORK
Dear Parishioners of St Mary's,

Many of you are thanking God for the spiritual blessing you have received from faithful attendance at the Mission conducted by Father Bryan Green early in Advent at the Cathedral of St John the Divine. All who were blessed will be happy only if they carry into action the lessons learned during the Mission. It is not possible to go into action by human power alone but only by using the power of the Holy Ghost. Those who were converted or re-converted at the Mission, that is, those who first gave their wills to Christ or after a lapse of years once more gave their wills to Him, must face the fact that though a happy start was thus made yet conversion is a process and not a lone act. Therefore the converted individual must remain in the way of conversion, must re-surrender himself to God's wisdom and love and will. Such constant re-surrendering can be maintained by the power of the Holy Ghost and only by His divine power. May all who were blessed by the Mission ask the Holy Spirit to help them and keep their minds and hearts and wills in submission to the God of Love, for by such submission only may there be the joyful spiritual advance that God has planned for every one of His children.

This January parochial letter comes to you at the beginning of the new year 1949. It is a time when national and state and city governments remind us of the enforced duty of supporting such governments by the payment of taxes. Holy Church does not force her members to pay taxes, but she does rightly appeal for support — rightly because she is carrying on the work of Christ in the world which ever needs His light and love and grace. If you have not already done so, sign and mail to your Parish Treasurer your
pledge for the Church's work in 1949. To the Christ-centered individual the payment of this pledge will never be a grim duty, but rather an honored privilege.

From time to time it is my duty to remind you of your duty in making a will (See Rubric on page 320 in the Book of Common Prayer). The Church of St Mary the Virgin and many another parish church would be adequately safeguarded for the future if everyone of her members would make a will, leaving her as well as other religious and charitable organizations a generous bequest. Surely the parish church which is the spiritual power house of the individual communicant deserves generous bequests that she may continue to be the means of bringing spiritual power to vast numbers of souls. And St Mary's needs these bequests!

Affectionately yours,

[Signature]

IN NEED

SOME thirty years ago Father Huntington, the saintly founder of the Order of the Holy Cross, wrote a devout exposition of our Blessed Lord's Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard which he entitled "Bargainers and Beggars". The thoughtful reader of this book which was the product of so consecrated a mind and heart could not but be impressed with the fact that the children of men fall into one of two categories — they are either bargainers or beggars for God's grace.

Which are you? In your prayer life do you tell God that if He will give you such and such blessing you will go to church regularly? In your life of spiritual discipline do you promise God that you will exercise this, that or the other control if He will get you out of Purgatory soon after your entrance therein? In your life of almsgiving do you minister to the sick, the hungry, the naked and the captive solely that you may gain heaven at the General Judgment Day? If so you are a bargainer and you will reap the rewards of your bargaining from Him who will say "The last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen."

Well, if you do not wish to be a bargainer, and truly you do not wish to be such, you must be a beggar. Now being a beggar will cost you much; it will cost you your pride. How often we come across individuals too proud to beg. They would rather starve than ask for help. Unfortunately such individuals are to be numbered among professed Christians. Members of the Church of God do starve spiritually because they are too proud to beg for grace. Oh, do not take your place with them but today go through the gate of humility and join the blessed group of God's beggars.

In the great pattern for all praying, we have been taught to say "Give us this day our daily bread". Yes, we ask that our daily needs (bread is the necessary staff of life) may be filled, our daily wants satisfied. After all, we are beggars. We have needs which of and by ourselves cannot be satisfied.

We need religion which is no superficial luxury for the few but a necessity for the many. We need religion which binds our souls to God and effects our union with Him, apart from which union we cannot fulfill our purpose in creation. Now, because natural religion, that is religion by which man gropes after God through the phenomena of the physical universe and of human nature, is insufficient for true union with God, God has given us revealed religion. He has revealed Himself through the Incarnation. He has "come down from heaven and become incarnate and been made man" in the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, Jesus Christ "who was conceived by the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary". Let us beg for a full setting-forth to us of revealed religion and do our begging in the right place, namely, in the Holy Catholic Church.

We need to act as children of God. One of the most poignant statements of the Divine Saviour is "Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven". Are we too proud to be child-like, too proud to imitate the child's trust and enthusiasm and utter lack of self-consciousness? Let us beg for the humility to become as little children!
We need to be reconciled to the Father from whom we so often stray as wayward, self-willed children. Off we go on this self-chosen path of self-pleasing or on that path set forth for our journey by the world, the flesh and the devil or on the path prepared for us by evil companions. How shall we get back to the path that leads to the bosom of the Father and to the throne of grace? Only by the merits of the Passion of His Divine Son, stored up on the cross and offered to us in the form of forgiveness of sins in the Sacrament of Holy Penance. As beggars all, we enter the confessional!

We need strength for the battle of life. Who among us would enter upon any day's battle without begging for the strength to remain victorious in that battle? At the beginning of each day we should beg for the grace to resist an expected temptation or to shoulder a certain responsibility or to carry and embrace a particular cross. At the beginning of the day we should beg for the "whole armor of God that we may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand".

We need companionship. We are "members one of another". Let us beg for good companionship — that of those on earth who are striving after holiness without which no man can see the Lord and that of those in heaven who have attained their blissful goal. Just for the asking we may have as our friends and companions in the Christian pilgrimage blessed Mary and blessed John and blessed Francis and blessed Michael and any number of other saints. Let us beg for the grace to put into action our professed belief in the communion of saints.

We need the parish church. We need a spiritual home here on earth in which we may be prepared for our final home in heaven. Let us beg for the privilege of being members of this, that or the other parish and never for one moment demand any individual rights.

We need to give thanks. God does not need our gratitude for He has no needs but we need to be thankful because an ingrate cannot possibly rise from the level of the beast. May we beg for the privilege of thanking God especially at attendance at the great corporate act of thanksgiving, the Holy Eucharist! May we beg for the privilege of showing our gratitude to God for His mercies and blessings by serving Him just for one more hour!

We need the truth. The results of our own thinking are too petty for words. Indeed, the sum total of the thinking of the finest minds in all the world is foolishness with God. If we would advance in knowledge of God and man and life we should beg for the light that shines from heaven. We should turn for truth to God for "who commanded the light to shine out of darkness hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." We should turn indeed to Christ as our Light.

We need to be renewed. Often our life bogs down, well intended though it may be. We need the renewal that can come from the Vine into the branches. This renewal for most of us has begun with regeneration at the font in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Let us beg that it be maintained through the frequent receiving of Holy Communion. St Paul never spoke more truly than when he said "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature." And our blessed Lord Himself has promised "I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh which I will give for the life of the world"; and again, "He that eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me and I in him".

The long and the short of it is this: God is the Giver and man the receiver. Man can be the receiver only as he humbly acknowledges his need. Man must be an ardent beggar!

NOMADIC NOTIONS

The Parking Problem

The essence of the parking problem is that two people wish to occupy the same space at the same time. There are various scientific objections to doing this with which the present scribe is not competent to deal but the practical result of attempting to do it is, amongst other things, confusion.
As we look into the effects of the parking problem in St Mary's we find that the whole matter is complicated by the fact that there are two congregations, as has been pointed out previously, and that there are two schools of thought on the subject. One holds the theory that the regular parishioners, who make pledges and to whom sittings have been assigned, are entitled to the sittings in which they are accustomed to sit; whereas the other school of thought feels that the transient congregation should be made welcome even at the expense of displacing the regular parishioners.

It is of course our earnest wish, as it is our duty since we are a free church, to welcome strangers and transients as heartily as our own family is welcomed. At the same time there is something to be said for the theory that the regular parishioners should be seated in their regular places as far as possible. St Mary's is their ecclesiastical home, and they naturally have a favorite chair, just as one usually has in one's living room. We are therefore faced with the problem of adjusting claims of both congregations and effecting some sort of compromise.

Theoretically it should not be too difficult to make the adjustment. There are in St Mary's 114 pews containing 589 sittings. The sittings in every case measure more than 20 inches in width. This should be enough to accommodate one man in a winter overcoat, and certainly one lady with a large fraction of another, or possibly two. The present scribe has measured a great many office chairs designed for persons of weight and substance, and has not found any that exceeds 18 inches in width; whereas the chairs provided for the office young ladies are 15 inches wide.

There are at the present moment 315 people who pledge to St Mary's and who may therefore be regarded as its own particular family. Assuming that they all came at once, which probably has never happened in the history of the parish, there would be 274 vacant sittings which should certainly accommodate the transient congregation at any ordinary service. Christmas and Easter and special occasions when chairs are brought into the church do not figure in these calculations.

Legal technicalities are apt to be very depressing and should therefore be sedulously avoided, but once in a while one has to think of them as one does of a cold in the nose or other unavoidable unpleasantness. The legal technicality involved at the moment specifies that St Mary's is a free church and that seats may be allocated to the regular supporters and regular attendants at the principal service on Sundays and Christmas. (The words are those of the aforesaid legal technicality.) It should be noted that the seats which may be allocated are places in a pew, and not specified places. In other words, when Mrs X is allocated a sitting in a certain pew she is not guaranteed the aisle seat.

We have now come to what appears to be the real crux of the matter. There are seats enough for both congregations in St Mary's at practically every service with possibly three or four exceptions throughout the year but there are not enough aisle seats in the 114 pews to accommodate 315 pledgers.

If the regular family of St Mary's would move to the inside of the pews as an act of Christian humility, the lot of the ushers would be a happy one and enough ushers could be secured. At present only heroes who are willing to take much abuse will undertake that arduous duty.

It is very dangerous for a layman to indulge in any reference to the Scriptures because he will usually find that he has made a mistake, but it does seem reasonably clear that courtesy is one of the qualities which is recommended, and by no less a redoubtable character than St Peter himself.

There are a few men who are required to leave their pews by their duties during the course of a high mass, and because men are clumsy they are seated on the aisle to avoid damaging the ladies over whom they might otherwise have to crawl. With these exceptions, there would seem to be no reason why the regular parishioners should not arrive in good time and pass to the inside seats of the pews. If this were done and if St Peter's recommendation were borne in mind the parking problems would disappear from St Mary's.

N. F. R.
PARISH NOTES

THE Bishop of New York has appointed Sunday evening, the First Sunday in Lent, March the sixth, as the time for the administration of the Sacrament of Holy Confirmation. As part of the preparation for this Sacrament there will be a series of eight instructions to be given by Father Taber in the place of the sermon at our Sunday night services at eight, beginning with Sunday, January the ninth. The general subject of the instructions will be “The Sacraments of Holy Church” since for the Catholic Christian the Sacraments are the very heart of the spiritual life. Those who have already signified their desire to be confirmed will be invited to these instructions, but the members of the congregation will do their part if they invite to accompany them on these eight Sunday evenings such friends as have no active church connection.

THE Guild of St Mary of the Cross has presented St Mary’s with a very beautiful credence table for use in the Sanctuary of the High Altar. This gift which is in loving memory of the departed members of the Guild is of carved oak, designed by Mr Leslie H. Nobbs, ecclesiastical decorator and a communicant of St Mary’s. It bears most appropriately the symbols of the patron saint of acolytes, St Vincent, these symbols being the raven, the millstone and the book. A suitable credence table has been a long-felt need and we are indeed grateful to the members of this Guild who have worked hard toward this end.

THE three priests of St Mary’s have presented for St Joseph’s statue in St Joseph’s Chapel a green damask canopy with a properly colorful fringe. The good ladies of St Mary’s Guild have graciously done the necessary sewing to make possible this gift from men only.

Another gift that we would acknowledge with gratitude is the hanging wall lamp adorning the head of Christ which has been placed on the wall near the statue of Christ the King. This gift is offered anonymously in loving memory of Alfred, Ellen and Margaret Maguire.

THE Guild of Help has again commandeered Father Taber for a Benefit Book Review to be given at four o’clock on Tuesday afternoon, February the first. Mrs Eugene W. Mason, 111 East 69th Street, has again offered her home for this Review and has graciously invited for Tea those who attend. Tickets at two dollars and forty cents (tax included) may be obtained from a member of the Guild or through the Parish Office.

THE monthly meeting of the Woman’s Auxiliary will be held Friday morning, January the fourteenth, at 10:45 in St Joseph’s Hall, preceded by a Corporate Communion at the ninety-third Mass in the Lady Chapel. Mrs H. Hobart Holly, Vice President in charge of supplies, will be the speaker.

THE First, Third and Fourth Sundays after Epiphany, namely, January the ninth, twenty-third and thirtieth, are open dates on the Flower Calendar. If anyone wishes the privilege of providing flowers as a memorial or as a thank offering on one of these dates, will he kindly get in touch with Mrs Newbury Frost Read, Treasurer of the Altar Flower Fund, 57 West 52nd Street (ELdorado 5-3312).

EPIPHANY

Three kings there were came bearing gifts.
Wherefrom we do not know, but this we do —
That brave with hope they crossed great desert wastes,
Led by a shining star;
Then had the faith to see embodied in a little Child
The mighty King they sought;
The humble love to put their gifts into Our Lady’s gentle hands.

What of the gifts!
May we not ponder how the Blessed Mother cherished them?
The myrrh I think she placed safe in some hallowed spot,
To keep bright in her fearless heart the memory of St Simeon’s words —
A daily dedication to God’s will.
The frankincense perhaps lent fragrance to the home,
Mingling its perfume with the fresh crisp scent of new shaved pine.
The crown of gold! It may be that was bartered
To raise from need some stricken neighbor,
Foreshadowing the day when He Her Son
Would give, not just some gold, but all His precious Self
To raise from death a stricken world.

Three Kings there were came bearing gifts.
Dare we do less than they!
Above the creche the star shines bright,
The joyous carols soar aloft,
As they of old, we kneel before the Infant King
To offer Him our gifts — our praise, our penitence,
And O dear Lord, our love! E. G. D.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS
"As many of you as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ."

November 28 — Ida Mary Stiefel

CONFIRMATIONS
By the RIGHT REVEREND HORACE W. B. DONEGAN, D.D.
"Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye were sealed unto the day of redemption."

November 20 — John Dexter Bush
Charles Arthur Schaefer

BURIALS
"Grant them, O Lord, eternal rest, and may light perpetual shine upon them."

November 29 — Michael Francis Pfau

THE altar flowers for the month of January are as follows:


January 16 — The Second Sunday after The Epiphany.
George Robinson Harding.

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

THE Corporate Communion for the month of January are as follows:

Wednesday, January 5, 9:30, St Mary's Guild.
Sunday, January 9, 9:30, The Living Rosary of Our Lady and St Dominic.
Friday, January 14, 9:30, The Woman's Auxiliary.
Sunday, January 30, 9:00, The Church School.

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions toward the expense of printing and mailing AVE: Anonymous, $15, $10, $10, $10, $5, $5, $3, $1; Mrs Veronica Aldis, $2; Mrs Edward Frank, $2; Mrs. Harry A. Groesbeck, $2; Miss Lulu May Hays, $3; Mrs Irving J. Kauder, $2; Miss Estelle Lightbourn, $1; Mr William B. Minuse, $2; The Reverend Charles W. Nelson, $1; Miss Clarett Ritch, $3; Mr and Mrs H. C. deRoth, $5; Mrs G. A. Smith, $2; The Reverend Robert N. Smyth, $5; Mrs Ida Stiefel, $1; Miss Lois Townsend, $10; Mrs Ruth Tripp, $1; Mrs Carl T. Vogelgesang, $2; Mrs Leonard Wickenden, $2; Mr Edgar Wilson, $5; Mr Oscar Wilson, $5; Mrs Miles L. Yates, $2.

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 REV FATHER TABER, 145 West 46th Street, New York 19.

To insure delivery of AVE, the Parish Secretary should be notified promptly of any permanent change of address.
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<td>11. Tu.</td>
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*Days indicated by X are days of precept, with an obligation of attendance at Mass.*

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**MUSIC FOR JANUARY**

**JANUARY 1 — CIRCUMCISION**

- Mass, Missa Magnae Deus potentiae — Plainchant
- Evensong — Magnificat and Nunc dimittis — Byrd
- Motet, The Three Kings — Willan
- O salutaris — Schroeder
- Motet, Adoramus te — Sixteenth Cent.
- Tantum ergo — Schroeder

**JANUARY 2 — CHRISTMAS II**

- Mass, Missa brevis in D — Mozart
- Motet, Gloria in excelsis Deo — Dufay
- Evensong — Magnificat and Nunc dimittis — Handl
- Motet, Hodie nobis caelorum Rex — Desderi
- O salutaris — Bruckner
- Motet, Adoramus te — di Lasso
- Tantum ergo (IV) — Kodaly

**JANUARY 9 — EPIPHANY I**

- Mass Missa festiva in E — Kromolicki
- Evensong — Magnificat and Nunc dimittis — Holmes
- Motet, Hodie nobis caelorum Rex — Desderi
- O salutaris — Palestrina
- Motet, O Domine Jesu — Palestrina
- Tantum ergo — Palestrina

**JANUARY 16 — EPIPHANY II**

- Mass, Missa brevis — Anerio
- Motet, Ego sum panis vivus — Palestrina
- Evensong — Magnificat and Nunc dimittis — Tallis and Giles
- Motet, But Thou requirest truth — Marcello
- O salutaris — Nicholson
- Motet, O Domine Jesu — Palestrina
- Tantum ergo — Nicholson

**JANUARY 23 — EPIPHANY III**

- Mass, Missa in honorem Sanctae Lutgardis — Peeters
- Evensong — Magnificat — Fayrfax
- Nunc dimittis — Unknown
- Motet, Turn our captivity — Byrd
- O salutaris — de la Rue
- Motet, Ave verum — Noyon
- Tantum ergo — Boellmann

**JANUARY 30 — EPIPHANY IV**

- Mass, Missa Dona pacem — Desderi
- Motet, Laudate Dominum — Benevoli
- Evensong — Magnificat — Payfax
- Nunc dimittis — Unknown
- Motet, Turn our captivity — Byrd
- O salutaris — Palestrina
- Motet, Ave verum — Liszt
- Tantum ergo — Palestrina

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SERVICES

Sundays
- Low Mass at 7:00 a.m.
- Morning Prayer at 7:40 a.m.
- Low Mass at 8:00 a.m.
- Sung Mass (St Francis' Altar) at 9:00 a.m.
- Low Mass (Lady Chapel) at 10:00 a.m.
- High Mass, with sermon at 11:00 a.m.
- Evening Service and Benediction, with address at 8:00 p.m.

Week Days
- Mass, daily at 7, 8, and 9:30 a.m.
  Also on greater Holy Days as announced at 11 a.m. and 12:10 p.m.
- Mass, Fridays at 12:10 p.m.
- Morning Prayer (with Litany, Fridays) at 9:00 a.m.
- Evening Prayer (with Litany, Wednesdays) at 6:00 p.m.
- Special Devotions, Fridays (St Francis' Altar) at 8:15 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 Communion, Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion.

The Parish Secretary's office is open at the following times:
- Mondays to Fridays: 9:15 to 1 and 2 to 5
- Closed on legal holidays.

SACRAMENTS AND OTHER RITES

Confessions
- Father Taber: Fridays, 12 to 1; Saturdays, 2 to 3 and 8 to 9 p.m.
- Father Jacoby: Thursdays, 4:30 to 5:30; Saturdays, 4 to 5 and 7 to 8 p.m.
- Father Kreutler: Fridays, 4:30 to 5:30 and 7 to 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 3 to 4 p.m.

Confessions will also be heard Sundays, 8:40 to 9:00 a.m.

A Priest can always be seen after any service.

Baptisms.—Sundays after High Mass by arrangement with the clergy. Proper sponsors should be chosen.

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 White, 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 CHURCH SCHOOL.—Sundays, Sung Mass and Instruction, 9 a.m. Corporate Communion, last Sunday, 9 a.m.

THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY.—Second Fridays, Corporate Communion, 9:30 a.m. Business Meeting, 10:45 a.m. Father Taber, Chaplain.

ST MARY'S GUILD.—For making and care of vestments. Working meetings, Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Corporate Communion, first Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m., monthly business meeting, 10:45 a.m. Father Taber, Chaplain.

GUILD OF ST MARY OF THE CROSS.—For charities and for missions of the Church. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. Monthly devotional meeting, third Wednesdays, 8:30 p.m. Corporate Communion, first Sunday, 9 a.m. Father Jacoby, Chaplain.

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

GUILD OF ST VINCENT.—For Altar Servers. Meetings, fourth Fridays, 8:15 p.m. Father Kreutler, Chaplain.

DIRECTORY

CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, 139 West 46th St.

THE RECTORY

144 West 47th Street. Telephone: PLaza 7-5845
The Rev. Father Taber
The Rev. Father Jacoby
The Rev. Father Kreutler

THE MISSION HOUSE, Sisters of the Holy Nativity
133 West 46th Street. Telephone: PLaza 7-6464
The Sister Mary Josephine, S.H.N., Sister-in-Charge
The Sister Bernardine, S.H.N.
The Sister Mary Angela, S.H.N.
Sister Isabel, S.H.N.

THE PARISH HOUSE, 145 West 46th Street
The Rector’s Office. Telephone: PLaza 7-5845
Miss Elizabeth Doremus, Secretary. Telephone: PLaza 7-5845
Mr Ernest White. Telephone: PLaza 7-8232

Louis Fellowes, Funeral Director. Telephone: REgent 4-1908

Mr NEWBURY FROST READ, Parish Treasurer
30 Nassau Street, New York 5

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.