

MISSA OF THE GOSPEL OF ST. JOHN

"LET'S LOOK AT THE RECORD"

Following the tradition of the Church, the Parish priests of your congregation are now blessing the homes of the parishioners and at the same time taking the official census of the Parish. The custom of blessing the homes is one of the oldest in the Catholic Church, whereby the priest asks and prays for the blessing of Almighty God upon the members of the household. He also prays for an increase of the various virtues so that the members of each family might all the more merit the fruits of God's graces.

Hand in hand with the blessing of the homes goes the taking of the census, so that we might keep an accurate account of just who are and who are not members of the parish. Merely stating that we wish to belong to St. Stephen's does not suffice. We have more obligations than that. We have the duty of joining the other members of the Parish in prayer for the spiritual welfare of the Parish. This means regular attendance at this Church and not any other for not only the Sunday Mass but for whatever services we can attend. If we want to be members of this Parish we have the obligation of making this Church our regular place of worship and not merely on certain holydays during the year. This is the law of Holy Mother Church that is to be observed in all parts of the world.

We also have the obligation of regularly contributing according to our means towards our proper Parish. The fulfillment of all our spiritual and financial obligations is what makes us a member of a parish. Those people who make it a practice of regularly going to other Churches on Sunday fulfill their obligation of hearing Mass, but they do not fulfill their other duties. This Parish was built for them, and their place is here.

Those of us who can remember back a few years will recognize the above heading as an oft-used remark of Alfred E. Smith. Being a shrewd man, Al Smith never tolerated pure talk alone. Since he believed in the old adage that actions speak louder than words, he coined his own expression - "Let's look at the record."

All of us sometime or other felt that we were pretty good Catholics after all, despite our rare admission that we had quite a few faults, too. But now with the New Year here, let's take a few minutes off and look at the records.

If we excuse ourselves from Mass easily, eat meat on Friday even more easily, or in other words take mortal sin lightly, we are far from being good Catholics. If we have the idea that God should be more than satisfied with the one hour that we give Him once a week at the Sunday Mass, we certainly have a wrong slant on what the Mass is and what we owe to God.

Yes, let's look at the record. Let's take a little inventory and compare what we have done for our bodies to what we have done for our souls. If some of us would only take the trouble of making this comparison, we self-alleged good Catholics would be utterly amazed to find how bad we have been as Catholics. Just compare the time you spend in the movies, in the local beer emporium, in front of the TV set, in the beauty parlor, at the kitchen table, on the bowling alleys. Compare this with the time you spend in prayer. Yes, let's look at the record, but what if far more important, let's make and keep our firm resolve of making this not only a new year, but a new life where we will give more time to salvation.

FELLOWS, MEET BENJAMIN KOPACZ

Added joy came to the household of Andrew Kopacz and Caroline Kopee of Passaic, when on Feb. 2, 1923, their marriage was blessed with the arrival of a baby boy, the first of two children. A short time later at his Baptism, the infant was given the name, "Benjamin". At the tender age of 3, Ben and the family moved to Garfield, where for six years, he attended #4 School, at which time they so-journed to South Jersey. After completing grammar school there, Ben returned to Garfield and got his diploma at Garfield High in 1941, where he had made a name for himself as a tackle on the football team.

Following three years as a driver for a Baking concern, Benny joined the Marine Corps and there gave 3 years of service. After his discharge, he became a bus driver with the Garfield-Passaic Transit Co. for the next 6 years. For the past six years he has been with the A. & P. produce department.

His stint as a bus-driver can not be passed over lightly, for it was here that he enjoyed taking on as a passenger a certain Jane Lang who on Oct. 15, 1949 became his wife at this Parish. At present, the two of them reside at 35 Godwin Ave., East Paterson. So far they have no offspring.

A little known fact about Ben is that he was a musician for a long time, playing a mean clarinet and sax. In his spare hours he played locally with orchestras.

If you like pinochle, you're a natural for becoming a friend of his. When he doesn't have any boys around, he is usually watching TV. He loves all sports, with a special nod towards hockey. One of his big moments was bagging a deer during the '48 season.

Ben is a quiet lad who doesn't believe more in words than in actions. We only hope that Benny has made a resolution about coming more often to our meetings so that we have have the full pleasure of really enjoying his pleasant companionship. Perhaps we'll get his buddy, Bill Hudak, after him.

CALENDAR FOR JANUARY

- 13- Holy Name "Father and Son" Vespers at St. John's Cathedral at 3:30 P.M., with Bishop Boland presiding. All Holy Name men are asked to be there.
- 14- Holy Name Monthly meeting at 8 P.M.
- 18- Movies of Mission Work in Tanganyika, Africa by Father Joseph Varga of the Holy Ghost Fathers.
- 20- Drawing of the 50-50 Club at 3:15 P.M. Anyone welcome; at the Rectory.
- 21- Meeting of the 50-50 Club Committee at 8 P.M. in the Rectory with all Holy Name members invited to attend.
- 27- "Come to the Stable" - Movie. Everyone welcome two performances - 3 P.M. & 7:30 P.M. in the school auditorium.

ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS:

- JAN. 5- John Militello
- 14- Mrs. Joseph T. Bizub
- 15- Dorothy Lampert
- 21- Brenda Cerny
- 23- Mrs. Mary Hudak
- 28- Andrew Tyukody, Jr.
- 30- Gerald Swinarsky

WEDDINGS:-

None reported.

If you want to have any birthday or wedding anniversaries included in this column, please hand them in at the Rectory or on Sunday at the Church vestibule to one of the Collectors.

The St. Stephen's Drum & Bugle Corps has announced the results of their annual election as follows: Frank Kalota, Jr., Pres.; Peter Hollis, V. Pres.; Edward Nemec, Sec. Frank Wasko, Treas.; Robert Fischer, Sgt. at Arms; Joseph Jarkofsky, Quartermaster; John Phillips, Historian; Edward Sudol, D. Phillips, & Julius Miller, Trustees. Congratulations and good luck to the new officers; continued success to the Corps.

We want to extend our deepest sympathy to Brother John Bayus, whose Father passed away recently and to Brother John Reichardt, whose Mother-in-law also passed away. As is the custom of the Holy Name, the Rosary was recited by the members at the Funeral Parlor. We promise to continue to remember them in our prayers....A "Welcome, Brother," to Stephen Schweighardt and John Fugel, who joined our Society last month. John, we are sure will not ever again miss a meeting. He rushed home after enrolling to baby-sit while the missus went to a meeting. Had he stayed, he would have won the jack-pot prize which was over \$9.00 (wow!). ...FLASH! The big grin on Tony Cerny's face is to let you know that this time it was a boy, and already it is almost as big as his father - over ten pounds!....Ben Godri, Chairman of the 50-50 Club would like to remind the members that they can help with the sending of the tickets on Monday, Jan. 21, 8 P.M. at the rectory. Come on down, everyone....Those who missed the New Year's Eve affair missed the best ever given by the Society. Orchids to John Reynolds, Chairman, and to Bill Hudak, Chef par excellence. The folks who were there are still talking about it. We definitely know that they will be back with us this year. John Weisz had fun planting ice cubes in people's pockets, but he couldn't work it on Father Molnar who is wise to his tricks. John Peidl turned out to best everyone else in balloon snatching and won the door prize as a result. A special word of thanks to Julius Schaeffer, Frank Wasko, Steve Cemer, John Militello, Bill Hudak, and Mr. Andrew Molnar who helped out in the preparations...A big thank you to the girls of the Sodality for their services as waitresses. Their "service with a smile" gave the crowning touch... With the new year here, how about making a resolution to attend meetings more faithfully during this year? Good idea, huh?

New Year's Greetings, Guys and Gals! Let's hope that by now you are fully recovered from the celebrations. We can vouch for Ethel Szarvas, who literally "sobered" up with her newspaper work. We hear that her brother was home for the holidays. Glad to hear it, Et; tell him we're rooting for him.... While on the subject of service men who were fortunate enough to be home for Christmas, we can't forget Bob Waldorf. He certainly kept the girls in the choir well informed on "English Literature." Yes sir, it pays to be a "wheel". Lots of luck, Bob, and stay single!...Say have you heard about the confusion at Peg's house as to who visits whom and when? Well, all we can say is - it's a shame what Jerry Lewis can do to the wrecking crew. Not only did they not know whether they were coming or going, but they were even at a loss as to when and who was going. In short, they're gone!..We knew that Mary Kelemen was an accomplished artist, but a photographer - that we didn't bargain for. Her specialty is Family Portraits (Ask Betty Szabo)...Lest we forget, we lost our assistant organist and Jack-of-all-trades. You know - that short, little fellow you have often seen working about the church. Why, Elmer Duzs, of course Uncle Sam has claimed him for a while, and here goes our best wishes to him. We'll miss you, Elmer (especially the gals)...Joe Toth, Jr. was here for a Christmas visit. With all those Air Force uniforms floating around, no wonder the gals in the choir had a tough time concentrating on their singing. (Well, that's a good an excuse as any). All kidding aside, we were very happy to have all of them with us; we hope soon they will come home to stay...Instead of hanging one stocking up for Christmas, Elvira Molnar hung up a "pair of nylons"; that is why she did so well. Wonder how Santa didn't see thru her female schemes. Oh well - bye now. Be seeing you!...

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PARISH NEWS IN BRIEF

Parish statistics for 1951 were as follows:-

Baptisms - 61
Confirmations - 96
Marriages - 20
First Holy Communions - 40
Deaths - 38
Sick Calls - 921

OBSERVATIONS:- Baptisms should take place no longer than 3 weeks after birth. Report in advance.

Children over 7 should be in Catechism classes preparatory for their First Holy Communion.

Catholic marriages must be reported at the rectory at least one month from the intended date. Mixed marriages must be reported at least two months from the intended date. In case the non-Catholic wants to convert, at least three months before the intended date.

Children over ten must attend regular Catechism classes in preparation for Confirmation.

Sick calls should be made any time of day or night without regard to the hour. If the sick person is in the slightest danger of death, be thoughtful enough to call the priest. **DO NOT WAIT FOR THE LAST MINUTE WHEN THE PERSON CAN NO LONGER MAKE HIS CONFESSION. IT IS A GRAVE SIN TO SO NEGLECT THE SALVATION OF SOMEONE'S SOUL.**

Thanks to John Reynolds, Chairman, Bill Hudak, Chef, and their staff, the New Year's Eve Party was a resounding success. So say the folks who were there. We anxiously look forward for a repeat performance next New Year's Eve. Nice going John and Bill and the others. Thanks, nice people, for coming.

One of these Sundays, the date of our annual Parish meeting will be announced from the pulpit. Listen for it, and come to the meeting. If you are at all interested in your Parish, you will be present. That will be the place to make suggestions and recommendations.

Near the end of the month, the annual Parish report will be sent to you through the mail. Its purpose is not to embarrass anyone, but to keep you informed as to the source of our revenue and the listing of last year's expenses. If there are any mistakes (To err is human) PLEASE do not murmur about it to your neighbor; report it at the rectory and no where else! The necessary corrections will then be publicly made.

If you have any musical or dramatic talent, do not hide it any longer. The St. Stephen's Drum & Bugle Corps will sponsor a Minstrel on March 1 & 2. If you wish to do a specialty number or just take part in the chorus, report on Sunday, Jan. 13 at 2 P.M. in the school auditorium. That will be the first general rehearsal. We know we have Broadway and Hollywood potentials in our Parish, so how about turning out in full force for the show.

Why not make one of your New Year's resolutions the promise to join one or another of the Church organizations? Whatever one you pick, you'll find yourself surrounded by real friends and pleasant companions. There is a place for every age, sex, and taste. Join one this month!

THE KIDDY CORNER

Well, boys and girls, here it is the first month of the New Year and I suppose many of you are a little tired of your new toys. After Christmas many of you sat down to make some new resolutions for the coming year. All of us want to be good, and so it is our custom to make certain promises which we hope to keep.

It is now almost the middle of the first month and we wonder how many of these promises you have kept and how many you have broken. Each of us should make resolutions and fight real hard to keep them. Why? Because we want presents again next year? Because we want to have people say nice things about us? Because we do not want to be punished? No, not for any of these reasons; but because we love God and the best way of showing our love for God is by doing what He wants.

Sometime we fail to see how dangerous bad habits are and so we will try to tell you about bad habits and why we must build up good habits after we have broken the bad ones.

Once upon a time there was an Arab who was taking a trip through the desert on a camel. They stopped for the night and the Arab pitched his tent. He slept inside while the camel slept outside. He had been asleep for about an hour when he felt something tickle his foot. He looked and saw that the camel had pushed his nose into the tent. "Get out," he shouted. The camel said, "It is cold outside. Let me in." "Alright," said the Arab, "but only your nose," and off he went to sleep again.

An hour later, he woke to see the camel's head inside the tent. "It's cold outside," said the camel. "Alright," said the Arab, "but only your head." One hour later, he woke to find the whole front of the camel inside the tent and again the man said: "Alright, but only your two front feet."

Another hour passed, and the Arab awoke to find himself very cold. "I'm freezing," he said.

He looked around and found himself outside the tent, while the camel was now all inside. The camel had pushed the poor Arab right out of the tent. "Get out of my tent," the man yelled, but the camel kept right on sleeping and left the Arab out in the cold.

It is the same with bad habits and sin. The tent is like the state of grace. But then little bad habits and little venial sins begin to push themselves into our life. We let them come in and little by little, they come in more often until they have become big mortal sins, and push us right out of the state of grace. Yes, boys and girls, the devil is just like the camel, and if you don't push him out in the beginning he will get you in the end.

Many people who are in jail now for stealing a lot of money or for killing people will tell you that they began by taking pennies or by only hitting people or making face at them, and little by little it became worse and worse. You won't want that to happen to you, do you?

Well, that is just why the priests and the sisters and your parents tell you to make good resolutions for the new year and to keep them. It is only for your own good.

Whatever you do, do not let even the smallest sin into your soul because that will be the beginning. It may only seem like a little thing in the beginning, but more and more the devil will crawl into your soul and push you right out of the state of grace.

During this year, try to think a lot of times about the camel and what he did to the poor Arab who was foolish enough to let him stick his nose in the tent. Think of how the devil can do the same thing to you. Think of how much you love God and your parents, and then ask them to help you to keep your resolutions. Yes, even ask them to punish you if you do bad, because you know it is for your own good. Then you will see how strong and good you can really be.

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"COME TO THE STABLE" TO BE SHOWN

We are happy to report that the
famous movie "Come to the Stable"
will be shown in the school hall
on Sunday, January 27. There will
be one show at 3 P.M., & another at
7:30 P.M. Everyone is welcome to
see a truly wonderful picture. If
you have missed it before, don't
miss it now!

MISSIONARY TO PRESENT MISSION FILM

Father Joseph Varga of the Holy
Ghost Fathers will show Mission
Films he took in Tanganyika, Africa
during his mission there. They
will be shown in the school hall on
Friday, Jan. 18th at 1 P.M. Every-
one is invited to attend. It will
be a rare opportunity to see and
hear about Africa first hand.

Minden Hivemnek és jóakaróinknak
őszinte szívből boldog és szent
Újévet kívánok lelkipásztoraitok,
jó Nővéreink és az Egyházközségi
Elöljáróság nevében.

Hálás köszönettel tartozunk fér-
fiainknak, akik egész éven át majd
centenként gyűjtötték össze a
közel 50 ezer dollárt, amit az
idei számadásban kimutatunk majd.
Nyelvük néha volt, nem dicsőkedtek
nem lármáztak és nem kritizáltak,
hanem szó nélkül és férfiasan
szolgáltak. Előtte ezek az igazi
magyar emberek, még akkor is, ha
nem is beszélik a nyelvünket, mert
magyar ügyet szolgáltak és a szét-
hullani készülő magyarságot és
hiveinket segítették összetartani.
A másik meleg kézszorítás jó fele-
segoiknek szól, akik férjük
családi jelenlétét és sokszor
szükségességét áldozták fel a mi
szent célunk érdekében. Én más-
kép nem tudom meghálálni jóságuk-
at, mint egy meleg kézszorítással
és egy köszöntéssel -- ISTEN
FIZESSZE MEG.

Új magyarjainkhoz is volna egy
kérés. Vannak köztük, akik a ka-
tolikus mozgalomban és apostolko-
dásban fejükön felül benne voltak
az -házában. Rájuk is szükség van,
őket is kérem, férfiakat, asszony-
okat, ifjakat egyaránt, jöjjenek
minél előbb és segítsenek ők is.
Egy munkáskéz néha többet ér, mint
sok pénzügyi áldozat. Ugyan hol
találtak volna magyar embereket és
szellemet -- hol találtak volna
magyar Isten háát, ha nem lettek
volna az itteni hazülről elszakadt
házánk fiai, akik a szüleiktől
kapott örökségre vigyáztak, azt
ápolták és itt ötven évvel ezelőtt
megalakították Szt. István lelki
családját, amely ma jobban virul,
mint bármikor ezelőtt. Bárki ohaj-
tana csatlakozni az egyházközségi
előljáróshoz, minél előbb jelent-
kezzék a plebánian, vagy az elő-
járók havi gyűlésén.

Minden más magyar eltűnt és a
multé lett. A betegségyezők egy-
más után vesznek fel új neveket és
tűntetik el a tösgyökeres magyar
neveiket. Nem kritizáljuk őket,
nekik kell tudniuk, miért csinálnak
ezt és miért? - csak egyet

szeretnénk megállapítani, hogy min-
den más egyesülés eltunik, csak
egy marad meg, az Egyházközségek.
Aki tehát magyar akar lenni és
maradni, az itt keresse és találja,
még a lehetőséget és nem máshol.
Hadd lássuk, hány magyar emberünk
van, akinek a szíve a helyén van.

Mult évi sáfárkodásunk eredmény
az alábbi - Kereszteltünk 61 kis-
babát. Bermálkozott 96. Házasság
kötött 20. Első szt. áldozáshoz
járult 40. Temetésünk volt - 38.

A jó szülőket kérem, hogy, ha
csak lehetséges, szüléskor kath.
kórházat vegyenek igénybe. Lehet
hogy az anyának vagy a kis babának
lelki gondozásra van szüksége,
hirtelen. A mi kórházunkban mind-
van kath. lelkész. Erre is kell
gondolnunk. Ha egyetlen egy bab
keresttség nélkül, vagy szülő any
halotti szentségek nélkül talál
elmenni, ki tudná azt megbocsát-
ani? A kerestséggel ne várjunk
2-3 hétnél tovább. Ha az újszülöt
beteg, akkor azonnal vigyük
kereszteléshez.

Betegeinknél 921 alkalommal vo-
tunk szt. áldozást kiszolgáltattunk
de még mindig elhalt négy hívünk
a szentségek nélkül. Én tudom,
hogy néha hirtelen jön a halál,
de ekkor is hívjük az áldozó
papot, mert feltételelesen még min-
dig ki lehet szolgáltattani a végsz-
szentségeket. Isten legyen irgal-
mas annak, akinek a hibája miatt
bárki szentségek nélkül hal meg.
Nehéz lesz a számadása.

Monnyasszonyok, vőlegények leg-
alább négy héttel az esküvő előtt
jelentkezzenek, ez törvény. Vegy-
es házasság pedig két hónappal a
tervezett esküvő előtt értesítse-
nek.

Hiveim közül vannak, akik nem
mi templomunkba járnak vasárnap.
Ez magyar szempontból nem helyes.
Mi a számláinkat nem tudjuk fize-
ni abból, hogy azok, akikre tá-
maszkodunk máshol hallgatnak szt
misét. Akinek saját háza van,
lakjék benne, akinek saját auto-
mobilja van, ne mástól kérjen
ride-ot.

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