



# KOLPING BULLETIN

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## note the date

### december

- 6** **Mass & Christmas Party/  
St. Nikolaus Day**  
Kolping 88th Street
- 22** **January Bulletin**  
Last day to submit materials
- 25** **Christmas**  
Germany is credited with starting the Christmas tree tradition in the 16th century when devout Christians brought decorated trees into their homes.
- 31** **New Year's Eve**  
A German tradition of leaving a bit of every food on New Year's Eve until after midnight ensured surplus food for the year ahead.

### january

- 1** **New Year's Day**  
Germans eat pork and sauerkraut on New Year's day for good luck.

### february

- 14** **Valentine's Day**  
Germans would give gifts in the shape of love tokens with lovely messages. These were not just handed out on Valentines Day but on any day.
- 17** **Ash Wednesday**  
The first day of Lent, the season of preparation for the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday.

# December



## Kolping 88th Street Christmas Party & St. Nikolaus Day Celebration

Sunday, December 6, 2009

We cordially invite all of you to our final event for 2009—our annual family Christmas/St. Nikolaus Day party at the Kolping House on 88th. Street.

We will start the day with a 10:30 am Memorial Mass, celebrated by our Praeses, Father Richard Bretone at the Kolping House. A delicious dinner will follow—pork roast with all the good trimmings, dessert, coffee—prepared by our member Wolfgang Hahn. The cost is \$16 per adult and \$8 per child under 12.

After dinner, the agenda will include honoring our 50 year member—William Kiec and our 25 year members—Kathleen Fuchek and Heidi Umland—for their loyal service to Kolping. Last, but not least, Santa will make his annual visit. The approximate time schedule is: 10:30 am Mass; 12:00 noon Dinner; 12:45 vote on changes to the ByLaws; 1:00 pm celebration of 25-year and 50-year members; 1:30 pm Santa's visit. We look forward to seeing you all at our family Christmas/St. Nikolaus Day party.

*Merry Christmas and a Very  
Happy and Healthy New Year to All!*

*from Ingrid Restmaier, Ann Horan  
and the Kolping Bulletin staff and contributors.*



**MISSION STATEMENT:** We, the members of the Catholic Kolping Society of America, extend the vision of our founder, Blessed Adolph Kolping, by promoting the development of the individual and family; we foster a sense of belonging and friendship through our program of spiritual, educational, charitable and social activities.

## KOLPING BULLETIN

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of New York**  
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# Milestones & Passages



Everyone could use the power of prayer now and again. If you or anyone you know is in need of prayer, please let us know and we will be happy to include them within the "in our prayers" list. Please call Ann Horan (914-737-2026) when you know of a member who is ill, in the hospital, or has passed away. We want to be sure to remember them.

Our member, **Karen Byrnes**, passed away in November. You remember that she has been on the prayer list for some months. She had been fighting cancer and was in and out of the hospital. There was a beautiful Mass at St. Phillip Neri where she was a very active member and also a member of their choir. We at Kolping remember her for her years of service on the Board. She was the leader of activities here in New York during the Beatification of Father Kolping. She will be remembered for her easy laugh and commitment to all our Kolping activities.

Good thoughts and wishes to **Albert Buchholz** who completed his second cataract operation. Anita reports that he is fine and driving and seeing really well. He will be all set for another season at KOH.



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THOSE BORN IN DECEMBER:

Judith Breining, Stacy Connolly, Michael Cunningham, Daniel Dengler, Justin Dengler, Ernst Endrich, Lisa Farsang, Kathleen Fuchek, Walter Gross, Lily Gruno, Sal Hierspiel, Norine Keating, Patricia Kummer, Irene Lelli, Michael Macaluso, Stefan Manz, Amanda Mersits, Peter Mersits, James Minarik, Edward Monks, Lindsay Moraitis, Thomas O'Gorman, Sabrina Ostroff, Jenny Rea, Andrew Reitter, Charles Roberts, Wilfriede Roessler, Carol Rohrbacher, John Rung, Erik Sewerin, Charles Smith, Hertha Stang, Kenneth Tunkel, Niklas Umland, Christopher Vanzo, Alfred E. Vogl, Jr., Debra Weigand, and Michael Weinborg.

### SPECIAL DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS: Herta Stang and Walter Gross.

If you know someone celebrating a milestone birthday or anniversary, please let us know so we can include it in the Bulletin. Please email either me at editor@kolpingny.org or Ann Horan at annth@optonline.net.

**CONGRATULATIONS!** We are happy to report that Katherine and Walter Weigand's daughter Ingrid and husband Keith Franz welcomed baby boy Thomas Gabriel on 11/10/09. The newest addition to the family weighed in at 8 lbs, 6 oz. We wish them all the best!

**WE RECEIVED THIS HAPPY NEWS** from Stephen and Alina Lovasz about their daughter: We just wanted to let the Kolping family in on our good news. **Isabella** tried out for her schools swim team, and made it! Even though she was the smallest and one of the youngest. She blew the coach away at the first try out, and made the team on the spot. Being everyone up at KOH saw her just learn to swim this summer, I thought it might make them smile.

*Our congrats to Izzy! We hope she remembers us when she makes the Olympics!*

### MANY THANKS!

Thanks to **Wojciech Kowalski** and **Allen and Lenore Ostroff** for their donations in memory of Gerhard Resmaier.

Thanks to **Bert and Heidi Bruegger** to the Joe Sartorius Fund in honor of Gerhard Resmaier.

Thanks to **Bob Hemsing** to the Joe Sartorius fund in honor of Karen Byrnes.

We received a thank you note from **Father Bretone** for the Birthday gift and the donation to his Eternal Flame Ministry that we sent him.

Thanks to **Herb Winklemann** for donating his time and leaf blower to clean up the leaves at Kolping-on-Hudson.

Thanks to **Edward Specht** for his donation of a power washer and a freezer to Kolping-on-Hudson.



## 2009 DUES

Last chance for 2009 dues:

Family: \$105

Individual: \$90

Student: \$45

Please include email addresses, change in address, phone number, birthdays, and other information to update our files.

Please make check payable to:  
*The Catholic Kolping Society.*

Mail to: The Catholic Kolping Society,  
Attention: Ann Horan, 165 East 88th  
St., New York, NY 10128 and mark  
"Dues" in the left-hand corner.

### WE NEED YOUR HELP

#### **ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL OF YORKVILLE THE CLASS OF 1960 50TH ANNIVERSARY**

The Class of 1960 is celebrating their 50th Anniversary from St. Joseph's School of Yorkville in May of 2010.

We have found 61 out of 79 classmates in the last three years. We are hoping to find the other 18 before our celebration next year.

Please look at the following names. Maybe you are in touch with a family member or know where we can find our classmates.

They are:

- Mary Burns
- Frances Castanza
- Irene Dalton
- Maureen Domin
- Lydia Ebenhoch
- Rose Mary Hart
- Carol Nallan
- Margaret O'Connor
- Rita Stokes
- Christine Stuber
- Nancy Weitick
- Mary Ann Wieszorek
- William Boyle
- Peter Davidson
- John Hernandez
- Seppo Karkkainen
- Thomas McKenna
- John Rau

If you remember or are in touch with any family members, please contact: Patricia (Walla) Peterkin, 718-448-5453 or patriciapeterkin@gmail.com. I appreciate any information you can give me to help make our anniversary celebration a success. Thank you.

## *News & Notes*

### **HOUSE RENTAL AT KOLPING-ON-HUDSON**

Our house at the front gate at KOH (formerly known as the caretaker's house) is now available to rent. We are offering this to our members first. If you or a family member are interested in renting the house please call Ann Horan 914-737-2026 or Bob Hemsing 347-386-9311 for the details.

### **EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS**

I want to remind you that we are trying to use email as the quickest way to get in touch during the month. It is the best way to inform you of a member's death, an SOS for help on a project, or any important alerts that you need to know about. Thanks to Jennifer Scheuermann, our computer genius, who gets the message out to all of you. Please remember to check your email! If you are not receiving any emails, it means I don't have your address. Please send it to me so you will not be left out of the loop!

### **2009 ADVENT PROJECT** submitted by Dan Dengler

#### **THE SISTERS OF LIFE AND THEIR VISITATION MISSION**

The Sisters of Life is a contemplative / active religious community of women founded in 1991 by John Cardinal O'Connor for the protection and enhancement of the sacredness of every human life. In addition to their vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, they are also consecrated under a special, fourth vow to protect and enhance the sacredness of human life.

One of the ways the sisters live out this special consecration is through comprehensive outreach to pregnant women through their Visitation Mission. Headquartered at 320 East 66th Street in Manhattan, the Sisters of Life and their co-workers (lay helpers such as you and I), minister to the needs of these young women and their children. The Visitation Mission is a mission of love, in person and by phone, to vulnerable, pregnant women. By providing the emotional and practical resources a woman needs, they work to allow her the opportunity to respond with courage and dignity to one of life's most difficult moments.

The Visitation Mission has already served hundreds of young women who have found themselves pregnant under circumstances that have created a very real experience of a major crisis in their lives. Almost all who contacted them had been abandoned emotionally and often physically by those in their lives to whom they normally look for support: the fathers of their unborn children, their parents, close relatives, friends and co-workers. The Sisters of Life, along with their network of lay volunteers work and pray in order to allow these vulnerable young mothers to know that they are valued and loved, so that they in turn can love and value themselves and their children.

Please make check payable to: The Catholic Kolping Society and mail to: The Catholic Kolping Society, Attention: Ann Horan, 165 East 88th St., New York, NY 10128 and mark "Advent Project" in the left-hand corner.

You can also donate your time as a "coworker of life," or other resources. The Sisters of Life can be contacted at (212) 737-0221. For more information, speak with one of the Sisters of Life in person, or visit their website at [www.sistersoflife.org](http://www.sistersoflife.org).

#### **OUR HOLY FATHER'S NOVEMBER 2009 INTENTIONS**

Each month, the Holy Father gives us one general intention and an intention for world missions.

**Children.** That children may be respected, loved, and never exploited.

**Christ, Light of the World.** That during Christmas the peoples of the earth may recognize the Incarnate Word as the light that illuminates every person, and that every nation may open its doors to Christ, the Savior of the world.



# *K-O-C Communion Brunch* submitted by Ann Horan





# *K-O-C Communion Brunch* submitted by Ann Horan

We had a great group of our members—45 in all—for our Mass and brunch this year. We also had members from the newly formed Dominican/Spanish Kolping which is part of the St. Phillip Neri parish.

This year our Mass was held at St. Phillip Neri Church and their pastor, Msgr. O'Brien was so very warm and welcoming to us. He even took the time to read the list of our deceased members from the altar.

Back at the Kolping house, Jorge had a tasty dinner all set for us. Thank you Jorge for always making that day so nice for us. It is extra work for him because he has to feed his residents first and then do it all over for us again.

Father Bretone joined us for lunch. He is so busy with his own parish and we are certainly thankful that he makes time for us.

After Mass Larry Dengler read a wonderful eulogy for Fr. Edwin Koenig who was a past praeses of our society. This is a great way for our newer members to learn about past praesees and some of the history of Kolping. Our thanks to Larry for taking the time to write this inspiring account:

Father Edwin C. Koenig, the former Praeses of our Kolping Society here in New York, died on February 12, 1983 at St. Luke's Hospital in Manhattan.

He was our Praeses until his death in 1983. He was loved by all who met him. He was a Kolping priest, both locally in the Archdiocese of New York, and throughout the country in our National Kolping Society. As our Praeses, he was truly our spiritual father and our corporate director.

Father Koenig became our Praeses at the time when our Kolping family saw an opportunity to carry out the work of Blessed Adolph Kolping here in the Bronx. We were considering taking over and operating this House, the former Susan Devin Residence, which we now call Kolping on the Concourse.

During his term as our Praeses, he attended nearly every Board of Directors meeting. He participated in the countless discussions about the acquisition of this House, the nitty gritty of finances involved in its purchase, the funding, the mortgage, all the problems. The question of its uses, and staffing; what our relationship should be with the Parish of St. Philip Neri in which we are located, and how to do it. He even suggested the name by which we now know this house, "Kolping-on-the-Concourse". In those days, we also had work to do at 88th street, and at Montrose. Father Koenig was there with us, at 88th street and at Kolping on Hudson, to pray with us and counsel us, but always pleasant, encouraging, and often downright funny. Father Koenig knew all about Kolping. He knew Blessed Adolph Kolping's four principles, and especially the fourth, "Cheerfulness and Fun". We needed him very much.

He also found the time to work in the Kolping's bigger picture, the National Kolping Society of America. As National Associate Praeses, he participated in national and international meetings. He was the drafter of the 1982 Program for the Kolping Society of America, which guided that work for many years.

When Father Koenig was born in the Bronx, World War II had already started. After high school, he studied at St. Joseph's Seminary at Dunwoodie, and was ordained a priest by Francis Cardinal Spellman in 1956.

His first assignment was as associate pastor at Immaculate Conception parish in Tuckahoe, NY from 1962 until 1971. As

a young priest, he enjoyed his priestly work and showed his parishioners there his empathy for the less fortunate. He also developed his gifts at organizing and counseling. He was gradually becoming more active in social concerns. He is remembered in the Immaculate Conception parish history as a good parish priest.

He also found time to complete graduate studies at Iona College in New Rochelle, NY in pastoral counseling.

From Tuckahoe, in 1972 Father Koenig was appointed Pastor of the Church of St. Joseph of the Holy Family in Harlem. Here he became deeply involved in issues such as housing and care for the poor, the homeless and the substance abusers. A priest who served with him said, he "was very community minded and always went to Community Board meetings." He was gregarious in his dealings with people and creative in problem solving. He is credited with founding the Meals on Wheels Program in central Harlem. A dedicated pastor, he was truly a community activist for Christ.

Less than a year before he died, Father Koenig was called to St. Martin de Porres Parish in Poughkeepsie, NY, where his talents were greatly needed and appreciated. And a fellow priest said of him, "Father Koenig had a sharp sense of humor, a gentle wit and an intense love for his people."

Jesus called Father Koenig from us on February 12, 1983. Terence Cardinal Cooke presided at the funeral Mass, and Monsignor Walter Kenny, the Canonical Judge of the Archdiocese of New York was the homilist. They remarked that it was no idle coincidence in Father Koenig's connection with the Church of St. Joseph of the Holy Family in Harlem and St. Martin de Porres in an older section of Poughkeepsie, because Father Koenig was a minister to those in need.

We needed him also. We remember Father Koenig as our Praeses, who both taught us to be generous in our spiritual life and community minded and cheerful in the practical work of our Kolping family.

We were chosen to have received the happy guidance of this truly good priest, Father Edwin C. Koenig. May the good Lord have mercy on his soul, and may his spirit continue to help us live cheerfully the life of true Christian men and women.

# Stories of Interest

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## HELEN VETTER (Part Two) submitted by HelenVetter (sent in by Bernie Preisser)



The appearance of the article in the November Kolping bulletin about my swimming surprised me. However, I think that there are a few other details that are far more interesting to the Kolping community. Among them are:

1) In early 2000, I learned that both my original hip prosthesis had loosened. Doctors in Sarasota, Florida were skeptical about revising hips that were originally replaced in Germany when I was teaching there.

2) Chris Preisser, my cousin Bernie's wife, encouraged me to see Dr. Jose Rodriguez at Lenox Hill Hospital. Chris had learned about Dr. Rodriguez through her good friend Maria Hollenbeck, a long time career nurse at Lenox Hill and also a Kolping member. Amazingly, Maria was my mother's (Luise Grimm Vetter) nurse in 1973 when my mother was being treated for cancer.

3) Approximately 2 years ago my cousin Liz Grimm Hennessy was diagnosed with hip problems. I repeatedly joked with her and told her to "catch up with me". She obliged! On October 12th Dr. Rodriguez replaced both our hips. We had fun sharing a room together and "The Cousins" made quite an impression at Lenox Hill. In the meantime, thanks to Dr. Rodriguez, we both had successful surgeries and are recuperating together. Liz is thinking about another NYC marathon and I'll be back in Sarasota on November 9th training for the Florida State Senior Aquatic Games in December.

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## SISTER KATHARINE MARIE DREXEL submitted by Martin A. Kelly



A half-baked, Catholic-bashing yarn is that "Catholics have never done anything for the minorities." Nothing could be further from the truth; and, the life of just one saint (A German-American) proves it.

Katharine Marie Drexel was born on Nov. 26, 1858 in Philadelphia, PA., the heiress to the fortune of the banking tycoon Francis Martin Drexel. He was born in Dornbirn, in the Austrian-Tyrol; and, emigrated to America where, through shrewd investments, he became a multi-millionaire.

Katharine grew into a gracious young lady and debutante. Her family, however, was very ardent in their concern for the "little Man", especially, minorities. When the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore (1884) asked for donations for Native and African Americans, she not only gave generously

from her estate; but, after a conference with the Pope, took up the life of a nun.

She organized the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament and established 63 schools, high schools, and even one University (Xavier University in New Orleans, LA) and there were over 500 sisters in the order teaching. Pope Pius XII, on the occasion of her Golden Jubilee in 1941, wrote her and described her work as a "Glorious page in the Annals of the Church."

She passed away on March 3, 1955 and was canonized on January 27, 2000. In addition to her physical and intellectual efforts she donated over \$12,000,000 (a large amount in those days) of her personal estate to her mission of helping Afro-Americans and Native-Americans. She was the second American born Saint. Mother Seton, founder of the Sisters of Charity, was the first.



Painting by Sr. M. Julius and Sr. M. Lurana.

### Humorous Quip

Submitted by Martin A. Kelly

Husband and wife started taking Spanish lessons. You see, they adopted a newborn baby from MEXICO, and when he's old enough to talk, they want to be able to understand him.



## LEO HOUSE: Manhattan's Home Away from Home Provides Shelter for Travelers *by Father Frank Mann*

Imagine this: a charming oasis snugly nestled in the midst of the hustle and bustle of the Big Apple! Try this: a well-kept secret in the city with an elegant outdoor garden, a beacon of hospitality.

Add a lovely chapel, housing the Blessed Sacrament, where there is the opportunity for daily Mass and prayerful contemplation. Plus the bountiful breakfast buffet with tantalizing aromas to tempt even the most satiated appetite!

Welcome to Leo House, 332 West 23rd St. in the heart of the vibrant Chelsea neighborhood of Manhattan, a popular lodging alternative for the weary traveler.

I was recently invited to spend two days and nights at the Leo House after spotting an ad in a Catholic journal touting it as a "Catholic Guest House."

The first thing that I noticed when entering the lobby was a simple large crucifix hanging on the wall behind the front desk. There was also a display alerting the visitor that October is the month of the Rosary. In another area of the lobby there's a plethora of literature and discount coupons for attractions and events in the city.

A fascinating glass case housed photos and various memorabilia related to the history of the house. The lobby was well-illuminated with a steady stream of guests.

Travelers from around the world as well as the United

States have stayed here. Last year, there were guests from Canada, France, Denmark, Germany, Italy and New Zealand!

Frank Castro, its newly appointed executive director, has been instrumental in upgrading the many aspects of the house, from the installation of new electrical lines and equipment to enhanced fire safety and security.

The Leo House has 68 rooms with a planned expansion to 100. The rooms are available in single-, double-, twin-bed or a family style arrangement that can accommodate four to six people. Rates begin at \$100 a night for a single room with a private bath. A television is in each room, which I found to be meticulously clean and comfortable.

Sections of the house have been upgraded with wireless Internet service to accommodate those who cannot travel without their laptops!

The Leo House incorporates a serene lounge area with its own unique form of surveillance: a portrait of the smiling and ever-watchful gaze of Pope Leo XIII, for whom the house is named.

The dining room is both rustically quaint with antique furnishings and surprisingly eye-popping in its splendid spaciousness. A \$9 buffet breakfast affords the guest an assortment of delights. You can always find the most deliciously fresh baked (on premises)

apricot, blueberry and pumpkin breads and cakes. The morning spread is an inviting and engaging opportunity to make new friends and forge a sense of community. Quite a number of guests attend Mass in the chapel prior to breakfast.

### Protecting German Immigrants

The Leo House was established in the late 1880s with a heartfelt humanitarian mission. Its driving force was a gent by the name of Peter Cahensly, a wealthy German who recognized the obligation to aid and protect thousands of German immigrants (particularly Catholics) as they embarked on their journey to a new world.

Cahensly knew all too well the potential dangers facing those newcomers. His concerned, innovative and frontline leadership acted as a catalyst in the founding of what became known as the Saint Raphael Society (also known as the St. Raphael Verein). In order to help their fellow German Catholic countrymen and women, this organization was instrumental in collecting donations from charitable Americans. Combined with a generous gift from Pope Leo XIII, these "offerings" became the driving force in the construction of a "hospice" of acculturation and respite for those hailing from foreign shores.

It was erected on State St. in Manhattan, the predecessor to Ellis Island for the processing of immigrants.

The Sisters of the Congregation of St. Agnes were recruited from their home in Fond du Lac, Wis., to oversee the daily managing of this unique haven of support. In later years, the Sisters opened their arms to others who were in need or seeking some shelter. Two nuns, Sister Kathleen Ries and Marilyn Ellickson, are still on the staff as they continue the more

than century-long unbroken tradition of innovatively welcoming thousands of visitors each year.

Over the past 115 years, the Leo House has adapted its charism and mission to the changing needs and times. In 1926, it moved from State St. to its present location. Today, it prides itself on being the only guesthouse of its type in the U.S. Its mission statement is emblazoned on a plaque that hangs in the lobby: "Leo House is a Catholic, charitable, not-for-profit organization dedicated to offering low-cost temporary housing to clergy and religious students, travelers, and persons visiting the sick. In addition to providing safe, affordable accommodations, our chapel and general atmosphere encourage rest and reflection in the midst of New York City."

Leo House is open to all, regardless of religions. However, New York City residents are only accommodated under certain circumstances which include missions of mercy, religious reasons and special situations. The administrations and board of directors firmly believe that this is fair to maintain the integrity of the hospice.

The Leo House shares some of its not-for-profit revenue with countless charities. In 2008, it donated over \$28,000 to various causes and gifted \$35,000 to the Sisters of St. Agnes, who ceased responsibility for the day-to-day managing of operations in 1989. Leo House opened its doors at no charge for the police and firemen who responded so heroically to the horror of 9-11.

The round-the-clock attention to detail in making one feel comfortable in "a home away from home" without compromising a profoundly nurturing and undisputed Catholic environment, continues to be the standard for many years to come.





# What's Happening in New York This Month

By Jack McGee (718-478-0573)



## NEWS FROM LINCOLN CENTER

### THE METROPOLITAN OPERA

**Il Trittico**—3 One Act operas by Puccini Dec. 1, 5, 9, 12 (Mat. at 12:30 pm)  
**From The House of the Dead—A New Production** Dec. 2, 5 (Mat. 1:00 pm)  
**The Tales of Hoffman** Dec. 3, 7, 11, 16, 19 (Mat. 1:00 pm), 23, 26, 30  
**The Marriage of Figaro** Dec. 4, 8, 12  
**Elektra** Dec. 10, 15, 18, 22, 26 (Mat. 1:00 pm)  
**Hansel and Gretel** Dec. 14, 17, 19, 21, 24, 28, 30th (Special Children's Performance at 11:00 am)  
**Carmen** Dec. 31 (Special New Years Eve Performance at 6:30 pm)

Special \$20 Orchestra reserved seats Mon-Thurs, two hours before performance time (but due to popular demand, you better make that four hours).

### THE NUTCRACKER

One of the greatest thrills that I can remember was when Mom and Dad would take us out during the Holidays. "The Nutcracker" is one of the experiences that children will remember for a life time. This can be one of the most inexpensive family outings of the holiday season. Tickets may be purchased for as low as about \$15. There are an assortment of performance times to suit your schedule. Box Office 1-212-870-5570.

### WANT TO GO TO THE OPERA BUT CAN'T GET THERE?

Film productions from performances at the Met can be seen on projected screens at various movie houses throughout the city. Price is somewhere around \$20. You'll get the sensation that you are right on the stage and part of all the action. On Saturday, Dec. 19th at 1:00pm:

**Les Contes D'Hoffman—The Tales of Hoffman** by Jacques Offenbach

The *New Season 2009-2010* on Saturday afternoon on Radio from the Met, begins this month. **WQXR is now 105.9 F.M.**

Saturday, Dec. 12 at 12:30 – *Il Trittico*

Saturday, Dec. 19 at 1:00pm - *The Tales of Hoffman*

Saturday, Dec. 26 at 1:00pm - *Elektra*

Saturday, January 2 at 1:00pm – *Hansel and Gretel*

During the Holidays check out a visit to St. Patrick's Cathedral. At Rockefeller Center you'll find the Christmas exhibit of world renowned fame. There is free ice skating at Bryant Park at 42nd Street and 6th Avenue. Skates may be rented for a fee. And of course there is Radio City.

Adults and older children may experience **Handel's Messiah** on Dec. 8th and 10th at 7:30 at St. Thomas Church (53rd St and 5th Ave). Tickets at the door. And for a Sunday afternoon at 5, there is always a **Bach Vesper Service** at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (65th Street and Central Park West). Usually a free-will offering. 1-212-877-6815.

### GERMAN MASS St. Joseph's in Yorkville, 404 E. 87th St.

Every first Sunday of the month, the Holy sacrifice of the Mass is celebrated in German at 9:45. Confessions in German before Mass. For information call Julia Winter (212-534-5625). For information regarding counseling and sacraments in German, please contact Rev. James Boniface Ramsey, Pastor (212-289-6030).

## EVENTS NOT TO BE MISSED!

December 12 at 6:30p.m.

### CHRISTMAS DINNER-DANCE

The German American Social Club of Peekskill, 11 Kramers Pond Road, Putnam Valley, NY. After cocktail hour and an array of delicious appetizers, the evening follows with many delights! Dance to the sounds of the Alpine Squeeze. Main course offerings are: Chicken Marsala or Salmon. Cash bar all evening. Members: \$40 / Guests: \$45. All reservations must be made and paid for in advance. For reservations and dinner selection, call Marilyn Buck at 845-227-5159.

December 13 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

### ADVENT & CHRISTMAS PARTY

Zion St. Mark's Church, 339 East 84th Street, NY (Yorkville). Enjoy our beautifully decorated parish hall, colorful Christmas Platters with the traditional Stollen, fruit, nuts and other Christmas goodies, coffee/tea. A fun raffle awaits the lucky winners. We will play Christmas music and sing familiar German and American Christmas songs. Contribution \$10.

[www.zionstmarks.org](http://www.zionstmarks.org) / 212-288-0600 / 212-479-7808

December 24 at 6 p.m.

### CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

December 25 at 11 a.m.

### CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Zion St. Mark's Church, 339 East 84th Street, NY (Yorkville). Services are in German/English.

## AT THE MUSEUMS

**The Metropolitan** – 82nd Street and 5th Ave.  
**Art of the Samaras: Japanese Arms and Armor**, 1156-1868 (Thru Jan 10th)  
**American Stories: Paintings of Everyday Life 1765-1915** (Until Jan 21st)  
**Imperial Privilege: Vienna Porcelain 1718-1744** (Until March 21st)

**Morgan Library** – Madison Ave. at 36th Street  
"Charles Dickens's a Christmas Carol. An original Christmas Carol is now on view. (Until January 10th)

**Museum of Modern Art** – 11 West 53rd St. between 5th and 6th Avenues  
**Tim Burton** – Film Works (April 26th)  
**Monet's Water Lilies** (April 12th)



# The Feast of the Immaculate Conception submitted by Jack McGee



On Tuesday, December 8th, we shall celebrate the Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Tuesday is also a Holy Day of Obligation when attendance at Holy Mass is required.

The Immaculate Conception Feast can be traced to the seventh century observance of the Feast of the Conception of Mary. But, it wasn't until 1854 that Pope Pius IX proclaimed that "Mary in the first instant of her conception, by a singular privilege and grace, granted by God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved from the stain of original sin."

This unique privilege defines the fact that Mary was preserved from the sinful tendencies that we correctly attribute to our human nature. St. Paul speaks of when he wrote "that the good that I wish to do, I do not always do. But, the evil that I do not wish to do, yes, I do," all because of our tainted nature.

We speak of Mary's greatest and most sustained privilege, which is most truly viewed, as much more, than the negative benefit, of an exemption from

sin. It is rather, the gift of immediate understanding and embracing from birth, of the pure relationship with God that the rest of us can only hope to attain, when our earthly time has ended and we are reunited in heaven.

As was noted above, it was in 1854 that Pope Pius IX proclaimed this dogma of faith for Roman Catholics. Four years later, in 1858, the Blessed Virgin appeared to St. Bernadette, some eighteen times in Lourdes. Bending under pressure from the towns people, who kept demanding that Bernadette ask "the Lady" who she was. The reply came, "I am the Immaculate Conception."

The most interesting part of this revelation by Mary, to Bernadette's question, was that, so that there would be no misunderstanding or mistranslating, the revelation to Bernadette by Mary, was made in two languages, first in pure French and secondly in the dialect of the language spoken in South Western France, near the border with Spain, Basque and spoken by Bernadette and the townspeople of Lourdes.

## PREACHING AND PRESENCE submitted by Jack McGee

I've heard some Catholic liturgists say that the Word of God, meaning the Scriptural proclamations and preaching, is of equal importance to the Real Presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. (Do some liturgists think it is of greater importance?) God speaks to us—directly and personally—through the scriptural words of Mass and good preaching applies those words effectively to our daily lives. The words of God, however, must genuflect to the Word of God sacrificed on the altar. And the most eloquently preached homily must genuflect to the perfectly preached one—the one which Jesus speaks within us each time we go to Holy Communion.

When the priest says the words of consecration at Mass, bread and wine become truly the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. There is no mere symbolic presence; it is a physically real one. On the Cross, the Body of Christ showed the world the love of God beyond all our imagining; now in Holy Communion, his Body feeds our bodies with that same love beyond all our imagining.

In heaven, the Body of Jesus Christ is permeated through and through with the deathless ecstasy of God's life; in Holy Communion, the bodies of all the faithful are permeated through and through with the same deathless ecstasy of God's life.



## RICHER OR POOR submitted by Jack McGee [courtesy of Cincinnati Kolping]

One day, the father of a very wealthy family took his son on a trip to the country with the express purpose of showing him how poor people live. They spent a couple of days and nights on the farm of what would be considered a very poor family.

On the return from their trip, the father asked his son, "How did you like the trip?" "It was great, Dad." "Did you see how poor people live?" the father asked. "Oh yeah," said the son. "So, tell me, what did you learn from the trip?" asked the father.

The son answered: "I saw that we have one dog and they had four.

We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they have a creek that has no end.

We have imported lanterns in our garden and they have the stars at night. Our patio reaches to the front yard and they have the whole horizon.

We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight. We have servants who serve us, but they serve others.

We buy our food, but they grow theirs.

We have walls around our property to protect us, they have friends to protect them."

The boy's father was speechless. Then his son added, "But thanks, Dad, for showing me how poor we really are."

Isn't perspective a wonderful thing? Makes you wonder what would happen if we all gave thanks for everything we have, instead of worrying about what we don't have. Appreciate every single thing you have, especially your friends! "Life is too short and friends are too few."

## NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

**BROOKLYN:** All members of New York Kolping are invited to our Mass and Christmas Party on Saturday, December 19th at 5 pm at the Kolping Center. We will start our Christmas celebration with the liturgy, which will fulfill your Sunday obligation. Once Mass is over, the dance floor is cleared and our Christmas Party immediately follows. A full dinner will be catered in, but we will still include our special traditions like gluh wein and cookies! Let us not forget our annual visit by a certain rotund, jolly, bearded guy who covers a lot of territory every December! The donation is \$12 per person to cover most of the expenses (we just break even on this party). We will also feature holiday raffle table and hope you will give your support. Since arrangements must be made and food ordered, reservations are necessary. Please call Rosemarie Wenzler at 718-497-5762 or Alice Kokasch at 718-381-7236 for reservations. We always have such a nice time at our Christmas gatherings and it will be more fun if YOU join us!

**PHILADELPHIA:** The Oktoberfest weekend down at the shore October 23-25 was a tremendous success. The weather was almost perfect, and we definitely are planning to run this same trip next year. Our Haunted Halloween ran from Thursday Oct. 29th to Saturday Oct. 31st. It was a great success as about 200 children and adults passed through our Haunted Graveyard, and eventually ended up in the "Electric Chair", some under duress! Thanks to all the volunteers who set up the attractions and worked to scare the pants off of all our visitors.

**DETROIT:** This time of year Detroit Kolping collects food items and donates baskets to 10 needy families in the St. Clair Shores area. And instead of sending holiday cards to each other, they ask members to donate any amount they can afford to their Holiday Christmas Card Project. They write the name of the donor on a paper ornament and hang it in their bar room, adding to the holiday décor! The money collected is donated to the S.C.S. Police Department's Toys for Kids Program. Their members' generosity for the past few years has enabled them to make a substantial donation to this fund.

## ***Simplify Your Life!!!***

University professor Rebecca Johns did a study and found that many people feel "closed in" by all the stuff and possessions they own. Possessions take up space, have to be cared for, maintained, cleaned, etc. "These people began to see overconsumption as a major social and ecological problem, so they said to themselves, 'I'm going to get out of this rut where I go to the mall, buy a bunch of stuff and think I'm going to be happy.'"

So the next time you go shopping, before you make that purchase say to yourself, "Do I really need this?" "Do I have something just like it?" "Can I live without it?" An activity that the entire family can take part in is to go through your apartment or house and try to find items that the family is no longer using. Make a pile of items and clothes to bring to the Salvation Army or give them to the poor. If things are no longer usable—discard them.

Free up space and simplify. By getting rid of clutter, you will feel better. Have your children help you organize possessions that are important. Children can help and all will feel a sense of satisfaction. (This idea was adapted from an article by Ellen Michaud in Diane-The Curves Magazine titled, "Simplify your Life".)

## WORDS WORTH NOTING

Give something, however small, to the one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could. —ST. GREGORY

Do not be afraid. Do not be satisfied with mediocrity. Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch. —POPE JOHN PAUL II

Success comes before work only in the dictionary. —ANON

The difficult is done at once, the impossible takes a little longer. —PROVERBS LATE 19TH CENTURY

Spread the gospel at all times; when necessary, use words. —ST. FRANCIS

Let us not look back in anger, nor forward in fear, but around us in awareness. —JAMES THURBER

Let the past drift away with the water. —JAPANESE SAYING

Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas. —CALVIN COOLIDGE

The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree: the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other. —BURTON HILLIS

## DECEMBER FILMS FROM HOLLYWOOD

**Before Tomorrow** – What life was like living in the Arctic Wilderness in the 19th Century

**Armored** – A 42 Million dollar heist. Things don't go well.

**Brothers** – A story of a family of brothers, problems, failures, etc.

**Everybody's Fine** – A widowed businessman drops in unannounced to family members.

**The Last Station** – The last years of Leo Tolstoy

**Serious Moonlight** – Wife steps in, when husband gets involved.

**Transylvania** – A new American University opens in Transylvanian castle

**Up In the Air** – George Clooney wants to make 10 million frequent flyer miles.

**Invictus** – How Nelson Mandela tried to unite apartheid South Africa with a soccer team.

**The Slammin' Salmon** – Man tries to motivate the staff of his restaurant

**Avatar** – In 3D. Set in a distant planet of 10 feet tall humanoids. Watch for it

**Did You Hear About The Morgans?** – Couple get involved in witnessing a murder

**Nine** – An Italian film maker fears he's running out of inspiration

**The Young Victoria** – The girlish queen and prince Albert

**The Imaginarium of Dr. Parnassus** – Health Ledger's last film. Man loses a bet with the devil.

**It's Complicated** – Meryl Streep faces a moral problem for her alone to solve.

**Sherlock Holmes** – Robert Downey and Jude Law.

**Loss of a Teardrop Diamond** – A new fiancé in the family, but then the diamond disappears.

**The White Ribbon** – Strange accidents are happening in a small German village before WWI.

**Alvin and The Chipmunks** – The gang is back facing a female rival trio.