

KOLPING *BULLETIN*

A Monthly Report from Catholic Kolping Society New York • www.kolpingny.org • DECEMBER 2011 • No. 84

note the date

december

- 4 Mass & Christmas Party/
St. Nikolaus Day**
Kolping 88th Street
- 8 The Feast of the
Immaculate Conception**
The feast focuses on the
concept that the Virgin Mary
was conceived without sin.
- 22 January Bulletin**
Last day to submit material
- 25 Christmas**
Commemorates the birth of
Jesus Christ.

INTERESTING FACT:

Kris Kringle is a corruption of the German "Christkindl" (Christ Child)— It is the Christkindl who brings gifts on Christmas Eve in Germany, not Santa!

january

- 1 The Solemnity of Mary,
the Mother of God**
On this holy day of obligation,
we are reminded of the role
that the Blessed Virgin played
in the plan of our salvation.
Christ's birth was made possible
by Mary's fiat: "Be it
done unto me according to
Thy word."
- 6 The Feast of the Epiphany**
Epiphany, the 12th day after
Christmas, celebrates the visit
of the three wise men to the
Christ Child.

December



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

Sunday, December 4, 2011

We cordially invite all of you to our final event for 2011. Our annual family Christmas/St. Nikolaus Day party will be held on Sunday, December 4th at the Kolping House on 88th Street.

We will start the day with Mass at 10:30AM celebrated by our Praeses, Fr. Richard Bretone at the Kolping House at 165 East 88th Street. A delicious dinner will follow at noon prepared by our member and wonderful chef, Wolfgang Hahn. The cost is \$16 per adult and \$8 per child under 12. The menu: Pork Roast with all the trimmings, dessert and coffee.

At 1:00 we will honor our 50 year members: Bert Bruegger, Anita Buchholz, Robert Doyle and Robert Hemsing—and our 25 year members: Robert Hemsing Jr., Johanna McGreevy, John McGreevy, Charlotte Rahm and Donna Richardson. And then St. Nikolaus will make his annual visit!

This year the a cappella group "Beauty Shop," lead by Anna Dengler, will be singing a few songs.

We look forward to seeing you on December 4th! Please RSVP to Muriel Fullam at 914-582-8379 or MurielFullam@msn.com

*We wish everyone a Merry Christmas
and a Very Happy & Healthy New Year!*

*— Ingrid Reslmaier, Muriel Fullam,
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 contact Muriel Fullam (914-582-8379) or email MurielFullam@msn.com when you know of a member who is ill, in the hospital, or has passed away. We want to be sure to remember them.



MARY MINARIK

I'm afraid that one paragraph won't be enough to cover all that Mary meant to the people who knew her. She had such a forceful personality and made an immediate impression on all who met her. Her wonderful sense of humor made every event she attended such fun, and we all have great memories of all the laughs we shared.

She was full of energy and initiative, having been a Kolping Board member, a National Kolping Representative, and for twelve years, the Manager of the Kolping House on 88th Street. It was also her idea to restart a newsletter that had once been published by the Society and this "Bulletin" you are now reading, which she started in her living room on two pages in 1986 is her legacy, and is now being ably continued by Ingrid Reslmaier (Mary's goddaughter). Ingrid's mother, Katherine, knew Mary from their grade school years and the Sartorius & Reslmaier families have been life-long friends, demonstrative of the loyalty Mary inspired.

As you all know, Alzheimers is a terrible disease and was responsible for slowly dimming Mary's wonderful lively spirit over the last 15 years. She fought the good fight with the help and loving care of her husband, Jim, but was finally released from her burden on November 14th, two weeks after her 71st birthday. Our sincerest condolences go to Jim; her son, Jimmy and his wife, Theresa and daughter Natalie; and her daughter, Lisa and her husband John, and her sons Danny and Jimmy. Mary would have been so proud of her three beautiful grandchildren. I'm just so sorry she wasn't able to enjoy seeing them grow up, but they should know what a wonderful and dynamic person their grandmother was. We will all miss her.

—Anita Buchholz



WALTER JOHANN GROSS

Walter passed away on Tuesday, October 25, 2011 at the age of 66, with his family at his side at his Stamford, CT home after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

Born on December 13, 1944, Bronx, NY, son to the late Gottlieb Gross and Maria Meyers. He graduated from Xaverian High School in 1962 and received a bachelor's degree from St. John's University in 1966. At St. John's he competed on the marksmen team and won first place on a team and a first place individually at National competitions. Walter served in the Army from 1966 to 1968. He was a Federal Agent with the IRS for 36 years until he retired at the young age of 57.

He moved to Pelham Manor in 1978 where he bought a home and raised his four children. In 2001, he moved to Stamford, CT and purchased a second home in Punta Gorda, FL where he resided during the winter months.

He was a loving and devoted husband of 35 years to Ines Wallach Gross and a beloved father to Patrick Schwarte, Susan Schwarte Rotondo (Michael Rotondo), Kenneth Gross and Christopher Gross. He was also a dear brother to Anna Gross Reeves and a cherished grandfather to Nicholas, Ryan and Daniel Rotondo.

Walter will always be remembered for his kind and generous heart, love of life, strength and determination. He will remain in our hearts forever and his spirit will always carry on.

—Ines and Family

Words cannot express how grateful our family is for all your kindness, prayers and support shown to us during this difficult time. Every act of kindness meant so very much to us. May God bless you for what you did to console our hearts.

—The Family of Walter Johann Gross [December 13, 1944 – October 25, 2011]

2011 DUES

We thank those members who have sent in their dues early. If you haven't done so already, please send in your dues:

Family: \$105

Individual: \$90

Student: \$45

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

Please make check payable to:
The Catholic Kolping Society.

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



KOLPING IS ON FACEBOOK!
Members can use this as another way to get the latest updates.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Organist Needed. Due to illness of our current organist we are looking for a substitute with the possibility of a permanent position. Sundays 11 a.m. to 12 noon (sometimes till 12.30 p.m.) Adequate pay will be negotiated. We would appreciate any suggestions or recommendations.

Zion St. Mark's Ev. Lutheran Church
(212-288-0600)
339 East 84 St., New York, NY 10028
Wolfgang Hahn: 212-423-9295
Edeltraut Randazzo: 973-464-2059

Disney Condo For Rent. Kolping member has 3 BR / 2 Bath condo for rent in 5-star community only 3 miles outside of Disney's Main Gate. Affordable and convenient. Visit our web site at www.bestdisneycondo.com or call Gary & Terri Ostroff at 516-837-3804.

All members are invited to submit advertisements for items that they want to sell, give away or own. The ads will expire after one month unless other arrangements are made. We reserve the right to charge a fee in the future, if needed, to cover expenses. Email your classified ads (or any questions) to: classifieds@kolpingny.org or mail them to: Ingrid Resmaier, Kolping Classifieds, 6 Green Ave., Lynbrook, NY 11563. Ads can be posted directly on www.kolpingny.org. Please include a description, contact name, phone number, and/or email address.

News & Notes



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THOSE BORN IN DECEMBER:

Judith Breining, Dina Breitschwerd, Stacy Connolly, Mary Crowley, Michael Cunningham, Daniel Dengler, Justin Dengler, Ernst Endrich, Lisa Farsang, Kathleen Fuccheck, Sophie Gallagher, Greta Grossmann, Lily Gruno, Norine Keating, Matt Keller, Patricia Kummer, Irene Lelli, Michael Macaluso, Stefan Manz, Amanda Mersits, Peter Mersits, James Minarik, Edward Monks, Sabrina Ostroff, Jenny Rea, Andrew Reitter, Charles Roberts, Wilfrieda Roessler, John Rung, Erik Severin, Charles Smith, Hertha Stang, Kenneth Tunkel, Niklas Umland, Christopher Vanzo, Alfred E. Vogl, Jr., Debra Weigand, and Michael Weinborg.

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 Muriel Fullam at MurielFullam@msn.com.

MORE THANK-YOU'S FROM THE KOH OKTOBERFEST

My apologies for accidentally leaving this out of last month's Bulletin! A big thank you goes to Christina Lovacz who had been collecting and saving up toys all year long for the kids prize wheel. The kids love winning and had a hard choice selecting which item they would take home. Also Mike Scheuermann deserves a big thanks for being one of our excellent BBQers that day.

BROOKLYN KOLPING'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Kolping Family of Brooklyn, 6504 Myrtle Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385-6250
Please join Brooklyn Kolping for their annual Christmas party Saturday, Dec 10th. The donation is \$15 per person. The event begins with Mass in the Kolping Center at 5pm (which fulfills the Sunday Obligation). Afterward, we will be treated to a hearty dinner and desserts, Gluh wine & traditional Christmas treats, plus a visit from Santa Claus! Reservations are necessary—please call Alice Kokasch 718-381-7236, or Rosemarie Rom 718-366-1531 by December 4.

HOLIDAY AUCTION

Member Barbara Roche invites you all to a Holiday Auction on Friday, December 2, 2011 at 7 p.m. at the HHHS Library, 2166 Albany Post Road, Montrose, NY. It is a fund raising event to shop for your holiday gifts while sharing your expertise in crafting, baking or horticulture. Make your favorite craft, bake your best cake, or bring a beautiful plant—the item will be your entrance fee and will be auctioned off to the audience (you). Call Barbara at 914-419-0905 for more information.

K-O-C COMMUNION BRUNCH *submitted by Ann Horan*

We were treated to a great day at Kolping on Concourse. Our Mass was held at St. Philip Neri Church and their pastor, Msgr. O'Brien welcomed us and read the list of our deceased members from the altar. The choir with their beautiful voices made it even more special. Ernst Endrich, manager, and his assistant manager, Tony Aguiluz, had a delicious dinner ready. Thanks to them for making the day so nice. Our Vice President, Katrina Dengler welcomed us and reminded us how much we miss and remember our members who died this year and all years past. Norbert Dengler (who we were all delighted to see!) talked to us about the history of this day. Years ago Kolping members visited the graves of deceased members after the Mass and breakfast. So this day has long been a Kolping tradition and one we will continue.

OUR HOLY FATHER'S DECEMBER 2011 INTENTIONS

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

Peace among All Peoples: That all peoples may grow in harmony and peace through mutual understanding and respect.

Children and Youth: That children and young people may be messengers of the Gospel and that they may be respected and preserved from all violence and exploitation.

News from the Branches submitted by Jack McGee

DETROIT

Detroit Kolping helps to make the holidays fun for less fortunate children and their families!

This time each year, Detroit Kolping members collect food items and donate baskets to 10 needy families in the St. Clair Shores area. They assemble the baskets and deliver them in time for Christmas. Also, as in years past, instead of sending cards to each other, members donate any amount they afford to their Holiday Christmas Card Project. The names of the donors are written on paper ornaments that will decorate the bar room. The money collected is donated to the S.C.S. Police Department to purchase items for needy families. And finally, new, unused toys are collected to be donated to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen.

CINCINNATI

Cincinnati Kolping members are asked to bring canned goods to their meeting on December 4th. They will donate this year's collection to the folks who run and live in the home called Our Lady of the Woods. This is a senior citizens facility in White Oak. Cincinnati Kolping's Seniors group has worked for years with this facility and made monetary as well as material donations to them.

The festivities will begin with a Mass—the Feast Day of our Founder Blessed Adolph Kolping—followed by the initiation of new Members and the Christmas Party. The agenda is full for this with happy and enjoyable day. The leadership puts a lot of effort into this event and they hope to see some of their newer members attend so they all can get better acquainted.

—Ted Tegenkamp

PHILADELPHIA

The "new evangelization" is a regularly mentioned theme in Catholic messages. Our last two Popes, Blessed John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI have mentioned the need for a New Evangelization. The new evangelization is addressed to parts of the world that received the Gospel message of Jesus (i.e. were evangelized) hundreds of years ago. This covers mostly areas of Western Europe and North America. In our day these areas which were mostly Christian with a high percentage of Catholics all of whom practiced and shared their Catholic beliefs, are now hesitant to practice and share the message of Jesus. Even though there is a high percentage of the population in these countries that would still call themselves "Christian" or "Catholic", the number who actually evangelize, actively live their faith day in and day out, is only about 20 to 25%. The other 75 to 80% of "christians" need to hear the message in a NEW way—receive a "new evangelization".

"Catholic" means "universal", thus we can't be satisfied with being some little flock, but rather, as "yeast" we must use our lives to spread the word of God, to make the Family of God truly grow and expand in our secularized society. Pope Benedict XVI says, "get on a new path to share the Gospel message of Jesus to all friends and neighbors in the 21st century." Yes, that will be a "new evangelization".

The mission of the Catholic Kolping Society of America fits well into the plan of Pope Benedict for a new evangelization. The Kolping Family USA is aimed at the development of its members as Christians in the world, using their faith, their occupations, their families to bring God's message to all people. The chief objective of the Kolping Society is to make the person and message of Jesus Christ experienced by all who are in need of hope and a just social order based on faith in Jesus Christ.

As the industrial world in the 19th century was changing the agricultural and family-centered society of that time, Father Kolping saw the need to start a new way to evangelize the young people who were leaving their rural roots. We are being called to evangelize a whole new culture that is changing from God-centered to material-centered in the 21st century. Following Father Kolping's example let us all recognize our call to evangelize; i.e.—to faithfully share God's message in our society—our world—today!



BROOKLYN

St. Nicholas Day, or Eve, is celebrated on December 6. This is the favorite holiday of all children—it's a gift-giving day. When evening comes, St. Nicholas, a reverend gray-haired figure with flowing beard, wearing gorgeous bishop's garments, gold embroidered cope, mitre and pastoral staff, knocks on doors and inquires about the behavior of the children. The custom of examining the children where they will cite a verse, sing, or otherwise show their skills is still widespread in German-speaking countries. Each little one gets a gift for his performance.

The most famous tradition on St. Nicholas Day is that little kids put their polished shoes or socks outside the door or window, and at night St. Nicholas fills them with little gifts. Another tradition kept for this day is baking Stutenkerl, or Printenmann. It is best to bake the cake in a special baking form depicting the saint.

St. Nicholas is the patron saint of children, bakers and seamen.

—from *Germanculture.com*

Kolping on the Hudson



Pictured above—the Summer Home of New York Kolping at Montrose, New York, on the Hudson River.

NEW YORK — For some time now we have been writing about the activities that have been going on at our summer home but have been most forgetful to show our readers what it looks like.

This picture is quite different from the picture postcards that we sell and it proves that the Summer Home Committee finds it hard to sit still. To quote Henry Freudenthal, "If we are going to do some improving, let's think big."

With the exception of plumbing work, every piece of work done in the extension enlargement was done by Kolping members who donated their weekends toward the construction without receiving any payment whatever.

The weekend of August 15 will be the date of our Annual Picnic and members and guests will see for themselves the tremendous effort that has gone into the project. The exterior was planned for maximum coolness with proper ventilation and

the interior was planned for maximum beauty.

The new bar and much of the interior woodwork are of mahogany. The ceiling has been finished with special ceiling tiles. Built-in ceiling lights and new exterior door lights give the appearance of sheer luxury and beauty.

The workers who had a hand in this project are quite proud of themselves and their project. In the following issues of The Banner we shall introduce you to them. Then, at some future date when you are in New York and meet them, they will feel like old friends, or, better yet, members of the Kolping family that you are personally shaking hands with, for the first time.

Jack Mc Gee

Thanks to Albert Sartorius for providing this Banner article from September 1965 (and thanks to Ann Horan for sending it in!)

Words Worth Noting

submitted by Jack McGee

It constantly happens that the Lord permits a soul to fall so that it may grow humbler.

—St. Teresa of Avila

God prefers bad verses recited with a pure heart over the finest verses by the wicked.

—Voltaire

Most people do not pray they only beg.

—George Bernard Shaw

Children are likely to live up to what you believe of them.

—Lady Bird Johnson

Assume a virtue if you have it not.

—William Shakespeare

We all live with the objective of being happy; our lives are all different and yet the same.

—Anne Frank

Freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought.

—Blessed John Paul II

In order to change we must be sick and tired of being sick and tired.

—Anonymous

If you want a place in the sun you have got to put up with a few blisters.

—Abigail Van Buren

GOD IS LIKE... submitted by Jack McGee

Bayer aspirin: He works miracles.

A Ford: He's got a better idea.

Coke: He's the real thing.

Hallmark Cards: He cares enough to send His very best.

Tide: He gets the stains out that others leave behind.

General Electric: He brings good things to life.

Sears: He has everything.

Scotch Tape: You can't see Him, but you know He's there.

Delta: He's ready when you are.

Allstate: You're in good hands with Him.

Dial Soap: Aren't you glad you have Him?

Don't you wish everybody did?

Postal Service: Neither rain, nor snow, nor sleet, nor ice will keep Him from His appointed destination.

Stories of Interest

THE TRAGEDY OF THE S.S. STEUBEN submitted by Martin A. Kelly



Things do not always work out as they are planned. Take for example, the case of the "S.S. General von Steuben." Launched in 1923 as the "München" to serve as a luxury liner for the North German Lloyd Line, renamed in 1930 as the General von Steuben (after the famous German officer of the American Revolutionary War), and renamed again in 1938 as "Steuben", she went to a watery grave 7 years later, carrying 4,500 passengers (military and civilian) to their deaths.

On July 11, 1930 after docking and discharging passengers and most of its crew from a voyage from Bremen, Germany, a fire broke out in a paint locker which quickly spread to another storage hold which result in a massive fire and explosion resulting five alarm fire with all fire equipment in New York City being sent to the ship fire. The fire could not be controlled and it sank next to the wharf

it was docking at. In one of the largest shipping salvage efforts of its time, the Munchen was raised and towed to a dry dock and repaired and returned to service. Shortly afterwards the ships owner renamed it to the General von Steuben.

She was commissioned in 1939 as a Kriegsmarine accommodation ship. In 1944 she was pressed into service as an armed transport ship, taking German troops to eastern Baltic ports and returning wounded troops to Kiel. It was the night of February 9, 1945, and the war was in its sixth year. Germany was down for the count. In a frantic effort to rescue wounded soldiers and medical personnel and protect civilians, especially females from Ivan's "summary justice," the Kriegsmarine began an evacuation operation from East Prussia using whatever craft that were available. Designed to have only 1,800 passengers and crew, the Steuben attempted that night to transport 4,267 passengers across the Baltic Sea to a safe haven in Germany. Well aware this was a passenger ship, she was cruelly sunk on 10th February 1945 in the cold Baltic Sea by torpedoes from the Soviet submarine S-13, commanded by Capt. Alexander Marinesko. According to survivors, she sank within about 20 minutes, with the loss of perhaps 4,500 lives—three times the death toll of Titanic. Only 659 people were rescued from the icy water.

Beneath 15 fathoms, the wreck of the Steuben lies on her side like a gigantic coffin containing the mortal remains of those consigned to her. At a recent memorial service at the site of the sinking, representatives of the Polish and German governments agreed that the wreckage should be treated as hallowed ground and off-limits to curiosity seekers. When interviewed, Christoph Gerigk, the leader of the Polish exploratory team, commented: "Despite what the Nazis had done to my country, I had tears in my eyes." Enemies in life, relatives in death.

HUMOR submitted by Martin A. Kelly

1. As long as there are tests, there will be prayer in public schools.
2. He told his doctor he had broken his leg in two places.

The doctor told him to stay out of those places.

[Westchester Guardian 7/14/11]

Did you know....

Coca-Cola was originally green?

It's impossible to lick your own elbow?

That half of all Americans live within 50 miles of their birthplace?

That Alaska is the state with the highest percentage of people who walk to work?

NOTES FROM THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL 1962-1965 submitted by Jack McGee

Regarding attendance at Mass, it was emphasized that "full and active participation by all the people is the aim to be considered before all else. For it (the sacred liturgy) is the prime and indispensable source from which the faithful are to derive the true Christian spirit". It is because of this that "with zeal and patience, pastors of souls must promote the liturgical instruction of the faithful and their active participation in the liturgy both internally and externally".

Regarding these statements, perhaps some questions might help us to evaluate the degree of "full and active" participation such as:

Do I have a mature understanding of what the Mass is all about?

Am I able to share with others what the Mass is, and how it is celebrated?

Do I understand the use and colors of vestments, as well as the liturgical seasons?

When I come to Mass, do I come with the intention – and desire to participate?

Do I attend Mass just because it's Sunday – "I have to come".

Did I listen attentively to the Word of God that is proclaimed?

Do I make the prayers of the celebrant "my own"?

Do I recognize the responsibility I have, to actively participate in the singing and responses?

Do I make responses "with my heart" rather than just automatically?



THE APPLE TREE

This was a huge apple tree to which a little boy loved a lot. Every day he played around him and climbed to the top, ate his apples and slept under him. The tree also loved this little boy a lot.

Time passed, the boy grew and stopped playing around the tree. One day, he came back and heard what the tree said sadly: Are you coming to play with me?

But the young man answered: "I'm not the same boy that used to play around the trees. Now I want toys, and I need money to buy them." I'm sorry, said the tree. I don't have money, but you could take all of my apples and sell them: so you could buy your toys.

The young man took the apples, got the money and felt happy. The tree was happy too, but the boy didn't come back. Later, when he came back, the tree asked: Are you coming to play with me? I don't have time to play: I must work for my family and I need a house for my wife and children. Can you help me? I'm sorry, said the tree. I don't have a house, but you can cut my branches and build your house with them.

The man cut all of the branches, and felt happy, and he didn't come back. The tree was happy too.

One day, in a warm summer, the man returned. The tree was pleased to see him. Are you coming to play with me? I feel sad. I'm becoming old. I want a boat to sail and rest, can you give it to me?

The tree answered: Use my trunk to build one: so you can sail and be happy. The man cut the trunk, built his boat and went to sail for a long time. He returned after many years. The tree said: I'm very sorry, but now, I have nothing to give you, not even apples.

The man replied: I don't have teeth to bite, or strength to climb, I'm very old. So the tree cried and said: I can't really give you anything. All I have left are my dying roots. The man replied: I don't need much now, just a place to rest. I'm tired after so many years. Well... said the tree. The old roots of a tree are the best place to rest. Come, sit with me and rest. The man sat next to this tree, happy and smiling and he dropped a few tears.

This is the story of each one of us: the tree is our parents. When we are children, we love to play with them. When we grow up, we leave them alone: we return to them when we need them or when we are in trouble. No matter what, they are always there to give everything that can make us happy. You can think the boy is cruel, but is not this how we treat our parents sometimes?

DON'T FORGET SUNDAY MASS

For Catholic families, sacramental life, centered around weekly Sunday Liturgy, fuels our daily lives, year-round, including in summer.

It is Sunday Mass that nurtures us with the presence of the Lord God, in his Holy Work, and the 'breaking of the bread' – the Holy Eucharist. An Easter Moment, empowering men, women and children to live with Christ, to do God's will every day of their lives. Hence, Sunday Mass remains the most important 'must do' in our lives, even when we're on vacation.

Getting to Mass during vacation may require planning ahead: finding local parishes serving beach, mountain or city vacation destinations. Parishes or chapels in vacation areas, just as at home, may depend on the ministry of a single priest, one who celebrates at more than one site each Sunday. The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy reminds us that Sunday Mass is an enrichment and gift in our lives, an apostolic tradition "taking its origin from the very day of Christ's resurrection."



It states further; "On Sunday, the Christian faithful ought to gather together, so that by listening to the word of God and sharing in the Eucharist, they may recall the passion, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus." Moreover, in the Holy Mass, we together "give thanks to God" for his gift to us of a "new birth with a lively hope" born of Christ's Resurrection.

"The Lord's day is therefore the first and greatest festival, one to be set before the loving devotion of the faithful and impressed upon it, so that it may be also a day of joy and of freedom from work."

If children or grandchildren complain that they "don't get anything out of Mass," we may want to remind them that what they bring with them to Mass will make a great difference.

To that end, some families spend a little time during the week praying with one or two of the Readings for the coming Sunday. This can give the children time to ask questions and to prepare for God's great gifts on Sunday, even while on vacation.

What's Happening in New York This Month

By Jack McGee (718-478-0573)



THE METROPOLITAN OPERA

Satyagraha	Dec. 1
La Bohème	Dec 2, 8
Rodelinda	Dec. 3 (matinee), 7, 10
Faust	Dec. 3, 6, 10 (matinee), 13, 18, 20, 23, 28
Madama Butterfly	Dec. 5, 9, 14, 17, 22, 27
La Fille Du Regiment	Dec. 12, 15, 19, 24 (matinee)
Hansel and Gretel	Dec. 16, 21, 24, 26, 29 (matinee), 30 (matinee)
The Enchanted Island	Dec. 31

Tickets from \$25. Evening performances commence at 7:30 pm and matinees at 1 pm (unless otherwise noted). Double-check times. Box Office hours: Mon–Sat 10 am to 8 pm, Sunday 12 noon to 6 pm. Phone 212-362-6000.

The Metropolitan Opera on Radio (WQXR Radio)

Saturday afternoons at 1 p.m. on 105.9 FM.

Dec. 3 Rodelinda 12:30 By Handel

Dec. 10 Faust 1:00 By Gounod

Dec. 17 Madama Butterfly 1:00 By Puccini

Dec. 24 La Fille Du Regiment 12:00 By Donizetti

Dec. 31 Die Fledermaus 1:00 By Johann Strauss

The Met at your local movie theater.

Check Friday's film pages for local screenings.

The Post, Daily News, N.Y. Times

Dec. 3, Saturday at 12:30 Rodelinda

Dec. 10, Saturday at 12:55 Faust

MUSIC AT THE CHURCHES

St. Thomas Church, 53rd Street and 5th Avenue

Handel's "Messiah", Tuesday and Thursday, December 6 and 8 at 7:30. Tickets: \$96, \$75, \$45, and \$35 for students and seniors with proper I.D.

GEORGE BALANCHINE'S THE NUTCRACKER

November 25–December 31

NYC Ballet, David H. Koch Theater, 20 Lincoln Center

It's likely you already know the story—and that this production is the heart of New York City's year-end holiday season. This glittering classic, performed annually by the New York City Ballet since 1954, has become one of the City's signature family-friendly traditions. Expect to warm your spirit with visions of the Sugarplum Fairy, the Snow Queen and, naturally, the Nutcracker.

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

Every first Sunday of the month, the Holy sacrifice of the Mass is celebrated in German at 10 am. Confessions in German before Mass. For information call Julia Winter (347-852-3184). For information regarding counseling and sacraments in German, please contact Rev. James Boniface Ramsey, Pastor (212-289-6030).

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Why waste time considering "my New Year's Resolutions for 2012"? A very worthwhile investment of time, energy and spiritual growth was the invitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary herself to St. Dominic in 1214, and in later visions to Blessed Alain de la Roche. Mary revealed 15 promises to those who would devoutly pray the Rosary. So, for 2012, our resolution is very simple, "Pray the Rosary".

Here are the promises for those who do:

1. Whoever shall faithfully serve me by the recitation of the Rosary, shall receive signal graces.
2. I promise my special protection and the greatest graces to all those who shall recite the Rosary.
3. The Rosary shall be a powerful armor against hell; it will destroy vice, decrease sin, and defeat heresies.
4. It will cause virtue and good works to flourish: it will obtain for souls the abundant Mercy of God: it will withdraw the hearts of men from the love of the world and its vanities, and will lift them to the desire of eternal things.
5. The soul, which recommends itself to me by the recitation of the Rosary, shall not perish.
6. Whoever shall recite the Rosary devoutly, applying himself to the consideration of its sacred mysteries shall never be conquered by misfortune. God will not chastise him in His Justice, he shall not perish by an un-provided death.
7. Whoever shall have a true devotion for the Rosary shall not die without the sacraments of the Church.
8. Those who are faithful to recite the Rosary shall have during their life and at their death the light of God and the plenitude of His graces; at the moment of death they shall participate in the merits of the saints in Paradise.
9. I shall deliver from purgatory those who have been devoted to the Rosary.
10. The faithful children of the Rosary shall merit a high degree of glory in Heaven.
11. You shall obtain all you ask of me by the recitation of the Rosary.
12. All those who propagate the Holy Rosary shall be aided by me in their necessities.
13. I have obtained from my Divine Son that all the advocates of the Rosary shall have for intercessors the entire celestial court during their life and at the hour of death.
14. All who recite the Rosary are my sons, and brothers, of my only son Jesus Christ.
15. Devotion of my Rosary is a great sign of predestination.