

# Pilgrim notes



## Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs

Auriesville, NY  
December 6, 2009



Sunday Masses: 11:30 am  
Visitor Center

Mon, Wed, & Fri Masses:  
11:30 am  
Goupil Chapel

Gift Shop: Monday - Saturday  
10:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Sunday 12:30 - 3:00 pm

## Christmas Concert

The very wonderful Shrine Christmas Concert will be on Friday, December 11th at 7:00 pm in the Visitor Center. The theme is **Christmas Around the World** featuring Music Director Jenna Poling, Shawn Beebie, Paul Whitney, Amanda Pitcher and "Voices of the Shrine." A surprise guest will make a special appearance. Also, scrumptious desserts and beverages will be available. Tickets are \$15 and \$10 for ages 12 and under. Tickets are now available in the Shrine Gift Shop. Get into the holiday spirit with this Shrine evening!

Visit our Website  
[www.MartyrShrine.org](http://www.MartyrShrine.org)

Call us  
518.853.3033

Email us  
[graphics@martyrshrine.org](mailto:graphics@martyrshrine.org)

## Prepare the Way in Our Hearts

We have to fill in the "valleys" of our souls formed from our shallow prayer life and a minimalist way of living our faith. We have to straighten out whatever crooked paths we've been walking, like involvement in some secret or habitual sins or in a sinful relationship. If we have been involved in some dishonest practices at work or at home, we are called to straighten them out and make restitution. If we have been harboring grudges or hatred, or failing to be reconciled with others, now is the time to clear away all the debris. As individuals, we might have to overcome deep-seated resentment, persistent fault-finding, unwillingness to forgive, dishonesty in our dealings with others, and a bullying attitude. And we all have to level the "mountains" of our pride and egocentrism by practicing true humility rendering humble service to others.

## Repent and Seek Forgiveness

John's message calls us to confront and confess our sins. We have to turn away from them in sincere repentance and receive God's forgiveness. Next, we have to forgive others who offended us and ask forgiveness for our offenses. Jesus was very explicit about this in Matthew 6:14 and 15. He says, "For if you forgive men their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions."

Fr. Anthony Kadavil

## Advent Thoughts

There are *once-in-a-life-time* events, and many *once-a-year* events such as the coming of the Easter Bunny or Santa himself. Mighty are the preparations for those child-centered delights. The "Little-Ones" must be ready, watchful, eager or it might all be missed.

It is the season for the adult-centered, *day-by-day, moment-by-moment* offering, presenting, revealing of God. The question for us "Older-Ones" will always be about just how ready and prepared do we have to be to receive, accept, and be blest by God's arrivings.

We have time. We have Holy Scripture. We have many voices calling to us. Many other scriptures which invite us constantly to find life in its attractions and pages. We are invited to prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus by listening intently - yes I say "intently" - to the advertisements which announce various ways to experience "real" life. Read the scriptural advertisements of the "new-and-improved" wonders. We can take time to pray with them in a reflective way. What are they promising? What have been your experiences of buying in? Larry Gillick, S.J.

## Mini Retreat

The next Mini Retreat will be on Saturday, December 19th from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm in the Visitor Center. Fr. Bob McGuire will present **Reflections for Advent 2009**. There will also be faith sharing, fellowship, a pot luck lunch, Confessions and Mass. Please call Father McGuire at 853-3033 ext. 233 for more information.