

Pilgrim notes



Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs

Auriesville, NY
December 20, 2009



Christmas Mass

On Friday, December 25th a Christmas Mass will be celebrated at 12 noon in the Visitor Center. We invite you to come to the Shrine and join in this beautiful commemoration of Christ's birth.

After Mass Gathering

On Sunday, December 27th, the Shrine will host a Gathering after the 11:30 am Mass. The Shrine will provide beverages and requests that families prepare their favorite morning pastry or goodie to share with others. It will be a wonderful time to relax and socialize with fellow worshippers. Bring your favorite treat!

Visit our Website
www.MartyrShrine.org

Call us
518. 853.3033

Email us
graphics@martyrshrine.org

Convey Jesus to Others as Mary Did

We can make a real difference in the lives of others by carrying Jesus to them. However, we cannot give what we do not possess. Christmas is the ideal time for us to be filled with the spirit of Christ, allowing His rebirth within us. There, He enables us to share His love with all whom we encounter by offering them humble and committed service, unconditional forgiveness and compassionate caring. Sharing Jesus with others is the best Christmas gift we can give. God wants each of us, like Mary, to carry to those around us the Lord of Life. It is easy to send flowers, Christmas cards or gifts. To give the gift of ourselves, however, is the greatest gift of all. Let us take the time to visit others this Christmas, to bring some inspiration into their lives, and hopefully to bring them closer to God. Let us share with them the Spirit of God, the Spirit of consolation, of courage, of peace and joy, just as Mary did. During the Christmas Season, God calls us into action as He did with Mary. Is there anyone we know who is lonely, in a nursing home, ill or bedridden? Can we help him or her with a brief visit? Is there extra food in our pantry that a poor family could use? Such organizations as the Ladies of Charity or St. Vincent de Paul Society can find such a family for us.

Bless and Encourage the Young

In today's gospel reading, Elizabeth demonstrates the responsibility of the older generation to inspire the younger generation. We need others to recognize our gifts, to honor our true being, and to pronounce "the goodness of God upon us." Grandparents and parents, teachers and leaders, have the responsibility of encouraging those around them by saying, "You are an important person, valuable to God and to me." During this Christmas week, parents and older people might convey a blessing to others, especially the young. Complimenting and encouraging one's spouse, children and friends, let us make them know how valuable they are to us and to God.

Fr. Anthony Kadavil

