

Pilgrim notes



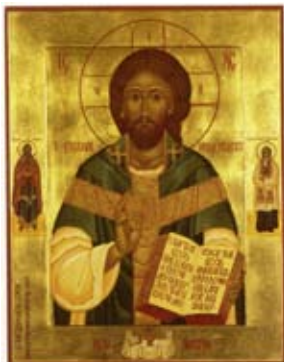
Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs

Auriesville, NY
January 3, 2010



2010

As we begin this new year, the Shrine staff is busy preparing for our 125th Anniversary season. It will be an exciting 2010! Mini Retreats will be held in January and February. Beginning on Sunday, March 7th, Lenten Sunday Masses and an Easter Sunday Mass will be celebrated in the Visitor Center. The official Shrine Season opens on Saturday, April 24th with the 4:00 pm Mass. Fr. Mitch Pacwa and Fr. Matthew Linn have committed to leading missions. Other pilgrimages and healing services are scheduled as is our special Anniversary Mass Celebration on Sunday, August 15.



Visit our Website
www.MartyrShrine.org

Call us
518. 853.3033

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Let Us Offer Jesus Our Gifts

1. The first gift might be friendship with God. After all, the whole point of Christmas is that God's Son became one of us, to redeem us and call us friends. God wants our friendship in the form of wholehearted love and devotion.
2. A second gift might be friendship with others. This kind of friendship can be costly. The price it exacts is vulnerability and openness to others. The good news, however, is that, in offering friendship to others, we will receive back many blessings.
3. A third gift might be the gift of reconciliation. This is the gift of repairing damaged relationships. It requires honesty, humility, understanding, forgiveness and patience.
4. The fourth gift of this season is the gift of peace: the seeking God's peace in our own lives through prayer, the sacramental life and daily meditation on the Word of God. It is out of humble gratitude that we give from the heart, our gifts of worship, prayer, singing, possessions, and time.

As we give our insignificant, little gifts to God, the good news is that God accepts them! Like the magi offering their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, we offer what we have, from the heart, in response to what that Child has given to us - himself. Fr. Anthony Kadavil



Of Gifts

We are invited to pray on this Day of Revelation to be women and men of "manifestation" ourselves. It is not so much what gifts do we have to present to Jesus, but what gifts has God given us to reveal to others, some particular feature of God's personality.

We pray in the Third Canon of the Eucharist that Jesus might make us "an ever lasting gift" to God; isn't that thrilling! We are the receivers and yet Christ has come to make us gifts offered back to the Giver. What of God do we reveal? We can pray with the same kind of mission-sense with which the Magi returned or at least went off. Jesus does not stay a child in Bethlehem or Nazareth. To accept our gifthood is to accept our being-givenhood and that will take much grace and time.

Larry Gillick, S.J.

Mini Retreat

John Vianney and the Year for Priests is the topic presented by Theresa Schweigert for the Mini Retreat on Saturday, January 16th. The Year for Priests marks the 150th Anniversary of the death of St. John Vianney, the patron of parish priests. Come find out why St. Vianney said, "A priest is the doorway to the treasures of heaven," and share ideas of how to affirm and encourage our priests in these challenging times. There will also be faith sharing, fellowship, a pot luck lunch, Confessions and Mass. The event begins at 10:00 am in the Visitor Center. Please call Beth Lynch at 853-3033 ext. 223 for more information.