Saint Casimir's Reunion and Bazaar

PARISH HALL
MAYNARD, MASSACHUSETTS
DECEMBER 11 and 12, 1954

Presents

THIS ANNUAL PROGRAM

In Commemoration of the Marian Year Just Elapsed
With An Explanation of the Advent Season Now Upon Us

And Dedicates It

With Filial Love and Affection

to His Excellency

The Most Reverend RICHARD J. CUSHING, D.D.

Archbishop of Boston

on the occasion of
The Tenth Anniversary of His
Elevation as Shepherd and Ordinary

of The Archdiocese of Boston

+

May the Christ-Child sanctify your home during this Holy Advent-Christmas Season.

-The Reverend Francis S. Miaskiewicz, D.C.L.

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"The sceptre shall not be taken from Juda, nor a ruler from his thigh, till He come that is to be sent, and He shall be the Expectation of nations."

> -Messianic Prophecy in Genesis, XLIX, 10



OUR BELOVED ARCHBISHOP'S TENTH ANNIVERSARY AS SHEPHERD OF OUR FLOCK

Prompted by love and devotion for the Arch-Pastor of the great Archdiocese of Boston and of our little parish of Saint Casimir in Maynard, we read and re-read with utmost pride the following excerpt from Our Sunday Visitor:

"We congratulate Archbishop Richard J. Cushing on his tenth anniversary as shepherd of the great Archdiocese of Boston. During those years he has opened 50 new parishes, and 21 other parishes are building new churches. He has confirmed thousands of children, consecrated nine bishops, and ordained over 600 men to the sacred priesthood. He has blessed 50 new schools and 3 new colleges and opened 2 new hospitals. His seminary is now the largest in the United States. Six times he personally has led the faithful of his Archdiocese to old-world shrines of religion. Seventeen different orders of priests and brothers and 27 orders of women have been invited to Boston and helped to start new foundations there. He has opened 3 community centers and 12 new nursing homes and residences.

Just past 58, the Archbishop is still in his prime. A native Bostonian, he completed all his priestly studies in Boston, and was ordained, 1921, in the Boston Cathedral by the late Cardinal O'Connell. After a year's experience as assistant in a parish, he was put into the Boston office for the Propagation of the Faith, eventually succeeding to the post held by the late Bishop James Walsh, co-founder of Maryknoll. In 1938 he was consecrated Auxiliary Bishop to the Cardinal and in 1944 he succeeded to the See.

Of all the virtues of the catechism one thinks most of zeal in connection with Archbishop Cushing. The finest example of an American prelate, he moves among his people, he gets things done. He has that assurance born of greatness that enables him to be democratic without fear of losing face or dignity."

We urge and supplicate each and every one in our parish fervently to remember in prayer our beloved Archbishop that God may grant him strong health and perseverance in grace.

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"Behold, a Virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and His name shall be called Emmanuel."

—Messianic Prophecy in Isaias, VIII, 14



THE PASTOR'S PAGE

On December 8, 1953 His Holiness Pope Pius XII publicly and jubilantly declared the ensuing twelve months to be in a special manner dedicated to the Mother of God in memory of the Papal definition and proclamation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception.

Undoubtedly these months have been months of true and sincere dedication of the Catholic world to the Immaculately Conceived Virgin Mary. If only one were able to gather into one book all the special manifestations of love exhibited to Mary in this period of time! What a truly inspirational narrative of Faith and Love this would be!

But most important to us, in each individual case, is the manner in which we have observed this year of signal grace. Did we go out of our way to show Mary by our deeds, by our words, by our thoughts that we love her? Did we strive to get closer to her by wiping out sin in our soul? After all, that is the acid test of the success of the Marian Year as far as we are concerned. That is indeed the norm and the measure of the success of every day of our life and, in fact, of our entire life upon this earth.

If the Marian Year was a year of grace for us, then we are fortunate indeed. If we have allowed it to slip away almost unheeded or even neglected, let us strive immediately to make amends to our Blessed Mother. Let us, as if in early post-script to the Marian Year, return to her with all the faith and devotion of the prodigal son. And we can be sure that Mary will forget our shortcomings. She will remember only that we are the brothers of her Divine Son Jesus Christ and she will draw us affectionately under the mantle of her maternal Love.

Our Parish, by the grace of Almighty God, observed the Marian Year by several memorable exercises:

Rededicating itself under the patronage of Mary, the Parish has made the Marian Year prayer part and parcel of its public services and an ever-present prayer in individual private devotions.

Our May procession was particularly solemn and beautiful and well attended. We proudly carried the Blessed Virgin's statue through the streets of our Town. The fife and drum corps from Home of the Little Flower made the occasion all the more impressive.

Our rejuvenated Holy Name Society, of which we are justly very proud and which undoubtedly will carry on an important role in the continued existence and life of our Parish, journeyed to Lowell and took part in the specially arranged Holy Name pilgrimage in honor of the Marian Year.

Our October devotions were climaxed by a Holy Mission conducted for us by the able and zealous Father Joseph Piszczalka, M.S.

The parish made an impressive group pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of La Salette in Attleboro on November 7. About 140 parishioners took part in ceremonies there which they will never forget.

And finally — as the Marian Year came to an official closing on December 8, 1954, preceded by a Triduum and then a Tri-horal adoration, at midnight Holy Mass was offered in honor of Mary our Heavenly Queen.

May the fruits of the Marian Year always abide with us and bear further fruits of charity, and devotion to God and to neighbor.

"THE WORLD'S LAST CHANCE"

(Reprinted courtesy Extension Magazine, May 1954 issue)

Far in the distant future, in a fair and finer age, A child sits leafing an ancient book, page by dusty page. With great grave eyes, the child looks up in wonderment and awe, Astonished and incredulous at the record there he saw.

For he'd read of the age of the atom, when man stood poised to leap From the craig heights of creation, to the suicidal deep. He read how man had discovered, the secret of things that are; He read of its profanation, in the sacrilege of war.

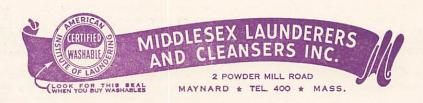
The record of ruin had unfolded, how the whole world split in two; How each side death-dared the other, to the fatal and final coup. And he read how a Pope, whose name was Peace, flung skyward, like a lance, The last hope of humanity, to the Queen of the World's Last Chance.

How he prayed to the Queen of Creation, for the planet of her birth; How he offered a year to Heaven, in exchange for Time for earth. When the child looks again in the volume, and he turns another page; He smiles as he reads that which follow, — it is captioned "MARY'S AGE."

- William J. Dammarell



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"He shall come down like rain upon the fleece, and as showers falling gently upon the earth."

—Messianic Prophecy in Psalm LXXI, 6

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THE HAIL MARY . . . ITS BEAUTY AND ITS POWER

St. Jerome tells us that the beauties contained in the Hail Mary are so sublime, that no angel or man could fully understand them. The Hail Mary is like a mine of gold that we can always take from, but never exhaust.

St. Thomas Aquinas, the Prince of Theologians, "the wisest of saints and the holiest of wise men," as Leo XIII called him, preached for 40 days in Rome on the Hail Mary.

Father Suarez, the holy and learned Jesuit, declared, when dying, that he would willingly give all the many learned books he wrote, all his life's labors, for the merit of one Hail Mary.

St. Mechtilde, the chosen lover of Our Lady, was one day striving to compose a beautiful prayer in honor of God's Mother. Our Lady appeared to her, having written in golden letters across her breast, "Hail Mary, full of grace," and said: "Desist, dear child, from your labor, for no prayer you could possibly make would give me the joy and delight of the Hail Mary."

Each time we are saying the Hail Mary, we are repeating the very same words with which the Archangel St. Gabriel saluted Mary on the day of the Annunciation, when she was made Mother of God and Queen of Heaven. Oceans of graces and joys filled the soul of Mary at the moment. Now, when we say the Hail Mary, we offer anew all these graces and joys to Our Lady, and she accepts them with immense delight. In return, she gives us a share, but a great share, in these joys.

Once, Our Lord asked St. Francis to give Him something. The saint replied: "Dear Lord, I can give you nothing, for I have already given you all my love." Jesus smiled and said, "Francis, give me it all again and again. It will give me the same pleasure." So, too, with our dearest Mother. She accepts from us each time we say the Hail Mary the joys and delights she received from the words of Gabriel.

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"Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain the just: let the earth be opened, and bud forth a Savior."

—Messianic Prophecy in Isaias, XLV, 8



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WHAT IS TRUE VIRTUE?

"... There are very few Christians who have a right idea of what true virtue is. Almost all of them imagine it to consist in a certain routine of piety, and in fidelity to certain exterior practices. If with this they have at intervals some emotion of sensible devotion, without taking care to discern whether these emotions come from God or from their own efforts, they at once conclude that they are really virtuous . . . In their own hearts they prefer themselves to all others, and often they despise, they condemn, they persecute really holy persons, and true piety, of which they know nothing. Nothing is more common in Christianity than this false and pharisaical virtue. Those who are really good have no greater enemies; and if we wish to describe them in a few words we may say, it was pretended holy persons who crucified Jesus Christ, and they still crucify Him every day in His most perfect imitators. As soon as anyone really gives himself to God, and begins to lead an inner life, he is sure to draw upon himself, first of all jealousy and criticism, and then persecutions and calumnies of every kind, from these devout Pharisees . . ." From Pere Grou's Manual for Interior Souls.



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> —Messianic Prophecy in Jeremias, XXIII, 5

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We await a Savior,
The Lord Jesus Christ,
Who will reshape the body of our lowliness
After the shape of the body of His splendor.
Temperately, justly, reverently,
Let us live in this world,
Awaiting the blessed hope
And advent of the glory of the great God.

- Responsory in Advent

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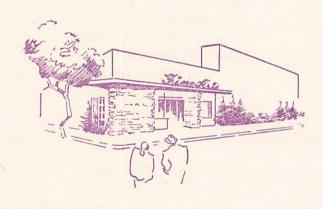
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"Behold, the Lord hath made it to be heard in the ends of the earth. Tell the daughters of Sion: Behold, thy Savior cometh, Behold His reward is with him, and His work before Him."

-Messianic Prophecy in Isaias, LXII, 11

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WE AWAIT A SAVIOR

Advent is the beginning of the new liturgical year. It is a season of spiritual preparation, marked by eager longing for the coming of the Savior through grace at Christmas, and for His second and final coming. It is also an ideal time to establish in our homes liturgical customs which will restore our children to Christ.

Time-tested and proven, these age-old Advent practices teach the doctrines of redemption and develop a generosity with God and a coordination of the family's spiritual efforts as effectively now as they did for our forebears.

Of these customs it has been said: They are a relatively simple, but highly important, means of union between altar and home. They are a media for channeling from one great spiritual reservoir, given into the Church's keeping by Christ, the living and transforming waters of grace from the Savior's fountain.

Children, who love the beauty and simplicity of family religious practices, make the traditions easy to establish. It is best to begin with one or two customs and add others in years to come. It is also highly desirable that families develop their own special customs.

Archbishop Cushing, in urging Christian parents to establish such family practices said: This is what the Church expects of you in Advent. She invites you to look through the eyes of faith, upon the world, upon the invisible growth of a land of inexhaustible riches, wherein the Sower of Life unites humanity to divinity. If during Advent we open our souls fully, the heavens will rain the Just One.

Some of these customs we shall briefly describe in the ensuing pages.

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ADVENT WREATH

Most popular of the Advent customs is the wreath made of evergreens, bound to a circle of wire. The wreath represents the cycles of thousands of years to Christ during which the world awaited the coming of a Redeemer. It also represents the cycle of years since then that we have been awaiting His second and final coming in glory. It bears four candles, equally spaced, three purple ones to be lighted on the "penitential" Sundays, and a pink one for Gaudete, the joyful Sunday in Advent. Candles may be placed inside or outside of the wreath. At the end of Advent, candles and ribbons are changed to white, evergreens renewed if necessary, and tiny Christmas balls added to decorate the wreath. The wreath, unless it sheds too much, is kept during the Christmas season, until Epiphany.

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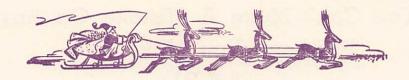
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PLUM PUDDING

On the first Sunday of Advent we bring to the dinner table the "Stir-up" or traditional plum pudding for the family and guests to stir. They make a wish as they stir, and then pray the Collects from the Mass of the day. Afterwards, the pudding is steamed and put away until the feast of Christmas, when it returns in a haze of brandy to the dinner table. Actually the pudding is prepared on the Saturday before the "Stir-up" Sunday. Filled with the good things of the world, the pudding is supposed to represent Christ who will bring with Him on His birthday all the good things of heaven.

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THE EMPTY MANGER

On the first Sunday of Advent each child in the family receives an empty manger. A sugar box covered with bright paper will do as well. At bedtime the child draws straws for each kind deed performed in honor of Baby Jesus as His birthday surprise. The straws are placed in the child's manger or box daily. It is amazing how much love a child can put into Advent when he is preparing for His Redeemer's coming in grace.

On Christmas each child finds an Infant in his manger, placed on a chair or a small table beside his bed.



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CHRISTMAS MANGER

Each year the big project is the building of a manger. An important factor with children is to give them incentive to work and credit for their effort by placing their manger where many can admire it. About the time Advent projects are nearing completion, the children prepare banners to go with the Infant in the living room manger. They print their names on bright little banners and slip the individual banners into lollypop sticks set into plaster bases. These are placed around the Crib to show that the children are among those who proclaim Christ their King. This idea may be carried out by using children's photographs, cut out, pasted to cardboard, and made to stand around the Crib.

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CHRISTMAS EVE

Various home ceremonies on Christmas Eve are perhaps the easiest to establish. Where the children are very small they are the surest link between altar and home. If they believe in "Santa Claus" this emphasis on Christmas as the Feast of Baby Jesus and His Birthday will focus their thoughts on the Holy Child. Friends and older members of the family gather in a darkened living room. Through the halls, the children with lighted candles come in procession carrying the Infant Jesus for the living room crib, while they sing Silent Night. By the time they reach the door, father is ready to light the tree, then the candles at the crib and mantle, and finally the Christ Candle.

In our Polish homes the families sing their Kolendy. The family sits down to a sumptuous Christmas Eve supper. As a prelude to this, every one breaks bread, or the Oplatek, with each member of the family individually and prayerfully good wishes are thus exchanged.

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- Prayer from the Midnight Mass of Christmas

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MARY'S CANDLE

On the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a single red rose is arranged in a vase and is covered with blue lace or net to signify the Mystical Rose. On an end table in the living room is set up a Christ-Candle which will be lighted during Christmas. Over the candle goes a white mantle. It is usually a cape of white satin but crepe paper fluted and gathered with ribbon will do. A decorated crib and Christ is cut into the base. The candle serves as the basis for sex instructions. "Blessed is the fruit of thy womb" becomes a reality to the littlest children who love to learn about the Baby in Mary's immaculate body. Mary is God's throne-room and her part in our redemption is very great.

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If you ever have occasion to be at the Ohio State University campus at noon (any day) you'll be impressed by a custom started there soon after World War II. A bugler blows "Taps" in honor of the many former students of the University who have died in the service of our country.

Everyone comes to a reverent standstill as the beautiful notes float on the air. The Catholic students use the opportunity to say a short prayer for the repose of the souls of these men.

If a non-sectarian institution can recall the memory of the dead in this striking manner, we as Catholics will not want to be outdone in recalling our own prayerful memory of the dead.

Then too we never know when we ourselves will be in need of such prayers. Young people do not like to think about death — it always seems so remote.

Yet not too long ago we all read with great sorrow about six Catholic high school students returning home from a football game. Their gaily decorated car was clipped by a crack streamliner. Six young souls in eternity, but quick.

Then there's news about a teen-aged Catholic girl who fainted and died at a football dance recently. The dance ended with 600 students kneeling on the polished dance floor saying the Rosary.

And so it goes. These kids didn't think they needed prayers when they got up that morning with a big exciting day ahead. You know they didn't. But it was their last day on earth.

Whether you are next or not, pray for the dead.

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SAINT NICHOLAS DAY

Saint Nicholas feast day, December 6, is one of the highlights of the Advent season. On its eve the children hang out their stockings. From babyhood they learn to love the kind bishop with his mitre, staff and bag of gifts—whose name has been parodied as "Santa Claus" and whose memory is tarnished by commercialism. In addition to the toys received on this feast, the Christ Child and His angels bring other gifts on Christmas eve.

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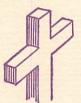
WHO'S YOUR PATRON SAINT?

Altar Boys - St. John Berchmans Bankers — St. Matthew Barbers - Ss. Cosmas and Damian; St. Louis Blind - St. Cecilia Cab-drivers - St. Fiacre Carpenters - St. Joseph Catechists — St. Viator; St. Charles Borromeo; St. Robert Bellarmine Cooks - St. Lawrence; St. Martha Dairy Workers — St. Brigid Dentists - St. Apollonia Desperate Cases — St. Jude Druggists — Ss. Cosmas and Damian; St. James the Less Farmers - St. George; St. Isidore Firemen — St. Florian Fishermen — St. Andrew Grocers — St. Michael Hopeless Cases - St. Rita Housewives - St. Anne

Journalists - St. Francis de Sales

Laborers — St. Isidore; St. James Lawyers — St. Ivo; St. Genesius

Librarians — St. Eligius Musicians — St. Cecilia



Nurses — St. Agatha; St. Camillus de Lellis; St. Alexius; St. John of God; St. Raphael Painters — St. Luke Physicians — St. Pantaleon; Ss. Cosmas and Damian; St. Luke; St. Raphael Purity — St. Mary Goretti, St. Stanislaus; St. Aloysius Plasterers — St. Bartholomew Postal Employees - St. Gabriel Printers - St. John of God; St. Augustine of Hippo; St. Genesius Schoolgirls — St. Lucy Scientists — St. Albert Stenographers — St. Genesius
Students — St. Thomas Aquinas; St.
Catherine of Alexandria Surgeons - Ss. Cosmas and Damian Tailors — St. Homobonus Teachers - St. Gregory the Great; St. Catherine of Alexandria Watchmen — St. Peter of Alcantara Weavers — St. Paul the Hermit; St. Anastasius the Fuller; St. Anastasia Workingmen — St. Joseph Youth — St. Dom Bosco Tax Collectors — St. Matthew

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OUR BLESSED LADY

When the snow is falling gently,

The flakes so pure and white,

I think of the soul of Mary

From the first moment of her life,

How she went about Jerusalem

A maiden sweet and mild

And that Blessed day of Christmas

When she gave birth to her Child.

And now she is in Heaven,

With her loving Son,

Looking down on us, her children,

Each and everyone.