

Dear Friends in Christ,

“Unless you become like a child you will not inherit the kingdom of God.” How much I dwelt on that statement of Christ yesterday as just under thirty of our second graders received their First Penance. Because of last weekend’s blizzard, we had to postpone the celebration one week. What a grace filled moment to see nervous looks of innocent children turn into sheer joy upon the reception of God’s mercy and forgiveness that each child showed.

I shared with them a story on myself getting lost once at Orchard Beach, in the Bronx. I mentioned the frightened feeling of being all alone, at least in my mind since the beach was packed, was replaced with the sheer joy of receiving the tightest embrace from my father after I was found. Isn’t that what we all feel at the end of our own confessions? We feel that spiritual embrace from God, much like the image of this Year of Mercy, the father embracing the prodigal son. On

behalf of all of us, I congratulate our second graders! May we all keep them in our prayers as they prepare for their reception of their First Holy Communion this coming Spring.

Today at all masses I will be speaking to you very briefly about the Cardinal’s Annual Appeal. This weekend is the start of the 2016 appeal and as in past years, today serves as a brief introduction to the appeal and the goal of our parish community.

I pray we all came through last weekend’s storm. The masses were less attended, which was expected, I only make that comment to explain the lower than usual collection total you will see posted in this bulletin.

May God continue to keep us in His mercy,

- Rev. Herbert T. DeGaris

OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

A FEW IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday, April 12th Confirmation retreat at Don Bosco Retreat Center. 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 16th, Eucharist Mini-retreat, 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Children's Liturgy of the Word will be held on the first and third Sunday of the month. The dates for February, are February 7th and 21st.

CALENDAR RAFFLE

Calendar Raffles are available for purchase. We depend heavily on this fundraiser to defray the costs of maintaining the Parish Religious Education building. Raffles will be drawn daily from February 1, 2016 through May 31, 2016. What a great way to spread our parish family name! We thank you in advance for participating in our Religious Education fundraiser. Raffle tickets are also available at the Rectory (between 9:00 - 5:00 p.m.). Thank you.

MASS ATTENDANCE CARDS

A Reminder for Parents of First Communion and Confirmation Candidates: Please remember to use your Mass attendance cards weekly. When attending Mass at Immaculate Conception, you may turn in a card to the priest or deacon after Mass. Do not turn it into an usher or place it in the collection basket. Make sure your child’s name and grade are on it. When attending Mass elsewhere, you may ask the priest or deacon to sign their parish bulletin and then add your child’s name and grade before turning it in at your child’s next class.

POCKETBOOK BINGO

Save the Date: **February 19th, 2016** Pocketbook Bingo is coming to Immaculate Conception. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. Start. Admission is \$35.00 includes 10 Games of Bingo 3 Cards per game. Bring your own food and refreshments - Coffee & cookies will be served.

**FEAST OF ST. BLAISE -
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 3RD**

The traditional date in which we receive the Blessing of Throats - **on Wednesday, February 3rd after the 7:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. Mass.**

Through The Intercession of Saint Blaise, Bishop and Martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness; In the name of the Father,, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**SUPERBOWL
WITH THE MEN'S CLUB
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7th**

Come and enjoy the Super bowl with the Men's Club **on Sunday, February 7th.** There is plenty of food, refreshments and TV's and a good time. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. It is always a good time. Cost \$20 per adult. Kids are free. Call Tom Robinson at 786-3005 or John Nicks at 947-1459.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH
PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME 9A.M. - 12 NOON**

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place after the 8:30 a.m. Mass **on Friday, February 5th.** The Blessed Sacrament will remain exposed in the Chapel until 12 Noon. **Hopefully this will allow more people to spend a 1/2 hour in prayer in the Chapel.** The Exposition will conclude with a Prayer Service and Benediction. We invite you to spend some time before the Blessed Sacrament exposed on the altar to pray for stability and peace in our world.

*The flowers this week are
In Loving Memory of
Cosimo Corvasce
donated by family*

FLOWER MEMORIALS

Flower memorials are available for anyone desiring to memorialize a loved one. The cost is \$50 for an arrangement of flowers to be placed near the altar. Please call the rectory to reserve a specific date.

BAPTISM CLASS

The dates for the next Baptism Classes are: **February 22nd and March 28th.** The Baptism dates are ordinarily the first and third Sunday of the Month.

BAPTISM

The dates for our next Baptisms are: **February 7th and February 21st.** We would ask you to please contact the rectory at (786-2742) before the date to make an appointment. We ask you to please attend the class a month prior to your child's Baptism in order to facilitate record keeping; and also to have, by the time the class is given, your child's Birth Certificate and Sponsor Certificates from the Parishes where the Sponsors themselves worship at the present time. We thank you for your help and cooperation and pray for the newborn children who will be Baptized in our Parish in these coming months.

TAX INFORMATION 2015

If any parishioners require a contribution statement for income tax returns, please contact the rectory Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. 786-2742.

**MIDNIGHT RUN
FEBRUARY 13TH**

February 13 is the night of our next run. We will prepare for the run on Friday evening Feb 12 starting at 7 PM in the Parish Annex. On Friday we will sort and pack the many donations received from so many people. For the run, we are in need of sack lunches, bottled water and hot chocolate mix. On Saturday night, we will gather at 8:30 PM, planning to depart for NYC at 9 PM. We should return to Stony Point by around 2 AM Sunday morning. There is one more run scheduled before Confirmation, so this is a very good opportunity to catch up or complete the required service hours. For information about the run or to volunteer in any way, please contact Deacon John or Jessica Sadowski 845 786 5759.

**ATTENTION USERS
OF PARISH PAY**

Please check your expiration date on your credit card periodically. To update call 1-866-PARISH1 OR www.parishpay.com. Many thanks to all of our parishioners who have selected to use this modern and convenient way to make your weekly contributions to Immaculate Conception Church.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

All those who are ill at home, in the hospital and in nursing homes, especially: Gladys Margosian, Pat Reilly, Margaret McElroy, William & Geraldine Neary, Carolyn Snodeen, Judy Stroup, Billy Keenan, Ed Onderdonk, Frank Moscatiello, James Molloy, Gerald Kilduff, Beth Longo.

Our recently deceased:

We will announce at the Mass on Sunday for a period of one month the intentions of those who are sick and then we will print them for one month. After that we ask that you will please contact us to make sure that they are placed on the list again for another cycle. It is the only way we know if someone has recovered. We thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30TH

8:30 Etta Lynch (req. by family)
5:30 **Vigil** Evelyn Mariani (req. by family)

SUNDAY JANUARY 31ST

7:30 For the People of the Parish
9:30 Mark Jones (req. by The Sullivan Family)
11:30 Bernard & Mary Martin
(req. by Pat & Brian Martin)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST

7:30 Bob Huslinger (req. by Dorothy Geary)
8:30 Cosimo Corvasce (req. by family)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND

8:30 William & Mildred Strelbel
(req. by Lorraine Glynn)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD

7:30 Thomas J. Freeman
(req. by Cathy & John Nicks)
8:30 Milagios Robles
(req. by Margareta, Robert & Richie)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH

8:30 Ann Melchiorre
(req. by Pat & JoAnn DiGasbarro)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH

7:30 Mary Gaynor (req. by Ed & Ellen Goggin)
8:30 Patrick Devlin (req. by The Geary Family)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH

8:30 John Sulluivan (req. by Margaret & Family)
5:30 Vigil Peter Greene, Jr. (**10th Anniversary**)
(req. by Family)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH

7:30 For the People of the Parish
9:30 Dorothy Donato (req. by family)
11:30 Andrew Lanza (req. by family)

Celebrants for Masses February 6th/7th

5:30 p.m. **Vigil** Fr. Herb 7:30 a.m. Fr. Bejoy
9:30 a.m. Fr. Herb 11:30 a.m. Fr. Bejoy

HOSPITALITY SUNDAY

Hospitality Sunday will be this **Sunday, February 7th after the 9:30 a.m. Masses.** Please stop by and join us for refreshments.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

From February 10 through March 20, you're invited to join other Christians for 40 Days for Life – 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. You're also invited to stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside the Planned Parenthood Center at Perlman Drive in Spring Valley, and to help spread the word about this important community outreach.

If you'd like more information – and especially if you'd like to volunteer to help, please contact Betty Golemba (914) 450-4759 or visit www.40daysforlife.com.

NEWS OF INTEREST

Adoption - Baby Girls in China need homes. Infants and toddlers available. Older parents welcome. For more information call Barbara Salvesen at 623-5277.

Pilgrimage of NY 2016 Year of Mercy: The top of Manhattan to the bottom of Manhattan! We will be walking the length of Manhattan, visiting churches in honor of the Year of Mercy We will visit two churches named after two saints who are examples of God's Mercy: Saints Peter and Paul. Plus we will visit two churches that have designated Holy Doors for this jubilee year: St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Shrine and St. Patrick's Cathedral. This walk is a total of 13.5 total Miles! Saturday, April 16 (Rain date: Saturday, September 17th)) 9:00 a.m. Opening Prayers at The Shrine of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini 701 Fort Washington Avenue, New York. 6:15 p.m. Pilgrims' Mass at The Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, 7 State Street, New York, NY 10004. You must register in advance at www.pofnyc.org in order to participate in this event.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Joan of Arc #604 - will hold their monthly meeting on **Sunday, February 7th at Knights of Columbus Building in Haverstraw at 12:30 p.m.** Please bring a donation for the food pantry. Refreshments will be served. For information, call Anastasia Phillips 942-2038.

LENTEN RETREAT
GIVEN BY THE CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS
OF THE AMERICAS
COURT JOAN OF ARC #604

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST

The Court Joan of Arc #604 will have a Lenten Retreat on **Sunday, February 21st** at the Immaculate Conception Church in Stony Point. We will meet at the Church and attend the 11:30 a.m. Mass. Lunch will follow in the gym in the school (across from the Church). The retreat will begin immediately after lunch.

The cost is \$20 for any woman, member or new member to cover the cost of the lunch. Deacon John Sadowski will be giving the Retreat. To register, please mail check for \$20 to:

Ann Trulli
92 Gurnee Avenue
Haverstraw, NY 10927 - 1320
Phone Number (845) 429-3395

ATTENTION
SNOW BIRDS

In order to put a temporary hold on the mailing of your offertory envelopes and to save postage, we would appreciate you calling the Parish Office if you plan to be away more than one month this coming winter seas. This will also prevent mistakes in our record keeping because the post office returns your envelopes to us when you are away. Many times we are not sure if you have moved or just away temporarily. Please leave your name, ID number and the months you would like to have your envelopes stopped.

YOUR SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Collection January 24, 2016 was: \$ 4,248
Collection January 25, 2015 was: \$ 7,698

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