

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we continue our Lenten journey, I pray all of us are gaining grace by way of giving up, fasting abstaining or even taking on something spiritual in this forty-day period.

Whatever it is we are doing, we are looking for a spiritual change, a change obviously for the better. Our gospel today is the gospel we year also on the Feast of the Transfiguration. A popular hymn that is sung called *Transfigure us, O Lord*, speaks what we pray for ourselves, that we too may be changed one day like. Like our Lord that we too can indeed be transfigured. The refrain of this song has us who sing it call out for this change that we so desperately seek;

*"Transfigure us, O Lord, transfigure us, O Lord.
Break the chains that bind us;
speak your healing word,
and where you lead we'll follow.
Transfigure us, O Lord."*

This song comes to life this Lent, as Christ takes us into the desert with Himself, we through our self-sacrifice and denial follow him and seek a release from all that temps and drives us to the darkness of sin.

I always see this season of Lent as a 'spiritual mirror' where we get to see who we are, which we did on Ash Wednesday, and now we are fixing what we do not like about ourselves. Come Easter Sunday, may each of us see a transfigured image in this mirror from the image we saw on Ash Wednesday morning.

May we all grow stronger as we continue this journey. May we all take advantage of the upcoming Parish Mission that will start in two weeks as Fr John Collins, the conductor of the mission will speak at all the masses the weekend of March 12 and the 13th.

- Rev. Herbert T. DeGaris

LENTEN FAST AND ABSTINENCE

"Fast and Abstinence" and **Good Friday (March 25th)** are days of Fast and Abstinence. Friday are Lenten days of abstinence.

Good Friday:

These are days of Fast and Abstinence from meat. There is a limit of one full meal on these days for all between the ages of 18 and 59 inclusive.

Days of Abstinence (All Fridays in Lent)

All who have reached their 14th year are bound to abstain totally from meat during Lent on Fridays.

OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

As we begin the Lenten season Immaculate PREP students will be thinking about how they can use the 3 "T's - Time, Talent and Treasures to help them to understand that almsgiving can be more than a financial gift to others.

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.

Souper Bowl

We would like to thank the families of the religious education program for so generously sending in soup for Super Bowl Sunday. Your generosity will be feeding the hungry people in our community. You show us true almsgiving in this Lenten season.

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.

**CARDINAL'S APPEAL
COMMITMENT WEEKEND**

FEBRUARY 27TH/28TH

For the past few weeks, our Parish has actively been conducting the 2016 Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal. Next weekend is Commitment Weekend. At all Masses, you will have an opportunity to make your pledge to the Appeal. As children of Christ, we are called to serve others out of gratitude to our most generous God. Please consider a sacrificial gift to the Appeal. Thank You.

It is of vital importance for all of us to help our less fortunate brothers and sisters and this is one way of encouraging support and involvement. Naturally the most important thing is to pray for the success of the Appeal each year. Next Sunday we will offer what is called "In Pew" solicitation in which we will give you an opportunity to on the spot join the Campaign. Again thank you for all you do for the less fortunate members of our Congregation.

**The Catholic Relief Services Collection
SUNDAY, MARCH 6TH**

Our parish will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection. The Collection supports six Catholic agencies that touch more than 100 million lives around the world. The funds from this Collection help provide food to the hungry, welcome and support to displaced refugees, and Christ's love and respect to all people. **Please give generously to The Catholic Relief Services Collection and Jesus in disguise.**

CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS

Date	Prize	Ticket	Winner
2/14	\$100	572	Stephen Fiscus
2/15	\$25	118	Gerard Peluso
2/16	\$25	1213	Buddy Chicatelli
2/17	\$25	1472	Anna Fucito
2/18	\$25	1258	Jessica Schaeffer
2/19	\$25	2219	Melissa Bonte
2/20	\$25	1132	Kim Petro

GOOD FRIDAY/LIVING STATIONS

Jesus walked among us to comfort bless and touch the earth with beauty and love. As we enter into our Lenten Season, our parishioners on Good Friday will walk with Jesus on his final steps to the cross. The "Way of the Cross" through Mary's Eyes will once again be held in our parish.

We are hopeful that those who participated last year will once again join us. We invite anyone else who would like to walk with us to please join by calling or sending an email to:

Carol Senatore 942-0128

sengcgirl@verizon.net or

Cookie McGillicuddy942-1024

CookieMcgill@gmail.com

No need to have acting experience

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT

The three North Rockland parishes are joining hands again this Lent as we offer our people the opportunity to pray the Stations of the Cross at various times throughout the day. This handy schedule is sure to meet everyone's needs. Stations of the Cross will be offered on Fridays of Lent at 9:30 a.m. at St. Gregory Barbarigo, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Peter and at 7:30 p.m. at Immaculate Conception. We expect to be collaborating with each other much more as we continue with the planning process called Making All Things New.

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: Walter Kezek.

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, FEBRUARY 20TH

8:30 John Mangan (req. by The Keenan Family)

5:30 Vigil Rose Hagen (req. by family)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST

7:30 For the People of the Parish

9:30 Christopher Benetatos (req. by family)

11:30 Richard Moore (req. by family)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND

7:30 Patrick Larkin (req. by The Boncaldo Family)

8:30 Mary Gaynor (req. by George & Jo Neumann)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD

8:30 James Schien (req. by Jane Hylas)

WEDNSDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH

7:30 Patrick Larkin (req. by John & Judi Pidgeon)

8:30 Jack Lynch (req. by family)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH

8:30 Isabelle Crosbie (req. by Jane Hylas)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH

7:30 Robert Robb (req. by Dorothy Geary)

8:30 Gertrude Schien (req. by Jane Hylas)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH

8:30 Geraldine Hoyer

(req. by Frank & Geraldine Hoyer)

5:30 Vigil Rose Hagen (req. by family)

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 28TH

7:30 For the People of the Parish

9:30 Edward F. Geary (req. by family)

11:30 Mrs. Elvira Veltri

(req. by Cari, Stephen Ralph Perricelli)

Celebrants for Masses February 27th/28th

5:30 p.m. Vigil Fr. Herb 7:30 a.m. Fr. Herb

9:30 a.m. Fr. Bejoy 11:30 a.m. Fr. Bejoy

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.

MIDNIGHT RUN

The group of volunteers from our parish distinguished itself on the night of February 13, travelling into Manhattan and ministering to our brothers and sisters on the streets on the coldest night in recent memory. Many thanks to everyone who made the effort possible by participating in the run, by helping with the packing and sorting and donating food and other necessities of life. Special thanks to the 4th Grade Religious education class at St Augustine School in New City for their wonderful donation of toiletry packages and to Mario and the staff at Pasta Cucina of Stony Point for their donation of food for the run. The group's effort was greatly appreciated by everyone we met.

Our next run is a breakfast run scheduled for **Sunday morning March 13**. This will be the last opportunity for service hours through the run, prior to Confirmation. To volunteer in any way or for more information about the run please contact either Deacon John or Jessica Sadowski 786 5759.

BOY SCOUTS OF TROOP 61

The Boy Scouts of Troop 61 (chartered by Immaculate Conception Church) would like to invite the members of the parish to a **Pasta Dinner** fundraiser [on Saturday, February 27th starting at 5:00pm in the school auditorium](#). Please support the Scouts while enjoying a delicious pasta meal along with meatballs and salad. Come with the whole family and friends! The Boy Scout Troop meets regularly on Thursdays, [from 7:00 – 8:30 PM](#) in the Immaculate Conception School All-purpose Room. Any boy between the ages of 11 and 17 who is interested in joining the Boy Scouts can come to a meeting, or contact the Troop 61 Scoutmaster at: Troop61StonyPoint@gmail.com.

HELPING HANDS

Through the Helping Hands Ministry our parishioners have responded to the needs of people in Rockland County by preparing a meal, providing support at Trinity Methodist Church. Our parish hosted 35 people for dinner on January 25th at Trinity Methodist. We are grateful for the food and care provided by Norma Rodriguez, Margaret Sullivan and Eileen Keenan. Immaculate Conception was recently recognized by Helping Hands of Rockland for our ten years of

service to the Helping Hands Ministry. We are proud and grateful to all those parishioners who served as cooks, overnight chaperones and teen volunteers these past ten years.

FLOWERS

We call to your attention that during the Season of Lent our altars are left in a barren state to remind us of the simplicity of the Lenten Season, and no flowers will be decorating our altars. We will be accepting donations for flowers approximately three weeks after Easter. Once Easter comes the altar will be decorated for several weeks with the Easter flowers. We thank you for devotion and consideration in helping us to decorate the Church during the ordinary course of the year.

2015 MASS BOOK HAS OPENED

The 2016 Mass Book has opened for **April May and June**. Please stop by the Rectory so you can arrange your masses on Monday - Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Exact change would be greatly appreciated.

GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY

MARCH 6TH

11:30 A.M.

March 6th is Girl Scout Sunday. Girl Scouts are asked to be at the 11:30 a.m. Mass. We will meet at 9:15 a.m. in the Parish Center. Please wear uniform if possible.

NEWS OF INTEREST

The Haverstraw Knights of Columbus located at 56 West Broad Street will host a **Lenten Pasta Dinner - February 26th from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.** Adults \$10.00 Kids under 12 \$5.00 The meal will feature different Pasta options along salad, bread, and dessert. Wine, Soda and Coffee/Tea also included.

Did you attend Cathedral College or Cathedral Prep Seminary in the Archdiocese of New York? If you attended Cathedral College or Cathedral Prep (or know someone who did), the College/Prep Alumni Association would like to add you to its mailing list. You will then receive notifications of upcoming alumni events such memorial masses, class re-unions, etc. Our current mailing list includes over 600 names. To register please go on line to: <http://bit.do/cocppaa>.

YOUR SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Collection February 14th was:	\$6,382
Collection February 15th was:	\$4,889

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