

Dear Friends in Christ,

Today in the Church we begin the season of Advent. This day marks the start of a new Liturgical Year. Like we will do in just more than a month in the material world, we take this time in our spiritual lives to make resolutions that we pray will enhance our faith filled journey on earth.

So much needs to be done! We just finished our Thanksgiving celebrations and now we find ourselves on a tight schedule for the coming of Christmas. The tree, the decorations, the cards, the gifts, the letters to Santa...all these things that need to get done...where's the time???

May I offer all of us, myself included, some advice. We need to slowdown and remember what this season of Advent is. It is an opportunity to make OURSELVES ready for the coming

of Christ. As important as it is to decorate, send cards and gifts, the vital part of advent is preparing and making ready ourselves. As important as it is to ready our homes, we must make our hearts, minds and souls, the home of God's presence ready.

May all of us use this great season to Advent to truly make ready for His coming. In the stress of this time of year may we all find peace so that we may not lose the meaning of this four-week season. As we light each candle on our wreaths both here in church and in many of our homes, may we will anticipate with great joy the coming of the one true light which will lead us all out of darkness.

Come Lord Jesus, come!

- Rev. Herbert T. DeGaris

**MASS ATTENDANCE CARDS**

**A reminder for parents and guardians of our First Communion and Confirmation candidates:** Please remember to use your Mass attendance cards weekly. When attending Mass at Immaculate Conception, you may turn in your card to the priest or deacon after Mass. **Do not** return it to an usher or place 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.

**CALENDAR RAFFLE**

Calendar Raffles will be available for purchase at the Rectory. We depend heavily on this fundraiser to defray the costs of maintaining the Parish Religious Education building. Tickets are \$10.00 each, hold 120 opportunities to win cash prizes ranging from \$25.00 to \$100.00 over a period of four months. Raffles will be drawn daily from February 1, 2017 through May 31, 2017. These can be great teacher gifts, stocking stuffers or a Parish Lottery ticket to give to your family, friends and co-workers and our odds are better than the regular lottery! What a great way to spread our parish family name! We thank you in advance for participating in our Religious Education fundraiser.

**Our next Family Mass will be on December 4th and will be hosted by the First Grade Class! Please plan on attending.**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

On Sunday, December 11th at the 11:30 mass our 8th grade students will be officially enrolled as Confirmation Candidates. Please join us to support them with your prayers and encouragement!

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2ND**

**PLEASE NOTE TIME 9A.M. - 12 NOON**

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place after the 8:30 a.m. Mass **on Friday, December 2nd.** 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. **We are in need of volunteers; please call Jane Hylas 786-5904.**

**CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE**

Immaculate Conception is once again sponsoring the Christmas Giving Tree to help needy families and individuals in our area. The Christmas Tree will be displayed with the tags in the vestibule of the Church. **Return the gift (s) and place it under the Giving tree no later than Monday, December 12th. This gives us sufficient time to get the gifts to the people before Christmas. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.**

**Christmas Choir**

If you are interested in singing for the Christmas season, please join us at choir rehearsal on Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM in the church, on Thursday's. Newcomers or experienced singers are welcome. Let's make our church music for the holidays very special and raise our voices in song.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS**

You will notice in your envelope sets that you receive for Advent and the Christmas season that there is an envelope marked Christmas Flowers, we do depend on your generosity to help us decorate the church in a beautiful way. **You may drop them in any collection between now and Christmas.**

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING**  
**DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>**

It's time for our annual Christmas caroling. Come bring some joy to our church friends who are home bound this Christmas. We will meet outside the church **at 2pm on December 11th** and car pool to different houses. Please consider joining us as we bring joy to our church family and share the real meaning of Christmas. If you know of someone who could use a little cheering up or have any questions please contact Mandy at 845-642-2985.

**ADVENT RECONCILIATION**  
**MONDAY DECEMBER 19TH**

On Monday, December 15th, we will celebrate our Advent Reconciliation Monday. The time for Confessions will be here from 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. and we do hope you will take advantage of the extra hours that are being available for the Sacrament and please pray that many will make themselves avail for the beautiful preparation for Christmas.

**FOOD PANTRY**  
**NEWS**

Thank you, thank you to all of our parishioners who contributed so generously to our Thanksgiving food drive! A special thank you to the Cub Scouts and their parents and the leaders of Cub Scout Pack 17 who collected and donated bags full of food to our Pantry! Immaculate Conception Food Pantry was able to provide Thanksgiving dinners, complete with turkeys, **to over 70 families!** For the month of December, we will continue to collect turkeys, turkey breasts and roasting chickens. In addition, we will also collect cake mixes, icing and canned fruit. Thank you once again. **We are very grateful for your generosity.**

**HOSPITALITY SUNDAY**

Hospitality Sunday will be held next **Sunday, December 4th after the 9:30 Mass.** Please stop by and join us for refreshments in our School Auditorium.

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

**All those who are ill at home, in the hospital and in nursing homes, especially:** Michael Costello, Lynn Westbrook, Michael Orapello, Rita Quirk, Ed & Ann Hanus, William & Geraldine Neary, Judy Stroup, Billy Keenan, Attracta Parks Pryor, James Molloy, Gerald Kilduff,.

**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, NOVEMBER 26TH**

8:30 Mary A. Costello (req. by family)

5:30 **Vigil** Margaret Zajac (req. by family)

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27TH**

7:30 Colleen Brosnan

(req. by The Rodriguez Family)

9:30 For the People of the Parish

11:30 Ugo, Louise & Mary Antonini (req. by family)

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH**

7:30 **Intention Available**

8:30 Michael Rinaldi (req., by Bea & Marty Sasin)

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH**

8:30 Felix Laquidara (req. by The Goggin Family)

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH**

7:30 **Intention Available**

8:30 Anna Marie Prunty (req. by family)

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1ST**

8:30 Special Intention for Tom & Mary Fahy

(req. by The Goggin Family)

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2ND**

7:30 **Intention Available**

8:30 Mary A. Costello (req. by family)

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3RD**

8:30 Phil Laquidara Jr.

(req. by Tom & Joyce Robinson)

5:30 **Vigil** Dec'd Members of The Keenan & Greene Family (req. by family)

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4TH**

7:30 **For the People of the Parish**

9:30 Rory & Tom McCann (req. by family)

11:30 Peter Devitt (req. by The Corcoran Family)

**DECEMBER 8TH**  
**FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**  
**HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**  
**PATRON OF OUR COUNTRY AND OUR PARISH**  
 December 7<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)  
 5:30 p.m. Vigil  
 December 8th (Thursday)  
 7:30 a.m. 12 Noon & 7:30 p.m.

**RETIRED RELIGIOUS**  
**SECOND COLLECTION**  
**DECEMBER 11TH**

*Dear Friends in the Lord:*  
 It's that special time of the year when we pause to give thanks to the Lord for the religious who have served and continue to serve the Church with much dedication and great distinction. Sunday, December 11th our parishes are conducting the annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious that benefits some 34, 000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. As we reflect on the service of our women and men religious, we recall the words of Jesus in John's Gospel: "Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will be servant be" (Jn 12:26). Through their prayer and works, religious can be found wherever Jesus is found - not just in our parishes, schools, and hospitals, but also in service to the poor, the lonely, and the oppressed. **Please be generous in this second collection.**

**IMC is looking into starting a new program for the Parish,**

**The Pilgrim Virgin Home Visitation Program.**

A statue of the Virgin Mary would be brought to the sick and shut-in's of the parish and remain in their home for one week. This is a wonderful way to reach out to the sick and shut-in's who are alone and those with family and friends to gather in prayer and companionship. If anyone is interested or knows someone who would like to have the statue please contact Mary Ann Winheim 845-270-7648 or Kathy Messina 845-354-1106

**Boy Scouts Host Community STEM Fair**

The Rockland District, Hudson Valley Council of the Boy Scouts of America will be hosting a STEM Fair ("Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics" Fair) on Saturday December 3, 2016, 9:00am to 2:00pm at Kirkbride Hall, 6 Patriot Hills Ln, Stony Point, New York.

The event is open to everyone and will be free. The goal is to introduce or reinforce the excitement of Science, Technology,

Engineering and Mathematics to all school age children. The fair will include a display of science projects (do you have a project to display? See the website below); a robotic competition, presentations, displays, prizes, refreshments and fun! For more details and to register to attend and participate, visit: [www.hudsonvalleyscouting.org/districts/rockland-district](http://www.hudsonvalleyscouting.org/districts/rockland-district) or email: [stem@troop2061.com](mailto:stem@troop2061.com)

**Free Concert for Life**

Dec. 3 at 1:30 pm at the Marian Shrine Chapel in Stony Point. A collection will be taken for Good Counsel Homes for homeless mothers and babies. This year's honoree is Jeanmarie Grahn, co-founder of the Rockland Right to Life Committee. Performers include the St. Joseph's HS Musical Theater Workshop, 'No Boundaries' from St. Peter's in Haverstraw, mezzo-soprano Monica Peterson St. John, and more. For more information or to take an ad in the Concert journal, call 845-492-6709.

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**NEWS OF INTEREST**

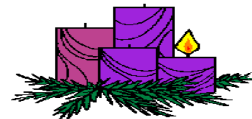
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**CHRISTMAS CRAFT SHOW:** On Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, Saint Joseph Regional H. S., Montvale, NJ will be hosting its annual Christmas Craft Show from 10 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., showcasing the talents of over 125 juried crafts people and fine artists. Admission is \$2.00. Children and senior citizens (65+) are free. **NO STROLLERS PERMITTED.**  
[www.saintjosephregional.org](http://www.saintjosephregional.org)

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**YOUR SACRIFICIAL GIVING**

**Due to the Thanksgiving Day Holiday our Bulletin had to go to Press. We will report the figures for the weekend of November 27th next week.**

*Please remember Immaculate Conception Church in your will.*