

Dear Friends in Christ,

At each mass this weekend I will speak for the final time in regards of giving a weekly update of our progress in the Sharing Our Gifts Campaign. Now that the initial part of this campaign is ended, our parish is called upon to embrace the notion of continuing increase giving in our weekly contributions to Immaculate Conception. If these initial weeks are any sign, I am confident that the generosity that has begun will only continue for the vibrant future of our parish faith family.

Your generosity continues to show! The freezers in the rectory and food pantry are filled again with donated turkeys and roasting chickens along with gifts from the giving tree which have beautifully crowded the office in the rectory along with the vestibule of the church. Again, your constant generosity allows so many others, whom we will never know, to be able to enjoy a more meaningful Christmas.

Today we celebrate the fourth and final Sunday of Advent. As we see all the candles of the Advent wreath are lighted, it is an

obvious sign that this season of preparation is almost over and that Christmas is so near, just a week away! It is the light of Christ, that is revealed to all the nations on Christmas, that brings that gift of peace, love and joy to all of us. We must be willing to embrace those gifts and cherish in our hearts and souls that one day will bring to us and the world true lasting peace.

Being that next Sunday is Christmas Day, some of you may be with family celebrating elsewhere. On behalf of Deacon Philip Marino, Deacon John Sadowski and the Parish Staff, may I wish all of you and your families a blessed Christmas, filled with the Peace, Love and Joy of the Christ Child. May you travel to your destinations and return home safe.

May His coming this Christmas bring the Peace we so desperately need,

- Rev. Herbert T. DeGaris

We congratulate our newest Confirmation Candidates upon their enrollment this Sunday during our 11:30 mass which was witnessed and celebrated by their families and our Immaculate Conception Church parish family.

May the Holy Spirit guide these young men and women as they embark on their final Sacrament of Initiation in our faith community.

In the church vestibule, you will find a sign that says Come Holy Spirit with papers attached, naming our Comfirmandi. Please take the name of one of our candidates and pray for them in a special way as they embark on their road to Confirmation.

This coming week will be our last week of classes before the Christmas Break. The PREP office will be closed from December 23 through January 2.

**FAMILY CATECHESIS:** The weather outside may have been frightful but the warmth in our school gym was warm and inviting as our parents, grandparents, aunt and uncles and students got together to learn about the history of Christmas Carols. We all got to sing some favorite carols with the accompaniment of two of our PREP catechists, Andrew Costa and Ray Weihe whose musical abilities were greatly appreciated.

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU!**

With only 12 days left before Christmas, I want to thank everyone for their contributions for my community service project, "24 Boxes for Christmas". With your generous donations and candy sales, I was able to raise about \$500.00 to fill 24 shoe boxes with Christmas treats, hats, gloves, socks and toiletries for those less fortunate in our parish. Fellow Confirmation candidates helped write anonymous Christmas notes that were included in the boxes. The boxes will be displayed in the shape of a Christmas tree in the church vestibule this weekend before they are distributed. Thank you for your help in bringing some Christmas cheer and a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Gabrielle Yanitelli

**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.

**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.

**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2016**

**CONFESSIONS**

**Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**

**4:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

**Monday December 19<sup>th</sup>**

**4:00 - 6:00 p.m.**

**7:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup>**

**4:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

**CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES**

**Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**4:30 p.m. Family Liturgy  
(geared towards children)**

**8:00 p.m. Liturgy**

**10:30 p.m.**

**(Carol Singing begins at 10:00 p.m.)**

**CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES**

**Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Stony Point - 9:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.**

**Tomkins Cove - 7:30 a.m.**

**NEW YEAR'S MASSES - HOLY DAY**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup>**

**5:30 P.M. Vigil Mass**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>**

**Stony Point**

**9:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.**

**Tomkins Cove – 7:30 a.m.**

**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, Ed & Ann Hanus, William & Geraldine Neary, Judy Stroup, Billy Keenan, Attracta Parks Pryor.

**Our recently deceased:.** Lawrence Creech.

**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, DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>**

8:30 Anthony Calandra & Nancy Vasta

(req. by family)

5:30 **Vigil** The Hofer Family (req. by family)

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>**

7:30 *For the People of the Parish*

9:30 Eileen O'Brien (req. by Loretta Griffin)

11:30 Brandon Gutierrez (req. by The Ferro Family)

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>**

7:30 Herbert B. & Philomena De Garis

8:30 Adriana Camelia Pezzuto

(req. by The Pacione Family)

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>**

8:30 Cathleen Devlin (req. by family)

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup>**

7:30 Theresa Emmert (req. by family)

8:30 Ann Ferro (req. by The Rosary Group)

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup>**

8:30 Alfred & Anna Grein (req. by family)

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>**

7:30 Edgar Galea (req. by family)

8:30 James G. Faherty III (req. by family)

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>**

8:30 Rose Brophy Jones (req. by Sylvestre Jones)

4:30 Kathleen Javenes (req. by family)

8:00 Kathleen Rogan (req. by family)

10:30 Michael Celenza Sr. (req. by family)

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>**

7:30 Barbara Willett Walsh (req. by family)

9:30 *For the People of the Parish*

11:30 Pat & Pete Quinn (req. by family)

**2017 MARCH FOR LIFE**

On the 44th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion, come to Washington, DC, and walk for the sake of the unborn. The March is on Friday, Jan. 27. A bus will leave from St. Francis of Assisi Church in West Nyack at 6 am. We will depart from Washington at 6 pm. Adults \$30, Students \$15. For reservations call 735-4379, 492-6709, or 425-1322 (para espanol). For more information, see our website RocklandRTL.org.

**OFFERTORY PROCESSION**

If you are having a mass offered for a loved one on a weekend we invite you to share in the Mass by bringing the gifts to the altar. As you carry forward the gifts, you symbolize the spiritual offering of everyone in attendance at that Mass. You can volunteer to one of the ushers before Mass. This is especially appropriate when the Mass is being offered for the intention of a loved one to share in this special yet symbolic manner.

**BAPTISM CLASS**

The dates for the next Baptism Classes are: **January 27th and February 24th**. The Baptism dates are ordinarily the first and third Sunday of the Month.

**BAPTISM**

The dates for our next Baptisms are: **January 5th and January 19th**. 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.

**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 season. 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. **Information is needed by January 5th.**

**NEWS OF INTEREST**

**Adoption** - Baby girls and boys in China need homes. Infants and toddlers available. Call Barbara Salvesen at 623-5277.

**H.A.N.D.S. – (Healing and Nurturing Distraught Survivors)** sponsors a bereavement support group for parents who have lost a child. **All Groups meet from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at H.A.N.D.S. International Headquarters, 9 Scott Drive, New City, New York 10956. The meeting for this month is December 20th. For more information call Ann 634-6706. Services are free of charge.**

**Pro Life Mass** –celebrated every 1<sup>st</sup> Monday night of the month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Church 128 Parrott Road in West Nyack. The next Pro Life Mass will be on Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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**YOUR SACRIFICIAL GIVING**

**Collection December 11, 2016 was: \$8,851**  
**Collection December 13, 2015 was: \$7,080**

**December 8, 2016 was: \$2,020**

**December 8, 2015 was: \$1,869**

**Retired Religious 2016 was: \$2,270**

**Retired Religious 2015 was: \$2,207**

*Please remember Immaculate Conception Church in your will.*