

Dear Friends in Christ,

I continue to be amazed at your generosity. Over the week we had our Christmas Giving Tree tags reprinted for the simple fact that there were no tags available for those of you who attended the 11:30 mass last Sunday. Please remember all gifts are due this Thursday, December 14th.

The generosity of this parish exists also in the young. After mass last Sunday, a young parishioner, who attends our School of Religion handed me an envelope. Her father mentioned that she wanted me to have this. When I returned to my office in the rectory I opened the envelope to see a note. It read, *"Dear Father, I won this money and decided to give it to the poor. God Bless"*. This note was wrapped around \$32.00. What a beautiful moment for me where I was once again taught something great by the act of a child. I was reminded of Jesus saying, 'let the children come to me...it is to these the kingdom of heaven belongs.'

I am writing this to you all on Wednesday morning. After mass this morning I noticed the Food Pantry bin in the vestibule of the church is once again overflowing with your donations. What I love about our Food Pantry is that we are not only concerned with feeling those less fortunate solely for Thanksgiving and Christmas, but its every week, like this past Friday that those who need are able to rely on your kindness and love.

The Gospel of Matthew today reminds us of the words of Isiah the prophet, "The voice in the wilderness cries out *Prepare the way of the Lord*". May we continue to prepare for the Lord's coming this Advent.

May we be that little girl in our constant witness of Christ by our love, kindness and generosity towards other.

Come Lord Jesus, Come,

- Fr. Herbert T. DeGaris

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

A great big thank-you to the Christmas Elves who provided us with a wonderful breakfast after our Family Mass this past Sunday!

The 1st graders provided two beautiful posters about Advent and "Loving Jesus to Pieces". They also provided centerpieces for our Family Breakfast.

Let us not forget the great talk that Deacon Sadowski had with our parish children about the meaning of Advent.

Please note that the last Religion Education classes for the 2017 will be on Tuesday, December 19 and Thursday, December 21.

Confirmation Candidates: Please remember that the Sponsor Certificate is due on January 9, 2018.

Mass attendance cards have been sent home for the 2nd and 8th year students. Please make sure that you bring one with you on Sunday to have signed when you come to mass. If you are attending another parish on Sunday, please get a copy of that parish's bulletin signed by either the priest or deacon. Thanks for your cooperation.

MEN'S CLUB CHRISTMAS DINNER
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15TH
LYNCH'S RESTAURANT
8:00 P.M.

The Men's Club Christmas Dinner will be held on Friday, December 15th at Lynch's Restaurant at 8:00 p.m. There will be a 3 hour open bar, appetizers, choice from 4 entrees and dessert. The cost will be \$40 per person. All Men of the Parish are invited to attend. For reservations, call Tom Robinson – 786-3005.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION
MONDAY
DECEMBER 18TH

On Monday, December 18th, we will celebrate our Advent Reconciliation Monday. The time for Confessions will be here **from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.** and **7:00 - 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 available for the beautiful preparation for Christmas.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2017**CONFESSIONS**

Monday, December 18th

4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE MORNING

Regular Sunday Mass Schedule

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

Stony Point 9:30 & 11:30

4:30 p.m. Family Liturgy

(geared towards children)

10:30 p.m. - Concelebrated Mass
(Carol Singing begins at 10:00 p.m.)**CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES**

Monday, December 25th

Tomkins Cove - 7:30 a.m.

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

NEW YEAR'S MASSES**NOT A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**

Sunday, December 31st

5:30 p.m. Vigil

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Monday, January 1st

Stony Point - 7:30 a.m. & 12:00 Noon

**CHRISTMAS
GIVING TREE**

Immaculate Conception is once again sponsoring the Christmas Giving Tree to help needy families and individuals in our area. **Return the gift (s) and place it under the Giving tree no later than Thursday, December 14th. This gives us sufficient time to get the gifts to the people before Christmas. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Please bring any gift cards to the Rectory. Thank you. (Please attach the original tag from the tree onto the gift). It is most helpful.**

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

All those who are ill at home, in the hospital and in nursing homes, especially: Ed Hanus, William & Geraldine Neary, Judy Stroup, Billy Keenan, Martin Fressle, and Jaxon Waller.

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, DECEMBER 9TH**

8:30 Robert Wilson (req. by Wife)

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10TH7:30 *For the People of the Parish*

9:30 James G. Faherty III (req. by family)

11:30 Victoria & Joseph Felice (req. by family)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11TH

7:30 Mary Gaynor (req. by family)

9:00 (SGB) The People of Saint Gregory Barbarigo

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12TH

7:30 Gerard Elicks (req. by Al & Gabriella Kaiser)

9:00 (SGB) Mary Ondek

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13TH

7:30 Lucia Corvasce (req. by family)

9:00 (SGB) Andrew Ondek

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14TH

7:30 Felix Baez Jr. (req. by Joe & Norma Rodriguez)

9:00 (SGB) The Evanko Family

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15TH

7:30 Kathleen Javenes (req. by family)

9:00 (SGB) William Young

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16TH

8:30 Owen Kelly (req. by Pauline & Michael Mason)

5:30 Vigil Tom Allen

(req. by Ann & Sylvester J. Jones)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH7:30 *For the People of the Parish*

9:30 Frances Colandra Lipski (req. by Carl Lipski)

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

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

For the month of December we will be collecting cake mixes and frosting, peanut butter and cereal. At this point, we have enough holiday food items to complete our Christmas bags which will be distributed on December 22nd. **Thank you again for your support. It is deeply appreciated!**

**PARISH PAY
HAS BEEN TRANSITIONED TO
“WE SHARE” A PART OF L.P.I.**

“Parish Pay” has been transitioned to “We Share”. We are asking all the Parishioners who are currently using Parish Pay to contact “We Share” a unit of LPI, please dial **1 800-950-9952** to join or update your information. We appreciate your cooperation. Thank you.

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING
SUNDAY DECEMBER 17TH**

Come join us on December 17th to bring some joy to our home bound friends with a little Christmas caroling. We will meet out front of the church at 1 pm.. If you have someone you would like us to visit please let the rectory know. Any questions you can call Mandy at 642-2985.

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED

Altar servers are needed for the 4:30 PM and 10:30 PM Christmas Eve Masses and for the 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM Christmas Day Masses. If you can help with any of these services, please contact the rectory at 786 2742 or Deacon John at 786 5759.

MIDNIGHT RUN

Our next run is scheduled for Saturday night, December 23. We will be preparing for the run on Friday evening, December 22 starting at 7 PM in the Sister Casserly Center. Any donations of sack lunches, water and toiletries will be greatly appreciated. We are planning to depart from the Manhattan at 9 PM on the 23d and should return to Stony Point around 2 AM. For more information about the run, or to volunteer in any way, please contact Deacon John or Jessica Sadowski 786 5759.

DISCOVERING CHRIST

“Discovering Christ gave me the spiritual food I needed to satisfy my hunger. Discovering Christ and sharing Him with others who also thirst is a life-changing experience.” (Josine: St.Peter’s/St.Mary’s)

Come and be refreshed. Join us for the Discovering Christ series to begin Jan. 21st at Immaculate Conception gym. Applications will soon be available on parish websites. For more info, please call Deacon George or Mariann Albin (362-1982) or Josine Young (786-2878).

NEWS OF INTEREST

Please Make A Will And Remember Your Parish -

Most of us own more than we realize. But no matter the size of an estate, if you want to provide for your surviving relatives and others, you need to have a will. If you die without making a will, you lose the ability to control the disposition of your assets. The law of the state will tell your family where your money and property goes. Your bequest can be a specific amount of money, property or stock. Naming our Parish as a charitable beneficiary is simple, to make a gift, simply include the following words in your will: *I give, devise, and bequeath to Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church of Stony Point, New (here you write the amount being give) to be used for the needs of the Church).*

SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Collection for Dec. 4, 2017 was: \$ 8,162
Collection for Dec. 4, 2016 was: \$10,556

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED
SUPPORT**

