

Dear Friends in Christ,

Today we celebrate Gaudete Sunday. The color pink is profound today to draw attention that what we are waiting and preparing for this Advent, the coming of Christ, is so close upon us but yet we are still journeying for the next almost two weeks.

In terms of preparing for Christmas, you are invited to bring to mass next weekend the baby Jesus figurine from the nativity scene from your homes so that they may be blessed at all masses. My hope is that the grace from this blessing may indeed enhance the homes and families where these figurines will be displayed.

Calendars for 2017 are available by each door of the church, please take one home with you. This year the theme of the calendar is Pope Francis- the Pilgrim Pope. Two beautiful pictures are included from last year visit to America. I thank Higgins Funeral Home for being so generous in donating these calendars to the church.

Your generosity to Immaculate Conception is so greatly appreciated! Week after week you are called upon to give of your gifts. We are now in the final initial weeks of our Sharing Our Gifts campaign. So far, as I have been reporting each week, it seems to be a success! I pray the generosity continues once the initial phase of the campaign concludes. The upcoming Christmas collection is one of two major

times in the year, the other being Easter, that parishioners traditionally give a major contribution to their parish church. The annual Christmas and Easter collections allow many parishes to meet the financial obligations they are faced with week after week. As the gospel teaches that the widow could only afford to offer two coins to her temple, Jesus praised her because she gave all that she had. May all of us after prayerful reflection give generously this Christmas to continue to support the work of the Church.

Please mark your calendars, next Monday, December 19th, is Reconciliation Monday. In all churches in the Archdiocese of New York and in the Dioceses of Brooklyn-Queens and Rockville Center confessions will be heard. People will have the opportunity here at Immaculate Conception to have the Sacrament of Reconciliation between the hours of 4:00 to 6:00 and again from 7:00 to 8:00. Confessions will be heard from the concessional located in the Sacred Heart Chapel.

May we continue to prepare for His coming,

- Rev. Herbert T. DeGaris

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

I am a Confirmation candidate at Immaculate Conception PREP and for my service, I have decided to do "24 Boxes for Christmas". I will be raising money by selling candy and collecting donations to fill shoe boxes with cookies, candy, hats, gloves, scarves and toiletries for those who are homebound or in need in our parish.

I am in need of your help! You may leave monetary contributions in the church vestibule in a jar that I have set up and I would also greatly appreciate donations of new hats, gloves, scarves, small snack size boxes of candy or cookies and toiletries.

Each box will be wrapped and sent with an anonymous Christmas card. Imagine the smiles.

Please give from your heart to your fellow parishioners in the spirit of Christmas. I have 21 days to reach my goal. Thank you so much!

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.

PREP FAMILIES

We look forward to seeing you on either Tuesday, December 13 or Thursday, December 15th at 6:00 as we partake in fellowship at our Family Catechesis night. Our theme is "Some Things That We Didn't Know about Christmas Carols".

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.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

MONDAY

DECEMBER 19TH

On Monday, December 19th, 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. 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 2016

CONFESSIONS

Saturday, December 17th

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Monday December 19th

4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 21st

4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

Saturday, December 24th

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 25th

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

Tomkins Cove - 7:30 a.m.

NEW YEAR'S MASSES - HOLY DAY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31ST

5:30 P.M. Vigil Mass

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1ST

Stony Point

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

Tomkins Cove – 7:30 a.m.

MEN'S CLUB CHRISTMAS DINNER

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16TH

8:00 P.M.

The Men's Club Christmas Dinner, will be held on Friday, December 16th at Lynch's starting at 8:00 p.m. We will have a choice from 4 entrees, appetizers and a 3 hour open bar. All men of the Parish are invited to attend. Cost is \$40 per person. Please call Tom Robinson at 786-3005.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

DECEMBER 11TH

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.

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: Rita Quirk

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 10TH

8:30 Virginia Schindele (req. by family)

5:30 **Vigil *For The People of The Parish***

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH

7:30 Horace & Mildred Degliantoni (req. by family)

9:30 Irene Mullins (req. by Elizabeth Stewart)

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12TH

7:30 Thanksgiving to St. Anthony

(req. by The Lewis Family)

8:30 John Dinan, Jr.

(req. by Mr. & Mrs. Sylvestre Jones)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13TH

8:30 Lucia Cosimo (req. by family)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14TH

7:30 *Intention Available*

8:30 Daniel Shafarsky (req. by family)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15TH

8:30 Kathleen Javenes (req. by family)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16TH

7:30 Walter Robert Emmert (req. by family)

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17TH

8:30 Anthony Calandra & Nancy Vasta

(req. by family)

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH

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)

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

Please 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. Please bring gift cards to the Rectory. Thank You.

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

Our Immaculate Conception Food Pantry is busy planning Christmas baskets. We are in need of turkeys, turkey breasts and roasting chickens as well as canned fruit, cake mixes and icings. **We will be distributing these Christmas baskets on Friday, December 16th** to our clients who have reserved one. **We will be closed on Friday, December 23rd**. Turkeys can be dropped off at the rectory any weekday between 9:00 and 5:00 or any Friday at the food pantry between 2:30 and 5:30, no later than Thursday, December 15th. Thank you so much.

A special thank you to the Girl Scouts of Troop 40240, our Religious education students and the students and teachers of Farley Elementary School who donated bags and boxes full of groceries! We are very grateful for your help.

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.**

St. Gregory Barbarigo School Christmas Concert – You are cordially invited to attend the Christmas Concert on Friday, December 16th at 9:00 a.m. in the School Gymnasium. Please RSVP to the School Office at 947-1330. Thank you.



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YOUR SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Collection December 4, 2016 was: \$10,556.50
Collection December 6, 2015 was: \$8,560.00

Please remember Immaculate Conception Church in your will.