

**January 1, 2017**

**Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God**

Dear Friends in Christ,

Happy New Year! As I get older, I truly feel that days are going by so fast. It's hard to believe that 2016 has come and gone. The start of a new year is a time of new beginnings, a time of new resolutions, that we hope and pray we will actually follow this year!

We pray for our families, for continuing blessings to be bestowed upon us. Traditionally, when Christmas is not on a Sunday, the Sunday after Christmas is the Feast of the Holy Family. That Feast was celebrated on the 30<sup>th</sup> of December. We still can on this first day of the new year call upon the intercession of the Holy Family to strengthen us to follow their example. Children to follow the example of Christ, mothers and wives to be that of Mary and fathers and imitate the life of Saint Joseph. May each of our families gain grace from

We congratulate our newest Confirmation Candidates 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.

**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

the one true Holy Family to sustain us all in the New Year.

As we gather on this first day of the New Year, we celebrate Mary, the Holy Mother of God. With so many titles our Blessed Mother has, we call upon Mary, Queen of Peace this first day of the New Year. May this year be for each of us a year of health and prosperity. May our Queen of Peace intercede and cast upon the leaders of our world and our incoming President to truly work towards true lasting world peace between all nations.

On behalf of Deacon Marino, Deacon Sadowski and our Parish Staff I extend to all of you a very Happy and Healthy New Year. May 2017 be a blessed year for each one of us.

- Rev. Herbert T. DeGaris

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.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**  
**FRIDAY, JANUARY 6TH**  
**9A.M. - 12 NOON**

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place after the 8:30 a.m. Mass **on Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup>**. 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**

**HOSPITALITY SUNDAY**  
**JANUARY 8TH**

Hospitality Sunday will be held next **Sunday, January 8th, after the 9:30 Mass.** Please stop by and join us for refreshments in our School Auditorium.

**NEXT WEEKEND**  
**SECOND COLLECTION –**  
**JANUARY 8TH**

**CATHOLIC COMMUNICATIONS CAMPAIGN**  
**CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA**

There will be a second collection next weekend, part of a combined collection and we ask your generosity in order to assist these programs.

The Catholic Communication Collections help spread the word of God throughout our nation by using modern technologies and they need your support in order to accomplish their ministry.

The Catholic University of America is the only Catholic University sponsored directly by the American Bishops and it is certainly a great worthwhile benefit to support it.

**Next week's second collection will be a combined collection for both of these worthy causes and we ask you to be as generous as always.**

**BIBLE**

**Basic Instruction Before Leaving Earth**

Join us at Saint Gregory's to better understand God's Word in the Bible. You are invited to enter the biblical story of the New Testament beginning with the gospels and working your way through the final book, Revelation. Discover God's plan of salvation running throughout the story and characters, both familiar and unfamiliar. It is a great way to begin New Testament studies. We start this program on January 19, Thursday afternoon at 3 with a second repeat session at 7PM and each will be finished in about 90 minutes. Each session is independent of the others, so even if you miss a week or two you can participate and learn a great deal. No prior experience in our study group is needed to participate in this program which will last for five weeks. Enter into discussion and learn the Word of God. We will meet once a week on Thursday, the afternoon session in the basement of the rectory and the evening session in room 101 of the school, we will start with prayer, discuss the study materials and some contemporary issues related to our faith and close with prayer. All you need is a Bible and a pen, other materials will be provided. When you reflect on Scripture you must learn what the Scripture says, what the Scripture passage means, what it means to you and what is most important, what you are going to do about it. Through this process you will find comfort in God's Word but you will also find challenge. To learn more about this program please call Deacon John Kelly or Lucy Kelly at 845 947-2095.

**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:**

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 31ST**

8:30 Tom & Betty Feeman (req. by family)

5:30 **Vigil** Mary A. Costello (req. by family)

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 1ST**

7:30 *For the People of the Parish*

9:30 James G. Faherty III

(req. by The Petruzzini family)

11:30 Jim Cavanaugh (req. by family)

**MONDAY, JANUARY 2ND**

7:30 Ann & Henry Courtney (req. by family)

8:30 George Giddies (req. by family)

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 3RD**

8:30 Patricia Caramele (req. by family)

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4TH**

7:30 *Intention Available*

8:30 Thanksgiving to St. Jude

(req. by The Lewis Family)

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 5TH**

8:30 Otto & Thekla Schell (req. by family)

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 6TH**

7:30 *Intention Available*

8:30 Louis Piselli (req. by The Light Family)

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 7TH**

8:30 John Smith

(req. by Joseph & Madelaine Cavegn)

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

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 8TH**

7:30 Joseph Fiore (req. by family)

9:30 *For the People of the Parish*

11:30 James Faherty III (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.

**PARISH PAY  
PROGRAM**

Parish Pay is an automated system that allows you to make your weekly and Holy Day offerings from your credit card or checking account electronically. This convenience allows you to prayerful budget your monthly gift and provides the parish the ability to meet and plan for our financial obligations. Please call the Parish Office Monday - Thursday 9:00 - 4:00 and take the opportunity to enroll today.

**BAPTISM CLASS**

The dates for the next Baptism Class is: **January 23rd**. The **Baptism dates are ordinarily the first and third Sunday of the Month.**

**BAPTISM**

The dates for our next Baptisms is **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.

**Dominican College** - An information Session interested in Undergraduate and Graduate Degrees, including Undergraduate online programs is scheduled for Wednesday, January 11 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Hennessy Center.

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**YOUR SACRIFICIAL GIVING**

Sunday Collection Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 was: **\$9,127**  
Sunday Collection Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015 was: **\$6,621**

**The Christmas Collection will be reported in a couple of weeks.**

*Please remember Immaculate Conception Church in your will.*