

Dear Friends in Christ,

“Unless you become like a child you will not inherit the kingdom of God.” How much I dwell on that statement of Christ yesterday as twenty-eight of our second graders received their First Penance. What a grace filled moment to see nervous looks of innocent children turn into sheer joy upon the reception of God’s mercy and forgiveness that each child showed.

I shared with them a story on myself getting lost once at Orchard Beach, in the Bronx. I mentioned the frightened feeling of being all alone, at least in my mind since the beach was packed, was replaced with the sheer joy of receiving the tightest embrace from my father after I was found. Isn’t that what we all feel at the end of our own confessions? We feel that spiritual embrace from God, much like the image of this Year of Mercy, the father embracing the prodigal son. On behalf of all of us, I congratulate our second graders! May we all keep them in our prayers as they prepare for their reception of their First Holy Communion this coming Spring.

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 are 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

On Friday, January 27th, the 44th annual March for Life will take place in Washington, D.C. Once again, the faithful will march on Washington in protest of the 1973 Supreme Court decision in the case of Roe vs. Wade, that legalized abortion in our country. In the business of that day, for those of us not able to attend the annual rally, may we offer some time of prayer for the cause of the annual rally and for the hundreds of thousands who will attend.

Here at Immaculate Conception we will have our two daily masses at 7:30 and 8:30 am. The church will also be open, as it is every day, for anyone who would like to spend time in the Lord’s House to offer prayer for the intention for respect of human life.

May all of us continue to show forth the image of Christ and his love for all as we show full honor and respect to all human life from conception to natural death.

- Rev. Herbert T. DeGaris

parish bulletin and then add your child’s name and grade before turning it in at your child’s next class.

COVE CHURCH – WINTER TIME

After consultation with the congregation of the Sunday morning Cove Church mass a few weeks ago, it has been decided to do away with the often confusing guideline to move the Cove Church mass to Stony Point. The new policy is simple... if there is uncertainty, parishioners are asked to go to the parish website **IMMACULATESP.ORG**. An announcement will be posted on the main home page that will be seen as soon as the website loads up. Only in the event of mass moving to Stony Point will an announcement be posted.

MARCH FOR LIFE

And first up for 2017, **The March for Life in Washington, D.C.** The date is Friday, **Jan. 27**, and the bus will be leaving from St. Francis of Assisi in West Nyack. The cost is \$30 for adults and \$15 for students. You can make reservations by calling 845-735-4379, 845-492-6709, or 845-425-1322 (para espanol). All the rest of the information you need can be found on our website here: **[Jan. 27 -- We March Again!](#)** And here, the official **[March for Life](#)** website.

If you can't go, but would like to be part of the March by making a much-needed donation, it would be very much appreciated. Your donations help defray the costs for marchers who can't afford the trip and help subsidize the

cost of the bus for everyone. You can send your donation to Rockland Right to Life Committee, PO Box 9348, Bardonia, NY 10954. (*We regret that your donation is not tax deductible.*)

FOOD PANTRY
NEWS

For the month of January, we will be collection canned fruit and juices. If you are able to contribute, please leave your donation in the food bin in the vestibule of the church., Once again, thank you for your amazing generosity! Best wishes for a wonderful new year from al the staff at the food pantry.

*The Flowers This Week are
In Loving Memory of
Melody Phillips
Donated by family*

FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS
SUNDAY JANUARY 29TH THROUGH
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH
DONATE MONEY
GIVE FOOD
RAISE AWARENESS

An Archdiocesan - Wide Drive to Replenish Dwindling Food Pantries Sunday, January 29TH through Sunday, February 5TH, 2017

Nearly 325,000 children have difficulty affording food, that's 22% of children in the 10 counties of the Archdiocese. Do your part to make sure no hungry neighbor is turned away from Sunday, January 29TH through Sunday, February 5TH for the Feeding Our neighbors Campaign.

The three simple ways to participate and contribute to the Campaign are:

- *Donate to a collection of money to support emergency food programs
- * Participate in the food drive from Sunday, January 29th - Sunday, February 5TH.
- * Volunteer at a food pantry.

The Phone Number for Catholic Community Services of Rockland is (845) 942-5791 contact person Martha Robles.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

All those who are ill at home, in the hospital and in nursing homes, especially: Warren Sayre, Sr., Ed & Ann Hanus, Michael Costello, William & Geraldine Neary, Judy Stroup, Billy Keenan.

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, JANUARY 21ST

8:30 Rita Quirk (req. by The Gosda Family)
5:30 Vigil Anna Cucci (req. by Cousin Ann)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22ND

7:30 For The People of the Parish
9:30 Melody Phillips (req. by family)
11:30 James Faherty III (req. by family)

MONDAY, JANUARY 23RD

7:30 *Intention Available*
8:30 Anna Moody (req. by Marge Rogers)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24TH

8:30 John McDermott (req. by family)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25TH

7:30 *Intention Available*
8:30 Peggy Sicibia (Living) (req. by Marge Rogers)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26TH

8:30 Mary Butler (req. by Jane Hylas)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27TH

7:30 For the success of the March for Life Rally
8:30 Ruth Sheridan (req. by daughter)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28TH

8:30 Gino Baez (req. by The Rodriguez Family)
5:30 **Vigil** Evelyn Mariani (req. by family)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29TH

7:30 *For the People of the Parish*
9:30 John, Eileen, & Mary Ann Corry (req. by family)
11:30 James Faherty III (req. by family)

BAPTISM CLASS

The date for the next Baptism Class is: **February 27th**. The **Baptism dates are ordinarily the first and third Sunday of the Month.**

BAPTISM

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

FLOWER MEMORIALS

Flower memorials are available for anyone desiring to memorialize a loved one. The cost is \$50 for an arrangement of flowers to be placed near the altar. Please call the rectory to reserve a specific date.

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.

SUPERBOWL SUNDAY WITH THE MEN'S CLUB

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5TH

Come up and watch the game with the Men's Club. There is always plenty of food, refreshments and fun. The doors open at 4:30 PM. Cost \$20 for adults, kids free. Call Tom Robinson, 786-3005

TAX INFORMATION - 2016

If any parishioners require a contribution statement for income tax returns, please contact the rectory Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. 786-2742.

NEWS OF INTEREST

Adoption – Baby Girls in China need homes. Infants and toddlers available. Older parents welcome. For more information call Barbara Salvesen at 623-5277.

Albertus Magnus High School – will be celebrating their 60th Anniversary. A Mass and Reception to commemorate the occasion will be held at Albertus Magnus Gym on February 12th at 4:30 p.m. with a reception in the Rotunda immediately following Mass. A 60th Anniversary Gala will be held on April 28th at the Pearl River Hilton. Details and Registration are available on www.albertusmagnus.net, under ALUMNI, Special Events or by contacting the AM Development Office at 623-8842, extension 229.

YOUR SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Sunday Collection Jan. 15, 2017 was: \$8,027

Sunday Collection Jan. 16, 2016 was: \$6,958

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in your will.*

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