

Dear Friends in Christ,

This weekend we begin our Parish Lenten Retreat. We welcome Fr. Bernard J. Campbell, C.S.P. the Retreat Director. Fr. Campbell will be speaking at all the masses this weekend. Each day of the retreat, beginning tomorrow, Monday March 6th and lasting to Wednesday March 8th, Fr. Campbell will celebrate the 8:30 morning mass, which will be held in the main church. After mass, Father will give the retreat session followed by time for questions. Father's presentation will be repeated the three evenings of the retreat at 7:30 pm in the church. Monday's topic will be "Are Christians 'Breath-Taking?'" Tuesday the topic will be "Go into the Deep", and Wednesday, the retreat concludes with "Christianity: In Awe of the Dignity of the Human Person". Parishioners are encouraged to invite family members and friends, those who are Catholic, those who have been away from the Church for some time and those who follow no religious tradition at all.

A reminder that Stations of the Cross take place every Friday during Lent at 7:30pm in the church. After the stations, there will be a brief Lenten Reflection given by myself or one of our parish deacons.

Because of our Retreat Director speaking at each mass, we will celebrate our family mass next Sunday at the 9:30am mass. Our seventh graders will host the mass.

Please join us all after the 9:30 mass today for our monthly hospitality gathering in the school building.

Our Calendar Raffle is Underway!

Raffles are still available for purchase at the Rectory. As you know, we depend heavily on this fundraiser to defray the costs of maintaining the Parish Religious Education building. Thank you so much for your support!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: the next Family Catechisis dates are: March 14 and 16. We will be celebrating St. Joseph and St. Patrick.

8TH Grade Confirmation Candidates Spirit Day: March 25, 2017 at St. Joseph Church, Spring Valley. All permission slips must be received in advance. Service hours due on March 7, Letter to Bishop Lagonegro due March 25.

The School of Religion is currently doing our annual **GERTRUDE HAWK CHOCOLATE** Fundraiser. Pick up a brochure at the PREP office!

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

For the month of March we will continue to collect cans of fruit. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

St. Patrick's Day is less than two weeks away. In a letter I received from the Cardinal Dolan on Jan. 25, the cardinal asked all pastors to notify their parishioners that he is offering Catholics in the archdiocese a dispensation from abstaining from meat for the Solemnity of St. Patrick, patron of the archdiocese, on Friday, March 17, which falls during Lent.

We have begun our Lenten journey, through our self-sacrifice and denial may we unite with Christ in the desert. May our Parish Mission this week enhance our journey.

- Rev. Herbert T. DeGaris



Next weekend we will hold the in-pew presentation of the Annual Cardinals Stewardship Appeal. This will give the opportunity for any parishioner to made their gift to the appeal and for any parishioner, especially those who have recently joined our parish community to join the appeal.

As of Friday, February 24th, our parish has pledged \$11,050.00. This amount comes from 61 individual gifts. This puts us at 20% of our goal of \$54,000.00.

FLOWERS

We call to your attention that during the Season of Lent our altars are left in a barren state to remind us of the simplicity of the Lenten Season, and no flowers will be decorating our altars. We will be accepting donations for flowers approximately three weeks after Easter. Once Easter comes the altar will be decorated for several weeks with the Easter flowers. We thank you for devotion and consideration in helping us to decorate the Church during the ordinary course of the year.

LENTEN FAST AND ABSTINENCE

"Fast and Abstinence" Good Friday (April 14th) are days of Fast and Abstinence. Friday are Lenten days of abstinence.

Good Friday:

These are days of Fast and Abstinence from meat. There is a limit of one full meal on these days for all between the ages of 18 and 59 inclusive.

Days of Abstinence (All Fridays in Lent)

All who have reached their 14th year are bound to abstain totally from meat during Lent on Fridays.

"JESUS AND CALVARY" A LENTEN RETREAT

Catholic Daughters of the Americas Joan of Arc Court #604 will sponsor a Lenten Retreat **on Sunday March 19th** at Immaculate Conception Church in Stony Point, NY.

The day will begin with 11:30 a.m. Mass, followed by a catered lunch in the school hall. The Retreat will begin at 1 p.m. presided by Deacon John Sadowski. The focus of the Retreat is "*Jesus and Calvary*". Stations of the Cross will follow in the church after the Retreat.

You need not be a Catholic Daughter to attend. Cost is \$20.00 and includes lunch. Advanced registration is required. The check should be made payable to Joan of Arc Court #604. Mail check and contact information to Barbara Capria, 19 Govan Drive, Stony Point, NY 10980. Questions? Call Barbara at 845-942-0954 .

40 Days for Life

Please participate in a peaceful prayerful prayer witness on Public Property for 40 Days for LIFE beginning Ash Wednesday (March 1) at the Divine Mercy Hour- 3 pm. To take one hour a week please call [845 492 6709](tel:8454926709) or e mail RachelMinister1@aol.com. Deacon John Kelly will lead us as we begin our Spring Valley 40 Days for LIFE on Perlman Drive, Spring Valley, N.Y.

LIVING STATIONS

As we begin our journey through lent to prepare for Easter, the Living Stations of the Cross through Mary's Eyes will once again be reenacted for our parishioners on Good Friday evening.

please consider joining us for this very spiritual and emotional walk with Jesus as he takes his last steps to his cross. we are asking those who have participated in previous years to come back and join us. Also those of all ages, young children, young adults and older adults both boys, girls, men and women. There are only a few rehearsals, no acting experience necessary and we will provide costumes for the evening. If you are interested, please call or email the following persons:

Carol Senatore 845-942-0128
sengirl@verizon.net

MaryGail Loucas 845-942-0109
mgloucas@aol.com

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: Dorothy Goldberg.

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, MARCH 4TH**

8:30 Ann Ferro (req. by The Sullivan Family)

5:30 Vigil Lauren Gould

(Greg & Annmarie Gemelli & Family)

SUNDAY, MARCH 5TH

7:30 *For the People of the Parish*

9:30 Mark Stewart (req. by family)

11:30 Victoria Felice (req. by family)

MONDAY, MARCH 6TH

7:30 *Intention Available*

8:30 Kathy Draney (req. by The Tiso Family)

TUESDAY, MARCH 7TH

8:30 Dec'd Members of The DiGasbarro Family
(req. by family)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8TH

7:30 *Intention Available*

8:30 Frank & Geraldine Hoyer (req. by Anne Hoyer)

THURSDAY, MARCH 9TH

8:30 John E. Denman (req. by Irene Lavelle)

FRIDAY, MARCH 10TH

7:30 *Intention Available*

8:30 Fred Ponti (req. by The DiGasbarro Family)

SATURDAY, MARCH 11TH

8:30 Sean Donohue

(req. by George & Johanna Neumann)

5:30 **Vigil** Joseph Felice (req. by Family)

SUNDAY, MARCH 12TH

7:30 Edward Murray (req. by family)

9:30 John M. Sullivan (req. by family)

11:30 *For the People of the Parish*

**50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION**

Couples celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary anytime during 2017 are invited to attend the Annual Golden Wedding Jubilee Mass with Cardinal Dolan at the Cathedral of St. Patrick, Sunday, June 11th at 2:00 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Please contact the Rectory for registration **The closing date to register for the Mass is Friday, May 12th, 2017.** This event is sponsored by the Family Life Resect Life Office of the Archdiocese of New York.

**GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY
MARCH 12TH**

March 12th is Girl Scout Sunday. Girl Scouts are asked to be at the 11:30 a.m. Mass. We will meet at 11:15 a.m. in the School Hall. Please wear uniform if possible.

CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Prize</u>	<u>Ticket</u>	<u>Winner</u>
3/1	\$25	1528	Olivia McCarron
3/2	\$25	1711	Pedro Valdes
3/3	\$100	1857	Laura Holmes
3/4	\$25	600	Linda McGillicuddy
3/5	\$25	1422	Mark Brewer
3/6	\$75	269	Addyson Bohlander
3/7	\$25	2405	Melissa Hoffman

**Men's Club Bus Trip to Atlantic City –
SATURDAY, APRIL 1ST**

The Men's Club is running a bus trip to Bally's Casino in Atlantic City on Saturday, April 1st. The bus leaves from the front of the Church at 8:00 AM and returns at 8:00 PM. Cost is \$35 per person and includes \$15 in slot play, snacks and refreshments on the bus and lots of laughs. Please call Peter Morris at 786-3770 or Tom Robinson at 786-3005 for reservations.

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.

*Please remember Immaculate Conception Church
in your will.*

MIDNIGHT RUN MARCH 25TH

The next run is scheduled for Saturday evening, March 25. We will meet in the Church parking lot at around 8:30 PM and expect to depart for Manhattan by 9 PM. We should be returning to Stony Point by around 2 AM Sunday morning. Sack lunches will be needed for the run, made up of a sandwich, a package of crackers and a juice box or bottle of water. Because our previous run was cancelled due to the ice storm, there will be no pre-run preparation for this run. For any information about the run or to volunteer in any way, please call either Deacon John or Jessica Sadowski 786 5759.

NEWS OF INTEREST

Stony Point Apartment For Rent – 1 Bedroom Apartment in a private home. Seeking 1 person/1 car. Utilities included. \$1,000 a month. For more information please call (845) – 416-1235.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land – If you have been considering the October trip to the Holy Land that Fr. Backes of Pleasant Valley is planning, you might be interested in on Informational Meeting he is planning at St. Stan's on Sunday afternoon, March 12th at 1:00 p.m. Feel free to invite others to join you and bring your questions. One of the major questions that many have is Will we be safe? How safe is it to go to the Holy Land? Deacon George Albin of St. Gregory's in Garnerville will be addressing that topic. Before his ordination, Deacon George was a Chief of Police for the Port Authority Police Dept. and also a member of the NYC Joint Terrorism Task Force and has seen the security there on his three trips to the Holy Land – twice as a pilgrim and once as a guest of the Israeli Security forces. His answer is, very simple, YES and he will explain why. Call St. Stan's for directions.

Rockland Theatre Company/HPAL – proudly announces it's Spring Easter production of Godspell Jr. based on the Broadway hit. Performances will be **Friday March 31st at 7:30 pm and Saturday, April 1st at 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm** at Haverstraw Elementary School, 16 Grant Street, Haverstraw. For information, email rocktheatreco@yahoo.com or call The Photo Shoppe at 845-942-1103. Tickets can be reserved at www.rocklandtheatrecompany.com.

SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Sunday Collection Feb. 26, 2017 was: \$8,019
Sunday Collection Feb. 22, 2016 was: \$7,512

Fuel Collection Feb. 26, 2017 was: \$2,496
Parish Pay for the Month of Feb. was: \$5,339