

MESSAGE FROM THE LAPTOP

PRAISED BE JESUS CHRIST!

Sunday Greetings Parish Families of HNOJ & HC:

We are a few weeks into the new arrangements for our Sunday Mass celebrations and one obvious factor has popped up that has elicited questions at the office @ **HNOJ**. With the reduction in Sunday Mass along with the Weekday schedule being split between the two parishes, the availability of relatively ready weekday & Sunday times for Mass intentions has now been pushed further into the year than has been the experience in the past. This has certainly been unfortunate @ **HNOJ** but cannot be helped as I have become the sole assigned priest for the two parishes. The great tradition @ **HNOJ** of arranging for multiple Mass intentions for family and friends, deceased and living, is a true reflection upon your deep faith in the fruits of the Mass that we offer for the souls of our loved ones who have preceded us on the journey to New Life along with the prayers asked for the living that are for their healing or special intentions.

The celebration of Mass is a great privilege that I and my brother priests have been embraced by Almighty God and His call to serve those to whom we have been sent. But a little known fact is that we are only obliged to celebrate Mass as you are obliged to attend, **ONLY ON SUNDAY**. However, it has been a long standing practice that the Church has directed her priests to offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for the benefit of the faithful beyond just Sunday. And, Holy Mother Church has regulated the reception of Mass offerings, called stipends, that can be offered for any given day. Depending on the number of priests that any given parish is blessed to have, the schedule of Masses, other than Sunday, are to afford that each priest would have an opportunity to celebrate Mass and receive a stipend that has been offered for that specific day. Holy Mother Church is profoundly serious regarding this practice by placing these directives into Her law which is called **CANON LAW**. This has evolved over the history of the Church due to abuses that cropped up during the Middle Ages.

Here in the Archdiocese of New York, for the past few decades, the offering for an **ANNOUNCED MASS**, which are the ones that you see posted in the bulletin week to week, has been **\$15.00**. This offering that you make for the specific Mass you want to be offered is your request to me, and my brother priests, to have your loved one who has passed, or the special intention being sought, as the uppermost intention that I, and they, along with those who gather for the Mass to have among all other personal intentions. Just to share with you the sacred nature of the **ANNOUNCED MASS**, when a brother priest dies and we receive the notice, we priests are directed to offer a Mass for the repose of his soul. This is a request out of fraternal charity that we cannot neglect. But we cannot fulfill this request along with an **ANNOUNCED MASS** that has been requested by you. I have to wait for the open day each week where no public Mass is offered to fulfill this request of the Archdiocese or, when I am able to get back to celebrating Mass at the State Correctional facility via which I was able to fulfill this request easily with the men at Mass.

Right now, I want the faithful @ **HNOJ** to recognize that being able to arrange for an **ANNOUNCED MASS** for a given date may be next to impossible now due to the reduced number of Masses scheduled. I also want to let the faithful of both parishes to know that there is a wealth of open Mass times available right now @ **HC**. As I have recently arranged for a Mass to be offered @ **HC** for a deceased parishioner of mine from Regina Coeli, I could not get over the abundance of open Mass times that begin almost immediately in the **Mass Book @ HC**. I understand the disappointment that arises when you are unable to get a Mass offered when & where you would worship. What I wish to get across is not where or when the Mass is offered, it is the fact that I or Fr. Nick will be offering the Mass you request at the parish that we are blessed to serve. **Please call the office @ HC (355-4439) to let Anna Marie handle the Mass intention arrangements.** This is an encouragement for HC parishioners to take advantage of the Mass times available. HNOJ parishioners can email our office with your request, as well as call Anna Marie, and I will personally bring the Mass card back to Otisville Tuesdays & Wednesdays and on the weekends as well and leave them for you to pick up via the drop box at the door of the McHale Center. Mass times at HNOJ are still available towards the summer and later into the year now. Fr. Nick & I look forward to offering Mass for your loved ones or intentions throughout the year.

That is all for now. **GO FORTH AND ANNOUNCE THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD. MANY BLESSINGS FOR THE WEEK!!!!**

Fr. Mike