

Dear Friends in Christ,

The feast of the Epiphany, which was kept in the East and in certain Western Churches before being observed in Rome, seems to have been originally a feast of the nativity. Epiphany means manifestation. What the Church celebrates today is the manifestation of our Lord to the whole world; after being made known to the shepherds of Bethlehem, He is revealed to the Magi who have come from the East to adore Him. In the adoration of the Christ Child by the Magi, we see, in a way, the beginnings of the Christian faith.

The Epiphany is indeed a great Feast, and the joy caused by the birth of Jesus must be renewed on it, for as though it were a second Christmas Day, it shows us our Incarnate God in a new light. At Christmas it was a few Shepherds that were invited by the Angels to go and recognize the Word made flesh but now, at the

Epiphany, God himself calls the whole world to adore this Jesus like the Magi, on bended knee.

Usually, the Sunday after the Epiphany the Church celebrates the Baptism of the Lord. Because Christmas was on a Sunday this year, the Church will celebrate the Lord's baptism tomorrow. We will celebrate our two regular weekday masses at 7:30 and 8:30 in the morning. Starting Monday, the decorations will come down, the manger will be removed and the church building will be adorned with the green banners again. We will return next weekend to celebrate the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time. The gift of the Christ Child will continue to guide us as we journey by way of our discipleship with Christ. May we remain faithful and true to that gift and strengthen even more the faith that unites us with Christ, the Lord.

- Rev. Herbert T. DeGaris

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

THIS WEEKEND
SECOND COLLECTION – JANUARY 8TH
CATHOLIC COMMUNICATIONS CAMPAIGN
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

There will be a second collection this 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.

This 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.

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

For the month of January, the Food Pantry is collecting canned fruit. If you are able to contribute, please leave your donations in the food bin in the vestibule of the church. Thank you so much for your generosity.

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.*)

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED

The ministry of Altar Server is an important liturgical ministry. Not only does it give the server the opportunity to participate in the spirit of our worship as a faith community by assisting the priest and the deacon during the mass, the server's actions and gestures make that worship all the more special. Our parish is in need of boys and girls to serve at the altar. Any boy or girl in 4th grade or older, interested in becoming an altar server, along with those already serving regularly are asked to please come to a meeting and training session on Saturday, January 14 at 10 AM in the Stony Point Church. For more information, please contact either Deacon John at 845 786 5759 or Father Herb at the rectory.

*Please remember Immaculate Conception Church
in your will.*

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

All those who are ill at home, in the hospital and in nursing homes, especially: Warren Sayre, Sr., Grace Sheehan, Lynn Westbrook, Michael Orapello, Ed & Ann Hanus, Michael Costello, 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, 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)

MONDAY, JANUARY 9TH

7:30 *Intention Available*

8:30 Louis Pezzola (req. by family)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10TH

8:30 Peter McCarron (req. by family)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11TH

7:30 *Intention Available*

8:30 Christina & Angelo Orlandi (req. by family)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12TH

8:30 Gertrude Schien (req. by Jane Hylas)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13TH

7:30 *Intention Available*

8:30 Thomas Mazza Sr. (req. by family)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14TH

8:30 Dec'd Members of the Ferri & Condon Family
(req. by family)

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15TH

7:30 Dorothy McCarron (req. by family)

9:30 Mary Ann Kinzel (req. by family)

11:30 *For the People of the Parish*

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.

ANNOUNCED MASSES

We call to your attention that scheduled Parish Masses are available almost immediately if you wish to have a relative or loved one remembered upon death or just to pray for their good health and recovery from illness. You can contact the Rectory at anytime during office hours. You can have a Mass offered for a loved one. It is also a beautiful way to remember someone at a wake for the family.

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.

NEWS OF INTEREST

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.

Children of Mary Nursery-Kindergarten, located at the Marian Shrine in Stony Point, will be holding its annual Open House on Saturday, January 21st at 9:30 a.m. The snow date is Saturday, January 28th.

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 January 1, 2017 was: \$7,156

Sunday Collection January 3, 2016 was: \$7,311

Solemnity of Mary January 1, 2017 was: \$1,887

Christmas Collection 2016 so far: \$35,018

Christmas Collection 2015 was: \$38,122

Parish Pay for the Month of Dec. was: \$7,540

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