

Dear Friends in Christ,

Three weeks from today will be the First Sunday of Lent. On that weekend, March 4 and 5th we will begin our Parish Lenten Mission. We welcome Fr. Bernard J. Campbell, C.S.P. who will be the Retreat Director. Fr. Will speak at the 5:30 pm Vigil Mass and all masses on Sunday. Each day of the retreat, Monday March 5th 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. More information will be shared in the coming bulletins.

Each year I am asked by many parishioners, mostly the children in the Religion Education Program, 'where do the ashes which we use on Ash Wednesday come from?' They come from the palm branches that were blessed and distributed during Holy Week of last year. Because they are a "sacramental", they must be disposed of in a proper way. This is why many of us may have dried out palm that have for more

than one year just sitting in places in our homes. Next weekend and the following weekend there will be a basket in the rear of the church placed on the large table. You may leave your old palm branches there, and we will burn them on Tuesday, February 28 in anticipation of Ash Wednesday.

Just to let you know, this week I will be taking a few days off. I am grateful to the priests of the Marian Shrine and the Oratorian Fathers. You will be seeing visiting priests as the celebrants of next weekend's masses.

May God continue to bless us with His mercy,

- Rev. Herbert T. DeGaris



**the** CARDINAL'S  
ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL  
*Sharing God's Gifts*

Beginning this weekend and continuing until the conclusion of the appeal, you will be informed of the latest information given to our parish from the Appeal Office.

As of Wednesday, March 8th, our parish has pledged \$3,140.00. This amount comes from 17 individual gifts. This puts us at 6% of our goal of \$54,000.00.

## **Our Calendar Raffle is underway!**

Listed below are this week's winners:

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!

## **CALENDAR CHANGE:**

Because of a change in the North Rockland School District schedule from August, 2016, the following change should be noted for the week of February 20, 2016: There will be no religious education classes on Tuesday, February 21st and February 23rd.

## **Note of interest:**

Recently, at a Prayer Ministry Meeting, we said the rosary with our country's intentions. What we did was to say the name of each state, 50 states, 50 beads, and reflected on that particular state as we were praying. I found that I prayed for people from a particular state that I had not thought about in a long time, a natural disaster that affected a state, God's beautiful creation in different states, states that were encountering certain problems recently, etc. I found this most inspiring and I wanted to pass it along.

## **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.

## **FOOD PANTRY NEWS**

Thank you to everyone who contributed cans of fruit during the month of January. For the month of **February** we will continue to collect cans of fruit. In order to meet state guidelines, we distribute over 200 cans of fruit weekly to our food pantry client guests! For this reason, we seem to run out of this item very quickly! Your generosity is a huge help!

A special thank you to the members of our Wayne Hose Fire Company for their very generous donation. We are very grateful!



**BAPTISM CLASS**

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

**BAPTISM**

**The date for our next Baptism is: and February 19<sup>th</sup>.** 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.

**50<sup>TH</sup> WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

Couples celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017.** This event is sponsored by the Family Life Resect Life Office of the Archdiocese of New York.

**MEN'S CLUB MEETING**  
**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>**  
**AT 8:30 p.m.**

The Men's Club Meeting, Friday, will be held on **Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 p.m.** in Fr. Keenan Hall. All men of the parish are invited to attend. As always, bring a friend.

**CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Prize</u>	<u>Ticket</u>	<u>Winner</u>
2/8	\$ 25	1011	Karen Lawless
2/9	\$ 25	834	Shirley Benitez
2/10	\$100	2018	Michelle Lodini
2/11	\$ 75	085	Danielle Sowa
2/12	\$ 25	1334	Mr./Mrs. Kevin Nelson
2/13	\$ 50	1819	Herb Treman
2/14	\$100	387	Maureen Murray

**NEWS OF INTEREST**

**The Rachel Ministry** - is confidential and free help for those who have lost a baby at birth or prior to birth. The help takes place every 3rd Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Marian Shrine. For more information e-mail Rachel Minister1@aol.com or call 492-6709. **The next meeting will be on February 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**

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

**H.A.N.D.S. – (Healing and Nurturing Distraught Survivors)** sponsors a bereavement support group for parents who have lost a child. **All Groups meet from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at H.A.N.D.S. International Headquarters, 9 Scott Drive, New City, New York 10956. The meeting this month is February 21<sup>st</sup>. For more information call Ann 634-6706. Services are free of charge.**

**H.A.N.D.S. has a Widows and Widowers Group** facilitated by Ann Carucci, who lost her husband. These meetings are held every Monday evening at the H.A.N.D.S. International Headquarters, 9 Scott Drive, New City, New York 10956.

**SACRIFICIAL GIVING**

**Sunday Collection Feb. 5, 2017 was: \$8,582**  
**Sunday Collection Feb. 8, 2016 was: \$7,449**

**Peter's Pence Collection for 2017 was: \$1,804**  
**Peter's Pence Collection for 2016 was: \$1,634**

*Please remember Immaculate Conception Church  
in your will.*