

Dear Parishioners,

For the last few weeks, I've been playing what is essentially a cat-and-mouse game with a company regarding the elevator. Unfortunately, the firm that made the device has since been sold to a larger corporation (which itself has been bought out). In addition, the company which sold it to us has been subsumed into a nearby competitor. While they are under no legal obligation to do us any favors, I made appeal to their sense of justice to cut us a break on a new elevator. Sadly, that went nowhere. While we've received about \$1,000 in donations—for which I am most grateful—I can't justify spending upwards of another \$5,000 on a simple unenclosed lift that may or may not withstand the weather. So back to a ramp we go. Deacon Rich is working with the city building department to make sure that the new ramp will be up to code; we hope to begin work shortly.

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The First Sunday of Advent, which we celebrate next week, marks the beginning of a new liturgical year. It's also the debut of a new worship resource, *Breaking Bread*, which will take the place of the Music Issue and the seasonal Missalette. It contains all of the hymns we regularly use; the readings for Sundays and feast days; and the propers (antiphons and psalm responses) for every weekday of the year, all in one volume. It comes with an added benefit: it's several hundred dollars cheaper than what we use now.

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Dr. Mary Ellen Hubbard will be offering a series on Saint John Paul II's encyclical letter, *The Gospel of Life*, beginning next Sunday, November 30. The group will meet from 9:45 to 11:00am in the parish office. If interested, please speak with Mary Ellen or with Nancy Smith about ordering the text (which is also available online for free).

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You may have read in the Times Herald-Record that Catholic Charities Community Services of Orange County (CCCSOC) has assumed operational control and management responsibilities for The Recovery Center, a full-service treatment program in Monticello for those suffering with substance abuse or gambling disorders. This comes at the request of the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS), which licenses such operations. It was a tremendous leap of faith for the administration, the staff, and the board of directors of CCCSOC, but it speaks volumes about the confidence OASAS has in our agency, given CCCSOC's proven track record offering similar services in Orange County, including here in Port. Please keep this new endeavor in your prayers.

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I recently came across a group on Facebook called "Boycott Black Thursday." Its aim is to promote awareness of what I call "Black Friday 'creep'"—the increasing tendency for retailers to open on Thanksgiving night, as each tries to outmaneuver the other. I know I've written on this in the past, so it sounds like I'm harping on it (which I suppose I am), but it's an increasingly sad commentary on the state of society that we can't even devote one day of the year to give thanks to God, as a nation, without it being consumed by the thirst for more and more stuff.

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The brutal and heinous murder of Josef Kucher two weeks ago has cast something of a pall over our city. Yet there have been some glimmers of light in the midst of the darkness. There was tremendous consolation for Joe's family and friends (and for me) through the prayers being offered by thousands of people, near and far. The turnout at his wake was a testament both to Joe and his family, as well as to our community's natural instinct to come together at times of tragedy. For lack of a better term, the Mass of Christian Burial was divine; at least for me, it was a soul-stirring experience to hear hundreds of voices united in song, as we expressed our faith and hope in Christ's triumph over sin and death, and Joe's sharing in that. Many in the community have rallied to support his family, financially and otherwise. Please continue to keep the Kucher's in your prayers. We've seen how effective prayer can be; it's needed now more than ever.

Faithfully your priest,
Fr. George Hafemann

ANNOUNCED MASSES

Monday, November 24 (Andrew Dung-Lac, priest and companions, martyrs)

9:00am Mary E. McLaughlin, by Rayola McLaughlin
Nancy Reilly, by Bob and Dianna Witherow

Tuesday, November 25 (Catherine of Alexandria, virgin and martyr)

9:00am Deacon Phillip Bouwmans, by Jean A., Mark, and Michael Fox

Thursday, November 27 (Thanksgiving)

9:00am Margaret Jenks, by Merv and family

Friday, November 28

9:00am Intentions of the Webb children, by Mom and Dad

Saturday, November 29

4:00pm Stephanie and Allen Tooley, by her sister

Sunday, November 30

8:30am Thomas Osowick, by Rich and Diane Quick

11:30am the parishioners of St. Mary's

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Ida Lissner, Joann Wilcox, Jonathan Saletto, Marion Rohner, Nick Moscatiello, Andrea Fedoruk, Richard Samek, Betty Brennan, Joe Brennan, Angela Portella, Mike Castle, Walter Szpakowicz, Danielle Scibek, Pauline Portella, John McKean, Katie Onofry, John Launt, Theresa Fuller, David Drasba, Jeremiah Stasilli, Daniel Bonet, Maureen Hildrbrandt, Joseph Portella, Catherine Simons, Mary Platania, Vada Glass, Donald Wolff, Michael Barnes, William Linclon, Joseph Livingston, Jeff Sauschuck, Bernard Clune, Amanda Evelech, Anna Onuschak, Joseph Kham, Patsy Soletro, Sue Dennington, Andrew Witkowski, Thomas Scott, Jackie Mundy, Makara Craig, Thomas Scott, Barbara Nachand, and Betty Corcoran.

THE PARISH OFFICE will be **closed** on Thursday, November 27 and Friday, November 28.

Perhaps your family (or a group of coworkers, friends, business, etc.) is looking for a way to give back this year. Would you consider **ADOPTING A FAMILY**? All you need to do is contact Ali Curtis, CCCSOC's director of community outreach; she may be reached by phone at 562-4733, or by e-mail at alice.curtis@archny.org.

There will be an **ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BREAKFAST** next Sunday, November 30 from 8:00 to 11:30am in the church hall. All are welcome!

There will be **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION** on Friday, December 5 beginning at 12:00pm and concluding with benediction at 8:00pm. The sign-up sheet is in the narthex. At least two adorers should be present at all times.

Getting ready to buy the kids their coordinating Gymboree outfits for Christmas Eve Mass? **Support LITTLE LAMBS while you shop!** Shop for children's clothing from Crazy 8, Gymboree, and Janie & Jack online at www.littlelambs.onlinefundraiser.net, and Little Lambs will receive 10% of the proceeds.

Parishioners may sign up to receive notices from the parish via e-mail or text through **FLOCKNOTES**. You can even choose what notices you'd like to receive. There are two ways to sign up:

1. Visit flocknote.com/stmaryspj, and follow the instructions.
2. Text **sm pj** to 84576.

Donations of **non-perishable food items** for the **CHRISTMAS BASKETS** may be left in the containers in the narthex.

All are welcome to a **FREE COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER** on Thursday, November 27 from 1:00pm to 7:00pm at the Lumberland Town Hall in Glen Spey. For more information, please call Kezia Labuda at 344-7297.



Monday, December 8 is the **SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**, our parish feast day and a holy day of obligation. Mass will be celebrated at 9:00am and 7:30pm.

Please plan to join us for **CHRISTMAS CAROLING** on Thursday, December 11 at 4:15pm. We'll meet at Bon Secours Community Hospital and sing for the residents of St. Joseph's Place. Then we'll move on to Water's Edge, followed by pizza in the parish center meeting room. Finally, we'll visit some of our local neighborhoods. We expect to be done by 7:45pm. All are invited!



ST. MARY'S LITTLE LAMBS is looking for substitute teachers. Prior professional experience in education or childcare is preferred, but we also value the volunteer experience of catechists, scout leaders, VBS volunteers, etc. All substitutes will have to complete the Archdiocese's Safe Environment program as well as New York state background check and fingerprinting. We'd also like to thank everyone who came out to support our recent Burger King fundraiser. We raised \$228! These funds will go towards upgrading our fire alarm system to meet state standards as we continue to move forward toward becoming a state-licensed facility. Thank you for your support!

The collection for November 15/16 was \$5,213.
Thank you for your continued generosity.

Liturgical Ministers for November 29/30, 2014

MASS	LECTOR	MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION	ALTAR SERVERS
4:00PM	T. LOTHIAN	W. PONDS, J. SNELLINGER, M. REEVES	S. PHILLIPS, Q. KRENTZ, S. MOREJON
8:30AM	M. LATINI	N. ARROYO, T. MARION, M. ADAMCIK	T. LAMOREAUX, J. LEGATO, K. CULLENY
11:30AM	M. ESLING	E. DECKER, D. LIVINGSOTN, L. BUCZEK	A. BIRKENSTOCK, J. MALDONADO, S. MASCI