

EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY

DEC. 8, 2015 - NOV. 20, 2016



"IT WILL BE A HOLY YEAR OF MERCY."
-POPE FRANCIS

The Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy will be a special, holy year of focusing particularly on God's forgiveness and mercy. It is a year to mend differences with enemies, for conversions and receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Pope Francis wishes the Jubilee to be celebrated not only in Rome but in all local churches around the world.

One golden opportunity for us is to attend the **Advent Reconciliation Service** on Monday, **December 14 at 7:30** in the church.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 7
8:30 Alfred Blessing

Immaculate Conception
Tuesday, December 8
8:30 Heule Family
4:00 People of the Parish
7:00 Father John Kennedy

Wednesday, December 9
8:30 A.J. Rotonde

Thursday, December 10
8:30 Josephine Owens

Friday, December 11
8:30 Mary Christine Kelliher

Saturday, December 12
5:00 Jerry Slattery

Sunday, December 13
8:00 Mary O'Sullivan
10:00 A.J. Rotonde
12:00 Muriel & Tony Corso
6:30 Richard LaPage

The bread & wine for the month of December have been donated in loving memory of **Douglas Baker**.

The altar flowers for the month of December have been donated in memory of **Marco & Janja Kransnic**.

GIVING vs. GETTING

Today, December 6th is the Second Sunday in the Church season called Advent, a time of prayer and spiritual preparation for the celebration of Christmas and God becoming human, like us. It was, and is, the greatest act of GIVING imaginable. Why would God do such a thing? We might consider that throughout the Hebrew Scriptures God had tried to reveal to the Jewish people a loving, compassionate Self by means of prophets and holy men and women along with the call to follow a way of life based upon these two virtues of LOVE and COMPASSION. However, time and again, the people didn't "get it". It was just too hard, even though they now had Ten Commandments, and a history of miraculous ways God had helped and directed them.

The final option and ultimate GIFT of God was to actually become one with the people and to teach by example HOW to live a life of love and compassion. There would be no excuse now and all who followed this clear EXAMPLE in Jesus would be given a new chance, a "new life" and form a new Community, with all past failings forgiven. This new Community would have a lot of support from God, too, especially a promise that it would survive until the end of time and that God, Himself would be the "CEO" as well as it's Spirit guiding it and nourishing the members with sacramental PRESENCE in strength and forgiveness!

How could one say "no" to such a gift? Well, of course, living a life of love and compassion and being faithful to this no matter what, calls for inner strength and real discipline. It's a fight between "giving and getting." (Perhaps we've noticed that whenever we are sad or depressed it's generally because we are looking to receive in one way or another, and on the other hand, whenever we go out of our way for another in thought, word or deed and give of ourselves, we feel peace and joy.) Our basic selfish tendency is to always seek to GET and God calls us to move to a higher plane and to always seek to GIVE! Sometimes it's so hard that it may cost us the loss of a job, the loss of friends or even our life, as with Jesus.

Christmas calls us to look at what life is really all about. It is the reason why Advent is so very important. This a serious time to focus on our relationship with God in PRAYER and our COMMITMENT to our support community, the Church. The Kingdom of God is among us in lived love and compassion, in seeking to give rather than receive. This Kingdom makes a big difference for real peace and joy and in the end, is the fullness of eternal life for all of us. It IS well worth the effort!

St. Regina, CAPM

NEWS AND EVENTS

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL! Advent is here and Christmas is just around the corner. The sounds of Christmas are all around us. Perhaps your child has been busy with sports or other activities and hasn't had the time to sing with the Sacred Heart Children's Choir. This is an open invitation for all boys and girls in grades 2 through 8 to sing with the Children's Choir during the coming Christmas season. We'd love to have you join in on Christmas Eve and be part of a Sacred Heart tradition. Rehearsals take place in church on Wednesday afternoons from 4 to 5 p.m. We'll be preparing on December 2, 9, 16 and 23. Come celebrate the "Season" with us!

REMEMBERING OUR TROOPS AT CHRISTMAS If anyone would like to donate full size toiletries or snacks to our troops, one of our parishioners, Marie Grieco is preparing packages to send. Please drop items off to her house by December 5 or if you prefer to make a cash donation please make checks out to Marie Grieco or cash and mail to: 117 Medford Road, Dumont 07628

GRIEVING THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS For those who are grieving, the holidays can be a painful time. I will be showing the DVD on grief, called "CHANGED FOREVER...GRIEVING THE DEATH OF SOMEONE YOU LOVE". We shall meet upstairs in the parish center on Sunday, December 13 at 11:00. I will also have Care Notes appropriate for grief and the holidays. All are welcome. Please call me at 387--0080 or e-mail me at shpahaw@aol.com. Guests are also invited from outside the parish. Peace, Sr. Joanne

OUR VISIT TO EVA'S VILLAGE in Paterson on Saturday went very smoothly. Many thanks to all 37 volunteer cooks and to our enthusiastic team who went to serve lunch to over 200 people. A special thanks to Deacon Vincent and two of his friends from the Seminary who joined the group to help. Our next date to go to Eva's is January 9th and we'll be distributing the recipe and pans in a few short weeks. Please watch for a notice here in the bulletin or call Pat to let her know you'd like to cook (201-316-3546). Thanks again. Mary Ann Mastrangelo

CONFIRMATION SERVICE PROJECT Taylor Hoyng is collecting (new and unwrapped) toys for the Children's Aid and Family Services in Bergen County, NJ. Children's Aid and Family Services' mission is to preserve, protect, and when needed, provide for families. Motivated by compassion for vulnerable children, young adults, frail elderly and their families, the agency provides high-quality and innovative services that meet their social, educational and emotional needs. Collection boxes will be located at the Haworth Public Library and Sacred Heart Church. Gifts due by 12/11.

ANNUAL MEN'S WEEKEND RETREAT – FEBRUARY 19-21, 2016 The men of the parishes in the Northern Valley are invited to join their brothers in Christ on retreat the weekend of February 19-21, 2016. The retreat begins at dinner on Friday night and ends after lunch on Sunday, and will be led this year by Fr. Tom Scirghi, S.J. of Fordham University on the topic "We Dwell Within the Word of God". For further information and registration, please call Ed Delaney at (201) 768-9474, or go to www.loyola.org.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER The search is underway for Longest Married Couple in the U.S. Do you think you know who they are? Maybe it's your parents... grandparents... That nice couple who live down the street... Nominating a couple is easy! Just send their names, wedding date and where they live and your contact information to: wwmelmc2015@gmail.com. Nominations accepted until January 10, 2016. Winners will be announced February 2016 to celebrate World Marriage Day. Nominate a couple you know today!

SPECIAL NOON MASS and support group meeting for all who are affected by the disease of alcoholism will take place at Church of St. Mary, 20 Legion Place, Closter, NJ on Saturday, December 19, 2015 at 12:00 noon. Mass is offered for the support, healing and recovery of not only the man/woman directly infected with the abuse of alcohol or drugs, but also for anyone involved in the life of the alcoholic or drug addict. For information please call 201-768-7565. We will be collecting new packages of socks and all men, women and children's clothing. Any donations will be greatly appreciated.



SACRED HEART CHURCH

Advent/Christmas Schedule

Advent Reconciliation Service

Monday, December 14
at 7:30 p.m.

Bonfire & Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 20
at 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Liturgy

Thursday, December 24
Family Liturgy at 4:00 p.m.

Adult Choir Concert at 9:30 p.m.
Followed by Mass at 10:00 p.m.

Christmas Day

Friday, December 25
8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. & 12 Noon

HELPING THOSE IN NEED

1

EVA'S CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

Donation drive request for Eva's Village Christmas Day Gift Bags. Items needed: new socks, new hats and gloves, toothpaste and toothbrushes, shampoo and soap, hand lotion, and of course, prayers. Donation boxes will be in the lobby of the church.

2

GIVING TREE

Return the gift wrapped with the tag on the package by Sunday, December 13. Contact Linda in the parish center for more information.

3

HELP-A-FAMILY AT

CHRISTMAS

Thanks to all who signed up for this program. Please remember that gifts are due back at the rectory garage on December 15.

