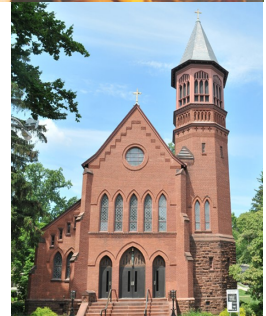




Church of St. Paul  
82 Lake Road West  
Congers, NY 10920

Church of St. Ann  
16 Jefferson Street  
Nyack, NY 10960



Pastor@spasaparish.org  
Parish Office:  
82 Lake Road West, Congers, NY 10920  
Phone: (845) 268-4464/-4465 Fax: -6790  
Current Email: office@spasaparish.org  
Websites: Stann-nyack.org, spasaparish.org

**Rev. Vladimir Chripko, C.O. Pastor**  
Rev. **Roman** Dominik Palecko, C.O. Assistant Pastor  
Rev. **Arogya** Raju, Parochial Vicar • Rev. **Peter** Bujdos, Parochial Vicar  
Rev. Maniraguha **Jean Paul** Ruriho, Assistant  
Rev. **George** Torok, C.O., Provost—Weekend Assistant

♦♦ ST. PAUL ♦♦		♦♦ ST. ANN ♦♦
<b>Deacons</b>	<b>Dominic</b> Buonocore <b>Mark</b> Czerwinski, Director RCIA	<b>Luke</b> Conroy, Director RCIA <b>Charles</b> DeGroat <b>Gerald</b> Fenton, Liturgy Coordinator
<b>Parish Office Hours</b>	9:00 am-3:00 pm Monday-Friday	11:00 am-12:00 pm Mon, Tues, Wed & Thurs.
<b>Religious Education Program</b>	<b>Mariana</b> Dalsass (845-268-5442) Email: religiouseducation@spasaparish.org Carmen Hernandez Thomas H. Sullivan	
<b>St. Paul Regional School</b>	<b>Mrs. Michelle Pitot</b> (845-268-6506)	
<b>Music Ministry</b>	<b>James</b> Russell	<b>Vincent</b> Green
<b>Sunday Masses</b>	<b>Saturday</b> 5:00 pm <b>Sunday</b> 7:30 & 10 am, 12:00 & 6:00 pm 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays of month: Spanish mass at 7:30 pm (July, August, September)	<b>Saturday</b> 5:30 pm <b>Sunday</b> 8:45, 11:30 am
<b>Weekday Masses</b>	Monday—Friday 6:30 & 9:00 am Saturday 7:30 am & 8:30 am	Monday—Friday 7:30 am & 12:10 pm Saturday 9:00 am
<b>Morning Prayer</b>	Monday—Saturday 8:45 am	
<b>Rosary</b>	Following Weekday 9 am Mass	Before 12:10 Mass
<b>Confessions</b>	Saturdays 4:00-4:45 pm Anytime by request.	Saturdays 4:30-5:15 pm Anytime by request.

#### Sacrament of Baptism

Baptisms are normally celebrated at St. Ann's Church on the first and third Sundays of the month and at St. Paul's Church on the second & fourth Sundays. For a Baptism at St. Paul's contact Deacon Dominic at the Rectory (845-268-4464); at St. Ann's, call Deacon Luke (845-323-5669). First-time parents of child to be baptized must register for a Baptismal instruction class, held in the Rectory, normally on the last Thursday of the month at 7 pm. Please direct all inquiries to Deacon Dominic.

#### Sacrament of Marriage

Engaged couples should contact the Rectory at least six months in advance in order to arrange for their participation in the marriage preparation program. Please email assistantpastor@spasaparish.org.

#### Anointing of the Sick

If someone is homebound or in the hospital, please notify the Rectory. Arrangements can be made for the sick person to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Holy Communion is brought to the homebound by our Ministers of Holy Communion.

*September 17, 2017 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*

<b><u>ST. PAUL'S CHURCH</u></b>		<b><u>ST. ANN'S CHURCH</u></b>	
<b>Saturday</b>	Sept. 16, 2017	<b>Saturday</b>	Sept. 16, 2017
5:00 PM	Catherine Entwistle	5:30 PM	Vincent Cacciola
<b>Sunday</b>	Sept. 17, 2017	<b>Sunday</b>	Sept. 17, 2017
7:30 AM	Gilda Zamparo	8:45 AM	For the People of the Parish
10:00 AM	Marybeth Geary (L)	11:30 AM	Alba Fiore
12:00 PM	Michael Costello		
6:00 PM	Concetta Cardone		
	<i>2nd Collection — The Poor</i>		<i>2nd Collection — The Poor</i>
<b>Monday</b>	Sept. 18, 2017	<b>Monday</b>	Sept. 18, 2017
6:30 AM	Souls in Purgatory	7:30 AM	Keith Taylor
9:00 AM	Gloria Mezzetti	12:10 PM	Tony Moschella
<b>Tuesday</b>	Sept. 19, 2017	<b>Tuesday</b>	Sept. 19, 2017
6:30 AM	Souls in Purgatory	7:30 AM	Manuel Vibar — Anniversary
9:00 AM	Helen D'Colyse	12:10 PM	Souls in Purgatory & the abandoned
<b>Wednesday</b>	Sept. 20, 2017	<b>Wednesday</b>	Sept. 20, 2017
6:30 AM	Roger Andanowski	7:30 AM	At the discretion of the celebrant
9:00 AM	Carmela Malerba	12:10 PM	Noreen T. Fitzgerald
<b>Thursday</b>	Sept. 21, 2017	<b>Thursday</b>	Sept. 21, 2017
6:30 AM	Rose McWilliams	7:30 AM	Estanislao Baltazar
9:00 AM	Matthew McCabe	12:10 PM	George Bryant
<b>Friday</b>	Sept. 22, 2017	<b>Friday</b>	Sept. 22, 2017
6:30 AM	Marie Eugenia Amadeo	7:30 AM	Bernard Hines Jr.
9:00 AM	Cash Fechino	12:10 PM	Violet V. Saulon (L)
<b>Saturday</b>	Sept. 23, 2017	<b>Saturday</b>	Sept. 23, 2017
7:30 AM	Adelaida Dacuma Garingo	9:00 AM	Harold & Charlotte Lynch
9:00 AM	Jess Caluncagin — 2nd Anniversary	5:30 PM	Tony Moschella
5:00 PM	Willilam Brunken & Basco Family		
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Sept. 24 2017</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Sept. 24, 2017</b>
7:30 AM	Lelis Loria	8:45 AM	Richard Stokes
10:00 AM	Joseph Leloup	11:30 AM	Theresa, Michael, Fred, Marie & Jeff Geoziano
12:00 PM	Rosemary & Edward Rigney		
6:00 PM	For the People of the Parish		
7:30 PM	<i>2nd Collection — Food Cupboard</i>		<i>2nd Collection — Food Cupboard</i>

These masses are still available. If you would like to schedule a mass to be said for your special intention, please call the Rectory.  
 St. Paul — Oct. 13 (6:30), Oct. 30 (6:30), Oct. 31 (All Saints Vigil), Dec. 7 (I.C. Vigil), Dec. 8, (12:00 & evening)  
 St. Ann — Oct. 2 (12:10), Oct. 5 (7:30), Oct. 6 (7:30), Oct. 9 (12:10), Oct. 10 (7:30 & 12:10), Oct. 11 (7:30)

# PARISH NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS



**TODAY**  
**Sept. 17**  
**8 am to 2 pm**  
**St. Ann's School**  
**Cafeteria**

On June 14 (World Blood Donor Day) **our blood drives at St. Ann's were recognized by Rockland County Executive Ed Day as the largest faith-based blood collection in the Hudson Valley area in 2016.**

**With your help, we can do this again TODAY!**

**Walk-ins are always welcome!**

Please tell your family, friends and (especially) your Facebook contacts about the drive and encourage them to join us to help save lives.

Thank you for your generosity! ***George Berry***

This is the sixth in a series of "one-minute" explanations of different aspects of the Catholic mass. They will appear here once a month.

## The Books

People often wonder why, at most Catholic churches, you won't find a Bible in the church. Yet you will find a number of books.

The two main books used during Mass are the lectionary and the Roman Missal. The lectionary is the book that contains the Scripture readings for every Mass. The lectionary is typically kept at the pulpit, or ambo, from which the Scripture readings are proclaimed.

Many parishes use another book that is carried in during the opening procession. This is the Book of the Gospels, from which the bishop, priest, or deacon will read the Gospel passage for that Mass.

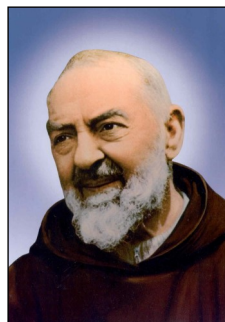
The other book that is prominent at Mass is called the Roman Missal. It's kept on the altar. This book contains the prayers used by the priest or bishop presiding at Mass. It also provides rubrics, or instructions, for the priest's gestures, movements, and even the volume of his voice. The word "rubric" comes from the Latin word for "red," because the instructions are typically in red type.

Finally, many parishes have books in the pews. These books allow the assembly to follow along with the Scripture readings and prayers, and many contain hymns that are often used at Mass. These books are called missalettes, as they are smaller, seasonal versions of the Roman Missal.

Taken from "A Minute in the Church: The Mass" by Gus Lloyd.  
 Copies are available at [www.GusLloyd.com](http://www.GusLloyd.com).

## FIRST EVER AMERICAN TOUR THE RELICS OF PADRE PIO

Sept. 17 & 18 — 7 am to 8 pm  
 St. Patrick's Cathedral in Manhattan



The Saint Pio Foundation and the Capuchin Friars of Pietrelcina have organized a first-time tour in the U.S. of the official relics of Padre Pio on the 130th anniversary of his birth. It's our hope that all the faithful can have the moving experience of venerating these most holy relics.

## SATURDAY — MASS FOR ST. PAUL USHERS



The ushers at St. Paul's will be recognized at the Saturday, Sept. 23, mass at 5 pm. A reception and general membership meeting will follow.

More ushers are needed at St. Paul's. If you would like to be part of this ministry, please call the rectory.

## Please Join Us . . .

Celebrant: His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan

## Columbus Day Mass and Parade

Monday, Oct. 9, 2017 | 9:30 am | St. Patrick's

To reserve free tickets, email  
[columbusday@archny.org](mailto:columbusday@archny.org) or call 646-794-2000



Sponsored by:  
 The Italian Apostolate  
 of the Archdiocese of New York



# FROM the RECTORY

## MASS BOOK & MEMORIALS

The **Mass Book** is open at both churches. Please stop by the St. Paul's Parish Office or St. Ann's Rectory to reserve a mass through December 2017.

If you'd like to bring up the Gifts at a mass for which you've scheduled an announced intention, please tell the usher.

You may also request that the '**Sanctuary Lamp**' in either church or the St. Ann's Chapel be lit for your special intention or in memory of a loved one. The lamp is a reminder of the Lord's presence in the Tabernacle. The candle burns for 1 week. Donation is \$25.

## EMAIL FOR THE PASTOR

Pastor@spasaparish.org

## BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deadline is Friday, the week before publication

Send to: Bulletin@spasaparish.org

## PARISH WEBSITES

For more detailed information about our parish:

Spasaparish.org

Stann-nyack.org

## AUGUST 2017 COLLECTIONS

	08/06/17	08/13/17	08/20/17	08/27/17
<b>St. Paul collection</b>	8,746	8,582	8,867	8,463
<b>St Ann collection</b>	4,077	3,889	3,868	3,798
<b>St. Paul and St Ann Parish Pay</b>	7,906			
<b>St. Ann Capital campaign</b>	349			

Thank you all for your generosity to our parish last month — and a special thank you to our Counting Teams, who tally the donations every week.



## CARDINAL'S ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL UPDATE

The 2017 **Cardinal's Stewardship Appeal** is at **93% of its \$153,000 goal** in our parish. We have collected **\$142,797, a total of 471 gifts.**

**We are so close!** It is only with **your help** that the *Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal* continues to be a beacon of hope for our brothers and sisters through our ministries and charities. **Answer the call and donate today!** God bless you.

## MEMORIAL INTENTIONS — WEEK OF SEPT. 17

**Sanctuary Lamp (St. Paul)**

**Sanctuary Lamp (St. Ann)**

**Chapel (St. Ann)**



Deadlines for Sunday Bulletin announcements:

(send to bulletin@spasaparish.org)

Sept. 24 bulletin — must be in by Friday, Sept. 15

Oct. 1 bulletin — must be in by Friday, Sept. 22

Oct. 8 bulletin — must be in by Friday, Sept. 29



## WE'D LIKE TO CONNECT WITH YOU!

Get important updates from the parish in a timely and convenient way. Choose what info you'd like to receive — via email or text message — from various ministries and groups.

To sign up:

Visit our parish at: [www.flocknote.com/STANNNYACK](http://www.flocknote.com/STANNNYACK)

Or text SACC or STPC to 84576 from your phone

## FORMED



Free Catholic movies, children's content, e-books, audios, and programs. Go to [Formed.org](http://Formed.org) and use our parish code **74FWM**

## PRAYER FOR THE SICK

*We pray that the sick of our parish, our relatives, and friends will experience God's healing love, especially:*

Mary & Brian Dwyer, Regina Caroli,  
Casey Clancy Smith, Noah Diz,  
Peter Allgor Jr., Rev. Francis J. Samoylo

Please call the rectory (268-4464) to be placed on the list of those who need prayers in time of illness, or call with the names of any sick family members or friends.

The name will remain on the list for 3 weeks and then be removed unless we hear from you that the person still needs our prayers.



# CHURCH of ST. ANN



St. Ann's LITURGY MINISTERS for Sept. 24, 2017



TIME	LECTORS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	ALTAR SERVERS	USHERS
5:30 PM	B. Garrison	G. Gebbia, B. Lynch	G. DelloRusso, B. Vital	Joe Arl, Frank G. Ric A.
8:45 AM	M. Standish	M. Dely, C. Stokes	E. Clarke, D. Dobson	Jack W., Jack B. Jules C.
11:30 AM		V. Leone, R. Campodonico	I. Cruz, G. Tangredi	Ed T., Ed G. James B.

## DEVOTIONS

Rosary  
Divine Mercy Chaplet  
Rosary & Divine Mercy

Monday through Friday  
Monday through Friday  
Saturday

11:45 am  
after 12:10 pm Mass  
after 9 am Mass

**First Friday** 7:30 am Mass; 8:00 am to 11:50 Exposition of Blessed Sacrament; 8:15 Morning Prayer, 11:15 Rosary; 11:50 Benediction; 12:10 Mass; 12:40 pm Chaplet of Divine Mercy; 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm Holy Hour, Exposition, Benediction.



## CELEBRATE STAR-FEST VIII

A concert to benefit

### One to One Learning

A nonprofit community outreach program sponsored by the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill dedicated to teaching English and providing support services for new immigrants.

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 17  
3:30 pm**

**Concert followed by  
a Mini Taste of Rockland**

(Nyack Seaport, Hudson House, Munno's and more.)

The hills come alive with the sound of beautiful music, Broadway show tunes, and more, echoing from the lawn of Marydell Faith & Life Center, 640 N. Midland Ave., Upper Nyack. The event features host John Patrick Schutz, award-winning cabaret singer and concert performer, and his friends.

**\$30 in advance; \$35 at the door**

When you register, your name will be placed on a list. Check in when you arrive. For more information, call 845-512-8176 or email [clpangel59@gmail.com](mailto:clpangel59@gmail.com). Register PayPal on [www.one2one-learning.org](http://www.one2one-learning.org). Make check payable to One on One Learning and mail to Sister Cecilia La Pietra, 640 North Midland Avenue, Upper Nyack, NY.



## SAVE THE DATE

**'OCTOGENERIAN' MASS**  
**OCT. 22 — 11:30 AM at ST. ANN'S**

If you're a parishioner of St. Paul and St. Ann's, 80 years old or above, we'd like to invite you to be our guest at a special mass in your honor. This annual mass to "Celebrate Our Seniors" has long been a tradition at St. Ann's. We'd love to have you take part. Please call Julie LePore at 845-358-1427 or St. Paul's Rectory, 845-268-4464.

## ST. ANN'S ADULT CHOIR

The St. Ann's Adult Choir sings each week at the 11:30 mass. New members are always welcome (no experience needed). Rehearsals begin at 10:15 each Sunday at the St. Ann's Convent (across the street at 150 Third Ave.). Note: No choir on Sept. 24.

**ST. ANN'S FOOD CUPBOARD** will hold their annual Mass on **Sunday, Sept. 24, at 11:30 am.**



**A reception** on the Rectory porch will follow and all are invited to come. Members will be available to sign up new volunteers.

The second collection will go toward the work of the Cupboard.

**SAFC** serves an average of 55 families a week

*Opens every Saturday of the year*

*Serves families in the Nyack area with care and respect*

*Offers nutritious foods including fresh produce from our Garden of Faith*

# CHURCH of ST. PAUL



## St. Paul's LITURGY MINISTERS for Sept. 24, 2017



TIME	LECTORS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	ALTAR SERVERS
5:00 PM	M. Lebron	J. O'Neill, S. Brennan	S. Byrne, A. Sawal E. Opiola
7:30 AM	R. Festa	S. Fergus Mellon, J. Salerno	K. & W. Ottenheimer
10:00 AM	F. Gemeinhardt	L. Diaz, K.. Butler	H. Caceres, R. Adriano
12:00 PM	J. Holmes	J. Holmes, B. Lynch	C. Devers, K. Crai
6:00 PM	A. M. Favorito	D. Zinna, C. McShane	M. Alfieri, W. Puehl

### USHERS

- G. Enriquez, V. Panzo, W. Rodriguez, J. Galeta, G. Holland (5 pm)
- A. Smith, V. Czajkowski, T. Totor, P. Bencivengo (7:30 pm)
- G. Spinney, H. Caceres, M. Katigbak, K. McAleer, R. Bean, S. Reynolds, S. Leto, V. Alfieri, A. Diaz (10 am)
- J. Granata, W. Hartl, W. Kelder, P. Dudgeon, A. Reale, A. Dibianco, R. Vivas, M. Reilly, E. Lockhart, F. Cifuni (12 pm)
- C. Linen, J. Cerreta, R. Aberion (6 pm)

### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

- Homebound** — K. Hartl, J. Granata, C. James
- Nyack Manor** — E. & A. Hage
- Tolstoy** — M. Vaillancourt

### DEVOTIONS

Morning Prayer	Daily	8:15 am
Holy Rosary	Daily	after 8:30 am Mass
Eucharistic Adoration	Wednesday	noon to 6:00 pm, Benediction at 6:00 pm
Our Lady of Fatima Novena	Wednesday	6:00 pm
Chaplet of Divine Mercy	Friday	after 8:30 am Mass



## Save the date!!!

### First Annual Baby Mass

**Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> – 10 am Mass**

Celebrating all the babies in the parish who were baptized from Sept. 2016 to Aug. 2017. Details to follow.

### WOMEN'S CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

The first meeting of our women's cancer support group for this school year will be Tuesday, Sept. 26. The meeting will be at 7 pm at St. Paul School, Kings Highway in Valley Cottage.

Please share this information with any friends who you feel would benefit from an understanding, supportive group of women with big hearts and broad shoulders!

Call Susan at (917) 509-9260 for more information.

### 300 CLUB WINNERS

Congratulations to the Lucky Winners of our August Drawing!

- #74 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Sherlock
- #120 Arnold Carolus
- #104 Colette Murphy
- #48 Jane Murphy

### WEEKLY at ST. PAUL'S

- Monday** Prayer Group, 7:45 pm (school)  
K of C, 7:30 pm, 2nd & 4th
- Tuesday** AA 5:30-9:00 pm (school)
- Wednesday** (see 'Devotions' on pg. 6)
- Thursday** Shawl making, 10 am (Parish Center)
- Saturday** Bible Study, after 9 am mass (school)  
AA Meeting, 6:30 pm & 8 pm  
Spanish Prayer Group (Parish Center)
- Sunday** AA Meeting, 5 pm, NA Meeting (school)

# MORE PARISH & COUNTY EVENTS

## BEREAVEMENT SESSIONS

Ministry of Consolation: St. Francis of Assisi, West Nyack, Tuesdays, Sept. 19 through Oct. 31, 7 pm to 8:30 pm. Please call the rectory at 634-4957 to register. If you have lost a loved one, come for discussion, understanding, and faith in healing.

## DOMINICAN SISTERS OF SPARKILL SPEAKER SERIES

Dr. Elizabeth A. Dreyer discusses "A Deeper Look at the Incarnation: A Foundation of the Christian Story," on Thursday, Sept. 28, at 7 pm, Dominican Convent, 175 Route 340, Sparkill. Free, but must register at [sparkill.org/events](http://sparkill.org/events) or 845-359-4136.



### Lend Your Voice to St. Ann's Children's Choir

The St. Ann's Children's Choir will continue to provide music at the monthly children's mass during the coming year. Children in grade 3 and above are eligible to join.

The Children's Mass is held on the second Sunday of the month at 11:30 Mass.

#### The commitment:

Practice is held on Wednesday evenings, 6:00 - 6:45 the two Wednesdays before the Children's Mass.

Warm-up practice at 11:10 before the Children's Mass.

If you are looking for a way to involve your child/ren in parish life, consider this ministry. Practice begins on September 27<sup>th</sup> for our first Children's Mass on October 8<sup>th</sup>.

We are also looking for more student lectors to proclaim the readings at the Children's Mass. Children in grades 6 and above, who are fluent, expressive readers will be considered after a brief audition.

Contact Janet Fenton: 845-353-0793 for more information.

**Deacon Dominic Buonocore** has retired from his administrative role of Parish Manager, and he will no longer be supervising the operations at Gethsemane Cemetery.

Dominic has been an asset to our community for many years, playing an important role in the many operations that keep our parish up and running. Please join us in extending warm wishes for a blessed and healthy enjoyment of this new stage of his life. God bless you, Deacon Dominic!

## APPLE PICKING — CATHOLIC ROCK WEST

Let's get into the autumn spirit! Apple picking is one of the best things to do. Don't miss it. Young adults in their 20s and 30s are welcome. Bring your friends. Sunday, Sept. 17, 2 to 5 pm at the Orchards of Concklin in Pomona. Optional mass afterwards at 6 pm at St. Paul's in Congers. RSVP at the Catholic Rock West Facebook page.

## ST. ANN'S USHER SOCIETY

Join us! Be of Service ..... Be an Usher. We have openings at all masses, especially the 11:30 am mass. It's a wonderful way to serve God, your church, and your fellow parishioners. Men, Women, and High School Students are welcome. Call Guy Gebbia 914-953-3370 [gebco@optonline.net](mailto:gebco@optonline.net).

## JOIN THE ROCKLAND COUNTY CATHOLIC CHOIR

The Rockland County Catholic Choir invites YOU to join US as we begin our 26th year of bringing music to Rockland and beyond. Rehearsals are every OTHER Sunday at 6:30 pm at the Convent of St. Ann's, 150 Third Avenue, Nyack.

The only requirements are a love of singing and wanting to make new friends. All ages, high school through 99, are welcome.

Concerts in December and June highlight our year. For more information, contact our conductor, Scott Walters, at [Scottthetenor@yahoo.com](mailto:Scottthetenor@yahoo.com) or at 845-558-1225.

## SISTERS OF ST. DOMINIC AUTUMN FESTIVAL

Saturday, Sept. 30, 10:30 am to 4 pm. 496 Western Hwy., Blauvelt. Flea market, bouncy house, games & food.

## FREE MEDICAL CARE

If you can't pay for healthcare, the **Health Lifeline** clinic offers free medical services including: **medical evaluations and treatments, complete medical exam, blood tests, wellness guidance**

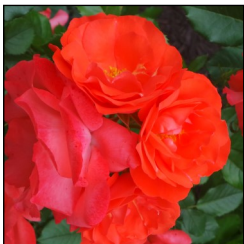
Call today to apply

**HEALTH LIFELINE (845) 358-5433**

Dr. Lloyd Hamilton, 150 Third Avenue, Nyack

**Appointment required** Must be 18 years old or older





## The Saint Ann's Rose Garden

Tucked into the little space before the breezeway that connects St. Ann's Church with the Rectory, the rose garden may not even be noticed by many as they hurry to mass on Sunday morning. But if you take the time to stop here and visit for a bit, you'll be rewarded by a beautiful display of roses from early June through mid-September. For many parishioners, the garden carries memories of those who carefully tended its roses over the years: Anne Marie Ventriglia, Fr. Emil Bettley, Fr. Cresus Fernando, and many others, who gave their time to water, nurture, and prune the roses to maintain this lovely part of St. Ann's.

*Photos by Chrissy Lundgren  
and Liz O'Brien*

## Mary, The Miraculous Rose



The beauty and grace of the rose have long been associated with the Blessed Virgin Mary, who in one litany is called "the Miraculous Rose," the rose without thorns.

St. Ambrose tells this story which explains the reference: In the beginning, in Paradise, roses grew without thorns. But after the sin of Adam and Eve, the roses took on thorns as a sign of humanity's fall from grace. Yet, they kept their beauty and fragrance as a sign of

our eternal destiny with God in Heaven.

Our Mother Mary, who alone from the first moment of her existence was filled with grace and preserved from original sin, was therefore called the thornless, "Miraculous Rose."

And when we pray the Rosary, we take a walk through Mary's rose garden, filled with beautiful, fragrant roses,

## Miracles of the Roses

Roses frequently play a role in stories of the saints as God sends a special message.

It was the miraculous presence of roses in winter that confirmed the testimony of St. Juan Diego to the bishop that Our Lady of Guadalupe had appeared to him.

And a story is told of Saint Diego of Alcala, who was accused of taking food from the monastery for the poor. When he was forced to open his cloak, where he was indeed hiding bread, miraculously, there appeared only roses.

And then there's St. Theresa of Lisieux, who promised that after her death she would "let fall a shower of roses." Pope Francis tells that once, exhausted from greeting thousands of pilgrims, he decided he could go on for only two blocks more. But he asked St. Theresa to send a sign if God still wanted him to continue. As he approached the end of the second block, he came upon a man holding a single white rose. The Pope blessed it and started to turn away to give his last few blessings. "Don't you understand?" the man said, smiling. "It's the sign you've been waiting for!"



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



*"The rose she had offered was truly an enchanted rose, which would bloom until his twenty-first year. If he could learn to love another and earn their love in return by the time the last petal fell, then the spell would be broken. If not, he would be doomed to remain a beast for all time."*

Squirrels can't love God: they automatically achieve their God-given purpose by following their instincts. Not so with us. We have to choose to achieve it, and that's love.

There is a gripping scene in the animated Disney film *Beauty and the Beast*, when the Beast is about to confess his love to Belle. Cogsworth the Enchanted Clock looked on with eager anticipation. He knew that if Belle pledged her love to the Beast, presto! The evil spell that hung over the castle would finally be broken.

As she clasped hands with the Beast, Belle asked permission to gaze into the magical mirror in order to see her father. Viewing her father in obvious distress, she dropped the mirror and gasped at his plight. "I've got to go to him!" she sobbed.

The Beast responded, "Go to him, then."

Cogsworth later walked into the room with an air of triumphant expectancy as he declared to the Beast, "I must say that things are going swimmingly." His mood changed, however, when the Beast uttered the most significant line in the film. "I let her go."

"You did what?" Cogsworth gulped, knowing that letting Belle go was taking a colossal risk.

If she didn't come back, there might never be another chance to break the horrible curse on the Beast and his kingdom.

So why did he let her go?

"I had to," the Beast said. "I love her."

That is what Christ did for us by creating us with spiritual freedom. He has loved us so much that He took the risk of letting us go, of not forcing us to live in His friendship and abide in His Kingdom.

We, like Belle, are free to choose how we will respond to that love — by building our own self-centered kingdom, or by committing ourselves to building up His Kingdom of self-forgetful love.

*[Adapted from "Hot Illustrations,"  
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### The Rose in Poetry

*The Irish poet Joseph Plunkett (1877-1916) saw Christ's great love reflected everywhere in creation. When he gazed at a rose — or any other part of this universe — he saw not only the individual beauty of that flower, but also the intensity of God's care behind the rose and behind the universe itself.*

#### I See His Blood Upon the Rose

I see his blood upon the rose  
And in the stars the glory of his eyes,  
His body gleams amid eternal snows,  
His tears fall from the skies.

I see his face in every flower;  
The thunder and the singing of the birds  
Are but his voice — and carved by his power  
Rocks are his written words.

All pathways by his feet are worn,  
His strong heart stirs the ever-beating sea  
His crown of thorns is twined with every thorn,  
His cross is every tree.

### Soul Exercises

#### Finding Spiritual Health Through Contemplative Silence

Are you looking for a way to increase inner peace, decrease stress, value the gifts of life more intensively, and deepen your relationship with God?

Find all this and more in Silence:

- Silence is the great revelation
- Silence is transforming

Join us for a 4 session group exercise on pursuit of contemplative silence.

There will be two sessions, both at Hallett in Sparkill:

- 2017: October 8 & 22 and November 5 & 19 from 6 – 7:30 pm
- 2018: January 7 & 21 and February 4 & 18 from 6 – 7:30 pm

Father George Torok, CO is the Spiritual Guide.

This is NOT a lecture series – you will be doing exercises to increase your awareness of silence.

Seating is very limited and you MUST reserve your place:

Email [redirector@olshtappan.com](mailto:redirector@olshtappan.com) or call 845-627-0627 x112