



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  
Email: office@spasaparish.org  
Website: spasaparish.org You Tube: Spasa Parish

**Rev. Vladimir Chripko, C.O. Pastor**

Rev. **Roman** Dominik Palecko, C.O. Assistant Pastor

Rev. Narisetty **Arogya** Raju, C.O., Parochial Vicar • Rev. **Joseph** Kumar Narisetty, Parochial Vicar

Rev. Maniraguha **Jean Paul** Ruriho, Assistant

Rev. **George** Torok, C.O., Weekend Assistant

♦♦ ST. PAUL ♦♦		♦♦ ST. ANN ♦♦
<b>Deacons</b>	<b>Dominic</b> Buonocore	<b>Luke</b> Conroy, Director RCIA <b>Charles</b> DeGroat (Retired) <b>Gerald</b> Fenton, Liturgy Coordinator
<b>Parish Office Hours</b>	9:00 am-3:00 pm Monday—Thursday	
<b>Cemetery/Assistant to Pastor</b>	<b>Lisette</b> Diaz Lisette.sor3@gmail.com	
<b>Religious Education Program</b>	(845-268-5442) Email: Carmen.sor2@gmail.com Carmen Hernandez Lissette Diaz	
<b>St. Anthony-St. Paul School</b>	<b>Dr. Anna Adam, Principal</b> (845-623-2311); St. Anthony, grades 2 to 8 <b>Jessica Perez, Asst. Principal</b> (845-268-6506) St. Paul, PreK/UPK, Kindergarten, Gr. 1	
<b>Music Ministry</b>		<b>Vincent</b> Green
<b>Sunday Masses</b>	<b>Saturday</b> 5 pm <b>Sunday</b> 7:30 am 10 am, 12 pm, 6 pm	<b>Saturday</b> 5:30 pm, 7 pm (Spanish) <b>Sunday</b> 8:45, 11:30 am
<b>Weekday Masses</b>	Monday—Saturday 6:30 & 8:30 am	Monday—Saturday 7:30 am
<b>Streamed Mass</b>	Monday—Saturday 7:30 am Sunday 8:45 am	Every day on YouTube Channel SPASA Parish
<b>Confessions</b>	Saturdays 4:00-4:45 pm Anytime by request.	Saturdays 4:30-5:15 pm Anytime by request.

#### Sacrament of Baptism

To schedule a Baptism at St. Paul or St. Ann please call the rectory at 845-268-4464. Baptism instruction classes are held the last Thursday of each month at 7 pm at the St. Ann School in Nyack. Please call the rectory to register.

#### 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.

*Dec. 6, 2020 2nd Sunday of Advent*

<u>ST. PAUL'S CHURCH</u>		<u>ST. ANN'S CHURCH</u>	
<b>Saturday</b>	Dec. 5, 2020	<b>Saturday</b>	Dec. 5, 2020
5:00 PM	Irene Basak	5:30 PM	Virginia & Fred Cifuni and Barbara Cernuda
<b>Sunday</b>	Dec. 6, 2020	<b>Sunday</b>	Dec. 6, 2020
7:30 AM	Marie (Sis) Ritacco (L)	8:45 AM	Marcia Sanon
10:00 AM	Catherine Stack	11:30 AM	Joseph & Maria Dattilo, Betty Delfino and Theresa Fiola
12:00 PM	Michael & Rose Randazzo		
6:00 PM	Finan & Taddei Families		Second Collection for the Poor
<b>Monday</b>	Dec. 7, 2020	<b>Monday</b>	Dec. 7, 2020
6:30 AM	Ramon Climentina Salido	7:30 AM	Vasil Rusnak (L) — In Thanksgiving Lawrence Brown
8:30 AM	Henry & Mary Barrett and Family	5:30 PM	Maria Ramirez, Dr. Diana Ramirez & Daphne C. Ramirez
6:00 PM	Vittoriana & Checci Zanella		
<b>Tuesday</b>	Dec. 8, 2020 Immaculate Conception	<b>Tuesday</b>	Dec. 8, 2020 Immaculate Conception
6:30 AM	Mary Stephanie De Vera (L)	7:30 AM	Donovan, Carroll & Norris Families
8:30 AM	Mary Gormley (L)	12:10 PM	Maria Ramirez, Dr. Diana Ramirez & Daphne C. Ramirez
12:00 PM	Pauline Kraus	5:30 PM	Patricia & Charles Westwater and George Bryant
7:30 PM	Michael Mendez		
<b>Wednesday</b>	Dec. 9, 2020	<b>Wednesday</b>	Dec. 9, 2020
6:30 AM	Pat Klingler (L)	7:30 AM	Marie-Edith Coicou
8:30 AM	Elsie Goeller		
<b>Thursday</b>	Dec. 10, 2020	<b>Thursday</b>	Dec. 10, 2020
6:30 AM	Rosemary Cashman	7:30 AM	Bernard Kingston
8:30 AM	Ben Fuentes — 2nd Anniversary		
<b>Friday</b>	Dec. 11, 2020	<b>Friday</b>	Dec. 11, 2020
6:30 AM	John Griffin	7:30 AM	In Thanksgiving
8:30 AM	Frances Doherty (L)		
<b>Saturday</b>	Dec. 12, 2020	<b>Saturday</b>	Dec. 12, 2020
6:30 AM	Hank Ledden	7:30 AM	Ariane Bazile (L) — In Thanksgiving
8:30 AM	James McLaughlin — 2nd Anniversary	5:30 PM	The Hernandez Family (L)
5:00 PM	Leon Skiba — 2nd Anniversary		
<b>Sunday</b>	Dec. 13, 2020	<b>Sunday</b>	Dec. 13, 2020
7:30 AM	Assunta Cecere Sbordone, William Thomas & William James Sbordone	8:45 AM	The Buckley Family (L)
10:00 AM	Joseph Porrovecchio	11:30 AM	The Diaz Family (L)
12:00 PM	D'Elia & Foti Family		Second Collection for Religious Retirement
6:00 PM	Louise Repetti		

Now you can now find out which masses are available for your special intentions and schedule them online. Go to our parish website, SPASAPARISH.ORG. On the homepage, click on the Mass Intentions box for instructions and access to the "Mass Intentions Booking" page. You may also reserve the sanctuary lamp at either church or at St. Ann's Chapel. You can make your offering by credit card. Or you can call the parish office (845-268-4464) to schedule masses the traditional way and make your offering by credit card, cash, or check.



## HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY, DEACON DOMINIC DEC. 6, 2020

Here in America, we associate Saint Nicholas with Santa and Christmas. But there was much more to this Saint. This 4th century Bishop of Greece was known for selling off his own items and then giving the money to the poor. Many stories of his generosity exist. Here in Congers at Saint Paul's Church & now at Saint Ann's in Nyack, we are fortunate to have Dominic Buonocore as one of our Deacons. But there is much more to him than being our Deacon. Dominic was born on Dec. 6, 1940, St. Nicholas' Day, inheriting the qualities we attribute to this Great Saint. Many stories of his generosity exist. Retired, his legacy is ongoing.

Dominic, a humble man, is generous to a fault — whether it was lavishly catering many parish celebratory events with food that was as aesthetically pleasing to the senses as delectable to eat; or paying for a meal while dining with someone seeking his sage advice.



With his wife, Grace, Deacon Dominic Buonocore cradles a baby he has just baptized.

He has the gift of making others feel comfortable in his presence. His generosity overflows into freely giving his whole self to anyone. Never being judgmental, he maintained an "open door policy" in his office at the Rectory. Often, without hesitation, he still makes himself available to others in his free time. He is always a phone call away in case of an emergency and goes the extra mile. He is known to travel to celebrate weddings, anniversaries, baptisms, and funerals.

Being one who generously gives of himself led Dominic to mentoring others. Many have been inspired and were encouraged by

him. To his credit, it resulted in a positive change in their lives. He always has a comforting word for anyone who needs it. He embraces all with a generous amount of good vibes and an unbiased mind. The residents and staff at Nyack Ridge, looked forward to his weekly celebration of the Eucharist with them. Showing concern for the homebound, he became responsible for the formation of the Eucharistic Ministers of the Homebound.

Dominic positively impacts our parish life. He is a pillar of our community. In 1980, the Boy Scouts informally started a food cupboard. In 1992, under Dominic's leadership, the Food Cupboard at St. Paul's officially became incorporated. Dominic went out into the local community soliciting donations from businesses for the Food Cupboard. Today, every first and third week of the month, roughly 120 families reap its benefit. This Thanksgiving some 200 baskets were distributed, which included donations from parishioners, as well.

In our parish, the religious education of our children is primary. Upon the retirement of Sister Annette, Dominic offered to be Director of Religious Education. In true form, he revamped and rejuvenated this program. He extended it by offering a summer curriculum. Once, he transformed the gymnasium into Noah's Ark complete with life-size animals, aka, the children. Another summer, Moses crossed the Red Sea with the Israelites under streams of water from multiple garden hoses. To reinforce lessons taught in class, a Mass was officially designated The Children Family Mass. Each week, before the Gospel, all children were invited to come forward. His homilies were directed towards them, using props, asking them questions, actively bringing them up to be "actors," and



### The Second Week of Advent

## "The Coming"

. . . Advent marks something momentous: God's coming into our midst. That coming is not just something that happened in the past. It is a recurring possibility here and now. And thus Advent is . . . a yearly opportunity for us to consider the future, second Advent — the promised coming of God's kingdom on earth.

~ Watch for the Light, Orbis Books, 2001

### Dec. 8 — The Feast of the Immaculate Conception



#### Masses at St. Paul's

Dec. 7 (Vigil) 6 pm

Dec. 8 6:30, 8:30, noon & 7:30 pm

#### Masses at St. Ann's

Dec. 7 (Vigil) 5:30 pm

Dec. 8 7:30 am, 12:10 & 5:30 pm

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# FROM THE RECTORY

## PARISH OF ST. PAUL & ST. ANN STAY CONNECTED with LATEST NEWS & UPDATES



### OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL

#### SPASA PARISH

Mass streamed Monday thru Saturday  
7:30 am; Sunday 8:45 am. Archived videos.



### OUR WEBSITE

#### SPASAPARISH.ORG

Photos, bulletins, mass schedules, events,  
and other parish information.



### OUR MASS SCHEDULING APP

#### SPASAMASS.ORG

View available masses and schedule one online  
for a loved one or your special intention.



### ONLINE GIVING TO OUR PARISH

#### SPASAPARISH.CHURCHGIVING.COM

Arrange for online giving. Support our parish  
and manage your giving online.



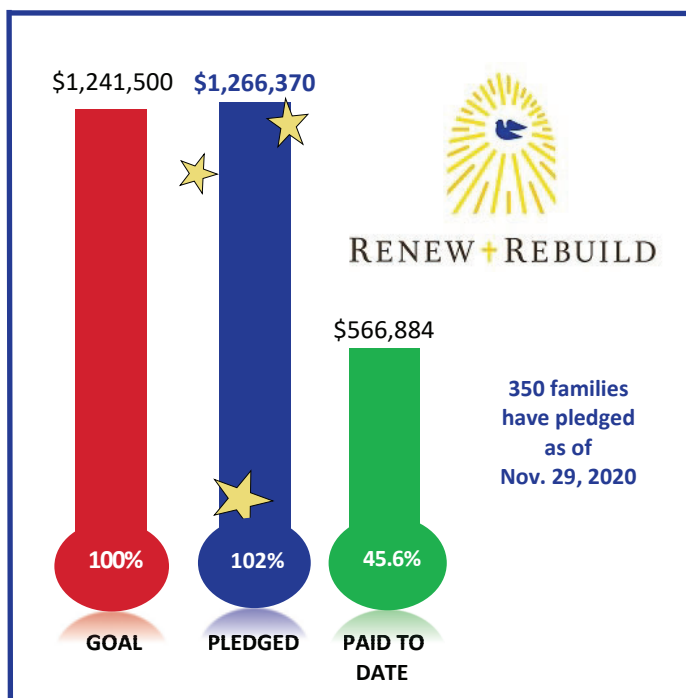
### FLOCKNOTES

Sign up to receive important  
emails or texts from the  
pastor and the Archdiocese.



**STPAULS.FLOCKNOTE.COM/**  
or text STPC to 84576 from your  
phone

**STANNYACK.FLOCKNOTE.COM**  
or text SACC to 84576 from your  
phone



### Are You "SURE" You're a Registered Parishioner?

Many times we meet people at church who attend mass, take part in events, or perhaps even have received their sacraments here. We're so very glad you're with us and part of our community. But that alone does not make you a parishioner. To be a member of the parish you have to REGISTER. Registering is very easy. You can register online at [spasaparish.org](http://spasaparish.org) or at the parish office. It only takes a few minutes.

Everyone over the age of 18 is encouraged to register. Even if you're an adult who received all your sacraments here as a child and still attend mass here, you need to register.

**Why register?** First and foremost, it's very important to register so we can serve your needs when, for example, you need a sponsor certification letter for Baptism or Confirmation. Also, to receive an acknowledgment of your donations for your income tax filing, you need to be registered so we have an official record of your giving over the year.

**So, please join us officially and register with the parish so we can meet all your needs now and in the future!**

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR SPONSOR CERTIFICATION LETTER

In order to receive a sponsor certification letter from the Parish of St. Paul & St. Ann, you must be an ACTIVE, REGISTERED PARISHIONER for 6 MONTHS. IF YOU ARE NOT OFFICIALLY REGISTERED AND DO NOT ATTEND MASS, YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE A LETTER.

The role of a sponsor is to lead a Christian life in a manner that faithfully fulfills the obligations of the Catholic faith. A sponsor must be living the Catholic faith and be able to be part of the sponsored person's life after the Baptism, who can guide him/her spiritually.

A sponsor must also:

- Be at least 16 years of age
- Have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist & Confirmation
- If married, must be married according to the laws of the Catholic Church

## October 2020 Collection

	10/04/20	10/11/20	10/18/20	10/25/20
St. Paul and St. Ann	10,400	10,540	10,431	10,929
SP and SA Parish Giving & We share	4,648 + 11,515			

### 300 CLUB WINNERS

Congratulations to the Lucky Winners  
of our **OCTOBER DRAWING!**

- |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| #039 Carol Iuzzolino   | #150 Josephine Sullivan |
| #147 Karin Lancellotti | #203 Keith Brennan      |

## Prayer for the Sick

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

Evan Dalsass,  
Marinela Aberion Aguas,  
John Barch, Emilia Raphael-Olivier,  
Carolyn Pagliuca,  
Michael Doria, Noah Diaz, Manuel Tucay

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.



## Memorial Intentions — Week of Dec. 6

Sanctuary Lamp (St. Paul)

Rom Pizzarelli (L)

Sanctuary Lamp (St. Ann)

Chapel (St. Ann)



## SPASAMASS.ORG

### THE MASS BOOK IS OPEN

You may now schedule masses for your intentions through May 2021

You can find available masses and schedule them online at [SPASAMASS.org](http://SPASAMASS.org). For the time being, you'll have to make the following adjustments:

Note that there is no longer a 12:10 pm mass at St. Ann's.

For a St. Ann's Saturday 7:30 am mass, select the St. Ann's Saturday 9 am box

For a St. Paul's 8:30 am mass, select St. Paul's 9:00 am box

For a St. Paul's Saturday 6:30 am mass, select the St. Paul's Saturday 7:30 am box

**Mass Intentions** When we face the death of someone, even a person who is not Catholic, to have a Mass offered for the repose of his or her soul and to offer our prayers are more beneficial and comforting than any sympathy card or flower arrangement. To have a Mass offered for a birthday, anniversary, or special need is appropriate, beneficial, and appreciated. You can find out what masses are available and schedule them online at [SPASAMASS.ORG](http://SPASAMASS.ORG) or call the office, 845-268-4464.

### EMAIL FOR THE PASTOR

[Pastorspasa@gmail.com](mailto:Pastorspasa@gmail.com)

### BULLETIN DEADLINES

Friday — the week before the bulletin is distributed at church  
Please send submissions to [bulletinspasa@yahoo.com](mailto:bulletinspasa@yahoo.com)

## Our Beloved Dead

Please remember in your prayers our deceased fellow parishioners, family, and friends.

William Godel  
Dominica Zecca  
Susan Harvey  
Rosette M. C. Sanon  
Carol Ann Newman  
Lucena A. Fuertes, Rosemary Cashman



## GENERATIONS — IT'S HERE!

The three generations of the Holy Family — Jesus, his parents, Mary & Joseph, and his grandparents, Ann & Joachim — are the subject of this work of art commissioned for the outdoor shrine we've planned for St. Ann's



Church in Nyack. We're more than half way toward our goal of \$50,000. So far, generous donors have given **\$31,780** toward this project. **Please support and help finish this shrine.** Please send your donation, marked "statue," to St. Paul & St. Ann's Parish, 82 Lake Rd. West, Congers, NY 10920.

## SPaSA Parish

SUBSCRIBE ON  YouTube  
AND HELP OUR PARISH REACH 1,000 SUBSCRIBERS.

MASS IS AVAILABLE ON YOUTUBE 7 DAYS A WEEK  
AT 7:30 am MONDAY thru SATURDAY  
8:45 am on SUNDAY

**PARISH COUNCIL** Enrico Aberion, Ann Marie Blackwood, Hernan Caceres, Guy Gebbia, Vicki Gill, Marie Josee Joseph, Karin Lancellotti, Julie Lepore, Marie Lorenzini, Dennis Lynch, Bernadette Masiello, Greg Moreau, George Strayton, Keith Taylor

**FINANCIAL COUNCIL** William Dailey, Carlos Hernandez





## The GIVING TREE

Please return your UNWRAPPED gift for the needy to our St. Paul or St. Ann **GIVING TREE** by **DEC 15**.

You may donate wrapping paper and/or gift bags for use by the recipient organizations

If you have questions, please call the Rectory Office at 845-268-4464.

Photo of St. Ann's Giving Tree by Marie Olivier.

## St. Paul's Food Cupboard

The Christmas distribution for our Rockland County neighbors will take place Saturday, Dec. 19, in the St. Paul School parking lot.

Non-perishables can be brought to the collection box in the foyer of the church any time. **Bring non-perishables, hams & turkeys, to the school parking lot on Friday, Dec. 18, between 4:30 & 6:00 pm.** Non-perishables also include all types of potatoes, fruits, vegetables, rice, stuffing, soup, and sweet treats.

We thank our parishioners for their support during this holiday season.



## St. Ann's Food Cupboard

The St. Ann's Food Cupboard will offer its Christmas Baskets **Saturday, Dec. 19, from 7:30 am to 10 am.** Home deliveries will not be possible this year. **Volunteers** are welcome to help on Friday, Dec. 18, between 11 am and 1 pm in the St. Ann's School cafeteria.

Donations of turkeys or hams can be dropped off during this period. Donors are also encouraged to send a check made out to: St. Ann's Food Cupboard, 16 Jefferson St. Nyack, NY 10960. (The estimated cost of one family's holiday meal is about \$40.)



### CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

We'll announce details as soon as they're finalized. We hope to have the same masses as last year for Christmas Eve & Christmas



**Christmas flower donation envelopes** are available in our church and in your monthly donation packet. Please make your offering in honor or in memory of someone. We will remember each person and YOU in special way in all our Masses during Christmas time.



## Spiritual Transformation Through the 12 Promises of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Father George Torok will present a series on the 12 promises of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

This will be an interactive workshop composed of scripture readings, music, and reliving the gospel in fantasy.

Each of the 12 promises will be the focus of one session, once per month throughout 2021 as follows:

January 3, February 7, March 7, April 11, May 2, June 6, July 11, August 1, Sept 5, October 3, November 7, December 5

These sessions will be live streamed originating from Hallel, 175 Route 340, Sparkill. Due to the need for social distancing we must limit the number of attendees so prior to each session, we will ask all participants to register if they want to be physically present at Hallel. However all sessions may be viewed live visiting [www.spiritwellsprings.com](http://www.spiritwellsprings.com) or Father George's Facebook page.

Registration is required. Please visit: <http://spiritwellsprings.com/sacred-heart-promises/>

*Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord*

### ST. PAUL & ST. ANN 300 CLUB

Consider purchasing a 300 Club number as a gift  
It makes a great Birthday gift or Christmas gift  
\$26 semi-annually \$52 Annually



Four winners monthly, \$50 each  
Big Drawing twice a year, December & June  
Four prizes: \$1,000, \$350, \$100 & \$50

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

St. Paul & St. Ann Parish  
82 Lake Road, Congers, NY 10920  
845-268-4464

# PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT

## Dear Friends,

We end 2020 very differently from how we started. Who would have thought we'd spend this year battling a pandemic? Hopefully, we're now sensing a light at the end of the tunnel, but the difficult months have taken their toll. You can see one aspect of this in the report below: our income fell short of our expenses by nearly \$37,000. No one's fault, certainly, and, if anything, we're keenly aware that it's been only your loyalty and support that have kept St. Paul & St.

Ann's going as the vibrant community it is. All I can ask is that you KEEP IT UP — or try to CATCH UP with your weekly donations if you've fallen behind — or, if you're able, STEP UP and make an extra sacrificial donation at Christmas time. We may have been socially distant, but there's no doubt that our spiritual relationship with Christ — and with each other — is stronger than ever. We look forward to the coming year with hope and gratitude. God bless you all, *Father Vladimír*

### St. Paul - St. Ann Church Summary of Revenues and Expenditures 8/31/2020

<b>Revenue</b>	<b>8/31/2020</b>	<b>8/31/2019</b>
Regular Sunday Collection	\$ 737,343	\$ 786,031
Votive Shrines and Candles	17,851	25,874
Holy Days Collections	125,409	135,214
Religious Education	70,457	75,547
Fundraising	112,118	177,752
Donations and Bequests	-	50,000
Rental Income	5,500	5,500
Extraordinary	65,519	100,661
Salary Reimbursement	96,827	45,000
Other (Perqs, Poor Boxes, Etc)	67,378	54,085
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 1,298,400</b>	<b>\$ 1,455,665</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 608,850	\$ 624,757
Office Expenses	121,824	121,255
Church Expenses	38,416	51,249
Religious Education	12,816	21,498
Utilities	87,765	104,348
Maintenance	93,829	106,512
Insurance and Sewer Tax	82,515	85,122
House Living Expenses	32,163	34,190
Interest to ADNY	32,155	36,810
Cathedraticum and Regional School Support	162,420	166,061
Fundraising	59,022	80,576
Prior Period Adjustment	-	4,804
Program Expenditures	3,400	5,741
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 1,335,175</b>	<b>\$ 1,442,924</b>
<b>Net Operating Surplus (Unrestricted)</b>	<b>\$ (36,775)</b>	<b>\$ 12,741</b>
Restricted Contributions	\$ 535,268	\$ 148,480
<b>Net Operating Surplus</b>	<b>\$ 498,493</b>	<b>\$ 161,221</b>





## ST. ANN'S FOOD CUPBOARD THANKSGIVING DISTRIBUTION

(Below) Phyllis welcomes our guests with her Fall flower display; the Nyack Girl's Tennis Team hands out the turkeys with "Happy Thanksgiving" greetings.



St. Ann's Food Cupboard offered turkeys and all the trimmings to 292 families on Saturday morning, Nov 21. Thanks to all our volunteers and parishioners who contributed to this safe and successful Thanksgiving event.



## ST. PAUL'S FOOD CUPBOARD THANKSGIVING DISTRIBUTION

(Above) On Nov. 21, volunteers from St Paul's Food Cupboard, led by Don Paoli, prepared holiday grocery bags for our Rockland County neighbors. Father Roman blessed the many, many bags before they were distributed.



*Continued from page 3*

sending them back to their parents with a symbolic reminder of the Gospel. This, along with the Children's Choir, served to make this weekly mass children-centered. Like a Shepherd, he tended to the needs of his flock. In addition, parishioners are always given much food for thought when he speaks. His sermons offer us something to challenge our way of thinking!

Lest we forget, Gethsemane — a burial site at Rockland Lake was in total disrepair. Dominic saw this as 'Holy Ground' and again he generously took it upon himself to restore its dignity. Roads were paved, courtesy of donations made by local contractors whom he solicited. The lawn was regularly manicured. Waste was timely removed. More significantly, Dominic was now on call 24/7. With the blessing of his wife, Grace, he made himself available to the bereaved, to funeral directors, and to extended family members. At this difficult time in one's life, he became a bea-



con of light as he calmly walked families through this challenging process. Stories can be told of his comforting support, his outreach, and his generosity to people, regardless of whether they were members of our parish. In 2011, through his intervention, three children who were tragically drowned in the Hudson were buried in Gethsemane.

As Sister Stephen Gerard eloquently said: "Deacon is a jolly man with a twinkle in his eye; always wearing a kind smile of an understanding grandfather, bearing the welcome of an Italian Sunday dinner. He stands tall, always available, a problem solver, a friend to the end. His spirituality shines forth in acts of service to God's people in our parish, whenever or wherever he is called upon. Thank you, Deacon, for your loving service."

**Happy Birthday!**

Photos courtesy of  
Antoinette Cacciola

**There was a man sent by God,  
His name is Dominic.**



## SACREDNESS

### Surrounding and Within Us

#### Part 2

Let's continue reflecting about Sacredness, the topic we started last week, with a couple practical views and examples.

#### The Church and Sanctuary

The church building itself is a sacred place of worship. It is the place of prayer, liturgical gatherings and, in our Catholic tradition, also the ark — the tabernacle where Jesus abides permanently in the sacrament of the Eucharist.

We have historical churches, usually of earlier date, with a railing between the sanctuary and the nave, the part of the church where the people pray and worship. The reason? The church itself has its own **sacredness**, but the sanctuary's is **even greater!**

However, the Second Vatican Council (in the early '60s) offered a vision for the future of churches without this railing, to emphasize the idea of supper where we are all sitting together and dining around the table with no physical barriers and separation. As a result of this decision, existing railings were removed from most churches.

While the intention of the Council calling for openness was very good and spiritually meaningful, the practical issue of differentiating the sanctuary so it would be experienced and treated reverently as the holiest part of the church was more problematic. It is not only non-religious visitors or non-Christians who may not recognize the special nature of the sanctuary, but we ourselves (Catholics) seem to be facing a fading ability to distinguish the difference. Therefore, some churches or cathedrals with a frequent flow of tourists, place between the **sanctuary and the nave** golden poles connected with red ropes to designate the area of sacrifice which we cannot enter. We need to be reminded of the liturgical place priority.

*Every diocese has a Liturgy Office committee as an advisory group to keep an eye on the implementation of the liturgical code when a new church construction or a remodeling project is in process. At least, a different wall color, flooring material and quality must be used in the sanctuary to separate it from the rest of the church.*

#### Ministers and Dress Code

How we dress in church should be another way to recognize the sacredness of where we are. When you come to Rome, for instance, you might go through the security checkpoint (sadly so important today), and in addition you meet an usher welcoming you to the beautiful church and reminding you of the dress code (covered shoulders, etc.).

Also, many parishes still keep a tradition where Eucharistic ministers actually wear liturgical vestments in the sanctuary to highlight that they are carrying and distributing the real Jesus.

The acknowledgement and proper regard of the sacred at church is important for all of us. But be sure to look after the little children. While it may be difficult to explain in words what sacredness is, or what the Eucharist is, or how to behave reverently in church, with the help of our example they will get a sense of that sacredness and an understanding what is appropriate and what is not.

*From Fr. Roman*

#### FREE CONCERT FOR LIFE — DEC. 12

Come to a free Concert for Life at the Marian Shrine in Stony Point at 1 pm on Saturday, Dec. 12, to benefit the homeless moms and babies at the Good Counsel Home in Spring Valley.

The concert features Megan Weston and Michael Fennelly, world-acclaimed soprano and pianist. Fr. Joe Doran, SDB, will be honored for his prolife work.

Although there is no entrance fee, a free-will offering will be taken up. If you'd like to take an ad in the concert journal to further help the work at Good Counsel, please contact [rachelminister1@aol.com](mailto:rachelminister1@aol.com) or call 845-492-6709. The Marian Shrine is at 174 Filors Lane in Stony Point, 10980.



The Byzantine Rite Catholic Churches were permitted to keep the iconostasis — the wall composed of icons to separate the sanctuary from the nave of the church.

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**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>**  
FIDELITY - (ST. JOSEPH)

**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>**  
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