Dear Parishioners,

A recent e-mail I received from the Diocese of Rochester was a suggested article to put in the parish bulletin. I have chosen to take the same information and make it a little more personal in this letter.

People are used, at this time of year, to getting a new set of offertory envelopes. Mine arrived a few days ago for February 12 through April 2. The number of parishioners who receive envelopes are 290. Last week 106 placed their gift to God in such an envelope in the Sunday collection. What we shall do is purge our list for envelopes by taking out those who have not donated in the past year. Those names will be put on our inactive list. If they call missing the regular mailing we can restore them to the active receivers of envelopes. It is very helpful to our finances as a parish for people to use their envelopes. Better yet, we offer at OLOS the opportunity to use electronic giving. At the parishioner’s request, their designated offering is deposited into Our Lady of the Snow’s bank account. Please call the parish office if you would like this arrangement.

This coming week parishioners will receive their Family Contribution Statement for 2016. We are required to send this information to those who have donated to our parish in the last year, regardless of the amount. Thank you to all who have faithfully returned to God a sacrificial offering at Mass. The number of families who gave to their church this past year were 183. The number of families who gave zero amount of funds (they receive no letter) are 221.

Here is where I quote the e-mail I received:

“But here’s something that hasn’t changed in generations --- and it’s the reason Father can’t talk about money enough. The average share of our income that we U.S. Catholics give to our Church (including not just weekly parish giving, but special collections and other Church-related charities) is a mere 1% --- the same as it’s been as long as anyone’s been counting.

That’s the lowest percentage of giving of any major religious denomination in the United States.

The truth is that fewer than 1 in 3 Americans who identify themselves as Catholic attend Mass on a “regular” basis (defined as at least once a month). And of those regular attendees, only 30% give to the support of their parish. Of those, many are likely to toss the same 2 or 3 crumpled dollar bills into the collection basket as their parents did before them.” (“What your pastor won’t tell you about parish giving” by Joanne Mc Portland, January 9, 2017, Al-eteia, org)
We Welcome You

No matter what your present status is in the Catholic Church;
No matter what your current family or marriage situation;
No matter what your past or present religious affiliation;
No matter what your personal history, age, background, race or color;
No matter what your own self-image or esteem;
You are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved and respected at Our Lady of the Snow

The Churches of St. John, St. Joseph, St. Patrick

Parish House/Office
2667 Hamilton St.
Weedsport, NY 13166

Office Hours: Mon. – Fri. 9am to 12pm
315-834-6266
Fax, 315-834-6278
Fr. Bill’s Cell-phone, 315-694-6273
E-mail: wstjosep@dor.org
Website: www.ourladyofthesnow.org

Welcome New Parishioners! Please introduce yourselves to the Parish Staff and register as soon as possible.

Parish Staff
Rev. William G. Darling, Pastor
Cheryl Farrington, Parish Secretary
Jerome Brabant, Bookkeeper
Christina Macholl, Religious Education Administrator
E-Mail at ChristinaMacholl@dor.org
Joan McCadden, Social Ministry (phone no. 626-2043)
Diane Case, Parish Council Chairperson
Ed O’Neil, Finance Council Chairperson

Sacrament of Baptism: Please call the parish office for a copy of Policy for Baptism at Our Lady of the Snow and schedule an appointment with the pastor.

Sacrament of Reconciliation Weekly at:
4:15-4:45 p.m. Saturday, St. John’s, Port Byron
7:45-8:15 a.m. Sunday, St. Patrick’s, Cato
7:30-8:00 pm Saturday, St. Joseph’s, Weedsport

Sacrament of Marriage: Couples are to meet with the parish priest at least six months in advance. Pre-Cana attendance is required.

Please pray for our Sick & Homebound

Shannon Abate, Joseph Benedict, Bob Child, Kyle Clifton, Sue Corwin, Mary DeBiaw, Bill Donofrio, Josephine Falsey, Mary...
Recent News about the Catholic Ministries Appeal

We seem to be on the final stretch of the CMA 2016 – 2017. As of the report of January 24, 2017 we have 110 donors who have pledged $17,795. A total of $15,933.67 has already been paid which leaves a balance due of $2,861 in pledges to be paid. In light of our parish goal of $19,765 we have reached 90.03% of what is needed to meet the target. There are yet some parishioners who have not given. We remind everyone that any pledge, in any amount is appreciated and makes a difference. If my math is correct we await $2,861 to meet the target of “making our CMA”. Thank you to all who have given. Pray for our success, even our going over the top.

St. Patrick’s Project Food Pantry

To replace our food drive for the baskets before Christmas for the underprivileged, we have a new idea. Each month starting in Feb. we will announce a food of the month. Soup is the food for Feb. It should eliminate the pressure just before Christmas and also include many of our summer parishioners. Near Christmas we will fill in the extras. Please check expiration dates.

St. Joseph’s School will be hosting The Flavors of the Fingerlakes again this year on February 3rd from 6-10pm at the Falcons. Come and enjoy food from many area restaurants, raffles and silent auction items along with music provided by The Honky Tonk Hindooz. Tickets are $25 in advance or $30 at the door. For more information please call the school at 253-8327.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Begins for 2017

Our time for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is an ideal time to pray for the Church. The Eucharist and the Catholic Church are one and the same. It would be appropriate to pray for our particular church, Our Lady of the Snow Parish. At St. Joseph’s Church on Sunday, January 29, 2017 adoration begins at 12:00 PM and concludes with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 4:00 PM? Please sign up in the back of the church to cover an hour of prayer for our parish. This invitation is extended to all three churches: St. Patrick’s, St. John’s and St. Joseph’s.

Public Policy of the Diocese of Rochester

Each February, our diocese calls on all Catholics in our diocese to ‘speak’ in a very public way about issues of Social Justice. This year, the issue regards a bill/resolution to allow persons 18 years of age or older who have the ‘capacity’ and have been diagnosed with a terminal illness likely to cause death within 6 months to request and receive a prescription from a physician for lethal drugs which they can self administer in order to cause death.

Catholic Social teaching provides us with guidance that tells us that ‘life is sacred from conception to natural death. As Catholics we oppose this legislation and ask you to sign to following petition:

: ‘Governor Cuomo/ NYS Senator, NYS Assembly Member
I strongly oppose any legislation to legalize assisted suicide in New York State. Allowing doctors to prescribe a lethal dose for patients to end their lives devalues human life. There is also significant potential for abuse. I urge you instead to focus on improving palliative care, to ensure compassionate, comprehensive care and pain management for those who are terminally ill. We need to accompany rather than abandon them.

You can go to our diocesan website for more information at dor.org and choose the words ‘Public Policy’ on the initial page to do further research.

Celebrate Catholic Schools Week

National Catholic Schools Week is celebrated from January 29 through February 4 in 2017. The theme is “Catholic Schools : Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service.” Through Catholic education, children benefit from the religious guidance, prayer, and the support the parishes provide to build a strong faith-based community. By focusing on faith, knowledge, and service, the children learn the importance of family, community, and serving others.

Our Lady of the Assumption Knights of Columbus Council 10709 extends a public invitation to the 19th Annual Grand Knight’s Valentine Day Dinner Dance at the Sunset Restaurant on Saturday, February 11, 2017. Cash bar at 6:00 followed by family style dinner at 6:30pm. Music provided by ‘Moondance’. Tickets are $30.00 per person or $55.00 per couple. Call Paul Davis at 380-3494, Matt Salemi at 252-6740, Andy Roche at 246-1495 or stop at Sam’s Shoe Service.

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