

## IN GOOD CONSCIENCE

When Pope Benedict visited Britain in September of 2010 and spoke to politicians in Westminster Hall, he pondered government's power to compel its citizens against their consciences. Recalling St. Thomas More, the patron of statesmen and politicians, he said: "Each generation, as it seeks to advance the common good, must ask anew: what are the requirements that governments may reasonably impose upon citizens, and how far do they extend? By appeal to what authority can moral dilemmas be resolved?"

The answer for him and for us is God's authority, obeyed and exercised in us by our conscience.

Our conscience, according to Pope Benedict, St. Thomas More, and Catholic teaching, operates according to reason informed by and conformed with the wisdom of God. As Marc D. Guerra writes in his article, *Thomas More's Correspondence on Conscience*, ". . . [I]n contrast to the modern claim that the individual can create *his own moral values*, More saw the 'formation of conscience' as 'the fruit' of an education 'in the truth.' Far from being the arbitrator and creator of its own moral order, the human conscience is in need of conforming to the truth. For More, the formation of conscience is the result of a long process in which one discovers a preexisting created moral order. . . ." In short, our conscience doesn't determine moral truth for us; it discovers God's moral truth, and strives to make right judgments accordingly. We look to God to see what it means to be human, what it means to be good, what it means to be married, what it means to be parents, what it means to be responsible.

Current political actions at the national and state level threaten to impose upon the Catholic Church and her members requirements that violate the moral order and our well-formed consciences. They include decisions by the Obama administration ordering Catholic hospitals and educational institutions to provide insurance that will provide sterilization, contraception, and even some abortion-inducing drugs in violation of Church teaching; and withholding previously awarded funding to the highly regarded US Bishops' Migration and Refugee Services for its work with victims of human trafficking because of its refusal to counsel abortions.

They also include pending NJ state legislation that will legalize and equate same-sex marriages with traditional marriage, and actions here and in other states that will penalize religious charities and organizations, including health-care, educational and adoption agencies that maintain opposition to same-sex marriage, contraception, sterilization and abortion on moral grounds. In addition, some in the NJ Legislature are working toward the suspension of the statute of limitations for civil cases involving sex abuse, which might be arguable if it were to be applied equally to all public entities and all denominations, agencies and institutions, and not, ultimately, to Church alone.

For St. Thomas More, acting in good conscience brought him into conflict with the political power of his day and demanded the sacrifice of his life. As it becomes more and more difficult to practice faithful citizenship, may we exercise our freedoms and rights, and make choices and decisions, with the courage and conscience of St. Thomas.

Sincerely,  
Fr. Paul

We encourage our parishioners to celebrate daily mass with us. Join 100 other fellow parishioners. Masses are at 7 and 9 AM Monday through Friday and at 9 AM only on Saturday.

Fr. Kevin

## WHY CATHOLIC? JOURNEY THROUGH THE CATECHISM

### **Begins the week of February 19<sup>th</sup>**

Instead of "giving up" something this Lent, let God give you something! God is constantly reaching out to us with love and forgiveness. Allow God to touch you this Lent by giving Him some of your time. Join with the rest of the parish in participating in *Why Catholic?* Small Communities. Sessions are based on the Bible and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. This year's theme is: ***Christian Prayer: Deepening My Experience of God.*** You need not have participated last year to join this year.

For more information or to join a group, call the Molloy Center 973-779-6200 during the week or email: [erusso@stphilip.org](mailto:erusso@stphilip.org). If you participated last year, confirm your continued participation by contacting your group leader. Don't let this opportunity pass!

### PARISH SUPPORT

We thank you for your sacrificial giving in last weekend's collection. Envelopes used collected \$10,895.00 and loose cash received was \$1,509.00 for a total of \$12,404.00.

### WORLD MARRIAGE DAY 2012

World Marriage Day is an annual event honoring the vocation of marriage and family. This celebration affirms the life-long, sacramental commitment of husbands and wives and gives witness to the positive impact of their vocation on their families, communities, the Church and our Nation!

Please join us as we celebrate World Marriage Day, February 12, 2012 immediately following the 10 AM Mass in the auditorium.. Refreshments will be served. For further information please contact [sveliky@optonline.net](mailto:sveliky@optonline.net) or call 973-779-8332

### ST. PATRICK DINNER DANCE

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Saint Patrick's Day Dinner Dance will be held Saturday, March 3, 2012, at 7 PM, in the school auditorium. This event sells out quickly so order your tickets early! For information see Doreen Germain, Joan Herrmann, or Donna Scancarella. To purchase tickets call Donna Scancarella at (201) 321-4376. See insert in this weekend's bulletin for more details.



## MINISTRIES & ORGANIZATIONS

### BIBLE STUDY

The Bible Study group will Not meet on Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>. It will begin again on Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 AM as usual. All are welcome!

### FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 10, 2012 in the Molloy Center at 7 PM.

### WIDOW AND WIDOWERS

The Monday Night Group will meet in Cerullo Hall at 7:00 PM on February 13 and 27.

The Recently Bereaved Group scheduled for Wednesdays will meet on February 8 and 22 at 7:30 PM.

### PRIME TIMERS – 2012 TRIPS

**March 22**      **Music of Italy and dinner**  
Featuring Emil Stucchio & The Classics  
Place: Oakville, CT  
Cost: \$80.00 Payment due Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>

**June 21**      **The River Rose Cruise**  
The River Rose is an authentic New Orleans paddle wheeler and departs from Newburgh, NY. Heads south offering a 2 hour narrated tour, Bannerman's Island, Catskill water aqueduct, Storm King Mountain, Village of Cold Spring and West Point.

Lunch at the River Grill  
(located on the Hudson River)  
Cost: \$77.00

All trips are first come first serve so sign up early.

Our next trip to Atlantic City will be to the Resorts Casino on Thursday, February 23, 2012. The bus leaves from the parking lot on Valley Road at 10:00 AM.

Call Barbara Rzepecki at 973-278-1566 to reserve a seat in the bus. Parishioners 21 years and over are welcome to join us. You must bring your player card or a photo I.D. (driver's license, a valid passport, etc.) to collect the casino bonus.

### ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Boy Scout Troop 21 will host their annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, February 5th from 8 AM – 12 PM. It will be held at the St. Philip the Apostle Auditorium. Tickets are available at the door.



## FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Classes for Grades 1-5 meet on Monday from 4:15 - 5:15 PM.

Grades 6-8 meet on Mondays from 6:45 - 8 PM.

*Please be on time for class, as lateness is a disruption.*

### CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

All Candidates are expected to attend 8:00 AM Mass and then proceed with their class to the Molloy Center. Class will be dismissed at 10:15 AM. The remaining class dates are:

February 12, 2012  
March 4, 2012      April 22, 2012

### "SOUPER" BOWL SUNDAY

Mrs. Scancarella's confirmation class will be collecting donations at the 5:30 PM Mass this weekend at the 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, and 12:00 Noon Mass on February 5, 2012.

The class is collecting donations as a service project and all donations will be going to St. Peter's Haven in Clifton where they will benefit the homeless.

### FR. ENGLISH CENTER: FOOD COLLECTION

Our Fr. English Collection will take place next Saturday and Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>. This month we are collecting **school snacks, cookies, pudding and fruit**. Items should be left in the vestibule of the church.

### 2013 MASS BOOK OPENED

Our Mass Book for 2013 is now opened. Masses are \$10.00 each. Masses are limited to four per family; one weekend and three weekday masses.

## DIOCESAN NEWS

### DIVINE MERCY CONFERENCE

The Divine Mercy Conference this year will be held March 24, 2012 from 9 AM - 5:30 PM at the Cardinal Spellman HS, Bronx, N.Y. Among the guest speakers this year are Fr. Benedict Groeschel, Scott Hahn, Msgr. James Lisante, Abby Johnson and featuring Linda Santo, a witness to the sanctity of life. The special speaker this year is Archbishop Dolan of New York. A bus is available at St. Philips lower parking lot; call Elaine Vigilante 973-472-9019 for reservations.

We received a check for \$2,296.80 which represents the proceeds of the mission appeal preached in your Parish for the benefit of the Xaverian Missionary Fathers. We thank you and the parishioners for the very generous response given to the needs of the Missionary Church.

St. Francis Xavier Foreign Mission Society

Thank you for your wonderful generosity to Eva's Village. Your support helped to further our mission of feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, treating the addicted and providing medical care for the poor. Eva's Village



The generosity of spirit and gifts for our needy families was so very much appreciated. The giving of each family through the many beautiful gifts each chose for the client were wonderful acts of kindness. You can be sure that our prayers and the prayers of the families you reached with your giving will follow your parishioners throughout the years.

Catholic Family & Community Services.



Last year's Palms may be left in the vestibule of the Church.



**"Let perpetual light shine upon them."**

Lawrence Michelotti, Sr. Rene Donohue



**"Pray for one another, that you may be healed."**

*James 5:16*

Joey Sudo, Marissa Klele, Kristin Gasnick,  
Joseph A. Mathias, Jr., Marie Rupp, Joan Hughes  
Betty Welsh, Baby Colin Michael Lill-Jones, Jill Festa

*We are happy to include members of our family and friends on a monthly basis*

**"In all circumstances, hold faith as a shield..."**

*Ephesians 6:16*



USN SPC MP Richard H. Foy III, Capt. Manuel Casanga, Jr., Lance CPL Charles J. Ajjan III, Lance CPL Samantha A. Struller, Lt. Col. John F. Kidd, Maj. Scott C. Crum, Lt. Col., Sgt. Jarrett Robertazzi, Capt. Patrick J. Flynn, Capt. Meghan M. Flynn, Sgt. Major Richard Bamant, Sgt. John Lomax, Master Chief Robert Benton, Lt. Col. Scott Daigneault, Lance Cpl. Gregory Butera, Spec. Gerald Squirrellock, Sgt. Paul Cimino

## FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jb 7:1-4, 6-7; 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23; Mk 1:29-39

### MASSES FOR THE WEEK

#### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2012

- 8:00 Mary Leanza
- 10:00 Phyllis Flanagan  
Mary Ruggiero  
Michele Wojcik  
Helen Tuttle  
Marylou Hauser
- 12:00 All the People of the Parish

#### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2012

- 7:00 Nicholas Fillippone
- 9:00 Monica Fabiano

#### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2012

- 7:00 Phyllis Flanagan
- 9:00 Grace Moffei

#### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2012

- 7:00 Grace Deptula
- 9:00 May Rogers – 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

#### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2012

- 7:00 Kristia Nugent
- 9:00 Robert & Muriel Pelletier

#### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2012

- 7:00 Neal Zagra
- 9:00 Helen Kenny

#### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2012

- 9:00 AM Fred Siwec
- 5:30 PM Al DiMartino  
Dr. Joseph Kennedy  
George White

#### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2012

- 8:00 All the People of the Parish
- 10:00 Phyllis Flanagan  
Raffaella Pallotto  
Marylou Hauser  
Ann Albright  
Deceased members of the Marino & Mokis Family
- 12:00 Edward Chmura – 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



THE SANCTUARY CANDLE IS LIT THIS WEEK  
IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
JOHN BELFI  
FROM HIS MOTHER