

JANUARY 22, 2017

From the Pastor

The financial report contained in this week's bulletin has been ready for a little while but other events and efforts upstaged it till now. Many, many thanks to all who have been faithful in their financial support of the parish; your efforts have made our continued ministries possible. I know that there are some who would like to do more financially but their straightened circumstances make it impossible. They continue to support the parish by the donation of their time or their prayer or both.

This year we were blessed to receive two extraordinary gifts from parishioners who remembered us in their wills. I could recommend their example to anyone concerned about the financial future of the parish.

You will notice that we're doing our best to hold down and even reduce our expenses. I can't thank enough all the people who accomplish so much as volunteers. Without the generous offering of their time, the most precious commodity, how would any parish survive? May God repay them a hundred-fold!

I would again recommend a change in Catholics' attitude toward giving. Instead of asking how much the parish needs in order to pay its bills, we might try to think of our contribution as a thank-offering to God for the blessings we have received. The bible commands us to give away 10% of our gross incomes to charity. I do not think that that should go to the parish. A quarter of that—the equivalent of one hour's wage for every 40 hours of work—or even 20% of the 10% would be a remarkable change in resources for the parish and make it possible for us to consider needs beyond our own. Moreover, is our goal to get enough to pay our bills? Or should we be thinking of others? What about the missionary efforts of the Church, or about inner-city parishes in our own dioceses? Or what about expanding the services we are able to provide even within our parish and local community?

I must admit that my own *first* desire is not so much that people should give more but that more people should give. The burden is always falling on the same faithful souls. Still, we can all ask in the words of Psalm 116:12, "What can I render unto the Lord for all his benefits towards me?"

Fr. Bodah

The Rhody Catholic Organization (RCO) at the URI Catholic Center will host a special event to kick off the new semester. The Worship Group from St. Luke's in Barrington will present a concert featuring songs from their new album, "Listen Above." The concert will feature URI sophomore Emily Turtle, as well as Kelly Botelho-Caton on lead vocals; with music and lyrics by David J. Lauria. The concert will be held on Wednesday, January 25, at 7pm at the URI Catholic Center (90 Chapel Way, Kingston). All are welcome, both students and members of the wider community. The concert is free, but CD's will be available for only \$10.00 (all proceeds help provide clean water for children in developing countries). For more information, email rhodycatholic@gmail.com.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Sunday, January 22nd

8:50-9:50am Grades K, 1 & 2 (FGC)

10:00 Children's Liturgy of the Word and St. Francis' Little Friends Child Care

10:50-11:50 Grades 3-6 (FGC)
Grade 7 (upper room FGC)

Wednesday, January 25th

4:15-5:15 Grades 3-6 (FGC)

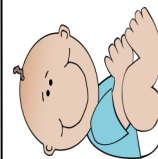
7:00-8:15 Grades 7-8 (FGC)



St. Francis' Little Friends-

Child Care for children from **infant to 4 years old** is available every Sunday during the 10am Mass in the lower church.

**CALL BARBETTE CULLEN OR
DIANE CASTRO AT 792-8684 FOR
MORE INFORMATION.**



DID YOU KNOW? This past summer we installed a baby changing station in the women's rest room in the lower church, a welcome addition for our families!

**BLESSING OF
THROATS**
*in honor of the
FEAST OF ST. BLAISE*
on Friday, February 3rd
at the 7:00am Mass

This Week

Monday, January 23

7:30am Adoration (SF)

Tuesday, January 24

7:40am Finance Council Meeting (MCCR)

7:00pm Bible Study (↓FGC)

Wednesday, January 25

1:00pm Women's Group (Rectory)

5:30pm Bereavement Group (Rectory)

Thursday, January 26

7:00pm Men of St. Joseph (FGC-Foyer)



SHARE YOUR FAITH SUPPORT THE COLLECTION FOR THE CHURCH IN LATIN AMERICA



Next week, we will take up the Collection for the Church in Latin America. Please prayerfully consider supporting this collection, which assists programs that strengthen the faith in Latin America and the Caribbean. Your gifts help share the faith by providing lay leadership training, catechesis, priestly and religious formation, as well as other programs. To learn more, please visit www.usccb.org/latin-america.

MSGR. CLARK SCHOOL

Admissions Open House at Msgr. Clarke School Sunday, January 29th 1-3pm (Pre-K thru Grade 8) Also Welcoming Little Angels ages (18 months - 3 yrs)

Tuition Assistance Informational Seminar at Monday, January 30th 6:30pm

Representatives from FACTS Tuition Management and the Diocese of Providence will be here to answer your questions and explain how the process works. Open to current families and anyone considering enrolling in Catholic School.

MEET AND MINGLE : AT ST. FRANCIS TODAY, Sunday, January 22

(Helen Bouchard Hall/downstairs in the church)

Msgr. Clarke Students and Families at 11am (after 10 Mass)

*Hear testimonies of students about the benefits of Catholic education...

*Enjoy refreshments and fellowship...

*All invited!

Thank you for your generous contributions to last week's special second collection for The Catholic University of America! Your support enables Catholic University to provide an education based in the Catholic intellectual tradition to the next generation of leadership for our Church and nation.

You can learn more about your impact, and the University, at collection.cua.edu.

BABY SHOWER

Next weekend is the last weekend to help the Social Outreach Committee with the **Baby Shower 2017** that they are sponsoring. Please help by bringing unwrapped items such as diapers, toiletries, sleepers & toddler clothes. Please place donations at the entrance of the church and chapel. The agencies benefitted are: The Gabriel Project, The Pregnancy Center of Westerly, and Right to Life Services, Inc. Any questions, please contact Anne Cooney at 783-7034.



HOST FAMILIES NEEDED for NET Ministry Team

NET Ministries, a national evangelization team consisting of 12 young adults will be leading our Confirmation Retreats again this year. They will be in our diocese for the week from March 24-31 leading retreats. Our parish is responsible for providing lodging during their stay in Rhode Island. Team members travel with their own sleeping bag so they are just looking for floor space, hot showers and a meal. Spending time with these young adults is a real blessing! If you are interested in hosting some of them, please contact Diane Castro at our Religious Education Office by phone (792-8684) or email (castro_stfrancis@verizon.net).



The date for our next **High School Youth Night** has changed to Sunday, January 29th due to the conflict with Super Bowl Sunday. Our very own Praise Music Ministry will lead us in an hour of adoration

starting at 7pm in the Church. Confirmation candidates are required to attend but all parishioners are welcome to join us!

STEBENVILLE EAST YOUTH CONFERENCE

We have registered for 26 spots for teenagers who are current 8-12th grade students for the 2017 Steubenville East Youth Conference to be held on July 14-16 at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell. If you are interested in participating in this powerful retreat, registration forms are available in the Religious Education Office or on our parish website, <http://stfranciswakefield.com/youth-ministry/>