

Cluster and Community News

STEWARDSHIP OF PRAYER Holy Father, we praise and glorify you! Help us to continue to follow your radiance in the midst of our often troubled world.

Dear Parishioners:

I hope and pray that you had a very Blessed Christmas and that the New Year will bring many blessings and graces to all of you.

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, Christ revealing Himself to the nations and to all of us. Just as the Magi brought gifts to the Christ Child, we too are called to offer our gifts, especially the gift of our love to the Christ Child each day.

This past week we visited with Father Tony via telephone. During the course of that conversation we related to Father Tony of the prayers that are being offered for him from the members of our cluster in addition to those being offered by many others. Also, in the course of the conversation we asked Father Tony about people writing directly to him rather than sending mail to him through the parish office. Father Tony was very open to having his address placed in the bulletin. So, I am very happy to share that with you. You can write to him at: Father Tony Oelrich, 8901 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Springs, MD 20903. You are also welcome to continue to write to him and forward your messages or letters to St. Mary's Rectory and we will forward them to him on a regular basis.

I ask you to please continue to pray for Father Tony during this time and if you feel so inclined, drop him a note or a message.

May the Blessings of the Christ Child be yours,

Fr. Bob Rolfes, Administrator

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR 2015

January

Universal: That those from diverse religious traditions and all people of good will may work together for peace.

Evangelization: That in this year dedicated to consecrated life, religious men and women may rediscover the joy of following Christ and strive to serve the poor with zeal.

Youth News

YOUNG LIFE CASTAWAY CAMP All 9-12 grade students are encouraged to attend a weekend retreat put on by the St. Cloud Diocese on March 20-22. This year's theme song is Thrive by Casting Crowns. The total cost is \$135, a \$60 deposit is due February 1 to register. The remaining \$75 is due February 15.

STUBENVILLE CONFERENCE Here is an opportunity for 9-12 grade students to deepen their faith through prayer, worship, and sacraments. It will take place in Rochester, Minnesota, on July 10-12. Discussion topics include prayer, chastity, service, and the power of the sacraments. Total cost is \$160. Let Katie know by January 9 if you are interested.

THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC YOUTH CONFERENCE trip through the diocese is next Fall, November 19-21, 2015! We will be traveling to the conference in Indianapolis with other high school youth groups in the diocese. The total cost is \$650; a deposit of \$150 is due by January 22 to register.

Email rcyouthministry@gmail.com for more info.

Faith Formation

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION Our young disciples from St. Mary's and St. Augustine's have prepared for their First Sacrament of Reconciliation and will receive the Sacrament at a special service on January 10 at 10:00 am in the Lower Church at St. Mary's Cathedral. Please pray for them as they continue their preparation toward First Eucharist this Spring!

St. Katharine Drexel

HAPPY NEW YEAR Classes will resume on January 5.

Interested in registering at SKD in 2015-2016? There will be an **OPEN HOUSE** for new families on February 5 from 4:30-7:00 pm.

SKD CLIP AND CHAT meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month in St. Aug's Parish Center after the 8:15 am Mass. The next meeting is January 6.

FOLLOW YOUR HEART – A DAY OF DISCERNMENT FOR WOMEN

Saturday, January 31 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm This day will examine the spiritual practices that guide us in living a discerning life. Sister Joanne Dehmer, SSND, will lead the day. She has a background in spiritual direction, teaching and pastoral care and will join us from Loyola Spirituality Center in St. Paul, Minnesota. The event will take place at the Notre Dame Center, 1910 Graham Ave., #217, St. Paul, Minnesota. Register by Wednesday, January 26. Free will offering accepted. Contact Sister Mary Swanson, SSND, mwsanson@ssnd.org or 414-305-9011.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 4, 2015

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
Monday: 1 Jn 3:22--4:6/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Mk 6:45-52
Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19--5:4/Lk 4:14-22a
Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Lk 5:12-16
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Jn 3:22-30
Next Sunday: Is 55:1-11 or Is 42:1-4, 6-7/1 Jn 5:1-9 or Acts 10:34-38/Mk 1:7-11