

JANUARY: MONTH OF THE HOLY NAME

SATURDAY 14 DECEMBER: FERIA

8:30AM (Saint Thomas): *Bill Fulton, r.i.p., by Colette Fulton*
4:00PM (Saint Joseph): *Father Robert Hilfiker, r.i.p., by Kathy Kissel*
5:30PM (Saint Thomas: Sunday Vigil): *Michael Noel Farrell by Dr. & Mrs. E. Schriener*

SUNDAY 15 JANUARY: SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

7:30AM (Saint Thomas): *Erick Nedwetsky, r.i.p., by the Kiernan Family*
9:00AM (Saint Thomas): *pro populo*
11:00AM (Saint Thomas): *James Gorman by the Andersons*
12:30PM (Saint Joseph): *Joseph & Gaetana Di Palma by John & Paula O'Connell*

MONDAY 16 JANUARY: FERIA

MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr. DAY (PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED)

8:30AM (Saint Thomas): *Aida Klein, r.i.p., by Mary King*
6:30PM (Saint Joseph): *Mr. Robert Hilfiker by Kathy Kissel*

TUESDAY 17 JANUARY: MEMORIAL OF SAINT ANTHONY, ABBOT

8:30AM (Saint Thomas): *Ted King & Margaret Scalzo, r.i.p., by Mary King*

WEDNESDAY 18 JANUARY: FERIA

8:30AM (Saint Thomas): *Dina Sceccchitano, r.i.p., by the Schroeder Family*

THURSDAY 19 JANUARY: FERIA

8:30AM (Saint Thomas): *Thomas Campbell, r.i.p., by the Crispo Family*

FRIDAY 20 JANUARY: MEMORIALS OF SAINT FABIAN; SAINT SEBASTIAN

8:30AM (Saint Thomas): *Francis Indzonka, r.i.p., by the Melville Family*

SATURDAY 21 JANUARY: MEMORIAL OF SAINT AGNES

8:30AM (Saint Thomas): *Michael Joseph Clayton, r.i.p., by Dennis Murphy*
4:00PM (Saint Joseph: Vigil): *Mamawal Family by Linda Siner*
5:30PM (Saint Thomas: Vigil): *William Moore by Dr. & Mrs. Schneider*



NEXT SUNDAY 22 JANUARY: THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

7:30AM (Saint Thomas): *Anna Cercone, r.i.p., by Hector & Nancy Torres*
9:00AM (Saint Thomas): *Anna M. Nelson by the Fitzpatrick Family*
11:00AM (Saint Thomas): *pro populo*
12:30PM (Saint Joseph): *Sister Antonina Giuseppe Vole, r.i.p., by John & Paula O'Connell*

r.i.p. (requiescat in pace: rest in peace), *a.i.d.* (ad intentionem donoris: for the intention of the donor)
pro sal. (pro salutem: for health), *pro populo* (for the people)

LAST WEEK'S OFFERING:

Sunday Regular: \$11,028.00
Christmas: \$920.00
Catholic University: 1798.00
Pantry: \$66.00

**THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE
CLOSED ON MONDAY 1/16/17 IN
OBSERVANCE OF MARTIN LUTHER
KING, JR. DAY.**

2016 OFFERING REPORTS

Tax statements for 2016 *will not be mailed automatically*. If you would like a copy of your parish donations, please call Kathy in the parish office: 534-2548

FR. SIMON TO VISIT FAMILY IN GHANA

Today, Father Simon will be departing from JFK Airport to visit his family. When Father's dad, Peter, entered eternal life this past year, he was unable to return because his visa was being processed by the Department of Homeland Security. Now, he returns for several weeks to renew his visa at the American consulate in Ghana - and at long last to see his family

and friends (and his bishop!). Please pray for his safe flight, and safe return to our parish family.

44th ANNUAL MARCH FOR LIFE

Friday, January 27, 2017

A peaceful demonstration to share the truth concerning the greatest human rights violation of our time, legalized abortion on demand (Roe v. Wade).



THE POWER OF ONE

The Cornwall, Newburgh, New Windsor bus will leave Our Lady of the Lake Church, Newburgh after a 4:00AM Mass and return about 10:30PM.

Adults: \$50 Children: \$30

(Financial assistance is available and freely given.

Please call the parish office at 534-2547)

For reservations: Howard & Beth Spear at 845-564-5257 or heaps9@verizon.net

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

February 10-12, 2017

Marianist Family Retreat Center

Cape May Point, NJ

Come join other young adults (ages 22-35) married or single. Spend some time examining your personal faith and your relationship with God, your family, and yourself.

\$130/person double occupancy

To register: www.capemaymarianists.org or 609-884-3829

CAMP VERITAS 2017

June 26th-July 1st

Maynooth, Ireland

July 16th-22nd

Mount Saint Mary College - Newburgh, NY

July 23rd - 29th

Summit Lake Camp - Emmitsburg, MD

August 13th-19th

Camp Lakota - Wurtsboro, NY

Help lay the foundation for the future of the young adult community by volunteering at Camp Veritas and spending time with 7th-12th graders! Camp Veritas has grown from 1 camp and 52 students to 4 camps with over 1500 students and is always in need of volunteers.

For more info: www.campveritas.org



CDA 10 MONTH RAFFLE

January's Winners:

#295: Lillian Hager - \$50

#237: Doreen D'Alberti - \$75

#305: Mary A. Villa - \$100

HELP!

Our weekly bingo ministry provides a night out and entertainment for many in our parish and local community. It also raises significantly funds for our parish, recently providing air conditioning and heating units for the gym. Many of our bingo volunteers have staffed our Thursday bingo for years (since the days when it provided for the school). They could use a break, and some (young) help. If you have a spare Thursday and can pitch in, let us know. Call Melissa at the parish office (534-2547).

PLEASE NOTE!

Items found in the church are placed in a basket in the parking lot church entry. Coats are hanging in the cry room closet. Valuable items are brought to the parish office. Please check all these places if you have lost something.



SAINT AGNES

Tradition holds that Agnes was a young virgin martyred under the Roman Emperor Diocletian around the year 304. Her cult is of ancient standing, and two churches in Rome commemorate her witness. Agnes is invoked in the canon of the Mass (Eucharistic Prayer I). Of Agnes, the great Doctor Saint Jerome wrote, "The life of Agnes is praised in the literature of all peoples, especially in the Churches, she who overcame both her age and the tyrant, and consecrated by her martyrdom he claim to chastity."

12 MONTHS OF CHRISTMAS DRAWING

January's "Ring in the New Year"

prize:

"Wish Believe" Champagne Flutes with a New Year's Surprise by Waterford (MSRP: \$130)



AN INVITATION

The Sisters of the Presentation invite you to take part in an afternoon vigil for national healing and unity. This gathering is not political or partisan. It is an attempt to bring together all people of good will, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, or political affiliation to be in solidarity around our common humanity and the goals we all have for our loved ones and communities. There will be time for prayer, song, conversation and light refreshments. ALL are welcome. For information, call 845-401-8531.

When: Sunday, January 29 at 3 pm

Where: St. Francis of Assisi Church (corner of Benkard Ave. and Avoca St. in Newburgh). Go to O'Connor Hall off the main parking lot.

ON DYLANN ROOF, POPE JOHN PAUL II, JACQUES FESCH, MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.,

AND STEVEN MacDONALD

by Father Rees

This week, a Charleston, South Carolina court sentenced 22 year old Dylann Roof to the death penalty for his June 17, 2015 mass murder of nine men and women gathered for Bible study in the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church. Roof has been identified as a white supremacist and his statements before and during the trial, as well as his insistence on representing himself in the penalty phase of his trial so as to prevent an insanity defense surely must lead to a conclusion that he is deranged.

There is a disturbing resemblance in countenance between Roof and Adam Lanza, the killer of twenty six and seven year olds and six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

While the sentence seems just, it probably makes not a few of us uncomfortable. The sentence's execution will provide no healing to the victims' families; at best, it may provide satisfaction to someone's moral outrage or need for revenge. The former is mostly disingenuous; the latter, disordered. It will hardly assuage our national conscience, which without doubt is so inured to violence that it seems incapable of finding a real solution for what ails it.

In his 1995 encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* (The Gospel of Life), Pope St. John Paul II wrote that capital punishment should only be used when there is a matter of absolute necessity for the defense of society. He suggested that such cases are "very rare, if not practically non-existence." He most likely was writing not so much for the perpetrator of violence, but rather for us and the effect our complicity in an act of execution may have on our grasp of the dignity and sanctity of human life: "The new evangelization calls for followers of Christ who are unconditionally pro-life: who claim, celebrate and serve the Gospel of life in every situation... even in the case of someone who has done great evil."

His challenge may be tough to swallow, yet, of late, our nation has become uneasy about the death penalty and its futility in exacting the truth about crimes against life. DNA testing has exonerated many who were falsely accused; local judicial systems have been exposed for misconduct and even dishonesty. Occasionally, the convicted sinner

repents in a dramatic way. Jacques Fesch, who killed a French police officer, for which he was executed by guillotine, in 1957, became a devout believer and accepted his punishment without qualm. His letters from prison (see *Light over the Scaffold and Cell 18: The Prison Letters of Jacques Fesch*, Alba House, 1996) are a passionate account of the discovery of Christ and his mercy.

This is not to say that we should expect Dylann Roof to repent. I suspect that he would need a great deal of psychological treatment and maybe an exorcism to come to that point. Some things, Our Lord tells us, can only be achieved by prayer and fasting. However, we might ask if his execution serves us, whether it helps our souls. That reflection might lead us to ponder also whether other sins against life help our collective spiritual health. Have the almost 60 million legal abortions our nation has permitted since Roe versus Wade in 1973 helped us become a more loving society? That our country has settled for an ethic of what is expedient in decisions about life in the womb does not speak well of us.

At least, we can look to those who in the midst of suffering violence have shown us in special ways the light to peace: Martin Luther King, Jr., whose life we celebrate on Monday, who held a vision of a promised land for all people; the relatives of those murdered in Charleston who at Dylann Roof's arraignment forgave their their enemy; and Officer Steven MacDonald, who passed away on Tuesday, who forgave and prayed for the man whose violence paralyzed his body, but not his soul.

"BRITISH LANDSCAPES" PARISH TRIP WITH FATHER DOUGHTY

Come to know the best of England, Scotland and Wales on this 10-day tour (October 19th - 28th). Enjoy the



beauty of the Lake District, York, Stratford-upon-Avon, Edinburgh, the Borders Region and so much more. Extend your tour 3 more nights by taking the Eurostar Chunnel to Paris. Brochures with more information are located in the vestibule of the church. Contact Mary Ellen at metiernan@comcast.net with questions. See the parish website for registration information: stthomasjoseph.com

ENCOURAGE

A Catholic Apostolate for those who have family members with same sex attraction. Visit our new

website to help the faithful who are searching for information about *Encourage*, the Church's teachings on same sex attraction, and spiritual support:
www.encourageny.com