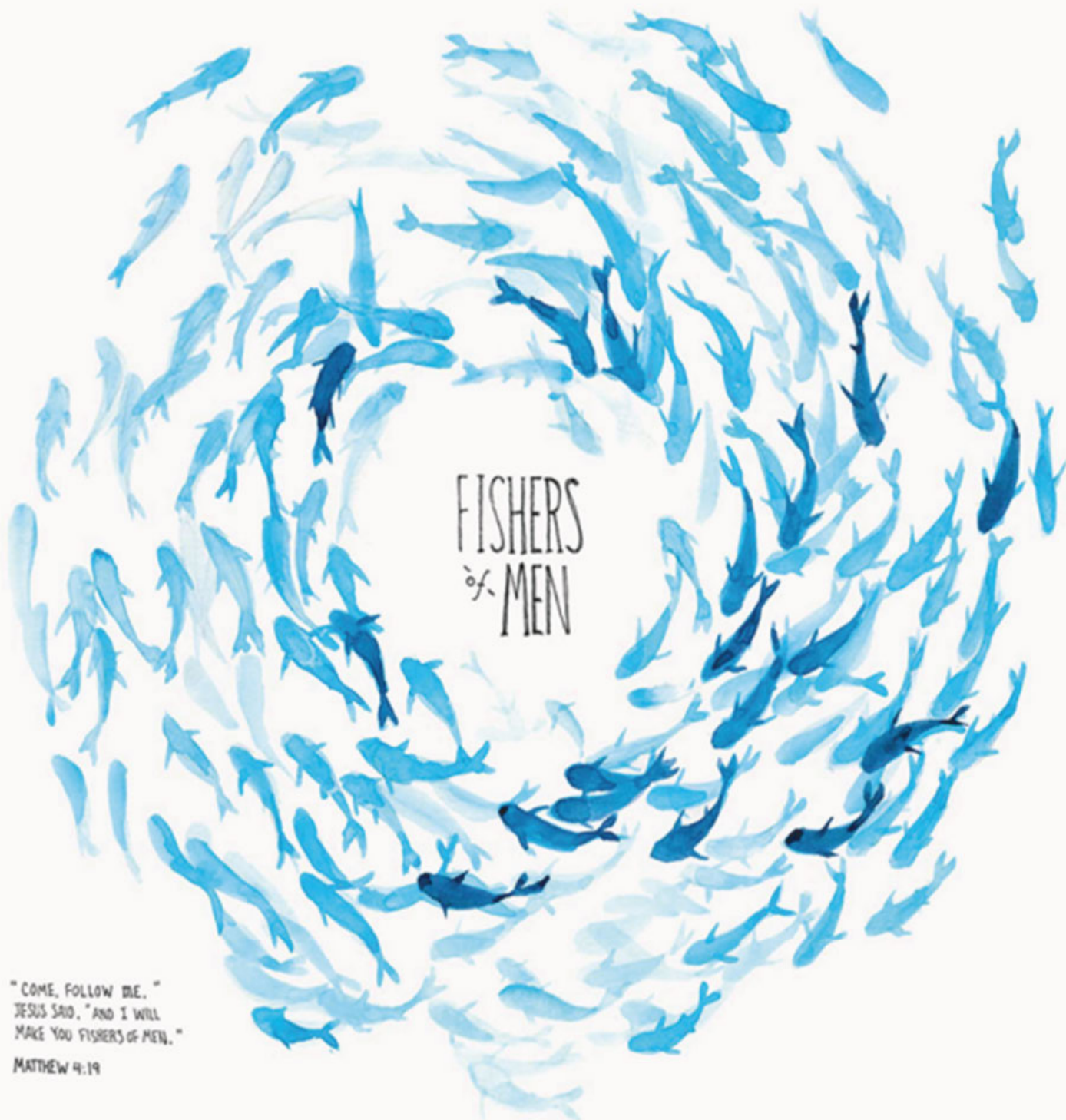




# ST. CATHARINE'S PARISH

*523 Western Highway  
Blauvelt, New York 10913*

*Rev. Msgr. Francis J. McAree, S.T.D.  
Pastor*



**St. Catharine's Church**  
**523 Western Highway Blauvelt, N.Y. 10913**  
**845-359-0542/Fax 845-365-2387**  
<http://www.saintcatharines.org>  
**Rev. Msgr. Francis J. McAree, S.T.D., Pastor**  
**Rev. Abraham Vallayil, C.M.I., Associate Pastor**  
**Rev. Mr. John Jurasek, Deacon**

*The link for St. Catharine's Live-Stream  
 Weekday and Weekend Masses is on our website,  
[www.saintcatharines.org](http://www.saintcatharines.org). Please find the link at  
 the very top of the Home Page.*

**Sunday** 5:00 PM Saturday evening Vigil  
 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM, 12:30 PM,  
 and 4:30 PM  
**Weekday** 6:45 AM and 8:30 AM  
**Saturday** 8:30 AM  
**First Fridays** 6:45 AM and 8:30 AM

**Baptism**  
 First and third Sundays of the month at 2:00 PM.  
 Parents should call Deacon John Jurasek at (845)  
 365-3618 for an appointment and Baptismal preparation.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**  
 Saturdays from 4:00 to 4:45 PM, and by appointment.

**Marriage**  
 Couples should call the Rectory a minimum of six months  
 prior to their marriage date to receive necessary  
 information and preparation.

**Anointing of the Sick**  
 Call the Rectory anytime for this request.

**Parish Registration**  
 Every family living in our Parish is kindly requested to  
 register at the Rectory.

**Parish Devotions**  
**Miraculous Medal** held after the 8:30 AM Mass  
 on Mondays.  
**Rosary** following 8:30 AM Mass (Mon.-Fri.); Sundays,  
 12:00 PM in the Grotto or School Library depending on  
 the weather.  
**Scriptural Rosary** following 8:30 AM Mass on  
 Saturdays.  
**Eucharistic Adoration**  
 Every Friday from 9-10 AM. Every First Friday following  
 the 8:30 AM Mass until 7:00 PM.

**Parish Religious Education Program – PREP**  
**Mrs. Bernadette Kowalchuk**  
**(845) 359-4014**

**St. Catharine's Early Childhood Center**  
**Mrs. Lorraine Hubert**  
**(845) 359-4330**

### PARISH MINISTRY & SERVICE CONTACTS

**Adult Religious Education:** Deacon John Jurasek,  
 (845) 365-3618  
**Altar Servers:** Deacon John Jurasek, (845) 365-3618 or  
 Mary Anne Pagnani, (845) 358-0739  
**Altar Society:** Anna Stellwag, (845) 359-0769  
**Baptisms:** Deacon John Jurasek, (845) 365-3618  
**Bible Study:** Bernadette Kowalchuk, (914) 230-0765  
**Birthright of Rockland:** Call (845) 623-9098  
**Bulletin:** Patricia McKenna, (845) 359-0542  
**Choirs:** Dr. Rene Dalandan, (917) 770-2468  
**CYO Basketball:** Mary Anne Pagnani, (845) 358-0739  
**CYO Basketball Website:** [www.ourcyo.org](http://www.ourcyo.org)  
**Early Childhood Center:** Lorraine Hubert,  
 (845) 359-4330  
**Eucharistic Ministry at Mass:** Kerry Beckmann,  
 (845) 359-3986  
**Eucharistic Ministry, Home:** Eileen McCaffrey,  
 (845) 359-9315  
**Homebound Ministry:** Ken Lee, (201) 297-7016  
**Knights of Columbus:** Grand Knight Bob Vyskocil,  
 Email to [grandknight@stdominic5343.com](mailto:grandknight@stdominic5343.com)  
**Lectors:** Veronica Rogers, (845) 624-1427  
**Parish Council:** Kerry Beckmann, (845) 359-3986  
**Parish Nurse Program:** Maureen Fallon, (845) 398-3806  
**Parish Office:** Patricia McKenna, M-F, 9-5 PM,  
 (845) 359-0542; Judith Scandiffio, Sat. 9-3 PM  
**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Louise Langan, (845) 359-5648  
**PREP, Religious Education:** Bernadette Kowalchuk,  
 (845) 359-4014  
**St. Ambrose Society:** Parish Office, (845) 359-0542  
**Social Activities:** Joseph Onativia, (845) 365-1151  
**TASC, Teen Association:** Richard & Rita Sarubbi,  
 (845) 641-3172  
**Ushers:** Ken Lee, (201) 297-7016  
**Website:** Patricia McKenna, (845) 359-0542

## THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## FISHERS OF MEN



The phrase, “*fishers of men*,” is one of the most well-known lines in the entire New Testament, and the most important metaphor for **evangelism**.

The image probably had an important role in the adoption of the *Ichthys* (see above) as a symbol of early Christianity. The reference has also often been moved from the disciples to Jesus, with Him being called the “*fisher of men*.” The image of Jesus as a fisherman is second only to that of Jesus as a shepherd.

The translation “*fishers of men*” is well-known but not wholly accurate. In Greek, it is *halieis anthropon*, but modern scholars realize that *anthropon* does not just refer to men, but to *all* of humanity. The basic interpretation of the metaphor as referring to the disciples working to catch souls for Jesus as they had previously caught fish is universally agreed upon.

A “*fisher of men*” is a person who is a witness for Jesus, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It is a person who is constantly sharing God’s love and the Gospel.

A “*fisher of men*” is someone who has the same heart as God for lost people. He or she has God’s love and desire and passion to see lost people come to have a reconciled relationship with God and eternal life. We need God to touch our hearts and place His love and passion for lost people into us.

A “*fisher of men*” is someone who is actively sharing the Gospel with others in their daily life (you do not need to be a full time servant like a pastor or missionary).

A “*fisher of men*” is a person who continually prays for and looks for opportunities to share the Good News of Jesus, with as many people as they can.

## TODAY’S READINGS

**First Reading**

The people of Nineveh believed God and turned from their evil ways (Jonah 3:1-5, 10).

**Psalm**

Teach me your ways, O Lord (Psalm 25).

**Second Reading**

The world in its present form is passing away (1 Corinthians 7:29-31).

**Gospel**

“Come after me and I will make you fishers of men.” Then they abandoned their nets and followed Him (Mark 1:14-20).

**FOLLOW ME,  
AND I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS OF MEN  
Matthew 4:12-23**

The *fishers of men* verse in today’s Gospel helps us understand what Jesus came to do. He did not call us to become simply *believers*, but *followers* who make disciples.

**LET’S GO FISHING!**

Fishing would be easy if we could just put our nets by the water and have the fish jump into them! But, that’s not how it works. You must wade out into the water, or get into a boat and go farther from shore. If you are a fisherman, you live by the sea and spend your time there. Here are four excellent suggestions that may help you become a true “*fisher of men*” as Jesus intended.

**1. Go where the fish are.**

Are you going where the “*fish*” are? If you only spend time with other Christians, you’ll have little chance to interact with non-believers. Intentionally choose activities or hobbies that put you in contact with people in your neighborhood or community. Grow friendships and relationships with a wider circle of people, and you’ll have more chances to go “*fishing*.”

**2. Cast your nets.**

It wasn’t enough for Peter and Andrew to take their boat out to the middle of the lake. To catch fish, they had to throw their nets into the water. For us, “*casting our nets*” means getting the message out. There are many ways to share the Gospel. We can tell people verbally; we can share with friends or even strangers via e-mail or the Internet, etc. Along with this, we must live our lives in a way that shows the truth we speak. Jesus said, “*In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and give glory to your Father who is in Heaven*” (Matthew 5:16). Our good works are not the Gospel, but when, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we love and care for others, it shows that the Gospel has the power to change lives, and others will want what we have.

**3. Obey the Lord.**

In John 21, after His Resurrection, Jesus came to some of the disciples who had fished unsuccessfully all night. He told them to throw their nets on the other side of the boat – an act that seemed to them to make no sense, but which brought a great catch. As you walk closely with God, you may sense His Spirit telling you to do or say something that may make no sense to you. Obey the Lord. This may be His way of bringing someone to come to know Him.

**4. Walk with Jesus.**

During the three years of Jesus’ earthly ministry, the disciples did everything with Him – they walked, talked, and ate with Him. They not only listened to His words, but they observed and imitated the Living Word. This (and the Holy Spirit) prepared them to take the Gospel to the ends  
(*kindly, continue ...*)

of the earth. Jesus told us in John 15:4, "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me." (The word "abide" means to be connected.) Though we don't have Jesus in the flesh, He tells us in John 16:7 "Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: It is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send Him to you." Through the presence of the Holy Spirit, WE can walk with Jesus every day!

So, as Jesus calls, are you willing to do what the disciples did, and make fishing your highest priority and your true calling? As you consider and act on these principles, the Lord Jesus can make you into a true "fisher of men" for His glory.

### THE APOSTLES

The events in today's Gospel, tell us something important about the Apostles that we may not have thought of.

It is likely that Peter, Andrew and the others had wives, and possibly children. What must it have meant for them to answer Jesus' summons to *Follow Him*?

They had families and homes for which provisions had to be made; and yet the call to be *fishers of men* demanded their total commitment to Jesus. It cannot have been easy for anyone, especially the family members.

But we know that they left everything – their occupations and families – in an instant. *They abandoned their nets and followed Him.*

Now, that's faith!!

### 2024 CARDINAL'S ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

The 2024 Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal will begin shortly in our Parish. This year, our goal, set by the Archdiocese, is \$153,600.

Your past generosity has been a beacon of hope across communities. Let us celebrate our collective accomplishments in the past year ...

**55 parishes** were uplifted through financial assistance,

**72 retired clergy** received compassionate care within the serenity of a safe and comfortable home,

**74 seminarians** embarked on their journey toward the priesthood,

**106,000 young minds** were shaped by Christ-centered education,

**400,000+ New Yorkers** received supportive services from the charitable works of the Church.

These are more than numbers – they are lives transformed, spirits lifted, and faiths strengthened.

And, as we enter 2024, we are reminded that none of these achievements would be possible without you.

May your New Year be as bright as the hope you've given to so many.



### THE CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL

Nicolas-Bernard Lepicic – 1767

*"and suddenly a light from Heaven shined round about him. And falling on the ground, he heard a voice saying to him: Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? Who said: Who art thou, Lord? And He: I am Jesus whom thou persecutest. "* Acts 9: 3-5

We celebrate the Conversion of Paul on January 25<sup>th</sup>.

The conversion of St. Paul has been a favorite theme for artists. There are certainly many other paintings of Paul and his adventures, but it's certainly hard to beat the drama of Heaven's light lighting Paul up after knocking him from his horse!

St. Paul's entire life can be explained in terms of one experience – his meeting with Jesus on the road to Damascus.

In an instant, Paul's life became a tireless proclaiming and living out of the message of the cross. From then on, Paul's only work was to "present everyone perfect in Christ. For this I labor and struggle, in accord with the exercise of His power working within me" (Colossians 1:28b-29).

Yet, why would Jesus select the likes of Paul? There were certainly other devoted followers of Jesus available in those early days of the Church – followers ready to give their lives to proclaim Jesus Christ as Savior of the World.

But, Jesus picked a Pharisee saying, "This man is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before Gentiles, Kings and Israelites" (Acts 9:15).

God selected *this* man who had a strong hatred of all Jesus stood for, *a man who went into the house of Christians and "dragging out men and women," then "handed them over for imprisonment"* (Acts 8:3b).

*This* man became God's chosen instrument to spread the message of Jesus across the Middle East and parts of Europe.

Certainly, our Lord works in mysterious ways!



### ST. CATHARINE'S EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER OPEN HOUSE

Our Open House for 3, 4 & 5 year olds will be **Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6:30-8:00 PM** for anyone new to our Program. (Snow date would be Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:00 PM.) Please email us at [stcatharinesprek@gmail.com](mailto:stcatharinesprek@gmail.com) if you are interested in attending. In the meantime, feel free to enjoy the Walk-Through Tour of our Center on the Home Page of our website, [stcatharineprek.org](http://stcatharineprek.org).

#### REGISTRATION

Registration for September 2024 will be **Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> from 4-7:00 PM** for anyone new to our Program. (Snow date would be Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup> from 4-7:00 PM.) Children must be 3 or 4 by December 1<sup>st</sup> of the incoming school year. Please email us at [stcatharinesprek@gmail.com](mailto:stcatharinesprek@gmail.com) if you would like more information about the Registration process.

At St. Catharine's Early Childhood Center, we treasure all aspects of childhood. It is our firm belief that our responsibility is to make the first school experience a positive one, one that will lead to independence, fulfillment, and satisfaction throughout your child's life.

The essence of our philosophy is the acceptance of the child as a unique individual with special talents and abilities and the acceptance of our responsibility as educators to enhance and nurture those emerging traits. We promote the development of the whole child - physical, emotional, social, and cognitive.

Founded in 1999, St. Catharine's Early Childhood Center provides an opportunity for young children to join together in a loving, nurturing, educational, and fun environment.

Each child is introduced to a full curriculum of early learning in a center-based setting. Hands-on activities and participation in all areas of learning provide the perfect setting for young children to come together to develop and grow. Phonemic awareness, fine and gross motor skills are introduced through a creative curriculum.

Our center is licensed by the State of New York and all our staff is First Aid and CPR certified. We are housed in a facility specifically designed for the development growth of 3, 4 and 5 year olds. Large, open spaces and varied centers encourage exploration and discovery. Our materials are educational, self-motivating, easily manipulated, and fun to use.

Our program is multi-centered and includes Pre-Science, Pre-Math, Pre-Reading, Arts and Crafts, Dramatic Play, Story Time, Gross and Fine Motor Development, Technology, and Music.



The Altar Flowers were donated  
In Loving Memory of  
Mary Sasson

From  
Patrick, Patti, Liam & Victoria

The Tabernacle Candle will burn before the  
Blessed Sacrament the week of January 21  
In Loving Memory of  
Anna Sweeney

From  
Margaret and Eddie Doolan



*"For everything there is a season  
and a time for every purpose under Heaven."*

*"A time to heal"*

We pray for God's tender mercy and loving kindness upon all of our loved ones who have experienced health issues.

Walter Cahill, Helen O'Brien, Matthew Mencher,  
Lucy Decilla, Rory Tinston, Gary Baisley, Geraldine Moloney,  
Jim Grimm, Brandon Hernandez,  
Billy Keenan, Diana Colon, Colleen Kusy, Amanda Lynch,  
Brian Domitrovits, II, Christian Perez,  
Nicholas Guiliano, Matilda Quinn, Nicholas Corbi,  
Liam Frawley, Noreen Larsen, Molly McGovern,  
Danny Newkirk, Cali Jhené Pritchard,  
Emmet Horvath, Darianna DeLise, David O'Hanlon,  
James Cunningham, Liam McLaughlin, Tom Collins,  
Rob Incognoli, Rose Cahill, Teresita Dural,  
Keira Cunningham, Gary Haley, Heather Mekkinosson,  
Jude DePalma, Gerald Spagnolo, Gabriella Larsen,  
Anne Marie Herman, Patricia Duffy, Justin Duffy,  
Fiona Moran, Carol Crane, Carol McGrath,  
Lisa Morehead, Vincent Fyfe, June Hudson, Colton Martin,  
Ed Walsh, Jacqueline Tracey, Christopher O'Brien,  
Andrew Padilla, Paulette Maurice, Jack Bermingham,  
Margaret Brosnan, Jim Dereameik, Sr. Maureen Bradshaw,  
Peggy Finn, Ann Donohue, Heather Hovorka Plunkett,  
Edward Fitzpatrick, James Racca, Dr. Jose and Celia Botet,  
Mary Jane Knapp, Corona Balin, Judy Donohue, Frank Parisi,  
Colleen Scarry, Marion O'Leary, Judith Ferrara,  
Patrick Armstrong, Patty Neier, Anna Stellwag, Janet Kopac,  
Marjorie Tobin, Michael McManamon,  
Kevin Kearney, Neil McDermott, Jeffrey Nevin

*"A time to mourn"*

*Well done, good and faithful servant.*

*Come and share your Master's joy.*

John P. "Jack" Flynn, Alexander Petersen, Patricia Finley,  
Mary Maher, Eileen Hurley, Jane Doyle Ench,  
Anne Gilroy, Mark Lynch, Jeanette Bonardi, Jim McLaughlin,  
Jean Arcieri, John D'Andrea, Bob Minichiello, Lorraine Cooper,  
Joseph Spiotta, Mary Maguire, Nora Hartney

*"A time for war and a time for peace"*

Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need, and bring them home safely. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Our Lord and Savior. *Amen.*

**PETITION OF THE WEEK**

*Heavenly Father, thank you for your daily powerful Presence in our lives, that we may be assured your heart is towards us, your eyes are over us, and your ears are open to our prayers ... Lord, hear our prayer.*

**ANNUAL POCKETBOOK BLINGO NIGHT  
TO BENEFIT THE MOM FOUNDATION\*  
THURSDAY, MARCH 14<sup>th</sup>**

**ALBERTUS MAGNUS HS, BARDONIA  
DOORS OPEN 6 PM, FIRST GAME IS AT 7 PM**

Please join Fr. Ravi for the Annual Pocketbook Blingo Night. Admission is \$60 per person, which includes 10 rounds of Blingo. Additional cards are available to purchase. Bring your own beverages and appetizers to share. For reservations, call Martina Collins at (914) 320-8412. Hurry, this event always fills up very quickly!

\*MOM is a non-profit foundation that provides education and leadership to empower women and children locally and in India. All proceeds go directly to this cause. Donations are tax deductible. For more information, visit [www.MOM-Foundation.org](http://www.MOM-Foundation.org).

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Session 2 11:30-1 PM

Session 3 1:30-3 PM

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For detailed information and application, please contact the Saint Aedan Church web site at [www.StAedan.org](http://www.StAedan.org).

**THE SIGN OF PEACE****DURING COLD AND FLU SEASON**

During this cold and flu season, it is certainly acceptable to nod, wave, or speak a greeting of peace during the Sign of Peace.

The important thing to remember is that Christ is present in our midst and to acknowledge that presence in one another.

**NEXT WEEK'S - SECOND COLLECTION  
CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**Next week's** Second Collection will help offset our Archdiocesan assessment for the Catholic School System in New York. Thank you for your continued support of this monthly collection.

**MASS INTENTIONS****SATURDAY, JANUARY 20**

**5:00** Catherine and John Heneghan

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 21**

**8:00** Deceased Members of the Knapp and Corcoran Families

**9:30** Jack Brennan

**11:00** Mary Sasson

**12:30** Juanita S. Reyes

**4:30** Walter Kinkel

**MONDAY, JANUARY 22**

**6:45** Grace Dennerlein

**8:30** Patti Ann Roth

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 23**

**6:45** Ruth Joyce

**8:30** Adele and Richard Duke

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24**

**6:45** Betty Braun

**8:30** Bernadette Kowalchuk – *Happy Birthday Wishes!*

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 25**

**6:45** *The People of St. Catharine's Church*

**8:30** Rogelio S. Villanueva

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 26**

**6:45** Loreta Reyes

**8:30** John and Kenneth Langan

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 27**

**8:30** John Harte

**5:00** Barbara Gallagher

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 28**

**8:00** Richard McCloskey – *20 Year Anniversary*

**9:30** Kay and Jerry Vyskocil

**11:00** Moss Moriarty

**12:30** Joseph Donzella – *20 Year Anniversary*

**4:30** Jack Brennan



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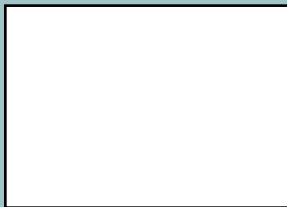
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