

OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA CHURCH
5371 AMBOY ROAD
STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK 10312
(718) 984-0593

Dear Parish Family,

Welcome back all students of Our Lady Star of the Sea School and Religious Education and a big hello to our newest students. The school year has started and we are eager to ask the Holy Spirit to let you be filled with wisdom, guidance, truth and goodness as you strive to make the most of this academic year 2014-2015.

I want to mention some of the events that are happening around the parish this month. The carport by the rectory is currently being transformed into a garage. The Mass for Healing will occur on Tuesday September 9th at 7:30PM. I am grateful to the prayer group leaders and prayer warriors who are most welcome to join us in prayer for all who will attend. On the other Tuesday evenings from 7:30 -9PM we will begin a new Charismatic Prayer group that will include a time for praise, song, a teaching and witness and intercession. If you are free, come and join us in the Damato Room in the Athletic Center.

I have started here at Our Lady Star of the Sea as well as both at Our Lady of Pity and before that Holy Child, a men's bible study and prayer time for early on Saturday morning from 7-8:30 AM in the rectory conference room. We will provide the coffee and you're welcome to bring the bagels. It's been my experience that most working men have no venue during the week to speak about their faith, ask questions or delve into the Sunday Eucharistic Scriptures. This has been powerful in my experience. Generally, it starts off slowly but it builds and all men are invited. I would like to begin this on Saturday September 6. The reason for the early hour is that it will not hopefully interfere with family obligations later in the day.

As the new academic year begins there will be many meetings. For me, I will still be meeting and greeting teachers, catechists, adorers, parish council, finance council members, prayer groups, sports council, engaged couples, ministers of music as well as greeting the parish staffs of the other three parishes in our four parish cluster.

There's a Meet and Greet for "Making all Things New" and the parish staffs of Our Lady Star of the Sea, Our Lady Help of Christians, Saint Joseph and Saint Thomas and Saint John Neumann for us all to get to know each other and review all that has happened since last winter.

On September 13th at Noon Mass Our Lady of Pity will officially end their 100th Jubilee with a Mass of Thanksgiving offered by newly consecrated Bishop Peter Byrne.

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And on September 28th Our Lady of Pity will have a Gala Dinner at Nicotra's Restaurant at the Hilton, and Cardinal Dolan will be the guest of honor.

In all these meetings as well as after Mass, after School and after Sports I am so aware of God's blessings to me to be your shepherd at this time. It will be difficult to say so long to Father Gabe Mendy as he returns to seminary work in Nigeria, and to Father David Rider as he returns to Casa Santa Maria in Rome to finish his studies in Ecclesiology and to bid a fond farewell to Monsignor Peter Smith, as he takes up duties as a pastor in Glasgow. Father Joseph Roesch, Marian of the Immaculate Conception, returns to his Provincial house in Rome where he will travel the globe visiting members of his community as an assistant to the provincial. We wish our brothers God's choicest blessings and thank them for their wonderful priestly gifts, especially their preaching. Once again we turn to Mary, Our Blessed Mother and seek to pray the rosary for peace in our violent and fractured world that we may all grow one step closer in holiness and so console the Heart of Christ as we bring about His kingdom among us.

With grateful affection,
Father Tom Devery