

# *Our Lady Star of the Sea*

5371 Amboy Road  
Staten Island, New York 10312

Christmas 2015

Dear Parish Family,

May this wonderful season of Advent lead us into this **Year of Mercy**, starting December 8th and through a time of Christmas Joy, for now we hear Emmanuel is proclaimed, God is with us! Christ is born for us as a Savior to save us from our sins and to reveal the Father's love and tender mercy for us and bring us eventually to a true home, heaven.

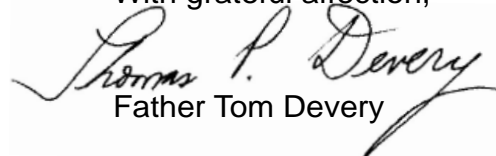
This is also our Jubilee Year, 100 years of dedicated service to the people of God here in Huguenot and Annadale. In this past year we have seen many changes. We are blessed with the arrival of our not so newly ordained, Father David Rider as our Parochial Vicar. Many long time school and parish faculty and staff have retired after many years of dedicated service to Our Lady Star of the Sea. Although it was hard to let them go, we are grateful for our new faculty and staff.

How blessed we are to have not only one, but two seminarians beginning their journey to the priesthood, Anthony Gorgia and Carmine Caruso. Please keep them in your prayers. We are so grateful to have the newly recharged Monsignor Vincent Bartley back in the saddle, better than ever, and we give thanks that we will have Fr. Basil Akut in residence for another few years. God is truly blessing us at this time.

This year we had our first annual Christmas tree drive that was very successful. Special thanks to the members of Holy Name Society for undertaking this huge endeavor. The trees you see adorning our grounds were donated by parishioners and school children and are a beautiful remembrance to keep Christ in Christmas during this Advent and Christmas season.

The generosity and outreach of this parish continues to flourish to our homebound, our ministers and lectors, our adorers, our newly confirmed 8th graders and the many selfless hours of free service given by our younger students. All our "Dolphin" teams give 100% of their skill and energy on the basketball courts, baseball and soccer fields and in all sports. Every other month, many engaged couples prepare for Holy Matrimony at our Marriage Preparation Program. Our RCIA program is flourishing as it prepares its participants for full initiation into our faith. It's always a family circus of life and love each time we celebrate Baptisms and welcome into our faith our youngest parishioners. All in all, as a newly appointed pastor, I have lots to give thanks for as I approach the altar this Christmas. Most of all, I look forward to seeing us grow in God's love this upcoming Jubilee Year. Thank you for your ongoing support to all that's happening here at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church.

With grateful affection,

  
Father Tom Devery