



## **NOTE FROM THE PASTOR:**

Dear Parishioners,

You have probably read about the young mother who was recently charged after her dead newborn was found outside her home in New Springville. There was a dialogue about this on a Staten Island internet chat room that I found very interesting. "Person A" reacted to the news and said: "Many are upset (and rightly so!) that a dead baby was found in the trash. However, one can find the mangled bodies of many babies in the garbage bins of the local abortion clinic. Where is the moral outrage over that?" Person B retorted, "There's plenty from your side of the political fence, but it's legal, and they're fetuses, not babies."

Person A then responded, "Just because something is 'legal' does not make it right. For instance, for a long time in the Roman Empire infanticide was legal, but one could never conclude morality from legality. A 'fetus' (a word that comes from Latin, which means 'young one') has a heartbeat. Therefore, when there is an abortion a beating heart is stopped. Advances in technology show that this is a scientific fact. Hence, abortion stops the beating heart of an innocent human. What do we call that, regardless of our political preferences? Murder, my friend. Murder." Then "Person C" got involved: "Sad to say but would you call it murder if you or your daughter got raped by a low life criminal? It's a choice and sad choice that sometimes comes from a horrifying ordeal." A responded to C and said, "Rape is a horrible crime and a great affront to the dignity of the victim. There is no excuse for that monstrosity. If I or my daughter were impregnated from a rape I think the best thing to do is carry the child to term and deliver the baby. I know it would not be easy. But neither is the great emotional struggle with sorrow and guilt that follows an abortion easy. (Google: 'Post Abortion Syndrome.'). I know a woman who was conceived as the result of a rape. She told me once that she is very happy with her life and very grateful to her mother for not going through with an abortion, an abortion that several people close to her counseled her to do."

Then B came back with: "I see you've read the Catholic Church's playbook on the issue. The vast majority of abortions occur when the fetus is the size of a quarter. Words have specific definitions. Abortion and murder don't share one. A answered B and said: "Suppose that a woman finds out that she is pregnant at a very early stage of the pregnancy and the 'fetus' as you say, is very small. Suppose further

that she has a miscarriage shortly after. She would be very upset. Everybody knows someone who has miscarried and such a woman is always very upset and disappointed. Why? Because she knows she has lost a CHILD. She feels hurt that she will never see his first steps. She will never take him to kindergarten. There will be no wedding for him. I doubt that it would be comforting to her if you said to her, 'Oh don't worry. Dry your tears. It was only a FETUS. It wasn't really a baby.' She would consider your comments to be utterly deranged and completely ridiculous, not to mention offensive. Calling the murdered child a 'fetus' does nothing to change the immorality of abortion. Calling the murder of an unborn child 'abortion' doesn't reduce the viciousness of abortion." Finally, B answered, "Do you understand the basic concept of free choice? Until you grasp it, horrendously misapplied lengthy analogies won't get you anywhere." Thus ended that chat.

What would we, the people of God, say in reply to B? Would we remind that person that freedom is the right not to do what we ought? Would we argue that the right to life is always higher than the right to so-called freedom? After all, no one should have the "freedom" to take the life of an innocent person, neither an individual nor the state. However, after reading B's answers and the lack of logic behind them I doubt if any argument would convince B of the evil of abortion and the necessity to have this crime stopped throughout the world. Perhaps the best solution regarding the dilemma and tragedy of abortion is to pray, "Lord, have mercy!" On this Divine Mercy Sunday we pray that the good Lord would give us a world where innocent life is cherished from the womb to the tomb.

God bless you!

Fr. Eric



Divine Mercy Sunday-  
Hour of Mercy:  
Today, Sunday, April 3, 2016 at 3:00PM there will be a Holy Hour of Mercy in the Church, which will include Exposition, Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet [Chanted], Divine Mercy Novena and Benediction. Confessions will be available so as to gain the plenary indulgence. The Novena in preparation for the feast of Divine Mercy began on Good Friday.

## **Choir News**

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### Sacred Heart School- Registration 2016-2017

Now accepting applications for September 2016.  
Free Full Day Universal Pre-K for All 4 yr olds  
Pre-K 3, Kindergarten and Grades 1-8

### CCD MARCH HAPPENINGS

Classes resume April 6 & 13  
No Classes April 20 (Confirmation) & April 27

**Bible Study** BIBLE STUDY GROUP meets the first and third Tuesday of every month at 7PM in the rectory. If you are interested in joining contact the rectory at 718-442-0058.

Annual Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass:  
Couples celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary anytime during 2016 are invited to attend the Annual Golden Wedding Jubilee Mass with Cardinal Dolan at the Cathedral of St, Patrick, Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:30PM or Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at 2:00PM. Pre-registration is required. Please contact your parish for registration. The closing date to register for the Mass is Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016. This event is sponsored by the Family Life Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of New York.

### ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE April 9 & April 10

#### Saturday, April 9

5:00 William Hollnsteiner & Chris Basile

#### Sunday, April 10

7:00 Gabrielle Garcia & Margaret Donovan

9:00 Kathleen, Mary & Shioban McCafferty

11:00 Michele Chen & Bernard Daniels

1:00 Matthew Riccardi & Angela Buscemi

5:00 Elizabeth Eadicco & Austin Maida

### SI Grandmother's Club:

Basket Auction Fundraiser Luncheon Hosted by the SI Granmothers Club Chapter 899 Money raised goes to SI Charities that aide sick children. Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, Staaten, 12noon start. Arrive 11am to view baskets. Raffle tickets are very affordable. Call for info and also if you are interested in joining the Grandmothers Club. Over 200 baskets!! For information and reservations by April 10<sup>th</sup> please contact Alana Chanod at 347-423-1190

### A Million Thanks!!

A million thanks to all who contributed their voices, their resources, their time and talents to our lenten music liturgies and to creating such awe filled and wondrous Holy Week liturgies! We all reaped the many benefits of the contributions made by Parish Choir, France Voyage Choir/Traveling Choir; Kids Praise Choir and Family Choir!!

Now is a great time to join a choir at Sacred Heart!! There are only a few months left to the Parish Choir season! Traveling Choir will carry on throughout the summer, as will Family Choir!! (Kids break in May!!) Which choir will you join? Join a choir today!

Family Choir/Kids Praise sings today, April 3, 2016! 11am Mass. Bring the entire family! See you in the loft!

Parish Choir/France Voyager Choir sings April 10 at the 11AM Mass. Come hear their inspiring 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter liturgy - better yet...come help us!!

Happy and most Blessed Easter!!

Pamela & the Choirs 442-0058 (VM 24)

Join a choir today! Put away a hymnbook! Purchase a CD! Come with us on our next choir tour!

### Youth Group Mass:

Next Sunday April 10<sup>th</sup> - 11AM Mass

### Cardinal's Appeal:

Thank you if you have already made a pledge to the Cardinal's Appeal.. If not, there is still time for you to make your pledge. We are less than \$20,000 away from our goal. Thank you for your generosity!

### Msgr. Farrell Holy Name Society presents the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Fr. John Comiskey Memorial Mile:

April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at Msgr. Farrell HS

9:00AM Mass, 10:00AM Warm Ups, 10:30 AM Race Start. Registration Fee: \$15 Pre-Race/\$20 Race Day. All proceeds go to the Fr. John Comiskey Memorial Scholarship. Registration form at: [tinyurl.com/comiskeymemorialmile](http://tinyurl.com/comiskeymemorialmile) or contact John Fox at [jfox@msgrfarrellhs.org](mailto:jfox@msgrfarrellhs.org).