

A Note from the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

As I write these notes, all of the preparations are being finalized for the two Confirmation Masses here on October 21st. There are 167 high school students who will be confirmed by Auxiliary Bishop Peter J. Byrne of the Archdiocese of New York. If I had a birthday wish it would be that all of these young people would always stay strong in their faith and remain close to the Church. That is actually my fervent prayer for them and all young people. It is not always easy to live our faith in this world of ours but if we make the smallest attempt, God's grace will lead us. Keep our young people in your prayers as they celebrate their Confirmation this weekend. Also remember that the Holy Spirit will help each of us to follow Jesus and give praise to our Heavenly Father.

One thing to keep in mind about high school students is that we have around 600 parishioners currently in all four years of high school who have made their Confirmation. We don't see all of them at Mass and our high school Youth Group was down to less than ten who were regularly attending. Presently we do not have a Youth Group but Fr. Wilson and Fr. Christian hosted an evening for high school students recently and, even though the numbers were small, it seemed like everyone had a great time. They will try to schedule monthly events moving forward. Please encourage our high school students to come to Mass and any upcoming Youth Events.

We pray that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit will keep watch over all young people and the whole Church. All of us can encourage others, from the young to the not so young, to persevere and call upon Jesus. As Catholics, we are especially blessed to have the grace of the sacraments to help us throughout life.

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and renew the face of the earth! Amen.

Sincerely in Christ,

Monsignor Giandurco