



# FEBRUARY 4, 2018

## From the Pastor,

The finance council meeting scheduled for this morning (Tuesday) has been postponed till next week because of the weather. So let me say something about a couple of other things going on in the parish. First of all, I could explain how we try to serve the patients at South County Hospital.

When patients are admitted to the hospital, they are free to indicate their religious background and which community or parish they belong to. The general pastoral care of patients is taken care of by the hospital chaplain, the Reverend Lyle Mook, a Protestant minister. He visits the patients and prays with them if they're open to it. He also communicates to the local clergy if there are congregants of theirs who might like to see them. There are seven Catholic priests in our area who are assigned to parish ministry and each of us takes a day of hospital duty each week. So there is always a priest on duty if someone needs the Anointing of the Sick. Let the hospital know and they will call the priest on duty that day. In addition, Fr. Gerald Harbour is a newly-retired priest who 35 years ago was an assistant pastor here at St. Francis and has moved back to this area. He goes to the hospital every Wednesday and visits the Catholic patients on a particular floor. Over and above the efforts of the local clergy, our parish has a cadre of 10 parishioners who take the Eucharist from the morning Mass to the hospital every day of the week. So we are trying our best to provide pastoral care for all patients.

Elsewhere in the news: the parish Pastoral Council met last night and discussed forming a prayer ministry that would involve praying for all the families of the parish. Each family who comes to Mass on the weekends would be given a copy of the parish prayer and the names of 3 or 4 families registered in the parish for whom they would promise to pray. I'll say more about this as we firm up the details.

## Fr. Bodah

### SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Spiritual direction is a way appreciating and responding to your life's journey in the light of the Lord's life and love. As we mature it is often helpful to talk to someone about our life and prayer. You may be experiencing a spiritual hunger. You might be asking yourself, "How is God real for me now?" or, "How is my faith meaningful for me this situation?" These areas may point to the need for a spiritual companion.



Other areas that might be the focus of conversation with a spiritual director include: questions about religion, pondering your image of God, dealing with blocks to prayer, bringing God into important decisions in your life, and more.

If you are interested in considering Spiritual direction, you can contact Sister Ann Rodgers, CP at 401-270-9892. Sister Ann is a Sister of the Cross and Passion who recently was Program and Retreat Director at Our Lady of Calvary Retreat, Farmington, CT. Prior to that she was DRE at St. Francis of Assisi, Wakefield, RI and in ministry at Prout Memorial High School. She was certified in Spiritual Direction at Mercy Center, Madison, CT.



### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

#### Sunday, Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>

**8:55-9:50am** Grades K, 1 & 2 (FGC)

Grade 7 (FGC)

**10:00am** Children's Liturgy of the Word during Mass

**10:55-11:50am** Grades 3-6 (FGC)

Grade 8 (FGC)

#### Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>

**4:15-5:15pm** Grades 3-6 (FGC)

**5:20pm** Catechist Lenten Mtg (FGC)

**7-8:15pm** Grades 7 & 8 (FGC)

**Next Sunday-February 11th**

**First Communion Parent Meeting** 9:00am (HBH)

*All students must be represented at this meeting.*

**Saturday, February 10 10am-5:30pm**

**(ending with 4:30pm Mass)**

**CONFIRMATION RETREAT FGC**



### FEBRUARY HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH NIGHT

Our next high school youth night will be held on **Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>**

at Fr. Greenan Center from 7-8:30pm. The markets are already decorated with Valentine's Day in mind. This evening we will explore just what true love is all about. All high school teens are invited to attend (this is a required meeting for the Confirmation candidates). Bring a friend!

### **Confirmation Retreat**

Permission slips/fee for our Confirmation retreat led by NET Ministries **is due by Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup>**. The fee and permission slip can be dropped in the collection basket (please indicate *Religious Education Office* on the envelope) or mailed to the Religious Education Office. Letters with the necessary paperwork were mailed on January 11<sup>th</sup>. If you did not receive it, please contact the religious education office as soon as possible.



