



Dear Parishioners,

I wish all of you a Happy New Year and pray that 2015 will be filled with many graces and blessings for all of you. At the beginning of the New Year, we remember that all time belongs to Christ who is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. Each day is a gift from Our Lord to serve Him and to respond to His call to follow Him as His disciples to the joys of eternal life when there will be no more time. It is how we make use of our time in this world that will determine our eternal destiny: each day we must strive to love God with our whole heart, mind, and soul—with all that we are and have—and to love our neighbors as ourselves, living the Commandments of God each day and repenting of our sins when we have failed to do so. So, to help us to remember that we are stewards of the time the Lord gives to us each day, a good spiritual practice each morning is to offer the day to Our Lord, of which the following is an example of a morning offering that we can pray:

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day in union with the holy sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world. I offer them for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart: the salvation of souls, reparation for sin, the reunion of all Christians. I offer them for the intentions of our bishops and of all the apostles of prayer, and in particular for those recommended by our Holy Father this month.

Also, during 2015 we are encouraged to pray for a couple special intentions. First, in anticipation of the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia at the end of September, the following prayer has been written for us to pray:

God and Father of us all, in Jesus, your Son and our Savior, you have made us your sons and daughters in the family of the Church. May your grace and love help our families in every part of the world be united to one another in fidelity to the Gospel. May the example of the Holy Family, with the aid of your Holy Spirit, guide all families, especially those most troubled, to be homes of

communion and prayer and to always seek your truth and live in your love. Through Christ our Lord. Amen. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!

Second, since the beginning of Advent at the end of last November until February 2, 2016, Pope Francis has declared that a Year for Consecrated Life be celebrated throughout the Church. Hence we pray for all men and women who live the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience in the Church as members of religious communities, secular institutes, societies of apostolic life or solely as hermits or consecrated virgins. Our American bishops have formulated the following prayer for us to pray:

O God, throughout the ages you have called women and men to pursue lives of perfect charity through the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience. During this Year of Consecrated Life, we give you thanks for these courageous witnesses of Faith and models of inspiration. Their pursuit of holy lives teaches us to make a more perfect offering of ourselves to you. Continue to enrich your Church by calling forth sons and daughters who, having found the pearl of great price, treasure the Kingdom of Heaven above all things. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Have a wonderful and grace-filled week.  
God bless you, Fr. Gutowski

*Mass Intentions for the Week* 

**JANUARY 5 THRU JANUARY 11**

|           |                      |
|-----------|----------------------|
| Monday    | Ray Heimes           |
| Tuesday   | Maurine Lehan        |
| Wednesday | Kate Heimes          |
| Thursday  | Dorine Amerine       |
| Friday    | Frances Herman       |
| Saturday  | Donna Timm           |
| Sunday    | People of St. Joseph |