

Dear Parishioners:

Our **Annual Italian Feast** starts this week: **Wednesday, September 15 thru Sunday, September 19**. Please come down and support the parish. Make sure to invite your family and friends from outside the parish as well. If you have not turned in your chance books for the daily drawing of \$200, please do so. Also, don't forget our **SUPER RAFFLE**. You have to be in it to win it! The prizes for the SUPER RAFFLE are \$7,000, \$2,000 & \$1,000. Pray for good, sunny weather! On **Saturday, Sept. 18 at 4:00pm, we will have the Feast procession around the grounds of the church**. You should be a part of the procession. The procession helps make our feast more than just a feast; there is a spiritual element as well.

As you know, this weekend marks the 20th anniversary of the tragedy that took place on 9-11 in Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C. and here in New York City at the Twin Towers. Even now, we need to pray for those who died and especially for the families of the victims. The scars of those who lost loved ones in the 9-11 attacks run very deep. We pray for those families, and we pray for peace and for an end of terrorism throughout the world. We remember our First Responders and all the members of our Armed Forces who serve us and protect us without any fanfare each and every day.

Also, as you know, the school year has begun and Religious Education will begin shortly. Religious Education plays a key role in the spiritual formation of our children. We need to practice our faith (especially by going to church on Sundays). I especially urge parents with younger children (3-10 years old) to take advantage of our children's liturgy every Sunday at the 9:30am Mass.

In addition, we need to grow in an intellectual understanding of our faith. As one saint once said: "fides quaerens intellectus" (faith seeking understanding).

However, Religious Education is not only for children. As adults, we need to grow in our faith too. In other areas of our lives (ex. work), we go to classes, learn new skills, etc. We also need to bring that type of mindset to our faith. We need to grow in a deeper adult understanding of the tenets of our Catholic faith. When you see various opportunities throughout the year, please take advantage of these opportunities.

Remember: Together, we can do something beautiful for God.

In Christ,

Fr. Brian

PS: A special "thank you" to the following who helped out and did a fantastic job on the "Clean-up" Day. Thank you to: Clara Nam, Tina Aparo, Ed & Terry Terribile, Jacob Errico, Patricia Coady, Marie & Frank Zito, Ray Taffner, Matthew Kilkelly, Ed Ramirez, Susana Bouza, Chris Balestrieri, Peggy & Jerry Kapalko, Dottie Perdue, Erik Pauze, Tom Gilbride, Roberta Palumbo, and Ted Horyczun. In addition, I want to thank the **i-Delizia Deli**. They are located on the corner of Hunter Avenue and Udall Road. They generously donated egg sandwiches for all the volunteers and donated drinks as well. When you stop by, make sure to thank them for their constant and continual generosity to the Parish.