



" Life Is Worth Living " is a sign on the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge, reminding its walking pilgrims that life is a combination of the blessings and the difficulties. All are reminded at that point to recall the sacred family members and friends that care about our existence. A poignant addition should be that God created us, and still has an earthly mission for us to complete. The bridge was a frequent path for me to embark upon twenty years ago at Sacred Heart, as I tried to navigate through the early days of my priesthood from 1996-1998. The bridge has beckoned me back in recent months, prayerfully guiding me through new life challenges here at Saint Francis of Assisi. Archbishop Fulton Sheen, buried at Saint Patrick's Cathedral in Manhattan after his death in 1979, crafted a television show in the turbulent 1950's (Korean War) under the same verbiage about life referenced above. Life involves choosing what the plan of God is for our brief span of years on planet earth, or not. If we do not choose His path, happiness however difficult in this world will never be achieved. We should all reflect on these spiritual realities each day, not just at Saturday or Sunday Masses on the weekend. These concepts of philosophy struck me recently watching a late 1930's episode of the " Voice of the Globe, " by American travel narrator James FitzPatrick (1894-1980). Later titled " Traveltalks, " the episode cited was a travelogue in Mexico. Technicolor footage with a musical score underscored the choices that each human being makes with their life. With the Mexico segment it was go to Mass on Sunday in church or go to pagan cult shrines ; both places are core parts of Mexican history. The same decisions are made by Americans today, or more specifically in this Newburgh area. We live in a time of many pagan shrines, often created in the world of money and entertainment. We are all tempted by them as we seek God.

May 15, 1993 was the day of my ordination to the priesthood at Saint Patrick's Cathedral, by the late John Cardinal O'Connor. After a decade of working for New Jersey Bell Telephone (the Bell System) and believing that marriage with a family was my strong destiny, my life shifted because of what I perceived to be the will of God. The twenty-three years since that day of fate have been a mixture of blessings, wide impact spiritually on the existences of so many in a broad diversity of parish assignments, society-shaking moments like the September 11 attacks in 2001, extensive travel (including Israel twice where I head to again in January with some friends, Russia, Poland, Germany, Slovakia, Hungary, Czech Republic, Ireland, Spain, France, Portugal, Austria, Alaska, Italy to be repeated with nearly 100 parishioners later this year, and God-willing Switzerland next year) which is why I am intrigued by the travel documentaries of FitzPatrick dating back to eighty years ago, and the challenges of commitment that we all face on occasion. Not being married and having a family has not been easy for me, but the many wonderful parishioners met at each of my assignments have brought me human treasures and friends I would have never met had I not become a Catholic priest. Now I am back in Newburgh a second time, one year here at Benkard Avenue on May 4. The same city I was an orphan baby in back in late 1959, before terrific parents adopted me into their life on May 4 in 1960. In the midst of many human decisions to do His plan, I do not know what the future holds. But, I thank you good people of Saint Francis of Assisi for praying for my path ahead and for my personal holiness. As Saint Athanasius wrote in the fourth century from Alexandria, Egypt : " Moreover, this was the way in which the Word was to restore mankind to immortality, after it had fallen into corruption, and summon it back from death to life. " Pray for my soul, as I pray for each of you. Peace. Father Bill

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. May 16

7:00am Sofia Wilkanowska
By Fran Christina
Noon Angie Verteramo
By Family
Mary & Joseph Vitay
By Mary Ann & Tony Farkas
5:30 Our Lady of Fatima

Tues. May 17

7:00am The Unborn
Noon Louis Bozzone
By Family

Wed. May 18

7:00am The Homeless
Noon Deceased Members of the
Soltis & Mesaros Families
By Ron & Fran Soltis

Thur. May 19

7:00am Pope Francis
Noon Bozzone Family
Health & Blessings
By Donna Fanning

Fri. May 20

7:00am The Elderly
Noon Fanning Family
Health & Blessings

Sat. May 21

Noon The Poor
4:30pm Laura Cerone &
Grace Schirmer
By Family

Sun. May 22

8:00am Barbara Palumbo
By MaryAnn & Tony Farkas
Mary O'Rourke
By MaryJane & Rocky D'Elicio
11:00am August Pirillo
By Wife & Sons
Doug McCauley
(9 Annv in Heaven)
By Wife Jeannine

Weekly Collection 

May 7-8, 2016

1st Collection \$6434.00
.....2nd Collection.. \$2253.00
TOTAL...\$8687.00

Our sincere thanks for your generosity and support of our Parish. God bless each and every one of you....always

The 2nd collection this weekend is for
ST. FRANCIS PARISH MINISTRIES

MASS ATTENDANCE

May 7-8, 2016
4:30 pm 235
8:00 am 146
11:00 am 270
Total 651

The Chaplet of the Divine Mercy is recited on
Sundays at 10:40 am before the 11 am Mass
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Our Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed  
Sacrament on Wednesday from 5 pm to 6 pm will be  
for the special intention of Vocations.

Eucharistic Minsters needed to serve at St. Luke's  
Hospital during the week. If you are interested in  
helping, please call Suzanna at -845-561-5162



Food  
Pantry  
Needs

**Food Pantry Hours:**

Friday 9:00am to 12noon  
Saturday 9:00am to 12noon

**FOOD FOR THE POOR**

In your goodness please bring Canned Fruit to  
Church next weekend to be distributed to the  
less fortunate thru our Food Pantry.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED PLEASE !!**

Our Food Pantry is in need of a volunteer to  
take cardboard to the transfer station on Route  
17K on a weekly basis. Please contact Paul or  
Linda at 845-561-6406.

The Food Pantry also needs someone who  
could paint the entrance way and transom at  
the food pantry. Any who would like to  
volunteer, please contact Paul or Linda  
Zalanowski at 845-234-8564 or 845-926-0626

**DID YOU KNOW???** 13,143 people were served  
by The Deacon Jack Seymour Food Pantry during  
the first quarter of 2016 with 96,625 pounds of food  
given out!!

**Coming soon...**A Pancake Breakfast and Raffle  
sponsored by the Elks Club to help support the  
'Food Pantry'...and the 'Food Pantry' is planning a  
tag sale with proceeds going to St. Francis of Assisi  
Church.

**Food Pantry is closed May 27 & 28.**

## **ST. FRANCIS HAPPENINGS !!**

May 15 Coffee and Bagel Hour after the 8 am Mass.  
Great place for coffee and conversation.

May 15 Confirmation young adults will crown Our Lady of Lourdes at the grotto at the 11 am Mass.

May 16 Lady of Fatima special mass 5:30 pm.  
Veneration begins at 3:00 pm.

May 18 Confirmation of our young adults 6 pm

May 30 9:00 Mass at St. Francis Cemetary to honor our Veterans. (weather permitting)

June 4 Fr. Bill will be celebrating a Midnight Mass at the Relay for Life site – Cronomer Hill Park, 214 Gardnertown Road, in the Town of Newburgh.

June 5 Save the Date !! *Annual Church Dinner* at Cronomer Valley Fire House, Town of Newburgh...more details to follow.

### **CASH –N-COCKTAILS**

#### **An Enchanted Evening at Sacred Heart School**

May 21 from 7 pm to 11 pm. Each ticket admits 2 guests to the cocktail party which includes live entertainment, beer, wine, soda, and appetizers!. Only 300 tickets will be sold at \$100 each with 3 cash prizes: Grand Prize is \$10,000, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize is \$2,500, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize is \$1000. Presence is not required to win. Please contact Mary Gould at 914-805-2332 or Dr. Gina Cook at 845-541-4216 or email [ptosacredheart@gmail.com](mailto:ptosacredheart@gmail.com) for further information. It's going to be a fun evening.

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The St. Francis Dart Ball Team is in need of three men for next year's season. If you are free on Thursday evenings from September thru April and can throw a dart 25 feet, give us a call. This is an exciting baseball dart game with great fellowship and great fun. No obligation. Call John Mitchell for more information 845-561-7104.

**JOIN US THIS SUNDAY MAY 15** after the 8 am mass in Cardinal O'Connor Hall for some good coffee and good fellowship. You deserve it.

**THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** is having an adopt a highway event on May 21. Meeting place is at The Council Building on Old Little Britain Rd at 9 am. PLEASE COME AND HELP US.

A new ministry is being formed – The St. Francis of Assisi Historical Society, headed by Al Certo. If you have any interest, or have St. Francis or Newburgh memorabilia that you would like to donate, please contact the Rectory.



*Our Prayers* for the Sick:, Vincenza Secor, Aaron Stagliano, Kelly Stafford, Robyn McGraw, John nz Sabo, Andrew Costanzo, Marie Wiejak, Rose, Stephen Sabo, Ashley Barco, Jean Kaiser, Tom Scalzo, Nora Brickter, Gary Lake, Genevieve Pilch, Agnes Casey, Brianna Barker, Keith Webber, Jake Bryan DeStefano, Rose Marie Michalowski, Meryl Chatham, Vincenturia Cullen, Amy Meyer, Vinnie Yonnone, Grace Keller Peacock, Mary Corwin, Jean DeCicco, Don Hughes, David Jennings, Robert Johnson, Karen Wells, Marcia McKay, Victoria Palkovic, Elaine Pietrzak, Maureen Luzzi, Joyce Poponiak, Corrine Gammino, George Vecchio, Jr, Carol Brown, Teresa Centeno, Matthew Gallagher, Luzia Araujo, Celio Thomaz, Sherry Collins, Rosalie Nogay, Richard and Rina Bozzone, Antonio Troia, Cody Favoino-Finkbeiner, Marie Louis, Sacha Samuel George, the Koch Family, Frank Pietrzak, John Marullo, Rose Jurik, Robert & Helen Osborn, Manuel DiNapoli, Jennie Serrano, Eddie Koza, Barbara Woloszyn, Gary McGraw, Rachael Neugebauer, Patricia Denniston, Arlene Dietrichsen, Maureen Kelly, Deacon Larry Kawula, Abigail Ryan, Debra Thurston, Toby Persico, Alexis Johnson, Barry Johnson, James R. Purpura, Bob Smith, Tom Kingery, Bud Smith, Amy Finnegan, Jane Pustola, Justin, Peter, Rita, Janice Ruggiero, Angela, Wayne, Abbie K., Dominick Denisi, Sebastian Denisi, Pam Denisi, Linda Hummel, Joseph Michalowski, Joann Quicksell, Frances Dolan, Daniel D'Elicio, Mary Ann Keenan, Fr. Fred Kempferi, Hazel Yonnone, Carmen Dacrosta

### **23rd Anniversary Prayer of the Ordination of Fr. Bill Damroth**

Dear Lord Jesus, You have given us a holy priest in Father Bill. We are grateful for the many blessings of this good man who brings us Your holy sacraments of salvation.

Father Bill's hands and prayers bring us Your saving grace in the waters of baptism, Your infinite mercy in forgiving our sins and Your sustaining and saving grace in the most Holy Eucharist.

We pray that he will have a long life with which to bless Your Church and a happy death as he is ushered into Your eternal bliss. Just as Father Bill is there to anoint the dying, grant that he will receive the same grace at his death.

We beg You, Jesus, that this holy priest will be protected from all spiritual and temporal attacks and that his fidelity to the Church and his faith in You, will endure, unwavering, until the end.

Father in heaven, bless and multiply Father Bill's ministry so that Your Church will multiply for Your glory and for our salvation. Please shower this priest with your blessings every day.

We praise and thank You, most Holy God, for the gift of Father Bill We thank You for his years of service and ask You to bless us with many more years with our beloved priest.  
Amen.

**A SPECIAL MASS THIS MONDAY TO HONOR  
Our Lady of Fatima – The Pilgrim Virgin Statue**

Our parish has been blessed to receive the Pilgrim Virgin Statue on Monday, May 16. There will be a special Mass at 5:30 pm. And there will be Veneration two hours prior to Mass starting at 3:00 pm. The Custodian of the statue, here in the United States, will talk about the message of Fatima. Many miracles and signal graces have been reported where the statue has traveled.

**THE CARDINAL'S STEWARDSHIP APPEAL  
CONTINUES AND WE NEED YOUR HELP !!**

The 2016 Cardinals Stewardship Appeal is still going on. Your gift to The Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal is vital in sustaining all the good that we do for the church in New York. **THANK YOU** Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hodge, Ms. Toni Lastowski, Mr. & Mrs. John McCue

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Hosted by Father Bill Damroth**

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MONTE CASSINO, AND ROME !**

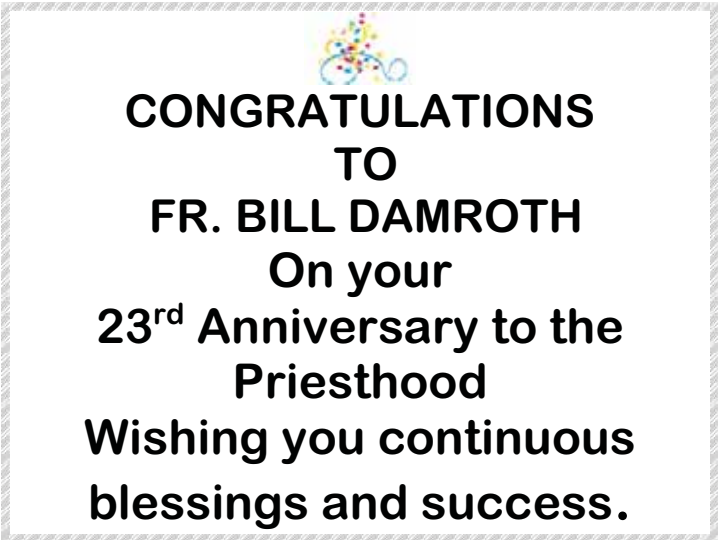
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plan on going on this trip.**

Tel: (718) 887-5065  
Email: [padrebill59@yahoo.com](mailto:padrebill59@yahoo.com)



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**CONGRATULATIONS
TO
FR. BILL DAMROTH
On your
23rd Anniversary to the
Priesthood
Wishing you continuous
blessings and success.**

COUPLES CELEBRATING THEIR 50TH 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 25th at 1:30 pm or Sunday, June 26th at 2:00 on, Pre-registration is required. Please contact the rectory at 561-1317 for registration. The closing date to register for the Mass is Tuesday, May 24, 2016. This event is sponsored by the Family Life/Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of New York.

Twenty-eight of our children will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this Wednesday, May 18th. Please keep these young adults in your prayers as they receive the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The Bishop Dunn Memorial School Drama Club
Presents "The Little Mermaid" on Friday (May 27 at 7 pm)--Saturday (May 28 at 7 pm)—Sunday (May 29 at 12 pm) at Mt. St. Mary College. Tickets are \$10 and are available at the door. For more info, call 845-569-3494.

BECOME A MEMBER OF OUR PARISH TODAY
__YES! I want to register as a member of St. Francis of Assisi Parish and receive offertory envelopes.

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