



Downing Park is a beautiful oasis in the City of Newburgh, thirty-five acres of natural beauty in the midst of the hustle of human activity. The park was named after Andrew Jackson Downing, who was a local city inspiration for the creation of public parks. Before his death at the age of 38 in 1852, Downing advocated for the creation of Central Park in Manhattan. He was a friend of Calvert Vaux, first meeting in England and then later opening up an architecture firm together in Newburgh. In 1889, Vaux was offered the commission for a city park with Frederick Law Olmsted. They agreed as long as the park was named after Downing. Opened in 1897, the park featured Polly Pond the home of ice skating and sledding. One hundred years later, assigned to Sacred Heart in Newburgh, I would often walk at the park to clear my head of priestly pressures in my young years of priesthood. I recall vividly the day a few young boys were setting off an accidental fire, and I used my cell phone (back then nearly the size of my head) to report the fire to public authorities. Downing Park has resurrected recently and frequently in daily walks, usually with Deacon Tony of New Windsor/Cornwall, since my return to Newburgh last year with this assignment to Saint Francis of Assisi. As spring warms our winterized souls, simultaneously happening is the natural progression of new life from the animal kingdom that energizes this scenic park. Alongside inspiring birdsong offering musical melodies in the backdrop, tiny baby ducks can be seen at Polly Pond learning survival skills with the guiding hand of their parents. The instinct to live and breathe seems so natural to these little ones, inspired by the wisdom of their duck mothers and fathers. Something beautiful from God seems to be inscribed in their hearts and psyche. The mental and physical coordination is inherent to their existence.

Human beings have another important element inscribed in their mind, body and spirit. This is the capacity to pray to the author of life, God, who created us in partnership with our parents. This is a spiritual instinct that enables each person acknowledging and embracing this religious reality to survive other important life tests: bearing the human burdens of pain and suffering. We all groan for His help when crucifixions come into our paths such as death (recently heard from a friend in Staten Island crying terribly with the death of her father: her happy life with a nurturing family and a career as a flight attendant for a major airline has been pierced by this death of a parent) of loved ones, illnesses such as cancer which loom in so many (a long-time friend of mine tries to recover at Saint Luke's as a several decade battle with breast cancer continues), financial pressures that inflict mainstream Americans acutely making it very difficult to save for an enjoyable future retirement, the agonies of relationships coming to an end despite our dreams and wishes that they would walk with us during forthcoming journeys in life (marriages, friendships, and other types of connectivity not continuing as they had in the past), and overall concerns about the political tensions that permeate the world landscape. Prayer is our best strategy, as we also offer thanks to God for His blessings to us. A few weeks ago I prayed for two hours in the small chapel of Kennedy Catholic High School in Somers, where I am a chaplain. A young female student and teacher came in at different times, offering up their struggles to God as I watched from a distance. The groans of hoping, wishing, pleading, and accepting emerged from their spiritual presence in that chapel. This is our best path to facing what aches our hearts: turning to the Creator Who knows us better than anybody else. These difficulties will one day pass, leaving in the ocean wake a better spiritual person who can help others when life dishes out similar obstacles to them. Praying for His peace. Father Bill

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Mon. May 23**

7:00am City of Newburgh  
 Noon Janet Lombardo  
 By Donna Fanning

**Tues. May 24**

7:00am Deacon Jack Seymour  
 Health & Blessing  
 30 Years as a Deacon  
 By His Family  
 Noon Bertha Benish  
 By Son, Eddie

**Wed. May 25**

7:00am Married Couples  
 Noon Bernard Dolan, Jr.  
 By The Burke Family

**Thur. May 26**

7:00am Public Servants  
 Noon Janina Prochowska  
 By Jolanta & Monica Hacker

**Fri. May 27**

7:00am Military Families  
 Noon Mary E.  
 Health & Blessings  
 By Grandma  
 Special Intention  
 From Family

**Sat. May 28**

Noon Our Veterans  
 4:30pm Craig MacFarland  
 By Wife  
 James & Elvira Crudele  
 By Children

**Sun. May 29**

8:00am Andrew Lasek and  
 parents  
 By Pat, Suzanna & Rich  
 11:00am Lynne Hasdenteufel  
 By Natalene Quick

*Weekly Collection* 

May 14-15, 2016

1<sup>st</sup> Collection \$5999.00

.....2<sup>nd</sup> Collection.. \$2012.21

TOTAL...\$8011.21

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

The 2<sup>nd</sup> collection this weekend is for  
**LAWN MOWING**

**MASS ATTENDANCE**

May 14-15, 2016

4:30 pm 235

8:00 am 170

11:00 am 270

Total 675

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 Ministers 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

**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.**



*Keys for a happy long life:  
 Faith & Family*



~ ~ ~

## ST. FRANCIS HAPPENINGS !!

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

June 2 6:00 pm San Miguel Graduation Ceremony at St. Francis Church

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.

June 10 6:00 pm Nora Cronin Graduation Ceremony at St. Francis Church.

June 26 Coffee and Bagel Hour after the 8 am Mass. Join us!

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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.

### LOOKING FOR HELP?

Experienced adult, certified in CPR & First Aid, willing to assist in: child care, senior care, light housekeeping, organizing and animal care. References available. Please speak to Annette in Security for further information

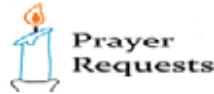
A new ministry is being formed – The St. Francis of Assisi Historical Society, headed by Al Certo. If you have any interest, or have St. Francis or Newburgh memorabilia that you would like to donate, please contact the Rectory.



CONGRATULATIONS to Mrs. Desiree Abbruscato - - the April winner of \$252 in our Monthly 50/50 Raffle Club. Be sure your envelope is in for our next drawing in May !!

**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

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*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 Parker Jane Holloway

**We have reached**

**91%**

**Of our goal of \$39,500  
Towards the  
Cardinals Stewardship Appeal..**

**THANK YOU Mr. & Mrs. Ron Barton, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Burke, and Mr. & Mrs. Mark Gamma**  
**The Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal is vital in sustaining all the good that we do for the church in New York.**

**WE ARE UP TO \$35,971.21...Our goal is \$39,500 We are so close -- with your help, we can make it.....**

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO MAKE YOUR  
DONATION TODAY..**

**NEWS FROM THE  
NIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #444**

June 4<sup>th</sup> – Relay for Life (American Cancer Society)  
If you are interested in participating with the K or C  
to walk, please let them know. Fr. Bill will be doing  
a Midnight Mass at the Relay for Life site.  
Knights Yard Sale will be held on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 8 am to  
3 pm at the Council building, on 53 Old Little Britain  
Road.  
Hudson Valley Knights of Columbus Charity Ball –  
June 24 at 6:30 pm at St. Mary's Council in Fishkill.  
\$45 per paid by May 31 please. Proceeds will be  
going to Special Olympics. For information on any  
of the above events, please contact Grand Knight  
Ken Ryan at 845-667-1582. The Knights of  
Columbus are always looking for new members.

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Please contact Fr. Bill as soon as possible if you  
plan on going on this trip.**

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



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LOOKING

**FOR CELL PHONE PICTURES**

of the May 15<sup>th</sup> out-door Crowning of the Blessed  
Mother in our new garden. If you took some  
pictures and would like to share them,  
please send them via email to:  
[saintfrancisnewburgh@gmail.com](mailto:saintfrancisnewburgh@gmail.com).

**COUPLES CELEBRATING THEIR 50<sup>TH</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:30  
pm or Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

**MEMORIAL DAY  
MONDAY, MAY 30<sup>th</sup>**  
The Mass Schedule is:  
7 am and Noon in the Church  
9 am Mass at St. Francis Cemetery  
(weather permitting)



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**WE ARE SO THANKFUL**

For the opportunity to have hosted the world  
famous International Pilgrim Virgin Statue, Our  
Lady of Fatima within our church. Over 200  
people came to the noon mass. A continuous  
flow of people came to sit and prayer during the  
2 ½ hour veneration and over 230 people were  
at the 5:30pm mass. We thank Mr. Larry  
Meginot, the Custodian of this famous statue,  
for sharing his knowledge of this statue and the  
apparitions of The Lady of Fatima.

~~~~~

**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.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Fill out and drop in the Offertory Collection or mail  
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