



Country walks awaken us to the beauty of the world that God has handed to us. Those excursions teach us also the realities of existence, including our mortality. As Halloween approached a month ago one such road had skeletons (which we slowly become after death before turning to dust) on chairs, broomsticks, motorcycles, and even surfboards. The prospect of one day looking like that does not terribly excite me, but there is a future destiny God calls us toward that should lift our spirits somewhat. Saint Callistus I, a pope who was martyred in 222 AD along the Aurelian Way in Ancient Rome, drew upon these dual realities with these insightful thoughts: "What an honor, what happiness to depart joyfully from this world, to go forth in glory from the anguish and pain, in one moment to close the eyes that looked on the world of men and in the next to open them at once to look on God and Christ! The speed of this joyous departure! You are suddenly withdrawn from earth to find yourself in the kingdom of heaven." Culture within the world landscape offers the same introspections.

Back in the middle of September, I went to a nostalgia convention in Maryland that brought famed celebrities of past movies and television shows into the present by their appearances with fans like myself. Among those met were Brett Eklund, who was a James Bond female interest of Roger Moore in the "Man With the Golden Gun" from 1974. There was also Kent McCord, who played a 1960's Los Angeles police officer in the "Adam 12" series.

Upon learning of my priesthood, I was startled at the respect they offered to me about my vocation. Playing forces for good in both the film and series cited, we actually compared their cinema roles with what my purpose as a priest is meant to be. I left the convention with a sense of goodness about the culture we live in that indeed can be found. A few weeks later in California those same conclusions were drawn to a similar extent. The human activity scene in the city of San Diego was loud and wild. There did not seem to be a mad rush to go to church services on Sunday morning, but the faith could still be found in the midst of the frenzy. Saint Joseph Cathedral, pastored by my friend Father Patrick Mulcahy, offered such a spiritual alternative. A retired bishop, with both of us at his side, blessed statues of Saints Mother Teresa of Kolkota and John Paul II. When I went to a San Diego Chargers football game on October 2 at Jack Murphy Stadium, I thought of their quarterback Philip Rivers. A devout Catholic with eight children, he goes to Mass every week either on the road or at home. Down the road from the stadium, along Friar Road, is Mission San Diego founded by Saint Junipero Serra in 1769. Serra was a Franciscan priest, the same order as our parish namesake Francis of Assisi. Two hundred years later, in 1969, came the San Diego Padres baseball team.

At the mission, I attended a Mass celebrated by Father Bill Springer. His homily cited the fact that choosing to do the plan of God in our lives is not easy, recalling the challenge of thinking of the priesthood at the same time he was dating a young woman who was also a student at Notre Dame University in Indiana. I understand well that difficult decision he made, having been in that position myself. To summarize my main point again: finding God in a secular culture. A few days later in the Bay Area of beautiful Northern California, I was able to get to San Francisco a few times. Not far from the scenic Fisherman's Wharf, I stumbled upon Mission San Francisco de Asis (built in 1791 to be the oldest building in the area, even surviving the historic 1906 earthquake) and a quiet statue of Saint Francis of Assisi at a city park just two blocks from the wharf. Again finding spiritual presence in the midst of the cultural frenzy.

The point I am proposing is that our interactions with persons, places, and things in the worldwide culture should not be segregated from our religious faith. Both philosophies should meaningfully feed off of each other, in terms of nurturing and developing the authentic human spirit that God wishes us to embrace. This is a spirit of truth, integral growth, honest introspection, and waiting in anticipation for the future in heaven that God has ordained for each of us after a life well spent (allowing for our faults and failures duly repented of). We pray for this grace of insight and action.

Father Bill

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. Nov. 21

7:00am Andrew Heitman
By Loving Friends
Noon Mary & Joseph Vitay
By Mary Ann & Tony Farkas

Tues. Nov. 22

7:00am God's Blessings for our
President
Noon Frances Martin
By Ann Hardy

Wed. Nov. 23

7:00am Vocations
Noon Craig McFarland
(2nd Anniv)
By Wife
5:30pm In Thanksgiving to God

Thur. Nov. 24

9:00am In Thanksgiving to God

Fri. Nov 25

7:00am Eleanor Murphy
By Formato Family
Noon Our Country

Sat. Nov. 26

Noon John Nosek
By Szeli Family
4:30pm Sr. Catherine Agnes
By Mary Ann & Tony Farkas
Nancy Pullar
By Donna & Jim Pullar

Sun. Nov. 27

8:00am Louise Venuti Dubaldi
By Joanne & John Mc Cue
Pasquale Fasciani
By Family
11:00am Tony Bellissimo and
Anthony Leonardo
By Knights of Columbus
Msgr. Henry O'Carroll
Council #444



WEEKLY COLLECTON

November 12-13, 2016
1st Collection \$5,923.00
2nd Collection \$2,020.00
TOTAL \$7,943.00

*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
CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

MASS ATTENDANCE

November 12-13, 2016
4:30pm 240
8:00am 222
11:00am 254
Total 716



Our Holy Hour
with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
is **CANCELLED**
on Wednesday November 23rd
due to our Thanksgiving Vigil Mass

MASS IN SPANISH

Our Spanish Mass is **this afternoon at 2:00pm.**
All are invited to attend.

THANKSGIVING MASSES

Wednesday November 23rd

Vigil Mass 5:30pm

Thursday, November 24th

9:00am

(There will be no 7:00am or 12 noon Mass)

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy is recited on Sundays
at 10:40am before the 11:00am MASS



FLOWER MEMORIALS

The Flowers in the sanctuary this weekend are
"In Celebration of our parent's
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Brodow
73rd Wedding Anniversary"
Given by their 5 daughters

Also the 2nd arrangement of flowers in the
sanctuary this weekend are
"In Celebration of our **47th Wedding Anniversary**"
Jim & Sharon Formato

The Rectory Office will be closed
Thursday, November 25th
Friday November 26th
 for the Thanksgiving Holiday



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Vincenza Secor, Aaron Stagliano, Kelly Stafford, Robyn McGraw, John Sabo, Andrew Costanzo, Marie Wiejak, Rose, Stephen Sabo, Ashley Barco, 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, 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, Fr. Fred Kempferi, Carmen DeCrosta, Parker, Jane Holloway, Dore Williams, Hank Kensing, Virginia Ranaudo, Sheryl McGrath, Landi Family, Michelle Ryan, Rosalind Morrison, Donna Delconte, Joan Ponesse, Jim Taylor, Marilyn Lennox, Bruno Marchatta, Anne McClellan, Robert Vance, Rose Mitchell, Louis Arbia, Dottie Rodriguez

HIGH SCHOOL CONFIRMATION GROUP

The high school Confirmation group meets on **Fridays, 4:30pm until 6:00pm in the St. Francis Convent, 153 Benkard Avenue.** Entrance is off the back parking lot next to the parish office and rectory. The group is only for 9-12 graders who have not received Confirmation and are interested in doing so. Please speak to Sr. Laura if you have questions

Adult Catechisis

Any adult who has not received their sacraments and would like to do so, please see Sr. Laura or leave your name at the Rectory, 561-1317

The
2017 MASS BOOK
 Is now open
 Rectory Hours 9:00am to 3:00pm

ST. FRANCIS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov 20th – Bagel Hour
 Nov 20th – Spanish Mass 2pm
 Nov. 20th – Teen Youth Meeting
 Dec 3rd 4th – Tag Sale in O'Connor Hall
 Dec 7th – Senior Meeting 12:30 in O'Connor Hall
 Dec. 11th – Teen Youth Meeting
 Dec. 16th – Movie Night 6:00pm in O'Connor Hall



Food Pantry Hours:
Friday 9:00am to 12noon
Saturday 9:00am to 12noon

In your goodness please bring **PERSONAL CARE ITEMS** such as **TOOTHPASTE SOAP & DEODORANT** to Church next weekend to be distributed to the less fortunate in our area thru our Food Pantry.

The Food Pantry will be **closed** Friday, **November 25th** and Saturday, **November 26th** for the Thanksgiving weekend.

The Food Pantry is looking for a driver on **Wednesdays** from **12noon to 3:30pm** to go to the Food Bank in Cornwall to pick up our weekly delivery and bring the items back to the Pantry. Must be able to drive a 24 foot truck. No lifting involved. For more information or questions call Paul Zalanowski at 845-234-8564.



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

From November 5th until December 11th we will be collecting gifts for boys and girls from ages 1 to 12. Please take an **“Angel”** gift selection from the Christmas Giving Tree located in the back of the Church. Bring your new, unwrapped gift and leave it under the tree. The gifts will be distributed to local children through the Parish Food Pantry. We ask that you bring in all gifts by **December 11th** so we have time to distribute them all before Christmas.

Teen Youth Ministry
Youth Afternoons

Our teens had a great Youth Afternoon last Sunday, November 13th. They enjoyed a great movie, pizza, chips, new friends and sharing. Join the fun and sharing on our next Youth Afternoons:

- Sunday, November 20th, 2016
- Sunday, December 11th, 2016
- Sunday, December 18th, 2016
- Sunday, January 8, 2017

MEN'S ADVENT MORNING OF REFLECTION

"A MORNING WITH JOSEH"

Saturday, December 3, 2016

9:00am - 11:30am

Mt. St. Joseph

84 Presentation Way New Windsor, NY

RSVP - Sr. Eileen Carmody

ecpbvm@gmail.com.

845-913-5178



ATTENTION ALL MYTYHBUSTERS

Practice for our Children's Christmas Choir for the 4:30pm Christmas Eve Mass will begin on Tuesday, November 29th. Please contact Desiree Abbruscato, our Music Director, at 845-541-0769 or e-mail her at abbruscator@aol.com for more information.

CCHD COLLECTION

This week's second collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) provides funding for groups that make lasting change and uplift the poor in the United States. CCHD's grants improve education, support economic development and create affordable housing in low income neighborhoods. Help us continue to defend human dignity and build communities of solidarity. Please give to the CCHD Collection.



YOU ARE INVITED! There will again be a local **National Night of Prayer for Life** to be held at Our Lady of the Lake Church, Route 52, Town of Newburgh beginning with Mass at 9:00pm on **December 8th**. This is a Holy Day of Obligation of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. For those who can stay for any amount of time we plan on having, Eucharistic Adoration, Benediction, Rosary, Gospel Readings and silent prayer to 12:15am on December 9th. This is the date that Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Unborn and of the Americans first appeared to St. Juan Diego. This night of prayer has been organized in conjunction with Pastor, Fr. Fernando Hernandez and Msgr. Henry O'Carroll Council 444, Knights of Columbus.



The Catholic War Veterans, Post #386 would like to express a heartfelt "Thank You" to Fr. Bill, Fr. Peter and the parishioners of St. Francis for your hospitality during our **National Information Drive** last weekend. Remember, all veterans and active duty personnel, who are baptized Catholic, a practicing Catholic and has an Honorable Discharge (veteran) is eligible to join. All immediate family members are eligible to join the "**Friends of the CWV Post #386**". Anyone wishing more information please call 845-562-1841 or our National Headquarters 1-703-549-3622.



On **Saturday December 3rd** from 9:00am to 2:00pm and **Sunday, December 4th** from 9:00am to 1:00pm Food Pantry volunteers Kitty Bernard and Margaret Miller will host a tag sale to benefit St. Francis Church. Due to the generosity of so many of our parishioners we have an overabundance of goods and will **no longer** be able to accept donations.

ADULT CHRISTMAS CHOIR

NEEDED: Adult singers for our Christmas Masses. Christmas choir practices are scheduled for 7:00pm on Thursday evenings beginning November 17th. For more information please contact our Music Director, Desiree Abbruscato at 845-541-0769 or abbruscator@aol.com.



FLOWER MEMORIAL

Flower memorials are available for anyone wanting to memorialize a loved one, honor someone or in Thanksgiving to God. The cost is \$35.00 for each arrangement of flowers to be placed in the sanctuary near the altar. Please call the rectory at 561-1317 to reserve your specific date.



Our monthly Senior Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, December 7th at 12:30pm** (after the 12noon Mass) in O'Connor Hall. We will have a **guest speaker, Greg Gaetano**, Retired Chief Investigator for the Orange County Sheriff's Office, who will talk about personal safety. New members are always welcome.

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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Address: _____

City/Town: _____ Zip: _____

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E-mail Address: _____

Fill out and drop in the Offertory Collection or mail to St. Francis of Assisi Church, 145 Benkard Avenue, Newburgh, NY 12550.....and Welcome!


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