



God's beautiful universe includes the many birds seeking seeds and companionship around our parish prayer garden, dedicated to world peace under the inspiration of Saint Francis of Assisi. There is a touching photo of a bird embracing the winds and rain about it with these penetrating thoughts: "Sometimes, you just have to bow your head, say a prayer, and weather the storm." This conjures up the old adage about the two types of people in the world: those waking up in the morning optimistically uttering "Good morning Lord" and the opposite bellowing "Good Lord it's morning."

Attitudes toward life is strengthened, shaped, and guided by our faith no matter what life throws at us. There are marriage divorces, deaths of loved ones, academic achievement pressures for students, health woes, economic stresses, worldwide news concerns, relationship fractures, doubts, fears, and second-guessing decisions in life that strike us individually at times that seriously challenge our faith and optimism. Let us look at one concrete case to find appropriate strategies to stay focused.

Tom Dempsey was born on January 12, 1947 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. A place kicker in the National Football League from 1969-1979 he played for the New Orleans Saints, Philadelphia Eagles, Los Angeles Rams, Houston Oilers, and Buffalo Bills. He is best known for a football game on November 8, 1970 at Tulane Stadium in New Orleans, Louisiana. In the final seconds of the contest, Tom kicked a record field goal of sixty-three yards to give the lowly Saints a 19-17 victory over the Detroit Lions. The Saints were only 2-12 that season. I remember that feat very well as a young boy, then the longest field goal in league history. What makes the event more amazing is that Dempsey was born with no fingers on his right hand, and minus any toes on his right foot. The boot was made with a flattened shoe around his toe area. When asked if the special shoe gave him an unfair advantage, he replied: "Unfair, eh? How about you trying to kick a 63 yard field goal to win it with two seconds left and your wearing a square shoe, oh yeah, and no toes either."

Dempsey would later retire in Metairie, Louisiana where his house in 2005 was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. He reflected: "The hurricane flooded me out of a lot of memorabilia, but it can't flood out the memories."

In January of 2013, doctors revealed that this football legend had been diagnosed with dementia. I have to believe that Tom Dempsey will employ the same faith, emotional strength, and physical tenacity to face this dilemma that he engaged in his illustrious past. Dempsey became part of my recent thinking when an autographed photo of that 1970 field goal was placed into my appreciative hands. Underscoring the main point of last week's Padres Corner "learning spiritual truths even in the worldwide cultural landscape, this type of human success story in conjunction with our faith in God can help each of us to leapfrog over the complexities and heartbreaks of existence. The emotional pain may still remain plus the scar wounds, but the rugged spirit of endurance with the help of the Almighty will help us both to persevere and grow from the rugged experience on rough human memory terrain. As I ask you to spiritually "live long and prosper" (thanks Spock from "Star Trek"), my pastoral wish for you is also the religious dream for myself.

My priesthood has not always been easy. There have been difficult memories such as Yonkers parishioners killed during the September 11 attacks in 2001, four pastors at two different parishes that died during my time with them (three from cancer and one from a stroke), being called upon by the presiding Cardinal to help resuscitate struggling parishes, human betrayals, mistakes in judgment, and the endurance fights with my own frailties and weaknesses that confront and plague every human being made by God.

The challenge for all priests to become better is so well expressed by Saint Gregory the Great (pope from 590-604 AD, known well for his writings to convert the pagans of Ancient Rome), in these sobering reflections: "That the harvest is good but the laborers are few cannot be said without a heavy heart, for although there are many to hear the good news there are only a few to preach it. Indeed, see how full the world is of priests, but yet in God's harvest a true laborer is rarely to be found; although we have accepted the priestly office we do not fulfill its demands." The teachings of God not only critique me, but all of the faithful filling the pews. With His grace, we will live long in heaven and prosper after successfully navigating the world below He brought us into.

Father Bill

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. Nov. 28

7:00am Pope Francis
Noon John J. Morrow
(11th Anniv)

By Morrow Family

Tues. Nov. 29

7:00am Vocations
Noon The Unborn

Wed. Nov. 30

7:00am City of Newburgh
Noon Lena Postilone

By Andrew & Angela Civile

Thur. Dec. 1

7:00am World Peace
Noon Food Pantry Volunteers

Fri. Dec. 2

7:00am Carlo Corizzo
By Colleen & Michael Corizzo

Noon Mary Cawley

By Family

Sat. Dec. 3

Noon St. Francis Parish
4:30pm John Baptist Barcia

By Wife Ida

Daniel D'Elicio

By Lynda Piper

Sun. Dec. 4

8:00am Ann & Anthony Farkas

By Mary Ann & Tony Farkas

11:00am Howard Scofield
"Happy Birthday"

By Family

Antonio Elias and

Antonio Brunetti

By Ed & Caterina Elias



WEEKLY COLLECTON

November 19-20, 2016

1 st Collection	\$	
2 nd Collection	\$	UNAVAILABLE
TOTAL	\$	

*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
CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

MASS ATTENDANCE

November 19-20, 2016

4:30pm	
8:00am	UNAVAILABLE
11:00am	
Total	



Eucharistic
Adoration

Our **Holy Hour** with Exposition of the Blessed
Sacrament on Wednesday from 5:00pm to 6:00pm will
be for the special intention of

OUR CITY. NEWBURGH

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

MASS IN SPANISH

Our next Scheduled Spanish Mass will be on Sunday
December 18th at 2:00pm. All are invited to attend.

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

A PRAYER FOR ADVENT

Mary, O luminous mother,
holy healing art!

Eve brought sorrow to the soul,

but by your holy Son

you pour balm on

death's wounds and travail.

You have indeed conquered death!

You have established life!

Ask for us life.

Ask for us radiant joy.

Ask for us the sweet, delicious ecstasy

That is forever yours. Amen

St Hildegard



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Vincenza Secor, Aaron Stagliano, Kelly Stafford, Robyn McGraw, John Sabo, Andrew Costanzo, Marie Wijek, 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, Michael Suchowiecki, Louis Arbia, Dottie Rodriguez



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

In your goodness please bring **CANNED VEGETABLES** to Church next weekend to be distributed to the less fortunate thru our Food Pantry.

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.

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



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.



ADULT CHRISTMAS CHOIR

NEEDED: Adult singers for our Christmas Masses. Christmas choir practices are scheduled from 6-7pm on Thursday evenings beginning November 17th. For more information please contact our Music Director, Desiree Abbruscato at 845-541-0769 or abbruscator@aol.com.



Practice for our Children's Christmas Choir for the 4:30pm Christmas Eve Mass will begin on Tuesday, November 29th from 6:00pm to 7:00pm. Please contact Desiree Abbruscato, our Music Director, at 845-541-0769 or e-mail her at abbruscator@aol.com for more information.



Next weekend 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.**



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.



TEEN YOUTH MINISTRY

Mark your calendars to join in the fun at our upcoming teen meetings:

- Sunday, December 11th, 2016
- Sunday, December 18th, 2016
- Sunday, January 8th, 2016

NATION NIGHT OF PRAER FOR LIFE

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

ST. FRANCIS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sept.30th – Eucharistic Adoration 5:00pm in Church
- Dec. 3rd 4th – Tag Sale in O'Connor Hall
- Dec. 7th – Senior Meeting 12:30pm in O'Connor Hall
- Dec. 11th – Teen Meeting 4:30-6:00pm
- Dec. 16th – Movie Night 6:00pm in O'Connor Hall
- Dec.18th – Bagel Hour
- Dec. 18th – Spanish Mass 2:00pm in Church
- Dec. 18th – Teen Meeting 4:30-6:00pm

SENIOR CITIZENS

Our St. Francis 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 to us about personal safety. New members are always welcome. For questions or more information please call the rectory at 561-1317.

"The confessional is not a torture chamber, but the place in which the Lord's mercy motivates us to do better."

Pope Francis



MOVIE NIGHT

Join us on **Friday, December 16th** at **6:00pm** in O'Connor Hall for **"Christmas for A Dollar"**. "During the Great Depression, the Kamp family struggles to get by after Mrs. Kamp passes away. The children expect another Christmas without presents until their father brings home one dollar for them to spend on gifts." Come join us for a fun, family evening. Please contact Jeannine McCaulley at [914-263-0572](tel:914-263-0572) or jeansey50@yahoo.com if you are planning on attending.

PILGRIMAGES

Plans have been finalized for two pilgrimages hosted by Fr. Bill in 2017.

- 1) Spain Pilgrimage** for 11 days, April 24th thru May 4, visiting Lisbon, Fatima, Salamanca. Avila, Madrid, Lourdes Montserrat and Barcelona.
- 2) Alpine Christmas Adventure** for 11 days, December 4th thru 14th visiting Frankfurt, Freiburg, Lucerne, Innsbruck, Salzburg, Oberammergau, Neuschwanstein, Munich, Rothenberg and Heidelberg.

To register or for additional information please call the rectory 561-1317.

God With Us



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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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