



## **PADRE'S CORNER**

**December 11, 2016**

Charles Monroe Schulz was born on November 26, 1922 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He died on February 12, 2000 at the age of 77 of colon cancer in Santa Rosa, California. I will remember that date because of my philosophical interest in the works of Schulz, the fact that his final "Peanuts" cartoon strip was printed in newspapers that weekend, and I learned the news while in the South Jersey home of New York Jets football legend Joe Klecko for lunch that particular afternoon. If anyone understood the "silver linings" of life, Schulz did. His life touched me again in early October while visiting the Northern California town of Santa Rosa, where a museum and research center dedicated to his memory was established in 2002. I learned that the elderly Edna Poehninger worked there, after having done something special for me from nearby that setting back in 1998. I wrote the famed cartoonist for an autograph, and secretary Edna responded to me that he could no longer respond to such requests because of the massive volume he received. I called her up in response to the letter, and thanked Edna for her signed letter. This was a smart move, as she pulled my name out of the file and two weeks later received the coveted autograph of Mr. Schulz. The shaky handwriting immediately stood out, and we would all realize soon thereafter how sick he was.

Charles entered this world of German and Norwegian heritage, and turned to drawing as a release from extreme shyness as a young student. At the age of twenty, his mother Dena died of cancer. The high emotions of life continued when he was soon after drafted by the Army for World War II. After the war ended, his first job was back home in Minnesota for a Catholic comic magazine entitled "Timeless Topix". He first drew the "Li'l Folks" in 1947 for the St. Paul Pioneer Press, which is where the Charlie Brown and Snoopy images first emerged. After rejections by influential media outlets he tried to sell the strip to, the United Feature Syndicate who accepted the concept as long as the name was changed to "Peanuts." The inaugural column began on October 2, 1950.

Public popularity led to television specials, including a "Charlie Brown Christmas" which was shown on CBS in 1965. Linus teaches Charlie Brown about the meaning of Christmas, in times of rampant commercialization like our own, by quoting the Gospel of Saint Luke where the shepherds and Angels pave the way for the birth of the Savior in Bethlehem. Schulz based his characters on the sad moments he often endured in life, such as the withdrawn and lonely Charlie Brown (who always got the rocks instead of candy at Halloween, though I believe there is an allegory there to the Rock of the Church that our faith is built on, and could never kick the football that Lucy would swiftly pull away from him at the last moment). He once said: "I suppose there's a melancholy feeling in a lot of cartoonists, because cartooning, like all other humor, comes from bad things happening.

"Snoopy" was based on a dog he had, the "Little Red-Haired Girl" flowed from a rejected female love interest from his past, and Linus after a devoted friend. His father Carl died in 1966, during a visit after the studio Schulz worked in burned down. This led to his new studio, come 1969, in Santa Rosa. His first marriage sadly ended in 1972. In 1988 there was an attempted kidnapping of his new wife Jean, which did not prevail. Charles was a baptized Lutheran, but would later teach Sunday school as a Methodist. In 2013, Jean would say about his faith: "I think he was a deeply thoughtful and spiritual man... When he came back from the Army he was very lonely. His mother had died and he was invited to church by a pastor who had prepared his mother's service. Some of his discussions with priests and ministers were so interesting because he wanted to find out what these people thought (about scripture passages)...God was very important to him, but in a very deep way, in a very mysterious way. Schulz left a lasting influence, despite all of his grief, because he was able to transcend it all creatively through the talents God gave to him. All of us have that same capacity. Do not let the difficulties weigh you (me) down, but turn the lemons into lemonade and find the "silver linings" in the harshness of existence through the lens of faith. Next week I will continue this theme of finding the good in the bad by describing a spiritual experience, at a nostalgia convention in late October. We will see together what Barbara Eden (I Dream of Jeannie), Martin Landau (Mission Impossible), Jon Provost (Lassie), Dawn Wells (Gilligan's Island), and Glynnis O'Connor (1977 Bell System production of Our Town) can teach us all about these issues. His blessings.

**Father Bill**

# MASS INTENTIONS

## Mon. Dec. 12

7:00am Francis "Slugger"  
Walkowiak  
By Joseph & Jean Kardel  
Noon John McGraw  
By Family

## Tues. Dec. 13

7:00am In Thanksgiving To  
The Holy Family and  
Infant Jesus of Prague  
Noon Ann & John Borka  
By Family

## Wed. Dec. 14

7:00am In Thanksgiving To  
St. Anthony & St. Jude  
Noon Josephine & Vincent  
Soldano  
By Family

## Thur. Dec. 15

7:00am In Thanksgiving To  
Our Lady of Mt Carmel  
& St Theresa  
"The Little Flower"  
Noon Mary & Joseph Vitay  
By Mary Ann & Tony Farkas  
Julia Esquivel  
Health & Blessings

## Fri. Dec. 16

7:00am In Thanksgiving To  
Divine Mercy &  
St John Paul II  
Noon Timothy J. Keating  
By Fran Mazzone

## Sat. Dec. 17

Noon John Nosek  
By Bienwald Family  
4:30pm Grace Schirmer  
By Family  
Nancy Pullar  
By Donna & Jim Pullar

## Sun. Dec. 18

8:00am Josephine Wassi  
By Bill & Marion Pushman  
Jane & Charles Baranski  
By Children  
11:00am August Pirillo  
By Wife & Sons  
Fr. Harry Winter  
Health & Blessings  
By Rich, Suzanne & Sarah  
Antonio Lorusso &  
Joseph Bucalo  
By Lorusso Family



## WEEKLY COLLECTON

December 3-4, 2016  
1<sup>st</sup> Collection \$6,651.00  
2<sup>nd</sup> Collection \$2,021.00  
TOTAL \$8,672.00

*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  
**RETIRED RELIGIOUS**

## MASS ATTENDANCE

December 3-4, 2016  
4:30pm 210  
8:00am 196  
11:00am 254  
Total 660

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



## **ADVENT CONFESSIONS**

In preparation for Christmas, confessions will  
be heard here at St. Francis on **Monday,**  
**December 19<sup>th</sup>** from **3:00pm** until **7:00pm.**

## **ADVENT EVENING OF REFLECTION**

**Tuesday, December 20, 2016**

**7:00pm to 9:00pm**

**In O'Connor Hall**

In the midst of all the preparations for Christmas, a  
moment to prepare our hearts for the coming of  
Jesus in our hearts, in our lives and in our families.



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

## SPANISH MASS

Our next Scheduled Spanish Mass will be on  
Sunday **December 18<sup>th</sup>** at **2:00pm**.

All are welcome.

## EVENING OF REFLECTION IN SPANISH

In O'Connor Hall on Thursday, **December 22<sup>nd</sup>** from **7:00pm to 9:00pm**.



### **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 De Crosta, Parker, Jane Holloway, Dore Williams, Sheryl McGrath, Michelle Ryan, Rosalind Morrison, Donna Delconte, Joan Ponesse, Jim Taylor, Marilyn Lennox, Bruno Marchatta, Anne McClellan, Robert Vance, Rose Mitchell, Louis Arbia, Dottie Rodriguez, Michael Rosenburg, Maureen Sullivan

## 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

## **ADVENT MORNING OF REFLECTION**

### ***"A MORNING WITH MARY"***

Wednesday, December 14, 2016

9:00am - 11:30am

Mt. St. Joseph

84 Presentation Way New Windsor, NY

**RSVP - Sr. Eileen Carmody**

[ecpbvm@gmail.com](mailto:ecpbvm@gmail.com).

845-913-5178



## **FLOWER MEMORIAL**

The flowers in the Sanctuary this weekend are  
"In Loving Memory of Howard Scofield"

Love, Kathy



### **Food Pantry Hours:**

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

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

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

### **The Food Pantry will be CLOSED**

**December 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>**

**December 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>**

in observance of the

Christmas and New Year holidays.

The Food Pantry is looking for **ONE MORE 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. This additional person will be on a three week rotation along with the two people already signed up. For more information or questions call Paul Zalanowski at 845-234-8564.



## **ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE**

**This is the last weekend** that we will be collecting Christmas gifts for boys and girls from ages 1 to 12. Please bring your new, unwrapped gift selection and leave it under the tree in the back of the Church. The gifts will be distributed to local needy children through the Parish Food Pantry.

## **ST. FRANCIS CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>** - Teen Meeting 4:30-6:30pm

**Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>** - Movie Night 6:00pm in O'Connor Hall

**Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>** - Bagel Hour

**Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>** - Spanish Mass 2:00pm in Church

**Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>** - Teen Meeting 4:30-6:00pm.

**Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>** - Confession 3:00pm to 7:00pm

**Dec 20<sup>th</sup>** - Advent Reflection 7pm to 9pm Connor Hall

**Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>** - Spanish Advent Reflection 7pm to 9pm

## JEWELRY SALE

The **Sisters of the Presentation** along with members of **Newburgh Ministry** co-sponsor a group of local women called "The Women's Craft Project". For 5 years these women have been making hand-made jewelry. They will be at all the Masses next weekend selling their handcrafted, one of a kind necklaces and bracelets which are reasonably priced.

## SPAIN PILGRIMAGE

**Last Call.....**time is getting short to make your reservation for the Spring Pilgrimage to Spain with visits to Fatima, Lourdes, Lisbon, Salamanca, Avila, Madrid, Montserrat and Barcelona. **Reservations with deposits are due this month.** Please call the rectory at 561-1317 for details.



## ADULT CHRISTMAS CHOIR

Christmas **Choir practices** are being held on **Thursday** evenings from **6:00pm to 7:00pm**. For more information please contact our Music Director, Desiree Abbruscato at 845-541-0769 or [abbruscator@aol.com](mailto:abbruscator@aol.com).



Practice for our Children's Mythbusters Christmas Choir for the 4:30pm Christmas Eve Mass are being held on **Tuesdays** 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](mailto:abbruscator@aol.com) for more information.



## TEEN YOUTH AFTERNOONS

Mark your calendars to join in the fun at our upcoming teen meetings for 12-16 year olds:

**\*\*Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 to 6:30pm**

Movie and pizza!!! Come and join the fun!!!

**\*\* Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**\*\*Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**REMINDER: Today's Youth afternoon from 4:30 to 6:30pm will feature a movie and pizza. Hope to see you there!**

## BAGEL & COFFEE HOUR

Join fellow parishioners in O'Connor Hall after the 8:00am Mass next Sunday and enjoy some delicious coffee and bagels while mingling and visiting with friends.

## HEALING MASS

There will be a Healing Mass at St. Mary's Church in Marlboro on Route 9W on **Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm**. All are welcome.

## CARDINALS STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

Thank you to our most recent donor  
**Mr. Steve Immitt**

**Thank You!**

FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

The Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal is vital in sustaining all the good that we do for the church in New York.



## MOVIE NIGHT

On Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm, we will be showing "*Christmas for a Dollar*". Pizza and light refreshments will be served. Please contact Jeannine McCauley at [914-263-0572](tel:914-263-0572) or [jeansey50@yahoo.com](mailto:jeansey50@yahoo.com) if you are planning on attending.

**PLEASE NOTE: that Movie Night is on Friday for the month of December only!**

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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