



## **PADRE'S CORNER**

**January 8, 2017**

Cardinal Timothy Dolan assisted the Italy pilgrimage two months ago, by directing his office to contact the Vatican staff that distributes tickets to the papal audiences each Wednesday at Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome. Being in close proximity to Pope Francis on November 9 was a special spiritual memory that none of the 103 pilgrims with me will soon forget. The message of the Holy Father was one of compassion toward all, especially those in prison and single parents. The two groups mentioned were symbolic of many others needing compassion and mercy, such as parents in difficult pregnancy situations or those struggling with sinful addictions (whether it be drugs, alcohol, pornography, anger, greed, lack of forgiving others, power trips).

Almost as if on cue, Cardinal Dolan visited the Orange County Jail in Goshen on November 21. Celebrating Mass for thirty-two prisoners, his comments meshed with those of the pope just a few weeks earlier. Dolan offered these encouraging words to the inmates: "You inspire me with your faith. In my room, I have a giant pencil sketch of Jesus at Calvary that a prisoner gave to me. The faces of the people at the cross with Jesus were those of his fellow inmates...It's important for people to know that prisoners are people of faith...they're contrite for what they did. I need to hang out with the same people Jesus did, the forgotten. In a way, it's kind of selfish because they're helping me get to heaven, and I need the help."

In the history of the Catholic Church, I recall another big story of mercy. Mehmet Ali Agca shot Pope John Paul II four times on May 13, 1981 during a papal audience (like the one attended two months ago) at Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome. He was saved by emergency surgery. I learned of the assassination attempt while working for New Jersey Bell Telephone, by phone from a calling customer. His story of courage nourished my faith and vocation, as did the chance to be in a group photograph with him in 1990 while being a student at Saint Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers. In 1997 (Paris, France) and 2000 (Rome, Italy), I concelebrated at his World Youth Day Masses.

Ali Agca spent nineteen years in the Rome prison, Rebibbia, before being released in 2000 to authorities in Turkey. John Paul visited the prisoner in his jail cell on December 27, 1983 for roughly twenty minutes, in order to forgive him for the dastardly action. The future Saint reflected: "What we talked about will have to remain a secret between him and me. I spoke to him as a brother whom I have pardoned, and who has my complete trust... We talked for a long time. Ali Agca is, as everyone says, a professional assassin. Which means that the assassination was not his initiative, that someone else thought of it, someone else gave the order. I had a feeling that I would survive. I was in pain, I had reason to be afraid, but I had this strange feeling of confidence. Oh, my Lord! This was a difficult experience"

The Pope said that he was saved miraculously, having been shot at point-blank range, by the miraculous intercession of Our Lady of Fatima. Our Lady had visited the three Fatima children on May 13, 1917 which would explain the historical linkage of dates. The 100th anniversary of the Fatima apparitions takes place in **four months**, and I am again leading a pilgrimage group there to Portugal shortly before that anniversary date. (We will also go to Lourdes, France which Blessed Mother Mary appeared at in 1858 before heading for a week in Spain. Cities in Spain to be visited include Madrid, Avila, and Barcelona) Ali Agca kissed the hands of the future Saint, symbolic of God's infinite mercy.

During the recent excursion to Rome, we pilgrims walked the same grounds of Saint Peter's Square that the 1981 event took place in. We also prayed in front of his tomb in the main Basilica church. What a profound message for all of us to embrace. God is all merciful, while expecting us to be repentant by seeking His grace. No matter how sinful we have been, or that of loved ones, God is ready to forgive in the name of Jesus His Son. If the would-be assassin of Saint John Paul II can be humanly forgiven, then assuredly you and I can be divinely embraced and saved for the eternal life that God the Father destines us for in heaven. Peace. **Father Bill**

# MASS INTENTIONS

## Mon. Jan. 9

7:00am Genowefa Pilch  
By Lidia & Joe Como  
Noon Thomas Di Donato  
By Barry & Jodi Schuyler

## Tues. Jan. 10

7:00am Joseph Certo  
By Michael & Colleen Corizzo  
Noon Mary King  
Health & Blessings

## Wed. Jan. 11

7:00am The Unborn  
Noon Mildred Crisci  
By Gloria & Sam Yonnone

## Thur. Jan. 12

7:00am The Elderly & Sick  
Noon Pope Francis

## Fri. Jan. 13

7:00am The Homeless  
Noon The City of Newburgh

## Sat. Jan. 14

Noon St. Francis Parish  
4:30pm Erick Nedwetzy  
By Helen & John Hickey

## Sun. Jan. 15

8:00am Robert Shaffer  
By Butler Family  
11:00am Fortunato & Funaro  
Families  
By Daughter Francine



### WEEKLY COLLECTON

December 31, 2016-January 1, 2017

1 <sup>st</sup> Collection	\$5,802.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection	\$1,192.00
TOTAL	\$6,994.00

*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  
**MAINTANENCE & REPAIRS**

### MASS ATTENDANCE

December 31, 2016 – January 1, 2017

4:30pm	250
8:00am	105
11:00am	<u>215</u>
Total	570

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



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**

## **MARCH FOR LIFE WASHINGTON, D.C.**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Pray with us on January 27<sup>th</sup> for human life to  
be respected in our society, and come with us for  
the March for Life.

The Newburgh bus to the Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>  
March for Life in Washington, D.C. will leave  
after the **4:00am Mass** from **Our Lady of the  
Lake Church**, Route 52, Orange Lake, and after  
a breakfast stop will arrive in Washington, D.C.  
in time for the Rally and March for Life. The  
bus returns to Orange Lake about 10:30pm. Bus  
riders pay \$50 per seat (youth \$35). For  
questions or reservations please contact Howard  
& Beth Spear at [heaps9@verizaon.net](mailto:heaps9@verizaon.net) or  
845-564-5257, or St. Patrick/St. Mary's Rectory  
at 845-561-0885.

### SPANISH MASS

Our Mass in Spanish will be celebrated today,  
**Sunday January 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm.**  
All are welcome!

### 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.



# Thank You!

to all who helped make Christmas at St. Francis a MEMORABLE time. We thank all the volunteers who so beautifully decorated our historic Church for this holy season.

We thank Fr Bill and Fr. Peter for their wonderful Masses, and Bill and Charlie for setting up and having things organized. We also would like to thank our many altar servers, lectors, Eucharistic ministers and ushers for serving at all our MASSES. And lastly we thank the children who took part in our live Nativity during the Christmas Eve Family Mass.



## THANK YOU TO OUR MUSIC MINISTRY

We are grateful for the talents and dedication of our adult choirs, cantors, organists and flutist who provided such beautiful music for our Christmas services and throughout the year.

**The Mythbusters Youth Choir** sounded amazing again this year. The music for our Christmas Eve Family Mass ranged from traditional to contemporary. There were harmonies, duets and even solos! Before Mass Madison Gravel played on keyboard, Ali Swink played the flute and Grace Riley played the great tracker organ. Our two young adult singers Liz Riley and J.C. Newhall sang duets with West Point soloist Mary Kay Messenger. This year's Mythbuster Singers were; Ali, Alex, Ameli, Daniel, Elsa, Grace and Madison. All worked hard and did a wonderful job.



On Wednesday, December 21, 2016 seven members of Msgr. Henry O'Carroll Council 444 of the Knights of Columbus, along with two family members, went to St. Luke's Hospital to spread some cheer at the holiday season to the children and staff. The members gave out toys to the children and candy to the staff. They all felt the Spirit of Christmas.



## FLOWER MEMORIAL

The flowers in the sanctuary this weekend are  
**"In Memory of Gene & Ann Lawrence"**  
By Friends

## HEALING MASS

There will be a healing Mass at St. Mary's Church in Marlboro on Route 9W next **Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm**. All are welcome. For more information please call Toni at 914-456-7539.



## 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 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, Louis Arbia, Dottie Rodriguez, Michael Rosenburg, Maureen Sullivan, Frank D'amario.

## PRAYERS FOR LIAM

Liam O'Brien, a friend of Fr, Bill, left for basic training at Fort Benning, Georgia on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our whole church family will be praying for his safety and thank him for his service to our country.



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

In your goodness please bring **ONE POUND PACKAGES OF RICE** to Church next weekend to be distributed to the less fortunate thru our Food Pantry.



**NEEDED**

**BROWN GROCERY BAGS WITH HANDLES**

**MARY'S HOPE** an outreach program, run by Suzanna Campora, delivers bags of groceries to shut-ins twice a month.

They are in need of used **brown paper grocery bags with handles** (like Adams) for their deliveries. If you have any to donate please drop them off at the rectory or leave them at the back of the church. Please mark them for *Mary's Hope*.

**ST FRANCIS UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Jan 11th** - Eucharistic Adoration 5:00 to 6:00pm
- Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>** - Bagel Hour after 8:00am Mass
- Jan 28<sup>th</sup>** - Movie Night 6:00pm in O'Connor Hall



**CASINO BUS TRIP**

On Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, VFW Post 1161 and CWV Post 386 will co-host a bus trip to Pocono Downs Casino in Wilkes-Barre, PA. Everyone is welcome. Departure is 8:30am from the Wal-Mart parking lot. The bus will depart for home at 4:30pm. Tickets are \$35.00 per person. Each person will receive a \$30.00 package consisting of \$25.00 free slot play and a \$5.00 food coupon, plus a chance to win this trip free. For reservations please contact John Raszewski at 845-562-3705.

*“Not all of us can do great things.  
 But we can do small things  
 with great love.”*

Saint Mother Teresa



**MOVIE NIGHT**

On Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup> we will show the movie *Cinderella Man*, starring Russell Crowe and Renee Zelleweger, at 6:00pm in O'Connor Hall. Please contact Jeannine McCauley at [jeansey50@yahoo.com](mailto:jeansey50@yahoo.com) or 914-263-0572 if you plan to attend.



**FREE THROW CONTEST**

The Msgr. Henry O'Carroll Council 444 of the Knights of Columbus is hosting a Hoop Shoot Free Throw Contest for **boys and girls** ages **9 to 14** on **Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>** from **11am to 3pm** at Sacred Heart School Gym (entrance on Ann Street) in Newburgh. Must bring **proof of age** and a **parent or guardian** must accompany the participant. For questions or more info please contact Bill Kuntz at 1-201-697-9920.

**SNOW DATE:** Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>.



**SUPER BOWL PARTY**

The Knights of Columbus, Msgr. Henry O'Carroll Council 444 is hosting their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Super Bowl Party on **Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>** in O'Connor Hall starting at **4:00pm**. \$5.00 per person or food donation to share. There will be games for the kids, football pools and a 50/50 raffle. Please RSVP to Bill Kuntz at 201-697-9920.

**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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