



PADRE'S CORNER

January 29, 2017

Antoine Marie Jean-Baptiste Roger, Comte de Saint-Exupery (1900-1944) was a novelist in France alongside being a pilot during World War II. His plane disappeared in July of 1944 over the Mediterranean Sea. He once reflected on life: "One sees only well with the heart. The essential is invisible to the eyes." From the heart flows an incredible capacity in each person to bring a bright light to the prevailing world, in the midst of all its inherent sadness and sufferings. A friend recently asked me for help to save "a baby kitten that is on the kill list in a Brooklyn pound. Her name is Billy Joe, she's a four-month-old black kitten who has a broken femur. I want to save a precious little life for Christmas and adopt an unwanted kitty from the pound, and this one is just so adorable... She will most likely be euthanized later today." Thank God a wonderful rescue group removed the kitten from this lethal situation, much as the SPCA of New Windsor removed my Moondoggie from such a horrid list a few days before I adopted him. Around the same time as that request was a heart-tugging story involving a New York City police officer, by the name of Joshua Sailor. He saved and adopted an eight-month-old pit bull in Jamaica, Queens that was chained for days minus water and food behind a screened house door. Restoring the malnourished dog back to health was the ASPCA, in which Sailor visited the animal innocent one day. He recalled: "She came running into the room and ran straight to me, ignoring the treats that they had put out on the floor. I'll admit I got a little choked up. I said that's it, she's coming home with me." Around the same time as these two heart-warming incidents, a new kitten joined my rectory home. This kitten, multicolored, had been seen in the Benkard Avenue neighborhood and even under the rectory porch. A few months ago, she even walked into the church before the start of the first Spanish Mass said here on a Sunday afternoon in October. She left as the Mass ended, respectfully waiting until the service was over. A few weeks later, I opened the rectory back door for an appointment when I saw the little one clawing at a plastic bucket of bird food. She was obviously starving, and accepted my invitation to come into the rectory. She quickly devoured a number of bowls of dry food, and I determined at that point that never again would she go outside into the cold and uncertainty again. A veterinarian the next day determined she was eight months old, and in robust health. I named her Guadalupe in honor of the first Mass she attended.

These little actions of goodness lie within the capacity of each of us to exercise, most of which never makes the newspapers. A song even has this power. At the "Daniel Moynihan Court House", in lower Manhattan, I went to a party of lawyers shortly before Christmas with a friend through phone company connections. In the midst of the corporate hobnobbing, the pianist pierced the communications with "Christmas Time Is Here" from "A Charlie Brown Christmas" in 1965. At a Jose Feliciano concert, on December 19 at the "B.B. King" in Manhattan, the same message of light in the midst of the darkness emerged. Jose was basically born blind from glaucoma in Lares, Puerto Rico back in 1945. His family moved to Spanish Harlem in Manhattan five years later. Famous for singing "Feliz Navidad", the national anthem before game five of the 1968 World Series between the Detroit Tigers and the Saint Louis Cardinals, and "Light My Fire" patterned after the "Doors" famous hit, Jose touched my heart with an incredible story of faith midstream through the concert. One night he overheard his parents expressing worry about what would happen to him as he got older, constrained by his blindness. That very night he had a dream of the Blessed Mother Mary, who led him into a dark tapestry room. Mary told him that he would prevail in life over the darkness of the failed eyesight. Shortly later Jose developed a passion for singing and the guitar as a youngster, which would eventually be recognized by talent scouts. He then dedicated the song "Ave Maria" to the Virgin Mary, near the end of the concert, for Her divine intervention in his life. This existence of Jose decades later continues to inspire any of us discouraged by life events, that leave us drawn and quartered. Feliciano sees and feels much in his heart, though the eyes betray him. He did not let this physical obstruction of blindness diminish God's plan for him, as we all likewise should refuse to be mastered by our difficulties. God has a plan of optimism for every person, expecting us to turn to Him for the grace and strength to follow through and not be defeated by life's twists and turns. Whether we save an animal, illuminate hearts with a song, or utter words of hope to others in distress, God blesses our efforts to bring solace and truth to a world in great denial. We bring that perspective into the new year of 2017.

God bless us. Father Bill

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. Jan. 30

7:00am Fr. Peter's Safety while
In Viet Nam
Noon Michelle Ryan
"Good Health"
By Family

Tues. Jan. 31

7:00am Pope Francis
Noon A Friend
Health & Blessings
By A Friend

Wed. Feb. 1

7:00am World Peace
Noon Anne McGuire
Health & Blessings
By Henry Sawoska

Thur. Feb. 2

7:00am Poor of Newburgh
Noon Harold Hardy
24 years in Heaven
By Daughter Ann

Fri. Feb. 3

7:00am The Homeless
Noon All Priests and Deacons

Sat. Feb. 4

Noon Victims of Suicide
By Agnew Family
4:30pm John & Nancy Squillini

Sun. Feb. 5

8:00am Paul & Julia Neugebauer
By Paul, Rachel & Family
11:00am Richard A. Carlucci
By Butler Family



WEEKLY COLLECTON

January 14-15, 2017
1st Collection \$6,234.00
2nd Collection \$1,285.00
Total \$7,519.00

January 21-22, 2017
1st Collection \$5,517.00
2nd Collection \$1,710.00
TOTAL \$7,227.00

*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
HEATING

MASS ATTENDANCE

January 21-22, 2017
4:30pm 202
8:00am 126
11:00am 222
Total 550

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

SPANISH MASS

Starting Sunday, **February 5th** our Mass in Spanish
will be celebrated weekly at **1:30pm**
All are welcome



- The Sacred Heart-St. Francis
- - Religious Education Program
- We will resume classes on **Jan.30, Jan.31 and Feb.1**
in our new location:
The San Miguel Academy
• at **St. Francis School**
on **245 Renwick Street.**
- ***Monday, Jan.30th**
 - 4:30pm to 6:00pm
 - ***Monday, Jan.30th**
 - 6:30pm to 8:00pm
 - ***Tuesday, Jan 31st**
 - - 5:00pm to 6:15pm
 - ***Wednesday, Feb.1st**
 - - 6:00pm to 7:30pm
- **Note** Tuesday starting time
change: from 4:45pm to 5:00pm



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



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, 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, 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 Rosenberg, Maureen Sullivan, Frank D'amario., Amanda Keane, Tom (Manay) Conroy, Gertrude Poland, Rita Froehlich, Brian Scott Monahan, Chelsea Dunderdale, Barbara Pavlik and Bill Mowry

In order to update our Prayers For The Sick List.....if you find you no longer need to be on our Prayer List or have placed someone's name on our List that can now be removed, please contact the rectory at 561-1317.

ADULT CATECHESIS

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.



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 in our area thru our Food Pantry.

ST FRANCIS UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan 29th** - Vigil for National Healing 3:00pm
O'Connor Hall
- Feb 1st** - Senior Meeting 12:30pm O'Connor Hall
- Feb 1st** - Eucharistic Adoration 5:00 to 6:00pm
- Feb 5th** - Spanish Mass 1:30pm
- Feb 5th** - Super Bowl Party 4:00pm O'Connor Hall
- Feb 10th** - Valentines Dine Dance
- Mar 7th** - Senior Meeting 12:30pm O'Connor Hall



AN INVITATION TO

VIGIL....The Sisters of the Presentation invite you to take part in an afternoon vigil for national healing and unity. This gathering is **not** political or partisan. It is an attempt to bring together all people of good will, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion or political affiliation to be in solidarity around our common humanity and the goals we all have for our loved ones and communities. There will be time for prayer, song, conversation and light refreshments. For more information call 845-401-8531. This event will be held in O'Connor Hall **today, Sunday, January 29th at 3:00pm.**

SENIOR CITIZENS

Our St. Francis Senior Citizen Group will meet on **Wednesday, February 1st at 12:30pm** (after the 12noon Mass) in O'Connor Hall. Our guest speaker will be a representative from Walden Savings Bank who will speak about banking security and identity theft. All are invited to attend. **PLEASE NOTE:** Our March meeting will be held on the **second Wednesday** (March 7th) not on the first Wednesday of the month.

CORONA SELF-HELP CENTER

Corona Self Help Center (D.A.) is an organization that works with individuals and families suffering from substance abuse problems **free of charge**. D.A.'s recovery programs are drug-free residential settings, with treatment stages reflecting increased levels of personal and social responsibilities. With an approach similar to other 12 step programs, D.A. particularly serves those in most need. All D.A. representatives are former drug addicts who have found a new lease on life because of the spiritual component and programs offered to them by D.A. Representatives will be **speaking at all the masses next Sunday**, transmitting their message of life and prevention, and offering t-shirts made by its members to raise funds in support of their cause.



stfrancisnewburgh.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Opus Dei will hold a *Night of Recollection* on Wednesday, **March 15th** from **6:30pm to 8:30pm** at Most Precious Blood Church, 42 Walnut Street in Walden. Confessions will be available



FLOWER MEMORIALS

Flower Memorials are available for anyone desiring to memorialize a loved one, honor someone or in Thanksgiving to God for favors asked. The cost is \$35.00 for each arrangement of flowers to be placed near the altar in the sanctuary. Please call the rectory at 845-561-1317 to reserve a specific date.

LAST CALL

SPAIN PILGRIMAGE (April 24 – May 4, 2017)

If you plan to go on this pilgrimage, you must have your reservation form and deposit to the rectory by **Tuesday, January 31st**. No reservations accepted after this date.



SUPER BOWL PARTY

The Knights of Columbus, Msgr. Henry O'Carroll Council #444 is hosting their 2nd Annual Super Bowl Party, next **Sunday, February 5th** 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.

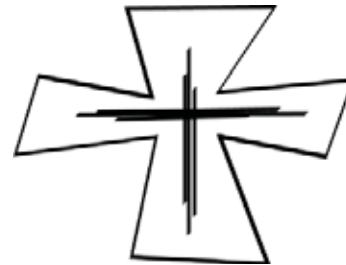


ST. VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER DANCE

The Knights of Columbus, Msgr. Henry O'Carroll Council 444 **and** St. Francis Church are hosting a Buffet Dinner Dance on **Friday, February 10th** from **6:30pm to 10:30pm** at **The Temple Hill Tavern & Catering** located at 171 Temple Hill Road in Vails Gate, NY. Cost is \$30 per person/\$35 at the door. Featuring music by DJ Ming and a cash bar. For reservations call Bill Kuntz at 201-697-9920 or St. Francis Rectory at 845-561-1317 by February 3rd.

HOSPITALIZED

Please contact the parish office before admission into the hospital. We are not always aware of our parishioners in need. New federal regulations have placed requirements on hospitals to protect the privacy of patients. Clergy are only allowed to visit those who explicitly request such visits. Please be sure to state your religion as Roman Catholic and your parish as St Francis of Assisi and indicate your desire to be visited by us



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