



Padre's Corner

April 2, 2017

"Silence" was released three months ago, shortly after reading a review about the movie in the "San Diego Tribune." Justin Chang, the movie critic, explored its content with these summations: "Near the beginning of Martin Scorsese's shattering "Silence," two young Jesuit missionaries shiver in a cottage far from their Portuguese homeland, taking shelter from the rain and the watchful eyes of those to whom they have sought to bring their gospel. The year is 1639, and Japan is in the midst of its Edo period, an era of strict isolationism and intense hostility toward Christianity, whose many adherents have been subjected to mass torture and execution. When the missionaries hear voices calling "Padre!" from outside, Father Francisco Garrpe, fearing a trap, insists that they do nothing. But Father Sebastiao Rodrigues bravely opens the door and is relieved to greet two Japanese Christians who have traveled from a nearby island, desperate for the sacraments that only these foreigners can confer.

As the priests will soon learn, the consequences of answering God's call are not always so clear or edifying... Rodrigues and Garrpe arrive in Japan hoping to revive a ministry that has been driven underground, and also to locate the physical and spiritual whereabouts of Father Cristovao Ferreira, a veteran priest who is rumored to have done the unthinkable and apostatized, or renounced his faith... The great deliverance that Rodrigues envisions for himself, through either his success or his glorious martyrdom, is a vain delusion that will be steadily chipped away by the cruel, sadistic interrogation of the local authorities, but also by the doubt and despair that have taken root in his heart... Mournful solemnity on the torments endured by Japanese Christians - three of whom we see crucified at sea, whole others are burned alive or dangled over a pit for hours on end... The personal stakes are etched with plain, piercing eloquence in the faces of two village elders, who are forced to participate in a humiliating act of apostasy by trampling on a fumie, an icon bearing the likeness of Christ... Japan as a "swamp," a place whose feudal economy and Buddhist worldview have made it impossible for Christianity to flourish... Is God's silence a test, or an admission of His nonexistence? What about the problem of our own silence, especially when it makes us complicit in someone else's suffering?... Could silence, far from being an act of cowardice, in fact constitute the truest, most necessary expression of faith."

When I read this review in San Diego, California the first week of January it compelled me to see it. Suddenly my San Diego Chargers football interest and all other earthly matters were insignificant, in comparison to the truth and teachings of God. There were also shattering scenes in the film of a grand inquisitor, much like Pontius Pilate as Easter approaches. The physical sufferings that Christians continue to face around the world today, such as the Middle East (recently reflected upon during my mid-January sojourn to the Holy Land in Israel), may not be far from the shores of America which already experiences legal bias against the faith (particularly in definitions of when life begins or ends, plus what constitutes a marriage). As I watched and absorbed the film, that chilly night in Poughkeepsie, what struck me deeply was the intense sufferings of the priesthood in terms of dealing with difficult people and the graceful release of the sacraments (the film vividly depicted baptisms, confession, and the Eucharist at the Mass hidden away like the early Christians experienced in the Catacombs) through the power of Almighty God through His Son Jesus Christ. One day our parish community will watch this film. I met the brother of Martin Scorsese in 2011, when I was one of a few honored at a Knights of Columbus event in Staten Island. He got me Martin's autograph. This film means far more than the autograph. God sustain us.

Father Bill

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. April 3

7:00am Eugenia Evans
Happy Birthday
By Colleen & Michael Corizzo
Noon Francis Rich
By Rich Family

Tues. April 4

7:00am Ann & Anthony Farkas
By Mary Ann & Tony Farkas
Noon In Honor of Our Lord and
His Blessed Mother
By Electra Orzechowski

Wed. April 5

7:00am The Unborn
Noon Rev Francis Fabian
(74th Anniv)
By Parish

Thur. April 6

7:00am Pope Francis
Noon Walter Marvel
(2nd Anniv)
By Wife & Family

Fri. April 7

7:00am Susan Randall
Health & Blessings
By Mary Randall
Noon Andrew Lasek
By Mark

Sat. Apr. 8

Noon Mary Loria
By Cousins
4:30pm Dr. Frank Catania
By Wife Fina & Family
John Murphy
By Morgan Family

Sun. Apr. 9

8:00 Andrew Wassi Sr.
By Bill & Marion Pushman
Patrick DeLuca
By DeLuca Family
11:00am Caroline Walsh
By Family
William Hurley
By Asane Family



WEEKLY COLLECTON

MARCH 25-26, 2017
1st Collection \$6,676.45
2nd Collection \$1,767.00
TOTAL \$8,443.45

MASS ATTENDANCE

MARCH 25-26, 2017
4:30pm 239
8:00am 175
11:00am 255
1:30pm 60
Total 729



Our Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesday from 5:00pm to 6:00pm for the intention of THE UNBORN.



RECONCILIATION MONDAY

Confessions will be heard on Monday April 10th
3:00 to 4:30pm and 5:30 to 7:00pm

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

HOLY THURSDAY – April 13th

7:00pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper

GOOD FRIDAY – April 14th

12noon - Stations of the Cross in the Prayer Garden
3:00pm - Celebration of the Lord's Passion
7:00pm - Stations of the Cross

HOLY SATURDAY – April 15th

11:00am – Blessing of the Easter Food
7:00pm - Easter Vigil

EASTER SUNDAY – April 16th

6:10am - Sunrise Service in Prayer Garden
(This is not a Mass)
8:00am – Easter Mass
11:00am - Easter Mass
1:30pm – Spanish Easter Mass

TODAY
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

This reading is a loving promise that the Lord will put His spirit into his people and will let them live.

Second Reading: Romans 8:8-11

Paul reminds the Romans that they are not people of the flesh but people of the Spirit because the Spirit of God dwells in them.

Gospel: John 11:1-45

In great detail, John tells the story of the raising of Lazarus to life. Upon learning of the death of Lazarus, his dear friend, Jesus goes to comfort Martha and Mary. After proclaiming, "I am the Resurrection and the Life," Jesus goes to the tomb of Lazarus and restores him to life.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday

Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62; Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday

Nm 21:4-9; Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday

Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Jn 8:31-42

Thursday

Gn 17:3-9; Jn 8:51-59

First Friday

Jer 20:10-13; Jn 10:31-42

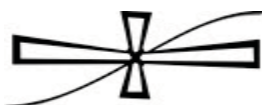
Saturday

Ez 37:21-28; Jn 11:45-56



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Vincenza Secor, Aaron Stagliano, Marie Wiejak, Ashley Barco, Agnes Casey, Rose Marie Michalowski, Elaine Pietrzak, George Vecchio, Jr, Carol Brown, Luzia Araujo, Celio Thomaz, Rosalie Nogay, Frank Pietrzak, Rose Jurik, Robert & Helen Osborn, Manuel DiNapoli, Rachael Neugebauer, Maureen Kelly, James R. Purpura, Jane Pustola, Joann Quicksell, Frances Dolan, Daniel D'Elicio, Fr. Fred Kempferi, Carmen De Crosta, Parker, Jane Holloway, Donna Delconte, Joan Ponesse, Jim Taylor, Marilyn Lennox, Bruno Marchatta, Anne McClellan, Louis Arbia, Dottie Rodriguez, Michael Rosenburg, Maureen Sullivan, Frank D'amaro, Amanda Keane, Tom (Manay) Conroy, Gertrude Poland, Rita Froehlich, Brian Scott Monahan, Chelsea Dunderdale, Bill Mowry, Susan Randall, Mary Hollenbeck, Donnie Ruckdeschel, Patrick Comyns, John Marullo, Carol Brown, Geroge Vechio Jr, Jaddon Johnson, Rina & Richard Bozzone, Rebecca Pacella, Rose DiDonato and Lena Biasini Zullo



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.

If you are involved in a church and/or Newburgh School program and your child needs **volunteer hours**, the food pantry will coordinate service hours through Curt Bourdage at [845-863-6504](tel:845-863-6504). **All students need to pre-register with Curt Bourdage before showing up at the pantry, please.**



CONGRATULATIONS TO.....

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Morgan the March winner of **\$206.00** in our Monthly 50/50 Raffle. Be sure your envelope is in for our next drawing in April.



Handmade palm creations made by our dedicated palm weaving ladies will be on sale this week **Monday, April 3rd thru Friday, April 7th** from **11:00am to 1:00pm** in O'Connor Hall. They will also be selling their palm crosses at **all the Masses** next weekend.

ST FRANCIS UPCOMING EVENTS

Apr. 1st & 2nd - Jewelry Sale

Apr. 2nd - Spanish Mass

Apr. 5th - Senior Meeting 12noon @ Grace United Methodist Church

Apr. 5th - Eucharistic Adoration 5:00pm to 6:00pm

Apr. 7th - Stations of the Cross

Apr. 8th - Movie Night "*The Passion*" 6pm O'Connor Hall

Apr. 9th - Pilgrimage Mtg. 3pm O'Connor Hall

Apr. 10th - Reconciliation Monday

Apr. 12th - Mary Claire Kendall Book Signing 6:00pm

Apr. 22nd - Movie Night "*Fatima*" 6pm O'Connor Hall

ORANGE COUNTY PTAF YOUTH GROUPS

...will be sponsoring a special **Holy Hour** at St. Thomas-St. Joseph Church, Cornwall-on-Hudson on **Friday, April 21st** from **7-9pm**. Social time and refreshments in gym after Holy Hour. Music provided by "*No Boundries*". All are welcome.

The Cantata, ***The Seven Last Words of Christ*** will be performed at the Union Presbyterian Church, 44 Balmville Road in Newburgh on **Sunday, April 9th** at **3:00pm**. All are invited and welcome to attend.

“DINING TO DONATE”

Good-Will Women’s Auxiliary is sponsoring a fund raiser at Applebee’s Restaurant, Route 300 in Newburgh on **Wednesday, May 3rd** from **11:00am until closing**. Applebee’s will donate 10% of your check (excluding tax & tip) when a “Dining to Donate” voucher is presented. Get your event voucher by contacting Pat Alexander at 845-565-7599.



NEWBURGH CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT

Newburgh Chamber Music will present the **Munich Philharmonic String Quartet** on **Sunday, April 9th** at **3:00pm** at **St. George’s Church**, 105 Grand Street in Newburgh.

This concert offers a rare opportunity to hear the world-famous quartet while they are in the country for a concert at Carnegie Hall with the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra.

Tickets are available at the door or on line at www.newburghchambermusic.org. Adults \$25.00, Students \$5.00. St. George’s is handicapped accessible with parking across the street.

The concert is followed by a reception with the artists.



JEWELRY SALE

Sr. Virginia, along with the ladies of “**The Women’s Craft Project**”, sponsored by Newburgh Ministry, will again be selling their handcrafted, one of a kind necklaces and bracelets after all the Masses next weekend, Saturday, April 1st and Sunday, April 2nd.

SENIOR CITIZENS

Our next Senior Meeting will be held at 12noon on Wednesday, April 5th. We will meet at Grace United Methodist Church, 468 Broadway in Newburgh for the weekly Wednesday Community Lenten Service. A luncheon for \$4.00 will be provided.



MOVIE NIGHTS

We will show two movies during April

On **Saturday April 8th**, in keeping with the Lenten season, we will show “**The Passion**”.

And again on **Saturday, April 22nd**, in honor of the 100th Anniversary, we will show “**The Miracle of Our Lady of Fatima**”.

For pizza and refreshment ordering purposes, please RSVP by the Friday before, to Jeannine McCauley at jeanse50@yahoo.com or 914-263-0572.

SPAIN-PORTUGAL-FRANCE

PILGRIMAGE

In preparation for our upcoming Pilgrimage, Fr. Bill is holding a meeting on **Sunday, April 9th** at **3:00pm** in O’Connor Hall to hand out all the necessary documents and answer any questions.

FINDING PEACE IN A TURBULENT WORLD, WITH

THE GUIDANCE OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Experience a week long special connection through the teachings of St. Francis of Assisi at the **Mariandale Retreat** and Conference Center in Ossining, NY. The retreat will run from **Sunday, July 16** at 5:00pm thru **Friday, July 21** at 1:00pm. Our Pastor, Fr. Bill Damroth will be the facilitator. Enjoy a week of reflection, exploration, talks, films, nature hikes, swimming, prayer, mass and confession.

Enjoy organic foods and an exceptional dining experience and leave Mariandale with a sense of peace well-being and a connection with nature. Cost \$475. per person. For reservations call 914-941-4455 ext 106 or e-mail

Knoreika@ophope.org

Visit their website at www.mariandale.org.



BUS TRIP

On **Tuesday, April 18th**, VFW Post 1161 and CWV Post 386 will co-host a bus trip to Mohegan Sun Casino in Uncasville, CT. Everyone is welcome. Departure is 8:30am from Newburgh Wal-Mart parking lot. The bus will depart for home at 5:15pm. Tickets are \$35 per person who will each receive a \$30 package consisting of a \$15 free bet and a \$15 Food Voucher, plus a chance to win the trip free. For reservations call John Raszcewski at 845-562-3705.

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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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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