



Padre's Corner

November 5, 2017

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Life throws at us a multitude of experiences and memories, designed to enhance and elevate our comprehension of each activity and moment through a spiritual lens. An example for me personally was going to the New York Yankees baseball game on August 2 in the Bronx, against the Detroit Tigers. Sponsored by the fire department of West Point, the afternoon game started out well with sunny skies. The slightest of rain suddenly emerged before the 1:05 start time, inexplicably delaying the first pitch by ninety minutes especially as sunshine kept intermittently glaring its balmy face. Again, insignificant rain was barely visible.

A later delay of over three hours emptied Yankee Stadium of most of the 45,000 fans in attendance. In the interim, in a day and age of so many complaining about a one hour Mass in church and not having more than a dollar or so to put into the collection box to preserve our beautiful parish churches, the multitudes spent a small fortune on seven dollar ice cream dishes consumed in seven seconds and had no difficulty spending five hours in rain delays with nothing happening below on the baseball diamond.

Consider this again: one dollar and one hour for church is painful while much more for a meaningless baseball game is not. A sporting event, dinner, or vacation is more important than receiving Jesus in the Eucharist. How about some other numbers to reinforce these anecdotal conclusions? In a July report in the "Knights of Columbus Chaplains Report" it was revealed that for every one soul that enters the Catholic Church, 6.45 souls leave the Church. No wonder why parishes are closing as Mass attendance, baptism, funeral, and wedding numbers plummet.

A 2014 Pew Study report concluded that over thirty percent of millennials have no affiliation to organized religion. They "worship" fitness clubs, restaurant group socials, online meditation forums, video games, and social media for their connections and meaningfulness. In the United States, Catholic Christians have to fight their way toward spiritual integration in the midst of this cultural confusion.

My recent pilgrimage to Cuba, from August 7-11, recorded a similar spiritual fight in a country largely devoid of religiosity in the decades since the 1959 revolution. The initial itinerary, mostly centered around Havana, was an ambitious effort to embrace both spiritual and cultural forces within the composite of Caribbean history on this island of Cuba (roughly ninety miles from the Florida coast). The plans of the faith journey were the Church of the Holy Spirit built in 1632, the Cathedral of the Virgin Mary of the Immaculate Conception (Havana Cathedral) completed in 1777 (the body of Christopher Columbus was housed there from 1796-1898), Church of Our Lady of Carmel constructed in 1748 (in revolutionary times was actually used as a jail), San Francisco de Asis inspired by the Franciscans circa 1580 (used for concerts today, and a 1739 later-built cloister there is now an art museum), the National Capitol building originating from 1929 before it was seized three decades later during the revolution, Revolution Square where Saint Pope John Paul II said Mass in 1998 followed by Pope Francis in 2015, and the University of Havana established in 1728 originally as a religious institution.

In next week's "Padres Corner" I will draw some final conclusions about the Cuba pilgrimage in terms of the world religious landscape today of faith in the midst of legal and/or physical persecution. Rod Dreher, author of "The Benedict Option", opined: "Christians in the 21st century... Are going to have to step back to some meaningful degree from the world for the sake of building up orthodox belief, learning the practices of discipleship, and strengthening our communities. Saint Benedict did not set out to save Western Civilization. He only wanted to serve God in a time of unprecedented trouble, and lead others to do the same." In our corner of the City of Newburgh, we try to do the same at Saint Francis of Assisi and Sacred Heart. Fr. Bill

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. Nov. 6

7:00am All Souls Novena
Noon Vincenza DiSpigna
"Health & Blessings"
Mary King
"Health & Blessings"
By Guy & Roseann Di Spigna

Tues. Nov 7

7:00am Ann & Anthony Farkas
By Mary Ann & Tony Farkas
Noon All Souls Novena

Wed. Nov. 8

7:00am All Souls Novena
Noon Fr. Peter on the 50th Anniv
of his Ordination
By Thomasina O'Shea & Tomi
Mc Farland

Thur. Nov. 9

7:00am Our Nation
Noon Ellen & James Costello
By Family

Fri. Nov. 10

7:00am All who have served in
our Military
Noon Maureen Kelly
By St. Francis Parish

Sat. Nov. 11

Noon Anna Chinoransky
By Family
4:30pm Donald Deyo
By Jesse, Margaret & Family
Albert Delessio
By Mary Delessio

Sun. Nov. 12

8:30am Margaret Hardy
By Daughter Ann
Charles & Rose Grossholz
By Family
11:00am Dorothea Phillips
By Bill & Marion Pushman
Phyllis Dubetsky
By Tom & Ronnie Dubetsky & Fam



WEEKLY COLLECTON

Oct 28-29, 2017
1st Collection \$ 6,514.00
2nd Collection 1,792.00
TOTAL \$ 8,306.00

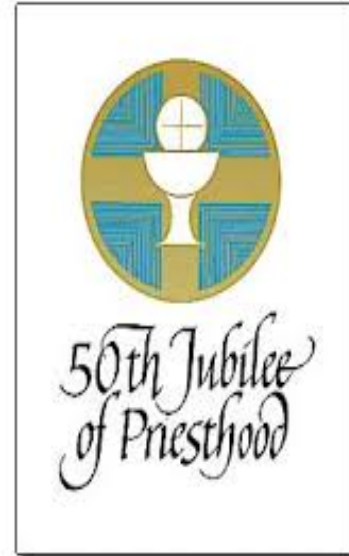
MASS ATTENDANCE

Oct 28-29, 2017
4:30pm 210
8:30am 158
11:00am 210
1:30pm 86
TOTAL 664

The 2nd Collection this week is for
PARISH MINISTRIES



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



CONGRATULATIONS *FR. PETER*

We honor Msgr. Peter Tran Van Phat
at the 11:00am Mass this weekend
as he celebrates the
50th Anniversary of his Ordination
and
his 80th Birthday.
May God continue to bless him.

TODAY

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Malachi 1:14b—2:2b, 8-10

This passage from Malachi denounces the laxity and unfaithfulness of the people and especially of the priests, who failed in their duties to God and their neighbors.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2:7b-9, 13

Paul reminisces about his extremely happy and successful visit with the Thessalonians. He praises them once again for their immediate and open acceptance of his message as truly the word of God.

Gospel: Matthew 23:1-12

In a strongly worded message, Jesus again rebukes the Pharisees for the hypocritical ostentation and love of honor and position. He reminds the people and the disciples that the truly greatest one is the one who serves others. He ends with the words, "Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled, but whoever humbles himself shall be exalted."

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday

Rom 11:29-36; Lk 14:12-14

Tuesday

Rom 12:5-16b; Lk 14:15-24

Wednesday

Rom 13:8-10; Lk 14:25-33

Thursday

Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12; 1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17; Jn 2:13-22

Friday

Rom 15:14-21; Lk 16:1-8

Saturday

Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27; Lk 16:9-15



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Vincenza Secor, Aaron Stagliano, Marie Wiejak, Ashley Barco, Agnes Casey, Rose Marie Michalowski, George Vecchio Jr, Carol Brown, Luzia Araujo, Celio Thomaz, Rosalie Nogay, Rose Jurik, Robert & Helen Osborn, Manuel DiNapoli, Rachael Neugebauer, Maureen Kelly, James R. Purpura, Jane Pustola, Frances Dolan, Parker, Jane Holloway, Donna Delconte, Joan Ponesse, Jim Taylor, Marilyn Lennox, Bruno Marchatta, Anne McClellan, Louis Arbia, Dottie Rodriguez, Maureen Sullivan, Frank D'amario, Amanda Keane, Tom (Manay) Conroy, Gertrude Poland, Rita Froehlich, Brian Scott Monahan, Chelsea Dunderdale, Mary Hollenbeck, Donnie Ruckdeschel, Patrick Comyns, John Marullo, Jaddon Johnson, Rina & Richard Bozzone, Rebecca Pacella, Lena Biasini Zullo, Pam Kunert, Janet Coiteux, Vincent McParkland and Family, Jozef Froniewski, Teresa Centeno, Bobbi Hull, Angie Monaco, Emily Cooley, Frank Celeste, Amy Finnegan, Brian Hanrahan, Toni Loparco Shepardson, Donald (Leed) Zubawicz, Louise McHugh, Pat Alexander, Alex Galant, Evelyn Kawula, AND Taylor Fogel.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

We are in need of Eucharistic Minister volunteers to visit our hospital on the 1st and 2nd Wednesdays of the month. If you are interested and would like to help please contact Suzanna Campora at 561-5162.



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 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**. All students need to pre-register with Curt Bourdage before showing up at the pantry, please.



2017-2018 Class Schedules

Mondays	Grades 1-6	4:30 to 6:00pm
Mondays	Grades 7&8	6:30 to 8:10pm
Tuesdays	Grades 1-7	5:00 to 6:30pm
Wednesdays	Grades 7&8	6:00 to 7:40pm

Confirmation Classes for High School Students

Tuesdays	Grades 9-12	6:30 to 8:00pm
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See Sister Laura

A NIGHT OF RECOLLECTION

A (mini-retreat) will be given by the Prelature of Opus Dei on Wednesday November 15th at 6:15pm at Most Precious Blood Church, 56 Walnut Street in Walden. Confessions will be available. Why not seek holiness in your daily life. Any questions please contact Helene Stagliano at 845-564-1107.



FLOWER MEMORIALS

Flower Memorials are available for anyone wishing 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 near the Altar. Call the rectory at 845-561-1317 to reserve a specific date.

ST. FRANCIS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov 11th - Movie Night 6:00 pm
Nov 19th - Coffee & Bagel Hour
Nov 19th - Interfaith Service – 4:30pm



CONGRATULATIONS TO.....

Gary & Patricia Huchko the October winner of **\$ 235.00** in our Monthly 50/50 Raffle. Be sure your envelope is in for our next drawing in November.

**A GATHERING OF THE FAITHFUL
AN INTERFAITH SERVICE.**

St. Francis Parish is happy to be hosting this year's Annual Interfaith Service on Sunday, November 19th at 4:30pm in our church. Refreshments and fellowship will follow in O'Connor Hall. Suggested donation is one non-perishable food item to benefit our local food pantries.



Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Patricia #195 will meet at **6:00pm** on **Wednesday, November 8th** in the Msgr. Valastro Activity Center for their annual **Baby Shower for Catholic Charities**. Pizza and salad will be served followed by bingo. New members are always welcome. For further information please contact Linda DeWitt at 845-565-7837.



WELCOME

- Mason Shane Malnic*
- Aiden Joseph Atinori*
- Gianni Economico*
- Colton Scott Holling*
- Phineas Kenneth Crumb*
- Ckaire Sophia Bell*
- Myles Johnson*

who were recently baptized into our St. Francis of Assisi parish family. May they continue to receive God's blessings and grace.



CONGRATULATIONS

- David Hayes & Jennifer Komondorea*
- Michael Huffer & Lauren Byassee*
- Robert Ambrosetti & Jessica Irwin*

who were recently married at St. Francis of Assisi Church. May God bless their union with a lifetime of happiness.



MOVIE NIGHT

On **Saturday, November 11th** at **6:00pm** in O'Connor Hall we will be showing "On Her Majesty's Secret Service" starring George Lazenby as James Bond. James goes undercover in the treacherous Swiss Alps in this epic, action packed film. For pizza and refreshment ordering purposes, RSVP by Friday, November 10th to Jeannine McCauley at jeansey59@yahoo.com or 914-263-0572.



SCANDINAVIA & ST. PETERSBURG CRUISE

On Board the NCL Norwegian Breakaway
September 21- October 3, 2018

Hosted By:
Father Bill Damroth



Copenhagen (Denmark), Warnemunde (Germany), Tallinn (Estonia), St. Petersburg (Russia), Helsinki (Finland), Stockholm (Sweden)
Starting at \$3,049 per person including airfare. Includes roundtrip air from New York, Cruise taxes, port charges and transfers between airport/hotel/pier.

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: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

Fill out and drop in the Offertory Collection or mail to St. Francis of Assisi Church, 145 Benkard Avenue Newburgh, NY 12550.....and *Welcome*.