



## Padre's Corner

November 19, 2017

### Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Farragut, Tennessee was the setting on August 21, 2017 for the first total eclipse in America since 1919, spanning large swaths of territory from the Pacific to the Atlantic. Using our two dollar plastic glasses, in a frenzy to find them for eye protection from the intense rays of the sun, all gathered in that serene park knew what the outcome would be. The moon would pass between the earth and the sun at 2:25 pm, and put the sky around us into total darkness. As the scientists had so accurately predicted, the spectacular event took place without any interference from clouds or storms.

There was a sudden cool wind, and an eerie silence that punctuated the previous rapidity of human discourse just moments before. There was shock and awe, that even got the souvenir hawkers to shut their operations for the two minutes and thirty seconds of the eclipse. Then the darkness was replaced by the reemergence of the sun. Light replaced the darkness, almost a perfect Christmas/Easter allegory of what God does in each of our lives. The dark eeriness of sin and death is reversed by the balmy sunshine of a relationship with God. Despair and fatigue are engulfed by the embrace of the Almighty.

There was a "Twilight Zone" episode from fifty-five years ago called "The Eyes of the Beholder", which reflected this theme of the dark-covered eyes gradually freed of the bondage of bandages after a surgery to reveal the light beyond. Images from the movie "The Shack," as a burdened man tries to make spiritual sense of the kidnapped disappearance of his daughter from a campground setting that was supposed to be a place of serenity and rich family memories, is felt. The journey continued from Tennessee to Kentucky, where a Biblical outlook of life (6000 years of God-created human history, in contrast to the billions of years that scientists proclaim based on imperfect human reasoning) was experienced in the companion "Creation Museum" and the "Ark Experience." Human questions in the museum were posed to the visitors: Why am I here? Am I alone? Why do I suffer? Is there any hope? Why do we have to die? 6000 years of human history in relationship to God were vividly painted through the moving words of Noah, before the world was destroyed because of pagan thinking and indifference to the ways of God's teachings.

Movies in a campfire setting allowed modern-day thinkers to question life and death. God offers the answers we need, which the darkened world often cannot. There is a pictorial sequence of a dying father talking to his bewildered daughter. "This isn't the end for me. Where I'm going there is no cancer and no death. More than anything, I want you there with me forever, but you must believe in Jesus. Gabby, don't blame God for this." In another scene, a young lady is in a party besieged with drugs and alcohol plus all other sorts of debauchery. She thinks: "What am I doing here? This isn't working." The Ark model, based on the precise measurements that God dictated to Noah before the massive flood perhaps 5000 years ago, reflects the same themes of mercy and repentance. Roughly 7000 combinations of animals, male and female for future reproduction, join Noah's family of eight. They are mocked by humanity about the divine escape plan, until the rains start to fall heavily. By then it is too late to board the ark. Metaphors for getting God back into our life are clear, before the eclipse of death suddenly strikes and it is too late to make amends.

The Ark is like our divine soul, possessing our memories and inclinations. Walking through this behemoth structure, aside from the tacky souvenir stores, is a reminder of our need for God (these words written in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in the aftermath of all the above, while a ladybug crawls on my leg). I recall years ago, in 1990, driving to Nebraska with friends to priesthood ordinations for those studying with us at Saint Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers. I set a video recorder for a hockey Stanley Cup game, pitting the Pittsburgh Penguins at the (now Dallas) Minnesota North Stars. Returning a few days later, I hoped to be surprised by the score outcome without any newspaper tip offs or human sports reports. My plan, of course, failed learning that Minnesota (my favorite hockey team) had lost. The Penguins coach was jubilant. Six months later he was dead of cancer. Through God we know the end results already, not having to keep score. Do His will, be sorry for the times we all fail because of human weakness, and embrace those most dear to us with His incredible messages for all ages and centuries of divine mercy and forgiveness. I have spent nearly twenty-five years preaching this message, and trying (often failing) to live it. Like Noah, the same teachings from God then and now. Bless us  
Lord.

**Father Bill**

# MASS INTENTIONS

## Mon. Nov. 20

7:00am St. Francis Parish  
Noon Paula Bresnan  
By Como Family

## Tues. Nov 21

7:00am Christopher J. Massi  
By Mom, Dad & Jennifer  
Noon Steve Scalzo & Family  
By Mary King

## Wed. Nov. 22

7:00am John Barcia  
By Wife Ida  
Noon Maria Diaz (1<sup>st</sup> Anniv)  
By Barry & Jodi Schuyler  
5:30pm In Thanksgiving to God

## Thur. Nov. 23

No Mass at St. Francis  
9:00am at Sacred Heart

## Fri. Nov. 24

7:00am City of Newburgh  
Noon Craig McFarland  
(3<sup>rd</sup> Anniv)  
By Wife

## Sat. Nov. 25

Noon Mary Ann Fabiano  
By Fitzpatrick & Bedetti Families  
4:30pm Thomas DiDonato  
(1<sup>st</sup> Anniv)  
By Wife Rose & Family  
Ida Benson  
By Ida Barcia

## Sun. Nov. 26

8:30am Anna & Alex Yuhas  
By Bill & Marion Pushman  
Stella Irwin (8<sup>th</sup> Anniv)  
By Family  
11:00am Deacon John Buckley  
By Laurie & Sean Maltese  
Francis Burke  
By Tom & Ronnie Dubetsky & Fam



## WEEKLY COLLECTON

Nov 11-12, 2017

1<sup>st</sup> Collection \$ 6,262.00  
2<sup>nd</sup> Collection 1,483.00  
TOTAL \$ 7,745.00

## MASS ATTENDANCE

Nov 11-12, 2017

4:30pm 185  
8:30am 186  
11:00am 208  
1:30pm 85  
664

There was a misprint in last week's Spanish Mass attendance....it should have read 95 not 195.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection this week is for  
CAMPAIGN FOR CHARITY & JUSTICE  
(Formerly Human Development)



There will be **NO** Eucharistic Adoration  
Wednesday, November 22nd  
due to the Thanksgiving Vigil Mass



## THANKSGIVING MASSES

ST. FRANCIS

5:30pm Vigil –Wednesday

SACRED HEART

9:00AM Thanksgiving day

Rectory Office

will be closed

Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>

Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup>

## HEALING MASS

Fr. Bill will be celebrating a Healing Mass at  
Sacred Heart Church on Monday evening,  
November 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. All are welcome

**TODAY**

**THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**First Reading:** Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

An encomium for a good and worthy wife, this passage from Proverbs extols all the virtues which a worthy wife possesses – fidelity, industriousness, skill, charity to the poor, and fear of the Lord.

**Second Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

Once again, Paul reassures the Thessalonians, who are anxious about the coming of Christ, that they need not fear being unprepared because they are “children of light.”

**Gospel:** Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus narrates the parable of the talents – in the story, the silver pieces given to the three men. Two of the men invest their coins and double their worth, but the third buries his coins in the ground and earns no return. The message of Jesus is that we must use to the fullest the talents we have received.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday**

1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63; Lk 18:35-43

**Tuesday**

2 Mc 6:18-31; Lk 19:1-10

**Wednesday**

2 Mc 7:1, 20-31; Lk 19:11-28

**Thursday**

1 Mc 2:15-29; Lk 19:41-44

**Friday**

1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59; Lk 19:45-48

**Saturday**

1 Mc 6:1-13; Lk 20:27-40



**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, 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 Chelsea Dunderdale, Mary Hollenbeck, Donnie Ruckdeschel, Patrick Comyns, John Marullo, Jaddon Johnson, Rina &) Zubawicz, Louise McHugh, Pat Alexander, Alex Galant, Evelyn Kawula, and Taylor Fogel



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

Food Pantry will be closed  
**Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup>**

and

**Saturday, November 25<sup>th</sup>**

For the Thanksgiving weekend

In your goodness please bring **TUNA or CANNED CHICKEN** 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.

**PANTRY NEWS**

Once again this year, Moulton Memorial Baptist Church has donated \$5,000 to the St. Francis Food Pantry account at the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley. In addition to this extremely generous gift they also gave a truck load of groceries. We are truly blessed by our Christian neighbors.

The Backpack Program began on November 16th. Anyone interested in volunteering to help with this program should speak to The Food Pantry members.

**OCTOBER FOOD PANTRY STATISTICS:**

- 1,311 children served
- 2,108 adults served
- 332 seniors served
- 1,248 households served

**THANK YOU to our many volunteers**

who spend countless hours  
serving those in need in our community  
thru our Food Pantry

**YOU ARE INVITED**

Fr. Guiseppe Siniscalchi, CFR will celebrate the **Italian Mass** at Sacred heart Church on Sunday, **November 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:30am**. Coffee and donuts will be served following the 7:30am Mass in the Sacred Heart Activity Center, sponsored by the Circolo Cattolico Italiano as they begin their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2018. All are personally invited by President Sal Vargetto.

**ST. FRANCIS CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Nov 19<sup>th</sup> - Coffee & Bagel Hour**

**Nov 19<sup>th</sup> - Interfaith Service - 4:30pm**

**Dec 1<sup>st</sup> - Youth Group - 6:30pm O'Connor Hall**

**Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> - Holiday Get Together - 4:30 O'Connor Hall**

**Dec 6<sup>th</sup> - Senior Christmas Party - 12:30 O'Connor Hall**

**BAGEL & COFFEE HOUR**



Join us today after the **8:00am Mass** for coffee and bagels in O'Connor Hall.



### FLOWER MEMORIALS

The Flowers on the Altar this weekend are  
"In Loving Memory of Susan Randall"  
By Mary Randall

The Flowers on the Altar for Thanksgiving are  
"In Loving Memory of my Parents  
Charles & Catherine Gegenheimer  
who were married on Thanksgiving Day  
November 27, 1913 by Rev. Fr. Francis Fabian  
By Daughter Elizabeth O'Mara



### A GATHERING OF THE FAITHFUL AN INTERFAITH SERVICE

St. Francis Parish is happy to be hosting this year's  
Annual Thanksgiving Interfaith Service today, Sunday,  
November 19<sup>th</sup> 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.



Sister Virginia along with the ladies of "The  
Women's Craft Project" will hold a pre-Christmas sale of  
their one of a kind handcrafted necklaces and bracelets  
after Masses .....

December 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> – Sacred Heart Church  
December 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> – St. Francis Church



### Christmas Party

#### St Francis Parish Holiday Get Together

Come join us for a buffet pasta dinner and spread some  
holiday cheer as we kick off the Christmas season. Meet us in  
O'Connor Hall on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> following the  
4:30pm Mass and enjoy a fun evening of good food and good  
friends.

We have a sign-up sheet in the back of the church for people  
wishing to attend.

We also have a sign-up sheet if you would like to bring a  
dessert.



### ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

Our Giving Tree is located in the back of the church. Please pick an  
angel (or angels) and bring your unwrapped gift that corresponds to  
the information on the angel and place it under the tree. We will be  
sharing your donations with the clients of the Deacon Jack Seymour  
Food Pantry at St. Francis on Friday and Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> &  
9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>. The total number of children registered ages  
1-12 at the pantry is 813. Our need is great and, as always, we  
appreciate your generosity.

### SENIOR CITIZEN NEWS

The St. Francis Senior Group invites you to join our  
Christmas celebration at our next meeting on  
**Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**. If you wish to attend, you  
are asked to bring a food dish that would feed about 6  
people as well as an unwrapped gift for a child that will  
be donated to the Food Pantry. The meeting is held at  
**12:30pm** after the 12noon Mass. All are welcomed to  
attend to enjoy some holiday spirit.



Practice for the Children's Christmas Choir singing at the  
**4:30 pm Christmas Eve Mass** will begin on Tuesday,  
December 5<sup>th</sup>. There will be a total of 3 practices: Dec 5  
Dec 12 and Dec 19. Practice times are at **6:00pm** and  
ends around **7:00pm**. Please call or text Desiree  
Abbruscato, our Music Director, at 845-541-0769 or  
e-mail her at [abbruscator@aol.com](mailto:abbruscator@aol.com) for more information.

### 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.**