



Padre's Corner

January 7, 2018
Epiphany of the Lord

On the road of seeking out the new year's resolution of finding grace to do God's will, there are the walls of opposition and conflicting wills that must be faced and dealt with. In the Old Testament, Joshua faces the imposing walls of Jericho which seem to be impenetrable as the good forces he represents in God's name seemingly cannot break through the walls of evil human intentions. Yet after marching for six days, on the seventh (the day of the Lord or Sunday the day of worship) deliverance occurs as the walls come crumbling down. There is also "The Legend of Posa Posa" story from a Rockland County restaurant named after this legend. "There is a legend that lives among the townspeople of Positano, Italy. Centuries before the first settlers populated the mountain villages along the Amalfi coast, a ship sailing for the Orient was stranded at sea not far from the Italian coast. The vessel simply halted mid-sea, and the captain mysteriously lost his ability to steer the ship left or right. The legend reveals that the ship's cargo included many fine treasures of silver, gems, gold and a beautiful statue of Our Lady. Just as the captain had given up trying to steer his ship, the bow slowly turned and moved toward the coastline. Suddenly, the heaven's opened up and a voice whispered, "Posa, Posa, Posa, Posa" which translates to "rest here." The captain was then able to steer a smooth course and brought the ship and Sacred Madonna to a safe landing. It is here that a church was built in honor of Our Lady. It is here surrounding the church and amidst deep red geraniums, bright pink bougainvillea and fragrant lemon trees that a mountain village was settled and aptly named Positano - meaning Posa Town."

Since the parish of Saint Francis of Assisi began the merger process with Sacred Heart on **August 1**, there have been walls of obstruction though thankfully not much in the parishioner or people area. The primary issues of challenge have been the "crumbling walls" of the food pantry at Saint Francis of Assisi and the fire-damaged walls of a bequeathed parish house at Sacred Heart needing demolition.

Each of us also seeks solace with world issues, health concerns, economic woes, relationship drags, killer storms or regimes, and the general uncertainties of life in the context of our faith. James Drummey writes a column out of Norwood, Massachusetts entitled "Catholic Replies." About a question on God allowing evil, he responded thoughtfully in the following methodology. "We must distinguish between God's positive will, whereby He makes something happen, such as the Flood in the time of Noah, the parting of the Red Sea in the time of Moses, or the Resurrection of Jesus, and His permissive will, whereby He allows events to take place, even bad events, such as the Death of His Son on the Cross, so that He can bring good out of them. As horrible as were the recent hurricanes that battered Caribbean islands, the Gulf Coast of Texas, and the state of Florida, even with all the loss of life and the economic devastation could be see great acts of love to help those in desperate need." The ability to contemplate and pray about these serious issues of humanity and existence, be it personally or communally, requires a stepping back from the noise and distractions of the world we live in. We need to retreat into the spiritual cocoons of body, mind, and spirit with a firm commitment by pushing aside the tired phrases of not having the time to do it. As Nike footwear states in their advertising slogans, "Just Do It."

Stepping back could even take place at a high school reunion, reflecting on the passages of time over the four decades of 1977-2017, that I attended on October 7 back home in New Jersey. Hearing stories of faith, while noticing the obvious physical changes, can provide such spiritual insight. Most of my Bogota High School classmates are Catholic, not all, but collectively they asked me to lead a prayer for deceased classmates and those struggling with physical woes. We can also refocus in a sunny football stadium, especially when the favorite team (Los Angeles - San Diego - Chargers) win. I was also able to recharge and sort out during an early October week in the Poconos, at "The Villas at Tree Tops" Wyndham resort in East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania only eighty minutes from Newburgh. Now you find that sacred place of retreat to regroup. God bless our memories, insights, futures, world, nation, and challenges. **Father Bill**

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. Jan. 8

7:00am Anne Gross
Health & Blessings
Noon Special Intentions
By Mary King

Tues. Jan. 9

7:00am Ida Barcia
Happy Birthday
Noon Franko Schaffner
By Family

Wed. Jan. 10

7:00am Vincentine Cullen
By Mary & Maria McGraw
Noon Marilyn Garzione
Birthday Blessings
By Ida Barcia

Thur. Jan. 11

7:00am Susan Randall
By Susan Cariffe
Noon Grafton Boucher
By Dispigna Family

Fri. Jan. 12

7:00am St. Francis Parish
Noon George J. Vecchio Jr.
By Carol Soricelli

Sat. Jan. 13

Noon The Homeless
12:30pm Alee Anderson
(1st Anniv)
By Mark & Cheri Mallia
Ann & Gene Lawrence
By Friends

Sun. Jan. 14

8:30am James P. Costello
By Eileen Dietz
Mary McCartney
By Family
11:00am Jane Baranski
By Loving Children
Tom Mulligan
By Des & Tom



WEEKLY COLLECTON

Dec. 30-31, 2017
1st Collection \$ 7,697.45
2nd Collection 1,743.00
TOTAL \$ 9,440.45

MASS ATTENDANCE

Dec. 30-31, 2017
4:30pm 159
8:30am 140
11:00am 215
1:30pm 53
Total 567

The 2nd Collection this week is for
CATHOLIC COMMUNICATIONS &
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY



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



Thank You.....

to all who participated and assisted, to once again, make St Francis a beautiful setting for all our Masses this Christmas.

Thank you to Rich, Cathy and Joan who so beautifully decorated our Church with the many trees, wreaths, flowers and lights.

Thank you to our priests, Fr Bill, Fr Peter and Fr Bejoy who celebrated our Christmas Masses.

Thank you to Bill and Charlie who set up and assisted at all the Masses along with our dedicated altar servers.

Thank you to our Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and ushers.

The music at all our Masses was amazing!

Thank you to our dedicated choir members who provided us with the beautiful Christmas music (as well as our wonderful music all year long). The adults that volunteered to sing at our Family Masses were: Alex, Ali, Daniel, Grace, JC, Liz and Maddie...wonderful singing.

Special thanks to Mary Kay Messenger, Liz Riley and JC Newhall for their uplifting and amazing solos during our 4:30 Family Mass.

The soothing instrumental music you heard before Mass was performed by our talented youth musicians: Ali on flute, Grace on organ and Maddie on keyboard.

TODAY
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Isaiah speaks poetically of the coming of the Lord. He describes how "darkness covers the earth" but light and glory appear over God's chosen people.

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Paul tells the Ephesians that the Jews and Gentiles are now co-heirs of the promises God has made. He explains that both groups are now members of one body through Jesus Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus' birth, three astrologers from the east came to Jerusalem and inquired about the newborn king of the Jews. King Herod became greatly angered, and asked the astrologers to bring him more information about the child once they had found him, so that he too could pay homage to the infant. However, Herod's true plan was to kill Jesus. The wise men were warned in a dream not to return to him and they took a different route to return home.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday

Is 55:1-11 or 1 Jn 5:1-9; Mk 1:7-11

Tuesday

1 Sm 1:9-20; Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday

1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Mk 1:29-39

Thursday

1 Sm 4:1-11; Mk 1:40-45

Friday

1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Mk 2:1-12

Saturday

1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19, 10:1; Mk 2:13-17



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Vincenza Secor, Aaron Stagliano, Marie Wiejak, Ashley Barco, Agnes Casey, Rose Marie Michalowski, 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 Mc Parkland and Family, Jozef Froniewski, Teresa Centeno, Bobbi Hull, Emily Cooley, Frank Celeste, Amy Finnegan, Brian Hanrahan, Toni Loparco Shepardson, Donald (Leed) Zubawicz, Louise McHugh, Pat Alexander, Alex Galant, Evelyn Kawula, Taylor Fogel, Jake Tigar and Paul Neugebauer



FIFTH SUNDAY ROSARY PROGRAM

A rosary service for the 5th Sunday in December will be held at **Our Lady of the Lake Church**, 433 S. Plank Road in Newburgh following their **12:30pm** Mass on **Sunday, December 31, 2017**. All are invited to attend. Bring your prayer requests.



Food Pantry Hours:

Friday 9:00am to 12noon

Saturday 9:00am to 12noon

at our new location

The Msgr. Valastro Activity Center

319 Broadway in Newburgh

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 Mr. Bourdage before showing up at the pantry, please.

THE BACKPACK PROGRAM

The Backpack Program has begun. Anyone interested in volunteering to help with this program should speak to one of the Food Pantry members.

HELP NEEDED

Beginning Wednesday, January 3, 2018 and each Wednesday thereafter the Food Pantry is looking for help unloading their Food Bank Delivery. If you can give us a few hours helping on Wednesday afternoons at 1:30pm please stop by our new location at 319 Broadway. We would be most grateful.



SUPER BOWL PARTY

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring their **Annual Super Bowl Party** on Sunday, February 4th starting at 4:00pm in O'Connor Hall. \$5 per person or a food donation to share. Football pools, games for the kids and 50/50 raffle. To RSVP or questions please contact Bill Kuntz at 201-697-9920



VALENTINE'S DINNER DANCE

Saturday, February 10th from 6:30pm to 10:30pm at Temple Hill Tavern and Catering, 171 Temple Hill Road in Vails Gate. \$35 per person paid in advance (\$40 at the door). Cash bar. Featuring music by DJ Ming. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, Council 444. For more info or to make your reservation please call Bill Kuntz at 201-697-9920.



CONGRATULATIONS TO.....

Mrs. Mark Grethe, the December winner of **\$182.00** in our Monthly 50/50 Raffle. Be sure your envelope is in for our next drawing for December.

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH ADORATION

The Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, Juan Diego Youth team will be holding First Sunday of the Month Adoration here at St. Francis today from 2:00pm to 7:00pm. They will meet in O'Connor Hall at 2:00pm. For those attending the 1:30pm Spanish Mass at St. Francis please go to O'Connor Hall following Mass.

BAGEL & COFFEE HOUR



Join us after the **8:00am Mass** on Sunday, January 21st for coffee and bagels in O'Connor Hall.



Knights of Columbus

Free Throw Contest

The Knights of Columbus, Council #444, is sponsoring their annual Free Throw Championship on Sunday, January 21 from 11:00am to 4:00pm at Sacred Heart School. This event is open to all boys and girls ages 9 to 14 with parental consent and proof of age. Winners in each age bracket will go on to compete in the district championship. For questions please contact Bill Kuntz at 201-697-9920. Entrants may compete in only ONE local competition and they must be accompanied by Entrants must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

HOSPITAL MINISTRY

We are in need of a Eucharistic Minister to serve at St. Luke's-Cornwall Hospital on the 1st and 2nd Tuesday of each month. If interested please contact Suzanna Campora at 561-5162.



SAVE THE DATE

Pray with us on January 19, 2018 for human life to be respected in our society and come with us for the March for Life. The Newburgh bus for the **Friday, January 19th** March for Life in Washington, DC will leave after a 4:00am Mass from Our Lady of The Lake Church, Route 52, Orange Lake, and after a breakfast stop will arrive in Washington DC, in time for the Rally and March for Life. The bus returns to Orange Lake about 10:30pm.

Bus riders pay \$50/seat; \$35/youth (sponsorships available for those needing help paying). Make checks payable to St. Patrick/St Mary's Church. For questions, reservations or donations please contact Howard & Beth Spear 845-564-5257 or at howard.jp.spear@gmail.com, or, St. Patrick/St. Mary's Rectory at 561-0885.

UPCOMING PILGRIMAGES

Hosted By:
Father Bill Damroth

SCANDINAVIA & ST. PETERSBURG CRUISE

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



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, COruise taxes, port charges and transfers between airport/hotel/pier.

Hosted By:
Father Bill Damroth

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NORTHERN NATIONAL PARKS

Featuring Yellowstone National Park
and Grand Teton National Park
August 24-31, 2018

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ICELAND'S MAGICAL NORTHERN LIGHTS

February 14-20, 2019

SPECIAL TRAVEL PRESENTATION

The Collette Travel Agency is hosting a presentation on the Northern National Parks Pilgrimage on Monday, January 29, 2018 in O'Connor Hall at 6:00pm. If you are interested in this 2018 trip and would like to attend the presentation please RSVP to the rectory at 845-561-1317.

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.