



Advice columns offer words of consolation for the wide scope of human frailties and dilemmas that we all face. I recently noticed one by a middle-aged single man, whose parents and siblings have died in recent years. A house filled with memories and possessions must now be sold. He lamented: "When I sell this place, I know I'm going to be devastated. I have been suffering with depression for more than 20 years, but now I seem to have hit bottom. My business is failing. I have a couple of friends, but they have their own families and problems. This is affecting my physical and mental health. How can I get past it? I'm not a religious person." I am left to question whether this hurting soul is open to spiritual integration.

As a contrast, yielding a possibility of such openness, is this observation from movie director Pedro Almodovar who recently released "Julieta" in his native Spain. Despite a family of practicing Catholics, "I'm not a believer. I didn't have faith. Faith is a gift and I didn't receive it, and I am very sorry because I miss it. The way the Spanish people practice Catholicism is something that I like, it is a real support for them." The drama of life is vividly found in the books we read, offering a verbal solace that becomes fuller and richer within the lens of faith. Anne Morrow Lindbergh was the wife of the famous aviator Charles. In 1955, she authored "Gift From the Sea." In a state of solitude, she echoed "The world today does not understand, in either man or woman, the need to be alone."

During the November excursion to Italy, such aspiration for alone solitude was reflected in a touching visual print purchased alongside the piercing Amalfi Coast. A monk looks at the visual beauty God created with the coastline, and leaning against a tree seated meditates and prays about what he observes. The sketch bridges faith and human questioning about life issues. Forty years after the Lindbergh essay, in 1995, author Azar Nafisi of Iran wrote "Reading Lolita in Tehran." On the need for positivity, as we individually endure the battles of existence, she explained: "In all great works of fiction, regardless of the grim reality they present, there is an affirmation of life against the transience of that life, an essential defiance...An act of insubordination against the betrayals, horrors and infidelities of life"

The need to be optimistic, despite a media and culture that salivates for the sordid and negative, was addressed on December 4 by Pope Francis during his Sunday prayer reflection of the Angelus at Saint Peter's Square in Rome. "The communications media have a very great responsibility. Nowadays they have in their hands the possibility and the capacity to form opinion: they can form a good or a bad opinion...They can be tempted by calumny, and therefore used to slander, to sully people, especially in the world of politics. They can be used as a means of defamation. There is no right to this. This is a sin and it is harmful...Mental pollution...Today there is a need for a revolution of tenderness in this world that suffers from cardio sclerosis (hardening of the heart)."

As an interesting aside, the creation of Christmas cards flowed from this spiritual desire to "accentuate the positive" ("Mary Poppins") in the midst of the dilemmas faced. Sir Henry Cole, born in the Victorian period of 1808 England, is considered to be the lightning rod of the greeting card industry in the complex financial and warfare times of the early 1800's on the worldwide stage. Influencing the postal system, plus training schools of music and cooking in London, Cole also penned books of inspiration for children. In 1843 he contracted with painter J.C. Horsley to create the first Christmas greeting card envisioning themes of faith, health, family togetherness, and ministering to the poor through feeding and clothing. Americans imported such cards until 1875 in Boston, when Prussia immigrant Louis Prang brought that idea of hope to our shores. The dramatic expansion of the card industry was ushered forward in 1915 by the Hall brothers of Kansas City, Missouri (later called Hallmark).

By the grace of God we can all bring sparks of hope, goodness, and faith in our darkened world. If the advice columns, movies, books, and greeting card industries can inspire from remote settings of orientation then we individually can certainly do it one at a time.

**Father Bill**

# MASS INTENTIONS

## Mon. Jan. 23

7:00am City of Newburgh  
Noon Maria Diaz  
By Barry & Jodi Schuyler

## Tues. Jan. 24

7:00am The Homeless  
Noon Daniel D'Elicio  
By Rocky & Mary Jane D'Elicio

## Wed. Jan. 25

7:00am Vocations  
Noon Maria Luisa Santana  
By Family

## Thur. Jan. 26

7:00am Our Armed Forces  
Noon Frances Schaffner  
By Family

## Fri. Jan. 27

7:00am All Priests  
Noon Pope Francis

## Sat. Jan. 28

Noon St Francis Parish  
4:30pm Al & Loretta Cole and  
James P. & Frances  
Purpura  
By Jim & Kathy

## Sun. Jan. 29

8:00am Joseph G. Certo  
By Carmela & Dave  
11:00am Julia Grieco  
Birthday &  
2<sup>nd</sup> year in heaven  
By Children & Grandchildren



### WEEKLY COLLECTON

January 14-15, 2017

1<sup>st</sup> Collection unavailable  
2<sup>nd</sup> Collection unavailable  
TOTAL unavailable

*Our sincere thanks for your generosity  
and support of our Parish.  
God bless each and every one of you....always*

The 2<sup>nd</sup> collection this weekend is for  
**SNOW PLOWING**

### MASS ATTENDANCE

January 14-15, 2017

4:30pm	188
8:00am	178
11:00am	<u>270</u>
Total	636

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

### SPANISH MASS

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



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

## **MARCH FOR LIFE WASHINGTON, D.C. FRIDAY, JANUARY 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Pray with us on January 27<sup>th</sup> for human life to  
be respected in our society, and come with us  
for the March for Life.

The Newburgh bus to the Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>  
March for Life in Washington, D.C. will leave  
after the 4:00am Mass from Our Lady of the  
Lake Church, Route 52, Orange Lake, and  
after a breakfast stop will arrive in  
Washington, D.C. in time for the Rally and  
March for Life. The bus returns to Orange  
Lake about 10:30pm. Bus riders pay \$50 per  
seat (youth \$35). For questions or to make a  
reservation contact Howard & Beth Spear at  
[heaps9@verizaon.net](mailto:heaps9@verizaon.net) or 845-564-5257, or St.  
Patrick/St. Mary's Rectory at 845-561-0885.



### 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

**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.



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

In your goodness please bring **JELLY** to Church next weekend to be distributed to the less fortunate in our area thru our Food Pantry.

*Peace begins with a smile.*

Saint Mother Teresa

### Adult Catechisis

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.

### ST FRANCIS UPCOMING EVENTS

**Jan 25<sup>th</sup>** - Eucharistic Adoration 5:00 to 6:00pm  
**Jan 28<sup>th</sup>** - Movie Night 6:00pm O'Connor Hall  
**Jan 29<sup>th</sup>** - Vigil for National Healing 3:00pm O'Connor Hall  
**Feb 1<sup>st</sup>** - Senior Meeting 12:30pm O'Connor Hall  
**Feb.5<sup>th</sup>** - Spanish Mass 1:30pm  
**Feb 5<sup>th</sup>** - Super Bowl Party 4:00pm O'Connor Hall  
**Feb 10<sup>th</sup>** - Valentines Diner Dance



### MOVIE NIGHT

On **Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm** in O'Connor Hall we will be showing the movie *Cinderella Man*, starring Russell Crowe and Renee Zelleweger. A true story of an athlete who achieved his greatest success against the most daunting odds of his life. Pizza and light refreshments will be served. Please contact Jeannine McCauley at [jeanse50@yahoo.com](mailto:jeanse50@yahoo.com) or 914-263-0572 if you plan to attend.



### 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 on **Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm.**

### NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE.....

**ENCOURAGE** is a Catholic Apostolate for those who have family members with same sex attraction. A new website has been created to help the faithful who are searching for information about Encourage, the Church's teaching on same sex attraction and spiritual support. The website is: [www.encourageny.com](http://www.encourageny.com).



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
MSGR. HENRY O'CARROLL  
COUNCIL 444  
UPCOMING EVENTS**



**FREE THROW CONTEST**

The Knights of Columbus are hosting a Hoop Shoot Free Throw Contest for **boys and girls** ages **9 to 14** on **Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>** from **11am to 3pm** at Sacred Heart School Gym (entrance on Ann Street) in Newburgh. Must bring **proof of age** and a **parent or guardian** must accompany the participant. For questions or more info please contact Bill Kuntz at 1-201-697-9920.

**SNOW DATE:** Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>.



**FIFTH SUNDAY  
ROSARY RALLY**

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring the rosary service for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in January which will be held at Sacred Heart Church following the 10:00am Mass on **Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>**. Bring your prayer requests. All parishes are invited to attend.



**SUPER BOWL PARTY**

The Knights of Columbus are hosting their 2nd Annual Super Bowl Party on **Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>** 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 and St. Francis Church are hosting a Buffet Dinner Dance on **Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>** 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 3<sup>rd</sup>.



**LANTERN OF HOPE  
NORA CRONIN PRESENTATION ACADEMY  
STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

The Lantern of Hope Student Scholarship Program provides more than just an opportunity to give to a worthy cause; it is a way to personally connect to our students, who flourish both socially and academically due to the generosity of a sponsor. By sponsoring a student, you are providing the gift of education, friendship, and of hope. Our objective is to reach girls from the lowest income neighborhoods of Newburgh and help them achieve success through education. We invite you to be a part of the mission of our unique school with your generous contribution.

**\$10,000 = 1 STUDENT SPONSORSHIP**

**Sponsors can be  
Individual Families, Friend Groups  
and Co-Workers**

**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 31<sup>st</sup>**. No reservations accepted after this date.



**THANK YOU**

to all our parishioners that remembered our **"Little Furry Friends Ministry"** during the Christmas Season. Your generous monetary donations along with food and supply donations are always greatly appreciated,

**MISSING???????**

The parish is looking for the whereabouts of the group photos of Kindergarten classes, First Communion classes and Confirmation classes that lined the halls of St. Francis of Assisi School in the 1990's before it was closed. If you have any information please call the rectory at 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:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**City/Town:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

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