



"Death is no more than passing from one room into another. But there's a difference for me, you know. Because in that other room I shall be able to see." Helen Keller (1880-1968), born both deaf and blind, uttered these words with a hint of heaven in them. In 1937, she visited Japan and inquired about adopting a dog to be a life companion. She reflected, "If ever there was an angel in fur, it was Kamikaze. I know I shall never feel quite the same tenderness for any other pet. The Akita dog has all the qualities that appeal to me - he is gentle, companionable and trusty." Singer Andrea Bocelli, in the same spiritual vein, reflected: "Losing my sight had nothing to do with my focus on music. My passion for music was already there, so it would be a mistake to give too much significance to my blindness... My blindness doesn't define my life." On December 19, another famous blind person performed a concert at the "B.B. King" on 42nd Street that evoked sight within the blindness. Jose Feliciano was born on September 10, 1945 in Lares, Puerto Rico. He is famous for songs such as "Feliz Navidad" from 1970, as well as "Light My Fire" (first popularized by the Doors in 1968) and the theme song from the television show "Chico and the Man" with Jack Albertson and Freddie Prinze. He also performed the national anthem before game five of the 1968 World Series at Tiger Stadium in Michigan, pitting the St. Louis Cardinals versus the Detroit Tigers. Born blind at birth from congenital glaucoma, Jose mentioned at the concert I attended an incredible story of faith that bridged heaven and earth. As a young boy at five, after his family moved to Spanish Harlem in Manhattan, he recalled one night in bed overhearing a conversation by his parents at the kitchen table. They were concerned about his future as a blind man, especially after they left this world for heaven. Jose claimed, without any hint of fanaticism or trying to convert people to the faith, that he received a divine dream that night that would point to the future God so intended for him. The Blessed Mother Mary told him not to focus on his blindness, but that a path would be made for him to help to deal with his physical state of blindness. A short period of time later the ability and talent to perform music graced him. He sang "Ave Maria" as a way to thank the Virgin Mary for her holy intercession.

What a story of thanking heaven for the grace and strength to overcome incredible human odds against such a positive attitude. In 1967, he had a dog incident metaphorically connecting him to Helen Keller. He was scheduled to perform a concert in London, England. Because of a then current rabies scare, his guide dog Trudy was not allowed into the country. Based on this painful experience, Feliciano wrote a song called "No Dogs Allowed" in 1969. In that same year he would perform with Frank Sinatra, Johnny Cash, Bing Crosby, Glen Campbell, Andy Williams, and Diana Ross. In 1995, Public School 155 in New York City was renamed "Jose Feliciano Performing Arts School." On May 10, 2010 Jose played the national anthem again for the Tigers baseball team at their new stadium Comerica Park in a Detroit suburb. Played musically similar to the way it was done in 1968, it was part of a tribute to announcer Ernie Harwell who died just a week before. Harwell was the person who encouraged the Tigers to let Feliciano sing back in 1968. He performed "God Bless America" on September 19, 2012 at Yankee Stadium. He married Susan Omillian in 1982, after being introduced by yes Ernie Harwell. At the concert I attended two months ago with a good friend, this amazing man fused his life talents and family with God's plan in his purpose and focus. He humbly needed people to guide him to a chair, exchange his guitar, take a sip of water, and even bow to the audience. He mentioned going on movie dates with his wife, where the sounds enable him to "see" what is happening. He pointed out that the loss of a sense enables the other senses to become much more powerful.

Jesus connected with people in his culture, even learning from them, as I likewise try to do. Everything I do in life, even time taken off, always carries with it a spiritual zeal to learn something about God that enables me to better express His works in our lives. My experiences, through travel and meeting interesting cultural figures, always takes into account the spiritual development that is possible. Jose Feliciano offers a religious story of conquering the odds of life stacked against us, with the help and grace of God. Meaning that we bring to Him our illnesses, fears, disgruntled moments with others, and doubts. God speaks to us at any age dimension of life, whether it be five, fifty-five, or even ninety-five. We just have to be open to listening.

Bless us dear Lord. Father Bill

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. Feb. 27

7:00am The Homeless
Noon City of Newburgh

Tues. Feb. 28

7:00am Genowefa Pilch
By Family
Noon Charles Babcock
(25th Anniv)
By Ed McDaniel

Wed. Mar. 1 Ash Wednesday

7:00am All the ill & suffering
Noon Souls in purgatory
5:30pm St. Francis Parish

Thur. Mar. 2

7:00am Pope Francis
Noon Helen Gerbes
By Dan & Helene Kerin

Fri. Mar 3

7:00am Our Country
Noon World Peace

Sat. Mar. 4

Noon The Unborn
4:30pm Mildred Crisci
By Mary & Butch Leoce
Patrick DeLuca
By Howrigan Family

Sun. Mar. 5

8:00am Nicholas Stagliano
(23rd Anniv)
By Nick & Helene Stagliano
11:00am William Hurley
By Charlie Messina
Marcos Majano
By Victoria Urquia & Family



WEEKLY COLLECTON

February 18-19, 2017

1st Collection \$
2nd Collection \$ unavailable
TOTAL \$

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

The 2nd collection this weekend is for
SNOW PLOWING

MASS ATTENDANCE

February 18-19, 2017

4:30pm	208
8:00am	160
11:00am	202
1:30pm	<u>55</u>
Total	625



Our **Holy Hour** with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is on
Wednesdays from 5:00pm to 6:00pm.
There will be **NO Eucharistic Adoration** this week due to Ash
Wednesday Services.



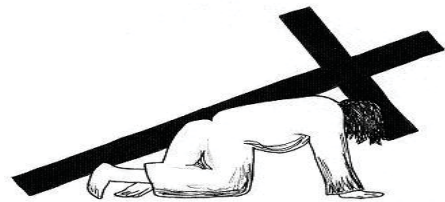
WEDNESDAY MARCH 1st

Ashes will be distributed at our Masses

7:00am 12noon 5:30pm

Ash Wednesday is a day of
fasting and abstaining from meat.

ALL Fridays in Lent
are days of abstaining from eating meat.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays at 7:00pm



PALM WEAVING

Palm weaving will start Monday, March 6th in O'Connor Hall.
Come and learn how to weave the beautiful palm crosses or
just come to help decorate, bag, count and sort.

Mondays-Fridays 10am to 2pm

Tuesday & Thursday evenings 6:30 to 9pm

Contact person for days Racheal 565-2246 or for eveinigs
Patricia pg Grimm@hvc.rr.com or 845-527-4374.



WHY DO WE PUT ASH ON OUR FOREHEAD?

Ashes are applied to our forehead in the sign of the cross as the words, "Remember, you are dust and to dust you shall return" are spoken to us. The other formula which is used, "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel" emphasizes our call to continual conversion and holiness of life. This act symbolizes our mortality as well as our need for ongoing repentance. It is a reminder that this life is short and merely a foreshadowing of what we shall become through the redemption of Jesus Christ on the cross. The work of our redemption will not be complete until we are raised from the dead, in resurrected bodies like His own and called to the eternal communion of heaven.

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**WHERE DO THE ASHES COME FROM?**

The ashes for Ash Wednesday normally are made from blessed palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday. The ashes are sprinkled with Holy Water and incensed before distribution.

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WHEN DO I WASH THE ASHES OFF MY FACE?

There is no specific instruction on how long ashes are to be worn. You can, in fact, wash them off immediately after the service if you want. Many people choose to wear their ashes for the remainder of the day both as a reminder of their own mortality and as a witness before those around that they are a follower of Christ and are entering into a season of examination and abstinence..

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**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK**

Vincenza Secor, Aaron Stagliano, Marie Wijek, Ashley Barco, Agnes Casey, Rose Marie Michalowski, Elaine Pietrzak, George Vecchio, Jr, Carol Brown, Luzia Araujo, Celio Thomaz, Rosalie Nogay, Richard and Rina Bozzone, 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'amario, Amanda Keane, Tom (Manay) Conroy, Gertrude Poland, Rita Froehlich, Brian Scott Monahan, Chelsea Dunderdale, Bill Mowry, Susan Randall and Mary Hollenbeck.

**TODAY**

**EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**First Reading:** Isaiah 49:14-15

The city of Zion laments that God has forsaken it. God replies that a mother would not forget her baby. Yet even if she did forget, "I will never forget you."

**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

Paul describes himself as a servant of Christ. He explains that the opinions of other people are unimportant to him. God is the only one worthy to judge us.

When God returns, he will praise those who deserve it.

**Gospel:** Matthew 6:24-34

Jesus warns the people not to waste their time worrying about material things. He says that God provides for the birds in the sky. "Are you not more important than they?" Jesus asked. We should not worry about food and clothes. Instead we should act as God wants us to, then he will help provide for us.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday**

Sir 17:20-24; Mk 10:17-27

**Tuesday**

Sir 35:1-12; Mk 10:28-31

**Wednesday**

Jl 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20—6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

**Thursday**

Dt 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25

**First Friday**

Is 58:1-9a; Mt 9:14-15

**First Saturday**

Is 58:9b-14; Lk 5:27-32



**Food Pantry Hours:**

**Friday 9:00am to 12noon**

**Saturday 9:00am to 12noon**

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

The Food Pantry is once again asking for **empty egg cartons** that can be used for their bulk egg delivery.

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.**

*Wherever you go,  
No matter what the weather,  
Always bring your own sunshine.*



### FLOWER MEMORIAL

The flowers in the sanctuary this week are  
"In Memory of **PATRICIA EARLEY**  
on her **15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**"  
By Husband Jack



### NATIONAL CATHOLIC SISTERS WEEK

**MARCH 8 to 14, 2017**

In honor of National Catholic Sisters Week the Presentation Sisters invite and welcome you to our home (The Convent at 153 Benkard Avenue) on **Sunday, March 12, 2017** from **12:00noon to 3:30pm** for an Open House.



### **IRISH NIGHT**

Grace United Methodist Church, 265 Van Ness Street in Newburgh is hosting a **Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner** at their Fellowship Hall on Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:00pm.  
Ticket **pre-sale** \$13.00 for adults, \$6.00 kids age 6 to 10, and 5 and under are free. **At the door** tickets are \$15.00 for adults, \$6.00 for kids ages 6 to 10 and 5 and under are free.

RESERVATIONS ARE HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

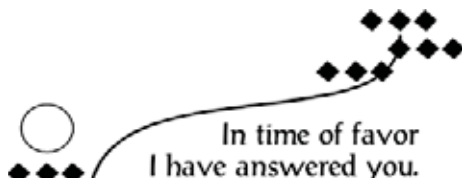
### **ST FRANCIS UPCOMING EVENTS**

|                                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Feb. 26<sup>th</sup></b> - Spanish Mass 1:30pm                 |
| <b>Mar. 1<sup>st</sup></b> - Ash Wednesday                        |
| <b>Mar, 8<sup>th</sup></b> - Senior Meeting 12:30pm O'Connor Hall |
| <b>Mar. 18<sup>th</sup></b> - Healing Mass 12noon                 |
| <b>Mar. 19<sup>th</sup></b> - Bagel Hour                          |



### **FREE, RELIABLE TAX PREPARATION**

Your taxes can be prepared for free right in your neighborhood. This service is for individuals, seniors and families and is sponsored by the AARP Foundation and the Hudson Valley Cash Coalition.  
For an appointment please call 2-1-1 or 1-800-899-1479. Calls are accepted 7 day a week from 9:00am to 7:00pm.



# You're invited



Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Patricia #195 is hosting a **Morning Lenten Reflection** on Saturday, **March 18<sup>th</sup>** from **9:00am to 1:00pm** at St. Francis of Assisi Church in O'Connor Hall. We will start at 9:00am with light refreshments. Then **Sister Virginia Wilkinson, PBVM** will present a program **The Gospels of Lent - a mini retreat** looking into the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert, the Transfiguration, the Samaritan woman, the man born blind and the raising of Lazarus. Afterward we will move upstairs to the main Church to end with a **12noon Healing Mass of Anointing**.

All are welcome and invited to attend. Bring a friend or relative. If you plan to attend please **RSVP** to Helene Kerin at **561-8329** so we can plan accordingly.



### **HYGIENE DRIVE**

There are currently over 625 youth considered homeless enrolled in the Newburgh Enlarged City School District. From February 11<sup>th</sup> thru March 12<sup>th</sup> there will be a drive for toiletries for elementary school children. Items most needed are bar soap, tooth paste, tooth brushes, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, feminine hygiene products brushes, combs bandaids and chap stick as well as laundry detergent pods. There is a special need for elementary aged underwear and sweatpants.

### **DROP OFF AT**

#### **ST. FRANCIS O'CONNOR HALL**

Mon. Feb. 13, 27 & Mar. 6, 13 -- 9 to 11am

Fri. Feb. 17, 24, & Mar. 3, 10 -- 2 to 4pm

#### **ST. FRANCIS CHURCH ENTRANCE**

Sat. Feb. 18, 25 & Mar. 4, 11 -- 3:30 to 5:30pm

Sun. Feb. 19, 26 & Mar. 5, 12 -- 7:30am to 1pm

### **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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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




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