



Chad and Jeremy were a British singing duo, whose first hit was entitled "Yesterday's Gone" from 1963. In 1964, was the pretty "If I Loved You" as well as "Willow Weep For Me." They would later have cameos in the "Dick Van Dyke" and "Patty Duke Show" plus "Batman" and "My Three Sons." Another hit song from 1964 was "A Summer Song," that featured the verses: "All good things must end someday. Autumn leaves must fall." In the same decade, of hearty melodies, was "The Trouble With Hello Is Goodbye" by Sergio Mendes and Brasilia 75. Listen to this tearjerker on "You Tube" with the words of: "We wandered through the summertime, and drifted into fall. We never thought of winter at all. How foolishly we tossed away the buttercups, the time. Who'd have thought we'd have no more songs to sing, hills to climb... No matter how we tried, the trouble with hello is goodbye."

Goodbyes are a part of life as we move out of childhood homes (for me Queens and Stony Point in New York, and Bogota in New Jersey while realizing so many faces would likely not be seen again), high school (still remember songs that marked my athletic and prom memories), leaving companies (recall a decade of service with the Bell Telephone Company), goodbye to the seminary for ordination to the priesthood (followed by the inevitable transfers to new parishes), relationships we thought would lead to friendships or more but sadly withered in the sawdust, deaths of loved ones within family (think daily of my Dad who went to heaven March 25, 2010) and culture (America lost the actresses Florence Henderson, Debbie Reynolds, Patty Duke, Carrie Fisher and Zsa Zsa Gabor as well as actors Gene Wilder, Alan Young, and George Kennedy. There were also announcers Morley Safer plus Joe Garagiola, athletes Arnold Palmer and Gordie Howe with Muhammed Ali, astronaut John Glenn, and First Lady Nancy Reagan), healthy bodies falling prey to illness, innocent pet connections severed by frailty (great cartoon of a dog awaiting his owner in heaven), the year of 2016 leaving for 2017, and even our favorite sports teams moving (Brooklyn Dodgers, Baltimore Colts, Minnesota North Stars). One spiritual epitaph records: "Someday, everything will make perfect sense. So for now, laugh at the confusion, smile through the tears, and keep reminding yourself that everything happens for a reason."

In 1972, a tragedy struck in my youth that reminded me of the fragility of life that leads ultimately to the road we call Heaven. On December 31, 1972 I was listening to sports radio as a young boy when word spread that the airplane carrying legendary Pittsburgh Pirates baseball star Roberto Clemente had crashed off of the coast of Isla Verde, Puerto Rico en route to Nicaragua, to drop off earthquake relief supplies. I remember well tearfully praying to God that Roberto be found alive. His body would never be found. Just three months earlier on **September 30**, he collected his 3000th and final regular season hit. After an incredible career of fifteen appearances in the All Star Game, two World Series championships, and four times the batting champion he was posthumously elected to the Hall of Fame in 1973. In a 1971 interview, Clemente said about the future: "You never know because God tells you how long you're going to be here. So you never know what can happen tomorrow." Shortly after efforts to find Roberto's body had failed, a memorial Mass was held for him at the cathedral in San Juan.

Giving up his life for others, as Jesus did, has prompted some interest in declaring him a saint. Pope Francis, through the Apostolic Nunciature in Washington D.C., has issued a letter of interest as has Archbishop Jose Horacio Gomez of Los Angeles, California. Player Neil Walker, whose father played with Clemente, offered this analysis: "He's somebody who lived his life serving others... So if it would happen, I wouldn't be terribly surprised by it " In 1995 I met the son of Roberto Clemente in Yonkers and recently received a signed baseball by his father from 1955, reminding me of the great gift of life God has given to us to be used in His service of others. Many have my signatures on cards, letters, and other correspondence. May they see in me what I see in Roberto Clemente. **May God grace us. Father Bill**

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. Mar. 6

7:00am The Poor of Newburgh
Noon Bridget McCarthy
By Family

Tues. Mar. 7

7:00am Alberta Splrescia & Fam.
By Mary King
Noon Veronica Natovich
(17th Anniv)
By Family

Wed. Mar. 8

7:00am Vocations
Noon Dominick Lease
By Sister & Brother in law
Thomas & Mary Bowe

Thur. Mar.9

7:00am Area Clergy
Noon Pope Francis

Fri. Mar. 10

7:00am Food Pantry Volunteers
Noon Mr & Mrs Joseph James
By Ed & Barbara McDaniel

Sat. Mar. 11

Noon Sick & Suffering
4:30pm Virgil & Alice Miller &
Jack & Stella Miller
By Son & Daughter

Sun. Mar. 12

8:00am Mary Hoffmann
(31st Anniv)
By Nick & Helene Stagliano
Ginny Cook
By Cook Family
11:00am Tony Angelo
By Maria Szeli
Margaret Trizinsky
By Husband Francis & Children



WEEKLY COLLECTON

February 18-19, 2017
1st Collection \$6,707.00
2nd Collection \$1,968.00
TOTAL \$8,675.00

FEBRUARY 25-26, 2017
1st Collection \$5,717.45
2nd Collection \$1,404.00
TOTAL \$7,121.45

*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
PARISH MINISTRIES

MASS ATTENDANCE

February 18-19, 2017
4:30pm 210
8:00am 158
11:00am 236
1:30pm 70
Total 674



Our Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on
Wednesdays from 5:00pm to 6:00pm is for the intention of
VOCATIONS TO THE RELIGIOUS LIFE.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays at 7:00pm.

FRANCISCAN FRIARS OF THE RENEWAL PARISH MISSION

at St. Francis Church

March 11-14

The Franciscan Friars will be celebrating
the weekend Masses on
Saturday, March 11th and Sunday, March 12th

Monday, March 13th - 7:00pm

Adoration & Confession

Tuesday, March 14th - 7:00pm

Eucharistic Healing



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 evenings
Patricia pgrimm@hvc.rr.com or 845-527-4374.

**TODAY
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

First Reading: Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7

This passage from Genesis narrates the creation of man, the temptation by the serpent, and the fall of Adam and Eve.

Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19

Paul tells the Romans that Adam's disobedience brought sin and death to the world, but Christ's dying on the cross for us will bring us salvation and life.

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

In preparation for His ministry, Jesus goes into the desert to fast and pray for 40 days. There He is tempted by the devil to give evidence of His miraculous powers, but Jesus resists the devil saying, "Away with you Satan! You shall do homage to the Lord your God; Him alone shall you adore."

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday

Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday

Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday

Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32

Thursday

Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Mt 7:7-12

Friday

Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26

Saturday

Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Vincenza Secor, Aaron Stagliano, Marie Wiejak, Ashley Barco, Agnes Casey, Rose Marie Michalowski, Elaine Pietrzak, Luzia Araujo, Celio Thomaz, Rosalie Nogay, 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'amaro, Amanda Keane, Tom (Manay) Conroy, Gertrude Poland, Rita Froehlich, Brian Scott Monahan, Chelsea Dunderdale, Bill Mowry, Susan Randall, Mary Hollenbeck, Donnie Ruckdeschel, Patrick Comyns, John Marullo, Carol Brown, George Vechio Jr, Jaddon Johnson and Rina & Richard Bozzone, Rebecca Pacella, Rose DiDonato



CONGRATULATIONS TO.....

Dorothy Spignardo, the February winner of \$182.00 in our monthly 50/50 Club Raffle. Be sure your envelope is in for the next drawing for March.



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

In your goodness please bring **ONE POUND PACKAGES OF PASTA & SAUCE** 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](tel:845-863-6504). All students need to **pre-register with Curt Bourdage before showing up at the pantry, please.**

OPUS DEI

Opus Dei will hold a *Night of Recollection* on Wednesday, **March 15th** from **6:30pm to 8:30pm** at Most Precious Blood Church, 42 Walnut Street in Walden. Confessions will be available. All are invited to attend. For more information or questions please call Helene Stagliano at 564-1107.



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 11th 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

Mar. 8th - Senior Meeting 12:30pm O'Connor Hall

Mar. 8th - Eucharistic Adoration 5:00pm to 6:00pm

Mar. 10th - Stations of the Cross 7:00pm

Mar. 12th - Spanish Mass 1:30pm

Mar. 18th - Healing Mass 12noon

Mar. 25th - Movie Night 6:00pm O'Connor Hall

Mar. 26th - Bagel Hour

*You are never too old
to set another goal
or to dream a new dream.*

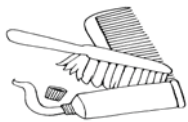
C.S. Lewis

You're invited



Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Patricia #195 is hosting a **Morning Lenten Reflection** on Saturday, **March 18th** 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 11th thru March 12th 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

CAMP VERITAS 2017

Enrollment is now open for Camp Veritas, a one week play-and-pray sleep away summer camp for teens going into 7th to 12th grades. It will be held in three USA locations in 2017; July 16-22 at Mt. St. Mary College in Newburgh, NY, July 23-29 at Summit Lake Camp in Emmitsburg, MD and August 13-19 at Campo Lakota in Wurtsboro, NY.

Price for each camper is \$450 (\$400 if paid in full by 4/1/2017). There is no addition charge for the dance and basketball options (at Mt St Mary College only). More details can be found at www.capverits.com.



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) next **Sunday, March 12, 2017** from **12:00noon to 3:30pm** for an Open House.



The Knights of Columbus, Council No. 444 is hosting a Communion Breakfast on **Sunday, April 2, 2017**. Mass will be celebrated at **10:00am** at Sacred Heart Church, Robinson Avenue in Newburgh followed by breakfast at **11:30am** at the Powelton Club, 29 Balmville Road, Newburgh. The Cost is \$25 per person for adults, children 6-10 are \$10 and children 5 and under free. **Pre-paid reservations only due by March 24th**.

Guest speaker is George Marlin who will talk on Christian genocide in the Middle East. Contact Chairman Joe Dennis by March 24th at 845-728-1214. **POWELTON CLUB DRESS CODE – NO JEANS**

BISHOP DUNN MEMORIAL SCHOOL

You are invited to an evening of prayer and fellowship at Bishop Dunn Memorial School's Annual **Soup and Bread Supper** on **Wednesday, March 8th** at **6:00pm** in their gym at 50 Gidney Avenue. We remember those in need as we fast, pray and sacrifice our evening meal, **donating the cost of a regular dinner** to our fund for **St. Pat's Soup Kitchen**. There will be a short prayer service and we will be serving, soup, bread and beverages. For more info please contact Susan Trieste at 845-569-3494 or Susan.Trieste@bdms.org. .3

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 Avenue, Newburgh, NY 12550.....and **Welcome!**



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