



Donald Voss has spent nearly half of his 57 years of life exercising an extraordinary craft for the King County Library in Seattle, Washington. The story caught my attention because he mends books, including the Bible, and I did a family baptism in that Washington State area during September of 2015. Shears, brushes, and needles are his instruments of literary book healing. The more precise term of his profession is "menderies" or "book hospitals". The digital revolution in libraries has reduced the supply and interest for books in the general public, and since the middle 1800's the mass production of cheaply made glued-books has drastically curtailed the demand for such menderies. Columnist Kirk Johnson reflected about Voss: "Love of books pervades the work of the mendery, and the desire to protect them from the harsh threats of the outside world... Words leap occasionally from the pages he works on, in an author's voice, usually long dead, speaking to him. He keeps one such quote prominently on his desk: "Whatever struggles you have met, find its meaning and it will cease to be a struggle." He remembers nothing else about the book, neither title nor author.

Finding meaning and faith in struggles is a deeply serious challenge we all face in the spiritual life. Catholic inspirationalist Jon Leonetti wrote on his podcast about a saint we parishioners know so well: "Francis of Assisi tried to be a soldier, but got captured on his first campaign. When they finally released him, he went home to work in the family business (he turned out pretty bad at that too). But when Francis found his vocation in and through the poor, his message of complete abandonment to Christ spread, continuing all around the world today."

Finding people that can authentically inspire us toward the plan of God is a more complex matter. Actor Mark Wahlberg (Perfect Storm, Italian Job) has found such inspiration in Pope Francis, furthered by his desire to go to Mass every day (since his marriage in 2009 at Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Beverly Hills, California). After a rough past including a felony, he has turned his life around through the faith. About that fact and the Holy Father, Wahlberg mentioned: "I love Pope Francis. He hasn't watched television since the late 70's, early 80's, so he had no idea who I was, which was nice, and we had a lovely conversation. I just love how he's bringing the Church into the next century... Catholicism is the anchor that supports everything I do in life." Wahlberg met the Pope during a Philadelphia family conference in September of 2015. In the aftermath of the recent contentious presidential election, we can even find such inspiration in our past American leaders.

At Disneyland in Anaheim, California two months ago I was deeply drawn to the exhibit from 1965 called "Great Moments With Mr. Lincoln". I have gone to that attraction since 1979, when my visits to cousins nearby commenced. The life-like robot of Lincoln's image always stirs me with sacred words about country, life, and faith. On that sunny January day his words on stage mirrored something said on October 24, 1863: "Amid the greatest difficulties of my administration, when I could not see any other resort, I would place my whole reliance in God, knowing that all would go well, and that He would decide for the right." We should all take the time to thank those who have guided us spiritually be it Pope Francis, Abraham Lincoln, Donald Voss, Mark Wahlberg, or a name known to us alone.

Father Bill

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. Mar. 13

7:00am Communion Service
Noon World Peace

Tues. Mar. 14

7:00am Communion Service
Noon Vocations

Wed. Mar. 15

7:00am Communion Service
Noon Pope Francis

Thur. Mar. 16

7:00am Communion Service
Noon Msgr. Al Markowski
(20th Anniv)
By Parish

Fri. Mar. 17

7:00am Mary Corizzo
By Michael & Colleen Corizzo
Noon Diane Piper-Radner
By Husband Paul
Patrick DeLuca
By DeLuca Family

Sat. Mar. 18

Noon Living & Deceased
Members of Catholic Daughters
Court Patricia #195
The Ill & Suffering
4:30pm George Stenglein
By Family

Sun. Mar. 19

8:00am Art Szeli
By Family
11:00am William Hurley
By Carol Soricelli
Frank Dale
By Dale Salisbury

PLEASE NOTE:

7:00am Communion Service
ONLY
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,
and Thursday



WEEKLY COLLECTON

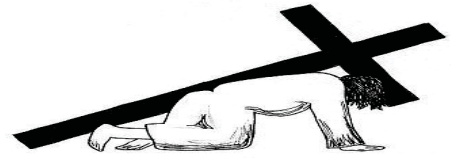
MARCH 4-5, 2017

1st Collection \$6,549.45

2nd Collection \$1,664.00

TOTAL \$8,213.45

Ash Wednesday...\$1,197.00



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays at 7:00pm

The 2nd collection this weekend is for
MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS

**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

MASS ATTENDANCE

ASH WEDNESDAY

7:00am 92

12noon 382

5:30-pm 262

Total 736

STATIONS OF THE CROSS 45

MARCH 4-5, 2017

4:30pm 180

8:00am 120

11:00am 265

1:30pm 80

Total 645



Our **Holy Hour** with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on
Wednesday from 5:00pm to 6:00pm for the intention of
The Poor

TODAY

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



TODAY
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

God calls Abraham to leave his family and people and go to a new land. God promises to make the people of this new nation great and to bless Abraham.

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 1:8b-10

Paul, from his place of imprisonment in Rome, writes words of encouragement to Timothy, telling him that Christ is for them everlasting life.

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

Wishing to reveal His glory to Peter, James and John, Jesus takes them to a mountain where he is transfigured before them. When Peter exclaims that he will build three tabernacles here in honor of Jesus, Moses and Elijah, a voice from above proclaims: "This is My beloved Son on whom My favor rests. Listen to him."

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday

Dn 9:4b-10; Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday

Is 1:10, 16-20; Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday

Jer 18:18-20; Mt 20:17-28

Thursday

Jer 17:5-10; Lk 16:19-31

Friday

Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday

Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Vincenza Secor, Aaron Stagliano, Marie Wiejak, 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, Mary Hollenbeck, Donnie Ruckdeschel, Patrick Comyns, John Marullo, Carol Brown, Geroge Vechio Jr, Jaddon Johnson, Rina & Richard Bozzone, Rebecca Pacella and Rose DiDonato.



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

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 Curt Bourdage before showing up at the pantry, please.**

ST FRANCIS UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar. 12th - Spanish Mass 1:30pm
Mar. 13th - Parish Mission 7:00pm
Mar. 14th - Parish Mission 7:00pm
Mar. 15th - Eucharistic Adoration 5:00pm to 6:00pm
Mar. 17th - Stations of the Cross
Mar. 18th - Healing Mass 12noon
Mar. 19th - Spanish Mass
Mar. 25th - Movie Night 6:00pm O'Connor Hall
Mar. 26th - Bagel Hour



PALM WEAVING

Palm weaving has started 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.



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**.

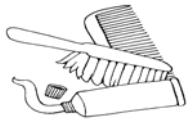
Guest speaker is George Marlin who will talk on Christian genocide in the Middle East. Contact Chairman Joe Dennis by March 24th at 845-728-1214. **POWELTON CLUB DRESS CODE – NO JEANS**

You're invited



Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Patricia #195 is hosting a **Morning Lenten Reflection** next 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

Monday, March 13 -- 9 to 11am

ST. FRANCIS CHURCH ENTRANCE

Sunday, March 12 -- 7:30am to 1pm



BREAKFAST EVENT WITH AN IRISH FLAIR

New Windsor American Legion Post 1796, at 29 Walnut Street in New Windsor is hosting a breakfast on Sunday, March 19th from 8:30 to 11:30am at their legion hall.

Enjoy scrambled eggs, pancakes, bacon and sausage, Irish soda bread, corned beef hash, hash browns and juice, coffee and tea.

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.



COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES AND LUNCHEON

Grace United Methodist Church is hosting a Lenten Lunch series on Wednesdays during Lent. The one half hour service begins at noon and will feature a different guest speaker each week (**Fr. Bill will preach on March 22nd**). Following the service a simple lunch of sandwiches, beverages and dessert will be provided for a nominal fee of \$4.00. The dates are March 15th, 22nd, 29th and April 5th. All are invited and welcome to attend.



MOVIENIGHT

On **Saturday, March 25th** at **6:00pm** in O'Connor Hall we will be showing "**Field of Dreams**" starring Kevin Costner, Amy Madigan, Burt Lancaster, James Earl Jones and Ray Liotta. This is a great movie that takes an ordinary corn field and turns it into a place where dreams come true.

For pizza and refreshment ordering purposes, please RSVP by Friday, March 24th to Jeannine McCauley at jeansev50@yahoo.com or 914-263-0572.

Beginning Experience of the Hudson Valley

is offering a healing weekend from March 31 to April 2 at the St. Lawrence Retreat Center in Beacon, NY. This invitation is open to men and women of all ages who have suffered the loss of a spouse through death, divorce or separation. It is a time to heal and a time to begin anew. For more info or to register please call Mary Ann home/914-962-1112 or cell/914-260-5087, or e-mail at ny.hudsonvalley@beginningexperience.org.

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