



Padre's Corner

November 12, 2017

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

"I had heard that Cubans are a deeply religious people. In two days here I have learned that baseball is their religion." Sam Lacy wrote these comments in 1947, for a newspaper in Baltimore. Despite the sentiments seventy years ago, the Catholic Church in Cuba was alive and well. There were numerous churches open, and the citizens were not afraid to practice their faith. In the waterfront area of Havana, not far from where cruise ships harbor today, a majestically high statue of Jesus was commissioned by the wife of President Batista in 1958. One year later a revolution developed, which effectively closed all churches (orphanages, schools, hospitals) with the expulsion of foreign priests and sisters from the country.

Inspired by Pope Francis in 2015, a few parish churches have reopened but the attendance barely lifts the measurement number scale. Most people are either disinterested, uneducated about the faith, hostile, or scared to openly observe their Catholicism. At a concelebrated Mass at Holy Spirit, in a historic yet downtrodden section of Havana, both the pastor and deacon told me in broken English that they hope for the future return of the faithful to an active spiritual life. But, with a heavy heart they conveyed that may not happen.

Five hours away in Santa Clara, there was once an active 1600's-built church run by the Franciscans appropriately named Saint Francis of Assisi. Stunning from the outside, I entered with a heavy heart after paying an admission price for the now art museum. Where once baptisms, Masses, funerals and weddings took place dating from four centuries ago the scenario today is one of a gift shop hawking souvenirs of past communist revolutionary leaders. Leaders who destroyed Catholic life, paradoxically, and seems still to be deeply in the blood of the citizens who find life meaning through them rather than Jesus Christ. All of the religious artifacts were systematically removed, sans the magnificent bells that once called the faithful to worship through its melodic echo in the streets below. Street images and lit remembrance candles of the leaders have replaced the sanctuary lamps of God. Natural open windows that once saw the faithful practicing their religious beliefs now bore witness to music festivals, frivolous activity, shopaholics, and lack of appreciation for the sacred buildings in their midst that once served as a testament to God. Tour guides are fearful about entering these sacred sites, in case spies identify them resulting in the possible loss of their government jobs.

There were signs of hope in Cuba. One open church in Havana had these words on a sign in front of the Blessed Sacrament: "This chapel is dedicated to prayer. It is not another spot in your tourist tour. Our Lord Jesus is actually present here in the Eucharist. Thank you for showing respect and reverence. This is your opportunity to meet Jesus. Do not miss it, please. God bless you." Another church sign opined: "You are in a Catholic Church. Please do not eat or drink here. No caps or hats. No shorts too short. God bless you." Near that sign was a statue of Saint John Paul II, beautiful in symbolism to what can be found in our Newburgh churches. I saw many desperate people, clinging to the crumbs of financial support received from the government for basic human needs of shelter and food. Sadly many, like here in America, squander their monies on cervezas (beer) instead of more important forms of nourishment.

I could not help but think of the many other countries in the world where the practice of Catholicism is subjected to similar such controls and fears. The situation elsewhere, specifically Western Europe and the United States, does not have the same type of political tyranny. What exists in the latter zones are laws against life from the moment of conception, affluence that prioritizes entertainment over a silent prayerfulness, a younger generation that finds on a larger scale little relevance in organized religion, a serious loss of vocations to the priesthood and religious life, and a crumbs attitude toward supporting our inspiring but aging spiritual edifices.

On the streets of both city and countryside in Cuba, there were many stray cats and dogs. Two tiny little kittens were begging for human help, with a mother seemingly missing, approaching the beaches of Cienfuegos. I wished to, but could not bring them home. A block away I tearfully turned toward them one last time, begging that the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Saint Francis of Assisi would save them through kindly human hands. The same human prayerful hands that I trust will help me to save the future of our two Newburgh parishes.

Fr. Bill

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. Nov. 13

7:00am Ralph Corizzo
By Family
Noon Edward Trizinsky
By Wife Loretta & Family

Tues. Nov 14

7:00am Mary & Joseph Vitay
By Mary Ann & Tony Farkas
Noon Nora O'Connell & Richard
Heater
By Eileen Dietz

Wed. Nov. 15

7:00am Susan Randall
By Mary Randall
Noon Walter Marvel
By Wife & Family

Thur. Nov. 16

7:00am Dominick Grieco
(8th Anniv)
By Children & Grandchildren
Noon Children of the East
Coldenham School Disaster
(27th Anniv.)

Fri. Nov. 17

7:00am Vocations
Noon Edith Scher
By Roseann & Guy DiSpigna

Sat. Nov. 18

Noon St. Francis Parish
4:30pm Thomas Randall
By Mary Randall
Charles Zeke McCurry
By Nancy Sheals & Family

Sun. Nov. 19

8:30am Art Szeli
By Family
11:00am William Cathcart
By Wife Barbara & Family
Maureen Smith
"Birthday Blessings"
By Her sisters



WEEKLY COLLECTON

Nov 4-5, 2017

1st Collection \$ 6,637.00
2nd Collection 1,701.00
All Saints Day 1,277.00
TOTAL \$ 9,615,00

MASS ATTENDANCE

Nov 4-5, 2017

4:30pm 280
8:30am 186
11:00am 350
1:30pm 195
TOTAL 911

The 2nd Collection this week is for
MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS



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



**Interfaith
community**
A GATHERING OF THE FAITHFUL
AN INTERFAITH SERVICE

St. Francis Parish is happy to be hosting
this year's Annual Thanksgiving Interfaith
Service on Sunday, November 19th at
4:30pm in our Church. Refreshments and
fellowship will follow in O'Connor Hall.
Suggested donation is one non-perishable
food item to benefit our local food pantries.

YOU ARE INVITED

Fr. Guisepppe Siniscalchi, CFR will celebrate
the **Italian Mass** at Sacred heart Church on
Sunday, **November 26th at 7:30am.**
Coffee and donuts will be served following the
7:30am Mass in the Sacred Heart Activity
Center, sponsored by the Circolo Cattolico
Italiano as they begin their 50th Anniversary in
2018.
All are personally invited by President Sal
Vargetto.

HEALING MASS

Fr. Bill will be celebrating a Healing Mass at
Sacred Heart Church on **Monday** evening,
November 20th at 7:00pm. All are welcome.

TODAY

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Wisdom 6:12-16

Regarded as personifying God’s power, Wisdom is readily and easily found by those who seek her.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

The Thessalonians, who fear that those who have died will miss Christ’s return, are comforted by Paul’s assurance that those “who have died in Christ will rise first.”

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

In the parable of the five sensible bridesmaids and the five foolish bridesmaids, Jesus emphasizes the fact that we must always be ready for the coming of Christ because in his words, “You know not the day or the hour.”

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday

Wis 1:1-7; Lk 17:1-6

Tuesday

Wis 2:23—3:9; Lk 17:7-10

Wednesday

Wis 6:1-11; Lk 17:11-19

Thursday

Wis 7:22b—8:1; Lk 17:20-25

Friday

Wis 13:1-9; Lk 17:26-37

Saturday

Wis 18:14-16, 19:6-9; Lk 18:1-8 or, for the Memorial of the Dedication, Acts 28:11-16, 30-31; Mt 14:22-33



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Vincenza Secor, Aaron Stagliano, Marie Wiejak, Ashley Barco, Agnes Casey, Rose Marie Michalowski, George Vecchio Jr, 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 McParkland and Family, Jozef Froniewski, Teresa Centeno, Bobbi Hull, Angie Monaco, Emily Cooley, Frank Celeste, Amy Finnegan, Brian Hanrahan, Toni Loparco Shepardson, Donald (Leed) Zubawicz, Louise McHugh, Pat Alexander, Alex Galant, Evelyn Kawula, and Taylor Fogel.

Wisdom is found



by those who look for it



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

Food Pantry will be closed
Friday, November 24th
and
Saturday, November 25th
For the Thanksgiving weekend

In your goodness please bring **PERSONAL CARE ITEMS such as soap, toothpaste, shampoo, etc.** 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](tel:845-863-6504). All students need to pre-register with Curt Bourdage before showing up at the pantry, please.



2017-2018 Class Schedules

Mondays	Grades 1-6	4:30 to 6:00pm
Mondays	Grades 7&8	6:30 to 8:10pm
Tuesdays	Grades 1-7	5:00 to 6:30pm
Wednesdays	Grades 7&8	6:00 to 7:40pm

Confirmation Classes for High School Students

Tuesdays	Grades 9-12	6:30 to 8:00pm
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See Sister Laura

ST. FRANCIS CALENDAR OF EVENTS
Nov 12th - Alpine Pilgrimage mtg 3:30pm O’Connor Hall
Nov 19th - Coffee & Bagel Hour
Nov 19th - Interfaith Service 4:30pm
Dec 2nd - Holiday Get Together
Dec 6th - Senior Meeting

ALPINE PILGRIMAGE MEETING

There will be a meeting today, November 12th at 3:30pm in O’Connor Hall for all those going on the Alpine Christmas Adventure Pilgrimage December 4th thru 14th.



FLOWER MEMORIALS

The 2 bouquets of flowers on the Altar this weekend are
"In Memory of Sandra Mazzie"
By Her Family

Opus Dei

A NIGHT OF RECOLLECTION

A (mini-retreat) will be given by the Prelature of Opus Dei on Wednesday November 15th at 6:15pm at Most Precious Blood Church, 56 Walnut Street in Walden. Confessions will be available. Why not seek holiness in your daily life. Any questions please contact Helene Stagliano at 845-564-1107.



Sister Virginia along with the ladies of "The Women's Craft Project" will hold a pre-Christmas sale of their one of a kind handcrafted necklaces and bracelets after Masses

December 2nd & 3rd – Sacred Heart Church
December 9th & 10th – St. Francis Church



BAGEL & COFFEE HOUR

Join us after the **8:00am Mass** next Sunday for coffee and bagels in O'Connor Hall.



Christmas Party

St Francis Parish

Holiday Get Together

Come join us for a buffet pasta dinner and spread some holiday cheer as we kick off the Christmas season. Meet us in O'Connor Hall on Saturday, December 2nd following the 4:30pm Mass and enjoy a fun evening of good food and good friends. We will have a sign-up sheet in the back of the church for people wishing to attend.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Mary, Queen of Peace, save us all, who have so much trust in you, from wars, hatred and oppression. Make us all learn to live in peace, and educate ourselves for peace, do what is demanded by justice and respect the rights of every person, so that peace may be firmly established. Amen

By Pope Saint John Paul II



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

Our Giving Tree is located in the back of the church. Please pick an angel (or angels) and bring your unwrapped gift that corresponds to the information on the angel and place it under the tree. We will be sharing your donations with the clients of the Deacon Jack Seymour Food Pantry at St. Francis on Friday and Saturday, December 8th & 9th and 15th & 16th. The total number of children registered ages 1-12 at the pantry is 813. Our need is great and, as always, we appreciate your generosity.

HEALING MASS

The Third Sunday Healing Mass usually celebrated at St. Mary's Church in Marlboro is changing its location to **Our Lady of Fatima** in Plattekill. The next Healing Mass will be November 19th at 4:00pm.

SCANDINAVIA & ST. PETERSBURG CRUISE

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

Hosted By:

Father Bill Damroth



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.

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*.