



Padre's Corner

November 26, 2017

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Sister Magdalena is a religious sister friend of mine whose family hails from the Houston, Texas area. She recently wrote me: "Greetings from Houston! I pray all is well with you in life and ministry. I am doing all right and fared well with the hurricane. However, I am writing to ask for your prayers for my brother and relatives that suffered from flooding when Hurricane Harvey hit landfall a second time and did terrible damage to Port Arthur, my old hometown. Thank you for your prayers." When Deacon John Buckley died on August 27, Saint Francis of Assisi Church hosted his funeral Mass on September 1. His prayer card cited spiritual thoughts from Saint Monica to her son Saint Augustine, shortly before her death in Ostia (modern Turkey) in 387. As he grew flustered with her illness and impending death, Monica reflected: "Bury my body wherever you will; let not care of it cause you any concern. One thing only I ask you, that you remember me at the altar of the Lord wherever you may be." These two examples of prayerful requests lie at the heart of intercession within our Catholic faith, reflecting either an individual or communal wish. When Masses are offered for the faithful departed, the same religious mandates are employed of God intervening directly in our lives. The mystery of these requests in the spiritual sphere produce differing results. Recently a family desired prayers for a woman battling cancer reports, and the concluding result was optimistic. Another family requested the same for a wonderful man, and the end was not as pleasant an outcome. The human touch is so critical, and our Catholic tradition still mandates such encounters through our prayer and sacramental life. What a contrast to a culture that prizes itself in anonymity and sterile exchanges. Examples abound.

When Facebook or other social media engines replace the deeper connections of letters or connecting phone calls. Android smartphones in 2018 will feature eye iris scanning, rather than password codes. Imagine the potential security hassles in these new technological endeavors. How about this bizarre entry from the "New York Post" section entitled "Weird But True." My head still spins with this one: "A Japanese tech firm has developed a Buddhist priest robot designed to give blessings at funerals. The plastic automaton - which is named Pepper - can step in when a human priest isn't available, according to SoftBank, the company that designed the machine. It will cost about \$450 to rent one when they hit the markets." Even Major League Baseball is giving serious thought to eliminating the home plate umpire, in order to sanitize imperfect human decisions on called balls and strikes. Some of the greatest moments in baseball history are managers, like Billy Martin of the New York Yankees and Tommy Lasorda of the Los Angeles Dodgers, kicking up dust storms toward umpires they were at odds with.

The ripple effects of technological anonymity grow ever present. We can avoid human contact in the banking system with electronic transactions, riding the bridges through EZ pass systems, calling in pizza orders online, or even attending church but racing out before the conclusion prayer in order to bypass human contact which more often than not emanates from this growing desire to make deals without human intervention. The sacraments of the Church, particularly penance and the Eucharist necessitate, require such a sacred outlook. Maybe fifteen years ago, a guy asked me if he could confess his sins over the phone. While wanting to oblige, I simply could not. Church rules do not allow such interpersonal disconnect.

Perhaps our frenzied society contributes to this massive dilemma, which certainly plagues the life of a priest also. Recently I uncovered a picture "with a perfectly sized cavity in its side, a half-eaten crabapple offers a tiny harvest mouse an especially sweet hiding spot in Wimborne, England. The apple had been gobbled by a hornet." The need for solace, a peaceful ground space to retreat into, is what people crave for today facing the real problems about the future. We need to be more peaceful, and not allow any stranger at all to derail us from our future spiritual visions and lifestyles as dictated by God. The peaceful pose in England of a harvest mouse serves as a template for future clergy discourse. Our pets, dog is the reverse of God, teach us the sanctity of priests and faithful parishioners trying to live serenely and authentically. We all need to escape from the burdens of our schedule commitments, which is why I pencil in these retreats and travel opportunities on occasion. When priests, sisters and God's people are all work and no play, seeking that of the intimate which God created us out of, our interpersonal lives suffers precipitously. In a shade over a week is the parish trip to Austria, Germany, and Switzerland. Israel follows a month later, before my plan to ease off on these trips for awhile. God bless you. **Father Bill**

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. Nov. 27

7:00am Susan Randall

By Mary Randall

Noon Benjamin King

By Mary King

Josephine & Howard Landau

By Daughter

Tues. Nov 28

7:00am World Peace

Noon Javier Garcia

By Como Family

Wed. Nov. 29

7:00am Genowefa Pilch

By Family

Noon John Louis Dubaldi

(44th Anniv)

By Luisa Dubaldi-Steltz &

Son John Dubaldi

Thur. Nov. 30

7:00am Ill & Suffering

Noon Bill & Marion Pushman

60th Wedding Anniversary

Fri. Dec 1

7:00am Vocations

Noon Callum Angus Bjerke

By Kelly Smith & Children

Sat. Dec 2

Noon The Unborn

4:30pm Andrew Ehrlinger &

Irwin Witcosky

By Craig & Cindy Kretzmer

Sun. Dec 3

8:30am John Nosek

By Family

Palma Webb

By Kiki Hayden

11:00am Rose Marvel

By Bill & Marion Pushman

Ralph Puglielle

By Wife & children



WEEKLY COLLECTON

Nov 18-19, 2017

1st Collection \$

2nd Collection Unavailable

TOTAL \$

MASS ATTENDANCE

Nov 18-19, 2017

4:30pm

8:30am

11:00am Unavailable

1:30pm

TOTAL



CALLING ALLCHILDREN WHO WANT TO SING FOR CHRISTMAS

Practice for the Children's Christmas Choir singing at the **4:30 pm Christmas Eve Mass** will begin on Tuesday, December 5th. There will be a total of 3 practices: Dec 5, Dec 12 and Dec 19. Practice times start at 6:00pm and ends around 7:00pm. Please call or text Desiree Abbruscato, our Music Director, at 845-541-0769 or e-mail her at abbruscator@aol.com for more information.

Due to early deadline for the Thanksgiving Holiday, Collection and Attendance numbers were not available. They will appear next week.

The 2nd Collection this week is for
FUEL COLLECTION



Eucharistic
Adoration

Our **Holy Hour** with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament this **Wednesday** from **5:00pm to 6:00pm** is for the intention of **ALL VICTIMS OF RECENT TRAGEDIES.**



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.

TODAY

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17

This passage beautifully describes how the Lord God, as shepherd, will tend his flock. He will rescue those who are lost, bring back those who stray, heal the sick, and "pasture" all.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28

Paul once again stresses the significance of Christ's resurrection in the total divine plan, emphasizing that Christ's rising means that those who believe in him will also rise after death. Christianity, he argues, is meaningless if it concerns only this life on earth. In the end, even death will be destroyed, and "God will be all in all."

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

With words both poetic and vivid, Jesus tells the disciples that since he is present in all people, whatever they do to "one of my least brothers" they do to him; and whatever they fail to do to his "least," they fail to do to him.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday

[Dn 1:1-6, 8-20](#); Lk 21:1-4

Tuesday

[Dn 2:31-45](#); Lk 21:5-11

Wednesday

[Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28](#); Lk 21:12-19

Thursday

Rom 10:9-18; Mt 4:18-22

First Friday

[Dn 7:2-14](#); Lk 21:29-33

First Saturday

[Dn 7:15-27](#); Lk 21:34-36



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



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

In your goodness please bring **CANNED VEGETABLES** 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.

YOU ARE INVITED

Fr. Guisepppe Siniscalchi, CFR will celebrate the **Italian Mass** at Sacred heart Church today, 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.

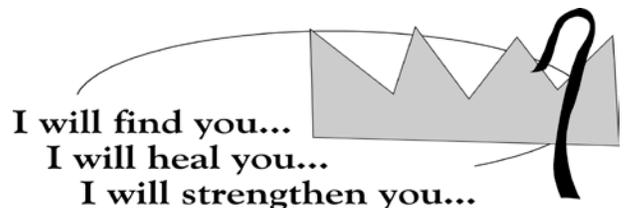
ST. FRANCIS CALENDAR OF EVENTS	
Nov 29th	- Eucharist Adoration 5:00 to 6:00pm
Dec 1st	- Youth Group 6:30pm O'Connor Hall
Dec 2nd	- Holiday Get Together - 5:30 O'Connor Hall
Dec 6th	- Senior Christmas Party - 12:30 O'Connor Hall

PRAYER TO THE HOLY FAMILY

O Jesus, look graciously upon our family here before you. Once more we consecrate ourselves before you – our trials and joys – that our home may ever be the shrine of peace, purity, love and faith. Protect and bless all of us, both absent and present, and be merciful to those departed.

O Mary, loving Mother of Jesus, and our Mother, pray to Jesus for our family, for all the families of the world, to guard the cradle of the newborn, the schools of the young and their vocations.

O Joseph, holy guardian of Jesus and Mary, assist us by your prayers in all the necessities of life. Be present at the pillow of the sick and dying so that we may all be united to Jesus and Mary and you for all eternity. Amen





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.

There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the Church for those wishing to attend.

There is also a sign-up sheet for those wishing to bring a dessert.



The **St. Francis Senior Group** invites you to join our Christmas celebration at our next meeting on **Wednesday, December 6th**. If you wish to attend, you are asked to bring a food dish that would feed about 6 people as well as an unwrapped gift for a child that will be donated to the Food Pantry. The meeting is held at **12:30pm** after the 12noon Mass. All are welcomed to attend to enjoy some holiday spirit.



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



SAVE THE DATE

Pray with us on January 19, 2018 for human life to be respected in our society and come with us for the March for Life. The Newburgh bus for the **Friday, January 19th** March for Life in Washington, DC will leave after a 4:00am Mass from Our Lady of The Lake Church, Route 52, Orange Lake, and after a breakfast stop will arrive in Washington DC, in time for the Rally and March for Life. The bus returns to Orange Lake about 10:30pm.

Bus riders pay \$50/seat; \$35/youth (sponsorships available for those needing help paying). Make checks payable to St. Patrick/St Mary's Church. For questions, reservations or donations please contact Howard & Beth Spear 845-564-5257 or at howard.jp.spear@gmail.com, or, St. Patrick/St. Mary's Rectory at 561-0885.



WANTED...MARY'S HOPE an outreach program, run by Suzanna Campora, delivers bags of groceries to shut-ins twice a month. They are in need of used **brown paper grocery bags with handles** (like Adams) for their deliveries. If you have any to donate please drop them off at them at the rectory or leave them at the back of the church. Please mark them for *Mary's Hope*.



Sacred Heart is hosting an Advent Concert on Sunday, December 17th at 3:00pm in the Church. Light refreshments will be served in the chapel following the concert.

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, Cruise 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.