



Padre's Corner

December 24, 2017
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Midnight is not just a state of time, but a name for a very special cat from Brooklyn. Trapped in a darkened basement with no sunlight or human contact, wonderful rescuers freed this young cat from his imprisonment. He became a Facebook story, and individuals contacted me about adopting him. No brainer decision on my part. For exactly four weeks he hid behind a bedroom dresser, only coming out around **midnight** to eat and drink when the lights went out. Then one Saturday night he came out of his self-imposed dungeon and blinked his wide eyes at me. While still tentative, he now playfully greets any visitor as the bright lights of his personality submerge the darkness of the past. (In a promotion of pet adoption, from "The Savvy Senior" insert for "The Daily Star" newspaper near Cooperstown on September 6: "It's not uncommon for seniors to feel lonely or depressed when they retire, their children move away or they lose a spouse or close friend or friends. The American Humane Society states that studies show pets help seniors overcome loneliness and depression by providing affection, company and entertainment. Pets also provide much-needed mental stimulation, and many pet owners find their pets help them become more physically active as well.")

This has become a wonderful Christmas story to me that helps me also to focus on what is most important in life. Love, friend blessings, and mercy is what it is all about. Not money, possessions, houses, cars, and favorite sports teams. When "A Charlie Brown Christmas" premiered at CBS on December 9, 1965 the Charles Schulz cast of cartoon characters posed these same value questions. Charlie is distressed by the commercialism of Christmas, reflected coincidentally in that this show was financed by Coca-Cola on the tiny budget of only \$96,000 in production costs. His unhappiness is extended when Lucy demands real estate, Snoopy wants lights for his doghouse, and Sally wants money. As Charlie Brown tries to organize a Christmas play, Linus gets him focused on "the reason for the season." From Saint Luke in part, "And the angel said unto them, fear not; for, behold, I bring you (the Angel) tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord --- That's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown." Then the entire cartoon cast sings "Hark ! The Herald Angels Sing."

The spiritual presence of baseball greats in Cooperstown would echo that now. I even said a prayer in front of the empty uniform and cap that the legendary Babe Ruth once occupied, preceding his death in 1948. In Heaven he and others know what the reality is. Leta Jane Hribar, age 80, recently died in Cooperstown. She left her job in 1998 to care for her husband Bob, after he suffered a massive stroke. He was her love and "only hobby." She also cared for her sheep, dogs, cats, and birds. President John Quincy Adams (1825-1829) said at his inaugural address as the sixth president on March 4, 1825: "From the experience of the past we derive instructive lessons for the future." So in a day and age when a newspaper can have on its front page "What the hell is wrong with the Giants" when their football season began at 0-2 (buried later in the paper was presidential warnings about the threats of North Korea, Hurricane Maria destroying all power in Puerto Rico with 165-mph winds, and a massive 7.1 Richter scale earthquake hit in Mexico),

I conclude this Christmas message with these inspiring thoughts from Saint Bede the Venerable (born in 672 and died as a monk in England during 735) who writes about the "reality check" decision of Saint Matthew the accountant. "There is no reason for surprise that the tax collector abandoned earthly wealth as soon as the Lord commanded him. Nor should one be amazed that neglecting his wealth, he joined a band of men whose leader had, on Matthew's assessment, no riches at all. Our Lord summoned Matthew by speaking to him in words. By an invisible, interior impulse flooding his mind with the light of grace, He instructed him to walk in His footsteps. In this way Matthew could understand that Christ, who was summoning him away from earthly possessions, had incorruptible treasures of Heaven in His gift... No sooner was he converted that Matthew drew after him a whole crowd of sinners along the same road to salvation." Merry Christmas, and a blessed new year in 2018 for both Saint Francis of Assisi and Sacred Heart.

Father Bill

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. Dec. 25

8:30am Christmas Mass
11:00am Christmas Mass

Tues. Dec. 26

7:00am Christmas Novena
Noon Ann & Anthony Farkas
By Mary Ann & Tony Farkas

Wed. Dec. 27

7:00am Christmas Novena
Noon Ann & John Borka
By Family

Thur. Dec. 28

7:00am Christmas Novena
Noon Andrew Joseph Michon
By Chris

Fri. Dec. 29

7:00am Christmas Novena
Noon John Barcia
By Wife Ida

Sat. Dec. 30

Noon Christmas Novena
4:30pm Nicholas Stagliano Sr.
By Nick & Helene Stagliano
Mary Ann Fabiano
By Charlotte Palumbo

Sun. Dec. 31

8:30am Christmas Novena
11:00am St Francis Parish



WEEKLY COLLECTON

Dec. 16 & 17, 2017

1st Collection \$ 7,582.00
2nd Collection 1,916.00
TOTAL \$ 9,498.00

MASS ATTENDANCE

Dec. 16-17, 2017

4:30pm 166
8:30am 196
11:00am 245
1:30pm 88
Total 695

The 2nd Collection this week is for
PARISH RESTORATION & ENDOWMENT

Merry
Christmas

Fr. Bill, Fr. Peter
and all the staff at St Francis
wish you & your loved ones all the
blessings of the Christmas Season.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

ST. FRANCIS

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:30pm Family Mass

9:00pm Spanish Mass

Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY

8:30am

11:00am

SACRED HEART

Christmas Eve

5:30pm

10:00pm

Christmas Day

7:30am Italian Mass

10:00am

12noon

As the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve fall
on the same day, the Vigil Mass for Christmas Eve does
not fulfill your Sunday obligation.



TODAY
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

King David plans to build a temple to honor God. But God tells Nathan the Prophet that instead he will give David rest from his enemies, and ensure that both his house and community will be protected forever.

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

In this letter of Paul to the Romans, he explains that the gospel reveals the mystery that had been hidden for many ages. Now it has been made known to all, so that they may believe, obey, and give glory through Jesus Christ forever.

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

The Virgin Mary is approached by the angel Gabriel, who tells her that she has been chosen to bear the Son of God. Mary is first afraid, yet shows her unquestioning faith when she simply says, "Let it be done to me as you say."

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday

Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Night: Is 9:1-6; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Tuesday

Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday

1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Thursday

1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Mt 2:13-18

Friday

1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35

Saturday

1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Vincenza Secor, Aaron Stagliano, Marie Wiejak, Ashley Barco, Agnes Casey, Rose Marie Michalowski, 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 Mc Parkland 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, Taylor Fogel and Jake Tigar



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

Food Pantry will be closed
Saturday, December 29th & 30th
For the New Year Holidays

In your goodness please bring **JELLY** 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 Mr. Bourdage before showing up at the pantry, please.

THE BACKPACK PROGRAM

The Backpack Program has begun. Anyone interested in volunteering to help with this program should speak to one of the Food Pantry members.

WE'RE MOVING

Due to much needed building repairs, the Deacon Jack Seymour Food Pantry is moving on **Sunday, December 31st** to the Monsignor Valastro Center, 319 Broadway. If you have a vehicle and a few spare hours and can help move products and tables between the hours of 12:00 to 4:00 pm please meet at the Food Pantry.



OUR CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

Thank you to all who brought in gifts for the children of the clients at our food pantry. Your donations made the children and their families very happy. Your generosity is overwhelming. May God bless you all..

SPANISH MASS

Dec 24th – Christmas Eve Day

There will be no Spanish Mass at 1:30pm

Dec 24th – Christmas Eve Night

We will have the last night of the Posadas, the rosary and Christmas all in Spanish at **8:00pm** followed by

Christmas Eve Mass at **9:00pm**

Dec 25th - Christmas Day

There will be no Spanish Mass at 1:30pm





**St Francis Rectory
and
Sacred Heart Rectory
will be closed on
Monday, December 25th
and Tuesday, December 26th
for the Christmas Holiday
and
January 1st
For the New Year's Holiday**



THE LEGEND OF THE HOLLY

*When Christ was born in Bethlehem
On that first Christmas night,
A barren bush outside the stable
Blossomed full and bright.
It bore a grim reminder
Of the crown He'd one day wear;
Its prickly leaves foretold the thorns
Of sorrow He would bear.
Amidst the green there grew strange fruit,
Small berries scarlet red,
As crimson as the blood
Our loving Savior was to shed.
In honor of the Prince of Peace,
A flower pure and white,
Bloomed sweetly when the Lord was born
That holy Christmas night.*



FIFTH SUNDAY ROSARY PROGRAM

A rosary service for the 5th Sunday in December will be held at **Our Lady of the Lake Church**, 433 S. Plank Road in Newburgh following their **12:30pm** Mass on **Sunday, December 31, 2017**. All are invited to attend. Bring your prayer requests. This program is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, Msgr. Henry O'Carroll Council #444. For more info please contact Ted Coughlin at 845-913-5631 or Joe Coyle at 845-561-7384

UPCOMING PILGRIMAGES

Hosted By:
Father Bill Damroth

SCANDINAVIA & ST. PETERSBURG CRUISE

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



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, COurise taxes, port charges and transfers between airport/hotel/pier.

Hosted By:
Father Bill Damroth

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NORTHERN NATIONAL PARKS

Featuring Yellowstone National Park
and Grand Teton National Park
August 24-31, 2018

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ICELAND'S MAGICAL NORTHERN LIGHTS

February 14-20, 2019

SPECIAL TRAVEL PRESENTATION

The Collette Travel Agency is hosting a presentation on the Northern National Parks Pilgrimage on Monday, January 29, 2018 in O'Connor Hall at 6:00pm. If you are interested in this 2019 trip and would like to attend the presentation please RSVP to the rectory at 845-561-1317.

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.