



Padre's Corner

March 4, 2018
Third Sunday of Lent

Alexander Solzhenitsyn was a novelist hero from Russia who lived from December 11, 1918 to August 3, 2008. He was expelled from Russia in 1974 because of his outspoken critique of communist Russia, especially its brutal gulag penal system. Raised and baptized in the Russian Orthodox Church, his father Isaakiy died shortly before his birth in a hunting accident. Watching the cruelty of World War II before his eyes as a soldier, Alexander would later reflect in the 1973 book "Gulag Archipelago": "There is nothing that so assists the awakening of omniscience within us as insistent thoughts about one's own transgressions, errors, mistakes. After the difficult cycles of such pondering over many years, whenever I mentioned the heartlessness of our highest-ranking bureaucrats, the cruelty of our executioners, I remember myself in my Captain's shoulder boards and the forward march of my battery through East Prussia, enshrouded in fire, and I say "So were we any better?"

Confined in February of 1945 to the Lubyanka prison in Moscow for remarks against the brutal dictator Joseph Stalin, Solzhenitsyn was sentenced to eight years in a labor camp even after the war came to an end later in 1945. Prison camp plus a cancer diagnosis led to his formal abandonment of Marxist Communist ideology, and a fervent return to his baptismal faith. The Soviet secret service (KGB) tried to assassinate him in 1971, with a poison that failed but seriously sickened him. He would also criticize the excesses of the materialistic west, including the United States. "The human soul longs for things higher, warmer, and purer than those offered by today's mass living habits ... By TV stupor and by intolerable music...The line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being." Alexander died at the age of 89 in 2008, fourteen years after having his Soviet citizenship restored in 1994 or five years after the collapse of the Soviet Empire. His burial service was on August 6 in Moscow's Donskoy Monastery.

The story of this brave poet will be witnessed again in September when the parish cruise touches the grounds of Russia (as well as Estonia, Sweden, Finland, Germany and Denmark). His reflections remind us of the value of travel and insights from humanity abroad. He struggled with his human weaknesses as we all do, but embraced the faith of his childhood exactly one century ago as an antidote. He correctly shunned by reflection atheism, materialism, and the arrogant indifference to God.

China recently has been increasing its atheistic postures on a mostly underground Christian community. Yugan County, in the Eastern Jiangxi Province, has prominently been enticing poor residents with money to remove religious images with portraits of President Xi Jinping. There is a growing sense and fear among priests in that area that the country is returning to the 1966-1976 Cultural Revolution days of Mao Zedong, where children were encouraged to report their parents for remarks against the regime and the general population was empowered to do the same in work plus cultural settings. Threats against Christians continue to endure in the Middle East, as well as North Korea whose antics bring a prevailing mood of threat and dread to a world tired of these terrorist shenanigans. Sadly, religious tensions exist today within parish communities and related church settings that are just as harsh. Conservative versus liberal divides are rampant, with both sides claiming moral superiority in and out of clerical circles.

The more I reflect upon and observe these divides the deeper I can see why Jesus detested the Pharisees, and did not want to be around them. The Pharisees, who saw the flaws of others yet not their own, would resort to character assassination against those they perceived to be against them. This opposition, in their arrogance, construed that others not in sync with them somehow opposed the will of God. They would engage in gossip to destroy others, smugly enjoying the upper position. As Solzhenitsyn would say about the Pharisees allegorically: "So were we any better?" Most of the parishioners I deal with thank God are not like the Pharisees, who can be just as spiritually destructive with their tongues as the prisons of Russia and China were and still are. I pray for them, and the rest of us. **Father Bill**

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. Mar. 5

7:00am Rose Grossholz
By Family
Noon Daniel Dolan
By The Burke Family

Tues .Mar. 6

7:00am City of Newburgh
Noon Marie & Andrew Dietz
By Eileen Dietz

Wed. Mar. 7

7:00am Blessings for unity in
our merger
Noon Veronica Natovich
(18th Anniv)
By Family

Thur. Mar. 8

7:00am Ill & Infirmid
Noon Ed Yee
By Dispigna Family

Fri. Mar. 9

7:00am Pope Francis
Noon Mr & Mrs Joseph James
By Family

Sat. Mar. 10

Noon Members & Friends
of Court Patricia, Catholic
Daughters of the Americas
4:30pm Rocco Pacella Jr &
Thomas DiDonato
By Shirley Pacella

Sun. Mar. 11

8:30am Mary Hoffmann
(32nd Anniv)
By Nick & Helene Stagliano
Patrick William
McDonough
By Arlene & Dominic Sosta
11:00am Neil Tortora
By Mona & Sam Sodano
Margaret Trizinsky
By Frank, Mark, Susan & Fam.



WEEKLY COLLECTION

February 24-25, 2018
1st Collection \$ 6,776.00
2nd Collection 1,792.00
TOTAL \$ 8,568.00

MASS ATTENDANCE

February 24-25, 2018
4:30pm 235
8:30am 150
11:00am 175
1:30pm 111
Total 671

The 2nd Collection this week is for
ELECTRIC



Our Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament this
Wednesday from 5:00pm to 6:00pm is for the intention of
BLESSINGS FOR UNITY IN OUR MERGER.

HOSPITAL MINISTRY

We are in need of a Eucharistic Minister to serve at St.
Luke's-Cornwall Hospital on the first and second
Tuesday of each month. If interested please contact
Suzanna Campora at 561-5162 for details.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS FRIDAYS

St Francis Church 5:30pm
Sacred Heart Church 7:00pm
Spanish - Via Crucis - viernes
7:00pm



PALM WEAVING

Our Palm Weavers have started their sessions in
O'Connor Hall and invite you to join in.
Daytime schedule - Mon thru Fri 10:00am to 2:00pm
e-mail neug1@verizon.net or call 565-2246
Evening Schedule - Tues & Thurs 6:30 to 9:00pm
e-mail pgrimm@hvc.rr.com

Anyone wishing to help:

Weavers (we will teach), Trimmers (you only need to
know how to use scissors), Decorators, Baggers,
Counters (keeping a count of the amount of pieces
made) and Helpers (helping out where needed).



CONGRATULATIONS TO.....

Ann Hardy the February winner of \$196.00 in our
Monthly 50/50 Raffle. Be sure your envelope is in
for our next drawing for March.

TODAY
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

Through Moses, God passed on the commandments he wished all people to follow. He tells us not to worship idols or take the name of the Lord in vain. All the laws God gave to us, if followed, would ensure that we could live in peace and harmony with one another as he had planned.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

Paul tells the Corinthians that Christ is the power and the wisdom of God. Although they claimed to possess wisdom, "God's folly is wiser than men, and his weakness is more powerful than men."

Gospel: John 2:13-25

Jesus went to the temple of Jerusalem to find merchants there selling sheep and doves. He knocked over their tables and drove the animals away. The merchants asked him for a sign that he was authorized to do this. He told them to "destroy this temple (referring to his body) and in three days I will raise it up." The merchants misunderstood, and did not believe he could rebuild in three days what had taken nearly 50 years to build. Still many believed in him, after seeing the miracles he had performed.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday

2 Kgs 5:1-15b; Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday

Dn 3:25, 34-43; Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday

Dt 4:1, 5-9; Mt 5:17-19

Thursday

Jer 7:23-28; Lk 11:14-23

Friday

Hos 14:2-10; Mk 12:28-34

Saturday

Hos 6:1-6; Lk 18:9-14



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, 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, Emily Cooley, Frank Celeste, Amy Finnegan, Brian Hanrahan, Toni Loparco Shepardson, Donald (Leed) Zubawicz, Louise McHugh, Alex Galant, Evelyn Kawula, Taylor Fogel, Jake Tigar, Paul Neugebauer, Julia Vecchio, Eileen Burke, Michelle Ryan, Abigail Means, Ann Bouche, Vanessa Rivera and Elizabeth Rich-Provenzano.



Food Pantry Hours:

Friday 9:00am to 12noon

Saturday 9:00am to 12noon

at our new location

The Msgr. Valastro Activity Center

319 Broadway in Newburgh

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.

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 Mr. Bourdage before showing up at the pantry, please.



St Francis Seniors March 7th

monthly meeting will take place at 12 noon at Grace United Methodist Church, 468 Broadway for their Weekly Wednesday Lenten Program. The guest speaker will be Rev. Dr. Fontella Irons from Moulton Memorial Baptist Church. Lunch will be provided for a nominal fee of \$4.00. Parking is in back of Church on Van Ness Street.

**AUTHOR REPRISES SPY WEDNESDAY
BOOK READING & SIGNING**

This Spy **Wednesday - March 28, 2018** - author **Mary Claire Kendall** will once again grace us with her presence and read from and sign copies of her book "*Oasis: Conversion Stories of Hollywood Legends*" in **O'Connor Hall at 6:00pm**. Learn about the fascinating stories of healing and recovery through the Catholic faith of some of Hollywood's biggest stars including Alfred Hitchcock, Gary Cooper, Bob Hope, Mary Astor, John Wayne, Ann Southern, Jane Wyman, Susan Hayward, Lana Turner, Betty Hutton, Ann Miller and Patricia Neal. She will also give us a glimpse of some of the stars she is writing about in *Oasis II* including Hattie McDaniel, Babe Ruth and Alec Guinness. Copies of *Oasis I* will be sold this year at the discounted price of \$10 per copy.



FURRY FRIENDS MINISTRY

Thank You Once Again!!! Our pet supply donation box has been filled to the top because of your generosity. When choosing your special Lenten cause, please consider these orphaned animals. We have emptied the donation box in hopes to have it filled again by Easter, and of course monetary donations are always helpful.



PLEASE JOIN US

Court Patricia #195 is hosting a Morning Lenten Reflection next Saturday, March 10th in O'Connor Hall from 9:00am to 12:30pm. We will begin with light refreshments followed by a program "The Gospel of Luke – a Portrait of Jesus" presented by Sr. Virginia Wilkinson, PBVM. Sister will help us take a fresh look at the teachings, miracles, and parables found in Luke's Gospels and explore the insights into the Jesus of Nazareth, his person, his mission and his Passion. Bring your Bible. We will end with 12noon Mass in Church. All are invited. Please RSVP to Helene Kerin at 561-8329 so we can plan accordingly.



HYGIENE DRIVE

The Newburgh Enlarged City School District is holding a Hygiene Drive from February 9th thru March 12th for the 745 youth considered homeless who are enrolled in the district. **Help Us To Help Them.** Items needed are bar soap, tooth brushes and tooth paste, deodorant, shampoo and conditioner, laundry detergent pods, brushes, combs, feminine hygiene products and chap stick. The district **CANNOT** accept razors or mouth wash. Also needed are elementary aged underwear and sweatpants. **Drop Off At.....**

St. Francis Church Entrance

Saturdays Feb 10, 17, 24, Mar 3, 10 - 3:30 to 5:30pm
Sundays, Feb 11, 18, 25, Mar 4, 11 - 8:00am to 2:30pm

St. Francis O'Connor Hall

Mondays Feb 12, Mar 12 - 9:00am to 10:00am
Fridays, Feb 9, Mar 2, 9 - 2:30pm to 4:00pm



The Knights of Columbus, Council 444 will hold their annual Communion Breakfast on **Sunday, March 18th**. Mass will be celebrated at **St Francis Church** at **11:00am**. Immediately following Mass a late breakfast will be held at the Powelton Club. Their guest speaker will be Dr. Kathy Wither, Director of the Archdiocese of New York Family Life Office. All are welcome. Adults \$30.000, Children 6 to 10 years \$10.00 and children 5 and younger are free. For reservations by March 11th please contact Joe Dennis at 845-728-1214 or Joe Coyle at 845-561-7384. (**NO** Tickets sold at the door).

REPENTANCE

An Ancient Practice for Today

Grace United Methodist Church, 468 Broadway in Newburgh will begin their **Weekly Lenten Lunch Program** on Wednesdays, starting February 21st thru March 21st. Program starts at **noon** in the sanctuary with a worship service featuring a different speaker each week who will present the message. A light lunch will follow for a nominal fee.

EXPERIENCE THE FLAME OF LOVE OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

The National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, 70 Carmelite Drive in Middletown is hosting a full day program on Saturday, April 14, 2018 from 10:00am to 4:30pm. Fr. James Blount, Spiritual Director of the Society of Our Lady of the Trinity and charismatic preacher will be a guest speaker. \$30.00 per person includes breakfast and lunch. For more information or to register by April 5th please call Mary at 845-591-4801.



Golden Jubilee Wedding Mass

The Archdiocese of New York's Golden Jubilee Wedding Mass will take place on Sunday, June 3rd at 2:15pm at St. Patrick's Cathedral. This mass, for couples celebrating 50 years of marriage in 2018 will be celebrated by Cardinal Timothy Dolan. To register to obtain tickets please call the rectory at 561-1317. Registration will close on Monday, May 14th.

PLEASE NOTE

Deposits are due by **March 9th deadline** for The Northern National Parks trip on scheduled for August 24th-31st.

UPCOMING PILGRIMAGES

Hosted By:

Father Bill Damroth

NORTHERN NATIONAL PARKS

Featuring Yellowstone National Park

and Grand Teton National Park

August 24-31, 2018

~~~~~

ICELAND'S MAGICAL NORTHERN LIGHTS

February 14-20, 2019

**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: \_\_\_\_\_