

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
FEBRUARY 17, 2019



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2019

5:30 P.M. Ann Nolan
Frank O'Donnell – 1st Anniversary
John & Carmela Fusco
Robyn Buffalino

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2019

7:30 A.M. Parishioners
William A. Cori – Birthday Remembrance
10:00 A.M. Ron Moebius
Ann Nolan
12:00 Noon Rodolfo Rienzo
Gerard Coiley, Sr.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2019

8:00 A.M. Eileen Scialla

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2019

8:00 A.M. Ron Moebius

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2019

8:00 A.M. Intentions of Anton Grim

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2019

8:00 A.M. Elena Sutula

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2019

5:30 P.M. Charles & Margaret Pasquariello
Adelgunde "Mickey" Marshall
John Mahoney
Genevieve Puso

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2019

7:30 A.M. Parishioners
Julia & Edward DiMattia
Frannie Ferretti
Tom King
10:00 A.M. Dorothy & Frank Orofino
Roy & Shirley Parian
Rocco Tarulli
12 NOON Tony Calabro
Edward Garbarino

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Mary Carton Jacob Hicks Barry Bach Estella Soto
Ava Rae Nebbia Matthew Polifonte William Pannone
Gary Ragusa Alex Haines Evelyn Means
George Link Michael Soojian Valentina
Manuele Susan Nichols-Boggio Kevin Kerrigan
Ryder Sasso
Mike Tidaback Robert Moreno Larry Ferry
Dorothea King Jerome Foray Sister Annette
Manuel Esguerra Frank Michaelson Norberto Marin
Cenelia Soto Robert Nebbia Christopher Berry
Sharon Acquire Noah Lorencovitz Jessica Skorubski

Florence Grim Anton Grim George Macagnone
Alex Coronel Alice Roslund Kathleen Kiley
DECEASED: Frances De Maria Vincent Spina
Dorothy Smyth

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday, February 10, 2019 – \$4,658.00
Thank you for your continued support.

WEEKLY REFLECTION

Dear friends in Christ,

"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Matt 5.10-12

This 8th and last of the beatitudes provides a proper conclusion to the list. Those who faithfully live according to the first seven beatitudes are guaranteed at some point to experience the eighth. Those who live righteously will inevitably be persecuted for it. To live by the principles of Jesus is to stand out from the crowd – to be different. The world has always been intolerant of God's righteousness. Those who live in darkness hate the light. It is ironic that peacemakers are the objects of scorn and persecution.

While we may not suffer the same kind of persecution as our brothers and sisters in Asia and the Muslim world and many other places, Jesus promised us we would be persecuted!

God makes it crystal clear – Those who choose to serve Him will be persecuted by those who do not. Despite the prevalent assumption that good and evil are subjective, God's word describes a distinct dichotomy. The children of God are opposed by the children of the devil. **1 John 3:10-13**

Persecuted by choice. It does not come simply because I call myself a Christian, but rather because I choose to live as one. Christians do not seek persecution, or live the life of an antagonist. But they recognize the consequences of the choice to live righteously. It is easy to avoid persecution. Just "live and let live", laugh at the world's jokes, enjoy its entertainment, refuse to expose its sinfulness, and refuse to take a stand for Christ.

The choices of true discipleship are various, depending on our circumstances and obligations. In Ancient Rome Christians were obligated by their government to give an oral pledge of religious worship to the deified Emperor once a year. If they did this they were free to worship whatever god they chose. When Christians refused they were considered traitors. They often lost their property,

families, were imprisoned or even burned alive and allowed to be torn to pieces by wild beasts.

The early Christians suffered because they were uncompromising in their message, and that message was as offensive then as it is now. The message that Jesus Christ is the only way to the Father because only he can deal with our sin. There's a cost to believing that. What's the cost?

Jesus said we'd be persecuted. Persecution can take many forms, verbal, physical or social. In some places it means losing friends, family, your home and possessions, your freedom or your life. How would you fair if it happened to you?

The Beatitudes - An Identity Card for Saints

At a sermon given in Sweden, Pope Francis said, "The best description of the saints, in fact, their "identity card" is found in the Beatitudes from Jesus's Sermon on the Mount, which begins, 'Blessed are the poor in spirit'." According to the Holy Father, Christian saints have followed the Beatitudes throughout the ages. In our time, we who follow Christ are called, "to confront the troubles and anxieties of our age with the spirit and love of Jesus". He explained that new situations require new energy and a new commitment. That is why our Pope has offered some suggestions how modern Christians may view and apply the Beatitudes to our lives:

Blessed are those who remain faithful, while enduring evils inflicted on them by others and forgive them from their heart.

Blessed are those who look into the eyes of the abandoned and marginalized and show them their closeness.

Blessed are those who see God in every person, and strive to make others also discover him.

Blessed are those who renounce their own comfort in order to help others.

Since the Holy Father was inspired to give us this advice during a sermon in Sweden, it might be interesting to know what St. Bridget of Sweden, who lived form more than 800 years ago (1303-1373) had to say about the subject of living a holy life:

The source of justice is not vengeance but charity.

Let everyone who has the grace of intelligence fear that, because of it, he will be judged more heavily if he is negligent.

There is no sinner in the world, however much at enmity with God, who cannot recover God's grace by recourse to Mary, and by asking her assistance.
St. Bridget of Sweden

KIDNEY NEEDED

Fran Ferraro is a parishioner in our parish who needs, most of all, your prayers, but who is in need of a kidney. Sometimes just knowing of a need or talking about it, brings amazing results. So, in your conversations, you may want to bring this topic up because you never know whose ears that this story falls upon, might be the lifesaving ones. But, above all, prayers are priceless. Thank you and God bless you.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Communion
Breakfast
**Sunday, March 31, 2019, following 10 AM
Mass**
in the church hall



St. Francis Ladies' Guild is pleased to sponsor a **Parish Communion Breakfast**, featuring a dynamic speaker, Fr. Michael Davitti.

A full breakfast menu prepared by **Il Palazzo** will be served: scramble eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, French toast, frittata, fruit, assorted rolls, juices and coffee / tea.

Come enjoy the warm companionship of fellow parishioners and friends, an inspiring presentation, and a delicious breakfast / brunch – bring the family!

Please complete the following form and return to the Rectory with your check by Friday, March 22. Checks should be made payable to: St. Francis of Assisi Ladies' Guild.

Number of adults (\$15 @ _____ \$ _____)

Number of children 6-12 (\$7:50 @) _____ \$ _____

Number of children under age 6: (Free) _____ \$ _____ 0 _____

TOTAL \$ _____

LENTEN MISSION: 2019

I know our church has just taken down our Christmas decorations; however, Ash Wednesday is March 6th. This means it is time for us to organize our Lenten Mission groups for 2019.

What is Lenten Mission? Groups gather in parishioners' homes to reflect on scripture during the six weeks of Lent. We have been doing this for 12 years; last year 44 of our parishioners were involved. The groups are fluid; each year there are new faces.

This year we will use another book from the "Six Weeks with the Bible" series from the Loyola Press entitled *Psalms: an Invitation to Prayer*. "The Psalms are a sacred song book that reveals a remarkably intimate relationship between the ancient Israelite worshiper and God himself...The Psalms also have something to say to us when we are in every different mood and every different situation in life... whatever our mood or situation, there is a psalm that speaks to it." (Dr. John S. Bergama)

During the six weeks of Lent, we will focus on selected Psalms. Our book will give us some background on the psalm, but our primary focus will be on how the psalm relates to our own relationship with the Lord. What happens is that, as we explore the scripture together, our understanding and love of the Lord deepens and our bond with one another strengthens. It is a win-win.

You may sign-up the weekends of Feb. 9-10 and 16-17. Sign-up slips will be in the bulletin those weekends and in the narthex. The box for the sign-up slips will also be in the narthex and at the side door. Or you may call the rectory to sign up. The book costs \$9.00 and may be picked up at the rectory or at the first session of your Lenten Mission group. (If you cannot afford the book—no problem. Just sign-up and come.) We will let you know when the books come in. We have groups that meet at different days of the week and at

different times. We will do our best to accommodate your needs.

Lenten Mission Sign-up Slips: PSALMS

Name: _____

Phone # _____

E-mail address: _____

Preference: Tues. 10am _____, Wed. 7:30pm _____

Sun. 7:00pm _____

If none of these work for you, please indicate what would and we will do our best to accommodate you: Day and time _____

Thank you to all who participated in our Calendar Raffle!

Congratulations to the following winners:

Date	Prize	Ticket Number	Winner
2/10/19	\$50.00	467	Giovanna Colella
2/11/19	\$25.00	290	Kevin Platt
2/12/19	\$25.00	526	Carmela Rizzi
2/13/19	\$25.00	290	Kevin Platt
	\$125.0		
2/14/19	0	149	Desiree Maquiling
2/15/19	\$25.00	665	Don Chucka
2/16/19	\$25.00	288	Angela Joseph

**PARISH HAPPENINGS—
MARCH**

- March 1st – 2nd Overnight Adoration 7:30 PM until 10:30 AM followed by First Saturday Mass and Patriotic Rosary
- March 23 - St. Joseph's Table - Church Hall after 5:30 PM Mass
- March 23 Traditional Marriage Rosary Rally
Come pray the Rosary with us!
11:45 in front of St Francis Church
- March 31 Communion Breakfast after 10 AM
Mass – Church Hall

**LAKELAND NURSING HOME SCHEDULE
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2019**

Maria Invernon & John Minnett

LECTORS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2019

5:30 P.M. Joan Ruffino & Dom Cortellessa

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2019

7:30 A.M. Jason Valente

10:00 A.M. John McMurray & Joe Darlington

12 NOON Hatima Omolon

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2019

5:30 P.M. Lois Bonaceto & Martha Bisaccio

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24 2019

7:30 A.M. Pat Demarest & Sandy Weigand

10:00 A.M. Mary Avella & Judy Moran

12 NOON Diane Morano & Matt Kampff

ALTAR SERVERS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2019

5:30 P.M. Sean Moebius

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2019

7:30 A.M. Elizabeth Reid

Hayden Whitaker-Currie

10:00 A.M. Scott & Steven Bracken

12 NOON Aaron Manalili



DIOCESE OF PATERSON

Diocesan Center
777 Valley Road
Clifton, New Jersey 07013

(973) 777-8818 fax (973) 777-8976

Office of
THE BISHOP

February 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This month, parishes are taking up a special collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. I ask for your support of this important mission that helps rebuild the Catholic Church that was constrained for decades under Communist rule.

For example, the Ukrainian people lived under communism from 1922 to 1991 where both religious and cultural practices were restricted. In that time, Ukrainians faced multiple wars that left suffering people in their wake. In Eastern Ukraine especially, as atheism grew stronger, family values deteriorated. Today, the Church continues to work to rebuild the faith of those people yearning for spiritual enrichment.

The collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe funds projects to restore the faith in these countries. The funds collected are used to support seminaries, youth ministry, social service programs, pastoral centers, church construction and renovation and Catholic communications projects.

Please join me in supporting this worthy collection when it is taken up in your parish.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Arthur J. Serratelli, S.T.D.,

S.S.L., D.D. Bishop of Paterson