

**SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
FEBRUARY 24, 2019**



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. Frank & Dorothy Orofino
Roy & Shirley Parian
Rocco Tarulli
12:00 P.M. Tony Calabro
Edward Garbarino

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2019

8:00 A.M. John Bisaccio
Mary & Alvin Shough

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2019

8:00 A.M. Dan & Charlotte Bolen

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2019

8:00 A.M. Cecelia Messina

FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2019

8:00 A.M. PARISH PURGATORIAL

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2019

5:30 P.M. Ann Nolan
Angelo Lapaduro, Jr.
Tony Calabro
Eloy Martin – 1st Anniversary
Rose DeStefano
John Renick

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2019

7:30 A.M. Parishioners
Patricia Colacurto
10:00 A.M. Ann Nolan
Kathleen Tomat
12:00 P.M. Frank Caropreso

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 Acquaire Noah Lorencovitz Jessica Skorubski
Florence Grim Anton Grim George Macagnone
Alex Coronel Alice Roslund Kathleen Kiley

DECEASED: Clotilda Rapuano

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday, February 17, 2019 – \$4,648.00
Thank you for your continued support.

WEEKLY REFLECTION

Dear Friends in Christ,

Love Your Enemies, **Luke 6:27**

The world says -- rightly -- "Love your friends. Be loyal to your friends. Look out for your friends." Why? Friends will look out for you. Loving your friends is just smart. But Jesus expects you to love your enemies.

Let's pause for a moment. Who are your enemies? I'm not asking who you hate? I'm asking who hates you, or despises you? Often, they are the people close to us who have been hurt. A spouse or former spouse. A parent. A son or daughter. A co-worker at the job. An enemy of God who takes it out on you. Someone whose evil action you have exposed and is now out to get you. Who are your enemies?

Now what can you actively do to seek their good? That is the way Jesus is training his disciples to think. How do I love my enemy? you ask with all seriousness. This isn't a matter of just thinking nice thoughts. We need Jesus to do a heart change within us, to put the kind of heart within us toward our enemies that was in God who sent Jesus to redeem and forgive a world full of despicable people. That is what we need to love our own enemies.

So how do you do it? I don't think we wait for emotions of love. Rather we start with actions of love, and emotions may follow later. We start doing what Jesus taught right here:

Do good. When you find a way you can do something good for one of your worst enemies, do it. Not to shame him, but because you are trying to find it in your own evil heart to love him for Jesus' sake.

Bless. When you think of the person who is slandering you, and saying untrue and nasty things about you, find ways to work a blessing into your thoughts. Speak a blessing out loud. When you are with friends, instead of complaining about your unjust treatment, go out of your way (actively) to speak well of your enemies.

Pray. Intercede. When you're praying, you probably pray for your family and your pastor, and your friends

and family. Why don't you begin to pray and intercede for your enemies. Start to ask God to help them. Ask God to heal the hurts in their lives that are some of the motivators of their evil actions. Ask God to bless them and show mercy to them. Why? To shame them? No, in order to find it in your heart to love them.

And if you'll do good when you find opportunities, and bless when you think of them, and pray and intercede earnestly before the Lord, you'll find that God will begin to put love in your heart toward your enemies. Jesus is out to change you and me. His love can do it.

Loving Our Enemies: Easier Said Than Done

We all know that we are called to love our enemies; it is what Jesus tells us to do. Many of us struggle with finding a spirit of forgiveness. Maybe we can start by thinking about His first words from the Cross: "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing." We also know that thinking about forgiveness is one thing, but acting on our forgiveness is the hard part; forgiveness requires an act. It is not enough to simply think about it.

A phone call, or letter, or a friendly knock on someone's door are ways of putting the spirit. Sometimes, we may find it impossible to actually physically forgive an enemy. Maybe it will be dangerous even to approach the person who has become an enemy. Still, even in these rare situations, Jesus calls on us to forgive from the heart and never to harbor resentment or hatred toward anyone.

Saint Augustine has written some wise words to help us to find that spirit of forgiveness within ourselves and the courage to act on it:

You don't love in your enemies what they are, but what you would have them become by your prayers.

That your enemies have been created is God's doing; that they hate you and wish to ruin you is their own doing. What should you say about them in your mind? "Lord be merciful to them, forgive them their sins, put the fear of God in them, change them!" You are loving in them not what they are, but what you would have them to become.

Love all men, even your enemies; love them, not because they are your brothers, but that they may become your brothers. Thus you will ever burn with fraternal love, both for him who is already your brother and for your enemy, that he may by loving become your brother.

Imagine the vanity of thinking that your enemy can do you more damage than your enmity.

Let necessity, and not your will, slay the enemy who fights against you.

St. Augustine

PARISH HAPPENINGS

MARCH

- March 1st – 2nd Overnight Adoration 7:00 PM until 10:30 AM followed by First Saturday Mass and Patriotic Rosary
- March 4th Ladies Guild Meeting – 7:30PM Church Hall
- March 23rd - St. Joseph's Table - Church Hall after 5:30 PM Mass
- March 23rd Traditional Marriage Rosary Rally
Come pray the Rosary with us!
11:45 in front of St Francis Church
- March 31st Communion Breakfast after 10 AM Mass – Church Hall

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. JOSEPH TABLE – SATURDAY 3/23/19

It's here again, St. Francis' 4th annual St. Joseph Table. We need your help to make it a success as great as we had the last 3 years. The food auction will take place after the 5:30 Mass on Saturday, 3/23.

Food items must be brought to the church basement between 2PM and 5PM on Saturday, 3/23. Food items must be securely wrapped with clear cellophane for viewing. All items must be labeled.

Suggested items: Homemade breads, cakes, pies, cookies, and your favorite prepared foods. We will accept donations and flower arrangements to honor St. Joseph on the Table if you cannot cook or attend this wonderful event.

Coffee will be provided. Sandwiches and bags of homemade cookies will be available for sale for you to enjoy while waiting for the auction.

We will sell raffle tickets for wonderful prizes.

Keeping with the theme of the Table, the proceeds will benefit needy families of our Parish and 25% will go towards the continued upkeep of the Church's needs.

Please call Giovanna at 973-907-2680 if you have questions.

We need ALL of you to participate with cooking, baking, AND by attending this wonderful event and joining in the fun.

Thank you so much for your continued support.

Thank you to all who are participated in our Calendar Raffle!

Congratulations to the following winners:

Date	Prize	Ticket Number	Winner
2/17/19	\$50.00	651	Kevin Norton
2/18/19	\$25.00	265	Elizabeth Sheridan
2/19/19	\$25.00	386	Jesse Garbowski
2/20/19	\$25.00	388	Christine Muller
2/21/19	\$25.00	455	Olivia Moschella
2/22/19	\$25.00	442	Dom Cortellessa
2/23/19	\$25.00	249	Seamus McMurray

WANAQUE FIRST AID SQUAD NEWS

Join us for an evening of LIVE entertainment to Die for... The Wanaque First Aid Squad will be committing murder instead of helping people who are ill or injured!

"MURDER MYSTERY DINNER"

Held at the Wanaque First Aid Building on Saturday, April 6th, 2019.

Beginning at 7:00 pm, come join us for dinner and a theatrical performance with audience interaction. You get to help solve the mystery!!!

Reservations are required. 21 and older only permitted. Buffet dinner, dessert, coffee, tea, soda and water. BYOB permitted. \$55.00 per person.

Tickets are going fast!!! For more information or to reserve your tickets please email WFASMurderMystery@gmail.com or check us out on Facebook: WanaqueFAS

Are you looking for a way to give back to your church and your community? Do you love to sing?? Come out and join the Choir! We always welcome new voices, and it's a great way to enhance the worship service for yourself and for others. This group is for anyone high school age to 110, beginner to professional, brand new to town or long-time parishioner! If you're interested, contact our Music Director, Dania, at Dania_Music@yahoo.com or come out to our next practice on Thursday, February 21 at 6:45pm in the church. Hope to see you there!

LENTEN MISSION: 2019

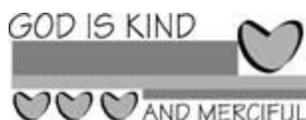
I know our church has just taken down our Christmas decorations; however, Ash Wednesday is March 6th. This means it is time for us to organize our Lenten Mission groups for 2019.

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 Slip: 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 _____

THE PROMISE OF GOD

God doesn't promise an easy life;
He promised that He would be
Walking with us on the road to Heaven,
Keeping us company.
Invite Him in to the warmth of your heart,
To rein on the throne, therein.
There's no greater way to happiness...
Now is the day to begin!

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 age 5 and under (Free) _____

TOTAL \$ _____

WHAT MATTERS

It matters not
The color of skin,
Only the goodness
That lies within...
A heart that beats
With love for all
And heeds the words
Of the Master's call...
A soul that's washed
As white as snow
With a smile
That sets the world aglow...
And a tongue that speaks
With godly fire
Of glory and praise
To fulfill
God's desire...
One who throughout
The complex day
Takes the time
To worship and pray...
Let not the color of skin disguise
The saintly brother
Who dwells inside.

Shirley Hile Powell

LAKELAND NURSING HOME SCHEDULE
SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2019

Frank & Sandy Polglaze

LECTORS

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2019

5:30 P.M. Lynn Magnini & Annick Vasquez

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2019

7:30 A.M. Erika Reid

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

12 NOON Armando Haro & Fred Ackerly

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2019

5:30 P.M. Pat Demarest & Karen Cisco

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2019

7:30 A.M. Sue Raoul & Hatima Omolon

10:00 A.M. Diane Drew & Melissa Rivera

12 NOON Tony Mazza & Debbie Ackerly

ALTAR SERVERS

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2019

5:30 P.M. Peter Sutula & Kevin Bruenjes

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2019

7:30 A.M. Danielle Reid & Collin O'Keefe

10:00 A.M. Kelly Frisina & Jonathan Hogue

12 NOON David Ackerly

