

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
MARCH 3, 2019



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
Mary Means
10:00 A.M. Kathleen Tomat
Ann Nolan
12:00 Noon Frank Caropreso
In Thanksgiving

MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2019

8:00 A.M. Marion Pulis

TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2019

8:00 A.M. Deborah Piezzate

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2019

7:00 A.M. SERVICE
9:00 A.M. Katherine Longo
4:00 P.M. SERVICE
7:30 P.M. Alice DiMeglio

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2019

8:00 A.M. Jerome Timmons

FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2019

8:00 A.M. Peggy & Leonard Van Oudenaren
7:30 P.M. STATIONS OF THE CROSS

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2019

5:30 P.M. Ann Nolan
Louis A. Fierro
Vincent Spina
Silvana Maria Smith

SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2019

7:30 A.M. Parishioners
Ann Marie Hivish
10:00 A.M. Ann Nolan
12 NOON In Thanksgiving
Dorothy Smyth

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: Our Deceased Loved Ones

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday, February 24, 2019 – \$4,428.00
Thank you for your continued support.

WEEKLY REFLECTION

CAN THE BLIND LEAD THE BLIND?

Jesus is not giving us a teaching about being blind. He is utilizing the difficulty of a blind person's mobility to give kingdom truths. *Can the blind lead the blind?* Absolutely. The *blind* can certainly *lead the blind*. Jesus is not saying they cannot. It is the results he is emphasizing. He answered his own question with a question saying, *Shall they not both fall into the ditch?* (Luk 6:39). The word translated *ditch* actually means a pit and is translated pit, where the sheep falls into the pit on the Sabbath day. The ditch is the many crises we continually find ourselves in and attempting to climb out of only to fall into another. The blind leading the blind is the problem. Jesus used this natural dilemma to convey a spiritual problem. We fall into ditches and pits because we are following spiritually blind people or a spiritually blind heart. It's the blind leading the blind. From the *good treasure* of the heart comes *that which is good*. From the *evil treasure of the heart* comes *forth that which is evil*. The results of our following the blind is disastrous. We fall. We bruise something or break something. A fall is never good. The teaching is about avoiding the ditches of life. Avoid the blind leading the blind.

It's what Jesus said in [John 3:19](#).

"This is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness" This is a description of the blindness of all human beings in the world who refuse to come to the light. The light that God reveals of himself in nature, they refused to go there. The light that he reveals in Christ, in the gospel, the light that he reveals of himself in Scripture, the reason people don't come is not that they lack light, but that they love darkness. They are not kept from light against their will. It's precisely their strong-willed preferences for the darkness that keeps them away from the light. We're blind and unable to see the beauty and worth of Christ in the gospel, and a miracle is required to save us,

which 2 Corinthians 4:6 says only God can give by shining into your hearts. Spiritually blind people can only be rescued by a divine miracle, the key is to see that this blindness and deadness is willful.



Spiritual Blindness

We often see only what we expect to see, or what want to see. Are there ways in which we are spiritually blind, overlooking valuable or important truths, and failing to take advantage of the blessings God is offering us?

Amazing Grace is probably the most beloved hymn of the last two centuries. It is estimated to be performed 10 million times annually and has appeared on over 11,000 albums. We've all sung it in church at some point in our lives:

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a
wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.

John Newton, an Englishman, and not a religious man, was involved in the Atlantic slave trade. In 1748, a violent storm battered his vessel off the coast of County Donegal, Ireland, and the hull was severely damaged. Newton called out to God for mercy, and the cargo suddenly shifted, plugging the hole that was causing the ship to sink. That moment marked his spiritual conversion. He continued his slave trading career until 1754 or 1755, but was troubled by what he saw. Of course, he always saw how horribly the slaves were treated, but now he began to see through the eyes of faith. He eventually left the slave trade, studied theology and became an ordained minister. He wrote *Amazing Grace* to emphasize his sermon for New Year's Day in 1773. The sermon was about redemption and being delivered from sin through God's mercy. John Newton had finally seen the truth; he had witnessed love firsthand, and having seen it, he chose to change his ways and love his fellow man. Love can be a cure for spiritual blindness; especially our love of God.

St. Clare of Assisi loved Jesus so much that she often cried when she prayed: tears of sorrow over her sins, and tears of gratitude over Christ's gift of redemption and over the Lord's many blessings. One day as she was

praying, the devil tried to confuse and upset her by shouting, "Don't cry so much—if you do, you'll go blind!" To this, the saint responded, "We are never truly blind, if we see God!"



...On This Day



WEDDING BANNERS

Matthew James Keyzer
&
Hayley Gwen Maxwell

June 8, 2019

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 \$ _____

ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE
Ashes will be distributed at these times:
 7:00 A.M. – Service
 Mass at 9:00 A.M. – Katherine Longo
 4:00 P.M. – Service
 Mass at 7:30 P.M. – Alice DiMeglio

LENTEN REGULATIONS

“Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, and weeping, and mourning” (Joel 2:12).

In the above quotation from the Book of Joel, the prophet reminds us of the need for conversion in our daily lives. The penitential season of Lent calls all of us to acts of repentance through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Since Lent retains its ancient penitential character, the faithful should be reminded to make the entire Lenten season a period of special observance through the three practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

In order to help you explain how this is conveyed through the law that has been handed on to the church, below you will find an outline of regulations regarding the Lenten season.

Please be assured of my prayers for you and our parish and faith community during the coming joyful seasons of Lent and Easter.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is celebrated on March 6. Ashes are to be distributed on that day either during the celebration of the Mass or at a celebration of only the Liturgy of the Word.

Lenten regulations

1. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. The Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence in the United States.
2. The obligation of abstinence (refraining from eating meat) begins at age 14. The law of fasting (limiting oneself to one full meal and two lighter meals) obliges all between the ages of 18 and 59. No one should consider this obligation lightly.

3. Those individuals who have a medical condition in which fasting may be considered harmful are not obliged to fast, but should perform some other act of penance or charity.
4. Pastors and parents are to see to it that minors, though not bound by the law of fast and abstinence, are educated in the authentic sense of penance and encouraged to do acts of penance suitable to their age.
5. All members of the Christian faithful are encouraged to do acts of penance and charity during the Lenten season beyond what is prescribed by the law.
6. As a general rule, a request for a dispensation from the obligation of abstinence on Fridays of Lent will not be considered unless some serious reason is present. The attendance at social events, banquets, wedding rehearsals or receptions, or funeral wakes are not considered sufficient reason to request a dispensation.

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.

Thank you to all who participated in our Calendar Raffle!

Congratulations to the following winners:

Date	Prize	Ticket Number	Winner
2/24/19	\$50.00	645	Jim Vollaro
2/25/19	\$25.00	489	Rosario Ruffino
2/26/19	\$25.00	678	Jean & Gary Chucka
2/27/19	\$25.00	398	Evelyn Spina
	\$200.0		
2/28/19	0	615	Joyce Seifried
3/01/19	\$25.00	406	Carlos A. Valentin
3/02/19	\$25.00	129	Joe & Kerrie Alaya

**PARISH HAPPENINGS –
MARCH & APRIL**

- March 4th Ladies Guild Meeting – 7:30PM
Church Hall
- 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
 April 6th Fish/Chicken Fry sponsored by Knights
 of Columbus
 April 28th Divine Mercy – 2PM in the Church

CHOIR NEWS

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!

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.



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

YOU ARE INVITED....

Our Lady of Mount Carmel School in Boonton is hosting an Information Night on Monday, March 4th, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Interested families are warmly invited to attend and discover the OLMC difference. With our Authentically Catholic and Distinctly Classical liberal arts curriculum, it's an exciting time to be at our school! Enrollment has grown dramatically (more than 50% since 2017), and with new families inquiring and applying almost weekly, we anticipate waitlists in several grades. Many of our families commute significant distances to enroll their children at OLMC, and we are thankful for the immense trust parents place in us. We are gratified to have earned the endorsement of some of the region's most prominent high school and university faculty members and delighted to offer our students an education that awakens the imagination, inspires the mind, and inflames the heart. To learn more, please visit our website: www.olmc.academy or call us at (973) 334-2777.

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 reign on the throne, therein.
 There's no greater way to happiness...
 Now is the day to begin!

Margaret Peterson

LAKELAND NURSING HOME SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2019

Pat Demarest & Hatima Omolon

LECTORS

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2019

5:30 P.M. Pat Demarest & Brenda McWeeney

SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2019

7:30 A.M. Bill Boswell

10:00 A.M. Debbie Griffin & Chris Marren

12 NOON Mary Avella & Henry Mendoza

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2019

5:30 P.M. Frank & Sandy Polglaze

SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2019

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

10:00 A.M. Tom & Olympia Luciani

12 NOON Barbara Garruto & Joe Darlington

ALTAR SERVERS

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2019

5:30 P.M. Sean Moebius

SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2019

7:30 A.M. Elizabeth Reid

Hayden Whitaker-Currie

10:00 A.M. Scott & Steven Bracken

12 NOON Jon-Karlo & Joseph Villacis

