



"...You are a true encouragement to all of us that love Jesus, and the message of love and forgiveness He brought to us... Your heart for the Lord just radiates in your messages." Gary Cuozzo, who played as a quarterback in the early 1970's for the Minnesota Vikings football team, wrote those comments as a spiritual mandate for all of us recently to me. Ten years ago, while stationed in Staten Island, he visited the parish school I was assigned at (Our Lady Queen of Peace). I then drove early one Saturday morning to a prayer breakfast he was speaking at in South Jersey. The prayer card he signed for me had a picture of him being sacked, during a football game against the Green Bay Packers. The metaphor was the sacks of life we all go through (illness, relationship betrayals, economic stress, being laid off, divorces, unexpected deaths, world disorder), and how Jesus inserts Himself into every situation when invited through our prayers to promote healing and growth.

Every moment of life offers us the opportunity to spiritualize all that we face, be it good or not so good. Gary went through the painful adjustments after his professional career as an athlete came to an end, and the tragic death of an athlete son Chip in college that furthered his faith development. I am inspired by his story, and have a signed photograph of his prayers for me close to an old 1960's seat from Metropolitan Stadium in Bloomington (now the Mall of America after the stadium demolition three decades ago), Minnesota. I send each of my "Padres Corners" to Gary Cuozzo, and on occasion he offers his faith-based words of wisdom which are appropriate challenges for each of us.

The invitation to invite our faith into every second of life reminded me of a classic football story from Metropolitan Stadium in Bloomington, on December 28 in 1975. There were twenty-four seconds left in the Dallas Cowboys at Minnesota Vikings playoff game. Fifty yards out, with the Vikings on the verge of winning, was the challenge to Cowboys quarterback Roger Staubach. ("People Magazine" described Roger in this way: "Staubach's religious convictions were shaped early as a schoolboy in Cincinnati, where his father, a wholesale shoe salesman, was a devout Catholic. By the time Roger got to the Naval Academy at Annapolis, he was attending Mass every morning.") As Roger got ready to pass to receiver Drew Pearson (also a spiritual man whose signature I received), in his own words: "I just closed my eyes and said a Hail Mary. I could have said the "Our Father" or "The Glory Be." It could be the "Glory Be Pass"... The Blessed Virgin is very proud of me. We have a great relationship because of that.

"A few years ago, at a Catholic school in Dallas (Texas), Staubach told the students: "Life has its twists and turns... The important thing is having the perseverance to maintain your faith, and do the right things as you deal with the obstacles. There will be challenges that you will face, but you are going to help each other and you are going to get through it and people are going to help you. "The Cowboys won that playoff game 17-14, though they would lose the Super Bowl 21-17 to the Pittsburgh Steelers. Fifteen months ago, on the fortieth anniversary of the classic playoff game, Roger reflected about the "Hail Mary" pass: "It slowly became the term for anybody that was kind of in trouble, and you had a hope. You used to have a wing and a prayer, and now the Hail Mary is used for politics, for business, and for football. "

These two football quarterbacks, Cuozzo and Staubach, both played against each other in the early 1970's. Forty years later they both champion on the same team, proclaiming faith in Jesus within a life decision or yes even a football game. We need Him daily. **Father Bill**

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. Mar. 27

7:00am **Mary & Joseph Vitay**
By Mary Ann & Tony Farkas
Noon Michele & Maria Grazia Russo
By Guisepppe & Frances Russo

Tues. Mar. 28

7:00am **Pope Francis**
Noon Ann Shustack
By Rich & Mary Irons

Wed. Mar. 29

7:00am **Susan Randall**
Health & Blessings
By Mary Randall
Noon Maria Luisa Santana
By Family

Thur. Mar. 30

7:00am **Vocations**
Noon Marceliano Velez
By Rich & Mary Irons

Fri. Mar. 31

7:00am **Eugenia Evans**
(2nd Anniv)
By Colleen & Michael Corizzo
Noon Joseph Lee
By Family

Sat. Apr. 1

Noon St Francis Parish
4:30pm William Hurley
By Tom & Des Abbruscato

Sun. Apr. 2

8:00am Art Szeli
By Family
11:00am Lillian Pelella
By Henry & Clotilda Pelella
Maureen Murphy
By Morgan Family



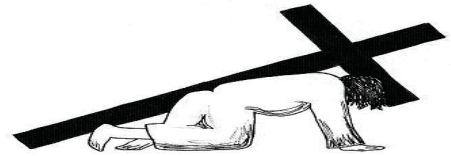
WEEKLY COLLECTON

MARCH 18-19, 2017

1st Collection \$5926

2nd Collection \$1621

TOTAL \$7547



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays at 7:00pm

The 2nd collection this weekend is for
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

MASS ATTENDANCE

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

MARCH 18-19, 2017

4:30pm 200

8:00am 175

11:00am 290

1:30pm 75

Total 740



Our **Holy Hour** with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on
Wednesday from 5:00pm to 6:00pm is for the intention of
THE UNBORN.

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy
is recited on Sundays
at 10:40am before the 11:00am Mass

LENTEN PRAYER

As I make my Lenten Journey with You,
send me Your Spirit,
help me to give of myself,
help me to turn away from sin,
and help me to fast and pray,
so that I may know You and serve You better.
Let me be renewed through my journey
to share Your grace with the world.
Amen

LENTEN EVENING OF PRAYER

You are invited to an evening of prayer and reflection
at Mt. Alvernia Retreat Center, 158 Delavergne Avenue,
Wappingers Falls, NY on Thursday, **April 6th** from
5:15pm to 8:30pm. The program *Who is the One who
Died for Us?* "Owe no one anything except the debt of
Love." will be presented by Sr. Marie Pappas, CR. The
program starts at 5:15pm with a Prayer Service and
time for individual confessions, 6:00pm Dinner and
7:00pm Presentation. Cost is \$20.00 per person. For
registration or more information please contact 845-
471-5427 or e-mail linda.fitzsimmons@archny.org.

TODAY

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

In seeking a King for the Israelites, Samuel traveled to Jesse of Bethlehem, who had seven sons. Commanded by God to ignore the elder sons, Samuel anointed the youngest, David.

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

Paul exhorts the Ephesians to live as "children of light" in goodness and truth and to avoid evil deeds "done in darkness."

Gospel: John 9:1-41

Jesus performs the miracle of giving sight to the man born blind. Because Jesus performed this miracle on the Sabbath, the Pharisees called him a "sinner," but the blind man said, "He is a prophet." Jesus later reveals to the blind man that He is the Son of Man

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday

Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday

Ez 47:1-9, 12; Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday

Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30

Thursday

Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47

Friday

Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

First Saturday

Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-53



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Vincenza Secor, Aaron Stagliano, Marie Wiejak, Ashley Barco, Agnes Casey, Rose Marie Michalowski, Elaine Pietrzak, George Vecchio, Jr, Carol Brown, Luzia Araujo, Celio Thomaz, Rosalie Nogay, Richard and Rina Bozzone, Frank Pietrzak, Rose Jurik, Robert & Helen Osborn, Manuel DiNapoli, Rachael Neugebauer, Maureen Kelly, James R. Purpura, Jane Pustola, Joann Quicksell, Frances Dolan, Daniel D'Elicio, Fr. Fred Kempferi, Carmen De Crosta, Parker, Jane Holloway, Donna Delconte, Joan Ponesse, Jim Taylor, Marilyn Lennox, Bruno Marchatta, Anne McClellan, Louis Arbia, Dottie Rodriguez, Michael Rosenburg, Maureen Sullivan, Frank D'amario, Amanda Keane, Tom (Manay) Conroy, Gertrude Poland, Rita Froehlich, Brian Scott Monahan, Chelsea Dunderdale, Bill Mowry, Susan Randall, Mary Hollenbeck, Donnie Ruckdeschel, Patrick Comyns, John Marullo, Carol Brown, Geroge Vechio Jr, Jaddon Johnson, Rina & Richard Bozzone, Rebecca Pacella and Rose DiDonato.



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

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 Curt Bourdage before showing up at the pantry, please.**

ST FRANCIS UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar. 26th - Bagel Hour

Mar. 26th - Spanish Mass

Mar. 29th - Eucharistic Adoration 5:00pm to 6:00pm

Mar. 30th - Stations of the Cross

Apr. 2nd - Spanish Mass



PALM WEAVING

Palm weaving is in full swing in O'Connor Hall. Come and learn how to weave the beautiful palm crosses or just come to help decorate, bag, count and sort.

Mondays-Fridays 10am to 2pm

Tuesday & Thursday evenings 6:30 to 9pm

Contact person for days Racheal 565-2246 or for evenings Patricia pgrimm@hvc.rr.com or 845-527-4374.

Beginning Experience of the Hudson Valley

...is offering a healing weekend from March 31 to April 2 at the St. Lawrence Retreat Center in Beacon, NY. This invitation is open to men and women of all ages who have suffered the loss of a spouse through death, divorce or separation. It is a time to heal and a time to begin anew. For more info or to register please call Mary Ann home-914-962-1112 or cell-914-260-5087, or e-mail at ny.hudsonvalley@beginningexperience.org.

The Cantata, ***The Seven Last Words of Christ*** will be performed at the Union Presbyterian Church, 44 Balmville Road in Newburgh on Sunday, April 9th at 3:00pm. All are invited and welcome to attend.



JEWELRY SALE

Sr. Virginia along with the ladies of "The Women's Craft Project", sponsored by Newburgh Ministry, will again be selling their handcrafted, one of a kind necklaces and bracelets after all the Masses next weekend, Saturday, April 1st and Sunday, April 2.

BISHOP DUNN MEMORIAL SCHOOL

You are cordially invited to Bishop Dunn Memorial School's 26 Annual Auction on Saturday, April 8th beginning at 6:30pm at Anthony's Pier 9, 2975 US Route 9W, New Windsor. Tickets are \$40 per person and include dinner. Cash bar will be available. There will be a Silent Auction with auctioneer Mark Chisholm. For more information contact bdmsparentgroup@gmail.com.



BEREAVEMENT PROGRAM

The Tri-Parish Bereavement Program for the Newburgh area will begin an **8 week program** on **April 18, 2017** for members of our faith community who have suffered, and are working through, a significant loss in their lives. There is no time limit on the grieving process. Our program follows the guidelines of the Archdiocese of New York's outreach with a faith-based approach to connect us with the ones we have loved and lost.

If you or someone you know would like more information, please contact Beverly Austin at 914-805-5803 or bevaustin09@gmail.com or Deacon Tom Neppi at 845-562-1341 or 845-541-0421 or tneppi@verizon.net.

SENIOR CITIZENS

Our next Senior Meeting will be held at 12noon on Wednesday, April 5th. We will meet at Grace United Methodist Church, 468 Broadway in Newburgh for the weekly Wednesday Community Lenten Service. A luncheon for \$4.00 will be provided.

PARISH COUNSELING NETWORK

St. Francis is pleased to announce this confidential new service available to all for a minimal fee. Parishioners are entitled to 6 sessions with a professional clinician who can help with a variety of individual and inter-personal issues. Please contact Fr. Bill for more information to access services.

SPAIN-PORTUGAL-FRANCE PILGRIMAGE

In preparation for our upcoming Pilgrimage, Fr. Bill is holding a meeting on **Sunday, April 9th at 3:00pm** in O'Connor Hall to hand out all the necessary documents and answer any questions.

FINDING PEACE IN A TURBULENT WORLD, WITH THE GUIDANCE OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Experience a week long special connection through the teachings of St. Francis of Assisi at the **Mariandale Retreat** and Conference Center in Ossining, NY. The retreat will run from **Sunday, July 16** at 5:00pm thru **Friday, July 21** at 1:00pm. Our Pastor, Fr. Bill Damroth will be the facilitator. Enjoy a week of reflection, exploration, talks, films, nature hikes, swimming, prayer, mass and confession.

Enjoy organic foods and an exceptional dining experience and leave Mariandale with a sense of peace well-being and a connection with nature. Cost \$475. per person. For reservations call 914-941-4455 ext 106 or e-mail Knoreika@ophope.org

Visit their website at www.mariandale.org.



LITTLE FURRY FRIENDS MINISTRY

A BIT OF TRIVIA....Studies have shown that people who own pets live longer, have less stress, and have fewer heart attacks.

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— YES! I want to register as a member of St. Francis of Assisi Parish and receive offertory envelopes.

Name: _____


Address: _____

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E-mail Address: _____

Fill out and drop in the Offertory Collection or mail to St. Francis of Assisi Church, 145 Benkard AvOn on Wednesday, April 5th enue, Newburgh, NY 12550.....and *Welcome!*



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