



Padre's Corner

June 4, 2017
Pentecost Sunday

"Zookeeper's Wife" is a World War II story from the Warsaw Zoo in Poland, written by Diane Ackerman, of a brave family trying to save both animals and human beings during the brutal behavior of Nazi occupation nearly eighty years ago in 1939. Turned into a recent film, starring Jessica Chastain, the opening scenes seem like the Garden of Eden from the Book of Genesis in the Old Testament. The zoo animals breath deeply, eat abundantly, and enjoy the citizens who come to visit and observe them. There is a tranquility in the air, suddenly and violently punctuated by the aerial attack of invading bombs on the people of Warsaw. The Polish people, part of the Eastern Europe ethnicity of our Saint Francis of Assisi Church here in Newburgh, stand up for their freedoms in the line of enemy fire. The peaceful sense of the zoo is replaced by despair and brutality, especially as the animals are shot for target practice by cruel soldiers. The household wife that owns the zoo, real name Antonina Zabinski, courageously saves the animals she can in the house plus nearly 300 Jews whose lives are also in peril.

Man's inhumanity to man was deeply revealed, enslaving and torturing innocent civilians caught in the demeaning crossfire. (A further reflection and observation about the cruelty and demonic nature of war derived in the same year, within kind-hearted people in England also attacked during the war. Within four days of September 3, 1939 roughly 400,000 cats and dogs were euthanized by owners who did not want them abandoned or killed during the war. Animal charities and shelters could not reverse the course of this tragedy.) A powerful scene in the film was the fearful Jews praying together in a hidden part of the house near the zoo, and celebrating their Passover meal together (symbolic of our Eucharist at the Mass).

What is interesting about the film and reality story is that a persecuted generation turned to each other, in spiritual strength, and to organized prayer as an antidote to their worries and concerns. That same hardiness was the foundation stone of our parish community, on Benkard Avenue. The Eastern Europeans of both World War I exactly one century ago, and the next world war **eighteen years later**, came to this country as immigrants to flee the horrible evils that had inserted themselves uninvited into their lives. Many settled in the same area we now worship in. They brought that sense of faith and stable character to our streets, as we bring forward 108 years later since the creation of the parish in 1909. History since then and before is filled with such episodes of inhumanity, requiring and prompting a similar response of strong-willed faith convictions and reaching hands out to others in trust and confidence. Does not our world today require the same heart deep movement of the Spirit of God, received initially through Baptism and later development by sacramental worship and throaty prayer from the soul? Human experience in 2017 elicits the same obstacles of cruel warfare, and denial of human dignified rights. There are also the other types of painful experiences we all experience on occasion, eliciting the same required antidotes of religious support from God and our loved ones. We seek the same hope and optimism while facing divorces and ruptures in marriages or important relationships, layoff notices or unwarranted firings from jobs, betrayal from the hands of those we thought could be trusted, physician notification of a dreaded or terminal disease, announcements of parish closures after many decades of memories and history of families living their faith deeply, and the regular challenges of dealing with many diverse personalities. Yet, there is a silver lining to be found or rediscovered when our faith is applied to every situation of life.

Back to the film cited above. The ending was the peaceful end to the war, citizens returning to reclaim their homes and regular way of living, religion being expressed freely once more, and the innocent animals returning to the zoo in sunlight similar to the Garden of Eden before sin destroyed its innocence. There is light at the end of the tunnel, spiritually-speaking, that strengthens our faith in God. Father Bill

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. June 5

7:00am Ann & Anthony Farkas
By Mary Ann & Tony Farkas
Noon Stephanie C. Matteo
By A Friend

Tues. June 6

7:00am Ferdinand Miller
By Helen & Marion Miller
Noon Damian & Jean King
By Mary King

Wed. June 7

7:00am Susan Randall
"Health & Blessings"
By Mary Randall
Noon St. Francis Parish

Thur. June 8

7:00am Joseph Smiehorowski
By Kaplowitz Family
Noon Anna Hoffmann
(21st Anniv)
By Family

Fri. June 9

7:00am Chris & Donna King
"Health & Blessings"
By Mary King
Noon Jimmy Stankiewicz
By Sister Anne Marie

Sat. June 3

Noon John Barcia
By Wife Ida
4:30pm Ann Kenny
(16th Anniv)
By Nick & Helene Stagliano
Michael Pacella
By Kathy & Sam Cerone & Family

Sun. June 4

8:00am William Evans
By Colleen & Michael Corizzp
11:00am Dominic Lease
By Sister & Brother-in-law
Thomas & Mary Bowe



WEEKLY COLLECTON

May 27-28, 2017

1st Collection \$5,525.00
2nd Collection \$1,256.00
TOTAL \$6,781.00

Ascension Thursday \$1,423.00

MASS ATTENDANCE

May 27-28, 2017

4:30pm 171
8:00am 186
11:00am 177
1:30pm 62
TOTAL 596

The 2nd Collection this week is for
LANDSCAPING

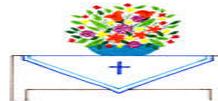


Our **Holy Hour** with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesday from 5:00pm to 6:00pm is for the intentin of **OUR COUNTRY**.

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

ANNOUNCED MASSES

Parish Masses are available to have a relative or loved one remembered upon death, the Anniversary of a death or for someone's good health while recovering from an illness. Stop by or call the rectory at 561-1317 to reserve your Mass.



FLOWER MEMORIALS

Flower Memorials are available for anyone desiring to memorialize a loved one, honor someone or in Thanksgiving to God. The cost is \$35.00 for each arrangement of flowers to be placed near or on the altar. Please call the rectory 845-561-1317 to reserve your date.

2017 SUNNER RETREAT

Sunday, July 16th - July 21st

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

Fr. Bill Damroth will be leading a Spiritual Retreat the Mariandale Retreat and Conference Center majestically set on 61 acres overlooking the Hudson River in Ossining, NY. This retreat will be a time to Relax, Re-center, Re-connect, Meditate, Pray and Experience Nature. There will be an evening of "Dances of Universal Peace", singing and dancing, Yoga and Fr. Bill's signature Movie Nights. Cost is \$475 which is all-inclusive. Register online at www.mariandale.org or contact Karen at 914-941-4455 ext. 106 or e-mail knoreika@ophope.org.

TODAY
PENTECOST SUNDAY

First Reading: Acts 2:1-11

On the feast of Pentecost, the disciples were gathered together when suddenly tongues of fire rested upon them, and they were filled with the Holy Spirit. They began to speak in many tongues; those who heard them were filled with amazement.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13

Paul tells the Corinthians that each possesses different gifts and performs different ministries, but each works for the common good in Christ Jesus.

Gospel: John 20:19-23

Jesus appears to the apostles after his resurrection and bestows upon them the power to forgive sins

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday

Tb 1:3, 2:1b-8; Mk 12:1-12

Tuesday

Tb 2:9-14; Mk 12:13-17

Wednesday

Tb 3:1-11a, 16-17a; Mk 12:18-27

Thursday

Tb 6:10-11, 7:1bcde, 9-17, 8:4-9a; Mk 12:28-34

Friday

Tb 11:5-17; Mk 12:35-37

Saturday

Tb 12:1, 5-15, 20; Mk 12:38-44



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

in observance of the Memorial Day holiday

In your goodness please bring **CANNED FRUIT** 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 Curt - Bourdage before showing up at the pantry, please.

ST FRANCIS UPCOMING EVENTS

June 7th - Senior Meeting after 12noon Mass

June 11th - Bagel Hour after 8:00am Mass



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Vincenza Secor, Aaron Stagliano, Marie Wiejak, Ashley Barco, Agnes Casey, Rose Marie Michalowski, George Vecchio, Jr, Carol Brown, Luzia Araujo, Celio Thomaz, Rosalie Nogay, 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, Susan Randall, Mary Hollenbeck, Donnie Ruckdeschel, Patrick Comyns, John Marullo, Carol Brown, Jr, Jaddon Johnson, Rina & Richard Bozzone, Rebecca Pacella, Lena Biasini Zullo, Pam Kunert, Janet Coiteux, Vincent McParkland and Family, Jozef Froniewski, Teresa Centeno and Bobbi Hull.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Sacred Heart School is now accepting registration for Pre K - 8th grade for the 2017-2018 school year. Please call 845-561-1433 for an appointment or stop by for a tour at 148 Windsor Highway in New Windsor. You can also apply at www.ApplyCatholicSchoolsNY.org.



The Knights of Columbus Council #444 is hosting their **7th Annual Msgr. Henry O'Carroll Memorial Car Show** at Sears at the Newburgh Mall, 1401 Union Avenue, Route 300 in Newburgh on, (please note change of date)**Sunday, June 25th** from **10:00am to 3:00pm** (rain date is July 2nd) . Pre-Registration is \$15.00, Registration Day of Show is \$20.00 and Vendor Spots are \$30.00.

This year there will be the addition of **motorcycles** and **trucks** to the show.

There will be Trophies, Best in Show and People's Choice Awards along with Goodie Bags.

For more information or questions contact Ken Ryan 845-565-8015, Charlie Smith 845-561-8647 or Dan Keenan 845-562-9353.

NORA CRONIN PRESENTATION ACADEMY....

is asking for **sponsors** for its **Summer Youth Leadership Academy (SYLA), July 3-28**. Last year's program was a success in large part from the generosity of the parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi Church. We hope you will be able to support our 45 students again this year. A **donation of \$50.00** will allow a girl to participate in the following off-site activities: trip to Ellis Island/Statue of Liberty and a performance of the musical "Annie" at the Westchester Broadway Theater. Please make checks payable to: NCPA/SYLA and mail to Nora Cronin Presentation Academy, attention Cathy Squillini, 69 Bay View Terrace, Newburgh, NY 12550. Thank you for your generosity in giving these girls the opportunity to experience history and culture.

REVIVE with us

Revive is a three night event coming to the parishes of our archdiocese during which we will explore the fundamental questions, "What are we living for? What is God's purpose for our lives?" Join us and others in your Catholic community to reflect and listen to diverse voices discuss their faith journeys – and go home refreshed and ready to put your faith into action.

On **nights one and two**, we will enjoy music, listen to a special reflection from one of the inspiring priests of our religious orders, hear from members of our religious orders, and hear from members of our own communities about overcoming life's challenges through faith and perseverance; you also will be invited to participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

On **night three**, we will celebrate community Mass – and for those in need, offer the Sacrament of Anointing (Anointing of the Sick).

Revive will be offered for the churches in Newburgh on **Monday, June 19th, Tuesday, June 20th** and **Wednesday June 21st** at **7:00pm** at Sacred Heart Church, 301 Ann Street in Newburgh.

TO REGISTER –Google Revive, Archdiocese of NY, click on Archdiocese of NY, scroll to bottom of page, to sign up click on Faith Every Day.com, choose a location (Orange) click on search, scroll to bottom right side, click on RSVP, fill in your data and click submit.

CONGRATULATIONS TO.....

Tony & Sue Gagliardi the May winners of **\$208.50** in our Monthly 50/50 Raffle. Be sure your envelope is in for our next drawing in June.



Come and be a part of the
ST. FRANCIS YOUTH GROUP
ALL Junior and High school students
are welcomed
Meet **Friday** evenings
6:30pm to 8:00pm
In O'Connor Hall at St Francis Church
For questions or more information
please contact **Sr. Laura**
at the Rectory, 845-561-1317

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ADVERTISER'S CORNER

Thank you

TO OUR BULLETIN

ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK, **MIDAS, Auto Service**

Experts located at 1410 Union Avenue (Route 300)in Newburgh. Call Midas at 845- 564-6260 for all your car repair needs. They offer a 10% discount to Senior Citizens and a \$19.99 oil change on most cars with their ad on our back page.

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PILGRIMAGES

Fr. Bill is hosting two upcoming Pilgrimages

1) ALPINE CHRISTMAS ADVENTURE December 4-14, 2017

Visit Frankfurt, Freiburg, Lucerne, Innsbruck, Salzburg. Oberammergau, Neuschwanstein, Munich, Rothenberg and Heidelberg, featuring Europe's famous Chrstkindl Markets.

2) THE HOLY LAND January 8-17, 2018

Visit Haifa, Tiberias, Nazareth, Bethlehem and Jerusalem. Walk where Jesus walked in Jerusalem and visit the Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane and Mt. Zion. Also visit the Church of the Nativity, Shepherd's Field, the Sea of Galilee and the sites of the Sermon on the Mount and the miracle of the loaves and fishes.

Brochures are located in the back of the church and at the sacristy door entrance. For questions please call the rectory 845-561-1317.

"Although the life of a person is in a land full of thorns and weeds, there is always a space in which the good seed can grow. You have to trust God."

Pope Francis

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: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Fill out and drop in the Offertory Collection or mail to St. Francis of Assisi Church, 145 Benkard Avenue, Newburgh, NY 12550.....and *Welcome!*