



Padre's Corner

December 31, 2017
The Holy Family

Calendar year 2018 is moments away. This is a time when most of us make resolutions like losing weight, bad habits, addictions, unforgiving attitudes toward those who have hurt us, and other actions that distance us from the plan of God. The shifting of gears from one year to the next should not reside solely in exercises of frivolity, such as screeching for joy when a ball in Times Square falls for one minute to its destination below and certainly not halting a state of reason with drinking liberties and other excesses that reflect the opposite of seriousness of thought. There is nothing wrong with having some fun to mark the occasion, mind you, but there should be a strong presence of taking life and this changing of the calendar year guard in a coherent and spiritual way.

Recent events have shaken the foundations of many, as a not so gentle reminder that nothing of this world is of a permanent state. We have observed people losing lives and all their possessions in frequent storm systems (Texas, Florida, Caribbean, Cuba, Puerto Rico, New Orleans), and despicable human actions (slaughter in Las Vegas, and a dictator 6795 miles away from New York threatening worldwide havoc). Heaven and eternity is forever and what ultimately counts the most.

Saint Ambrose (lived 337-397, Doctor of the Church, and Bishop of Milan) once opined: "Go into your room. But by room you must understand, not a room enclosed by walls that imprison your body, but the room that is within you, the room where you hide your thoughts, where you keep your affections. This room of prayer is always with you, wherever you are, and it is always a secret room, where only God can see you. You are told to pray especially for the people, that is, for the whole body, for all its members, the family of your mother the Church; the badge of membership in this body is love for each other. If you pray only for yourself, you pray for yourself alone." A major point being made here is that New Year's Eve celebrations should primarily be spiritual experiences, not mad dashes for entertainment and decadence.

We must also pray for America and the world-at-large. There are serious threats at play that are dramatically threatening our freedoms such as worship, security, and life standards of economy. I remember one day three decades ago in Southern California when my Uncle Joe told me about his honeymoon in Hawaii with my Aunt Theda. They experienced all of the joys of Oahu Island including Honolulu (snorkeling with the fishes plus dolphins, walking Waikiki Beach, observing respectfully the statue of Saint Damien of Molokai "the leper priest" of the late 1800's at the state Capitol, touring the Dole Pineapple operations, drinking native coconut water, a Buddhist temple modeled on an ancient edifice from Japan 1000 years ago attached to a cemetery with a statue of the Virgin Mary that would be used in the opening series song of the "Hawaii Five-O" television series that commenced in 1968, and experiencing the cultural shifts from Old Hawaii to its growing state of tourism), but had vivid memories of a historical event that would stick to their brains and hearts in a profound way.

They went to the Pearl Harbor Memorial, built in 1962 the year they were married, to remember the 2403 victims killed on December 7 of 1941 in the Japanese attack that ushered the United States into World War II. The highlight of the memorial is the USS Arizona, whose charred remains can be observed from a short distance above in a chapel-like structure that allows for a respectful reflection on the final resting place of 1102 sailors and marines killed that fateful day (with only 75 survivors out of the total 1177). Run by the National Park Service, my good uncle now in Heaven himself spoke to me of how much he learned to love this country with this serious moment during a life-changing honeymoon with marriage. May all the professional athletes, especially in the National Football League, one day observe the Pearl Harbor Memorial. Perhaps the shameful protests during the National Anthem would then cease. Love of our country and love of the God who gave us America and a new year would then be respected again. When I went to the Los Angeles (San Diego) Chargers at New York Giants football game on October 8 (Chargers won 27-22) gratefully there were no such tirades. His blessings. Fr. Bill

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. Jan. 1

7:00am Christmas Novena
Noon St. Francis Parish

Tues. Jan. 2

7:00am George Vechio
By Joe Coyle
Noon Special Intention
Ted & Darlene King
By Mary King
Bruno Schimkosy
By Jackie Buscemi & Family

Wed. Jan. 3

7:00am World Peace
Noon Special Intention
By Mary King

Thur. Jan. 4

7:00am City of Newburgh
Noon Angelo Damian and
June H. Kellar
By DiSpigna Family

Fri. Jan. 5

7:00am Emma Evans
(39th Anniv)
By Colleen & Michael Corizzo
Noon Joseph Zmudzinski
By Family

Sat. Jan. 6

Noon The Homeless
4:30pm Joan Murphy
"Birthday Blessings"
By Ida Barcia
James & Mary Slack
By Family

Sun. Jan. 7

8:30am Jane & Charles Baranski
By Children
11:00am Carmela Tallarico
By Joanne & John
Erick Nedwetzky
By Parents



WEEKLY COLLECTON

Dec. 23-24, 2017
1st Collection \$7,548.00
2nd Collection 1,618.00
TOTAL \$9,166.00

MASS ATTENDANCE

Dec. 23-24, 2017
4:30pm 265
8:30am 136
11:00am 125
1:30pm no mass
Total 526

CHRISTMAS COLLECTON

Dec. 24-25, 2017
1st Collection \$15,262.00
2nd Collection 1,594.00
TOTAL \$ 16,856.00

CHRISTMAS ATTENDANCE

Dec. 24-25, 2017
4:30pm 807
9:00pm 210
Midnight 164
8:30am 65
11:00am 170
1:30pm no mass
Total 1,416

The 2nd Collection this week is for
ELECTRIC

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS

Per the Archdiocese,
January 1, 2018
The Solemnity of Mary,
is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year.
We will have our normal weekday Masses
7:00am and 12 noon
There will not be a vigil Mass on
December 31st
or an evening Mass on January 1st.

ADORATION

The Franciscan Friars of the Renewal will
be holding monthly FIRST SUNDAY of the
MONTH adoration and reception here at
St. Francis beginning January 7th from
2:00pm to 7:00pm. All are invited.

TODAY

HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

First Reading: Gn 15:1-6, 21: 1-3

Abram shows us the Lord keeps His promises, for his offspring were indeed many, like the stars in heaven. We, too, must trust in the Lord, so like Abram, our families might prosper.

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

By faith Abraham and Sarah were blessed with Isaac, and through him, many descendants because they trusted in God's promise and believed in what they could not see. We see that faith, trust and prayer bring forth God's miracles in our lives.

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

Jesus was brought to Jerusalem to be consecrated according to the law of Moses. A man named Simeon had learned he would not die until he had seen God's anointed. Upon seeing Jesus, he immediately declared he had witnessed "the glory of your people of Israel." The prophetess Anna also gave thanks and spoke of Jesus to all who would listen. Both recognized the power of Jesus, although he was still an infant.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday

Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

Tuesday

1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28

Wednesday

1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Jn 1:29-34

Thursday

1 Jn 3:7-10; Jn 1:35-42

First Friday

1 Jn 3:11-21; Jn 1:43-51

First Saturday

1 Jn 5:5-13; Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Vincenza Secor, Aaron Stagliano, Marie Wiejak, Ashley Barco, Agnes Casey, Rose Marie Michalowski, Carol Brown, Luzia Araujo, Celio Thomaz, Rosalie Nogay, Rose Jurik, Robert & Helen Osborn, Manuel DiNapoli, Rachael Neugebauer, Maureen Kelly, James R. Purpura, Jane Pustola, Frances Dolan, Parker, Jane Holloway, Donna Delconte, Joan Ponesse, Jim Taylor, Marilyn Lennox, Bruno Marchatta, Anne McClellan, Louis Arbia, Dottie Rodriguez, Maureen Sullivan, Frank D'amario, Amanda Keane, Tom (Manay) Conroy, Gertrude Poland, Rita Froehlich, Brian Scott Monahan, Chelsea Dunderdale, Mary Hollenbeck, Donnie Ruckdeschel, Patrick Comyns, John Marullo, Jaddon Johnson, Rina & Richard Bozzone, Rebecca Pacella, Lena Biasini Zullo, Pam Kunert, Janet Coiteux, Vincent Mc Parkland and Family, Jozef Froniewski, Teresa Centeno, Bobbi Hull, Emily Cooley, Frank Celeste, Amy Finnegan, Brian Hanrahan, Toni Loparco Shepardson, Donald (Leed) Zubawicz, Louise McHugh, Pat Alexander, Alex Galant, Evelyn Kawula, Taylor Fogel and Jake Tigar



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

Food Pantry will be closed
Saturday, December 29th & 30th
For the New Year Holidays

In your goodness please bring **ONE POUND PACKAGES OF PASTA & SAUCE** 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 Mr. Bourdage before showing up at the pantry, please.

THE BACKPACK PROGRAM

The Backpack Program has begun. Anyone interested in volunteering to help with this program should speak to one of the Food Pantry members.

WE'RE MOVING

Due to much needed building repairs, the Deacon Jack Seymour Food Pantry is moving on **Sunday, December 31st** to the Msgr, Valastro Activity Center at 319 Broadway. If you have a vehicle and a few hours to spare and can help move products and tables between the hours of 12:00pm to 4:00pm please meet at the Food Pantry.

HELP NEEDED

Beginning Wednesday, January 3, 2018 and each Wednesday thereafter the Food Pantry is looking for help unloading their Food Bank Delivery. If you can give us a few hours helping on Wednesday afternoons at 1:30pm please stop by our new location at 319 Broadway. We would be most grateful.



OUR CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

Thank you to all who brought in gifts for the children of the clients at our food pantry, You made the children and their families very happy. Your generosity is overwhelming. May God bless you all.



**St Francis Rectory
and
Sacred Heart Rectory
will be closed on
January 1st
For the New Year's Holiday**



FIFTH SUNDAY ROSARY PROGRAM

A rosary service for the 5th Sunday in December will be held at **Our Lady of the Lake Church**, 433 S. Plank Road in Newburgh following their **12:30pm** Mass on **Sunday, December 31, 2017**. All are invited to attend. Bring your prayer requests. This program is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, Msgr. Henry O'Carroll Council #444. For more info please contact Ted Coughlin at 845-913-5631 or Joe Coyle at 845-561-7384



Our next senior meeting will be held **Wednesday, January 3rd at 12:30pm** (after the 12noon Mass) in O'Connor Hall. There will be a guest speaker from the Alzheimer's Association who will talk about the "10 Warning Signs" and "Early Detection Matters". Everyone is welcome and invited to attend.



SAVE THE DATE

Pray with us on January 19, 2018 for human life to be respected in our society and come with us for the March for Life. The Newburgh bus for the **Friday, January 19th** March for Life in Washington, DC will leave after a 4:00am Mass from Our Lady of The Lake Church, Route 52, Orange Lake, and after a breakfast stop will arrive in Washington DC, in time for the Rally and March for Life. The bus returns to Orange Lake about 10:30pm.

Bus riders pay \$50/seat; \$35/youth (sponsorships available for those needing help paying). Make checks payable to St. Patrick/St Mary's Church. For questions, reservations or donations please contact Howard & Beth Spear 845-564-5257 or at howard.jp.spear@gmail.com, or, St. Patrick/St. Mary's Rectory at 561-0885.

UPCOMING PILGRIMAGES

Hosted By:
Father Bill Damroth

SCANDINAVIA & ST. PETERSBURG CRUISE

On Board the NCL Norwegian Breakaway
September 21- October 3, 2018



Copenhagen (Denmark), Warnemunde (Germany), Tallinn (Estonia), St. Petersburg (Russia), Helsinki (Finland), Stockholm (Sweden)
Starting at \$3,049 per person including airfare. includes roundtrip air from New York, COruise taxes, port charges and transfers between airport/hotel/pier.

Hosted By:
Father Bill Damroth

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NORTHERN NATIONAL PARKS

Featuring Yellowstone National Park
and Grand Teton National Park
August 24-31, 2018

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ICELAND'S MAGICAL NORTHERN LIGHTS

February 14-20, 2019

SPECIAL TRAVEL PRESENTATION

The Collette Travel Agency is hosting a presentation on the Northern National Parks Pilgrimage on Monday, January 29, 2018 in O'Connor Hall at 6:00pm. If you are interested in this 2019 trip and would like to attend the presentation please RSVP to the rectory at 845-561-1317.

**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: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell 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.