



Padre's Corner

February 11, 2018
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Simon and Garfunkel penned the following verses in 1968 for "Mrs. Robinson," in their fourth album called "Bookends." Recalling a longing for the past, "And here's to you Mrs. Robinson. Jesus loves you more than you will know. God bless you please, Mrs. Robinson. Heaven holds a place for those who pray... Where have you gone, Joe DiMaggio a nation turns its lonely eyes to you." When "Joltin' Joe," the Yankees baseball legend questioned the singing duo about the use of his name in the song, Paul Simon told him that "I didn't mean the lines literally, that I thought of him as an American hero and that genuine heroes were in short supply. He accepted the explanation and thanked me. We shook hands and said good night." Those were crazy times in America during 1968, as the forthcoming Vietnam War was on the minds of its citizens in the midst of the assassinations of Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King.

The times were quite turbulent as they are fifty years later. Catholicism has also gone through tremendous turbulence in that same half-century, falling numbers in vocations that continue to reduce its institutional buildings and impact on modern society. One little noticed decline has been both the presence and use of retreat houses. While working for New Jersey Bell Telephone from 1978-1988, I went to the Carmel Retreat House in Mahwah (New Jersey) a number of times. The Carmelite order of priests, who ran my home parish in Bogota, offered this tranquil setting for those like myself trying to discern God's path in life. I would continue those prayers at the Marian Shrine in West Haverstraw, New York nearby where my family used to live in Stony Point. The outdoor stations-of-the-cross were my favorite destination, providing a quiet serenity for reflection and listening to God. Those retreat experiences continued in my priesthood, both as a retreat master at the Cardinal Spellman Retreat House in the Bronx (performed three years of retreats for high school students, near my parish Christ the King in Yonkers, based on experiences with the seminary retreat team) and personally at the North American Martyrs Shrine in Auriesville, New York (for two consecutive years in 1994-1995 very early in my priesthood). Like the song cited above these sacred locations were places of longing, innocence, hope, and perspective. Sadly, those retreat houses mentioned have also been impacted by the mores of this twenty-first century. The retreat houses in the Bronx and Auriesville have been both closed due to the precipitous decline of interest in retreats. The Mahwah location closed in 2012, for housing developments. West Haverstraw remains open, though the outdoor stations area is basically off limits for a horrific reason. Vandals got hold of the sacred area and desecrated it. The holy statues had to be removed, and now there are stuffed animal figurines all about suggesting in my mind the possibility of demonic animal sacrifices at night.

I am not definite about this, but the uneasy feeling I had on a recent walk through that part of the shrine does not give off the same spiritual peace it once did. My heart was hit hard by this reality, lamenting that the spiritual zone that was instrumental to answering my spiritual questioning was now altered. This fresh insight allowed me to recognize what so many parishioners experience when their parishes or schools close. All of those religious associations and memories remain, but in a remote and hidden sense when these settings close or are merged. This is why I am trying so hard with your help and that of God to save and preserve the sacred edifices of both Sacred Heart and Saint Francis of Assisi parishes. We need these places of faith to retreat into, while nourishing our spiritual faith and optimism.

Saint Charles Borromeo was born in 1538 in the Arona, Lombardy region of Italy. Later the bishop of Milan, he was both canon lawyer and spiritual writer of heavenly words to touch the human heart. He once reflected: "I admit that we are all weak, but if we want help, the Lord God has given us the means to find it easily. One priest may wish to lead a good, holy life, as he knows he should. He may wish to be chaste and to reflect heavenly virtues in the way he lives. Yet he does not resolve to use suitable means, such as penance, prayer, the avoidance of evil discussions and harmful and dangerous friendships. Another priest complains that as soon as he comes into the church to pray the office or to celebrate Mass, a thousand thoughts fill his mind and distract him from God... This is the way we can easily overcome the countless difficulties we have to face day after day, which, after all, are part of our work : in meditation we find the strength to bring Christ to birth in ourselves and in other men." If retreat houses and closed churches reduce these chances for spiritual growth, they can still be

found in our heart. **Father Bill**

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. Feb. 12

7:00am Pope Francis
Noon Gaetana Di Palma
By Paula & John O'Connell

Tues. Feb. 13

7:00am Patrick Spina Sr.
By Colleen & Michael Corizzo
Noon Damian & Jean King
Special Intention
By Mary King
Joseph Pilch
(13th Anniv)
By Family

Wed. Feb. 14

7:00am Mary F. Miller
By Daughters Helen & Marion
John & Nancy Squillini
Noon Craig MacFarland
By Wife



WEEKLY COLLECTION

February 3-4, 2018

1st Collection \$ 5,492.00
2nd Collection 1,596.00
TOTAL \$ 7,088.00

MASS ATTENDANCE

February 3-4, 2018

4:30pm 195
8:30am 145
11:00am 185
1:30pm 155
Total 680

The 2nd Collection this week is for
THE HOLY FATHER - PETER'S PENCE
which is an Archdiocesan Collection



Our Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament this
Wednesday from 5:00pm to 6:00pm is for the intention of
VOCATIONS.

HOSPITAL MINISTRY

We are in need of a Eucharistic Minister to serve at St. Luke's-
Cornwall Hospital on the first and second Tuesday of each
month. If interested please contact Suzanna Campora at 561-
5162 for details.

Thur. Feb. 15

7:00am City of Newburgh
Noon Nick & Erica Santiago
Special Intention
By Mary King

Fri. Feb. 16

7:00am Our Politicians
Noon Our Nation

Sat. Feb. 17

Noon St. Francis Parish
4:30pm Rocco Pacella Jr and
Thomas Di Donato
By Shirley Pacella

Sun. Feb. 18

8:30am Luke Stein
By Estate of Luke Stein
Special Intention
By Mary King
11:00am Thom. E. Driessen Jr.
By Pam Baroud & Family

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ashes will be distributed at Masses

St Francis Church	7:00am Mass
	12noon Mass
Sacred Heart Church	9:00am Mass
	5:30pm Mass

LENTEN REGULATIONS

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday - Days of Fast and
Abstinence (no meat)

All Fridays in Lent - Days of Abstinence (no meat)

ACTS OF VOLUNTARY SELF-DENIAL

May include, in addition to fasting: participation in daily
Mass, spiritual studies, Lenten Devotions, Stations of the
Cross, saying the Rosary, deeds of mercy and kindness.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

St Francis Church	5:30pm
Sacred Heart Church	7:00pm

*"If anyone wishes to come after me,
he must deny himself
and take up his cross daily
and follow me."*

TODAY
SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

The Lord tells Moses and Aaron that anyone bearing the sore of leprosy must first be seen by Aaron or one of the other priests, and that as long as the sore is upon him, "He shall dwell apart, making his abode outside the camp."

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:31—11:1

Paul instructs the Corinthians to do everything for the glory of God, to avoid offending others, and to be imitators of Christ.

Gospel: Mark 1:40-45

Jesus takes pity on a leper and cures him of his disease with a warning not to say but to show himself to the priest and make an offering. Instead of remaining silent, the leper greatly publicized the healing, making it impossible for Jesus to enter the town openly.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday

Jas 1:1-11; Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday

Jas 1:12-18; Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday

Jl 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20—6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday

Dt 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25

Friday

Is 58:1-9a; Mt 9:14-15

Saturday

Is 58:9b-14; Lk 5:27-32



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, Alex Galant, Evelyn Kawula, Taylor Fogel, Jake Tigar, Paul Neugebauer, Julia Vecchio, Eileen Burke, Michelle Ryan, Abigail Means, Ann Bouche, Vanessa Rivera and Elizabeth Rich-Provenzano.

COFFEE & BAGEL HOUR



Join us after the **8:00am Mass** on **Sunday, February 18th** for coffee and bagels in O'Connor Hall.



Food Pantry Hours:

Friday 9:00am to 12noon

Saturday 9:00am to 12noon

at our new location

The Msgr. Valastro Activity Center

319 Broadway in Newburgh

In your goodness please bring **PANCAKE MIX & SYRUP** 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 Mr. Bourdage before showing up at the pantry, please.

HELP NEEDED

A driver is needed for Thursdays at 11:00am to pick up donations at Shop Rite in Vails Gate. If you can help please call Paul Zalanowski at 845-234-8564.

YEAR END FOOD PANTRY REPORT

Families Served	16,220
Seniors Served	3,077
Adults Served	28,194
Children Served	19,686
Homeless Served	142

Total pounds of food served was 412,853 which included food purchases from the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley along with donations from Hannafords, Price Chopper, Panera Bread, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Moulton Memorial Church, Salam Tabernacle Church and Manheim Auto Auction.

FREE RELIABLE TAX PREPARATION

Your taxes can be prepared for free by IRS Certified Volunteers and is open to individuals, seniors and families. For an appointment call 2-1-1 or 1-800-899-1479, 7 days a week from 9:00am to 7:00pm.

HEALING WEEKEND

Beginning Experience of the Hudson Valley is offering a healing weekkend from April 6 thru 8 at the St. Lawrence Friary in Beacon. This invitation is open to all 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. Reservations are required. For information call Phyllis at 914-261-5812 or Janice at 845-279-8381.



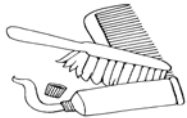
MOVIE NIGHT

On **Saturday, February 24th** at **6:00pm** in **O'Connor Hall** we will be showing **"How Green Was My Valley"**. Seen through the eyes of a boy, this is the inspiring yet heart breaking story of young parents struggling to keep their family together as they endure hardship in a small Welsh mining town. This acclaimed classic captures the sentiments and issues of its time while reminding us of the dreams, struggles and triumphs that can touch every family.

For pizza ordering purposes, please contact Jeannine McCauley at 914-263-0572 or jeanse50@yahoo.com by Friday, February 23rd if you plan to attend.



Catholic Daughters, Court Patricia #195 will meet at **7:00pm** on **Wednesday, February 21st** (not February 14 due to Ash Wednesday) in the Msgr Valastro Activity Center. New members are always welcome. For further information please call Linda DeWitt at 845-565-7837



HYGIENE DRIVE

The Newburgh Enlarged City School District is holding a Hygiene Drive from **February 9th** thru **March 12th** for the 745 youth considered homeless who are enrolled in the district. **Help Us To Help Them.** Items needed are bar soap, tooth brushes and tooth paste, deodorant, shampoo and conditioner, laundry detergent pods, brushes, combs, feminine hygiene products and chap stick. The district **CANNOT** accept razors or mouth wash. Also needed are elementary aged underwear and sweatpants. **Drop Off At.....**

St. Francis Church Entrance

Saturdays Feb 10, 17, 24, Mar 3, 10 - 3:30 to 5:30pm
Sundays, Feb 11, 18, 25, Mar 4, 11 - 8:00am to 2:30pm

St. Francis O'Connor Hall

Mondays Feb 12, Mar 12 - 9:00am to 10:00am
Fridays, Feb 9, Mar 2, 9 - 2:30pm to 4:00pm



The Catholic Classics Book Reading Club will meet to discuss the book **"Pontius Pilate: Decifering a Mystery"** by Aldo Schiavone on **Febryary 27th** (session 1) and **March 20th** (session 2) from **6pm to 8pm** at St. FrancisChurch in **O'Connor Hall**, Books are availabel at Barnes & Noble and Amazon. Both sessions will be led by **Fr. Bill Damroth**. Refreshments will be served. For more information and to RSVP please call Margaret at 845-591-1946.

PLEASE COMPLY

We kindly ask that our parishioners **NOT** use any scotch tape or address labels to secure their offertory envelopes. The envelopes should be secured by just moistening the envelope tab.

AUTHOR REPRISES SPY WEDNESDAY BOOK READING & SIGNING

This Spy **Wednesday - March 28, 2018** - author **Mary Claire Kendall** will once again grace us with her presence and read from and sign copies of her book *"Oasis: Conversion Stories of Hollywood Legends"* in **O'Connor Hall** at **6:00pm**. Learn about the fascinating stories of healing and recovery through the Catholic faith of some of Hollywood's biggest stars including Alfred Hitchcock. Gary Cooper, Bob Hope, Mary Astor, John Wayne, Ann Southern, Jane Wyman, Susan Hayward, Lana Turner, Betty Hutton, Ann Miller and Patricia Neal. She will also give us a glimpse of some of the stars she is writing about in Oasis II including Hattie McDaniel, Babe Ruth and Alec Guinness. Copies of Oasis I will be sold this year at the discounted price of \$10 per copy.

UPCOMING PILGRIMAGES Hosted by Fr. Bill Damroth

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

**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**