



Padre's Corner

February 18, 2018
First Sunday of Lent

First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs, Texas will be forever remembered for a heart-wrenching event on November 5, 2017 when twenty-six worshippers were killed and many others injured by a deranged individual. Pastor Frank Pomeroy lost his daughter Belle, only fourteen years of age. The devastated minister reflected: "Our church was not comprised of members or parishioners, we were a very close family. We ate together, we laughed together, we cried together, and we worshipped together. Now most of our church family is gone, our building is probably beyond repair and the few of us that are left behind lost tragically. (Grieving families) should lean into the Lord. I don't understand, but I know my God does." A parishioner Joe Holcombe added: "It's of course going to be difficult. We are Christians, we have read the book (Bible). We know the ending, and it's good. They're in heaven, and they're a lot better off than we are." Russell Moore, president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, recalled in the "Washington Post" the following expressions of wisdom. "The days ahead will be awful for the grieving community of Sutherland Springs. But one thing is certain: Come Sunday, they will be gathered again, singing and prayer and opening the word. That church will bear witness to the truth that shaped them: Eternal life cannot be overcome by death. And over that church will be a cross."

Fellow Texas preacher Joel Osteen summarized: "Oftentimes when people face challenges, their natural tendency is to seek comfort in things that are familiar. It may be work, an activity or relationships; and of course, we all know about comfort food. But, those things only bring temporary comfort. True comfort is only found in a relationship with Jesus... God wants to bring you comfort. Like a mother cares for her child. He longs to give you strength, hope and confidence. Turn to Him. Receive His Love. Let go of things that would hold you back. Let Him heal your heart and give you strength for the future. Let Him empower you to rise up and overcome and give you strength for the future. Let Him empower you to rise and overcome every obstacle in Jesus's name."

The ecumenical service at Saint Francis of Assisi Church on Sunday, November 19, featured clergy (priests, ministers, rabbis, imams) of all denominations that prayed for world harmony and peace in that spiritually-attacked part of Texas. We certainly must both pray and be prudent in these turbulent times, that can result in one crazed individual choosing chaos in virtually any life sector. Maintaining our spiritual heads in the face of turbulent chaos must be a continuous philosophy within our existential twists and turns. We can find analogies or parables within these moments that can further help us to understand and comprehend the incredible depth of these wrenching escapades. Boomer Esiason spoke on November 8 in New Windsor, at an evening business forum among managers entitled: "Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress." Esiason played into the middle 1990's as a fourteen-year-quarterback in the National Football League with the New York Jets, Cincinnati Bengals, and the Arizona Cardinals. A Roman Catholic, who sent me a signed photograph a decade ago, Esiason faced a number of hurdles in his life time (as we do at various stages). His son Gunnar was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis in 1993, and a few seasons later we was a member of the Jets with a disastrous 1-15 football record. At the business lecture he built insightful bridges of philosophy to all human institutions including that of churches. Those bullet points tenets included discipline, sticking to one's core, attempting to live morally, surrounding one's self with the best staff possible, and being able to laugh in the midst of the chaos. The people of Cuba need this intense spiritual desire, as America disengages from the country and the innocent voices of many are vanquished from the court of reason.

You and I need this balance of faith and grace while encountering our moments of challenge within difficult marriages, work environments, health scares, parish mergers, and confusion about what one-man wrecking crews in North Korea can do to our nation and international world. Peace. **Father Bill**

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. Feb. 19

7:00am Pope Francis
Noon Cardinal Dolan

Tues. Feb. 20

7:00am All Priests
Noon Frank Schaffner
By Family

Wed. Feb. 21

7:00am Our Nation
Noon Louis Talamo
(45th Anniv)
By Paula & John O'Connell

Thur. Feb. 22

7:00am Our Military
Noon World Peace

Fri. Feb. 23

7:00am Military Families
Noon City of Newburgh

Sat. Feb. 24

Noon All Volunteers
4:30pm George J. Vecchio, Jr.
By Aldo & Susan Strano
Dewey Dennis
By Family

Sun. Feb. 25

8:30am Dominic & Theresa
Yozzo
By Nick & Helene Stagliano
11:00am Tom Pray
By Rich & Suzanna



WEEKLY COLLECTION

February 10-11, 2018
1st Collection \$ 5,282.00
2nd Collection 1,611.00
TOTAL \$ 6,893.00

MASS ATTENDANCE

February 10-11, 2018
4:30pm 185
8:30am 138
11:00am 170
1:30pm 140
Total 633

The 2nd Collection this week is for
MAINTENANCE & REPAIR



STATIONS OF THE CROSS FRIDAYS

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



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Franciscan Friars of the Renewal will also be doing Stations of the Cross with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Friday evenings at 7:00pm at St. Mary's Church, 180 South Street in Newburgh. Confessions will be available in both English and Spanish.



Eucharistic
Adoration

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



COFFEE & BAGEL HOUR

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



PALM WEAVING

Our Palm Weavers will start their sessions on Monday, February 26th in O'Connor Hall.
Daytime schedule - Mon thru Fri 10:00am to 2:00pm
e-mail neug1@verizon.net or call 565-2246
Evening Schedule - Tues & Thurs 6:30 to 9:00pm
e-mail pgrimm@hvc.rr.com

Anyone wishing to help:

Weavers (we will teach), Trimmers (you only need to know how to use scissors), Decorators, Baggers, Counters (keeping a count of the amount of pieces made) and Helpers (helping out where needed).

TODAY
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: Genesis 9:8-15

God made a promise to Noah that he would never again devastate the entire planet with a flood. He also told Noah that the symbol of this promise would be a rainbow in the clouds.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22

This letter from Peter reminds all people that Christ died for us so that we might be led to God. We have been saved by our baptism; not a physical cleansing, but a promise to continually strive to obey God.

Gospel: Mark 1:12-15

Mark briefly tells of Jesus' stay in the desert, where he was tested by Satan. He did not give in to temptation, but reappeared in Galilee to proclaim the good news.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday

Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday

Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday

Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32

Thursday

1 Pt 5:1-4; Mt 16:13-19

Friday

Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26

Saturday

Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48



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, 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.



St. Francis Seniors will meet on **March 7th** at **12:30pm** after the 12noon Mass in **O'Connor Hall**. All are welcome



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 **BOTTLES OF JUICE** 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.



St Francis Rectory
Sacred Heart Rectory

will both be closed on Monday, February 19th in observance of the **President's Day Holiday**.



Catholic Daughters, Court Patricia #195 will meet at **7:00pm** on **Wednesday, February 21st** in the Msgr Valastro Activity Center. New members are always welcome. For further information please call Linda DeWitt at 845-565-7837.

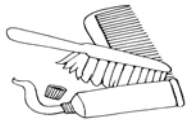


MOVIE NIGHT

Next **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 jeansey50@yahoo.com by Friday, February 23rd if you plan to attend.

This is a
SIGN
for all ages to come



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: Deciphering a Memory"** by Aldo Schiavone on **February 27th** (session 1) and **March 20th** (session 2) from **6pm to 8pm** at St. Francis Church in **O'Connor Hall**, Books are available 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 JOIN US

Court Patricia #195 is hosting a **Morning Lenten Reflection** on **Saturday, March 10th** in **O'Connor Hall** from **9:00am to 12:30pm**. We will begin with light refreshments followed by a program **"The Gospel of Luke – a Portrait of Jesus"** presented by **Sr. Virginia Wilkinson, PBVM**. Sister will help us take a fresh look at the teachings, miracles, and parables found in **Luke's Gospels** and explore the insights into the **Jesus of Nazareth**, his person, his mission and his **Passion**. Bring your Bible. We will end with **12noon Mass in Church**. All are invited. Please **RSVP** to **Helene Kerin** at **561-8329** so we can plan accordingly.

REPENTANCE

An Ancient Practice for Today

Grace United Methodist Church, 468 Broadway in Newburgh will begin their **Weekly Lenten Lunch Program** on **Wednesdays**, starting **February 21st** thru **March 21st**. Program starts at **noon** in the sanctuary with a worship service featuring a different speaker each week who will present the message. A light lunch will follow for a nominal fee.

AUTHOR REPRISSES 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**.



IRISH NIGHT

Grace United Methodist Church, 265 Van Ness Street in Newburgh is hosting a **Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner** at their Fellowship Hall on **Saturday, March 10th** starting at **6:00pm**. Come and enjoy *delicious home made corned beef & cabbage* with carrots, potatoes, salad, soda bread, beverages and dessert. Ticket **pre-sale** **\$13.00** for adults, **\$6.00** kids age 6 to 10, and 5 and under are free. **At the door** tickets are **\$15.00** for adults, **\$6.00** for kids ages 6 to 10 and 5 and under are free. To order tickets call **561-0176**
RESERVATIONS ARE HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

UPCOMING PILGRIMAGES

Hosted By:
Father 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**