



Padre's Corner

March 11, 2018
Fourth Sunday of Lent

In 1935 director Frank Lloyd crafted the iconic film "Mutiny on the Bounty," starring Charles Laughton as Captain William Bligh and Clark Gable as ship lieutenant Fletcher Christian. Based on a novel by Charles Nordhoff and James Norman Hall, the plot begins at a 1787 tavern in Portsmouth, England when the men gathered are forced into naval service. They will sail the HMS Bounty under Bligh, who has a known fierce reputation that strikes fear in any sailor working under him. The brutality and callousness leads to deaths, and a growing animosity culminating in mutiny. When the crew is free of Bligh's mean-spiritedness they collectively sing "God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman."

In human existence we all have had the misfortune of painful persons, places, and things in our lives. The heaviness they heave upon us are akin to the film annotated above. Even in my priesthood such moments occur, at the hands of stifling bureaucracy or a few individuals that treat me like a donkey to be kicked. We all long for an escape into a spiritual world of wholeness with God, and a deep sense of the need to embrace His holy will minus the unnecessary obstructions. When we withdraw in prayer and worship such escape occurs in union with the divine plan. Travel also affords us these opportunities, while expanding our viewpoints which can be blocked by rigidity and locked into unhealthy routines.

From December 4-14 I had the rich opportunity to go with parishioners on an Alpine adventure to the Christmas markets of Switzerland, Germany, and Austria. Such experiences always involve the possibility of weather disturbances and cultural stagnation, but the yearning to break free from these limitations yields tremendous interpersonal and spiritual growth. The Black Forest in Germany offered incredible visual beauty in a setting unfettered by urbanization and unbridled development. Cuckoo clocks are its delicate specialty, reflective of our unpredictable lives which can be broken or shattered at any moment. We regain a sense of stability when facing these taxing moments by the grace of God. The gentle snows and winds offered a cleansing sense of therapeutic expansion.

The Neuschwanstein Castle is located high above the ground terrain of Schwangau, Germany. Built in 1869 (first year of professional baseball in America) by King Ludwig II, the outside facade inspired Walt Disney for the entrance castle of Disneyland in 1955 via the opening of the Anaheim, California amusement park. The interior also enthralled Disney as Ludwig was inspired by stories of local authors, which adorned the inside walls with tales of adventure and the romantic. Ludwig faced opposition, which may have led to his death at age forty in 1886, alongside personal demons that Disney and we all have to certain extents. Disney faced rejections, but creativity ruled the day culminating to the moment of his death on December 15, 1966 (my grandfather would die on that same date in 1977). Each of us are likewise inspired, with the help of the Almighty, to break free of those persons that hold us back from the creative spark that God has ignited within each of us to be lived out in the fullness of potency.

Salzburg, Austria was the setting for the Von Trapp family of "Sound Of Music" fame. The family fled the Nazi oppressions of World War II for the safer confines of Stowe, Vermont. Two decades ago I was able to procure autographs of a number of the original family. "Climb Every Mountain," sung by the Mother Superior to Maria (Julie Andrews) who is struggling with her vocation as a nun postulant aptly underscores these spiritual dynamics of transcending the most difficult of challenges. Famed composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) was born in Salzburg, remaining faithful to his Catholic faith throughout his life. Five of his seven siblings died in infancy, and he died a financial pauper. Yet, he persevered through the trials as we all must do. Lucerne, Switzerland is heavily Catholic with a bridge and water mill dating from the 1300's while landscaping a nearby Jesuit church. The brisk air engulfed by the Swiss Alps reflects freedom and union with God. We all need to smell the roses the divine have given to us.

Father Bill

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. Mar. 12

7:00am Pope Francis
Noon George J. Vecchio Jr
By Morgan Family

Tues. Mar. 13

7:00am All Priests
Noon Ginny Cook
By Cook Family

Wed. Mar. 14

7:00am Vocations
Noon Denise Morgan
"Birthday Blessings"
By Family

Thur. Mar. 15

7:00am City of Newburgh
Noon Rose Mary Redden
By Burke Family

Fri. Mar. 16

7:00am The Unborn
Noon Msgr. Al Markowski
(22nd Anniv)
By Parish

Sat. Mar. 17

Noon Special Intention
By Morgan Family
4:30pm Shirley & Tom Riley
By Cerone Family
Mary Corizzo
By Collen & Michael Corizzo

Sun. Mar. 18

8:30am Albano & Tortora Fam.
By Mona & Sam Sodano
Albert Pushman Sr.
By Bill & Marion Pushman
11:00am Deceased Members of
Council #444, Msgr. Henry
O'Carroll, Knights of Columbus



WEEKLY COLLECTION

March 3-4, 2018

1st Collection \$ 6,216.00
2nd Collection 1,617.00
TOTAL \$ 7,833.00

MASS ATTENDANCE

March 3-4, 2018

4:30pm 207
8:30am 134
11:00am 170
1:30pm 168
Total 679

The 2nd Collection this week is for
AMERICAN BISHOP'S OVERSEAS APPEAL



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.

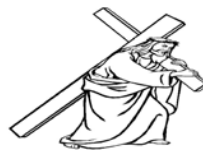
MERGER DISCUSSION MEETING

WITH THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

Eileen Mulcahy and Sr, Virginia King from the
Archdiocese will be here at St. Francis Church to
address questions and concerns regarding our
merger. We will meet in the church on Wednesday,
March 14, 2018 at 6:30pm.

LAETARE SUNDAY

DID YOU KNOW??? The 4th Sunday of Lent is also
known as Laetare Sunday. The Latin word "Laetare"
means REJOICE. The 4th Sunday (or the middle
Sunday of Lent) looks with hope and eagerness
because Easter is now closer in sight. On Laetare
Sunday, rose or mauve colored vestments are
allowed instead of the purple vestments worn for
Lent. This symbolizes the "rejoicing" that Easter is
now very close. Such the term "Rose Sunday"
became popular. More music is also encouraged on
"Rose Sunday" to help represent the optimism that
Easter will soon be here.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS FRIDAYS

St Francis Church 5:30pm
Sacred Heart Church 7:00pm
Spanish - Via Crucis - viernes
7:00pm

TODAY
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23

The people of Judah practiced many abominations, even polluting God's temple in Jerusalem. They mocked the messengers he sent among them, until he grew so angry he delivered them to the King of the Chaldeans. Those who weren't killed were exiled and became servants for seventy years. Cyrus, King of Persia, was ordered to build a temple to God in Jerusalem, and he freed the servants as God had inspired him to do.

Second Reading: Ephesians 2:4-10

Paul declares that God brought us to life in Jesus, though we had been dead from our sins. He reminds us that it was not a reward for our good service so no one should take credit. Instead, we must remember that it was not our doing, but a sign of God's mercy and love for us.

Gospel: John 3:14-21

God so loved the world, he sent us his only Son so that all who believed would have eternal life in him. The light came into the world, but those who were wicked avoided it, for fear that their evil deeds would be exposed. But those who believed were unafraid of the light, where it would be clear that their deeds were done in God.

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

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, Carol Brown, Luzia Araujo, Celio Thomaz, Rosalie Nogay, Rose Jurik, Robert & Helen Osborn, Rachel 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



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 **ONE POUND PACKAGES OF RICE** 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.

TRUCK DRIVER NEEDED

The Pantry is in need of a volunteer to drive a 26 foot truck which you would pick up at Budget, go to the Food Bank in Cornwall to pick our order, drive to the Food Pantry to deliver our order and drive the truck back to Budget. Needed every 3rd Wednesday. Call Paul Zalanowski 845-234-8564 for more details.

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.



The VFW Post 1161 and CWV Post 386 will co-host a bus trip to the Sands Casino in Bethlehem, PA on **Thursday, March 22nd**. Departure at **8:30am** from the Newburgh Wal-Mart parking lot. Bus will depart for home at 4:30pm. Tickets \$35 per person. You will receive a \$45 package consisting of \$40 in free slot play and a \$5 food coupon plus a chance to win the trip free. For reservations or questions please contact John Raszcewski at 845-562-3705.



The Msgr. Henry O'Carroll Knights of Columbus, Council 444 is hosting a fish fry on **Friday, March 23rd** from **5pm to 8pm** at Gallo Hall at Sacred Heart School (Entrance on Ann Street) \$10.00 per person. Proceeds will go to the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal and Sacred Heart Church.



NATIONAL CATHOLIC SISTERS WEEK March 8-14

Join the Presentation Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary as we celebrate National Catholic Sisters Week and who we are as Women Religious. An evening of Adoration, Praise & Worship on **March 13th** at **6:30pm** at Mt. St. Joseph Chapel, 64 Presentation Way in New Windsor.



Catholic Daughters, Court Patricia #195 will meet at **7:00pm** on Wednesday, **March 14th** in the Msgr. Valastro Activity Center. New members are always welcome. For further Information please call Linda DeWitt at 845-565-7837.

ST. FRANCIS DART BALL

The St. Francis Dartball Team needs a few men for their next season. If interested or if you have questions please call Tom Flagler at 845-564-5725.



Golden Jubilee Wedding Mass

The Archdiocese of New York's Golden Jubilee Wedding Mass will take place on Sunday, June 3rd at 2:15pm at St. Patrick's Cathedral. This mass, for couples celebrating 50 years of marriage in 2018 will be celebrated by Cardinal Timothy Dolan. To register to obtain tickets please call the rectory at 561-1317. Registration will close on Monday, May 14th



The Knights of Columbus, Council 444 will hold their annual Communion Breakfast on **Sunday, March 18th**. Mass will be celebrated at **St Francis Church** at **11:00am**. Immediately following Mass a late breakfast will be held at the Powelton Club. Their guest speaker will be Dr. Kathy Wither, Director of the Archdiocese of New York Family Life Office. All are welcome. Adults \$30.00, Children 6 to 10 years \$10.00 and children 5 and younger are free. For reservations by March 11th please contact Joe Dennis at 845-728-1214 or Joe Coyle at 845-561-7384. (**NO** Tickets sold at the door).



The Catholic Classics Book Reading Club will meet for their second session to discuss the book "**Pontius Pilate: Deciphering a Mystery**" by Aldo Schiavone on **March 20th** from **6pm to 8pm** at St. Francis Church in O'Connor Hall. Session be led by **Fr. Bill Damroth**.



PALM WEAVING

Our Palm Weavers have started their sessions in O'Connor Hall and invite you to join in.
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).

EXPERIENCE THE FLAME OF LOVE OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

The National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, 70 Carmelite Drive in Middletown is hosting a full day program on Saturday, April 14, 2018 from 10:00am to 4:30pm. Fr. James Blount, Spiritual Director of the Society of Our Lady of the Trinity and charismatic preacher will be a guest speaker. \$30.00 per person includes breakfast and lunch. For more information or to register by April 5th please call Mary at 845-591-4801.

UPCOMING PILGRIMAGES

Hosted By:

Father Bill Damroth

NORTHERN NATIONAL PARKS

Featuring Yellowstone National Park
and Grand Teton National Park

August 24-31, 2018
~~~~~

#### 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*