October 11, 2020
Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Parish Office: 973-835-0480 / 0489
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C.C.D.: 973-835-1946

We extend a warm welcome to all our parishioners, all new members and guests celebrating with us today.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE / 973-835-1946
Mrs. Maryann Marren, Coordinator
Mrs. Betty Norton, Secretary

YOUTH MINISTRY / 973-835-0480
Our youth ministry is open to all Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grade students. Come join us.

BAPTISM: Parishioners are welcome to have their children baptized at St. Francis of Assisi. Please call the rectory for an appointment to discuss the arrangements.

SACRAMENT OF Penance: Saturday: 4:30-5:00 pm or at other times upon request.

MARRIAGE: Arrangements to be made at least 1 year in advance by calling the Parish Office.

R.C.I.A.: Anyone interested in an update of their faith or wanting to become Catholic, call the Parish Office.

MINISTRY OF THE SICK AND ELDERLY: For the confined, elderly and/or shut-in, be they at home or in the hospital, please call the Rectory. Holy Communion is offered to any person permanently or temporarily homebound. For the seriously sick and dying contact the Rectory immediately.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP
You are invited to join our parish family. We are committed to meeting the needs of all members. Please register by contacting our Parish Office. (Please notify the Parish Office of change in address or phone number and if you are moving out of the parish.)

RELIGIOUS DEVOTIONS
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena is on Monday after 8:00 am Mass
Novena Prayers in Honor of the Blessed Mother and St. Anthony: Are said every Tuesday after 8:00 am Mass
Prayer Group: Meets at 11:00 am - every Thursday
Adoration: Every Friday after Mass
Divine Mercy: Daily recitation of Chaplet after Mass

MINISTRIES
Join the various ministries and associations:
Ministry of Lector, Eucharist, Usher, Altar Server, Respect Life and Lazarus Ministry, St. Francis Ladies Guild, Emmaus Prayer Group, Youth Group, Carnival, Knights of Columbus and other volunteers associated with the Church of St. Francis of Assisi.
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2020
5:30 P.M. Ralph Cortellessa Intentions of William Briggs Sr. Annette Lucchese, OSF Intentions of Josephine Venezia Otto & Nellie Bertelloni

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2020
7:30 A.M. Parishioners Walter Donnelly 10:00 A.M. Joseph Kipp Intentions of President Donald Trump Intentions of Michael Caputo 12 NOON Elaine Arendas Fiore Maria Nardulli Jennifer Rosenfeld

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2020
8:00 A.M. Agnes Cori – 7th Anniversary Florence & Ernest Poeggel Kieran O’Neill

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2020
8:00 A.M. Edward Garruto

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2020
8:00 A.M. Teresa Tachine

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2020
8:00 A.M. Theresa Casazzas

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2020
5:30 P.M. Henry Korker Ralph Cortellessa Intentions of George Goebel James McEntee, Jr. -2nd Anniversary

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2020
7:30 A.M. Parishioners Louise & Joseph Sutor 10:00 A.M. Roy & Shirley Parian Frank & Dorothy Orofino Rocco Tarulli 12 NOON George Macognone Florence Korkuch C. Eleanor Didonato

Pray daily for our servicemen and women serving their country.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:
Mary Carton Jacob Hicks Judy Moran Gary Ragusa Ava Rae Nebbia Matthew Polifonte Lois Maskley Evelyn Means Bob Delventhhal Jacqueline Altamore George Link Michael Soojian Valentina Manuele Susan Nichols-Boggio Ryder Sasso Michael Gotti Mike Tidaback Robert Moreno Lydia Rivera Jerome Foray Loretta LaSala Infant Ronan Suatoni Manuel Esguerra Jessica Skorubski Marianne Dorn

Robert Nebbia Christopher Berry Frank Polglaze Sharon Acquaire Noah Lorencovertz Florence Grim Josephine Venezia Alex Coronel Geraldine Kearns Alice Roslund Alejandro Salcedo Bernie Shushan Jean’na Wojik Post Patrick Keegan Herman Koenig

DECEASED: Nancy Arthur

WEEKLY COLLECTION
Sunday, October 4, 2020 - $4,421.00
Thank you for your continued support.

WEEKLY REFLECTION
Dear Friends in Christ,

Today, Jesus present us with the king (the Father), inviting his guests through his “servants” (the prophets) to the banquet of the Holy Alliance of his Son with Mankind (our salvation). First he did it with Israel, «but they refused to come» (Mt 22:3). Despite the refusal the Father kept on insisting: «I have prepared a banquet, (...) and now everything is ready; come then, to the wedding feast». But that rebuff, seizing the servants, insulting and killing them, makes the king angry, so he sent his troops to destroy the murderers and burn “their” city-Jerusalem.

So, consequently, through other “servants” (the apostles) —sent to «the crossroads», «Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them…». We are invited, the rest of mankind, that is, «everyone they found, good and bad alike, so that the hall was filled with guests» : the Church. However, the question is not only to attend the banquet when invited, but also, and to a great extent, the dignity we may display, when at the banquet.

St. Jerome commented in this regard: «The marriage garment is the commandments of the Lord, and the works which are done under the Law and the Gospel, and form the clothing of the new man. That is, the deeds of Charity our faith must be accompanied of».

We feast on the rich food of Your house; from Your delightful stream You give us drink.
Psalm 36:9
OUR AMERICAN SAINTS

Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini – (Mother Cabrini)

(July 15, 1850 – December 22, 1917)

Frances Xavier Cabrini was the first United States citizen to be canonized. Her deep trust in the loving care of her God gave her the strength to be a valiant woman doing the work of Christ.

Since her early childhood in Italy, Frances had wanted to be a missionary in China but, at the urging of Pope Leo XIII, Frances went west instead of east. She traveled with six sisters to New York City to work with the thousands of Italian immigrants living there.

She found disappointment and difficulties with every step. When she arrived in New York, the house intended to be her first orphanage in the United States was not available. The archbishop advised her to return to Italy. But Frances, truly a valiant woman, departed from the archbishop’s residence all the more determined to establish that orphanage. And she did.

In 35 years, Frances Xavier Cabrini founded 67 institutions dedicated to caring for the poor, the abandoned, the uneducated and the sick. Seeing great need among Italian immigrants who were losing their faith, she organized schools and adult education classes.

As a child, she was always frightened of water, unable to overcome her fear of drowning. Yet, despite this fear, she traveled across the Atlantic Ocean more than 30 times. She died of malaria in her own Columbus Hospital in Chicago. - Courtesy of Franciscan Media

Earlier this year, the Colorado Legislature passed Frances Xavier Cabrini House Bill 20-1031 into law, establishing Frances Xavier Cabrini Day as a Colorado State Holiday. The first paid state holiday in the nation that recognizes a woman, Cabrini Day will be observed in Colorado annually on the first Monday in October. (October 5, 2020)

A Prayer for Peace of Mind
Fortify me with the grace of Your Holy Spirit and give Your peace to my soul that I may be free from all needless anxiety and worry. Help me to desire always that which is pleasing and acceptable to You so that Your will may be my will. Amen

-St. Frances Cabrini

A "Rosary Rally for our Nation" on SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11th from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm. This event begins at St. Paul Inside the Walls in Madison and concludes at St. Thomas More Parish in Convent Station. It is being sponsored by the New Jersey Area of the Order of Malta in coordination with Rosary Coast to Coast.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
We will accept registrations up Monday October 19, 2020 for this school year. Please call The Religious Education office for more information. 973-835-1946. Reminder: Mandatory Mass, Sunday, October 18, 2020 at 6:45 for all parents and students enrolled in our 6,7,8,9, and 10th graders.

2020 DIOCESAN MINISTRIES APPEAL
“Love Thy Neighbor”
One of the benefits of giving to our Diocesan Ministries Appeal is the knowledge that the funds stay in our own Diocese and only support important needs in Morris, Passaic and Sussex Counties. This local connection means that you may be helping your next-door neighbor, a former pastor now living in our priests’ retirement residence, the store owner you see each day as you shop in town – perhaps even a family member. What better way to “Love Thy Neighbor”? For your convenience, you can make an online gift or pledge at www.2020appeal.org

PARISH HAPPENINGS
Sat., 10/10 – 10/11 – Ladies’ Guild Soup Sale after all Masses
Wed., 10/28 – K of C Blood drive 1-7pm – church hall
The St. Francis Council will be sponsoring a Blood Drive on Wednesday October 28th from 1pm to 7pm in the church hall. Social distancing will be monitored and face masks are required. Although walk-ins are welcome, we would like more on-line registration to help with keeping the social distancing at a minimum.
You can register online at www.vitalant.org

LITURGY OF THE WORD
The 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING: Isaiah 5:1-7 Isaiah sings of his friend who has a vineyard. His friend (God) does everything he could for his vineyard (Israel) to produce good fruit. Instead, all it yields are sour grapes. Because the vineyard fails to respond to God’s gracious care, it will become what it has been without his favor, namely, a wilderness. As we shall see, today’s Gospel also echoes this theme of unfruitfulness.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 80 The theme of the vineyard is continued in this psalm. The psalmist petitions God to watch his vineyard

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:6-9 Paul addresses the “worry warts” in the Philippian community. In times of worry and anxiety, they are exhorted to turn to God in prayer and place their trust in him. In doing so, they will come to know the “peace that surpasses all understanding.” Then Paul exhorts his readers to live lives patterned after Christ. Christian thinking and behavior will open them to the kind of peace that only God can give.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL: Matt. 21:33-43 As we listen to this first reading of the Gospel, let us listen with our minds for the content. A participant reads the Gospel, then all pause to reflect. As we listen to this second reading of the Gospel, let us listen with our hearts to what Jesus is saying to us. Be aware of what draws us in and what part of the Gospel might be a challenge to embrace. You may want to underline or write down the word you hear.

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-43 Another of the judgment parables immediately follows last week’s story of the two sons. These two parables are a call to conversion for both the Pharisees and the Chief Priests. In the parable, Jesus invites his audience to assess the characters in the story, and then applies the lesson of the story directly to his defiant audience. In passing judgment on the characters in the story, the religious leaders unwittingly pass judgment on themselves. Instead of welcoming Jesus as God’s messenger, they, like the tenants, plan to kill him. Jesus tells the parable not to condemn the religious leaders, but to call them to conversion. If they repent of their sins, they too, like the Gentiles, will be part of God’s kingdom.

“Thousand Strong – Rosary for Life Conference Call” on Tues. Oct. 13th at 7:00 PM
LIFENET is organizing a “Thousand Strong – Rosary for Life Conference Call” on Tuesday, October 13th at 7:00 PM. Our goal is to have 1,000 on the call praying for the Protection of Babies in the Womb and in reparation for the sin of abortion. Cardinal Tobin, along with priests and deacons from throughout New Jersey will be leading the prayer. Note: October 13th is the 103rd anniversary of the ‘Miracle of the Sun’ at Fatima. Our Lady wants us to pray the rosary! Please sign up at www.lifeneteducation.org/1000strong
Reading for 28 Sunday
Reading 1  IS 25:6-10A

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will provide for all peoples a feast of rich food and choice wines, juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines.
On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, the web that is woven over all nations; he will destroy death forever.
The Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from every face; the reproach of his people he will remove from the whole earth; for the LORD has spoken. On that day it will be said: "Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us! This is the LORD for whom we looked; let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!"
For the hand of the LORD will rest on this mountain.

Responsorial Psalm
I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

Reading 2  PHIL 4:12-14, 19-20

Brothers and sisters: I know how to live in humble circumstances; I know also how to live with abundance.
In every circumstance and in all things I have learned the secret of being well fed and of going hungry, of living in abundance and of being in need. I can do all things in him who strengthens me.
Still, it was kind of you to share in my distress. My God will fully supply whatever you need, in accord with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father, glory forever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia, Alleluia
May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts, so that we may know what is the hope that belongs to our call.

Gospel  MT 22:1-14

Jesus again in reply spoke to the chief priests and elders of the people in parables, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. He dispatched his servants to summon the invited guests to the feast, but they refused to come.
A second time he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those invited: "Behold, I have prepared my banquet, my calves and fattened cattle are killed, and everything is ready; come to the feast."' Some ignored the invitation and went away, one to his farm, another to his business.
The rest laid hold of his servants, mistreated them, and killed them.
The king was enraged and sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The feast is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy to come.
Go out, therefore, into the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you find.'
The servants went out into the streets and gathered all they found, bad and good alike, and the hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to meet the guests, he saw a man there not dressed in a wedding garment.
The king said to him, 'My friend, how is it that you came in here without a wedding garment?'
But he was reduced to silence.
Then the king said to his attendants, 'Bind his hands and feet, and cast him into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.'
Many are invited, but few are chosen."