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

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.

July 19, 2020
Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Parish Office: 973-835-0480 / 0489
Fax: 973-835-3277
Email: stfrancis@optonline.net / frgregg@optonline.net
Website: stfrancishaskell.org
C.C.D.: 973-835-1946

We are a Catholic Community, rooted in the Trinity, sustained by the Eucharist and the Word of God, called to witness, to serve and to educate.
SATSATURDAY, JULY 18, 2020
5:30 P.M. Phyllis Biancardi
Doris Mc Gillick
SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2020
7:30 A.M. Parishioners
Ray Nyhuis
Intentions of Pat Demarest
Eileen Bottino
10:00 A.M. Roy & Shirley Parian
Frank & Dorothy Orofino
Rocco Tarulli
12 NOON Angelina Destito
Ron Moebius
George Peterson
Rita Schuler
MONDAY, JULY 20, 2020
8:00 A.M. Souls in Purgatory
TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2020
8:00 A.M. Gerald Lynch
Leonard Babich
THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2020
8:00 A.M. Gary Hogue
FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2020
8:00 A.M. Nigel Hutchison
SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2020
5:30 P.M. Eleanor Bolsman
Ralph Cortellessa
Eleanor Bandera – 5th Anniversary
SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2020
7:30 A.M. Parishioners
Basil Bavun
10:00 A.M. Marcelino Glorioso, Sr.
Jan Gesla
Sister Annette Lucchese
12 NOON John Dipiro
Pray daily for our servicemen and women serving their country.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:
Mary Carton Jacob Hicks Estella Soto
Ava Rae Nebbia Matthew Polifonte Lois Maskley
Gary Ragusa Herman Koenig Evelyn Means
George Link Michael Soojian Valentina Manuele
Susan Nichols-Boggio Kevin Kerrigan Ryder Sasso
Mike Tidaback Robert Moreno Lydia Rivera
Jerome Foray Loretta LaSala Infant Ronan Suatoni
Richard Barnett Manuel Esguerra Kenny Sequeira
Robert Nebbia Christopher Berry Frank Polglaze
Sharon Acquare Noah Lorencovitz Florence Grim
Josephine Venezia Richard DeFalco Alex Coronel
Geraldine Kearns Alice Roslund Alejandro Salcedo

WEEKLY COLLECTION
Sunday, July 12, 2020 - $8,106.00
Thank you for your continued support

WEEKLY REFLECTION
Dear Friends in Christ,

Jesus uses another parable of seed planting and harvesting to teach an important lesson today. As farmers, His audience would understand the problem weeds would pose to a growing crop. The image of the harvest is used repeatedly in the Old and New Testament to portray the final judgment.

What does it mean? That the refusal of the householder to allow his slaves to separate the wheat from the weeds while they are still growing is a warning to the disciples not to attempt to anticipate the final judgment of God by a definitive exclusion of sinners from the kingdom. In its present stage, the world is composed of the good and the bad. The judgment of God alone will eliminate the sinful. Until then there must be patience and the preaching of repentance.

What does it matter?

Evil exists in the world. Many times, when tragedy strikes, people start asking questions: “Where was God?” “If God loves us, why would God let such an event happen?” God did not eliminate evil in the world. We have to learn that forces opposed to God’s love exist and those forces sometimes make bad
things happen to good people (like a drunk driver killing an innocent victim or a child who gets a serious illness).

What can you do when bad things happen to good people?

First, you can work to prevent the bad from happening. For example, make sure friends and others don’t drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Second, comfort those who face hardship. Like Moses blessed the people in the desert, your life can be a blessing to others. For example, visit friends in the hospital, nursing homes or at home when they are ill.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

*The 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

The First Reading is from the Book of Wisdom (12:13-19). The writer must have been very close to God and experienced for himself the many benefits God holds out to those who ask for His help. This whole passage is true and sincere Wisdom. From this we should learn that only by understanding and working at our relationship with God can we be happy and safe in His hands.

The Responsorial Psalm (86:5-16) picks up the same theme of God’s abundant love, mercy and forgiveness; and rightly so. However, we should not forget that He is also perfect in justice, which requires punishment for wrongdoing - again, that balance. Today, we have a tendency to think of God as “all loving,” but we forget that balance requires justice.

The Second Reading is from St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans (8:26-27). Here we return to the theme of the Holy Spirit helping us. Although Paul is talking about prayer in this passage, he implies that we need to seek the Spirit’s help in all things. This is the Holy Spirit’s role and we should call upon Him for guidance and direction.

The Gospel Reading is from Matthew (13:24-43). In this long passage, Jesus gives us three parables, each having the elements of planting, growth and harvesting or reaping the benefits of one's work. This confuses the disciples, who ask for an explanation, which Jesus gives in private. We should review this part of the reading often because it reminds us that at some point in time, “The Son of man will send His angels to collect, out of His kingdom, all who cause others to sin and all evildoers, and will throw them into the fiery furnace.”

We know that God is kind and merciful, and full of love, but there comes a time when that balance must be obtained. We cannot assume that God will forgive our sins or “little white lies” without punishment. So call on the Holy Spirit today to help you in seeking balance in your spiritual, as well as temporal life.

**THE ROAD TO HEAVEN**

The road to Heaven is very straight; It’s we who make the turns…

Making decisions without God’s guidance, God, for Whom our heart yearns.

Sometimes, it’s hard to walk His Way: Temptation is always there, But Jesus said, He’s the Light of the World; Without Him, it’s dark out there.

*Margaret Peterson*
OUR AMERICAN SAINTS
St. Katherine Drexel
Feast Day March 3
(November 26, 1858 - March 3, 1955)

Born in Philadelphia in 1858, she had an excellent education and traveled widely. As a rich girl, Katharine also had a grand debut into society. But when she nursed her stepmother through a three-year terminal illness, she saw that all the Drexel money could not buy safety from pain or death, and her life took a profound turn.

Katharine had always been interested in the plight of the American Indians. While on a European tour, she met Pope Leo XIII and asked him to send more missionaries to Wyoming for her friend Bishop James O’Connor. The pope replied, “Why don’t you become a missionary?” His answer shocked her into considering new possibilities.

After three and a half years of training, Mother Drexel and her first band of nuns—Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored—opened a boarding school in Santa Fe. A string of foundations followed. By 1942, she had a system of black Catholic schools in 13 states, plus 40 mission centers and 23 rural schools. Segregationists harassed her work, even burning a school in Pennsylvania. In all, she established 50 missions for Indians in 16 states.

Two saints met when Mother Drexel was advised by Mother Cabrini about the “politics” of getting her order’s Rule approved in Rome. Her crowning achievement was the founding of Xavier University in New Orleans, the first Catholic university in the United States for African Americans.

At 77, Mother Drexel suffered a heart attack and was forced to retire. Apparently, her life was over. But now came almost 20 years of quiet, intense prayer from a small room overlooking the sanctuary. Small notebooks and slips of paper record her various prayers, ceaseless aspirations, and meditations. She died at 96 and was canonized in 2000.

Saints have always said the same thing: Pray, be humble, accept the cross, love and forgive. But it is good to hear these things in the American idiom from one who, for instance, had her ears pierced as a teenager, who resolved to have “no cake, no preserves,” who wore a watch, was interviewed by the press, traveled by train, and could concern herself with the proper size of pipe for a new mission. These are obvious reminders that holiness can be lived in today’s culture as well as in that of Jerusalem or Rome.

Courtesy of Franciscan Media

America Needs Fatima Rosary Rally

We gathered in front of Saint Francis Church with Fr. Greg Golba to pray the Rosary for America on July 11th as a part of the America needs Fatima Rosary Rally which was held on that day across the United States.

Although rain was predicted, the sun was shining, and 28 people gathered to pray the Rosary for the conversion of America...
and the reparation for the sins against the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Banners were displayed. Because of social distancing, we were unable to get a picture. Many thanks to all who participated in this Rally, praying for the needs of America.

On Sunday, July 26, during every Mass, we will pray for all drivers, and blessing of vehicles after every Mass.

All are welcome!!
Fr. Greg, Pastor

CANCELLATION OF ST. FRANCIS ANNUAL CARNIVAL
St Francis of Assisi Church has been closely monitoring the state’s reopening guidelines for Covid 19. Given the continued uncertainty for commencing large events, social distancing obstacles and concerns for everyone’s safety, we regret to announce that this year’s Carnival scheduled for July has been canceled. We look forward to seeing you all again at next year’s carnival.

THE HARVEST PRAYER
(Anonymous 17th Century Sermon)

Please be gentle with yourself and others. We are all children of chance, And none can say why some fields blossom While others lay brown beneath the harvest sun. Take hope that your season will come. Share the joy of those whose season is at hand. Care for those around you. Look past your differences. Their dreams are no less than yours, Their choices in life no more easily made. And give. Give in any way you can. Give in every way you can. Give whatever you possess. Give from your heart. To give is to love. To withhold is to wither. Care less for the size of your harvest than for how it is shared, And your life will have meaning And your heart will have peace.

LECTORS
SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2020
5:30 P.M. Lynn Magnini
SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2020
7:30 A.M. Erika Reid
10:00 A.M. Sue Kummer
12 NOON Armando Haro
IRREPRESSIBLE
K.J. Alexander
To her, she’s just another foster kid. To them, she’s the queen who will save them all.

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