

Liturgies and Mass Intentions ~ Week of March 18, 2018

Sunday, March 18

9:00 am – Keenan/Dodd Families (Diane Keenan)
Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

11:00 am – Joan Randolph (Jack Randolph)

Monday, March 19

No Mass

Tuesday, March 20

11:00 am – For the Residents at Westminster Thurber

Wednesday, March 21

6:00 pm – Keenan/Dodd Families (Diane Keenan)

Thursday, March 22

6:00 pm – For those in RCIA

Friday, March 23

6:00 pm – For the Success of the Capital Campaign

Schedule of Sunday Liturgical Ministries

Thank you for your willingness to serve to make our Mass Successful

Ministers of Hospitality (Greeters)

March 18 – 9 am – Mary Jo and Sam Hulett

11 am – John Nunn, Stephanie Good

March 25 – 9 am – Louis Schulte, Jeanna Diederich,
Stephanie Good, Rich Miller

11 am – Gretchen Rivera, Bob Ariss,
Mason Rothrock, Theri Brady

Servers

March 18 – 9 am – Chris Paisley, 11 am – Gaetan O'Brien

March 25 – 9 am – Susan Kyanko, 11 am – Nolan Rothrock

Crucifers (Cross Bearers)

March 18 – 9 am – Skip Camerucci, 11 am – Julie Byrne

March 25 – 9 am – Bob Geoghegan, 11 am – Dan O'Brien

Lectors

March 18 – 9 am – Cecilia McAdams, Joyce Schneider

11 am – Tim Feran, Maryellen O'Shaughnessy

March 25 – 9 am – Katherine Kriedermann, Jarret Chirafisi

11 am – Emily Wu, Diane Meves

Eucharistic Ministers

March 18 – 9 am – MA Kerscher, F. Schneider, L. Celebrezze

11 am – Joanna Nunn, Lori Tocorzic, Sandy Glasner

March 25 – 9 am – Steve Hillyer, MA Kerscher, Kathy Porter

11 am – Marilyn Smith, Pat Visel, Mark Coleman

Gluten "Free"/Low Gluten Hosts...are available for those who wish to receive them. If you would like to receive a low-gluten host at Communion, please notify one of the greeters before Mass. This will allow us to observe and maintain safety protocols for those who are sensitive or allergic to gluten.



Calendar of Events at St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Please check the St. Francis website for the full calendar of events

Sunday, March 18

- ▶ 10:00 am – Sandwiches for St. Lawrence Haven
- ▶ 12:00 pm – Book Discussion Group
- ▶ 12:00 pm – Sacrament of Reconciliation
- ▶ 12:30 pm – First Communion Preparation
- ▶ 7:00 pm – Confirmation Preparation

Tuesday, March 20

- ▶ 11:00 am – Mass at Westminster Thurber
- ▶ 7:00 pm – Leadership Team Meeting

Wednesday, March 21

- ▶ 6:30 pm – Lenten Soup Supper
- ▶ 7:45 pm - RCIA

Thursday, March 22

- ▶ Parish Hall Closed for Floor Maintenance
- ▶ 7:00 pm – BREAD Meeting

Parish News and Information

Lenten Soup Suppers - Wed. March 28 at 6:30 pm



This week, several people from Franklin County Children Services will speak to us about the struggles children endure who come from abusive/neglectful homes; those who are in the foster care system who sometimes are in multiple homes every year; or those children from disadvantaged homes who need a role

model and someone to count on. There are several opportunities to volunteer with this organization or perhaps a group of us could establish an SFA Mission. Come Wednesday and let's see what the open hearts of SFA can do! Questions please contact Andy Randel at andy402randel@yahoo.com

First Communion – On Sunday, April 22 at 12:30 pm, we will be celebrating First Communion with 12 children from our parish. Please plan to join our kids as they take the next steps on their Catholic journey. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare for this important sacrament.



Confirmation – We have 7 young adults who are preparing to make their Confirmation. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as they take this next step in their Catholic journey. Please join the Confirmation Mass at St. Christopher Church at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, April 17 to help them celebrate!

St. Francis of Assisi St. Vincent DePaul is interested in supporting Women Affirming Women again this year. You generously donated gently used items for the Boutique last year, so if you begin your spring cleaning early set things aside. We'll begin collecting items April 8.



Some needed items are – Jewelry, Purses, Belts and Scarves, Hats and Sunglasses, Perfume, Makeup (New only), Flip-flops, Umbrellas

Credit Card and Electronic Giving – If you currently are making your contributions to the church by either credit card or Electronic Funds Transfer, and did not set it up yourself on our new website, would you please consider making that switch? Before the end of April, the office will discontinue the use of our current systems and only use the new online system. The new system is easier, more convenient, and safer. If you have any questions please contact the church office. Once you have set up your new online giving, please let the office know, so that we can stop your other donations.

Gospel Reflection ~ March 18, 2018

In John's Gospel, the portrait of Jesus is more majestic and exalted than in the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke). He and the Father are one, and the intimate relationship pervades the Gospel. Yet in the account of the raising of Lazarus, Jesus' human emotions come to the fore, displaying his deep love for Lazarus and his sisters and the pain he feels at Lazarus' death. Lazarus' sisters, Mary and Martha, send a brief message to Jesus, "Master (*kyrios*), the one you love is ill." Before making the journey to their home in Bethany, Jesus explains to his disciples that his friend's illness will not end in death, but for the glory of God, and that he will waken Lazarus, who has fallen asleep. Using the image of sleep, misunderstood by his disciples, (a frequent catalyst for teaching in John's Gospel) the disciples say that if he is only asleep, he will be saved (*sothesetai*), using a verb that can mean either "recover" or "be saved." Ironically, in their misunderstanding they have spoken the truth that Lazarus will be saved to eternal life.

Jesus' disciples are fearful about entering Judea, where Jesus' opponents will be waiting, perhaps to stone him. Demonstrating a combination of fear and desperation at Jesus' determination to go to Judea, his disciple Thomas cries out, "Let us also go to die with him." Lazarus' death, the presence of Jesus' enemies in Judea, and Thomas' outcry are foreboding signs of Jesus' Passion that will soon take place, just as his disciples feared.

Because Jesus had waited two days, and then made the journey to Bethany, Lazarus had not only died, but had even been in the tomb for four days. In the Judaism of the time, there was a common belief that a person's soul remained near the body for three days; by the fourth day, it was certain that the person had died. Even before Jesus arrives at the tomb, Martha hurries out to meet him. The conversation between Jesus and Martha is more than a personal dialogue. Woven into it is the faith-filled proclamation of the Church. With Martha, the Church believes, "Whatever you ask of God, God will give you." In the narrative and theological context of John's Gospel, Martha's statement reinforces the portrait of Jesus as the only Son of the Father, and looks ahead to Jesus' priestly prayer at the final supper with his disciples (John 17).

As their dialogue continues, Martha speaks as a Jew who believes in the resurrection of the dead. Not all Jews believed in the resurrection, but those who did looked for it only on the last day. Jesus moves Martha from their belief to a new revelation, an unveiling about Jesus himself as the Resurrection and the Life. He begins with "I am" (*ego eimi*), as he does elsewhere in John's Gospel: I am the bread of life, the light of the world, the sheep-gate, the good shepherd. Jesus' "I am" statements resonate with the divine "I am" announced to Moses (Exodus 3:14). Not only does Jesus' "I am" relate him to his Father, but the "I am" statements also present his saving relationship with those who believe in him, as bread, as shepherd, and as life. In response to Jesus' question, "Do you believe this?" Martha responds with the most fully developed confession of faith in John's Gospel: Jesus is Christ, Son of God, the one coming into the world.

As soon as Martha expressed her belief, she calls her sister Mary, who enters the scene along with Jews who had come to comfort her. Repeating Martha's greeting that Jesus could have saved her brother, Mary weeps. So too does Jesus, showing to all present how much he loved Lazarus. With words and actions that display the truth that Jesus is "the resurrection and the life," he orders the stone to be removed. He promises Martha that if she believes, she will see the glory of God, reiterating what he

had told his disciples when first hearing of Lazarus' illness. Jesus then prays aloud to his Father in a prayer of thanksgiving, for he knows, far more than Martha does, that God will do whatever he asks.

"Lazarus, come out!" Sometimes Jesus completes his signs with touching and other actions, and at other times with words alone. Jesus' words in this scene are brief and effective, as Lazarus immediately comes forth to be untied from the bands of death. In response to this last and greatest sign foreshadowing Jesus' own rising from the dead, some come to believe in him. Others determine that both Jesus and Lazarus must be put to death.

Source: Workbook for Lectors, Gospel Readers, and Proclaimers of the Word.

Next Sunday's Readings

Palm Sunday

Mark 11:1-10 (Gospel at the Procession)

Isaiah 50:4-7

Philippians 2:6-11

Mark 14:1-15:47



Capital Campaign

WOW! Several weeks ago we had commitment Sunday, when we asked parishioners to make their pledges for our Capital Campaign – Honoring the Past, Serving the Present, Preserving God's Gift for the Future. The response was phenomenal and this truly is a community planning for our future! Our goal is \$292,000, and to date we have \$176,864 paid. Thank you to those who have responded so generously. If you have not yet made your pledge, please consider doing so, so that you, too, can take ownership of this project.

RCIA

Third Scrutiny with the Elect; Helpers for Easter Vigil Preparation and Reception

- This morning at the 11:00 am Mass, we will celebrate with our Elect – Josh McNamee – the Third Scrutiny. Please continue to hold in prayer Josh and also Samantha and Mark who will join him in celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter Vigil.

Preparations for the celebration of Easter Vigil and the Parish Reception that follows will happen only with the help of many. If you would like to participate, please contact Kathy Dancey (kdancey@columbus.rr.com or [614-578-6195](tel:614-578-6195)) for more information. Thank you!

Our Deepest Sympathy

William M "Bill" Conway (brother of Frank Conway), 78, of London, died March 13, 2018. Bill was a founding member of Central Twp. Fire Department having served as firefighter, Captain, Asst. Chief and Chief over the course of 42 years. Served as Aviation Engine Mechanic with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves, was a 1957 Jonathan Alder graduate, founding member of EMS, had been a farmer for most his life, and drove a school bus for London City Schools. Visitation Sunday 2-6 PM at Rader-Lynch & Dodd Funeral Home, with Wake Service at 5:30 PM. Mass Monday at 10 AM at St. Patrick Catholic Church with Fr. Mark Ghiloni officiating. Burial in St. Patrick Cemetery. We offer Frank and his entire family our thoughts, prayers and love during this difficult time.