



As the United States faced the tumultuous Election Day of November 8, we should have pulled the lever of choice through the lens of our faith no matter how difficult the choice was. In all of my years of voting, I do not recall an election as volatile as this one. My first election as a young man was in 1980, and in the subsequent years of deciding which candidate to vote for the pro-life issue became paramount in my philosophy. If we cannot protect the most defenseless of human beings, the unborn child, then how can we make right decisions about other life matters such as economic and healthcare issues. Abortion corrupts the debate at the root level, and throws away future boys and girls that could provide answers to the pressing concerns of life. Why is it fine for you and I to be spared the butcher's knife in the medical profession, but others would be denied that human right? We correctly defend the bald eagle from deadly human actions, our pets against abuse, innocents from the death penalty, and immigrants from cruel measures of administrative application. How about the unborn baby, which is the physical state we all began in through the womb of our mother?

Fueled by my own adoption, I have pro-life convictions running deeply in my veins long before becoming a priest. I am upset about the direction of our world and America in relation to this most important of life debates, and recall quite vividly the warnings of Saint Mother Teresa of Kolkata who I had the privilege of meeting three sacred times in 1994. She said that a country that legally destroys its unborn children, born from the seed of God, cannot expect political or financial blessings from God. Such a nation also loses divine protection from enemies abroad and within. Jesus continues to weep.

Being thought prudent and wise in faith would certainly be the strategy that the Catholic Church wishes each of us to engage in, supported by our sacramental and prayerful participation in the life of Jesus Christ. There are times we must disconnect from persons, places, and things that do not advance our faith. I have to make such cuts in my life on occasion, yet notice how God brings good and true relationships into my life to replace those that I discerned were not the best for my spiritual growth. He has blessed me with wonderful human connections here at Saint Francis of Assisi in Newburgh, reflecting an incredible care and concern for my life as a priest. I am so grateful.

Our faith enables us to correctly interpret the world around us, with all of its acute problems and incredible beauty, despite our human frailties and imperfections. As we nourish that faith through spiritual reading, attending parish enrichment opportunities, developing a prayerful approach to what life throws at us individually and collectively, and connecting with good people of faith the task at hand becomes easier. I as a priest must be careful about whom is invited to be part of my interior development, as you should be. We have all made mistakes in that regard, and learn from them. From the website "Spirit Science" comes this gem: "There is a purpose for everyone you meet. Some people come into your life to test you, some to teach you, some to use you, and some to bring out the very best in you." God gives us a certain amount of time on planet earth to work this out in His favor. I am reminded of this joke: "A priest waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him. Finally, the attendant motioned toward a vacant pump. Father, said the young man, I'm so sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip. The padre chuckled, I know what you mean. It's the same in my business."

None of us know for sure when that final moment will come. Only God knows. We can plan and save for retirement all we want, but He is in charge whether we like it or not. A funeral hearse of our possessions does not accompany us. We learn from life, increase our faith, and even learn to laugh at its absurdities. With the long election process thankfully over, I close with this witty remark from the great comedian Groucho Marx (1890-1977) who opined: "Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it incorrectly, and applying the wrong remedies." God help us, and protect us from our foibles and troubled states.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. Nov 14

7:00am Hank Kensing
By Fr. Bill Damroth
Noon Josephine, Al Sr. and
Al Jr. Pushman
By Lorraine Deitz

Tues. Nov. 15

7:00am Vocations
Noon Walter Marvel
By Wife & Family
Agnes & Edward Wilson
By Kathy Scofield

Wed. Nov. 16

7:00am Dominick Grieco
(7th Anniv)
By Children & Grandchildren
Noon East Coldenham Disaster
Children & Families
(27th Anniv)
By Soltis Family

Thur. Nov. 17

7:00am The Unborn
Noon James Van Wart
By Brendan O'Dea

Fri. Nov 18

7:00am Thomas Randall
By Mary Randall
Noon Phyllis Hughes
By DeSarro Family

Sat. Nov. 19

Noon Olga Deagostino Meehan
By Daughters
Alana Tadry
By Ceriello Faily
4:30pm Albert Delessio
By Cerone & Strano Families

Sun. Nov. 20

8:00am Maureen Roche
By Family
Stella Irwin
By Family
11:00am Bill Cathcart
By Wife Barbara & Family
John Del Pup
By Bell & Del Pup Families



WEEKLY COLLECTON

November 5-6, 2016
1st Collection \$6,840.00
2nd Collection \$1,847.00
TOTAL \$8,687.00

*Our sincere thanks for your generosity
and support of our Parish.
God bless each and every one of you....always*

The 2nd collection this weekend is for
MAINTENANCE

MASS ATTENDANCE

November 5-6, 2016
4:30pm 198
8:00am 193
11:00am 287
Total 678



Our Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed
Sacrament on Wednesday from 5:00pm to 6:00pm will
be for the special intention of **VOCATIONS**

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy is recited on Sundays
at 10:40am before the 11:00am MASS

The 2017 MASS BOOK

Is now open
Rectory Hours 9:00am to 3:00pm

SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING

Tuesday, November 15th

7:00pm

O'Connor Hall

There will be a training session for all parish staff
and volunteers who have contact with children.
This required Archdiocesan training is open to all
new volunteers. as well as a refresher for all those
who have taken the training more than five years
ago. Who should attend:

Parish Staff

Religious Ed Teachers and Aides,
Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors

Music Ministry

Food Pantry Volunteers

AND

ALL Volunteers who come in contact with children

The mission of the Archdiocese's "Safe Environment
Program" is to insure the safety of children and young
people who have been entrusted to our care in our
parishes, schools, religious education classes and other
programs.

MASS IN SPANISH

Our next Scheduled Spanish Mass will be on Sunday **November 20th** at **2:00pm**. All are invited to attend.

Teen Youth Ministry

We are looking for teens between ages of 12-18 to join our Youth Ministry. Our kickoff activity will be a **movie afternoon**, followed by **pizza and refreshments** on Sunday, **November 13th** from **4:00 to 6:00pm** in O'Connor Hall. Come and join the fun, we look forward to seeing you there!

HIGH SCHOOL CONFIRMATION GROUP

The high school Confirmation group meets on **Fridays, 4:30pm until 6:00pm** in the **St. Francis Convent, 153 Benkard Avenue**. Entrance is off the back parking lot next to the parish office and rectory. The group is only for **9-12 graders who have not received Confirmation and are interested in doing so**. Please speak to Sr. Laura if you have questions.

Adult Catechisis

Any adult who has not received their sacraments and would like to do so, please see Sr. Laura or leave your name at the Rectory, 561-1317



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Vincenza Secor, Aaron Stagliano, Kelly Stafford, Robyn McGraw, John Sabo, Andrew Costanzo, Marie Wiejak, Rose, Stephen Sabo, Ashley Barco, Tom Scalzo, Nora Brickter, Gary Lake, Genevieve Pilch, Agnes Casey, Brianna Barker, Keith Webber, Jake Bryan DeStefano, Rose Marie Michalowski, Meryl Chatham, Vincenturia Cullen, Amy Meyer, Vinnie Yonnone, Grace Keller Peacock, Mary Corwin, Jean DeCicco, Don Hughes, David Jennings, Robert Johnson, Karen Wells, Marcia McKay, Victoria Palkovic, Elaine Pietrzak, Maureen Luzzi, Joyce Poponiak, Corrine Gammino, George Vecchio, Jr, Carol Brown, Teresa Centeno, Matthew Gallagher, Luzia Araujo, Celio Thomaz, Sherry Collins, Rosalie Nogay, Richard and Rina Bozzone, Antonio Troia, Cody Favoino Finkbeiner, Marie Louis, Sacha Samuel George, the Koch Family, Frank Pietrzak, John Marullo, Rose Jurik, Robert & Helen Osborn, Manuel DiNapoli, Jennie Serrano, Eddie Koza, Barbara Woloszyn, Gary McGraw, Rachael Neugebauer, Patricia Denniston, Arlene Dietrichsen, Maureen Kelly, Abigail Ryan, Debra Thurston, Toby Persico, Alexis Johnson, Barry Johnson, James R. Purpura, Bob Smith, Tom Kingery, Bud Smith, Amy Finnegan, Jane Pustola, Justin, Peter, Rita, Janice Ruggiero, Angela, Wayne, Abbie K., Dominick Denisi, Sebastian Denisi, Pam Denisi, Linda Hummel, Joseph Michalowski, Joann Quicksell, Frances Dolan, Daniel D'Elicio, Fr. Fred Kempferi, Carmen DeCrosa, Parker, Jane Holloway, Dore Williams, Hank Kensing, Virginia Ranaudo, Sheryl McGrath, Landi Family, Michelle Ryan, Rosalind Morrison, Donna Delconte, Joan Ponesse, Jim Taylor, Marilyn Lennox, Bruno Marchatta, Anne McClellan, Robert Vance, Rose Mitchell, Michael Suchowiecki, Louis Arbia, Dottie Rodriguez



FLOWER MEMORIAL

The flowers in the sanctuary this weekend are "In Loving Memory of **H. Robert Patterson Jr.** on his 20th Anniversary" given by his sisters Patti, Nancy and Fran.

THE CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

On **Monday, November 14th** Sr. Virginia Wilkinson of the Presentation Sisters will take us through **Matthew 25: The Corporal Works of Mercy** 2016 edition. She will look at the human face of those in society most in need and explore the role justice plays in our living out the corporal works of mercy. She will discuss the challenges of our call to clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, visit the imprisoned and shelter the homeless examining the root causes of some of these societal ills and ways to advocate on behalf of those in need. Sister Virginia will present **two sessions** in O'Connor Hall **10:30am to 12noon**, and **7:00pm to 8:30pm**.

ST. FRANCIS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov. 15th - Youth Group 4pm-6pm in O'Connor Hall
Nov. 14th - The Corporal works of Mercy by Sr. Virginia 10:30am to 12 noon **and** 7:00pm to 8:30pm
Nov. 15th - Safe Environment Training 7:00pm
Nov 16th - Eucharistic Adoration 5pm-6pm in Church
Nov 20th - Bagel & Coffee Hour after 8am Mass
Nov 20th - Spanish Mass 2pm
Dec 3rd 4th - Tag Sale in O'Connor Hall
Dec. 16th - Movie Night



Food Pantry Hours:

Friday 9:00am to 12noon
Saturday 9:00am to 12noon

In your goodness please bring **BOTTLES OF JUICE** to Church next weekend to be distributed to the less fortunate thru our Food Pantry.

The Food Pantry will be **closed** Friday, **November 11th** and Saturday **November 12th** for Veteran's Day weekend.

The Food Pantry will be **closed** Friday, **November 25th** and Saturday, **November 26th** for the Thanksgiving weekend.

CCHD COLLECTION

Next week's collection, November 19-20, for the **Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD)** needs your help. CCHD was founded to break the cycle of poverty in the United States by funding organizations that help individuals help themselves. With a tradition of improving education, housing situations, community economic development, CCHD continued to make a positive impact in communities nationwide. Your contribution will defend human dignity and reach out to those living on the margin. Please give to the CCHC Collection.



Please join us for our Second Annual Holiday Open House at our Rectory on **Saturday, November 19th** from **6:00 to 8:30pm**. Last year so many people were gracious enough to donate appetizers and desserts and we welcome that again this year.

We have a sign-up sheet in the back of the Church for people attending and also for those who wish to donate.



ATTENTION ALL MYTYHBUSTERS

Practice for our Children's Christmas Choir for the 4:30pm Christmas Eve Mass will begin on Tuesday, November 29th. Please contact Desiree Abbruscato, our Music Director, at 845-541-0769 or e-mail her at abbruscator@aol.com for more information.

ADULT CHRISTMAS CHOIR

NEEDED: Adult singers for our Christmas Masses. Christmas choir practices are scheduled for 7:00pm on Thursday evenings beginning November 17th. For more information please contact our Music Director, Desiree Abbruscato at 845-541-0769 or abbruscator@aol.com.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

We will be collecting shoe boxes filled with toys for Operation Christmas Child from November 1st thru November 13th. These boxes will be distributed all over the world to children in war torn areas. Brochures are in the back of the Church, explaining the project and also have the "Girl" "Boy" labels for the boxes. Bring your filled boxes and leave them at the altar railing steps by November 13th. For any questions or more information please call Suzanne Campora at 561-5162.



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

From November 5th until December 11th we will be collecting gifts for boys and girls from ages 1 to 12. Please take an "**Angel**" gift selection from the Christmas Giving Tree located in the back of the Church. Bring your new, unwrapped gift and leave it under the tree. The gifts will be distributed to local children through the Parish Food Pantry. We ask that you bring in all gifts by December 11th so we have time to distribute them all before Christmas.

***"We make a living by what we get,
but we make a life by what we give."***
Winston Churchill



On **Saturday December 3rd** from 9:00am to 2:00pm and **Sunday, December 4th** from 9:00am to 1:00pm Food Pantry volunteers Kitty Bernard and Margaret Miller will host a tag sale to benefit St. Francis Church. Due to the generosity of so many of our parishioners we have an overabundance of goods and will **no longer be able to accept donations**.

CARDINALS STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

Thank you to our most recent donor
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Kelly

Thank You!

FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

The Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal is vital in sustaining all the good that we do for the church in New York.

PILGRIMAGES

Plans have been finalized for two pilgrimages hosted by Fr. Bill in 2017.

1) Spain Pilgrimage for 11 days, April 24th thru May 4, visiting Lisbon, Fatima, Salamanca. Avila, Madrid, Lourdes Montserrat and Barcelona.

2) Alpine Christmas Adventure for 11 days, December 4th thru 14th visiting Frankfurt, Freiburg, Lucerne, Innsbruck, Salzburg, Oberammergau, Neuschwanstein, Munich, Rothenberg and Heidelberg.

To register or for additional information please call the rectory 561-1317.



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: _____

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Fill out and drop in the Offertory Collection or mail to St. Francis of Assisi Church, 145 Benkard Avenue, Newburgh, NY 12550.....and **Welcome!**


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