



Padre's Corner

May 7, 2017

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Saint Cyprian (200-258 AD) was a devout writer of the faith in Carthage, North Africa. A convert at age thirty-five, after a "dissipated youth," he was martyred under the decadent Emperor Valerian. He once wrote this eye-opening spiritual insight: "When I was still lying in darkness and gloomy night, I used to regard it as extremely difficult and demanding to do what God's mercy was suggesting to me. I myself was held in bonds by the innumerable errors of my previous life, from which I did not believe I could possibly be delivered, so I was disposed to acquiesce in my clinging vices and to indulge my sins. But after that, by the help of the water of new birth, the stain of my former life was washed away, and a light from above, serene and pure, was infused into my reconciled heart a second birth restored me to a new man. Then, in a wondrous manner every doubt began to fade. I clearly understood that what had first lived within me, enslaved by the vices of the flesh, was earthly and that what, instead, the Holy Spirit had wrought within me was divine and heavenly." Baptism restores us.

Life has a way of reminding us of our mortality, within the wider lens of perceiving a heaven or eternity that awaits us. While we have every responsibility to enjoy each day of life that God grants to us, like a woodpecker or termite attacking a wooden base we realize that the passage of time moves each of us ever so closer to that ultimate departure from planet earth. When I recently saw the "Association," a popular 1960's musical group (Windy, Never My Love, Along Comes Mary, Cherish), at a concert hall in Peekskill, the aging process was abundantly evident. Meeting the original members afterwards, fifty years after they began, was a vivid reminder that we may always be young of heart but not young of body.

Mayor Judy Kennedy, City of Newburgh, was recently diagnosed with ovarian cancer. "I think this cancer is definitely a teacher. I've always looked at most of the hardships in my life - and I've gone through two or three catalysts of real life-changing events - each that have propelled me forward as a better person. But each has required the walk through the dark night of the soul first." Saints like John of the Cross and Therese of Lisieux also defined their human struggles as a "dark night of the soul." John Constable, the artist of Suffolk in England, lived from 1776-1837. His paintings would touch the stark realities of the Industrial Revolution, pitting serene country sides versus smoky utterances from factory buildings. The death of his wife Maria, in 1828, thrust him into the tentacles of despair. Anglican Bishop John Fisher, a friend of Constable, inspired him to wed that searing grief to the painter's landscape of faith. Thus emerged, in 1831, "Salisbury Cathedral From The Meadows." The depictions of a bursting sky of dark clouds, a lonely lost dog, crumbling bridge, and swallows searching for a passage of light beckon thoughts of seeking God to lessen the burdens of life while offering hope.

Art historian Mary Tompkins Lewis teaches at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut. About this stirring painting, she reflected: "the painting may also chart a personal passage out of the grief that had lately consumed the artist. The arc of his rainbow, which stretches protectively over the cathedral, terminates exactly, and surely not by chance, in the archdeacon's residence on the cathedral close. Constable's compelling reworking of this familiar subject makes the painting a poignant tribute to friendship, to hope and to the enduring power of nature that sustained him." We apply our own struggles of loneliness, discouragement, fear, loss, and indecision within the frame of this painted reflection on life and faith. Saint Cyprian concludes: "We ought never to forget, beloved, that we have renounced the world. We are living here now as aliens and only for a time. When the day of our homecoming puts an end to our exile, frees us from the bonds of the world, and restores us to paradise and to a kingdom, we should welcome it... O, the delight of that heavenly kingdom where there is no fear of death! O, the supreme and endless bliss of everlasting life!"

My vocation as a priest is to help prepare you for heaven. Your job is to remind that this exit awaits me also. God bless our souls.

Father Bill Damroth

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. May 8

7:00am Andrew Lasek
By Parents
Noon Frank Loscerbo
By Henry & Clotilda Pelella

Tues. May 9

7:00am Gerard Jurgens
By George & Liz Ewanich
Noon Margaret Iannone
By Angelo Family

Wed. May 10

7:00am Joseph Stankiewicz
By Estate of Luke Stein
Noon Henry John Sawoska Jr.
"Health & Blessings"
By Elizabeth

Thur. May 11

7:00am Sr. Catherine Agnes CR
By Mary Ann & Tony Farkas
Noon St Francis Parish

Fri. May 12

7:00am Robert Anthony Michon
By Chris
Noon Our Confirmation
Students

Sat. May 13

Noon Ann & Anthony Farkas
By Mary Ann & Tony Farkas
Mary King
"Health & Blessings"
By Family
4:30pm Mildred Crisci
By Susan & Aldo Strano
Salvatore Fama
By Matthew Fama

Sun. May 14

8:00am Mother's Day Novena
11:00am Mother's Day Novena



WEEKLY COLLECTON

April 29-30, 2017

1st Collection \$ 5,971.00
2nd Collection \$ 1,641.00
TOTAL \$ 7,612.00

MASS ATTENDANCE

April 29-30, 2017

4:30pm 200
8:00am 189
11:00am 170
1:30pm 56
Total 615

**The 2nd Collection this week is for
THE CHURCH IN CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE**



Our **Holy Hour** with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesday from 5:00pm to 6:00pm is for the intention of **Our Confirmation Students.**

100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima

On May 13th, 1917, a beautiful woman in white, more brilliant than the sun, appeared to three shepherd children in the small village of Fatima, Portugal. She appeared six times to Lucia (9) and her cousins Francisco (8) and Jacinta (6) between May 13th and October 13, 1917.

Our Lady of Fatima told the children.....

***"To pray and say the Rosary every day,
To bring Peace to the World"***

At the last apparition (Oct. 13, 1917) over 70,000 people witnessed, "the sun circling three times." In 1930, the Bishop had approved the apparition as authentic. Since 1930 millions of people from all over the world have traveled to Fatima to pray to Our Lady.



Congratulations to our students who will receive the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation on Friday, May 12th at 5:30pm. Keep them in your prayers.

TODAY
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

With great authority, Peter proclaims to the people that the Christ who was crucified is indeed the Messiah. Urging them to reform and be baptized in the name of Christ, three thousand responded to his words and were baptized.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:20b-25

This is a strong exhortation from Peter to the people to endure suffering for Christ as he did for them. Healed by his wounds, they have "returned to the shepherd."

Gospel: John 10:1-10

Christ uses the beautiful image of the shepherd to describe his care for his sheep. He also says he is the sheepgate and promises that "Whoever enters through me will be safe."

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday
Acts 11:1-18; Jn 10:11-18
- Tuesday
Acts 11:19-26; Jn 10:22-30
- Wednesday
Acts 12:24—13:5a; Jn 12:44-50
- Thursday
Acts 13:13-25; Jn 13:16-20
- Friday
Acts 13:26-33; Jn 14:1-6
- Saturday
Acts 13:44-52; Jn 14:7-14



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Vincenza Secor, Aaron Stagliano, Marie Wiejak, Ashley Barco, Agnes Casey, Rose Marie Michalowski, George Vecchio, Jr, Carol Brown, Luzia Araujo, Celio Thomaz, Rosalie Nogay, Rose Jurik, Robert & Helen Osborn, Manuel DiNapoli, Rachael Neugebauer, Maureen Kelly, James R. Purpura, Jane Pustola, Joann Quicksell, Frances Dolan, Daniel D'Elicio, Fr. Fred Kempferi, Carmen De Crosta, Parker, Jane Holloway, Donna Delconte, Joan Ponesse, Jim Taylor, Marilyn Lennox, Bruno Marchatta, Anne McClellan, Louis Arbia, Dottie Rodriguez, Michael Rosenburg, Maureen Sullivan, Frank D'amario, Amanda Keane, Tom (Manay) Conroy, Gertrude Poland, Rita Froehlich, Brian Scott Monahan, Chelsea Dunderdale, Bill Mowry, Susan Randall, Mary Hollenbeck, Donnie Ruckdeschel, Patrick Comyns, John Marullo, Carol Brown, Geroge Vechio Jr, Jaddon Johnson, Rina & Richard Bozzone, Rebecca Pacella, Rose DiDonato Lena Biasini Zullo, Pam Kunert, Janet Coiteux, Vincent Mc Parkland and Family, Jozef Froniewski and Teresa Centeno.



Food Pantry Hours:
Friday 9:00am to 12noon
Saturday 9:00am to 12noon

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.

The Pantry no longer needs egg cartons

Thank you to those who donated

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](tel:845-863-6504). All students need to pre-register with Curt Bourdage before showing up at the pantry, please.

ST FRANCIS UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 6-7** - Gifts of Bethlehem
- May 12th** - Confirmation 5:30pm
- May 21st** - First Communion 11:00am
- May 27th** - Movie Night
- May 28th** - Bagel Hour after 8:00am Mass
- May 29th** - Memorial Day Mass at Cemetery 9:00am

\$\$\$ CONGRATULATIONS TO.....

Mr & Mrs Joe Hughes the April winners of **\$249.00** in our Monthly 50/50 Raffle. Be sure your envelope is in for our next drawing in May.



The Knights of Columbus, Msgr. Henry O'Carroll Council 444 are holding a **recruitment drive** this weekend **after all the Masses**. All men 18 and over are invited to join. For more info call Chairman Ray Lopez at 845-926-8357 or co-chairman Bill Kuntz at 201-697-920.

GIFTS OF BETHLEHEM

Representatives from the Gifts of Bethlehem will be here at **all the Masses this weekend** displaying and selling their olive wood creations hand-made in Bethlehem.



GIVE/SHARE A RIDE

We have some people in our parish who would like to share a ride with someone from their area going to Mass on Saturday/Sunday. If you need a ride **OR** would be willing to give someone a ride to Mass please call the rectory with your name and telephone number.



REMINDER

Confirmation Practice

Wed., May 10th 6:30pm with sponsor
Thur., May 11th 6:30-7:30pm students only
Confirmation Day - Friday, May 12th
Students & sponsors 4:30pm in O'Connor Hall
Confirmation Mass 5:30pm

First Communion Practice

Tues., May 9th 6:00pm in Church
Tues., May 16th 6:00pm in Church
First Communion Day – Sunday, May 21st
Meet at 10:30am in O'Connor Hall
Communion Mass 11:00am



The Catholic Daughters, Court Patricia #195, will meet at **7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 10th**, at Sacred Heart Church for the crowning of the Virgin Mary and recitation of the rosary. A short business meeting will follow in the Msgr. Valastro Activity Center. New members are always welcome. For further information please call Linda DeWitt at [845 565-7837](tel:8455657837).



DARTBALL

St. Francis Dartball Team needs a few men to join in for their next season. Call Tom Flagler at 845-564-5725 for more information.

OPUS DEI

Opus Dei will hold a *Night of Recollection* on **Wednesday, May 17th** from **6:30pm to 8:30pm** at Most Precious Blood Church, 42 Walnut Street in Walden. Confessions will be available. All are invited to attend. For more information please contact Helene Stagliano at 564-1107.



SAVE THE DATE...The Knights of

Columbus Council #444 is hosting the 7th Annual Msgr. Henry O'Carroll Memorial Car Show on **Sunday, June 18th** from **10:00am to 3:00pm** at The Newburgh Mall. For more information call Ken Ryan 845-565-8015 or Charles Smith 845-561-8647.

ADVERTISER'S CORNER

Thank you

TO OUR BULLETIN ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK, **Weidner Memorials**, located at 3245 Route 9W in Highland. Weidner's expertise and kindness will help you with your important decisions when shopping for cemetery monuments.



PILGRIMAGES

Fr. Bill is hosting two upcoming Pilgrimages

1) ALPINE CHRISTMAS ADVENTURE

December 4-14, 2017

Visit Frankfurt, Freiburg, Lucerne, Innsbruck, Salzburg, Oberammergau, Neuschwanstein, Munich, Rothenberg and Heidelberg, featuring Europe's famous Chrstkindl Markets.

2) THE HOLY LAND

January 8-17, 2018

Visit Haifa, Tiberias, Nazareth, Bethlehem and Jerusalem. Walk where Jesus walked in Jerusalem and visit the Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane and Mt. Zion. Also visit the Church of the Nativity, Shepherd's Field, the Sea of Galilee and the sites of the Sermon on the Mount and the miracle of the loaves and fishes.

Brochures are located in the back of the church and at the sacristy door entrance. For questions please call the rectory 845-561-1317.

*I can do ALL things
through CHRIST
who strengthens me*

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.

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