



Padre's Corner

September 24, 2017

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The fragile components of earthly existence gets round two this week in Padres Corner, as it is a regular theme in human life. We are all one moment away from an accident, bad health diagnosis, victory lap, blessing unexpected, back spasm, broken friendship or marriage, graced insight, healing from addiction, and even the sadness of death followed by the eternal embrace of God in heaven.

In Cooperstown, New York I saw a photograph of New York Yankees legend Lou Gehrig with these words by sportswriter Jim Murray: "He was a symbol of indestructibility - a Gibraltar in cleats." Paradoxically, Gehrig died at the age of thirty-seven on June 2, 1941. Shortly after his fatal diagnosis in 1939 of an incurable neuromuscular disorder, he spiritualized this fragile turn of events. "Don't think I am depressed or pessimistic about my condition at present. I intend to hold on as long as possible and then if the inevitable comes, I will accept it philosophically and hope for the best. That's all we can do." Two days after Gehrig died in Riverdale, New York he was buried at Kensico Cemetery in Valhalla after services at Christ Episcopal Church in Riverdale. His wife Eleanor, who would die forty-three years later while never getting remarried, said this about Lou: "I had the best of it. I would not have traded two minutes of my life with that man for 40 years with another." Seven years after Gehrig was transported to heaven, Babe Ruth would die and be buried at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Hawthorne just a short distance from Kensico.

In my priestly ministry, I have buried quite a few of the faithful at both of these cemeteries. My love of baseball and American history, in conjunction with this spiritual theme of fragility, addresses another event from the 1940's juxtaposed between these two events of legendary players. World War II was still emblazoned in 1942, as the United States was in a fragile situation with regard to enemies abroad. Commissioner Kenesaw M. Landis, of Major League Baseball, was trying to decide that year if the baseball season should be suspended because of the mortal war conflict. On January 15, 1942 President Franklin Roosevelt wrote this letter, in part, to Landis about how he felt the game should deal with this fragile moment in world history. "... The final decision about the baseball season must rest with you and the Baseball Club owners, so what I am going to say is solely a personal and not an official point of view. I honestly feel that it would be best for the country to keep baseball going. There will be fewer people unemployed, and everybody will work longer hours and harder than ever before. And that means that they ought to have a chance for recreation, and for taking their minds off their work even more than before. Baseball provides a recreation which does not last over two hours or two hours and a half, and which can be got for very little cost. And, incidentally, I hope that night games can be extended because it gives an opportunity to the day shift to see a game occasionally."

Fragility of life embraces the persons, places, and things that may be part of our life at one moment. Fires, mishaps, disagreements, accidents, and the basic unpredictability of life could disengage us from any of these three components at any second. They should remind us of what is most important. Tony Robbins, the motivational speaker, said at a recent achievement award gala: "As long as your life has a mission beyond yourself and you keep growing, progress will equal happiness... possessions can't guarantee a good life. What you get won't make you happy. Who you become will either make you very happy or very sad." Robbins was in a 2001 film "Shallow Hal," starring Jack Black as a shallow man who finds his true spiritual core after visiting children permanently disfigured at a burn center. This will be a future movie night for the parishes. Our fragility should lead us to our faith, family, and the few trusted friends that God gives to each of us as gifts. The ability to see this more clearly comes through our well-earned days off and periodic vacations, which everybody should do for mental health and spiritual purposes. Terry Pratchett, author of "A Hat Full of Sky," reflected: "Why do you go away? So that you can come back. So that you can see the place you came from with new eyes and extra colors." Amen to that. Fragility can lead to spiritual growth and perspective, when united in prayer and sacrament to Jesus. Father Bill

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. Sept. 25

7:00am **Elsie Settanni**

By Mary King

Noon **Mary Ann Fabiano**

By Ciccone Family

Tues. Sept. 26

7:00am The Unborn

Noon **Ralph L. Puglielle Sr.**

By Carmela & David Rupp

Bill Cathcart

By Wife Barbara Family

Wed. Sept. 27

7:00am **Kathleen Park & Anna**

Cleeves

By Susan & Paul Schatz

Noon **Stephen Patrick Coyle**

By Joseph C. Coyle & Friends

William A. Scafidi Sr.

By Andy & Nancy

Thur. Sept. 28

7:00am **Joseph & Drew Dillon**

By Eileen Dietz

Noon **Stephen Patrick Coyle**

By Joseph P. Coyle & Friends

Fri. Sept. 29

7:00am **Stewart Menzies**

By Daughter Doris Therrien

Noon **Janice M. Janufka-Dunn**

By Beverly Donato

Sat. Sept. 30

Noon **Mary King**

Special Intention

4:30 **Anna Stenglein**

By Family

Jennifer Fleenor

By The Brady's

Sun. Oct 1

8:30am **Charles Baranski**

By Loving Children

11:00am **Dolores Gerbes**

By Dan & Helene Kerin & Family

Bernice Palmiere

Pucino

By Vince Cracolici



WEEKLY COLLECTON

Sept 16-17, 2017

1st Collection \$ 4,968.00

2nd Collection 2,526.00

TOTAL \$ 7,494.00

MASS ATTENDANCE

Sept 16-17, 2017

4:30pm 153

8:30am 156

11:00am 207

1:30pm 56

TOTAL 572

The 2nd Collection this week is for
PARISH GROUNDS



Our **Holy Hour** with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament this **Wednesday** from **5:00pm to 6:00pm** is for the intentin of **THE UNBORN**

"God always has patience."

Pope Francis

SUNDAY MASS TIMES

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Saturday Vigil – 4:30pm

Sunday – 8:30 & 11:00am

1:30pm (Spanish Mass)

SACRED HEART

Saturday Vigil – 5:30pm

Sunday – 7:30am (Italian Mass)

10:00am & 12:00noon



2017-2018 Class Schedules

Mondays	Grades 1-6	4:30 to 6:00pm
Mondays	Grades 7&8	6:30 to 8:10pm
Tuesdays	Grades 1-6	4:45 to 6:15pm
Wednesdays	Grades 7&8	6:00 to 7:40pm

Confirmation Classes for High School Students

Tuesdays Grades 9-12 6:30 to 8:00pm

See Sister Laura

Our Religious Ed Program is in need of a few teachers for our Monday 4:30 to 6:00pm and Tuesday 4:45 to 6:15pm sessions. If you are interested please contact Sr. Laura at the rectory 561-1317.

TODAY

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9

Isaiah expresses an urgent plea that all should seek the Lord and turn to him for mercy.

Second Reading: Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a

In a strongly personal message from Paul while in prison, he says that he wishes "to be freed from this life and to be with Christ," but he realizes that he still has much important work to do.

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16a

Jesus tells the parable of the owner of an estate who hires workmen for his vineyard. When, at the end of the day, he pays a full day's wage to those who worked only one hour, those who worked all day complained bitterly. But the owner says, "I am free to do as I please, am I not?" Jesus reminds us through this parable that "the last shall be first and the first shall be last."

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday

Ezr 1:1-6; Lk 8:16-18

Tuesday

Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20; Lk 8:19-21

Wednesday

Ezr 9:5-9; Lk 9:1-6

Thursday

Hg 1:1-8; Lk 9:7-9

Friday

Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a; Jn 1:47-51

Saturday

Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a; Lk 9:43b-45



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, Frances Dolan, Daniel D'Elicio, Carmen De Crosta, Parker, Jane Holloway, Donna Delconte, Joan Ponesse, Jim Taylor, Marilyn Lennox, Bruno Marchatta, Anne McClellan, Louis Arbia, Dottie Rodriguez, Maureen Sullivan, Frank D'amario, Amanda Keane, Tom (Manay) Conroy, Gertrude Poland, Rita Froehlich, Brian Scott Monahan, Chelsea Dunderdale, Mary Hollenbeck, Donnie Ruckdeschel, Patrick Comyns, John Marullo, Jaddon Johnson, Rina & Richard Bozzone, Rebecca Pacella, Lena Biasini Zullo, Pam Kunert, Janet Coiteux, Vincent McParkland and Family, Jozef Froniewski, Teresa Centeno, Bobbi Hull, Angie Monaco, Emily Cooley, Frank Celeste, Amy Finnegan, Brian Hanrahan, Toni Loparco Shepardson, Shawn Zuzio, Donald (Leed) Zubawicz, Louise McHugh, Pat Alexander and Vic Landi



ROSARY RALLY

The Catholic War Veterans, Post 386 invite you to join them on Saturday, October 14th at 12noon in front of Sacred Heart Church on Robinson Avenue in Newburgh as they pray the Rosary asking for the Blessed Mother's intercession for World Peace. Please bring your Rosary and lawn chair.



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

In your goodness please bring **CANNED VEGETABLES** to Church next weekend to be distributed to the less fortunate in our area thru our Food Pantry.

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**. All students need to pre-register with Curt Bourdage before showing up at the pantry, please.

ST. FRANCIS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sept 27th - Eucharistic Adoration 5:00-6:00pm
Sept 29nd - Youth Group 6:30 pm O'Connor Hall
Oct 7th - Blessing of the Animals 2:30pm Prayer Garden
Oct 15th - Coffee & Bagel Hour

SACRED HEART CHURCH SCRIPTURE STUDY

All are invited to join in the Scripture Study Group moderated by Fr. Bejoy held on Wednesdays from 4:00 to 5:00 pm in the Chapel at Sacred Heart Church. It is an ongoing event and need not always be a weekly commitment.



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 444
WILL BE SELLING RAFFLE TICKETS
AFTER ALL THE MASSES
THIS WEEKEND**



Our little feathered friends have been happily flying around the church grounds and feasting at our bird feeders. Our supply of bird seed is getting low. If anyone would like to donate bird seed it can be dropped off at the rectory.



**BLESSING
OF THE ANIMALS**

In remembrance of the Feast Day of St Francis, Fr. Bill will be blessing all our animals on Saturday, October 7th at 2:30pm in our Prayer Garden. In case of inclement weather, the blessing will take place inside the main Church.

All pets are welcome.



Through the generosity of our parishioners we received \$74,000 in pledges at last weekend's Masses. To date, we are at \$549,110 which is 84% of our goal. Thank you to those who so generously contributed. We asked those who have not yet made a pledge to prayerfully consider doing so.



Dear Fr. Bill & All Our Friends at St. Francis
Thank you so much for supporting our Annual Raffle. We are very grateful for always being welcomed at your parish. Please be assured of the continued prayers of our Sisters and Associates.

Gratefully in Christ
Sr. Mary Byrnes, PBVM
Director of Mission Advancement

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

We are in need of Eucharistic Minister volunteers to visit our hospital on the 1st and 2nd Wednesdays of the month. If you are interested and can help please contact Suzanne Campora at 561-5162.



ADULT CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

A program for adults 18 years of age or older who are Catholics seeking the sacrament of Confirmation. To participate you must have received the sacraments of Baptism and First Communion. The eight week program will cover a variety of topics including the Creed, prayer and spirituality, Sacred Scripture, tradition and the meaning of the sacrament of Confirmation. For more information please contact Sr. Pat Reills at 508-331-6044 or Sandra Corsetti at 845-561-4813

HEALTHY ORANGE FARMERS MARKET

Fresh vegetables, fruits and herbs, eggs, honey and baked goods available at the Green Lot at 141 Broadway between Lander and Johnston Streets. Open on Tuesdays from 10:00am to 2:00pm thru October 24th.



TRICKY TRAY SOCIAL

The Catholic Daughters, Court Patricia #195 is hosting their annual Tricky Tray on Friday, October 6th at Gallo Hall in Sacred Heart School. Doors open at 6:00pm. Hamburgers, hot dogs and nachos/cheese will be available for purchase. All are invited to attend.

Father Bill is hosting two Pilgrimages

1) ALPINE CHRISTMAS ADVENTURE

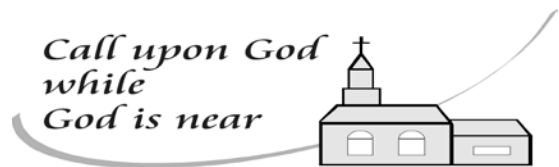
December 4-14, 2017

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.



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: _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

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