



## Padre's Corner

**December 17, 2017**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**

Gary Conway (Gareth Monello Carmody) was born in a Sicilian Catholic family on February 4, 1936 in Boston, Massachusetts. From 1968-1970 he starred in the Irwin Allen science fiction series "Land of the Giants." The show reflected the chaos of life and society, during the turbulent times of the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. (April 4, 1968) and Robert F. Kennedy (June 5, 1968). Their transport ship the Spindrift leaves London (struck by terrorist attacks once again on a train three months ago), before getting caught in a magnetized space storm that warps it to a strange planet occupied by humans and animals twelve times the normal size of the rest of us. The Giant society reflects the discontent of the world in 1968 as represented in its police force, privatized hospitals, prisons, autocratic governor, controlled media, zoos, jazz clubs, and a racetrack.

Cloning of the Giants takes place, in a foreshadowing of issues that moral theologians grapple with today. The captured humans try to survive by finding food, avoiding the Giants, and trying to repair their spaceship to escape the unknown planet that has entrapped them. They use the elements of faith, courage, and internal fortitude to outwit the Giants who see them as living toys to manipulate and capture. The series was inspired by earlier 1960's shows, such as "Lost In Space" and the "Time Tunnel."

I loved these shows in the late 1960's as a young boy, looking in my young psyche for methods to navigate the complications of yearning for a future path. I was influenced by church attendance to find the way through God, raised by parents to take this faith component very seriously. I met Gary Conway on September 14, the very day of the terrorist attacks in England. The setting was the "Mid Atlantic Nostalgia Convention" in Hunt Valley, Maryland less than thirty minutes from Baltimore. Gary played Captain Steve Burton in the series, which lasted fifty-one episodes. We had the opportunity to speak for roughly thirty minutes, as he seemed intrigued by my priesthood. He had been raised in the Roman Catholic tradition, but left the Church in the radical 1960's while seeking a deeper way to connect with his spiritual yearnings. He became a Unitarian, which has a spiritual system based less on dogma and structure. Yet he praised Pope Francis and is finding his personal reflections being shaped by the words of the Holy Father, especially on issues of the environment and climate control. The show became a connecting point for both of us, as we focused on the life lessons that emerge from both Hollywood and the faith God has given to us. He said that if he was living in New York, and not as a wine-grower in Northern California, he would attend our parishes in Newburgh. Light in the midst of the darkness. I also met his wife Marian McKnight, who was Miss America in 1957.

At the same nostalgia convention was Shirley Jones, matriarch in the "Partridge Family" series from 1970 through 1974. Shirley, born in 1934, played a widowed mother in the show during the complicated early 1970's marred by the Vietnam War and other political storms. The program was loosely based on the singing family "The Cowsills," who I have seen in concerts ("The Rain, The Park, and Other Things" plus "Indian Lake") and even met afterwards. Sister Laura Urbano met them a few months ago with me after a concert in Englewood, New Jersey. Shirley sent me an autographed letter roughly ten years ago. Like Gary she posed for a photo with me, and signed a few items.

So why with Christmas one week away do I write about all of this nostalgia in American culture for fifty years ago? Because these are cinematic glimpses of hope that offered a sense of courageous optimism in arduous times, much like what we face today. Jesus, the ultimate example of inspiration and courage, was born in darkened times like we live in today. This baby born of the Virgin Mary within the Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit not only transformed His age but gave future generations of humanity the graces to provide the life lessons of faith and courage that my innocent youthfulness found in "Land of the Giants" and the "Partridge Family." As we face the challenges of our times and the parish merger, we seek His plan and help.

Father Bill

# MASS INTENTIONS

## Mon. Dec. 18

7:00am William Delmore

By Grehl Family

Noon Ann Borka

By Family

**Louis Talamo**

By Paula & John O'Connell

## Tues. Dec. 19

7:00am Mary & Joseph Vitay

By Mary Ann & Tony Farkas

Noon Jose Calderon

By Family

**Craig McFarland**

By Wife

## Wed. Dec. 20

7:00am Marion Miller

By Helen Miler

Noon Maria Diaz

By The Morgan Family

## Thur. Dec. 21

7:00am Fr. Peter – 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee  
of his Ordination

Noon Frank Hoffmann

By Family

**Howard Scofield**

(3<sup>rd</sup> Anniv)

By Wife Kathy

## Fri. Dec. 22

7:00am John & Nancy Squillini

Patricia Mary Fisher

By Joe Coyle

Noon World Peace

## Sat. Dec. 23

Noon Nancy Geelan

By Family

**Ann (Nunnie) Alonge**

By Fran Catania & Family

4:30pm John & Victoria

**Dombroski**

By Nick & Helene Stagliano

**Mary Ann Fabiano**

By Brian & Helene Sloat

## Sun. Dec. 24

8:30am St. Francis Parish

11:00am Frieda Formato

“Health & Blessings”



## WEEKLY COLLECTON

Dec. 9 & 10, 2017

1<sup>st</sup> Collection \$ 4,801.00

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection 1,500.00

TOTAL \$ 6,301.00

Immaculate Conception \$1,458.00

## MASS ATTENDANCE

Dec. 9 & 10, 2017

4:30pm 69

8:30am 140

11:00am 216

1:30pm 68

Total 493

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection this week is for  
ORGAN REPAIR

## ADVENT RECONCILLIATION

Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017

3:00pm-5:00pm St Francis

5:00pm-7:00pm Sacred Heart

## CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

**ST. FRANCIS**

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:30pm Family Mass

9:00pm Spanish Mass

Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY

8:30am

11:00am

**SACRED HEART**

Christmas Eve

5:30pm

10:00pm

Christmas Day

7:30am Italian Mass

10:00am

12noon

As the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve fall on the same day, the Vigil Mass for Christmas Eve does not fulfill your Sunday obligation.

**TODAY**  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**First Reading:** Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11

Isaiah describes the joy and salvation which will accompany the coming of Christ. He compares the plants which spring from a garden to the justice that will spring from all nations.

**Second Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Paul reminds the Thessalonians to constantly ready themselves for Christ's arrival. He tells them to "avoid any semblance of evil" so that they may be found irreproachable when Jesus does arrive.

**Gospel:** John 1:6-8, 19-28

John explains that he is only a messenger to the people for one more powerful than himself. John stresses to them that they must make a path for the one so powerful that he is not fit to unfasten the strap of his sandal.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday**

Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25

**Tuesday**

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25

**Wednesday**

Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38

**Thursday**

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45

**Friday**

1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56

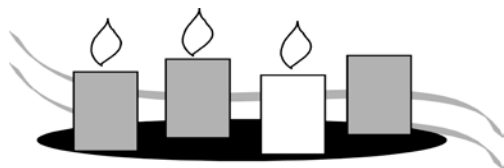
**Saturday**

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66



**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, 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 Mc Parkland and Family, Jozef Froniewski, Teresa Centeno, Bobbi Hull, Angie Monaco, Emily Cooley, Frank Celeste, Amy Finnegan, Brian Hanrahan, Toni Loparco Shepardson, Donald (Leed) Zubawicz, Louise McHugh, Pat Alexander, Alex Galant, Evelyn Kawula, Taylor Fogel and Jake Tigar



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

Food Pantry will be closed  
**Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>**

and

**Saturday, December 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>**  
For the Christmas and New Year Holidays

In your goodness please bring **BOTTLES OF JUICE** 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 Mr. Bourdage before showing up at the pantry, please.

**THE BACKPACK PROGRAM**

The Backpack Program has begun. Anyone interested in volunteering to help with this program should speak to one of the Food Pantry members.

**NOVEMBER FOOD PANTRY STATISTICS:**

Served 1207 children  
1,883 adults  
250 seniors  
Total 1,126 households

**WE'RE MOVING**

Due to much needed building repairs, the Deacon Jack Seymour Food Pantry is moving on **Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>** to the Monsignor Valastro Center, **319 Broadway**. If you have a vehicle and a few spare hours and can help move products and tables between the hours of 12:00 to 4:00 pm please meet at the Food Pantry.

**SPANISH MASS**

**Dec 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve Day**  
There will be no Spanish Mass at 1:30pm

**Dec 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve Night**  
We will have the last night of the Posadas, the rosary and Christmas all in Spanish at **8:00pm** followed by Christmas Eve Mass at **9:00pm**

**Dec 25<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Day**  
There will be no Spanish Mass at 1:30pm



### FLOWER MEMORIALS

The Flowers on the Altar this weekend are  
"In Loving Memory of Howard Scofield  
on his 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary"  
Given by wife Kathy



Sacred Heart and St. Francis choirs will come together to present an **Advent Christmas Concert** this afternoon **Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm** in Sacred Heart Church. A reception with light refreshments will immediately follow in the church chapel. In the spirit of giving, we ask all attendees to bring nonperishable food items. All donated items will be given to the Deacon Jack Seymour Food Pantry at St. Francis Church.



**St Francis Rectory  
and  
Sacred Heart Rectory  
will be closed on  
Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>  
and Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>  
for the Christmas holiday.**

### OCEANS OF MERCY

#### Healing after Abortion

Do you know someone who is carrying the grief of a past abortion? There is help and hope available, and the pain and sorrow of abortion need not endure for a lifetime. A "Day of Prayer and Healing" offers the opportunity to experience the love and mercy of God and to heal the wound of abortion. For dates, location and confidential registration, or to talk to a sister, please contact the Sisters of Life at 866-575-0075 (toll free) or e-mail [hopeandhealing@sistersoflife.org](mailto:hopeandhealing@sistersoflife.org).

#### Days of Prayer and Healing for Men

For more information or to register for men, please call Lumina at 877-586-4621 or e-mail [Lumina@postabortionhelp.org](mailto:Lumina@postabortionhelp.org).

**THANK YOU** ...from the Women's Craft Project! Even with the snowy winter weather, the Women's Craft Project of Newburgh Ministry took home \$512 in sales and generous cash donations Sr. Virginia and the women are very grateful for your continued support! God bless you!

### INTERFAITH SERVICE

Our first Interfaith Service was a big success. The service radiated inspiration and fellowship. Thank you to all who participated in preparing for this wonderful event. The music was exceptional with the help of so many choir people from all faiths. A special thank you to our choir members: John, Cathy C, Kathy P, Mary, Mary Kay, Sue and Theresa B for representing the superb talents of our own St. Francis Parish.

### HEALING MASS

A Healing Mass will be celebrated at Our Lady of Fatima Church on Route 32 in Plattekill at 4pm today **Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm.**

### SCANDINAVIA & ST. PETERSBURG CRUISE

On Board the NCL Norwegian Breakaway  
September 21- October 3, 2018

Hosted By:

Father Bill Damroth



Copenhagen (Denmark), Warnemunde (Germany), Tallinn (Estonia), St. Petersburg (Russia), Helsinki (Finland), Stockholm (Sweden)

Starting at \$3,049 per person including airfare. includes roundtrip air from New York, Cruise taxes, port charges and transfers between airport/hotel/pier.

### 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.*