



Padre's Corner

March 25, 2018
Fifth Sunday of Lent

"When we are at Mass on Christmas morning, let us be thoughtful of our persecuted brothers (sisters) in Mexico. Let us think of them with sympathy and affection. And let us rejoice with them. For it is possible that the Christmas Star will shine more brightly over Mexico where men are suffering for their faith, than over lands where men are apt to be forgetful, in their comfort, of the goodness of God... "These words in the December, 1926 "Columbia" magazine were uttered by Knights of Columbus Supreme Knight James A. Flaherty.

Mexican President Plutarco Elias Calles had begun in early 1926 a series of anti-Catholic laws and physical persecutions of the Church. Continued Flaherty: "In Mexico, a tyrant has done all that a man can do when he chooses to make war on Christ. He has murdered and imprisoned priests, he has seized the sacred vessels of the altar, he has dispersed worshippers, he has desecrated churches and put ruffians on guard before their doors. Yet, despite the vileness of his intentions, he has provided the people of Mexico with an opportunity to know Christmas gloriously as the martyrs knew it, as Christ Himself knew it, in poverty, stripped of the gaudiness that mocks the simple beauty of the day." Are the times of 1926 really that different from what we experience nine decades later in 2018?

Things are certainly more positive in Mexico, the homeland of many of the immigrants in Saint Francis of Assisi, but elsewhere in the world the situation is much more dire. In many countries of the Middle East, Christians must hide their faith or face persecution. Even with supposed allies, like Saudi Arabia, the faithful are not allowed to wear crosses or bring Bibles into the country. ISIS terrorists, though seemingly diminished in power, still hatefully target Christians and Jews as well as Muslims they deem inferior to their doctrinal decrees. In the United States within recent years there have been attacks on churches no less violent, leaving many behind in death. An African-American parish in South Carolina come to mind as well as a Caucasian parish in Texas. Hatred knows no boundaries of race, faith, or culture. There is also a war on the faith through the trickery of laws, which attack teachings of the Church under the guise of protecting human rights. The most obvious one in my mind is the defense of the unborn child in the maternal womb. For the life of me I cannot fathom how anyone can support the destruction of a human being, ever so defenseless, in a womb that should never be a tomb of execution.

To observe politicians, doctors, nurses, media outlets, human rights organizations, educational establishments, and even Catholics defend such policies is beyond belief to me. To equate the murder of an unborn child to other issues as being similar of importance is unreal to me. At least the living have a fighting chance in a society that yearns for justice. The unborn baby cannot scream out from the womb, so there is no voice to be heard or recognized. I think of my pets also in this context. Cats and dogs can verbalize their need for food, water, or even to be walked. Gerbils have an inaudible squeak that can easily go unrecognized, much like the squeaks or cries of that unborn child. For those that have no big beef with this cultural and legal sanction, suppose their parents selfishly executed them in that human chamber with the help of medical professionals whose job vocation is to save and preserve life not to define it as nothingness. In this context, the murderous Calles of 1926 plus his cohorts are no different than the abortion industry of butchers today.

A few months ago I saw an animated movie entitled "Ferdinand," about a young bull that prefers smelling flowers over fighting in the bullring of Madrid, Spain. The owners of the bullring want a constant supply of young bulls to be carved up by the matadors, to satisfy the roar of the crowd and the desires of the cash registers. By the end of the feature film both bulls and friends have escaped what to them is no different from the thinking of the abortion industry. Bullfighting is now largely illegal in Spain. May the fight for abortion rights likewise be rendered illegal. **Father Bill**

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. Mar. 19

7:00am Jonnah John Ungab

By Algene Ungab

Noon Beatrice Petsch

By Sister-in-law Clotilda

Joseph Di Palma

By Paula & John O'Connell

Tues .Mar. 20

7:00am All volunteers

Noon Ill & Suffering

Wed. Mar. 21

7:00am The Unborn

Noon George Stenglein

By Family

Thur. Mar. 22

7:00am City of Newburgh

Noon Deacon Jack Seymour

Food Pantry Volunteers

Fri. Mar. 23

7:00am Our Nation

Noon Our Politicians

Sat. Mar. 24

Noon Marion Miller

By Helen Miller

4:30pm Gino, Caterina &

Giuseppe Basini

By Family

George J. Vecchio Jr.

By Mary Delessio & Family

Sun. Mar. 25

8:30am Grace Tortora

By Mona & Sam Sodano

Joseph Lee

By Family

11:00am Craig Mac Farland

By Wife



WEEKLY COLLECTION

March 10-11, 2018

1st Collection \$ 5,693.00

2nd Collection 1,292.00

TOTAL \$ 6,985.00

MASS ATTENDANCE

March 10-11, 2018

4:30pm 200

8:30am 145

11:00am 165

1:30pm 155

Total 665

The 2nd Collection this week is for
EASTER FLOWERS



STATIONS OF THE CROSS FRIDAYS

St Francis Church 5:30pm

Sacred Heart Church 7:00pm

Spanish - Via Crucis - viernes 7:00pm



PALM SALES

Handmade palm creations made by our dedicated
Palm Weavers will be on sale

Monday, March 19 thru Friday, March 23

O'Connor Hall - 10:00am - 1:30pm

Gallo Hall - 9:30am - 5:00pm

And during the Palm Sunday weekend Masses

March 24th - 4:30pm and 5:30pm

March 25th - 7:30am, 8:30am, 10:00am, 11:00am,
12noon and 1:30pm



Eucharistic
Adoration

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

PLEASE NOTE

The Rectory Office

will be closed the week of

Monday, March 19th thru Friday March 23rd

The Rectory deck is being taken down and
replaced and during that time you will not have
access to the Rectory. However, you can still
reach us by phone at-845-561-1317.

TODAY
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The Lord comforted his people, who were exiled to Babylon, by telling them of the new covenant he planned to make with them. The Lord declared he would write his law upon their hearts, and that he would forgive their evil and forget the sins they had committed in the past.

Second Reading: Hebrews 5:7-9

Though God could have heeded his Son's prayers and spared him suffering, Jesus accepted his Father's will. Through his suffering, he learned obedience and became the source of eternal salvation for all people.

Gospel: John 12:20-33

Jesus was afraid of the suffering he knew he must face. Yet he explained just as a grain of wheat must die to be harvested, he had to face his hour of suffering to glorify his Father's name. Jesus explained that once he was lifted from earth, he could draw all people to himself, lifting them to eternal life.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday

2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22;

Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Tuesday

Nm 21:4-9; Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday

Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Jn 8:31-42

Thursday

Gn 17:3-9; Jn 8:51-59

Friday

Jer 20:10-13; Jn 10:31-42

Saturday

Ez 37:21-28; Jn 11:45-56



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Vincenza Secor, Aaron Stagliano, Marie Wiejak, Ashley Barco, Agnes Casey, Rose Marie Michalowski, Carol Brown, Luzia Araujo, Celio Thomaz, Rosalie Nogay, Rose Jurik, Robert & Helen Osborn, Rachel 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, Emily Cooley, Frank Celeste, Amy Finnegan, Brian Hanrahan, Toni Loparco Shepardson, Donald (Leed) Zubawicz, Louise McHugh, Alex Galant, Evelyn Kawula, Taylor Fogel, Jake Tigar, Paul Neugebauer, Julia Vecchio, Eileen Burke, Michelle Ryan, Abigail Means, Ann Bouche, Vanessa Rivera and Elizabeth Rich-Provenzano.

ST. FRANCIS DART BALL

The St. Francis Dartball Team needs a few men for their next season. If interested or if you have questions please call Tom Flagler at 845-564-5725.



Food Pantry Hours:

Friday 9:00am to 12noon

Saturday 9:00am to 12noon

at our new location

The Msgr. Valastro Activity Center

319 Broadway in Newburgh

THE FOOD PANTRY WILL BE CLOSED

on March 30th & March 31st

for the Easter Holi9day.

In your goodness please bring **PERSONAL CARE ITEMS, such as soap, deodorant, toothpaste, shampoo, etc.** 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](tel:845-863-6504). All students need to pre-register with Mr. Bourdage before showing up at the pantry, please.

TRUCK DRIVER NEEDED

The Pantry is in need of a volunteer to drive a 26 foot truck which you would pick up at Budget, go to the Food Bank in Cornwall to pick up our order, drive to the Food Pantry to deliver our order and drive the truck back to Budget. Needed every 3rd Wednesday. Call Paul Zalanowski 845-234-8564 for more details.

**AUTHOR REPRISSES SPY WEDNESDAY
BOOK READING & SIGNING**

This Spy Wednesday - March 28, 2018 - author Mary Claire Kendall will once again grace us with her presence and read from and sign copies of her book "*Oasis: Conversion Stories of Hollywood Legends*" in O'Connor Hall at 6:30pm. Learn about the fascinating stories of healing and recovery through the Catholic faith of some of Hollywood's biggest stars including Alfred Hitchcock. Gary Cooper, Bob Hope, Mary Astor, John Wayne, Ann Southern, Jane Wyman, Susan Hayward, Lana Turner, Betty Hutton, Ann Miller and Patricia Neal. She will also give us a glimpse of some of the stars she is writing about in Oasis II including Hattie McDaniel, Babe Ruth and Alec Guinness. Copies of Oasis I will be sold this year at the discounted price of \$10 per copy.



The Catholic Classics Book Reading Club will meet for their second session to discuss the book "*Pontius Pilate: Decifering a Mystery*" by Aldo Schiavone on **March 20th** from **6pm to 8pm** at St. Francis Church in O'Connor Hall. Session be led by **Fr. Bill Damroth**



The Msgr. Henry O'Carroll Knights of Columbus, Council 444 is hosting a fish fry on **Friday, March 23rd** from **5pm to 8pm** at Gallo Hall at Sacred Heart School (Entrance on Ann Street) \$10.00 per person. Proceeds will go to the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal and Sacred Heart Church.



Golden Jubilee Wedding Mass

The Archdiocese of New York's Golden Jubilee Wedding Mass will take place on Sunday, June 3rd at 2:15pm at St. Patrick's Cathedral. This mass, for couples celebrating 50 years of marriage in 2018 will be celebrated by Cardinal Timothy Dolan. To register to obtain tickets please call the rectory at 561-1317. Registration will close on Monday, May 14th



You are invited to Mt. St. Joseph Covent Chapel at 64 Presentation Way (off Jackson Avenue in New Windsor) for a **Lenten afternoon** from **2:00pm to 3:00pm on Wednesday, March 21**. The theme "A Contemporary Look at the Stations of the Cross" will be presented by Sr. Virginia Wilkinson, PBVM. All are welcome. Questions? Call 845-401-8531.

The Sisters are also looking for a part time maintenance employee for 2 days a week. The job calls for experience in maintenance work such as repairs and painting and seasonal work such as grass mowing and minimal snow shoveling. If interested please call 845-527-7271.



COFFEE & BAGEL HOUR

Join us after the **8:00am Mass** today, **March 18th** for coffee and bagels in O'Connor Hall.

ST. JOSEPH'S TABLE

The St. Joseph's Table Dinner is a long standing tradition at Sacred Heart honoring St. Joseph and the Holy Family. The dinner will be held today, Sunday, March 18th in Gallo Hall from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. \$15 for adults, \$8 for children 5-12 and children under 5 free. All proceeds go to support the Deacon Jack Seymour Food Pantry. All are welcome to attend.



PLEASE NOTE;

Due to inclement weather this celebration has been rescheduled from March 13th to April 24th



**NATIONAL CATHOLIC SISTERS WEEK
March 8-14**

Join the Presentation Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary as we celebrate National Catholic Sisters Week and who we are as Women Religious. An evening of Adoration, Praise & Worship on **April 24th at 6:30pm** at Mt. St. Joseph Chapel, 64 Presentation Way in New Windsor.

CORONA SELF-HELP CENTER

A representative of the Corona Self-Help Center, Inc. will be speaking briefly after all the masses today telling about their work with individuals and families suffering from substance abuse problems.

"If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me"

UPCOMING PILGRIMAGES

Hosted By:

Father Bill Damroth

NORTHERN NATIONAL PARKS

Featuring Yellowstone National Park and Grand Teton National Park

August 24-31, 2018

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**ICELAND'S MAGICAL NORTHERN LIGHTS**

February 14-20, 2019

**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*

