

Saint Francis of Assisi Church

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Secretaries: Paola Rodríguez, Belky Santos, Judy Wright

Father Kennedy cell phone: (860) 334-8925, E-mail: fruss2x@gmail.com

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Hispanic Ministry: Sr. Gloria Elena Saldarriaga; cell: 860-949-1554

Hospital Chaplain: Fr. George Busto, E-mail: GeorgeBusto@yahoo.com



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, Feb 10, 5:00 pm (English)

+ Regina & John Geary r/b family.

+ Junko Neil (1st ann) r/b family.

Sunday, Feb 11, 9:00 am (English)

+ Father Hal Weidner

Sunday, Feb 11, 12 noon, (Spanish)

Monday, Feb 12, 2018, 5:00 pm

Tuesday, Feb 13, 5:00 pm.

Wednesday, Feb 14, 5:00 pm ASH

WENDESDAY

+ Charlotte Traspasso r/b family.

Thursday, Feb 15, 5:00 pm

Friday, Feb 16, 6:00 pm, BILINGUAL

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Saturday, Feb 17, 5:00 pm (English)

+ Joseph Macri (20th ann) & + Mario

Macri, birthday remembrance

+ Jennie & Carl Carta r/b family

Sunday, Feb 18, 9:00 am (English)

Sunday, Feb 18, 12 noon, (Spanish)

REST IN PEACE

Rev. Hal Weidner, Leo Pino, Jean

Vinci.

WEEKLY
CEREAL &
CAN GOODS
REPORT

55 lbs. & \$00.00



TAX STATEMENTS FOR ST. FRANCIS

Belky and Judy sent our yearly statements of your church contributions to St. Francis. If there is an error, please call the office and we will fix it **ASAP**.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Feb. 11 2018

OUR WEEKLY OFFERTORY

Feb 4, 2018 = \$3,985.00

Feb 6, 2017 = \$3,554.00

YTD (Year to Date)

2017/18 = \$112,452.00

2016/17 = \$103,898.00

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Ash Service at 7:00 am

Ash Service at 12 noon

Mass with ashes at 5:00 pm

Ashes are available any time during the day in the office.

Father Halbert D Weidner, CO, former chaplain at Wesleyan University and Administrator here at St. Francis, died on Saturday, Feb 3, in South Carolina. His funeral will be on Thursday, Feb 15, at 7:00 pm in the Oratory of St. Philip Neri in Rock Hill, SC. Father George Busto, the hospital chaplain and former member of the same Oratory, will attend the funeral.

Boston Fenway Park - Cheers & Quincy Market Bus Trip in Jeopardy - Hi Everyone:

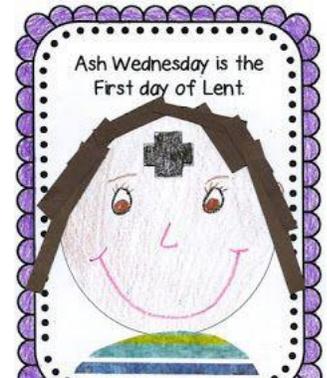
If you are interested in going on this bus trip please let me know now. So far the interest has not been too great and if we don't have enough passengers it will be canceled. I need to give the bus tour group a count by April 1. Thank you. :) Sue

There is only one collection this weekend. Our weekly goal is \$4,000.

REMINDER; If the weather is bad and you do not feel safe coming to church, stay home! Your personal safety is the most important thing.

KEEP IN CONTACT

If you know a parishioner who is now unable to attend mass for whatever reason, please call the office so we can send them a bulletin and bring them Holy Communion.



ATTENDANCE FOR

Feb 3 & 4, 2018

Sat. 5:00 pm = 63

Sun. 9:00 am = 74

Sun. 12 noon = 192

TOTAL = 329

HEALING PRAYERS FOR: Billy & Kathy Kowalski, Nar Scaia, Helen LoGuidice Bousquet, Ethan Heng, Robert Rau, Rick Csuhata, Joe Dorgan, Lydia Perez, Jack Romegialli, Bob Olson, Norma Ramirez, Jessica Clark, George DeWolf, Faith LeBoeuf.

FROM FATHER KENNEDY

I am finally feeling better, not nearly 100%.

My trip to Ireland is all set. June 3 – June 12, 2018. Cost \$3,499.00 leaving and returning to JFK. If you are interested, please give a call.

Bible study begins this Wednesday at 7:00 pm, weather permitting. Please read the introduction to Mark and the first three chapters of Mark's Gospel.

FEBRUARY REMINDERS

ADORATION (Spanish)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH

(Every 2nd Sunday from 10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.)

ASH WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 14

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

EVERY FRIDAY AT 6:00 p.m.

GIFT PROGRAM

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Our St. Patrick Dinner has been cancelled. We could not find a caterer. Maybe next year.



REMINDER: DEPOSIT DUE DATES FOR UPCOMING BUS TRIPS & DINNER SHOW

The \$28 deposit for the Edward Twins is due now. The Fenway Park Tour deposit (\$25), including lunch at "Cheers" and shopping at Quincy Market is due by March 31.

The Saratoga Race Course and tour of Saratoga Springs' \$20 deposit is due by April 1. "Jesus" at Sight & Sound in Lancaster, PA's & Longwood Gardens' \$100 deposit is due by April 6. If you have any questions concerning these trips, please contact Sue Gombotz at (860) 346-1870 or email her at sgombotz@sbcglobal.net

Savers in Newington is partnering with Hinka's Cupboard/St. Francis for a collection event in an effort to raise funds. How it works: Very simple You bring us your gently used clothes, soft goods, accessories, etc and we will receive money based on the overall 'pounds of donations' delivered to Savers on 3/01/18. We will be prepared to take donations at the hall beginning on February 14 (Ash Wednesday) – Feb. 28th. Our goal is to collect 100 bags!!! This is a Win-Win (Win) all around.... so let's see how many pounds of goods we can collect and pay it forward!

OPERATION RICE BOWL: Our Lenten Program: Encounter Lent For 45 years. Operation Rice Bowl has helped to feed the hungry poor, Through Operation Rice Bowl—a program of prayer, fasting, learning and giving—what you give up for Lent can give hope to the poorest of the poor. Make this Lenten season one of awareness, compassion and reflection. Operation rice Bowl is sponsored by Catholic Relief Services and the Diocese of Norwich.

QUESTION: Carnivale and Mardi Gras celebrations are linked to Ash Wednesday, Lent, fast and abstinence. Can you tell us more about the connections between these events?

ANSWER: Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the forty days known as Lent. Every year, Christians highlight this penitential season as a time of self examination, reformation of one's life, and continued development of a deeper spiritual life. The recommended practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving become the focus of Lenten activity and ritual. Each of these spiritual practices is aimed at personal discipline as well as continued concern for the other, especially the poor or alienated. Forty days is a symbolic biblical period of time, during which personal transformation occurs and out of which people surface as more spiritual, ready to carry out God's mission. Relying on God's providence and care, no matter how difficult life becomes, is crucial to Lenten spirituality. Fasting was initially stricter, permitting only one simple meal a day without meat, fish, or other delicacies. Such things were not even allowed in the house. In order to prepare for this in an age of no refrigeration, people gathered to consume whatever was not allowed during Lent. This led to parties or celebrations originally referred to as Carnivale, literally meaning "goodbye to meat," or Mardi Gras, literally meaning "Fat Tuesday." The eating and celebrating ended on the Tuesday just before Ash Wednesday. Today we focus more on moderation in all things, as well as a strong concern the poor. What are you doing for the poor this Lent?

United Action Connecticut - Our Mission - Strengthening communities by bringing people and congregations together to foster initiatives for improving lives through social justice work - this is the mission and purpose of United Action Connecticut. United Action is an interfaith, multi-racial, multi-lingual organization crossing political, economic and urban/suburban boundaries. We hope that you will join us in our pursuits to advance civil rights for immigrants, improve health care access, build awareness for mental illness, and to lobby for key legislation in these areas. - Our parish belongs to this fine organization and if you would like to get more involved, please contact me. UACT is having a meeting in our parish rectory this coming Tuesday at 7:00 pm.

SOCIAL JUSTICE IS NOT AN OPTION FOR CATHOLICS – IT IS BASIC GOSPEL 101

FUTURE BUS TRIP

Hi Everyone:

There were quite a few requests to do the Newport Playhouse again. I looked into the possibility of going to the Newport Playhouse and a Mansion for the Christmas Holidays. The only choice we would have would be the Breakers Mansion as it opens early and would allow us to do both the Mansion and the matinee show. We could just do the Playhouse. The cost for the Mansion tour is \$21. Some of you may have done the Breakers with us a while ago. I priced the cost for the bus and the Playhouse alone with one of the bus companies and it would be \$120. If there is an interest I will check the prices with the other two bus companies and see where the best deal is.

The play we would see would be "Saving Grace" It is not a holiday theme. Friday, November 23 – Monday, December 31 -
Written by Jack Sharkey
Directed by Tony Annicone

"This zany tale of a warmhearted girl who mistakes a telephone repairman for a burglar, tries to convert him from his life of crime, and ends up having to pretend he's her husband, dismaying her strait laced sister's evangelist fiancé, had critics and audiences cheering both at the Maryland and the Chicago premier productions."

PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THE PLAYHOUSE/MANSION, PLAYHOUSE ALONE, OR IF THERE IS SOMETHING DIFFERENT YOU WOULD LIKE TO DO FOR THE HOLIDAYS. THANK YOU. SUE

UPCOMING BUS TRIPS & DINNER SHOW

Please note that there are flyers at the entrances of the church for our three scheduled bus trips and the Edward Twins dinner show at the Aqua Turf. The \$28 deposit for the Edward Twins is due now.

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"Jesus" at Sight & Sound in Lancaster, PA's & Longwood Gardens' \$100 deposit is due by April 6.

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GIFT PROGRAM - GENERATIONS IN FAITH

TOGETHER is a monthly bi-lingual religious education program which brings together children, parents and grandparents to learn about their faith and grow together as a family. The class meets from October to May between the 9:00 am and 12:00 noon Mass on Sunday, beginning with light refreshments at 10:00 am in the parish hall, with instruction running from 10:20 am - 11:50 am. This is a great opportunity to learn about the church and the teachings of Jesus in an engaging and interactive way. It also provides the opportunity for families who attend the different masses in the parish to get to know each other. The program is open to all, not just those preparing for sacraments, and not just active parish members. Please spread the word so this can be a successful and rewarding program. Registration is \$30.00 per family. Please contact Belky Santos to register or for more information 860-347-4684, ext. 20 office@saintfrancisofassisi.com or visit <http://www.saintfrancisofassisi.com/edu/> Please join us on the following dates: Sunday, February 25 Sunday, March 18 Sunday, April 8 Sunday, May 6.

Military Whist Card Party

Wednesday, April, 18

It's happening again! —St. Francis Church will be hosting another Military Whist Card Party. Last year's event was GREAT thanks to the support of our parishioners. We received numerous compliments that our card party was one of the best parties people had been to. It was a great fundraiser for our parish, and just as importantly, it was a lot of FUN! People who had never played before were experts by the end of the night (Sister Gloria for one).

There is a lot of work needed to make this event happen. We will need donated door prizes and raffle prizes. So, please keep your eyes open for any possible prizes we may be able to use. Thank you. - More details to follow in the near future.



ALL ARE WELCOME

Whatever your current status in the Catholic Church, whatever your current family or marital situation, whatever your past or present religious affiliation, whatever your personal history, age, background or ethnicity, immigration status, sexual orientation, whatever your own self-image or esteem, you are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved and respected at the Church of St. Francis of Assisi.

2018 Lenten Message

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In my New Year's column in January, I spoke of how "God specializes in new beginnings." As we now approach the holy season of Lent, we encounter an extraordinary opportunity to reform and to renew our lives in the light of the Gospel. During Lent, our penitence, discipline and sacrifice prepare us to appreciate anew that in Jesus Christ, God gave us his only begotten Son who laid down His life for us and our salvation. As we prayerfully contemplate this greatest act of love ever known to humanity, Lent offers us a new beginning as the Lord embraces our hearts and we embrace His life.

To share completely in Jesus' life, we must journey with Him to Jerusalem, to Calvary and to Resurrection. This journey requires reflection upon our own lives and the way in which we are called to serve the Lord and one another. Our Lenten observance makes us more aware of Jesus' presence in our lives and enables us to grow in faith and in love as we gather ourselves to serve others.

We live in a time that calls to us as faithful disciples to respond to the urgent needs of the vulnerable, the overwhelmed, the hungry, the lonely and the immigrants and refugees risking all to find a safe and hopeful life. We are called to love. Called to charity. Called to service. It is service to those in need that is the path leading us to Christ. Lent is our fresh start to vigorously live our faith with love and charity to our family members, friends, neighbors -- in short, to everyone.

To fully share in the spiritual reawakening that is the Lenten journey, we must embrace prayer, the reception of the Sacraments - especially the Eucharist and Penance, the reading of Sacred Scripture, the Stations of the Cross, the Rosary, acts of charity and Corporal Works of Mercy, acts of self-denial and outreach to the poor and suffering. Through the Lenten experience, we are certain to more fully realize the abiding presence of God's love in our life, and our need to share His love with others. It is through this realization that we become more energized to be authentic disciples of Jesus Christ. True to our living discipleship, we are ever committed to uphold the sacred dignity of every person, born and unborn, rich and poor, of every race creed and origin. We are one family in Christ.

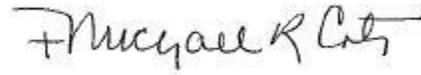
These revealing forty days of Lenten observance ultimately prepare us for the celebration of the Paschal Mystery of the Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection. We embark in a real sense on a spiritual pilgrimage to Easter. We relive the grace-filled occasion of the Last Supper. We experience the agony of Jesus's crucifixion and death for us on the Cross. We try to comprehend the profound victory of His Resurrection.

The glory of Easter awaits each of us who make the Lenten journey to the Father by walking the way of His Son, Jesus. Lent is our time to change and become more like Christ by experiencing the unyielding tenacity of His love that endures suffering and torture, and His life that is truly lived and given for others. Lent is our new beginning opportunity to lead a fulfilling life by living, loving and serving as Jesus did.

The Cross is our way to holiness, our means of true solidarity with God and one another. The Cross is our only means of achieving the new life promised us through Jesus' victory over sin and death in His victorious Resurrection.

Through a well-lived Lent, may we come to the glory of Easter and may we discover new life in Christ.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael R Coats". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning of the first letter.

Bishop of Norwich