

**ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
JUNE 14, 2015**



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

“This is how it is with the kingdom of God...” Mark 14:12-16

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2015

5:30 P.M. Marie & Edward Kulak
Jerome Campo
Lorenzo Maldonado
Deacon Charlie Tenga

SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2015

7:30 A.M. Wanda Nyhuis
Edward & Doris Bacigalupo
Frank Rajesky
Intentions of Charles Thielitz
Marie & William Moran

10:00 A.M. Ben Glorioso
James Bailey
Lorraine Daly

12:00 P.M. Suzanne Schaefer
Rudy Siano
Intentions of John & Gerry Manzi –
50th Wedding Anniversary

MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2015

8:00 A.M. Sean Brennan

TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2015

8:00 A.M. Martin Reddin

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2015

8:00 A.M. Virginia Armour

FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2015

8:00 A.M. Eleanor Leppin
Birthday Intentions for Gertrude Tindoc

SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2015

5:30 P.M. Fathers of the Parish

SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 2015

7:30 A.M. Fathers of the Parish

10:00 A.M. Fathers of the Parish

12:00 P.M. Fathers of the Parish

Pray daily for the safety of our servicemen and women serving their country.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| SICK: Flora Assidio | Mary Carton | Jacob Hicks |
| Nina Margossian | Margherita Davis | Chip Franklin |
| Stacey Caropreso | Ron Gajdzis | Ron Tadesco |
| Baby Michael Soojian | Baby Juliet Sinisi | Anita Farias |
| Baby Ryder Sasso | Margaret Puzio | Carmela Fusco |
| Frances De Maria | Dorothea King | John Herald |
| Gabe Bellantoni | Evelyn O'Connell | Jean Foy |
| Rosemary Liebman | John Nazzaretto | Tony Mazza |

DECEASED: Mary Alway

CHURCH MEMORIALS

Church Tabernacle Candle - In Thanksgiving.

Chapel Tabernacle Candle in memory of Eleanor Leppin requested by Erich.

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday –\$5,213.00

Thank you for your continued support.

“Believers witness to the presence and word of Jesus in the world and are a continuing sign of the Kingdom of God, which is present both in and through Jesus, and still to come to its fullness through the power of the Holy Spirit ” (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Fulfilled in Your Hearing*, p. 6).

Believers often tell the story of faith in hindsight. In painful times it may be difficult to see the hand of God. This is true in the story from Ezekiel the prophet we hear in the First Reading. When the Israelites experienced many of their people being taken off into exile by the Babylonians, they were desolate and turned to Egypt rather than to God to be saved. They experienced another destruction of their land and people by Babylonia and finally began to realize that it was their unfaithfulness that caused their suffering and loss.

The prophet reminded them that God promised never to abandon them. Using the image of a cedar tree, he told them God would save a remnant of the exiles, placing a tender shoot on high on the mountain to dwell in majesty. Their God is so powerful that even a withered, lowly, almost dead branch will prosper and bloom.

Ezekiel told the Israelites to practice faithfulness, trust God, and fulfill their part of the covenant. A new twig will sprout, connecting to the coming Messiah from the sprout of David’s tree, or lineage. The new king will practice the true virtues of a king: humility, faithfulness to the covenant, and concern for the least for whom God cares.

Jesus often used common experiences to help people understand his teachings, and he used images for God and his kingdom. In the first parable we hear in today’s Gospel reading, we do not understand how a seed grows and produces; but that is how the reign of God manifests itself. In the second, the kingdom of God is like the smallest of seeds, but becomes so large that birds build nests in the shade of its branches.

Sometimes the term “kingdom of God causes us to imagine a place, perhaps associated with heaven, and we all aspire to that kingdom. Scripture scholars also translate kingdom as reign which may convey a broader image than a specific place. Jesus speaks about the kingdom of God as a way of being or following God’s way. If we believe and practice a way of life, then God’s reign would look like this.

The image helps us understand our role in this. Our work is to proclaim this kingdom of God by demonstrating through our actions toward God and one another that we are true followers. Like the palm and cedar trees, like the mustard seed and the seed upon the ground, we show the fruits of our belief here on earth in our treatment of one another, in the way we practice justice and peace, and in the way we right our relationships with our sisters and brothers.

**Feast of Corpus Christi
Food Collection**

Thank you to all who donated Instant Jell-O, Instant Pudding, and Dish Detergent to the Catholic Charities’ Corpus Christie Food Collection last weekend. Once again, I was impressed by

the amount of goods donated by our parishioners. I can always count on the people of St. Francis to donate when asked. On behalf of Joseph Duffy, President of Catholic Charities, I pass along a hearty "Thank You!"

State of the Parish Town Hall Meetings

Thank you to all who came out last Monday for the State of the Parish Town Hall Meetings. I enjoyed sharing some thoughts with everyone. I definitely felt an energy that will help propel our Parish into the future.

Vivere Christus Award 2015 Congratulations to Diane Drew

Congratulations to Diane Drew who will receive the diocesan "Vivere Christus Award" at a special diocesan ceremony at St. Philip the Apostle Church in Clifton on Sunday, June 14. The award is presented annually to acknowledge the value and importance of the laity and to express gratitude and appreciation to those who unselfishly give of themselves for the building up of God's kingdom. Diane will receive the Vivere Christus medal along with a personalized scroll of recognition for this honor.

Diane contributes to the Parish in more ways than we can count. For starters, Diane has run our Children's Liturgy of the Word program at the 10:00 a.m. Mass for over eight years. She is also very active in our St. Francis Ladies Guild helping out with program after program. Diane also serves as co-chair of our Emmaus Prayer Group helping to plan our Parish retreats and prayer programs. She also serves as a Lector at Daily Mass and a Eucharistic Minister. Diane also helps with the behind-the-scenes work of counting the weekly Mass collections. Diane can also be counted on to help with funerals as part of the Lazarus Group. Etc., Etc., Etc.

We take this time to thank Diane for her many years of service and hope that, through the intercession of our patron, St. Francis of Assisi, she may inspire others to help further the kingdom of God.

Fortnight for Freedom June 21 to July 4

The annual *Fortnight for Freedom: Freedom to Bear Witness* sponsored by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops will take place from June 21 to July 4, 2015, a time when our liturgical calendar celebrates a series of great martyrs who remained faithful in the face of persecution by political power — St. Thomas More and St. John Fisher, St. John the Baptist, SS. Peter and Paul, and the First Martyrs of the Church of Rome. The theme of this year's Fortnight will focus on the "freedom to bear witness" to the truth of the Gospel.

Put a "Save the Date" on your calendars for Monday, June 29, for a very special event. Justin Anderson, Assistant Professor of Moral Theology at Immaculate Conception Seminary/School of Theology at Seton Hall University will present a talk at 7:30 p.m. in the Church Hall, followed by a Q&A session. We are still working out the details, but Professor Anderson's talk will probably focus on the Church's public position that equal legal standing should not be granted to same-sex couples as is granted to heterosexual couples. He will focus on what the Magisterium teaches regarding the

issue at hand and how the Church's teaching is an extension of a broader issue.

Please plan on joining fellow parishioners for what promises to be a fascinating evening.

Sincerely in Christ,
Fr. David Pickens
Pastor

Alzheimer's Disease Caregivers Support Group

Chilton Health Network
242 West Parkway, 2nd Floor, Pompton Plains
Meets the second Wednesday of the month from 7:00-8:30 PM. Call 973-831-5367 for more information. Please visit www.chiltonhealth.org for information on other support groups.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Registration for Religious Education classes for September, 2015 is now in progress.

Attention: Religious Education parents...Registration forms for the 2015-2016 school year have been distributed to all families presently registered in the program. Please return forms as soon as possible.

New Registrations...Children who are new to the parish or who are entering First Grade in the public schools in September should also register at this time. Registration forms at the rectory or by calling the CCD office 973-835-1946.

First Holy Communion program requires two years of religious education classes starting with the first grade.

ST. FRANCIS RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEEDS YOUR HELP!

As our St. Francis community grows with many new families, we are in need of CCD teachers, substitutes and aides, etc. Please give some consideration to volunteering for the upcoming school year, starting in September. We are always willing to assist and train anyone who would be willing to serve as a teacher, etc.

Our CCD Program succeeds because of the fine and generous efforts of so many. We need you all!! If interested, call Mrs. Marren at 973-835-1946.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS St. Francis council #2617 is sponsoring

"WANAQUE COUNTRY NIGHT"

Featuring the Bobby Wright Band.

BBQ Food, BYOB

\$35 per person

Saturday, June 27

St. Francis School Gym, 7-11pm.

Contact Mike Golas at 973-865-8781 for tickets.

Put a table together.

**10 SIGNS OF A
SAFE PROGRAM
FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

1. **SCREENING of staff / volunteers.**
2. Adults trained in safe environment strategies and signs of abuse.
3. **Code of conduct enforced.**
4. Open **Communication** between parents and staff / staff and children / children and parents.
5. **Parents always Welcome.**
6. Children educated in right relationships & what to do if a relationship isn't right.
7. **All children treated with Dignity and Respect.**
8. Clear Rules and Expectations. Consistent reinforcement / consequences.
9. **Adequate supervision of youth.** Team approach – accountability – no 1:1 isolation.
10. All abuse is reported.

**Diocese of Paterson
(973) 777-8818**

“If any person may have been abused by any priest, they should immediately contact their local County Prosecutor’s Office and the Diocese’s Victims Assistance Coordinator: Peggy Zanello at 973-879-1489. You may also be in touch with either of the Diocesan Response Officers: Rev. Msgr. James T. Mahoney, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia, 973-777-8818 Ext. 205 or Sister Mary Edward Spohrer, S.C.C., Chancellor/Delegate for Religious, 973-777-8818 Ext. 248.

The entire text of the Policy of the Diocese of Paterson in Response to Complaints of Sexual Abuse is available on the Diocesan Web site: www.patersondiocese.org

PARISH ROSARY

As a part of the Fortnight for Freedom established by the US Catholic bishops, St. Francis Parish will pray a parish rosary on Monday, June 22 at 7:00pm in the chapel. The intention for this rosary is the preservation of our God-given right to religious freedom that is affirmed in the United States constitution. Please join us.



Do you have trash to sell or are you looking for a treasure?

The Ladies Guild is holding a Junk- in-the-Trunk sale on September 12th (Rain Date, 9/19) 9AM to 3PM. Food and a 50-50 raffle are planned. Exhibitor space is 16 x 17 (2



parking spaces) and will accommodate one car and one table. Cost is \$25.00. If anyone has items they would like to donate (no clothing or furniture please) or to reserve a space contact Diane at 973-839-1416 / ladydi240@yahoo.com or Claire at 973-835-9344 [for further details.](#)

CARNIVAL 2015

Plans are underway for St. Francis’ 54th Annual Parish Carnival which will take place from Tuesday, July 21st through Sunday, July 26th, 2015. As usual we will be looking for volunteers to help us make this another successful fundraiser for the parish. Mark your calendar to save this week for your parish.

Quellen Spiritual Center...

is accepting applications from anyone interested in becoming a Spiritual Director. This is a 3 year program. Information can be obtained by visiting www.quellenspiritualcenter.org or calling Sister Teresa at 973-543-6528 x 217. Interested individuals should be in direction themselves for at least one year.

**LAKELAND NURSING HOME SCHEDULE
SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 2015**

Pat Demarest & Mary Oliveira

LECTORS

SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2015

5:30 P.M. Martha Bisaccio

SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 2015

7:30 A.M. Bill Boswell
10:00 A.M. Urbe DelaVictoria
12 NOON Armando Haro

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2015

5:30 P.M. Karen Cisco

SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 2015

7:30 A.M. Linda & Jim Hartigan
10:00 A.M. Diane Drew & Judy Moran
12 NOON Barbara Garruto & Jolene Colsant

ALTAR SERVERS

SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2015

5:30 P.M. Open

SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 2015

7:30 A.M. Danielle Reid
10:00 A.M. Samantha & Stephanie Reilly
12 NOON Tim Kenny & Alana Beshaw

BISHOP'S LETTER