

† † † **MASS INTENTIONS** † † †

Monday, September 18

8:00 AM + Patricia Dempsey
Req. by Husband, Ed

Tuesday, September 19

8:00 AM Members Of Our Faith Community

Wednesday, September 20

8:00 AM + George Rasmus (Anniversary)
Req. by Wife

Thursday, September 21

8:00 AM + Jean A. Flowers
Req. by Dave & Chris Young

Friday, September 22

8:00 AM + Florence Geraci
Req. by Friends at 8:00 AM Mass

Saturday, September 23

8:00 AM + Jack Kilocoyne
Req. by Diane McVittie

4:00 PM + Joseph Hertlein
Req. by Family

Sunday, September 24

8:30 AM Deceased Members of
The Steven Buntich Family
Req. by The Pavlovich Family

11:00 AM + Mary Moretuzzo
Req. by Tom & Linda Moretuzzo

6:00 PM + Alfred Labine (Anniversary)
Req. by The Family

OUR FAITH COMMUNITY'S GIFT TO GOD

September 9/10, 20107

Attendance **596**
Regular Offering **\$5,910**
Maintenance Collection **\$1,369**
Hurricane Relief **\$3,436**
Regular Offering same Sunday last year **\$6,158**

From Fr. Ross: Please remember that I am very aware of all the sacrifices you make and that what you contribute I consider as your offering to the Lord and something very sacred. Thank you for the continued support and generosity you offer to your parish family. May God bless you always.

HOLY NAME BINGO

Wednesdays at 7:30 PM

Up to \$2,500 Progressive

Food, snacks & drinks available

Join us if you are able. Bring a friend or two



THE VIGIL CANDLE

This week the Vigil Candle gives light to our Church *In memory of + Dorothy Trost (Birthday Remembrance), requested by Family.* If you would like to make a donation (\$10) for a vigil candle in memory of someone (living or deceased) or for a special intention, please fill out the form below. It can be returned via the mail, parish office or placed in the collection basket at Mass. Each week there is one candle available for the Church and two for the Friary.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Intention _____

Friary

Church

Checks should be made payable to *St. Francis Church*

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK



Marie Brittain, Patricia Brown, George Bussi, Michele Chmura, Gerald Davis, Jeffrey Garringer, Carol Gasinski, Lillian Hosie, Helen Jurewicz, Rita LaBasco, Mary Ann Lasker, Alex Lissitschenko, Christine Lopinski, Donna Milks, Mary Jo Monheim, Mary Nelson, Ernie Niedermeier, Meghan Quinn, Evelyn Rutkowski, Betty Schaefer, Jack Schultz, Terry Swift, Ed Szarowicz, Cynthia Towne, Daniel Weiss, Christopher Winkleman, and all others who are ill or suffering. *It is very important that the Parish Office be notified if a family member is in the hospital.* By law, the hospitals may no longer call the Church to inform us when someone is hospitalized. Please contact Sharon Gruver, our parish secretary, if you would like to place the name of someone on our *Sick List*. Unless we are notified otherwise, the names will remain on the list for one month.

IF YOU OR A LOVED ONE IS ILL

If you or someone in your family is ill, homebound, in the hospital or a nursing home, please let us know. We have members of our Faith Community who would love to visit and bring Holy Communion. Fr. Ross is also available to celebrate the Anointing of the Sick. However, we need you to call us. Too often we find out after the fact. We also have a Monthly Newsletter that we send out to those who cannot join us at church. Again, please give us a call!

ICON OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

St. Francis Parish has a traveling Icon of Our Lady of Guadalupe. *This week the Icon is in the home of Betty Taylor.*



CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

- September 18: **Altar & Rosary Society Pierogi Making**–9:00 AM (Kitchen)
Cub Scouts Council & Parents Only Meeting–6:00 PM (Gym)
Boy Scouts Meeting–7:00 PM (Gym)
Pastoral Care & Social Outreach Committee Meeting–7:00 PM (Parish Office Meeting Room)
- September 20: **Altar & Rosary Society Pierogi Making**–9:00 AM (Kitchen)
Prayer Shawl Ministry–10:30 AM (Library)
Bingo–7:30 PM (Social Center)
- September 21: **Yoga**–10:00 AM (Meeting Room 1)
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) Meeting–5:30 PM–(Meeting Room 1)
Civil Air Patrol–7:00 PM (Gym, Meeting Room 1)
- September 22: **Sanctity of Life Ministry**–8:00 AM (Church)
Altar & Rosary Society Pierogi Making–9:00 AM (Kitchen)
- September 23: **Altar & Rosary Society Pierogi Making**–9:00 AM (Kitchen)
- September 24: **Faith Formation 3rd Grade Parent/Student Meeting & Mass**–9:30 AM (Gym, Meeting Room 1, Church)
Faith Formation Class for those who have special needs–9:45 AM (Upstairs Classroom)
Churches In Action Sorting From Undies Sunday–11:00 AM

CELEBRATE YOUR GOLDEN AND DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY OF MARRIAGE

The Diocese of Buffalo wishes to honor couples who will observe their 50th, 60th and 70th wedding anniversaries this year. Couples are invited to a special Mass in St. Joseph's Cathedral on Sunday, October 15, 2017 at 3:00 PM. A reception will follow at the Adam's Mark Hotel. Family members are encouraged and most welcome to attend both the Mass and reception. **Since there is limited seating please notify the office of your plans to attend or call the Parish Office at 716-627-2710 by September 25, 2017.**



NEWS ABOUT OUR PAPER RECYCLING

Here is an update with regard to our paper recycling. The company is now accepting both soft and hard cover books. Also, they will accept cardboard as long as the boxes are flattened out.



FAITH FORMATION– FLEECE-TIED BLANKETS



It's that time again! We will be making blankets on Monday, October 9 from 10:00 AM to Noon. If you would like to donate a fleece tied blanket feel free, or perhaps you would like to donate fleece material. We would need 2 pieces each 2 ½ yards. We also will happily accept monetary donations. Please mark an envelope "blanket donation" and put it in the collection basket. Or join us on Monday, October 9 and make a blanket yourself. Thanks for all you do. Any questions, contact the Faith Formation office at 627-3357.

PRAYER SERVICE FOR REFUGEES

Pope Francis says, "Migrants and refugees are not pawns on the chessboard of humanity." Join the WNY LCWR (Leadership Conference of Women Religious) in a prayer service for refugees at the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph, 5229 South Park Avenue, Hamburg, NY on September 24 at 2pm for an opportunity to learn about the Church's teaching on immigration and to pray for those who leave their countries, especially because of the violence they experience. Please bring some personal hygiene items that will be donated to refugees at Jericho Road's Vive Shelter

MORALITY IN MOTION

ALL PARISHIONERS WELCOME

(Guest speakers will be present)

Thursday, September 29, 7-8:30 p.m.

-Join us on two thirty minute discussions on Respect for Life.

Thursday, October 12, 7-8:30 p.m.

-Join us for two thirty minute discussions on Human Trafficking and The Buffalo Peace House.

For more information email sfareled@gmail.com or contact the Faith Formation Office at 627-3357

ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Young men in grades 6, 7 & 8, and their parents, are invited to visit the school to explore the abundance of opportunities that await them at St. Francis High School. St. Francis High School will hold its annual Open House :

Sunday, October 1, 2017–10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Monday, October 2, 2017–5:30 PM to 7:00 PM

CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS



As you know, October 4 is the Feast of our Patron, St. Francis of Assisi. There are several events celebrating the special place that St. Francis has in our Faith Community:

Sunday, October 1: At 1:00 PM we will have the traditional Blessing of Animals in the parking lot. Along with your pets, we ask you to bring a can or two of food for the needy.

Tuesday, October 3: Celebrating the Feast of St. Francis At 7:30 PM there will be the celebration called the Transitus which commemorates in a special way the death of St. Francis.

Thursday, October 5: We will once again be having a special Healing Mass at 7:00 PM with a special focus on those who are suffering with cancer.

Please join us and help us spread the word about the these events as we celebrate a special part of who we are.

THERE IS STILL TIME TO JOIN OUR ADULT SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM (RCIA)



The **RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)** is a program for adults who wish to become fully initiated members of the Catholic Faith Community. It is intended for those adults who have never been baptized **OR** those adults who have been baptized in a non-Catholic Christian congregation who wish to become members of the Catholic Faith Community **OR** those adults who have been baptized in the Catholic Faith Community but have not completed their initiation through the reception of the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist **OR** those fully initiated Catholics who wish to update themselves in the area of the faith, doctrine, etc. **Our Sessions take place on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM in the Parish Office Building.** If you or someone you know are interested and would like more information, please contact Fr. Ross at 627-2710 or fr.ross@verizon.net.

OUR NEXT BAPTISMS HERE AT ST. FRANCIS

We are planning to have our next Baptisms on Sunday, October 8 at our 11:00 AM Mass. There is plenty of time for parishioners to register to have their child(ren) baptized. Your first step is to call the parish office for our *Baptismal Guidelines* or you can find the guidelines on the parish website: stfrancischurch.us. If you have any questions, please contact Fr. Ross.



PARISH WEBSITE



Don't forget to check out our parish website at stfrancischurch.us. There is lot of information about our Faith Community and all this is happening here at St. Francis. Your suggestions are welcome.

ST. FRANCIS PIEROGI TEAM IS BACK!



The St. Francis Pierogi Team is diligently working on an assortment of Farmers Cheese, Sauerkraut, and Potato with Cheddar Pierogis to be on sale beginning October 4, 2017. Orders can be picked up from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. On Wednesdays, and Saturdays until we are sold out. The donations is \$5.00 per half dozen and \$10.00 per dozen. For more information, or to place an order, contact 627-5680.

DEAR MINISTERS.

As we have been asking, please try to invite those you know to participate in the ministry that you are involved in. That little nudge from you might be all that someone needs.



PARISH REGISTRATION



We strongly encourage those who participate regularly in the life of our Faith Community to register with us and to use the Envelopes (mailed to you every two months) or our Online Giving Program. It not only gives a visible witness to your sacrificial giving and support of your parish, we also have a record of your donations for tax purposes and we have a "hard copy" of your presence and participation. For those who wish to make St. Francis of Assisi their parish family with future plans to celebrate a baptism, a wedding or obtain a letter to be a godparent or sponsor, **it is necessary to be formally registered and actively participating on a regular basis for at least three months** before dates can be set or letters can be written. Registration forms can be found in the vestibule of the Church or online at www.stfrancischurch.us.



JOIN OUR YOUTH CHOIR.....

(no experience necessary)

Practice 6:00 PM	Wednesday	October 11
	Wednesday	October 15
	Wednesday	November 21
	Wednesday	December 13
	Wednesday	January 24

Sing at Mass (Practice before Mass 10:15 AM)

- 11:00 AM Mass Sunday, October 15
- 11:00 AM Mass Thursday, Thanksgiving Nov. 23
- 11:00 AM Mass Sunday, December 17
- 4:00 PM Mass (Practice 3:15 PM) Saturday, Jan. 27**
- (Special Mass with Bishop Malone)**

Don't quit! Keep on playing!

REFLECTIONS FROM FR. ROSS



Here's a neat little story with a powerful message. It's called *The Concert*.

When the house lights dimmed and the concert was about to begin, the mother returned to her seat and discovered that the child was missing. Suddenly, the curtains parted and spotlights focused on the impressive Steinway piano on stage. In horror, the mother saw her little boy sitting at the keyboard, innocently picking out *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*. At that moment, Paderewski, the great piano master, made his entrance, quickly moved to the piano, and whispered in the boy's ear, "Don't quit. Keep on playing." Then, leaning over, Paderewski reached down with his left hand and began filling in a bass part. Soon his right arm reached around to the other side of the child, and he added a running *obbligato*.

Together, the old master and the young novice transformed what could have been a frightening situation into a wonderfully creative experience. The audience was so mesmerized that they couldn't recall what else the great master played the rest of the night. What stuck in their minds and hearts was "only" the classic, *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*.

Perhaps that's the way it is with God. What we can accomplish on our own is hardly noteworthy. We try our best, but the results aren't always graceful flowing music. However, with the hand of the Master, our life's work can truly be beautiful. The next time you set out to accomplish great feats, listen carefully. You may hear the voice of the Master, whispering in your ear, "Don't quit. Keep playing." May you feel His arms around you and know that His

hands are there, helping you turn your feeble attempts into true masterpieces.

Remember, God doesn't seem to call the equipped, rather, He equips the "called." Life is accurately measured by the lives you touch and those lives that touch more than by the things you acquire or the positions you hold. Our lives become enriched by enriching the lives of others. Whatever we give to God and others comes back to us many times over.

In our dealings with others, hopefully we can learn from Paderewski, the great piano master and, more importantly, hopefully we can learn from the Master of us all. When we share our gifts and talents we can create things that are true masterpieces in the sense of the impact that they have on building up people's lives and helping them to reach their potential. Whether we are like the little boy or the piano master, the masterpiece came out of both them working together in harmony—harmony can only happen when there are two or more voices together.

Calling to mind the events of the first 9/11 this weekend and aware of all the violence, war and terrorism that continues, let us remember that we all can do our part to make our world better by opening our own worlds to God and others. Let us encourage one another as God encourages us when he says to each of us, "Don't quit. Keep on playing." A little *Twinkle* can go a long way!



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