MAS INTENTIONS

Monday, March 25
8:00 AM + Maria Glowczak
Req. by Katherine Jagodka

Tuesday, March 26
8:00 AM + Lidia Cronk
Req. by Margaret Hendrzak

Wednesday, March 27
8:00 AM Members Of Our Faith Community

Thursday, March 28
8:00 AM + Ronald Czarnota
Req. by Helen Czarnota

Friday, March 29
8:00 AM Birthday Wishes for Andrea Jaskot
Req. by Margaret Hendrzak

Saturday, March 30
8:00 AM In Honor of St. Bernadette
Req. by Camillo Ricci
4:00 PM + Julia & + Anthony Aramburu
Req. by Rose Miller

Sunday, March 31
8:30 AM Gerard Weiss (Anniversary)
Req. by The Weiss Family
11:00 AM + Clarence & + Esther Ling
Req. by Mike & Debbie Ling
6:00 PM + Frances Bednarz

OUR FAITH COMMUNITY'S GIFT TO GOD

March 9/10, 2019
Attendance .......................... 467
Regular Offering ...................... $4,824
Ash Wednesday .................... $1,436
Black & Native Missions ........... $269
Regular Offering same Sunday last year ...... $5,738

March 16/17, 2019
Attendance .......................... 500
Regular Offering ...................... $5,670
Maintenance Collection ............ $819
Regular Offering same Sunday last year ...... $5,505

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.

THE VIGIL CANDLE

This week The Vigil Candle gives light to our Church In Memory of + John Hines, requested by Bernice & Nancy Mondi. 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

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ICON OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

St. Francis Parish has a traveling Icon of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The Altar Rosary Society members have been taking it home each week to pray for Sanctity of Life issues. This week the Icon is in the home of Betty Taylor.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL

Elaine B., Elizabeth Bestpitch, Patricia Brown, George Bussi, Edward Cieslica, Jeffrey Colarz, Gerald Davis, MaryAnn DuKane, Patricia Ehms, Raymond Franks, Eric G., Jeffrey Garringer, Carol Gasinski, Amanda Hart, Nicholas Horwood, Lillian Hosie, Robert & Elaine Keating, John Kelly, Charles Leavell, Alex Lissitschenko, Christine Lopinski, Diana Moore, Shirley Moore, Linda Moretuzzo, Meghan Quinn, Mary Ann Rawski, Jo Ann Scalzi, Jack Schultz, Elizabeth Vitale-Hoye, Terry Swift, Ed Szarowicz, Cynthia Towne, Virginia Walentynowicz, Christopher Winkleman, Christopher Young, 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. 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!
**March 25:**
- **Altar & Rosary Society Pierogi Making** – 9:00 AM (Kitchen)
- **Mass at Autumn View Nursing Home** – 2:00 PM
- **Cub Scouts Den Meeting** – 6:30 PM (Gym)
- **Venturing Crew** – 6:30 PM (Meeting Room 2)
- **Liturgy Committee Meeting** – 12:30 PM (Parish Office Meeting Room)
- **Boy Scouts Meeting** – 7:30 PM (Gym)

**March 26:**
- **Secular Franciscan Council Meeting** – 5:30 PM (Meeting Room 1)

**March 27:**
- **Altar & Rosary Society Pierogi Making** – 9:00 AM / Selling – 10:00 AM (Kitchen)
- **Prayer Shawl Ministry** – 10:30 AM (Library)
- **Adult Sacramental Program (RCIA)** – 7:00 PM (Parish Office Meeting Room)
- **Boy Scout Committee Meeting** – 7:00 PM (Meeting Room 2)
- **Bingo** – 7:30 PM (Social Center)

**March 28:**
- **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)

**March 29:**
- **Sanctity of Life Ministry** – 8:00 AM (Church)
- **Altar & Rosary Society Pierogi Making** – 9:00 AM (Kitchen)
- **Stations Of The Cross** – 7:00 PM (Church)

**March 30:**
- **Altar & Rosary Society Pierogi Making** – 9:00 AM / Selling – 10:00 AM (Kitchen)
- **St. Vincent de Paul Collection** – 4:00 PM

**March 31:**
- **St. Vincent de Paul Collection** – All Masses
- **Faith Formation Class For Those Who Have Special Needs** – 9:45 AM (Special Needs Classroom)

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**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

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**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**
Sincere thanks from the St. Vincent de Paul Society for your continued financial support. Your generosity each month helps us to lighten the burdens of our neighbors. It is your donations that make our work possible. Please remember us on the last weekend of each month, that we may continue bringing Christ’s care and concern to others. If you know of anyone who is in need, please contact the office with the information, and the office will contact us.

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**CHURCHES IN ACTION –FUND RAISER / SOCIAL THURSDAY, APRIL 4 – 7:00 PM TO 10:00 PM**
Butera’s Craft Beer & Pizza
32 Main St, Hamburg, NY
Please join us for an evening with friends and community who believe in the work that Churches In Action is doing. Listen to the exciting plans for this year's initiatives. Support CIA's efforts, both at home and around the world by attending this year's event! Tickets are $20, pre order and at the door. Pizza will be served. Cash bar. Tickets can be purchased by completing & sending the order form to: Churches In Action, 177 Main Street, Hamburg NY 14075

ORDER FORM
Name: _____________________________
Phone: ___________________
No. of Tickets: _______ x $20
Total enclosed: $ ________________
Checks to "Churches In Action".
CIA is a 501(c)3 organization. Thank you.
OR Call Tony at 803-9388 or Russell Rich at 913-3200

**EASTER CANDLE MEMORIAL**
Every year we get a new Paschal (Easter) Candle which represents the new light and life that is now ours through the Resurrection of Jesus. It stands in our sanctuary throughout the year. We bless the new candle at our Easter Vigil. If you would like to make a offering in memory of a loved one, living or deceased, please call the parish office.

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**THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS**
Please Join us for the Stations of the Cross Every Friday at 7 pm in the Church. If you'd like to get involved by helping lead the stations, please contact Fr. Ross at the Parish Office at 716-627-2710.
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.

LITURGY COMMITTEE

Our Liturgy Committee will be meeting this Monday, March 25 at 12:30PM in the Parish Office Meeting Room. Please join us. We would love to have your input, ideas and suggestions.

PEACE HOUSE – NINE AND DINE

Please join us at St. Francis of Assisi Social Center on April 6, 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM for our very first Nine and Dine. Nine holes of mini-golf and an Italian dinner! Each hole will feature an alcoholic beverage and a tasty hors’ d’oeuvre. Italian dinner will be served at completion of your 9 holes, cafeteria style or take out! A small bar will also be available. Tickets will be available in early March for $45 each so start gathering your group of 6 to 8 people and get ready to lock in your Tee-Time! Tee times will be available in 15 minute increments starting at 5:00 PM. Dinner only will be available for $25 each. For more information please call The Buffalo Peace House at 627-9800.

PENANCE SERVICE

Please mark your calendars for our Lenten Reconciliation Service which will take place Thursday, April 4 at 7:00 PM. Join us as together we approach our merciful and forgiving Lord, asking for his forgiveness and pardon. There will be several priests available for Confession. Don’t worry if you haven’t gone to Confession in a long time. Don’t worry about the formula for Confession. Just spend some time looking into your heart and find whatever is there that has caused or causes you or others hurt or pain, whether you caused it yourself or it was done to you. The Lord is willing to take from you whatever you are willing to give him. He will replace it with only good things. One of the great fruits of a good Confession is that it reminds us that we are no better than anyone else, that we are all weak, that we are all sinners and that we really can help each other by our mutual support, understanding, forgiveness and compassion.

YOU WILL FEEL BETTER—THAT'S A PROMISE!

BOTTLES FOR BABIES—“CHANGE A LIFE”

It’s that time of year again! Harvest House Baby Ministry Bottles are back again and we need your help to fill them! Bring one home and fill it up with coins, cash or even a check. they will need to be turned in on, or before Easter Sunday (April 21, 2019). Thank you for ALL you do to help provide basic necessities for mothers and their little ones.

PLEASE THINK & PRAY

ABOUT BECOMING A(N):

Altar Server ✦ Eucharistic Minister
Lector ✦ Greeter ✦ Music Minister

During this time of Lent and as we get ready for the great celebration of Holy Thursday, please consider serving your Faith Community as one of our liturgical ministers. Liturgical Ministries include: Lector, Eucharistic Minister, Altar Server, Music and Greeter. This is a wonderful way to share more deeply in the celebration of the Mass and, at the same time, to really help out if you would like more information or would like to sign up to serve, please call the parish office or contact Fr. Ross.

PIEROGI SALES - LAST DAY APRIL 13

Homemade PIEROGI are now available for sale in the Social Center on Wednesdays and Saturdays until April 13 or sold out, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. The three varieties, Farmers Cheese, Sauerkraut, and Potato & Cheddar are $10.00 per dozen / $5.00 per half dozen. For more information, please call Bernadette at 822-1599. Please note, sales will end on April 13 or until sold out. If you wish to volunteer in the pierogi kitchen you are most welcome!

ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL

PRACTICE ENTRANCE, SCHOLARSHIP & PLACEMENT EXAM FOR 7TH GRADERS

On Saturday, March 30, 2019, St. Francis High School will offer a practice exam for all 7th grade boys. This practice exam is in preparation for the Entrance & Scholarship Exam which all boys in 8th grade must take to gain admission to St. Francis High School. For more information, please call 716-627-1200 ext. 582 or admissions@stfrancishigh.org.
Lord, that I might see!

REFLECTIONS FROM FR. ROSS

There was a blind girl who hated herself just because she was blind. She hated everyone, except her loving boyfriend. He's always there for her. She said that if she could only see the world, she would marry her boyfriend.

One day, someone donated a pair of eyes to her and then she could see everything, including her boyfriend. Her boyfriend asked her, "now that you can see the world, will you marry me?" The girl was shocked when she saw that her boyfriend was blind too, and refused to marry him.

Her boyfriend walked away in tears, and later wrote a letter to her saying, "Just take care of my eyes, dear." This is how the human brain changes when our status changes. Only a few remember what life was like before and who’s always been there even in the most painful situations.

One of our greatest faults and sins as human beings is our failure to see the good that surrounds us and that too often we take for granted the good that others do for us. At times we can have such short memories. As long as things go our way and people do what we expect them to do, everything is okay. But God forbid someone doesn’t live up to our expectations. All the good that was done for before, is forgotten. God forbid that someone points out to us a fault or failing that we have. And, as I have said before, most times, what we don’t like in others is what we ourselves are guilty of. At times we can be so blind. We can be so blind as to how we come across to others, under the guise of being honest and truthful, when, in fact, we are just being hurtful because we are filled with anger and resentment.

Lent is that special time during which we ask God to take away the blindness that prevents us from being the people God calls us to be. Even though God knows everything about us, he never forgets who we really are and, no matter what, he his patient, kind, gentle and forgiving. God doesn’t see things only in the way that things affect him. That’s the difference between being selfless and selfish. Sometimes, when life treats us badly and seems unfair, we tend to see ourselves more and more as the center of the universe. We can become less understanding and tolerant of others. We forget to look in the mirror and see what’s really there.

Here’s little reflection that might be helpful for all of us while we are on our Lenten journey. It’s entitled, Life is a gift:

Before you think of saying an unkind word, think of someone who can't speak.
Before you complain about the taste of your food, think of someone who has nothing to eat.
Before you complain about your husband, wife or a friend, think of someone who’s crying out to God for a companion.

Today before you complain about life, think of someone who went too early to heaven.
Before you complain about your children, think of someone who desires children but they're barren.
Before you argue about your dirty house, someone didn't clean or sweep, think of the people who are living in the streets.

Before whining about the distance you drive, think of someone who walks the same distance with their feet.

And when you are tired and complain about your job, think of the unemployed, the disabled and those who wished they had your job.

But before you think of pointing the finger or condemning another, remember that not one of us is without sin and we all answer to God, our loving father.

And when depressing thoughts seem to get you down, try to put a smile on your face and thank God that you and your loved ones are alive and still around.

Life is a gift! Live it! Enjoy it! Celebrate it, And fulfill it!

Life isn’t about waiting for the storm to pass; it's about learning to dance in the rain. fr.ross@verizon.net