

Liturgies and Mass Intentions ~ Week of January 8, 2017

Sunday, January 8

9:00 am— For the parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

11:00 am –For the Needs of our Parish

Monday January 9

No Mass

Tuesday, January 10

6:00 pm – For the Ill and Homebound

Wednesday, January 11

6:00 pm – For Those in RCIA

Thursday, January 12

6:00 pm – For the Safety of our First Responders

Friday, January 13

6:00 pm – For the Leadership of St. Francis

Schedule of Sunday Liturgical Ministries

Thank you for your willingness to serve to make our Mass Successful

Ministers of Hospitality (Greeters)

January 8– 9 am – Rick Miller, Frank Schneider

11 am – Sandy Glasner, Theri Brady

January 15 —9 am—Lorri Kuczynski, Jeanna Diederich

11 am – Tera Kovar, Sandy Glasner

Servers

January 8 – 9 am – Chris Paisley, 11 am – Margaret O'Brien

January 15—9 am—Kathleen Porter, 11 am – Gaetan O'Brien

Crucifers (Cross Bearers)

January 8 – 9 am – Susan Kyanko, 11 am – Dan O'Brien

January 15—9 am—Skip Camerucci 11 am – Dan O'Brien

Lectors

January 8 – 9 am – Linda Wolfe, Cecilia McAdams

11 am – Ben Gibbons, Renee Morkassel

January 15 —9 am—Elise Ryan, Louisa Celebrezze

11 am –Michel Hindeme, Diane Meves

Eucharistic Ministers

January 8 – 9 am – John Ryan, J. Schneider, K. Kriedermann

11 am – Diane Lemay, Lori Tocorzic, OPEN

January 15 - 9 am—Steve Hillyer, Jan Rosenfield, John Ryan

11 am – OPEN, Marilyn Smith, Mark Coleman

WAKE UP SMILING
seize every moment
TRY NEW THINGS
BE LEGENDARY
BOLD fearless
amaze yourself
TAKE CHANCES
embrace change
BE OPTIMISTIC
now is your time

Calendar of Events at St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Please check the St. Francis website for the full calendar of events

Sunday, January 8

▶ 12:00 pm – Creation Care Team Meeting

▶ 2:00 pm – St. Francis Seniors Meeting

Monday, January 9

Tuesday, January 10

Wednesday, January 11

▶ 7:00 - RCIA

Thursday, January 12

▶ 10:00 am – Westminster Thurber Bible Study

Parish News and Information

A member of our Parish is seeking to supplement her family's income through **home and/or office cleaning**. Since English is not her native language, please call/text Andy Randel [614-216-8921](tel:614-216-8921) with **any one time or continual work** you may be able to offer. God bless all those who can help!

Parish Town Hall Meeting – On Monday, January 30, 2017, at 7:00 pm, there will be an all parish meeting to discuss some potential renovations to the church. Please join us to hear the ideas and presentations from the Diocese. If you have any questions, please contact Frank Conway.

The next **St. Francis of Assisi Book Discussion Group** meeting will be on January 15 in the church hall following the 11:00 Mass. At that time the group will be discussing *Silence* by Shusaku Endo. All are welcome.

As a parish and community of faith, we are blessed in many ways. We are also called in many ways, particularly to live out Jesus' and our patron saint's call to action to **"transform society through acts of social justice...and ease the burdens of poverty, illness and discrimination within our parish and the larger community."**

You can live out our parish's mission by putting **Monday, May 1, 2017 at 6:30-8:30 pm** on your calendar today. That's the night of the BREAD Nehemiah Action, where we join with an unprecedented assembly of the Columbus interfaith community to call for real change to improve the most distressed communities in Columbus. One night can change a lifetime. Mark it down. Stay tuned for more details!

Collection Report – During the month of December we had two special collections. For the Religious Retirement Fund we collected \$618. For the Diocesan Charities we collected \$898. Thank you for your generosity.

Next Week's Scripture Readings

Isaiah 49:3, 5 - 6

1 Corinthians 1:1 - 3

John 1:29 - 34

Second Collection

Next Sunday, January 15 we will be taking up a collection for Propagation of the Faith. Please come prepared to give as generously as you are able.

Catholic Education Section

Who was St. Francis of Assisi?

In 1182, Pietro Bernardone returned from a trip to France to find out his wife had given birth to a son. Far from being excited or apologetic because he'd been gone, Pietro was furious because she'd had his new son baptized Giovanni after John the Baptist. The last thing Pietro wanted in his son was a man of God -- he wanted a man of business, a cloth merchant like he was, and he especially wanted a son who would reflect his infatuation with France. So he renamed his son Francesco -- which is the equivalent of calling him Frenchman.

Francis enjoyed a very rich easy life growing up because of his father's wealth and the permissiveness of the times. From the beginning everyone -- and I mean everyone -- loved Francis. He was constantly happy, charming, and a born leader. If he was picky, people excused him. If he was ill, people took care of him. If he was so much of a dreamer he did poorly in school, no one minded. In many ways he was too easy to like for his own good. No one tried to control him or teach him.

As he grew up, Francis became the leader of a crowd of young people who spent their nights in wild parties. Thomas of Celano, his biographer who knew him well, said, "In other respects an exquisite youth, he attracted to himself a whole retinue of young people addicted to evil and accustomed to vice." Francis himself said, "I lived in sin" during that time.

Francis fulfilled every hope of Pietro's -- even falling in love with France. He loved the songs of France, the romance of France, and especially the free adventurous troubadours of France who wandered through Europe. And despite his dreaming, Francis was also good at business. But Francis wanted more, more than wealth. But not holiness! Francis wanted to be a noble, a knight. Battle was the best place to win the glory and prestige he longed for. He got his first chance when Assisi declared war on their longtime enemy, the nearby town of Perugia.

Most of the troops from Assisi were butchered in the fight. Only those wealthy enough to expect to be ransomed were taken prisoner. At last Francis was among the nobility like he always wanted to be...but chained in a harsh, dark dungeon. All accounts say that he never lost his happy manner in that horrible place. Finally, after a year in the dungeon, he was ransomed. Strangely, the experience didn't seem to change him. He gave himself to partying with as much joy and abandon as he had before the battle.

The experience didn't change what he wanted from life either: Glory. Finally a call for knights for the Fourth Crusade gave him a chance for his dream. But before he left Francis had to have a suit of armor and a horse -- no problem for the son of a wealthy father. And not just any suit of armor would do but one decorated with gold with a magnificent cloak. Any relief we feel in hearing that Francis gave the cloak to a poor knight will be destroyed by the boasts that Francis left behind that he would return a prince.

But Francis never got farther than one day's ride from Assisi. There he had a dream in which God told him he had it all wrong and told him to return home. And return home he did. What must it have been like to return without ever making it to battle -- the boy who wanted nothing more than to be liked was humiliated, laughed at, called a coward by the village and raged at by his father for the money wasted on armor.

Francis' conversion did not happen overnight. God had waited for him for twenty-five years and now it was Francis' turn to wait. Francis started to spend more time in prayer. He went off to a cave and wept

for his sins. Sometimes God's grace overwhelmed him with joy. But life couldn't just stop for God. There was a business to run, customers to wait on.

One day while riding through the countryside, Francis, the man who loved beauty, who was so picky about food, who hated deformity, came face to face with a leper. Repelled by the appearance and the smell of the leper, Francis nevertheless jumped down from his horse and kissed the hand of the leper. When his kiss of peace was returned, Francis was filled with joy. As he rode off, he turned around for a last wave, and saw that the leper had disappeared. He always looked upon it as a test from God...that he had passed.

His search for conversion led him to the ancient church at San Damiano. While he was praying there, he heard Christ on the crucifix speak to him, "Francis, repair my church." Francis assumed this meant church with a small c -- the crumbling building he was in. Acting again in his impetuous way, he took fabric from his father's shop and sold it to get money to repair the church. His father saw this as an act of theft -- and put together with Francis' cowardice, waste of money, and his growing disinterest in money made Francis seem more like a madman than his son. Pietro dragged Francis before the bishop and in front of the whole town demanded that Francis return the money and renounce all rights as his heir.

The bishop was very kind to Francis; he told him to return the money and said God would provide. That was all Francis needed to hear. He not only gave back the money but stripped off all his clothes -- the clothes his father had given him -- until he was wearing only a hair shirt. In front of the crowd that had gathered he said, "Pietro Bernardone is no longer my father. From now on I can say with complete freedom, 'Our Father who art in heaven.'" Wearing nothing but castoff rags, he went off into the freezing woods -- singing. And when robbers beat him later and took his clothes, he climbed out of the ditch and went off singing again. From then on Francis had nothing...and everything.

Francis went back to what he considered God's call. He begged for stones and rebuilt the San Damiano church with his own hands, not realizing that it was the Church with a capital C that God wanted repaired. Scandal and avarice were working on the Church from the inside while outside heresies flourished by appealing to those longing for something different or adventurous.

Soon Francis started to preach. (He was never a priest, though he was later ordained a deacon under his protest.) Francis was not a reformer; he preached about returning to God and obedience to the Church. Francis must have known about the decay in the Church, but he always showed the Church and its people his utmost respect. When someone told him of a priest living openly with a woman and asked him if that meant the Mass was polluted, Francis went to the priest, knelt before him, and kissed his hands -- because those hands had held God.

Slowly companions came to Francis, people who wanted to follow his life of sleeping in the open, begging for garbage to eat...and loving God. With companions, Francis knew he now had to have some kind of direction to this life so he opened the Bible in three places. He read the command to the rich young man to sell all his good and give to the poor, the order to the apostles to take nothing on their journey, and the demand to take up the cross daily. "Here is our rule," Francis said -- as simple, and as seemingly impossible, as that. He was going to do what no one thought possible any more -- live by the Gospel. Francis took these commands so literally that he made one brother run after the thief who stole his hood and offer him his robe!

Source: http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=50

to be continued...