

BOLLETTINO DI SAN FRANCESCO



RECTORY: 22870 S. Nunneley, Clinton Twp., MI 48035

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WEBSITE: sanfrancescochurch.org

RECTORY HOURS: 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday & Friday

Fr. Dino Vanin, PIME Pastor

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE: 8 a.m., 10 a.m. (Italian) and 12 p.m.

HOLYDAY MASS SCHEDULE: 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.

DAILY MASS: 8 a.m. **SATURDAY MASS:** 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.

CONFESSIONS: Friday Nights 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. or by appt.

BAPTISMS: Sunday at 1 p.m. or by appointment.

MARRIAGES: Check with Father six months before the wedding date for the office work and necessary instructions.



DECEMBER 2023

Our Lives are Wrapped in Mystery

Dear Parishioners and Friends of San Francesco Church,

Countering recent harrowing events of sheer barbarism and unspeakable cruelty, the reaction of countless people has been one of shock and disbelief. When those horrors were perpetrated in the name of God, the quick reaction of those familiar with the Gospel was: "Not my God!!"

But the firm starting point must be acknowledging that there can be only one God. If there were two or more gods, they would be limited by the other gods and, therefore, not the God in whom we believe as the Supreme Being. Jews, Christians, and Muslims have different names for the same God: (Yahweh, Triune God, Allah). Historically, the Hebrews are our older siblings as we share the Old Testament with them; while in writing the Koran, the Prophet Mahomet was influenced both by Judaism and Christianity.

All that I have shared with you thus far is so that I might submit to your consideration what I see as a need to let our life and everyone else's life be wrapped in mystery, which God alone can decipher.

I am not referring to the impossibility of wrapping our heads around the mystery of our Triune God: one God in three Persons, equal in majesty, power, and glory, but the aspects of the relationship we have developed with our God, or our clumsy attempts at establishing one. I also refer to the mystery of sin and acceptance or refusal of our human weaknesses in relating to God, and the list goes on.

Before we react to horrific acts of barbarism by saying: "Not my God," we must realize the progress that our ancestors in the faith have made in their conception of God. We would be surprised by how Yahweh God revealed Himself adopting images that could be understood by primitive and violence-prone ancient peoples who lived their entire lives in survival mode.

Here are a couple of examples among the shocking ones found in the Old Testament: *Samuel said to Saul: "It was I whom the LORD sent to anoint you king over his people Israel. Now, therefore, listen to the message of the LORD. This is what the LORD of hosts has to say: 'I will punish what*

Amalek did to Israel when he barred his way as he was coming up from Egypt. Go, now, attack Amalek, and deal with him and all that he has under the ban. Do not spare him, but kill men and women, children and infants, oxen and sheep, camels, and asses." **1 Samuel 15:1-3**

And these were the sentiments of the Hebrews oppressed by the Babylonians: *Fair Babylon, you destroyer, happy those who pay you back the evil you have done us! Happy those who seize your children and smash them against a rock.* **Psalms 137:8-9.**

The contrast with the most uplifting and inspiring revelation that Jesus gave of the Father in the New Testament is more than striking! *For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.* **John 3:16.** "But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you", **Matthew 5:44.**

The conclusion we must reach whenever there are horrors to which we are so crudely exposed is that some people, in the name of God, regress to the times in which primitive people were forced to live in an endless survival mode. Others find themselves in situations so unbearable that they believe God allows them to resort to barbarous means to achieve freedom for themselves and their children.

In St. Paul before his conversion, we have a clear case of zeal for God gone awry. In the name of Yahweh God, he was ready to kill all the Christians he could round up... *Now Saul, still breathing murderous threats against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest.* **Acts 9:1**

Arguably with good and pious intentions in mind, the history of the Church herself is marred by forced conversions, torture, imprisonment, burning at the stake, and other manners totally unbecoming of disciples of Christ Jesus.

This somber consideration gives tremendous weight to Jesus' order not to judge and even less to condemn anyone (cf. Luke 6:37).

God alone knows fully about one's upbringing, culture, understanding of religious duties, family history, wounds and scars, traumas and pain, influence and the pressure exercised by those who have power over him/her, etc.

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Our Lives are Wrapped in Mystery

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We must accept that, by divine design, we live lives wrapped in mystery. If we do not believe so, try to answer these simple questions: Can we think of a single good deed we have done with only a pure intention of glorifying God and in no way tarnished by a touch of self-interest? How deep and how lasting has our sorrow for our sins been? How intense is our love for the Lord? Do we fully accept our human frailty? Can we be sure that, finding ourselves in gruesome situations, we would not act in ways that, at present, we are so quick to condemn?

We should be humbly grateful to live in the cocoon of mystery in which God the Father has enveloped us, so that He alone may sort things out by reading correctly what is in everyone's heart. Tragic and shocking regressions are the result of the decision by God's children to break out of their cocoons to judge and condemn.

For inner peace, we should resolve to live trustingly in the mystery of the Father's mercy, because He alone knows the extent of each one of His children's freedoms. He alone knows how to bring true peace to His global family.

Fr. Dino Vanin at San Francesco Church

MASS INTENTIONS:

December 1-Friday ❀

Spiritual well-being of Bianca Mutti by mom
Armando Gennari by wife Savina

December 2-Saturday

Special Intentions for Mary Mother of God Prayer Group
6pm Giuseppe & Lucia Pinelli by Sam & Alice Pinelli

December 3-Sunday

8am Antonio & Angelina Slongo by family
8am Bob Ruggioli by wife Sharon
10am Alessio & Luisa Fallone by family
10am Vilma Farquhar by family
10am Francesco Belcastro by Domenico Bitonti
10am Roberto Cicchelli by wife Eda
10am Frank Borucki by Boschian family
12pm Societa SS. Crocifisso di Montelepre-Club Mass

December 6-Wednesday ❀

Thomas Michael by DiMichele Family
James Daoust, Sr. by DiMichele Family
Mike Clark by DiMichele Family

December 7-Thursday

Primo Righi by wife Lorraine

December 8-Friday (Immaculate Conception)

Alex Calderone by wife Geraldine
Salvatore Manzella by wife Rosa
Vincenzo Sperduti by Maria Katona
Jerry DiMaggio by wife Grace
Special Intentions of the DiMichele family by family
Evandro & Sally DiMichele by DiMichele family
Holy Souls in Purgatory by Brenda Rivard
7pm Holy Mass for Immaculate Conception

December 9-Saturday ❀

Vocations to the Priesthood & Religious Life
6pm Gertrude Paupert by family

December 10-Sunday ❀

8am John & Pearl Marino by Ron & Michelle Marino
8am Nancy & Carl Kaspari by Mike MacDonald
8am Matilda Marchese by Tom & Rose Daniel
10am Rocco Ruggirello by family
10am Antonino Badalamenti by wife & family
10am Antonio Moraccini by wife & family
10am Francesco Verardi by Domenico Bitonti
10am Deceased members of Bitonti family by Domenico
10am Dino Martinelli by sister Eda
10am Giosue Martinelli by daughter Eda
12pm Rosa & Gioacchino Alu by daughter Carmela
12pm Antonia & Lorenzo Cracolizzi by granddaughter Maria

December 12-Tuesday ❀

Ottavio Zicarelli (Birthday) by wife Ida & family
Piera Franklin by daughter Mary Mutti

December 13-Wednesday

Domenico Catanzaro by wife Lena
Holy souls in Purgatory by Bob & Anna Kustasz

December 14-Thursday

Special Intentions of the DiMichele family by family
The Salvation of the dying by DiMichele family

December 15-Friday ❀

Angelo Catanzaro by Mother Lena

December 16-Saturday

Linda Kozlowski by Brenda Rivard
6pm Dolores Pietraszewski by Sandy & Rich
6pm Frances Puzzuoli by family & friends

December 17-Sunday

8am Pietro & Josephine Badalamenti by family
8am Albert & Lucille Cataldi by family
10am Antonino & Filippa Passalacqua by son Joe
10am Franca Esposito by husband & family
10am Emma Martinelli Langan by family
10am Giuseppe Riggi by family
10am Michele DiCicco by Anna, Lucia, & Gaia DiCicco
10am Carlo Chiodini by Eufemia Berra
10am Mr. & Mrs. John Berra by Eufemia Berra
10am Vincenzo Esposito by family
10am Deceased members of LaPosta family by family
12pm Joann Gunn by DeLaSalle CBA family
12pm Andrea D'Angelo by daughter Maria DiLorenzo
12pm Special Intentions for Soave Family by Gerarda & fam
12pm Giuseppe Liano by family

December 18-Monday ❀

Giuseppe & Savina Righi by daughter-in-law Lorraine

December 19-Tuesday ❀

Carlo Pasquali by Nonna

December 20-Wednesday

Salvatore Ventimiglia by family

December 22-Friday

Antonio & Assunta Croceni by daughter Lorraine

December 23-Saturday

6pm Salvatore & Rosa Spadafora by Spadafora family

December 24-Sunday (Christmas Eve)

8am Louisa Barera by William Hickey
10am Germano & Loris Costa by family
12pm Diva Bonaldi by family
6pm Theresa & Charles MacDonald by son Mike
6pm John & Pearl Marino by Ron & Michelle Marino
6pm Marcel & Rita Normandeau by Ron & Michelle Marino
6pm Thomas & Benedetta Sabatini by Joe & Maria
6pm Antonio & Annunziata Moscone by Maria Sabatini
6pm Francesco & Elvira DiCicco by Sandra Biundo
6pm Salvatore & Rosa Spadafora by daughter Maria & fam
12AM-MIDNIGHT MASS FOR ALL

December 25-Monday (Christmas Day) ❄️

8am Giuseppe Mazella by wife Gaetana & family
8am Giuseppe Mazella by wife Gaetana & family
8am Anthony Valerio by wife Victoria
8am Vincent & Pierina Frabotta by family
8am Mary Kolis by family
8am Duncan & Marie Sousa by daughter & family
8am Veronica & Mike Pisa, Sr. by daughter Michele
8am Mike Pisa, Jr. by sister Michele Jones
8am Piera Franklin by daughter Mary Mutti
8am Jerry DiMaggio by wife Grace
8am Evandro & Sally DiMichele by family
8am Conversion of Sinners by DiMichele family
8am Holy Souls in Purgatory by DiMichele family
10am Mario Signorelli by wife & family
10am Albino Martinelli-37th anniversary by family
10am Giovanni Blindu by Judi Blindu
10am Antonio & Emilia Zicarelli by Ida & family
10am Giuseppe & Maria Gonino by Ida Zicarelli & fam
10am Ottavio & Melissa Zicarelli by Ida & family
10am Clelia & Ives Stoppa by Ida Zicarelli & family
10am Antonio Moraccini by wife & family
12pm Diva Bonaldi by family

December 26-Tuesday

Francesco & Elvira DiCicco by Sandra Biundo

December 27-Wednesday

Special Intentions of the DiMichele family by family
Evandro & Sally DiMichele by DiMichele family

December 28-Thursday ❄️

Protection of the Unborn by DiMichele family
The Conversion of Sinners by DiMichele family

December 29-Friday

Antonietta & Gaetano Biundo by family
Evandro & Sally DiMichele by family
Special Intentions of the DiMichele family by family
Protection of The Unborn by DiMichele family

December 30-Saturday

Cyril Van Marcke by Van Marckes family
6pm Salvatore & Rosa Spadafora by Spadafora family

December 31-Sunday (New Year's Eve) ❄️

8am Piera Franklin by daughter Mary Mutti
8am Special Intentions of the DiMichele family by family
8am Evandro & Sally DiMichele by DiMichele family
8am The Salvation of the Dying by DiMichele family
10am Giuseppe & Paolina Spano by Costa family
10am Bruno Deluca by family
10am Armando & Annita Bastianelli by family
12pm Tommaso & Angela DiLorenzo by Maria



Our Lectors for December:

Dec. 03-J. Nowc, M. Sugameli, L. Sawyer
Dec. 10-P. Graebert, L. Pietrantonio, A. Perugi
Dec. 17-J. Nowc, T. Silverio, N. Butros
Dec. 24-P. Graebert, G. Buttacavoli, L. Sawyer
Dec. 24-J. Foglyano (Vigil Mass)
Dec. 24-J. Nowc (Midnight Mass)
Dec. 25-P. Graebert, V. Amaro, A. Perugi
Dec. 31-J. Nowc, M. Sugameli, N. Butros
Saturday 6pm Dec. 2-J. Foglyano, **Dec. 9-D.** Brosky,
Dec. 16-J. Foglyano, **Dec. 23-D.** Brosky, **Dec. 30-J.** Foglyano



CHRISTMAS ENVELOPES

Christmas is a time for sharing and giving. We thank God for giving us His Son, Jesus in human flesh. In this bulletin you will find an envelope. We ask you to help us in our pastoral and missionary work. Your generosity is deeply appreciated. God Bless you all.

SAN FRANCESCO CATECHISM STUDENTS are currently collecting for needy mothers who "Choose Life". We will be accepting gift cards and/or monetary donations. Gift cards can be purchased from any establishment where baby supplies are sold. Simply place your monetary donation or gift card in an envelope clearly marked "Mothers in Need" and give to Father Dino (please do not place it in the collection basket). Thank you in advance for your generosity.

I would like to **sincerely thank** all who so generously donated to our **2023 Food Drive**. We have many kind and generous people who support our programs at San Francesco Parish. Many individuals who truly remember their Corporal Works of Mercy, may Jesus send you all many Blessings. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with health and happiness.

Ann Burrell, CCD Coordinator

San Francesco News:



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Friday, December 8th

THIS IS A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION.

Holy Masses @ 8am & 7pm

No scheduled Confessions on this day.



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

December 24th, Sunday (Christmas Eve)

Holy Masses: 8am, 10am (Italian) & 12 noon.

6:00pm Vigil Mass

Midnight Mass: doors open at 11:30pm.

December 25th, Monday (Christmas Day)

8am, 10am (Italian) & 12 noon.

December 31st, Sunday (New Year's Eve)

Mass Times: 8am, 10am (Italian) & 12 noon

January 1st, Monday (New Years Day)

(This is **NOT** a day of Obligation.)

Mass Time: 8am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Fridays 6:30-7:30pm

If you are unable to come at the scheduled time you must individually arrange in advance.

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from
Fr. Dino, his parish staff, & the PIME Fathers
Buon Natale and Buon Anno!**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



*May Jesus Christ bring love and
peace to you at Christmas and
bless you the year through.*

Tutte Vite Avvolte nel Mistero

Carissimi Parrocchiani e Amici di San Francesco Church,
L'efferato massacro del 7 ottobre scorso, compiuto nel villaggio israeliano di Kfar Aza da militanti Hamas, drogati con Captagon, fu tale da creare in molti una reazione di profonda rivulsione mista a incredulità per la sua singolare barbarie. Tantissimi si sono chiesti come mai atti così inumani si possano fare in nome di Dio.

Beh, alcuni vorrebbero precisare che fu fatto nel nome di Allah, senza pensare che c'è un solo Dio a cui sono dati nomi diversi: Yahweh per gli ebrei, Dio Uno e Trino per noi cristiani e Allah per i musulmani. Noi cristiani condividiamo la Bibbia dell'Antico Testamento con gli ebrei e Maometto scrisse il suo Corano prendendo spunti sia dall'Antico sia dal Nuovo Testamento.

È importantissimo tenere presente che Dio si è rivelato progressivamente secondo la capacità mentale del suo popolo. Il concetto di Dio appreso dal popolo d'Israele all'inizio, quando lottava per la sua sopravvivenza è completamente diverso dal concetto di Dio che si rivela ripetutamente come amore infinito e ci ordina di amare i nostri nemici e di pregare per chi ci perseguita. (leggete nella vostra Bibbia tutti i passi qui elencati: 1 Samuele 15:1-3/ Salmo 137:8-9/ Giovanni 3:16/ Matteo 5:44/ 1 Giovanni 4:8).

Nel nome di Yahweh, Saul (il futuro San Paolo) voleva uccidere tutti i cristiani che avesse incontrato a Damasco (cf. Atti degli apostoli 9:1).

Nel nome di Yahweh, di Dio Uno e Trino e nel nome di Allah, si sono fatti tanti atti di barbarie spietata.

Limitandoci alla Chiesa Cattolica, non possiamo dimenticare le conversioni fatte con la spada, torture di ogni tipo, eretici e streghe bruciati al rogo, esecuzioni capitali, prigionie e altre misure di cui ora ci vergogniamo e che condanniamo.

Quello che succede soprattutto in clima di guerre e oppressioni protratte nei secoli è una regressione a un concetto di Dio che dovrebbe essere superato dal mondo civile. Non lo è perché Dio, che ha avvolto tutte le nostre vite nel mistero, ci proibisce di giudicare e ancor meno di condannare nessuno. Solo Dio sa il nostro livello di libertà ogni momento della nostra vita. Noi non sappiamo come ci comporteremmo se ci trovassimo in situazioni impossibili e totalmente inumane. Con umiltà, accettiamo che la nostra vita rimanga avvolta nel mistero e siamo riconoscenti a Dio per la sua infinita misericordia verso di noi e verso tutti gli altri suoi figli e figlie sparsi nel mondo e nelle pagine della storia.

P. Dino Vanin, PIME

SINCERE APPRECIATION & GRATITUDE to all the **Ushers, Lectors, Servers**, and to the **people who help clean and decorate so nicely**, for your time & dedication to our Church and in serving our parishioners.

TAX RECEIPTS - If you would like a tax receipt for donations you have made throughout the year, you must sign up in the church vestibule only if you have not signed up in the past.