

The Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Intention

SUNDAY, JUNE 13 –Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 A.M. Holy Name
9:30 A.M. For the People of St. Francis
11:00 A.M. Veneranda Splendor
12:30 P.M. Gino Filippo Alfonso
Ettore Iocco
St. Anthony
Lucia Ruffini
The Iele Family

MONDAY, JUNE 14 - WEEKDAY

9:00 A.M. Giuseppe Salamone

TUESDAY, JUNE 15 - WEEKDAY

9:00 A.M. Juan Diego Betancourt

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16 - WEEKDAY

9:00 A.M. John Xerri

THURSDAY, JUNE 17 - WEEKDAY

9:00 A.M. Angelo Sferrazza

FRIDAY, JUNE 18 - WEEKDAY

9:00 A.M. John Purich

SATURDAY, JUNE 19 - WEEKDAY

9:00 A.M. Purgatorial Society
Dr. Arthur Gualtieri

5:00 P.M. Andrew Gandolfo

SUNDAY, JUNE 20– Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 A.M. For the People of St. Francis
9:30 A.M. Father's Day Novena
11:00 A.M. Raymond Loud
12:30 P.M. Calogero Lillo Cataia
Elia Cinquemani
Salvatore Cinquemani
Edwardo Pistolo
Giuseppe Carlino



Today's Readings

The Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ezekiel 17:22-34
2 Corinthians 5:6-10
Mark 4:26-34

Readings for the Week

MONDAY: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10
Matthew 5:38-42

TUESDAY: 2 Corinthians 8:1-9
Matthew 5:43-48

WEDNESDAY: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

THURSDAY: 2 Corinthians 11:1-11
Matthew 6:7-15

FRIDAY: 2 Corinthians 11:18, 21-30
Matthew 6: 19-23

SATURDAY: 2 Corinthians 12:1-10
Matthew 6:24-34

The Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Job 38:22-34
2 Corinthians 5:6-10
Mark 4:26-34



From the PASTOR'S DESK



My Dear Parishioners,

Our knowledge of seeds varies greatly, depending on whether we are a farmer, botanist or a home gardener. Even if we do not have daily contact with seeds, nearly all of us are aware, to some degree, of the essential role that seeds play in our very lives. Without seeds there would be no vegetables, grains, grasses or trees, to name a few of the life forms that come from seeds. Because of its essential role in life itself, the seed has become a wonderful metaphor for many of the important aspects of our lives.

The image of the seed or shoot has the power to awaken our religious imaginations so that we are able to probe the depths of the mystery of God working in our lives. Today's first reading and Gospel both use such images to teach us. In the first reading, the prophet Ezekiel uses the shoot of a tree to teach about God's faithfulness to His people and the love He had for them. Ezekiel lived approximately six hundred years before the birth of Jesus. During his time the Jewish people were forced to live in exile in Babylon as slaves.

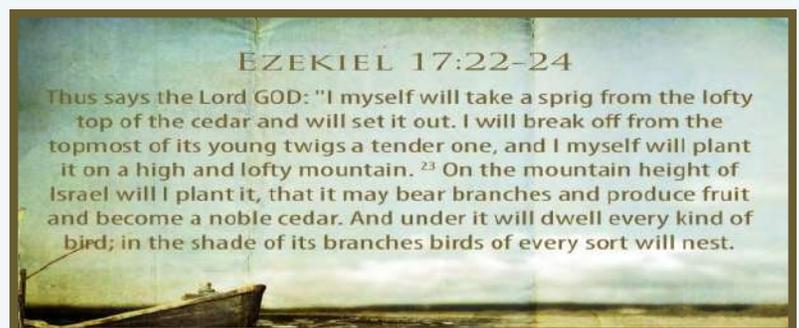
Because of their oppression, Ezekiel held before them the hope that they would eventually return to their homeland, Jerusalem, and be freed from captivity. He reminded them of God's faithfulness, using language that would awaken in them a sense of the magnitude of God's promise. He gave them an image of a tree, planted on a mountain that they could carry with them in their hearts each day of their burdened lives. Ezekiel painted a picture of the tender shoot taken from the top of the cedar. This shoot would take root on the high and lofty mountain to become the majestic cedar abounding in fruit.

Ezekiel reminded his people that God would raise up the lowly trees and bring down the mighty ones. The Jewish people knew what Ezekiel meant. This meant that God would fulfill His promise, and raise them up, free them, and save them.

Today's gospel reading uses the metaphor of the seed to help us understand the nature of the Kingdom of God. Jesus gives two parables to illustrate the Kingdom of God. The first is a parable about seed that is scattered on the land by a man. As he goes about his life, the seed sprouts and grows, but he has no idea how this happens. This is the way it is with the kingdom of God. God's word is heard throughout the world; it takes root in our hearts, grows and spreads. We do not know how this happens because this is God's grace at work in our lives.

The second parable is that of the tiny mustard seed that grows many times its size. It grows so big, in fact, that birds can find shelter and shade in its branches. The Kingdom of God is like this tiny seed. God plants in each of us many tiny seeds of goodness that we are to bring to fruition by our good works and loving care for others. God nurtures us and helps our seeds grow with His word and Sacrament. The fruit that these seeds produce, through our efforts and God's grace, are lives brought to salvation. And this is how God's Kingdom on earth continues to be built up.

*All God's Blessings,
Msgr. Maresca*





PRAYER TO OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE

Most holy and immaculate Virgin, Mother of Jesus and our loving Mother, being His mother, you shared in His universal kingship. The prophets and angels proclaimed Him King of Peace. With loving fervor in our hearts, we salute and honor you as Queen of Peace.

We pray that your intercession may protect us and all people from hate and discord, and direct our hearts into the ways of peace and justice which your Son taught and exemplified. We ask your maternal care for our Holy Father who works to reconcile the nations in peace. We seek your guidance for our head of state and other leaders as they strive for world peace.

Glorious Queen of Peace, grant us peace in our hearts, harmony in our families and concord throughout the world.

Immaculate Mother, as patroness of our beloved country, watch over us and protect us with your motherly love. Amen



On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress replaced the British symbols of the Grand Union flag with a new design featuring 13 white stars in a circle on a field of blue and 13 red and white stripes – one for each state. Although it is not certain, this flag may have been made by the Philadelphia seamstress Betsy Ross, who was an official flag maker for the Pennsylvania Navy. The number of stars increased as the new states entered the Union.

In June 1886 Bernard Cigrand made his first public proposal for the annual observance of the birth of the flag. Cigrand's effort to ensure national observance of Flag Day finally came when President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation calling for a nationwide observance of the event on June 14, 1916. However, Flag Day did not become official until August 1949, when President Harry Truman signed the legislation and proclaimed June 14 as Flag Day. In 1966, Congress also requested that the President issue annually a proclamation designating the week in which June 14 occurs as National Flag Week.

The President is requested to issue each year a proclamation to call on government officials in the USA to display the flag of the United States on all government buildings on Flag Day; and to urge US residents to observe Flag Day as the anniversary of the adoption on June 14, 1777, by the Continental Congress of the Stars and Stripes as the official flag of the United States.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is taking place every Monday through Saturday from 8:00 AM to 8:50 AM. The rosary is prayed at 8:30 AM each morning. All are invited to stop by and spend some time in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Whether it's for one day a week, 5 minutes a visit, or just a stop in to Church, it's a wonderful way to begin our day.

Time spent in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament will bring countless blessings to you and our parish.

Please note that adoration will end on Saturday, June 19th and will resume on Tuesday, September 7th.

Parish Mission Statement

St. Francis of Assisi Parish is a Catholic community that is centered in Jesus, gathers in worship and witnesses the Gospel message. The parish values and welcomes each person's gift of time, talent and treasure. As a faith-filled community, we are committed to minister to the spiritual, educational and material needs of all people.

Ensuring the Future of Your Church

Saint Francis of Assisi Parish relies on your goodness and generosity to ensure that the ministry of Jesus continues here in Astoria. A charitable bequest is an excellent way to create a lasting memorial. Many of our parishioners use their wills or living trusts to make their most generous gifts. Please remember us when you create yours.

PRAYER FOR GRADUATES

Heavenly Father,
Surround those who are graduating with your grace.
Bless them with hope so that they move into the future with eager and open hearts.
Help them to put the knowledge, skills, and insights gained through their education to use for the good of all humankind.
Inspire them to believe in the goodness of life even when faced with challenges and difficulties.
As they commence with their lives, may they grow ever more grateful and wise.
All of this we ask in the name of Jesus, your beloved Son. Amen.



Memorials for the Week of June 13, 2021



SANCTUARY LAMP

**In Loving Memory of
Jennifer Ronacher
Requested by:
Davina Gelber**

Welcome to Our Church

If you wish to register as a parishioner of St. Francis of Assisi Church, please stop by the Rectory Office during regular business hours. There you can pick up a census card which can be filled out at that time or returned by mail or in the Sunday Collection Basket. You can even download the census card on line. Just check our website at: stfrancisofassisiastoria.org
You will then begin to receive weekly offering envelopes.

Remember in your prayers all those in our parish who are sick, that they may find health and comfort:



Steven Joyce, Ana Balint, John Wrenn, Rose Williams, George Behringer, Augustin Cisneros, Martha Calado, James Nunez, Vincent Wytak, Carol Ross, Jeffrey Hyans, Marie LoVolpe, Jessica St. Preux, Al Ciani, Alesha Moses, Nancy McCaffrey, Christopher Wojtalik, Marie Guerriero, Theresa Pacheco, William Goss, Luke Pacheco, Vincenza Papa, Jim Schneggenburger, Anthony Criscuolo, John Ross, Samantha O'Sullivan, Marilyn Miller, John Carmody, Rosario Duran, Vivian Papa, Joel Steinmann, Anna Governali, Antonio Postiglione, Mario Tamburello, Christopher Araimo, Charles Principato, Jim Kreitler, Humberto Cordova, John Schakir, Louise Joyce Mastromarco, Margaret Culhane, Benedicto Randazzo, Theresa Unter, Angelo Niakas, Serdjo Pavich & Peter Lopez.

Also remember in your prayers all the deceased of the Parish. Please remember to continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood, religious life, diaconate, and married life.

RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

After receiving Holy Communion, please remember this is a special time with the Lord. Do not be stopping to say hello or wave to people in the pews. Return to your seat in silence and use this special time for prayer and thanksgiving. Reflect that you have received the Body and Blood of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Jesus is with you. Please observe a prayerful silence.

Please be mindful that there are people who come to church early in order to pray.



Please show respect by observing silence.

The Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time June 13, 2021



“Here are my mother and my brothers.”

Consider a vocation as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life. Contact the Vocation Office at (718) 827-2454 or email: vocations@diobrook.org



Communion for the Homebound

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion can bring the Eucharist to home bound parishioners using the usual safety precautions (masks, social distancing) and if the parishioner and extraordinary minister are comfortable doing so. The homebound person should be equally comfortable in having the Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion visit their home. If Extraordinary Ministers are willing, please call Marybeth at the rectory to let her know.

Those who are home bound, if you wish Holy Communion, please call the rectory and leave your name, address, and phone number. A minister will be in contact with you to make the necessary arrangements. Please DO NOT contact a minister on your own. If a minister was bringing Holy Communion to you let Marybeth know that when you call the rectory.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

FOCUS:

The seed of faith is in our hearts, and grace helps it to bear fruit.

Jesus speaks his Word to the crowds in parables because that is how *they were able to understand it*. Today, he uses agrarian images. Although farming is dependent on many variables the farmer has no control over, the seed of faith planted in our hearts is totally in our control. Will we take the time to weed? Will we take the time to water?

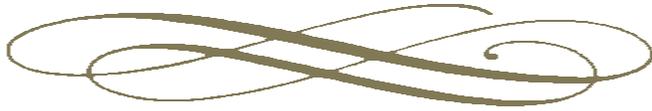
St. Francis of Assisi Parish
Weekly Offering

Thank you for your continued generosity of giving each week. Your weekly offering helps us pay our monthly bills.

The Collection/Donation
for the weekend:

Sunday Collections 6/5-6/6 \$4,483.00

School parents must use church envelopes.



**Annual Catholic
Appeal 2021**
DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

THANK YOU to all who have donated to the Annual Catholic Appeal. I appreciate your generosity. As of this time we have \$28,278.00 pledged and \$23,564.00 paid towards our goal of \$41,679.00.

If you have not donated to the appeal as of this time, I ask you to prayerfully consider a donation to help us achieve our goal.

Envelopes are available in Church or you may stop at the rectory.

Our parish receives a grant from the appeal for our Religious Education Program and a grant helps to defray the cost of the hospital chaplain in our deanery. I ask that you help us reach our goal since we do benefit from the appeal.

Thank you for your support.



Church Tower Repairs

The front and side of the tower of Church are in need of major repair. If you look closely at the wood it is rotting and cracked and, in some places, coming off. Work needs to be done before water seeps into the stairwell going down to Msgr. Campbell Hall. Before that happens, which would create mold and mildew, it has to be repaired.

I have contracted with ARTECH Church Restoration, they are the company who restored the inside of our church years ago, to do the work on the tower. They will fasten all the loose boards and then install custom cap aluminum siding to replicate the existing design. This will protect the tower and prevent any rotting or leakage of water for years to come. The cost of this project is \$25,500.00.

I know we are in challenging times, however, if you are able to make a donation to help defray the cost, I would be very grateful. Please make the check out to St. Francis of Assisi and mark the envelope "TOWER RESTORATION". You may place it in any collection or drop it off at the rectory.

Thank you for your support of this project and your help in keeping our Church in good shape. To this day, we have received \$6,155.00 in donations.

I am grateful to all those who have donated to this project.

Msgr. Maresca





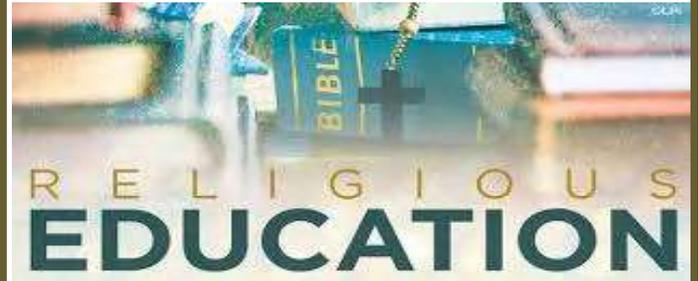
ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

The St. John's University Speech and Hearing Center will be offering
"Hearing Aid Help"

from June 21, 2021 through August 5, 2021. This is a free service and is available for anyone who has a hearing aid and may be experiencing some difficulty caring for it or using it.

Please call the Center at (718) 990-6480 to schedule an appointment.

The Speech and Hearing Center is located at 152-11 Union Turnpike Flushing, NY



If you have a child beginning first grade in public school, it is time to register for Religious Education. Diocesan guidelines require *two years* of instructions prior to the reception of a Sacrament. If your child is already in the first grade and missed this year, call the Office of Religious Education to set up an appointment to discuss the options.

Anthony Perrelli, Director of Faith Formation, (718) 278.0259 or dre@sfaacademy.org



ARE YOU SOMEONE OR DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO...

Has expressed an interest in becoming Catholic?

Was baptized Catholic as a child, but has not celebrated the Sacraments of Eucharist and/or Confirmation?

Then **RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)** is what you're looking for!

Sessions focus on the teachings and experience of the Church as well as prepare individuals to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist during the Easter season.

For information please contact our Director of Faith Formation, Anthony Perrelli at (718) 278.0259 or dre@sfaacademy.org.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9:00AM to 3:00PM
or by appointment

Associated Vincentian Charities of Brooklyn

Money goes back to your local parish

My Car Went To Heaven



DONATE YOUR AUTO
Running or Not

• IRS Tax Deduction • Free Towing
• Any Condition • Any Model

718-491-2525

Visit Us at svdpauto-brooklynqueens.org

Dear Fellow Parishioners,
Since 2014 alone, the Associated Vincentian Charities of Brooklyn Donation Program has given back over \$400,000 to local parishes throughout the New York Metropolitan Area. Your donation has helped many individuals in need in your neighborhood. Only through the generosity of countless parishioners are we able to make a difference. Please help us to continue to make a difference by spreading the word to anyone you know that would like to donate a vehicle, running or not leaving a review on Google, and liking us on Social Media. Together we can continue our mission in helping the less fortunate.

Help Spread the Word to help Those in Need!

Please Visit Us at svdpauto-brooklynqueens.org

Leave a Review on Google & G+

Like us on Facebook

Follow us on Twitter

With Much Thanks and Many Blessings,

Jim Shea

Associated Vincentian Charities Car Program Coordinator

*ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC ACADEMY
CONGRATULATES THE
GRADUATES of the CLASS of 2021*



***Congratulations to
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy
Graduating Class of 2021***

St. John's Preparatory HS

***Allison Asaro
Alyssa Janglee
Emma Sioson****

St. Francis Preparatory HS

Vincent Costanza III*

St. Vincent

***Isabella Cullinane*
Gabriella Mateo****

HS of Math Science and Engineering

Giulia Lombardi

Long Island City

Kayla Ramos

Undecided

***Caitlyn Avila
Natalie Rodriguez
Kened Shilla***

Msgr. McClancy Memorial HS

***Jayden Abela*
Gabriella Arce
Victoria Babcock*
John Brancaccio III***

The Mary Louis Academy

Madison Barry

Archbishop Molloy Memorial HS

***Richard Paguay
Antonio Sarchese
George Zaky***

Chaminade

Lawrence DiVittorio

Xavier

Stephen Zilinski

Cathedral

Ionna Demetriou

***Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but
set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love,
in faith and in purity.***

1 Timothy 4:12