

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Intention

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15– 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 A.M. Reiter Family
9:30 A.M. Murphy Family
11:00 A.M. For the People of St. Francis
12:30 P.M. Anthony Paul Carullo
Filippo Cannovo Angela Cannovo
Rosaria Cannovo Giustina Galante
Nina Gioino Salvatore Gioino
Elisabetta-Gioino

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16– St. Margaret of Scotland

9:00 A.M. James A. Sheils

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17– St. Elizabeth of Hungary

9:00 A.M. Raymond Loud

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18– WEEKDAY

9:00 A.M. Linda Zuliani

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19 – WEEKDAY

9:00 A.M. Eduardo Pistola

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20– St. WEEKDAY

9:00 A.M. Thomas Rovitti

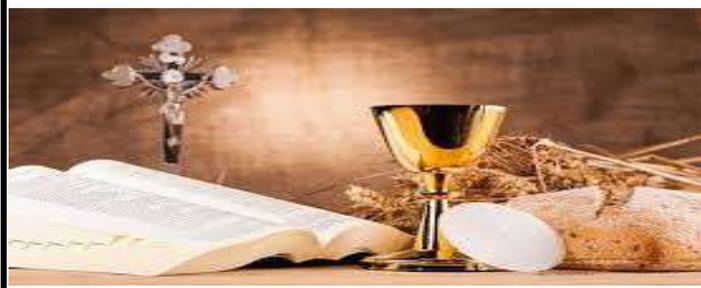
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21– The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9:00 A.M. Purgatorial Society
Linda Zulliani
Luis Abraham
Elizabeth Anderson
Wladyslawa Troganowski
Sarina Carbone
Dante Mayuri
Lauri Hengl (Healing)

5:00 P.M. For the People of St. Francis

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22– Jesus Christ, King of the Universe-Solemnity

8:00 A.M. Dudel Family
9:30 A.M. Francis Gauci
11:00 A.M. Victoria Fusaro
12:30 P.M. Ida Zappo Giuseppe Saraceni
Filippo Caloge Maria
Salvatore Lentini Michael Lentini



Today's Readings

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31
1 Thessalonians 5:1-6
Matthew 25:14-30

Readings for the Week

MONDAY: Revelation 1:1-4
Luke 18:35-43

TUESDAY: Revelation 3:1-6, 14-22
Luke 19:1-10

WEDNESDAY: Revelation 4:1-1
Luke 19:11-28

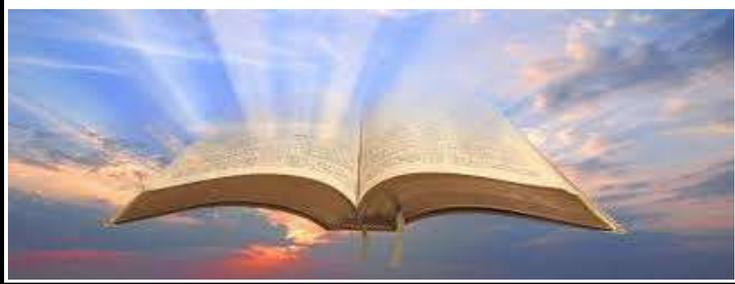
THURSDAY: Revelation 5:1-10
Luke 19:41-44

FRIDAY: Revelation 10:8-11
Luke 19:45-48

SATURDAY: Revelation 11:4-12
Luke 20:27-40

Jesus Christ, King of the Universe-Solemnity

Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17
1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28
Matthew 25:31-46





FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



My Dear Parishioners,

Beginning with last Sunday's Gospel about the wise and foolish virgins and ending next week with the Gospel of the final judgment, our attention is turned toward the end of time and our Sunday liturgy takes on a new orientation. Christians are to be vigilant and watchful, ready at all times for God's judgment. This is not to be confused with inactivity; gifts given by God are meant to be used for the good of the faith community. When the Lord does come, those who have been vigilant, who have used the Lord's gifts faithfully, will enter into eternal life. Others will be rejected.

In Matthew's Gospel the parable has been made into an allegory. The master who goes on the journey is Jesus who has left the world; the servants are the early Christians who have now been left on their own to continue his mission; the talents are possibly the gifts of the Spirit given to the Christian community. True disciples will want to work with the gifts that have been entrusted to them. Fellowship and community life called the early Christians, as it does each of us, to a life of shared love and shared concern, a sensitivity and a sense of responsibility toward one's neighbor.

There are no limits to God's generosity with us. This is one of the central tenets of our belief and, yet, it often does not motivate or drive our life as disciples. Like the third servant, we may be satisfied to take the cautious route and not take into our life the challenging call of Christ to "come, follow me." God's life in us is a relationship that builds in us a desire to be faithful in the small things as we surrender ourselves more and more to his Spirit within us. Real growth in discipleship means taking risks. As disciples we are asked to bring new and old things out of the storeroom so that the Church may always answer the needs of different peoples and cultures.

The servant who buried the talent was, in fact, acting quite prudently according to the culture of the time. We can act cautiously in the way we manage our lives or our financial affairs. However, when we respond to our baptismal call to follow Jesus and teach and live the Gospel, timidity and prudence have no place in our lives. How often St. John Paul II and retired Pope Benedict XVI would remind us that we as disciples of Jesus are called to give witness to the presence of Jesus. The Church in which we share our life is designated by Christ for service. The Good News given to us is "at work in you who believe" (1Thes 2:13). The Lord is Jesus; the servants are all of us. Matthew is clear that we all will be judged and that everyone must increase and grow in our faith on earth and not be passive or hinder the growth of our faith. May God say to each of us, "Well done, my good and faithful servant."

*All God's Blessings,
Msgr. Maresca*



***Monday November 16, 2020
The Feast of
St. Margaret of Scotland***

Not Scottish by birth, Margaret was the daughter of Princess Agatha of Hungary and the Anglo-Saxon Prince Edward Atheling. Her family fled from William the Conqueror and was shipwrecked off the coast of Scotland. King Malcolm befriended them and was captivated by the beautiful, gracious Margaret. They were married at the castle of Dunfermline in 1070. Malcolm was good-hearted, but rough and uncultured, as was his country. Because of Malcolm's love for Margaret, she was able to soften his temper, polish his manners, and help him become a virtuous king.

Margaret tried to improve her adopted country by promoting the arts and education. For religious reform she encouraged synods and was present for the discussions which tried to correct religious abuses common among priests and laypeople, such as simony, usury, and incestuous marriages. With her husband, she founded several churches. Margaret was not only a queen, but a mother. She and Malcolm had six sons and two daughters.

Although she was very much caught up in the affairs of the household and country, she remained detached from the world. She had certain times for prayer and reading Scripture. She ate sparingly and slept little in order to have time for devotions. She and Malcolm kept two Lents, one before Easter and one before Christmas. During these times she always rose at midnight for Mass. On the way home she would wash the feet of six poor persons and give them alms. She was always surrounded by beggars in public and never refused them. It is recorded that she never sat down to eat without first feeding nine orphans and 24 adults.

In 1093, King William Rufus made a surprise attack on Alnwick castle. King Malcolm and his oldest son, Edward, were killed. Margaret, already on her deathbed, died four days after her husband.



***Tuesday November 17, 2020
The Feast of
St. Elizabeth of Hungary***

In her short life, Elizabeth manifested such great love for the poor and suffering that she has become the patroness of Catholic charities and of the Secular Franciscan Order. The daughter of the King of Hungary, Elizabeth chose a life of penance and asceticism when a life of leisure and luxury could easily have been hers. This choice endeared her in the hearts of the common people throughout Europe.

At the age of 14, Elizabeth was married to Louis of Thuringia, whom she deeply loved. She bore three children. Under the spiritual direction of a Franciscan friar, she led a life of prayer, sacrifice, and service to the poor and sick. Seeking to become one with the poor, she wore simple clothing. Daily she would take bread to hundreds of the poorest in the land who came to her gate.

After six years of marriage, her husband died in the Crusades, and Elizabeth was grief-stricken. Her husband's family looked upon her as squandering the royal purse, and mistreated her, finally throwing her out of the palace. The return of her husband's allies from the Crusades resulted in her being reinstated, since her son was legal heir to the throne.

In 1228, Elizabeth joined the Secular Franciscan Order, spending the remaining few years of her life caring for the poor in a hospital which she founded in honor of Saint Francis of Assisi. Elizabeth's health declined, and she died before her 24th birthday in 1231. Her great popularity resulted in her canonization four years later.

Elizabeth understood well the lesson Jesus taught when he washed his disciples' feet at the Last Supper: The Christian must be one who serves the humblest needs of others, even if one serves from an exalted position.



*Saturday November 21, 2020
is the Feast of
The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

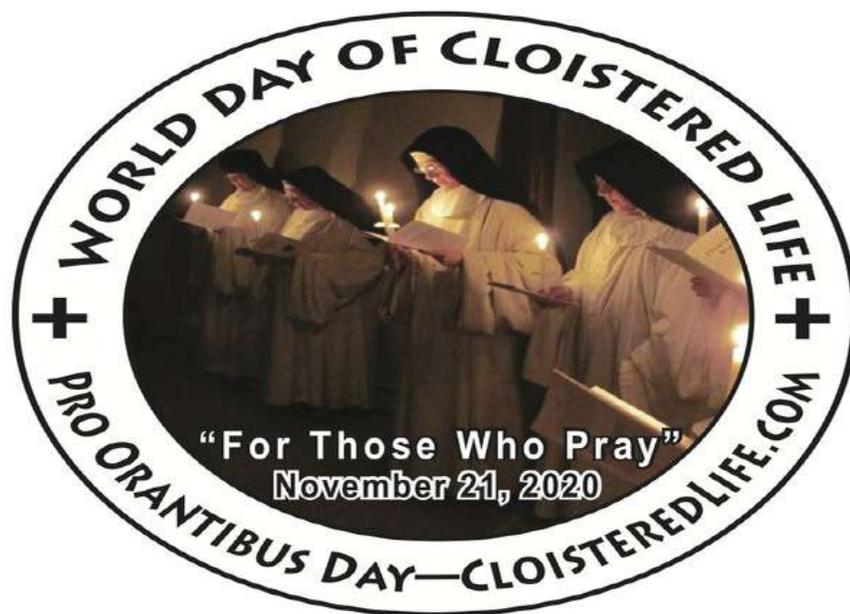
When Mary was asked to be the mother of the Savior, she was completely free to accept or reject the offer. Her response, “Let it be done to me,” was a great act of faith. Because she did not understand what was happening, she must have known that there would be difficulties ahead.

She replied yes to the angel's announcement and agreed to become the mother of Jesus, and the Church has declared Mary to be the Mother of God. Because she was the first to say yes to the Messiah, the Church has declared her to be the Mother of the Church.

The feast of the presentation of Mary dates back to the 6th century in the East and the 15th century in the West. It is based on an ancient tradition that says Mary was taken to the temple in Jerusalem when she was 3 years old and dedicated to God. What we celebrate on this day is the fact that God chose to dwell in Mary in a very special way. In response, Mary placed her whole self at the service of God. Every moment since your Baptism, God invites you to be open to his grace and dedicate yourself to him, as Mary did.

REMEMBER, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me.

Amen.



This Thursday, November 21 (the Memorial of the Presentation of the Virgin Mary in the Temple), the Church celebrates the 67th annual World Day of Cloistered Life, an ecclesial event for all Catholics to commemorate the hidden lives of cloistered and monastic religious. Ways to honor the event include prayer (participating in a novena, offering up Masses, etc.), encouragement (writing letters to contemplative communities, visiting them, calling to thank them, etc.), and material support (monetary donations).

Last year Pope Francis reminded a group of cloistered nuns gathered in Madagascar that although their lives may be hidden from the eyes of others, their “small acts of love” and the “courage to believe” are testimonies of deep faith. The Holy Father noted that Our Lord is indeed pleased with such little acts of love and through them “God saves the world.” For these very reasons the Institute on Religious Life wishes to promote this annual celebration in the United States and encourage the faithful to support the cloistered life in any way they can.

For more information visit CloisteredLife.com.

New Design

As you can see there are new markings on the pews letting you know where you can sit and new signs designating the rows that are closed.

I want to thank Mrs. Nancy Annunziata and Mr. Jairo Rodriguez for all their time and effort in putting the new signs in place.



ADVENT WREATH CANDLES

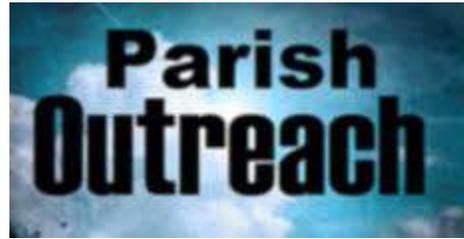
The Advent Candles will burn in memory of:

Rocco D'Angelo
Martha & Edward Yassa

*Memorials for the Weeks of
November 8, 2020
November 15, 2020*



SANCTUARY LAMP
In Loving Memory of
Gerry Holmas
Requested by:
The Cullinane Family



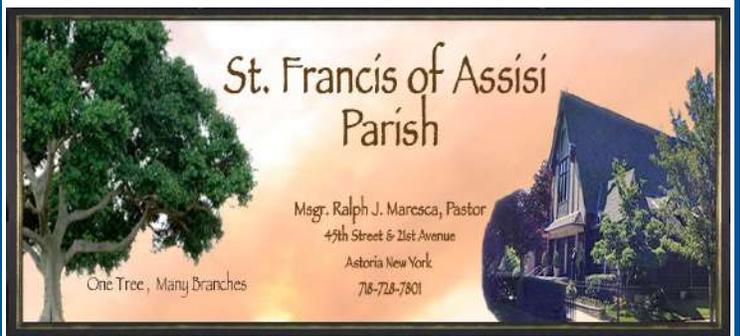
PARISH OUTREACH PROGRAM

St. Francis of Assisi Parish will begin a new outreach program beginning with the season of Advent. I am grateful to Deacon Tom and his wife Jane and Deacon Giovanni who agreed to be the team to implement this program.

They will reach out by phone to all who had a child baptized in St. Francis of Assisi. Also, they will be in contact with those who lost a loved one and those who were married in our parish. It will present a wonderful opportunity to let them know that we care, that we want to assist them if needed, and that they belong to our parish family.

I ask for your prayers for this new ministry and the team members who will represent our parish.

Msgr. Maresca





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

Ana Balint, John Wrenn, Rose Williams, George Behringer, Augustin Cisneros, Mario Floramo, 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

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.

SFA SCRIPTURE STUDY

ALL ARE WELCOME

"Not by bread alone shall man live, but by every word of God"

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

Join us in our virtual scripture study. We meet every Thursday at 7:30pm. The November 19th meeting will cover John Chapter 6.

We are using Zoom as our platform. Technical assistance will be provided by Ellen Vento for accessing and using the program.

The Gospel readings and study will be conducted using the Little Rock Scripture program. Study booklets will be provided.

If you are interested in joining the study group or would like further information, please contact us through our email at sfascripturestudy@gmail.com or call the rectory at (718) 728-7801. Please be sure to leave your name and contact information.

Grow in Knowledge and Love of Scripture--
All Are Welcome!

For information contact:
sfascripturestudy@gmail.com



Pro-Life Mass & Prayer Vigil



Please consider attending the Pro-Life Mass on Saturday, November 21, 2020. The 7:30am Mass will be celebrated at St. Mary Church located at :
10-08 49th Avenue
Long Island City, NY

The Mass will be followed by a Rosary Procession.

For further information please visit



FOCUS:

God empowers us to participate in His work to bring about good in the world.

We are called to participate in God's work to multiply goodness in our world, and God gives us all we need for this work. Especially in the Eucharist, we receive God's grace and strength that we, too, may be faithful in small matters and great responsibilities.

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 15, 2020



"Well done, good and faithful servant"

Consider a vocation as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life.

Contact the Vocation Office at (718) 827-2454 or email:

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.

2021 Mass Book

The 2021 Mass Book is now open

Please note the following:

The 9 AM Mass Monday to Friday
is a single intention Mass

On Saturday the 9 AM Mass is a multiple intention Mass and the 5 PM Mass is a single intention Mass.

Sunday 12:30 PM Italian Mass is a multiple intention Mass.

All Announced Masses are \$15.00

Purgatorial Mass Cards are \$30.00

Memorials (Altar Bread, Wine, Sanctuary Lamp & Altar Candles) are \$60.00

Altar Flowers are \$75.00

Please note all precautions will be taken for the well-being and safety of every parishioner. All those coming to the Rectory office must wear a mask.

The Rectory office hours are:

Monday thru Friday

9:00am to 12:00 noon

1:00pm to 5:00pm

There are NO evening or Saturday hours at the present time.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation during this difficult time.

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.

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:

Collection 11/8-11/9

\$4,841.00

School parents must use church envelopes.



Reminder

Next weekend, November 21/22, the second collection will be for Human Development. Please be as generous as your means allow.

Thank you.



ATTENTION:

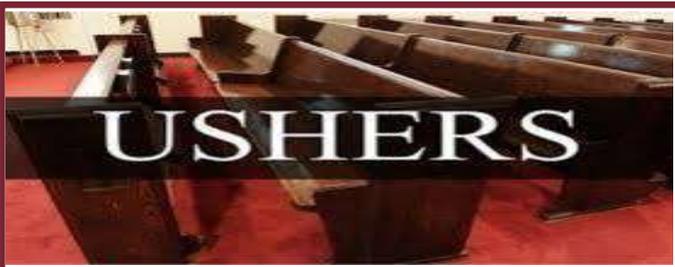
Please DO NOT light the candles in Church by using another candle. One could get burned and the wax is dripping all over the candle stands creating a mess. **PLEASE** use the lighter. If you have trouble with the lighter, ask for help.



RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

Just a reminder when coming up to receive Holy Communion, and after receiving Jesus, one should be thinking of the wonderful privilege as a Catholic to receive Jesus, that special time we have with our Lord and Savior. It is not a time to allow oneself to be distracted by looking all around, waving, or speaking with the person on the end of the pew.

The Roman Missal states that,
“one should prepare by praying quietly, so that one may fruitfully receive the Body and Blood of Christ”.



ATTENTION USHERS

Beginning the weekend of November 28th and 29th, at every Mass, we will resume taking the collection at the Offertory in the usual manner. Please remember to wear your mask.

Associated Vincentian Charities of Brooklyn

For each car, truck or van, running or not, The Associated Vincentian Charities of Brooklyn will give back to St. Francis of Assisi \$50/100 per vehicle. Maybe you don't have a vehicle, but a family member, friend or neighbor has an old or neglected vehicle in their driveway that they would like to dispose of.

Call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at
(718) 491-2525.



During this time of Covid-19, if you are not feeling well, have a temperature, or have a cough, please stay home and watch the mass on television. There are a number of stations that carry Sunday Mass for you to watch. Please know this is for your health and the health of others. Remember to continue to wear a mask and maintain social distancing while attending Mass.

Thank you for all you cooperation with the guidelines.



50th Anniversary Mass
November 23, 2020 - 11:00AM

Although we have not had regular meetings, many have expressed the desire to celebrate our 50th Anniversary with a Mass.

After a meeting with Msgr. Ralph Maresca, it has been decided that Mass will be celebrated on Monday, November 23, 2020 at 11:00AM.

All members are welcome to join us. The captains will be in contact with you. Please let us know if you will be attending as we must practice social distancing. All will enter the church through the front door and all must wear a mask.

Looking forward to seeing you at Mass.

God Bless All!

PRAYER TO MARY DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANADEMIC

O Mary, you shine continuously along our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the Cross were near to the pain of Jesus, keeping your faith firm.

You, Salvation of the Roman people, know what we need, and we trust that you will provide for those needs so that, as at Cana of Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us, He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and took up our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Pope Francis



Advent Giving Tree

The **Giving Tree** is an opportunity for us as parish family to share our blessing at Christmas with those less fortunate.



Once again, during this Advent season, we will be collecting either new gifts or Gift Cards for those in need. Over the years, we have reached out and helped so many to have a wonderful Christmas.

The ornaments are; **Red Gingerbread Men**, **Yellow Angels**, **Pink Trees**, **Orange Stars**, and **Purple Gift Boxes**.

Ornaments on the Giving Tree are specifically COLOR CODED for a particular organization. The ornament must be taped on the gift so that we know which organization the gifts are for.

Please take an ornament and purchase the gift requested or purchase a Gift Card and attach the ornament to the unwrapped present or Gift Card.

Place the gift under the **Giving Tree** before or after any of the masses. If you purchased a Gift Card, please drop in the the basket marked ***Giving Tree Gifts***.

Thank you for your support in this wonderful program.

All Gifts should be returned by Sunday, December 20th.



You can take part in decorating St. Francis of Assisi Church by memorializing a Christmas wreath during the Christmas season.

Wreaths will adorn the walls inside of the church and the fences outside that surround the Church.

**Small messages of dedication will be attached to each wreath.
ie: In loving memory of Jane Doe**

Donations required to memorialize a wreath:

Outdoor Christmas Wreath: \$60

Indoor Christmas Wreath: \$75

Payments should be submitted to the rectory by December 11, 2020

St. Francis of Assisi

PARISH STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

After much prayer and discernment, our parish has decided to embark on a Stewardship Program. Our objective is simple: allow us to get **better at connecting with you**, make it **easier for you to connect with your faith community**, and **help sustain our parish**.

You will receive a **mailing at your homes** detailing the Program and its necessity. To ensure it is a true success, we ask that you kindly respond by one of the following ways:

1. Your mailing will include a response form. Please complete it and mail it to our parish office. You are also welcome to use the form below.
2. Complete the form online at www.cfbq.org/PSP

Help Sustain St. Francis of Assisi

As resilient as we are, COVID-19 has exposed some underlying financial vulnerabilities, especially considering that our parish relies heavily on cash and envelopes. We need to come together to sustain our spiritual home. You can help us now by enrolling in electronic giving.

Please scan the QR code to get started or text the word **'Sunday'** to 631-540-2625



I/we support my/our parish offertory using:

Online Giving:(Circle one)

Weekly
Bi-weekly
Monthly

Envelopes:

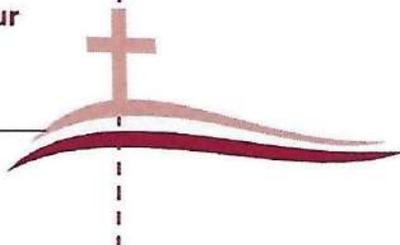
Weekly
 Monthly

Please Send Envelopes. If we have not been receiving them.

Please include your

Cell Phone:

Email Address:



PARISH STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

INCLUDE PARISH NAME: _____

My/our Consistent Contribution was: \$ Weekly Monthly

My/our New Consistent Contribution will be:

5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	60	75	90	100	125	Other
<input type="checkbox"/> \$															

I/we have increased my/our offertory contribution as indicated above through Online Giving.

Envelope # (if applicable):

Full Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip: