

Jesus Christ, King of the Universe - Solemnity

Mass Intention

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

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

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23- St. Clement 1

9:00 A.M. Deceased Members from
Unije, Croatia
11:00A.M. Golden Age 50th Anniversary Mass

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24-St. Andrew Dung-Lac

9:00 A.M. Gloria Montell

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25- WEEKDAY

9:00 A.M. Terri Kornalewski
7:30 P.M. Wladyslawa Trojanowski

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26 - Thanksgiving Day

9:00 A.M. Bruce Frank

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27- WEEKDAY

9:00 A.M. Raymond Loud

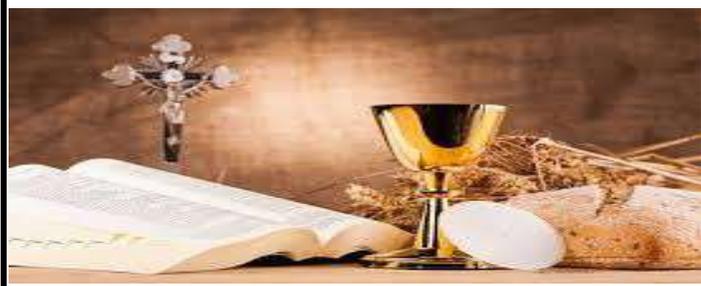
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28 - WEEKDAY

9:00 A.M. Purgatorial Society
Vincent Chadzutko
Marie Annese
Raymond Loud
Christine Kebbe

5:00 P.M. Richard Mohr

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29– First Sunday of Advent

8:00 A.M. For the People of St. Francis
9:30 A.M. Joseph Spiteri
11:00 A.M. Concetta Gandolfo
12:30 P.M. Nicolino Turano
Lucille Czarnecki
Carmine Avena
Macchia Family
Benedetto Family



Today's Readings

Jesus Christ, King of the Universe - Solemnity

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

Readings for the Week

MONDAY: Revelation 14:1-3, 4b-5
Luke 21:1-4

TUESDAY: Revelation 14:14-19
Luke 21:5-11

WEDNESDAY: Revelation 15:1-4
Luke 21:12-19

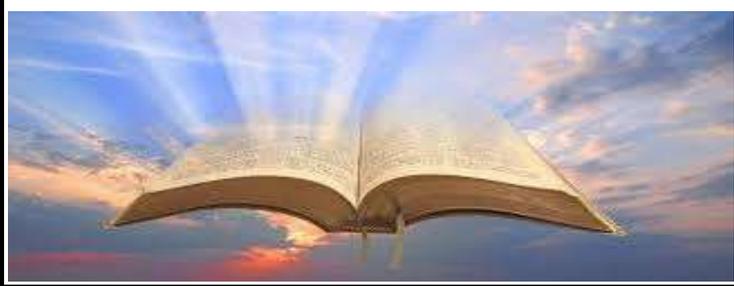
THURSDAY: Revelation 18:1-2, 21-23;
19:1-3, 9a
Luke 21:20-28

FRIDAY: Revelation 20:1-4, 11-21:2
Luke 21:29-33

SATURDAY: Revelation 22:1-7
Luke 21:34-36

First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:33-37





FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



My Dear Parishioners,

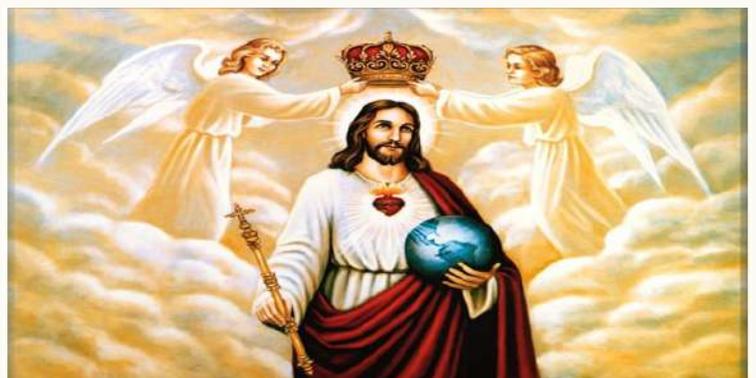
Today we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King, the last Sunday of the liturgical year. Our readings provide lessons that, at first glance, might seem unrelated. Can our Savior be both a shepherd and a king?

Ezekiel's words describe God's care for his people as being like that of an attentive shepherd. Sheep are not the brightest of animals, but right from their birth they learn to recognize their caretaker's voice. Jesus spoke of himself as the shepherd and the sheep gate, as that which keeps the sheep safe from thieves and robbers. Ezekiel's image is of God as a caring shepherd who keeps the sheep together, heals their injuries or tends them if they are sick. This parallels the intimate relationship that God had with his people, indeed for all creation, right from the beginning. The Twenty-third Psalm, our Responsorial Psalm, for today, reinforces the image of the Lord God as shepherd. He leads us, his sheep. He knows us. He cares for us, and comforts us, because we are His.

Today's Gospel from Matthew points out that Jesus who has called himself a shepherd is also a king. This Good Shepherd taught his followers how to make themselves ready for judgment, how to manifest God's love to one another, and how to gain the promise of salvation. In the final judgment as King, Jesus will ask for an accounting from the people of all nations. Did we serve our sisters and brothers? Did we feed the hungry; give drink to the thirsty; clothe the naked; visit and comfort people; take care of one another? Did we follow Jesus as faithful disciples? Did we live out our baptismal promises?

As we celebrate the end of the liturgical year (The Church Year), let us keep in mind today's lessons: That Jesus is both Shepherd and King, and that by cooperating with him and following his teachings and commands, we will be prepared for judgment and for eternal life with Him, and with God the Father, and the Holy Spirit.

*All God's Blessings,
Msgr. Maresca*





*Sunday November 22, 2020
is the Feast of
Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe - Solemnity*

It has long been a common custom to give to Christ the metaphorical title of "King," because of the high degree of perfection whereby he excels all creatures. So he is said to reign "in the hearts of men," both by reason of the keenness of his intellect and the extent of his knowledge, and also because he is very truth, and it is from him that truth must be obediently received by all mankind.

He reigns, too, in the wills of men, for in him the human will was perfectly and entirely obedient to the Holy Will of God, and further by his grace and inspiration he so subjects our free-will as to incite us to the most noble endeavors.

He is King of hearts, too, by reason of his "charity which exceedeth all knowledge." And his mercy and kindness which draw all men to him, for never has it been known, nor will it ever be, that man be loved so much and so universally as Jesus Christ. But if we ponder this matter more deeply, we cannot but see that the title and the power of King belongs to Christ as man in the strict and proper sense too. For it is only as man that he may be said to have received from the Father "power and glory and a kingdom," since the Word of God, as consubstantial with the Father, has all things in common with him, and therefore has necessarily supreme and absolute dominion over all things created.

-Pope Pius XI, Quas Primas ("In the First")



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Beginning Monday, November 30th, we will have exposition of the Blessed Sacrament before the 9:00 AM Mass. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed at 8:00 AM each morning, Monday through Saturday, giving parishioners an opportunity for private prayer before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. At 8:30 AM the rosary will be prayed by parishioners before the Blessed Sacrament. At 8:50 AM the Blessed Sacrament will be reposed before the 9:00 AM Mass. Jesus calls us to perseverance in prayer. "Pray without ceasing." "Watch and pray." Eucharistic adoration helps us discover the Real Presence of Christ.

What a wonderful way to begin our day praying before the Blessed Sacrament in silence or praying the Holy Rosary.

Please make every effort to take advantage of this time with the Lord. We are living in challenging times and we all need the Lord to strength our faith and give us the courage to live each day.

I encourage our school parents to stop by after you drop your children at school. It does not have to be a long visit (10 minutes) to begin your day with the Lord. Time spent before the Blessed Sacrament will give our parish and each parishioner countless blessings.



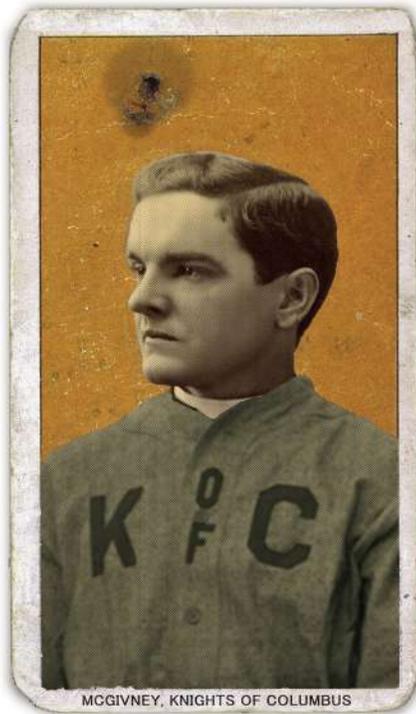
Tuesday November 24, 2020 The Feast of St. Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions

Andrew Dung-Lac was born in Tran An Dung, Vietnam in 1795. He took the name of Andrew at his baptism, and was ordained a Priest on March 15th, 1823. During persecution in Vietnam, Andrew Dung changed his name to Lac, to avoid capture.

Missionary efforts from various religious families beginning in the sixteenth century and continuing until 1866, allowed the Vietnamese people to hear the message of the Gospel. Many accepted it despite persecution and even being put to death. June 19, 1988, Pope Paul II canonized 117 persons martyred in the eighteenth century. Among these were ninety-six Vietnamese. These martyrs gave not only their lives for the Church, but for their country as well. They showed that they wanted the Gospel of Christ to take root in their people, and contribute to the good of their homeland.

St. Andrew Dung-Lac and his companions lived through the times of persecution in their country. They believed that the Gospel of Christ needed to be spread throughout Vietnam, and continued with this mission, even facing death themselves. Eventually St. Andrew and his companions were captured and beheaded for their faith. It is only by the heroic efforts of these great saints that Catholicism is alive today in Vietnam. Where would our faith be, if these great saints had not risked their lives to spread the Gospel? Pope John Paul II canonized St. Andrew Dung-Lac and his companions on June 19, 1988.

Founder of the Knights of Columbus Beatified



Fr. Michael J. McGivney, a Roman Catholic Priest, was beatified on October 31, 2020. In his Apostolic Letter that was read at the Mass for Beatification, Pope Francis stated that Blessed Michael McGivney's "zeal for the proclamation of the Gospel and generous concern for the needs of his brothers and sisters made him an outstanding witness of Christian solidarity and fraternal assistance." Fr. McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus at St. Mary's Parish in New Haven, CT in 1882 for three primary purposes. First, the Knights would serve as an antidote to those secret societies that lured Catholic men away from their faith by offering financial benefits. Second, the Order's insurance program would help keep Catholic families together when a breadwinner died; this would also help prevent a loss of faith among widows and orphans forced to live in state institutions or with non-Catholic relatives or adoptive families. Third, the Knights would champion the full rights of American citizenship for Catholics. This, too, would support the Church, since ensuring equal rights for Catholics would help limit the social or civil pressure on them to abandon their faith. Father Michael J. McGivney was a central figure in the growth of Catholicism in America, and he remains a model today. His example of charity, evangelization and empowerment of the laity continues to bear fruit and guide Knights of Columbus around the world. To learn more about Fr. McGivney, go to: FatherMcGivney.org



The season of Advent will begin next weekend November 28th and 29th. It is a 4-week period of waiting and preparing for the feast of Christmas. During the Season of Advent, one of the beautiful signs we have in our church is the Advent Wreath. The wreath, which has 4 candles, is placed in the church and each week a candle is lit to remind us of our waiting and preparing for the birth of Christ.

Join us as we renew our desire, anticipation, and hope for Christ's coming again.

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 7:30p.m.. The group will not meet on November 26, but will resume on December 3 with the study of **John, Chapter 6.**



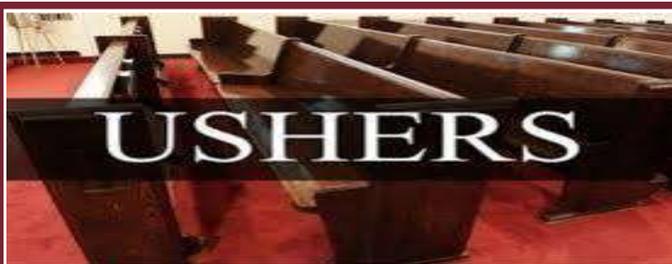
Grow in Knowledge and Love of Scripture--
All Are Welcome!

For information contact:
sfascripturestudy@gmail.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.



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.

Memorials for the Weeks of November 22, 2020



SANCTUARY LAMP
In Loving Memory of
Francis Gauci
Requested by:
The Spiteri/Gauci Family



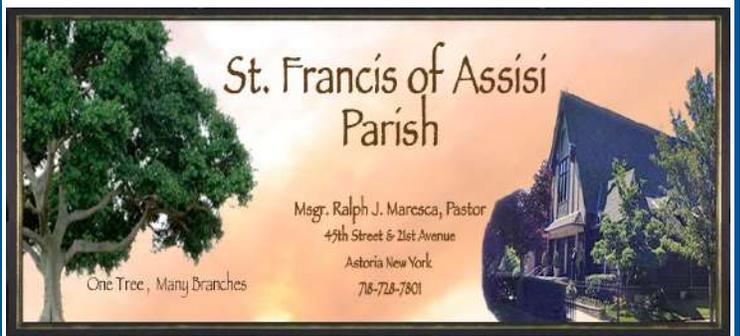
PARISH OUTREACH PROGRAM

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.



ADVENT WREATH CANDLES

The Advent Candles will burn in memory of:

Rocco D'Angelo
Martha & Edward Yassa
Ralph & Lucia Borgia
Rose & Denis Sweeney

Solemnity of Christ the King November 22, 2020



"I was hungry and you gave me to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me to drink"

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

FOCUS:

Jesus is the mighty King who reigns in our hearts.

There are compelling images of Christ on this solemn feast today. One is the shepherd who lovingly and humbly cares for his sheep. The other is of a mighty king, ruler of the universe, and the heaven and earth. In this image, He judges on how well we cared for one another, saying, *Whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me .*

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 11/14-11/15	\$4,246.00
Second Envelope Fuel	643.00

School parents must use church envelopes.



Next weekend, November 28/29, the second collection will be for fuel to keep our church warm during the winter months. 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”.



The Rectory office will be closed on Thanksgiving Day and the days following, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. We will reopen on Monday, November 30, at 9:00am

This is done in the interest of saving money for the parish to help balance our budget.

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





*We Cordially Invite All of
Our Parishioners To
Celebrate Thanksgiving On
Wednesday evening,
November 25 at 7:30P.M.
Or
Thanksgiving Day,
Thursday, November 26th
at the 9:00A.M. Mass.*

Please Note: *At each mass we will be collecting non-perishable goods to give to Marguerite's Pantry. Baskets will be in front of the sanctuary for you to place your goods. The collection taken up at each Mass will go to the St. Vincent DePaul Society to assist the poor and needy.*

Thank you for your generosity.

Happy Thanksgiving to You and Your Families!



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

We want to offer you fast and simple ways to support your parish. **Please consider enrolling in online giving. To get started, scan the SUNDAY OFFERTORY QR code or text the word 'Sunday' to (631) 540-2625**



Sunday Offertory



Parish Stewardship Program
Response Form



Benefits of Online Giving

- ✓ Budget your time and money through scheduled and recurring payments.
- ✓ Help our parish minimize weekly fluctuations in offertory.
- ✓ Allow us to thoughtfully plan our budget and help sustain our thriving ministries.
- ✓ It is fast, simple, and sanitary! Help us reduce the spread of germs by limiting the exchange of paper and cash.
- ✓ You can even use a credit card and earn rewards!

Looking to complete your Parish Stewardship Program response form?
Go to www.cfbq.org/PSP or use the QR code above to get started!