

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Mass Intention

SUNDAY, **May 29 –Seventh Sunday of Easter**
8:00 A.M. Ruth Niemand
9:30 A.M. The Budinich Family
11:00 A.M. For the People of St. Francis
12:30 P.M. Giuseppina Cinquemani
Phyllis Abela
Gennaro Benedetto

MONDAY, **May 30 – Weekday**
9:00 A.M. Marie Salamone

TUESDAY, **May 31 The Visitation of the Blessed
Virgin Mary**
9:00 A.M. Elsa Del Bove

WEDNESDAY, June 1 – Saint Justin, Marytr
9:00 A.M. Cologa Annibale

THURSDAY, June 2 - Weekday
9:00 A.M. Margaret Gavin

FRIDAY, June 3 –Saint Charles Lwanga
9:00 A.M. Joseph Hili Sr.

SATURDAY, June 4 – Weekday
9:00 A.M. Purgatorial Society
Robert Kaputa
Vincent Decresenzo
Ricardo Despojo
Fidela A. Despojo

5:00 P.M. Raymond Loud

SUNDAY, June 5 - Pentecost Sunday
8:00 A.M. For the People of St. Francis
9:30 A.M. Carmela Pagano
11:00 A.M. Andres Felipe Londono Garcia
12:30 P.M. Elizabeth Iocco
Phyllis Abela
Serdan Gacevic

Today's Readings

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 7:55-60
Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20
John 17:20-26

Readings for the Week

MONDAY: Acts 19:1-8
John 16:29-33

TUESDAY: Zephaniah 3:14-18a
Luke 1:39-56

WEDNESDAY: Acts 20:28-38
John 17:11b-19

THURSDAY: Acts 22:30, 23:6-11
John 17:20-26

FRIDAY: Acts 25:13b-21
John 21:15-19

SATURDAY: Acts 25:16-20, 30-31
John 21:20-25

Pentecost Sunday

Acts 7:55-60
1 Corinthians 12:3b-17, 12-13
John 20:19-23



From the Pastor's Desk



My Dear Parishioners,

“Who was Jesus?” We hear many answers to that question. Some people say he was a great preacher who called the poor blessed and promised the world to the meek. Others remark about the amazing miracles he performed, healing those who were sick, calming the stormy sea, and multiplying fish and bread to feed thousands. Some say he showed mercy to the sinner, compassion to those in need and love to all. Jesus is Savior and Redeemer, Brother and Shepherd.

One of the most persistent themes in the Gospels is Jesus as forgiver and reconciler. This is of utmost importance for us if we want to imitate Jesus. In the prayer that Jesus taught, the Our Father, we ask for forgiveness to the same degree that we are willing to forgive. Time and again people came to Jesus to be cured of their ailments, and the first act of Jesus was to forgive their sins.

The first words Jesus spoke to the paralyzed man whose friends lowered him through an opening in the roof were words of forgiveness. (Luke 5:20) Restoring the man's ability to walk seemed to be of less importance than restoring him to a right relationship with God. The scribes and Pharisees tried to trap Jesus by presenting a case before him of a woman caught in adultery. Would Jesus agree with the Law of Moses and condemn the woman to be stoned? When faced with the question of personal sin, no one was willing to cast the first stone. Jesus dismissed the woman without condemnation. (John 8:11)

Peter's generous offer to forgive his brother seven times was dismissed by Jesus as inadequate. We are to forgive seventy times seven. Jesus concludes his teaching about the merciless official who begged forgiveness for his debt, but was ready to imprison those indebted to him, with the warning: *So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart.* (Mt. 18:35)

As we proclaimed the passion during Holy Week, we surely heard the words of Jesus forgiving even those who condemned and crucified him. Today, we heard Stephen echo that forgiveness, even as he lay dying beneath the stones thrown by his attackers. How must those words have struck the bystanders? Perhaps some went away with forgiveness in their hearts.

To have a forgiving heart is a goal for each of us. When we hold a grudge, it hurts our own well-being. We can become bitter and hard, and the object of our disdain may well feel nothing. Once in awhile in the news, we may hear of parents able to forgive the murderer of their child, or a spouse willing to forgive a wrong that threatens a marriage. We may even admire such actions and wonder if we would be capable of such generous deeds. Jesus said whatever we ask in prayer will be granted according to God's will. It is possible to have a forgiving heart, if we pray for it.

***All the Blessings of the Risen Lord,
Msgr. Maresca***



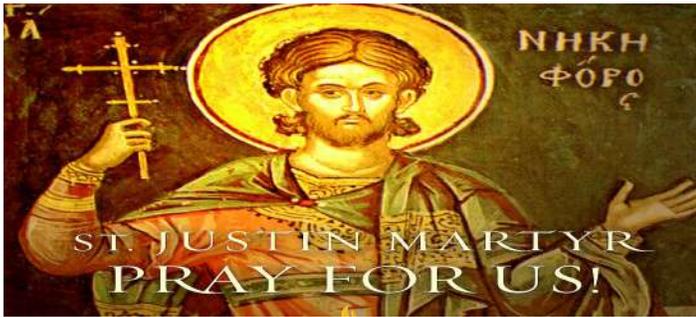
THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Tuesday, May 31, 2022

The Archangel Gabriel, at the time of the Annunciation, informed the Mother of God that Her cousin Elizabeth had miraculously conceived and was soon to be the mother of a son, the destined precursor of the Messiah. The Blessed Virgin in Her humility concealed the wonderful dignity to which She Herself was raised, through the Incarnation of the Son of God in Her womb, but in the transport of Her holy joy and gratitude, determined to go to congratulate and assist the mother of the Baptist. *“Mary therefore arose”* Saint Luke says, *“and with haste went into the hill country into a city of Judea, and entering into the house of Zachary, greeted Elizabeth.”*

What a blessing did the presence of the God-Man bring to this house, the first which He in His humanity honored with His visit! But it is Mary who is the instrument and means by which He imparts His divine blessing. He intends to show us that She is the channel through which He delights to communicate to us His graces, and encourages us to ask them of Him through Her intercession.

At the voice of the Mother of God, by the power and grace of Her divine Son in Her womb, *Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit*; and the infant in her womb, sanctified at that moment, conceived so great a joy as to leap and exult. By the infused light of the Spirit of God Elizabeth understood the great mystery of the Incarnation which God had wrought in Mary, whose humility prevented Her from disclosing it, even to a Saint and an intimate friend. In raptures of astonishment Elizabeth pronounced Mary blessed above all other women, and cried out, “How is it that the mother of my Lord should come to me?” The Virgin, hearing Her own praise, sank yet lower in the abyss of Her nothingness, and melting in an ecstasy of love and gratitude to God, She burst into Her admirable canticle, the *Magnificat*: *“My soul magnifies the Lord, and My spirit rejoices in God, My Saviour.”* What marvels of grace and light God reveals to us in the souls of His Saints! Mary stayed with Her cousin almost three months, after which She returned to Nazareth.



Wednesday, June 1, 2022
The Feast of
Saint Justin, Martyr

Justin was born circa 105 AD. He was a Palestinian of Greek parentage, beginning his life in present day Nablus, 40 miles north of Jerusalem. In Jesus' time, the area had been a part of Samaria. A well educated young man, Justin tried various schools of thought and experimented with several different philosophies of his day. Eventually, he met one of the early Christians and began a study of the Hebrew and Christian scriptures at Ephesus. At the age of 30, he accepted the gift of faith and was baptized.

Continuing in his chosen vocation as a philosopher, Justin traveled from place to place, thinking, writing, speaking, arguing and defending Christian beliefs. Unfortunately, only fragments of his many writings have survived. Among these are brief descriptions of the Mass and Baptism.

In the custom of his time, Justin, as an established philosopher and teacher, founded a school at Rome. He was eventually denounced as a Christian by Crescens, a pagan philosopher whom he had beaten in debate.

Justin and six other Christians (five men and a woman) were put to death in 165 by beheading, after they refused to offer sacrifice to the gods at Rome. His response to the command of Rusticus the Prefect to worship the idols was a simple statement: "No right minded person forsakes the truth for falsehood."

The emblems of St. Justin are a quill pen and an ax or sword, denoting his writer's vocation and his martyr's death. His feast day is June 1st and his proper Scripture is 1 Corinthians 1:18-25. He is



Friday, June 3, 2022
The Feast of
St. Charles Lwanga & Companions

St. Charles and many other martyrs for the faith died between November 15, 1885 – January 27, 1887 in Namugongo, Uganda. St. Charles and his companions were beatified in 1920 and canonized by Pope Paul VI in 1964.

In 1879 Catholicism began spreading in Uganda when the White Fathers, a congregation of priests were peacefully received by King Mutesa. The priests soon began preparing catechumens for baptism and before long a number of the young pages in the king's court had become Catholics. However, on the death of Mutesa, his son Mwanga, a corrupt man who ritually engaged in pedophilic practices with the younger pages, took the throne. When King Mwanga had a visiting Anglican Bishop murdered, his chief page, Joseph Mukasa, a Catholic who went to great length to protect the younger boys from the king's lust, denounced the king's actions and was beheaded on November 15, 1885. The 25 year old Charles Lwanga became the chief page and protected them from the king's advances. On the night of the martyrdom of Joseph Mukasa, realizing that their own lives were in danger, Lwanga and some of the other pages went to the White Fathers to receive baptism. Another 100 catechumens were baptized in the week following his death. The following May, King Mwanga learned that one of the boys was learning catechism. He was furious and separated the Christians from the others. The Christians, 15 in all, between the ages of 13 and 25, stepped forward. The King asked them if they were willing to keep their faith. They answered in unison, "Until death!" They were bound together and taken on a two day walk to Namugongo where they were to be burned at the stake. When they reached the site where they were to be burned, they were kept tied together for seven days while the executioners prepared the wood for the fire. On June 3, 1886 Charles Lwanga was separated from the others and burned at the stake. His companions were all burned together the same day.

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



Ryan Pettit, Steven Joyce, Ana Balint, John Wrenn, Rose Williams, Augustin Cisneros, James Nunez, Vincent Wytak, Carol Ross, Jeffrey Hyans, Marie LoVolpe, Jessica St. Preux, Al Ciani, Alesha Moses, Nancy McCaffrey, Christopher Wojtalik, 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, Margaret Culhane, Benedicto Randazzo, Angelo Niakas, Peter Lopez and Sumiko Tanaka Hennessy.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Also, remember that after you have received Holy Communion, step aside and place the host in your mouth. Do Not walk back to the pew with the host in your hand. Again as you are on line to receive Holy Communion, it is a time to think about who you are receiving and thanking Jesus for this wonderful gift of Himself in the Eucharist.



Please be mindful that there are people who come to church early in order to pray. Please show respect by observing silence.



The Seventh Sunday of Easter May 29, 2022

“You will be My witnesses to the ends of the earth.”

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](mailto:vocations@diobrook.org)

FOCUS:

Belief in Jesus transforms and unites us as beloved sons and daughters of the Father.

Jesus prays for believers, asking the Father that we may be brought to perfection as one.

Guided by the Holy Spirit, we will be transformed. We can turn to Stephen, the first martyr, and the saints for courage as we turn our lives over to God.

Thursday Bible Study



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCRIPTURE STUDY

ALL ARE WELCOME

"From the beginning the Word was
a source of life"
John 1:4

The Scripture Study group will meet on
Thursday, June 2nd, in the rectory basement
from 7:30 to 8:50PM. Our study is on
The Letter to the Hebrews.
Lesson 3: Hebrews 5:11-7:28 on
The Priesthood and Sacrifice of Christ.

Come and see ... meet the members of our group as
we share the wisdom of God in holy scripture. 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 sfscripturestudy@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.



ANOINTING MASS

Saturday, June 4, 2022, the 9:00am
Mass will be an anointing Mass. All
those who wish to receive the
Sacrament of the Sick are asked to
participate in this Mass.

All are invited to join us in prayer as we
remember to pray for all those who are
in need of God's healing power.



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place
before the 9:00AM Mass. The Blessed Sacrament
will be exposed at 8:00AM each morning, Monday
through Saturday, giving parishioners an
opportunity for private prayer before the Lord in
the Blessed Sacrament. At 8:30AM the rosary will
be prayed by parishioners before the Blessed
Sacrament. At 8:50AM the Blessed Sacrament
will be reposed before the 9:00AM 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 strengthen our
faith and give us the courage to live each day.



The month of
May is dedicated
to our
Blessed Mother.

Let us find the
time to pray the
rosary each day
or a least a
decade.

Let us show our love for Mary, our
Mother, who loves us, her children.

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.

Sunday Collection 5/21-5/22 \$3,017.00

School parents must use church envelopes.



Catholic
Communication
Campaign
CONNECT WITH CHRIST

Next weekend, June 4th and 5th, the second collection will be for Catholic Communications.

Please be as generous as your means allow.

Thank you for all your sacrifices.

Prayer for Peace

From your heart, Holy One,
to the suffering heart of Ukraine,
to a world both beautiful and broken,
pour out, we pray,
your solace to hearts choked with grief;
your strength, to those shattered by trauma;
to all now in flight, rest in safe shelter;
to all left behind, your tender presence.
Turn those who seek to dominate and destroy
towards the way of peace, the work of justice.
In trust, we pledge our lives to no more war,
war never again.
May this be so for all your people
on this day
and on every day
held in your unconditional love.

-Sister Chris Koellhoffer, IHM



Sisters of IHM



St. Francis of Assisi Class of 1973

We are planning a 50th reunion for the spring/summer of 2023. We are trying to round up contact information for all alumni of the Class of '73.

Fellow '73 alumni—please forward your contact information to

John Byrnes—byrno7156@gmail.com

or

John Ruehl—ruehl247@gmail.com



The Academy and the Rectory will be closed all day, Monday, May 30, 2022,

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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THIS WEEK

May 29—June 4

Sunday, May 29

Monday, May 30

Memorial Day
School & Rectory Closed

Tuesday, May 31

6:30PM—AA Meeting

Wednesday, June 1

Thursday, June 2

10:00-11:30AM Legion of Mary
7:00PM— I.A.C.A.
7:30PM—Scripture Study

Friday, June 3

Saturday, June 4

9:00AM-Anointing Mass

NEXT WEEK

June 5—June 11

Sunday, June 5

Monday, June 6

12:00-3:30PM Golden Age-MCH

Tuesday, June 7

6:30PM—AA Meeting

Wednesday, June 8

7:00PM—Baptism Class

Thursday, June 9

10:00-11:30AM Legion of Mary
7:00PM— I.A.C.A.
7:30PM—Scripture Study

Friday, June 10

Saturday, June 11

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.

