

The Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Mass Intention

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27–The Holy Family of Jesus , Mary and Joseph

8:00 A.M. For the People of St. Francis
9:30 A.M. Christmas Novena
11:00 A.M. Andrew Gandolfo
12:30 P.M. Antonio DiBenedetto
Carmillo Carulo
Enrco Marsicano
Gino Francesca Mineo

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28- The Holy Innocents

9:00 A.M. Christmas Novena

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29 - WEEKDAY

9:00 A.M. Christmas Novena

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30- WEEKDAY

9:00 A.M. Christmas Novena

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31 - WEKDAY

9:00 A.M. Christmas Novena
5:00 P.M. Marie Conlon

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1 - The Solemnity of Mary

9:00 A.M. Emmanuel Asagba
11:00 A.M. Christmas Novena
For the People of St. Francis

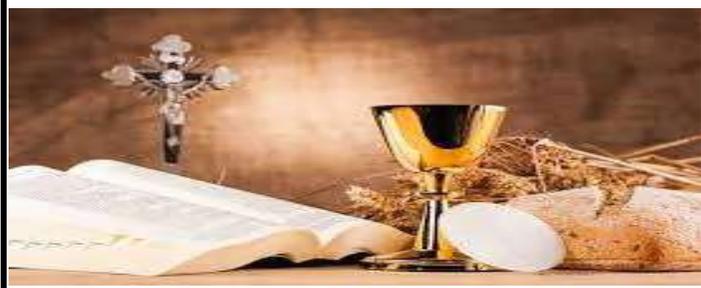
SATURDAY, JANUARY 2 - Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen

9:00 A.M. Purgatorial Society
Christmas Novena
Edward Carus
Silvia Carus
Rose Proctor
Concetta Saraceni

5:00 P.M. Leonardo Knight

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3– The Epiphany of the Lord

8:00 A.M. For the People of St. Francis
9:30 A.M. Slominski Kazimierz
11:00 A.M. Jennifer Ronacher
12:30 P.M. Alfonso Calogero Annibale
Camillo Carullo
Concetta Saraceni



Today's Readings

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
Colossians 3:12-21 of 3:12-17
Luke 2:22-40

Readings for the Week

MONDAY: 1 John 1:5-2:2
Matthew 2:13-18

TUESDAY: 1 John 2:3-11
Luke 2:22-35

WEDNESDAY: 1 John 2:12-17
Luke 2:36-40

THURSDAY: 1 John 2:18-21
John 1:1-18

FRIDAY: Numbers 6:22-27
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:16-21

SATURDAY: I John 2:22-28
John 1:19-28

The Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12





FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



My Dear Parishioners,

On the first Christmas, Jesus, the Son of God, was born of the Virgin Mary into a human family. During this holy season let us look to the Holy Family in order to see better how we can live a more Christian life within our own families.

If we read the Gospel carefully, we will find that the Holy Family had their share of troubles and difficulties. Joseph cared for and protected the Child and his mother by obeying the will of God without hesitancy. Mary, too, searched for God's will as she pondered the words spoken to her by Simeon in the Temple, as well as the various events in her life. Both Mary and Joseph obeyed God even when the future was uncertain. Jesus, too, had to learn obedience to his parents. They were worried and concerned about His whereabouts when they lost Him for three days in Jerusalem.

These events help us to realize just how human the Holy Family really was, and how much they have to teach our own families. Through the ups and downs of life, they stayed close to God, and so can we. We can remember that we have been chosen by God to be part of His family, and have been promised the Holy Spirit to teach, guide, and comfort us. When we are in harmony with God's will, then we are at peace, and peace will flow into our dealings with each other—family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. Our actions and our attitudes will reflect our Christian faith if we strive daily to search out and be open to the will of God in our lives.

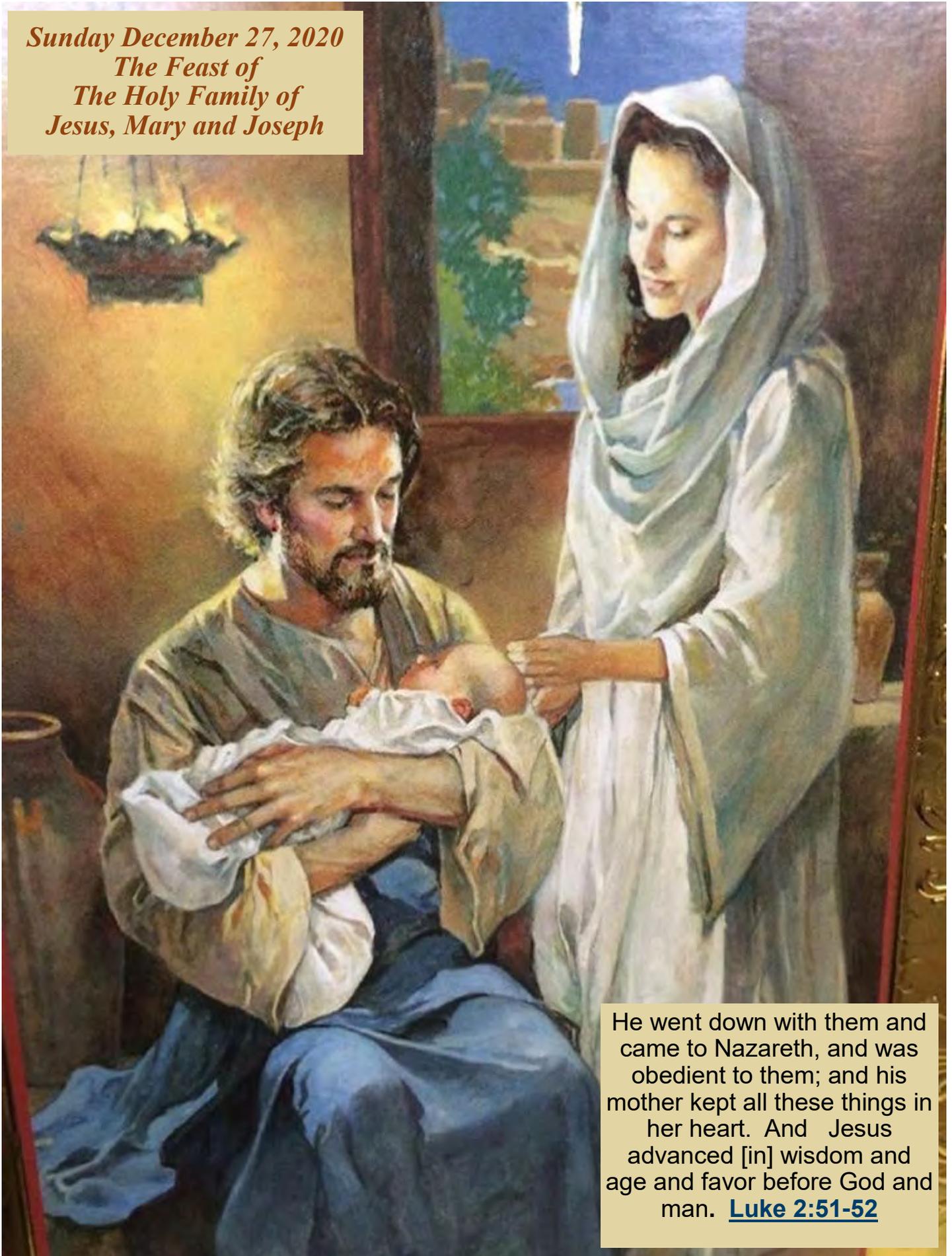
The Lord has given us guidelines to follow so that we will be able to live a truly Christian family life. We are asked to put on Christ by acting upon the graces given us as we reflect God's love to each other. We live out this ideal when we invite Christ into our homes through family prayer and shared scripture reading; when we enjoy each other in times of recreation in an atmosphere of love and acceptance.

Like the Holy Family, we too, must lean upon God's love and providence to carry out the duties God has entrusted to us. But most of all, we are asked to practice the virtues of patience and forgiveness. We are not perfect; each of us makes mistakes. God is always willing to forgive us when we are sincerely sorry and are willing to amend our lives. So, too, do we need to be understanding and forgiving toward others and give them a second chance to learn from their mistakes. This attitude will cultivate peace within our families, our neighborhoods, and our work place.

If we are going to have peace in our homes and in our world, our peace with God must come first. We may need to temper our selfish desires with virtue, for if we are in harmony with God's will, then we are at peace and it will flow into our interaction with others. It is true that a family cannot flourish when "I" is stronger than "We". This is also true of society, of cities or even of the world. It is the wholehearted surrender to goodness that marked the Holy family, and our families can embrace that same goodness and experience true peace. May God grant you that peace!

***All God's Blessings,
Msgr. Maresca***

*Sunday December 27, 2020
The Feast of
The Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary and Joseph*



He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced [in] wisdom and age and favor before God and man. [Luke 2:51-52](#)



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, Thereesa Unter

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"

Join us in our virtual scripture study. We meet every Thursday at 7:30p.m.. The group will not meet on December 31st, but will resume on January 7 with the study of **John, Chapters 9 and 10.**



Wishing all our parish family and friends the Peace of Christ in the New Year.

Grow in Knowledge and Love of Scripture--

All Are Welcome!

For information contact:

sfascripturestudy@gmail.com

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

December 27, 2020



"Let the peace of Christ control your hearts."

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



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.

FOCUS:

Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in His ways.

On the Feast of the Holy Family, we celebrate God's Incarnation into a human family who loved, protected and taught Him. They were holy because they were perfect in obedience and virtue; blessed because they feared the Lord and walked in His ways. We too, may strive to attain this holiness, in our imitation of the Holy Family's example and through the grace of Christ.

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".



***Monday December 28, 2020
The Feast of
The Holy Innocents***

Herod “the Great,” king of Judea, was unpopular with his people because of his connections with the Romans and his religious indifference. Hence he was insecure and fearful of any threat to his throne. He was a master politician and a tyrant capable of extreme brutality. He killed his wife, his brother, and his sister’s two husbands, to name only a few.

Matthew 2:1-18 tells this story: Herod was “greatly troubled” when astrologers from the east came asking the whereabouts of “the newborn king of the Jews,” whose star they had seen. They were told that the Jewish Scriptures named Bethlehem as the place where the Messiah would be born. Herod cunningly told them to report back to him so that he could also “do him homage.” They found Jesus, offered him their gifts, and warned by an angel, avoided Herod on their way home. Jesus escaped to Egypt. Herod became furious and “ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under.” The horror of the massacre and the devastation of the mothers and fathers led Matthew to quote Jeremiah: “A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children...” (Matthew 2:18). Rachel was the wife of Jacob (Israel). She is pictured as weeping at the place where the Israelites were herded together by the conquering Assyrians for their march into captivity.



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.

In this Christmas Season Jesus calls us to embrace Him in order to receive His joy, peace and love.

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



**ANOINTING
MASS**

On Saturday, January 2, 2021, 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.

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.

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 12/19-12/20 \$4,440.00

School parents must use church envelopes.



Next weekend, January 2/3, the second collection will be for fuel to help keep our church warm during the winter months. Please be as generous as your means allow.

Thank you.



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 your cooperation with the guidelines.

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.

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.

2021



New Year's Eve – Thursday, December 31
5:00 pm Mass

New Year's Day – Friday, January 1, 2021
The Solemnity of Mary (Holyday)
9:00 am & 11:00 am

Rectory Holiday Schedule

New Year's Eve, December 31st - Closed at 3PM

New Year's Day, January 1, 2021 - Closed

Saturday, January 2 - Closed

Sunday, January 3 - Closed

The Office will reopen on Monday, January 4th at 9:00am.

The office will be closed in the interest of saving money for the parish to help balance our budget.



CHURCH DECORATIONS

THANK YOU to Mrs. Annunziata, Miss Mullaney, Mrs. Behringer, Mrs. Mincone, John Ketcham, Ryve Obien, and Frankie Marzella for the great job they did in decorating our Church for Christmas. They always do a wonderful job and I'm so grateful that they share their decorating talent each Liturgical Season.

Msgr. Maresca



***Solemnity of Mary,
The Mother of God
January 1, 2021***

Happy New Year! Let us pray that the New Year will be filled with all God's Blessings.

In today's Gospel, We hear that Mary treasured all that had taken place and she reflected in her heart upon all these things. Some translations use the words pondered in her heart. We might think for a few moments about just what Mary may have treasured, reflected upon or pondered. Perhaps she thought about the visit from the Angel Gabriel and the request of God that she bear his Son. Possibly, she recalled the words of Elizabeth, naming her blessed among women and mother of my Lord (cf. Luke 1:42-43). Most likely, Joseph shared with her the heavenly messages he had received concerning their marriage and the child given into their care. We might well imagine that their hearts were filled with joy as the shepherds told of the angelic visitors who proclaimed the birth of the Savior.

There is much in today's liturgy for us to treasure and ponder. The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus, Mother of God, is mother to the Church and to us as well. Despite the hardships and difficulties she faced, she maintained a peaceful confidence in God's love and care for her and for her Child. The ancient blessings given by God to Moses and Aaron were present to her in her daily life, as they can be for us. With a mother's love, Mary will help us to grow in peace and trust in the Lord's goodness as we honor her and call upon her intercession. ***Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.***

May the New Year be filled with all God's Blessings for you and your families.

Msgr. Maresca

MATTHEW 5:16

**MAY YOU SHINE
THE LIGHT OF
CHRIST IN THE
NEW YEAR!**

Happy New Year from the Priests, Deacons and Staff.

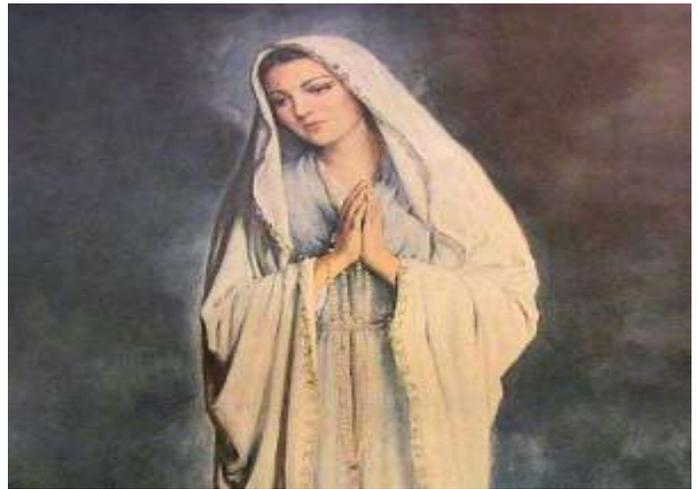
May God Bless each one of us with His peace, joy and love in order that we may share these with others.



***Saturday January 2, 2021
The Feast of St. Basil the Great &
Gregory Nazianzen***

St. Basil the Great was born at Caesarea of Cappadocia in 330. Both of his parents and several of his brothers and sisters are honored among the Saints. He attended school in Caesarea, as well as Constantinople and Athens, where he became acquainted with St. Gregory Nazianzen in 352. A little later, he opened a school of oratory in Caesarea and practiced law. Eventually St. Basil decided to become a monk and founded a monastery in Pontus which he directed for five years. He wrote a famous monastic Rule that has proved the most lasting of those in the East. After founding several other monasteries, he was ordained and, in 370, made Bishop of Caesarea. In this post (until his death in 379) he constituted to be a man of vast learning and constant activity, genuine eloquence and immense charity. This earned for him the title of "Great" during his life and Doctor of the Church after his death.

St. Gregory, Patron of Christian Poets, was born at Arianzen in Cappadocia of parents who both honored among the Saints. He studied at Caesarea, Alexandria, and Athens, in which latter city he had as fellow pupils St. Basil and Julian the Apostate. On his return to Nazianzen he was baptized by his father and began to lead a most holy life. In 358, he joined St. Basil in the solitude of Pontus and remained until his father (who was Bishop of Nazianzen) recalled him shortly after and ordained him a priest, much against his wishes. He was appointed Bishop of Sasima, a small town in 372 by St. Basil. St. Gregory preferred a life of quiet solitude and reflection, but circumstances always conspired to call him away from it. In 379, he was made Bishop of Constantinople and remained there until 381 when he was finally able to resign and return to his solitude up to his death in 389.



**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 despose our pleas - we who are put to the test - and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Pope Francis

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.



Honor Roll



Congratulations!
The following students achieve
Honor Roll Status

MSGR. MCCLANCY MEMORIAL H.S.

- Daniel Altman
- Matthew Ciralol
- Tony Gray
- Fiona Hosey
- Isabella Kyriakopoulos
- Lorenzo La Rosa
- Benicia Lasko
- Nicolas Mendieta
- Giana Sheinman
- Joseph Todaro
- Abigail Vorliceck
- Lais Dooley
- Francesco DiMarco
- Leandra Rodriguez
- Julian Visca

ST. FRANCIS PREPARATORY

- Haley Cotilletta
- Neil Gonzalesarellano
- Mila Sadeghi

THE MARY LOUIS ACADEMY

- Emily Grimaldi
- Isabella Ortiz
- Kaitlyn Warren



Thank you all for your very generous support of the Advent Giving Trees again this year! Together we gathered 304 gifts that benefitted 5 different charitable organizations. Thank you to Kelsey Papanicolaou, Nicholas Mistretta and Mary Alice Behringer for the labor of love in the packing and distributing of the gifts on Sunday, December 20th!

Christmas Flower Envelopes

Your Christmas flower envelopes may still be returned in any collection. Please be sure to write the name(s) legibly. The list of names will be printed in the Bulletin.
Thank you.

