

Divine Mercy Sunday

Mass Intention

SUNDAY, April 11 DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

8:00 A.M. Holy Name
9:30 A.M. For the People of St. Francis
11:00 A.M. Debbie Palmieri
12:30 P.M. Adelina Iocco
Mariano Floramo
Nelia Ruffini

MONDAY, APRIL 12- WEEKDAY

9:00 A.M. The Muscat Family

TUESDAY, APRIL 13 - WEEKDAY

9:00 A.M. The Spiciar Family

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14 - WEEKDAY

9:00 A.M. Junja Marusic

THURSDAY, APRIL 15 - WEEKDAY

9:00 A.M. Maria Giuseppina Pedalino

FRIDAY, APRIL 16 - WEEKDAY

9:00 A.M. Thomas Gaudiesi

SATURDAY, APRIL 17 - WEEKDAY

9:00 A.M. Purgatorial Society
Felix Gedraitis
Frank Caridi
Matteo Ferrara

5:00 P.M. Michael Devane

SUNDAY, APRIL 18- THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

8:00 A.M. Maria Assunta Spiteri
9:30 A.M. Raymond Loud
11:00 A.M. For the People of St. Francis
12:30 P.M. Nevio Viscovich
Servero Viscovich
Giuseppe Carlino



Today's Readings

Divine Mercy Sunday

Acts 4:32-35
1 John 5:1-9
John 20:19-31

Readings for the Week

MONDAY: Acts 4:23-31
John 3:1-8

TUESDAY: Acts 4:32-37
John 3:7b-15

WEDNESDAY: Acts 5:17-26
John 3:16-21

THURSDAY: Acts 5:27-33
John 3:31-36

FRIDAY: Acts 5:34-42
John 6:1-15

SATURDAY: Acts 6:1-7
John 6:16-21

Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19
1 John 2:1-5a
Luke 24:35-48



From the PASTOR'S DESK



My Dear Parishioners,

Doubting Thomas- what a wonderful Gospel to have for Divine Mercy Sunday. Thomas the Apostle is so much like many of us. Many can believe in Jesus just so far, and then their rationality takes over. They try to fit Jesus into the confines of human knowledge. How could He rise from the dead? How could he come into the locked room? How could he forgive my sins and open the gates of heaven for me, a sinner? Jesus did all of these things.

The Church designates today as a special day to recognize and seek God's mercy. It is also a day to do our best to imitate that mercy by showing kindness to others. This day was chosen as the day to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday because of its closeness to Easter, the feast that completes the reconciliation of mankind with God. A week after Easter, we can step back in awe and look at the wonders of God's mercy, demonstrated so dramatically in the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus.

St. John Paul II instituted this Solemnity in 2000. He was responding to a request Jesus made in the 1930's to a humble Polish nun, who is known as Saint Faustina. Jesus asked Faustina to spread the message of God's mercy throughout the world. He asked that a special day be set aside as the Feast of Divine Mercy. Not only are the readings for today's Mass focused on the grace, generosity and love of God, but also on how that mercy can be shown through the actions of those who follow Jesus, the Son of God. Today, the Church also offers a plenary indulgence to those who receive the Sacrament of Penance, receive Holy Communion, and pray for the intention of the Holy Father. To receive this indulgence, which wipes clean our souls of all sin and any punishment due for our past sins, we are to recite the Our Father, the Creed, and pray: Merciful Jesus, I trust in you!

In granting this indulgence, the Vatican issued a decree encouraging all people to observe this day with *intense devotion*. It said that the Holy Father enriched the day by a plenary indulgence *so that the faithful might receive in great abundance the gift of the consolation of the Holy Spirit*. It went on to say that, *In this way, they can foster a growing love for God and for their neighbor*. It concluded by encouraging the faithful to show love and mercy to others. It said, after they – the faithful – *have obtained God's pardon, they in turn might be persuaded to show a prompt pardon to their sisters and brothers*.

This indulgence is not to be taken lightly. It is a gift of immense value and is more evidence of God's great mercy. As we reflect on the wondrous gift of mercy God gives us, let today be a day of great rejoicing.

Let us exclaim with the Psalmist, *God's mercy endures forever*.

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



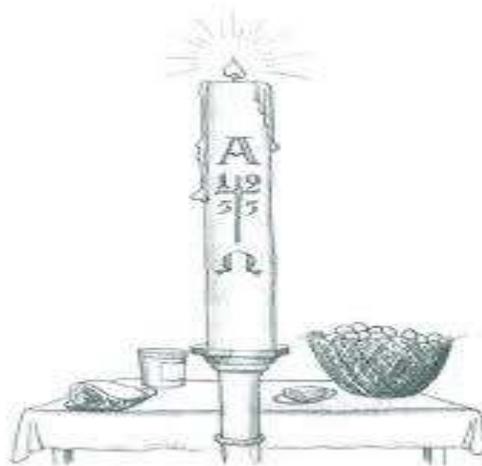


Sunday, April 11, 2021
Divine Mercy Sunday

In the Jubilee Year 2000, Pope John Paul II proclaimed that from that year forward the Second Sunday of Easter would be celebrated as Divine Mercy Sunday. This was proclaimed at the Canonization Mass of St. Faustina Kawalska, who worked throughout her life to make all aware of the merciful love of God. St. Faustina (1905–1938) was born and raised in Poland. Following a vocation to religious life, she was accepted by the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. As a member of the Congregation, she worked as a cook, gardener, and porter. In her spiritual life, her contemplation on the Mercy of God led her to develop a childlike trust in God and deep love for her neighbor.

In her years in the convent, St. Faustina heard a call from God to make God's mercy known to the world so that the world may more fully receive God's healing grace. St. Faustina promoted the Chaplet of Divine Mercy which consists of the recitation of prayers to the Eternal Father with the use of the rosary for the sake of Christ's sorrowful passion.

The Easter Candle is Burning in Memory of:



Rose & Denis Sweeney
Lucia & Ralph Borgia
Rita & Ralph Maresca
Theresa & John Jannotta
Theresa & Ralph Maresca
Ann Soukeras
Sarina Marie Carbone
Mariano Floramo
Louis & Theresa Falco
Nick & Millie Mistretta
John Purich
Maria & Ernesto Lusardi
Santina & Pasquale Del Carro
Laura & Dino Ferrari
Rev. Sister Lodovica Rota
Veronica & Charles Gordon
Emmanuel Asagba
Pietro Zuliani
Rosemarie Z. Conroy
Linda Zuliani

Mike Perrino
The Lenzo Family
Joe Diluvio
Concetta Saraceni
Giuseppe Saraceni
Sylvester V. Guerrero
Harold Elmendorf
Iolanda Babore
Rosaria & Filippo Cannavo
James Power
Antonina & John Kos
Marie Scaglione
Clay Pinter
Yolanda & Natale Palazzolo
Marija Kulanic
Martin Hale





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.

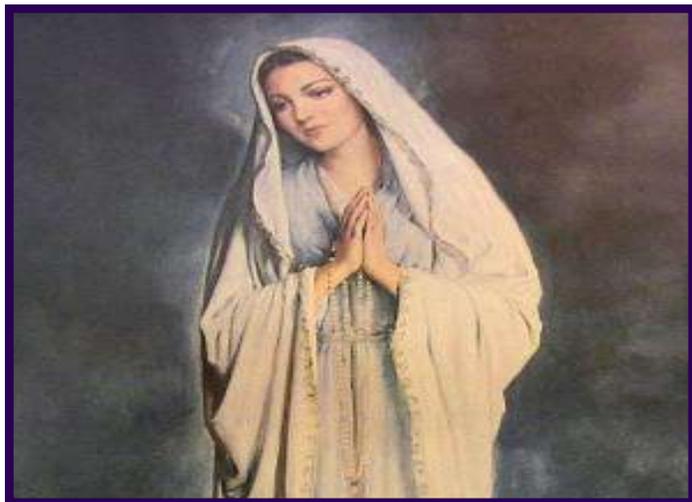


Communion for the Homebound

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.



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.

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

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.

Divine Mercy
Sunday
April 11, 2021



“As the Father has sent me,
so I send you”

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:

Faith in Jesus's resurrection has the power to transform our lives an the lives of those around us.

All three readings show the transformative power of belief in Jesus' resurrection. Saint John tells us that we become children of God through this belief. Thomas acknowledges Jesus as Lord and God in the Gospel, and he and the other Apostles fo on to create an ideal community by proclaiming his resurrection in Jerusalem.



"Your words, Lord, are spirit and life; You have the words of everlasting life"
John 6:63c, 68c

Join us in our virtual scripture study. We meet every Thursday at 7:30pm. The **April 15th** meeting will be covering the **First Letter of John 2:1-3:10**

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 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
All Are Welcome!



Banns of Marriage
1st Time:

Daniel Charles Banner
St. Catherine of Sienna
Franklin Square, NY

And

Jordana Marie Correa
St. Fidelis
College Point, NY

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 you 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.



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

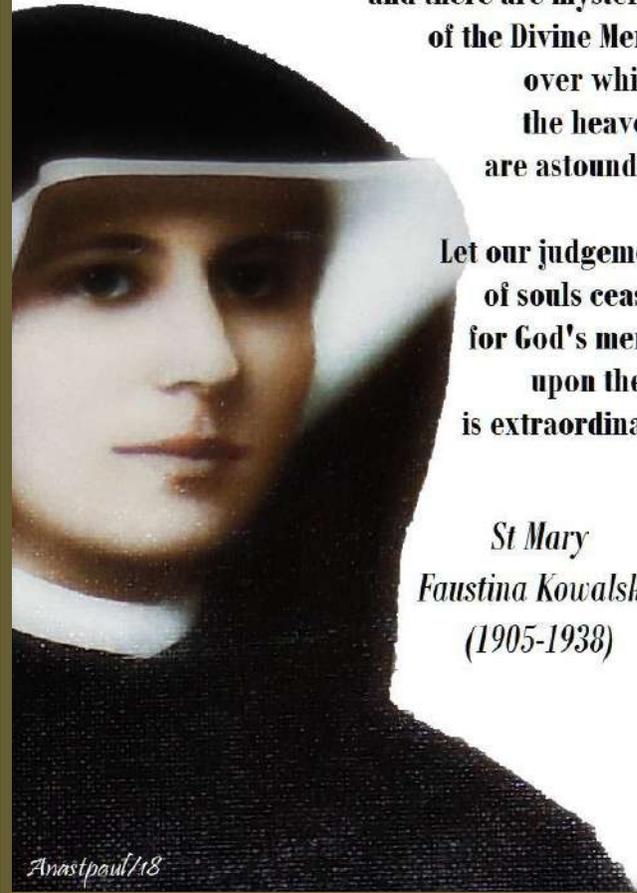
Saint Francis of Assisi Parish relies on your goodness and generosity to ensure that the ministry of Jesus continues here in Astoria. A charitable bequest is an excellent way to create a lasting memorial. Many of our parishioners use their wills or living trusts to make their most generous gifts. Please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

**Oh, how great, is the goodness of God,
greater than we can understand.**

**There are moments
and there are mysteries
of the Divine Mercy
over which,
the heavens
are astounded.**

**Let our judgement
of souls cease,
for God's mercy
upon them,
is extraordinary.**

**St Mary
Faustina Kowalska
(1905-1938)**



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

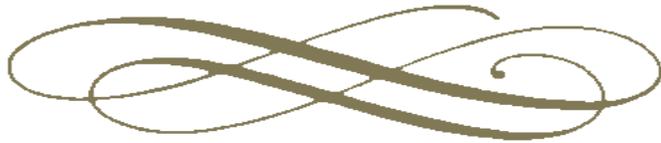


**Please show
respect by observing silence.**



REMINDER

Every other pew in Church is closed in order to observe social distancing and keep everyone safe. I have noticed some people disregarding the closed off pew and moving the sign and sitting in the row. Please **DO NOT** do that. I want people to be safe and to observe social distancing. As soon as we are able we will open the closed off pews. However, until that time they must remain closed and no one is to sit in them. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding in this matter.



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:

Easter Collections 4/3-4	\$8,537.00
<i>Good Friday—Holy Lands</i>	<i>\$849.00</i>
<i>Senior Priests</i>	<i>\$1,466.00</i>

School parents must use church envelopes.



Prevent the spread of COVID-19



THANK YOU

Even though you may be fully vaccinated against the COVID 19 virus, you are still required to wear a mask that covers your nose, mouth and chin upon entering the church.

You must also continue to maintain social distancing while in church.

**SPREAD THE WORD
NOT THE VIRUS**

Support the CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL

Next weekend, April 17-18, the second collection will be for the Catholic Home Mission.

Please be as generous as your means allow.



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.

St. John's University Speech and Hearing Center

The St. John's University Speech and Hearing Center will be offering "**Hearing Aid Help**" from February 8, 2021 to May 4, 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.

The center will also be offering **FREE** speech and hearing screenings.

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 11367



Molloy College

Due to the COVID pandemic, the Spring Open House will be held virtually on

**Sunday, April 18th, 2021
at 1:00PM**

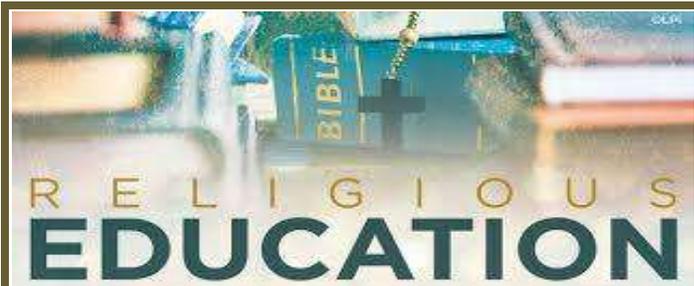


The following students from our parish have attained Honor Roll status at The Mary Louis Academy

Principals List

Emily Grimaldi
Isabella Ortiz

Congratulations!



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